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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA VISITS NEPAL

Prince Faisal bin Fahran Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia paid an official visit to Nepal on 14-15 March 2022. During the call on the President, matters related to Nepal-Saudi Arabia relations were discussed.

Similarly, the Foreign Minister also paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba. During the call, Prime Minister Mr. Deuba extended best wishes for the success of the Saudi Vision 2030 and



Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and the Saudi Arabian delegation during the courtesy call on the President.

discussed various aspects of Nepal-Saudi Arabia bilateral relations, cooperation in the multilateral forums, and the ways and means of further strengthening economic

partnership and cooperation between the two countries.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Narayan Khadka held a bilateral meeting with Prince Faisal bin Fahran Al Saud in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two Foreign Ministers discussed the diverse areas of bilateral relations and underlined the need to further explore possibilities of cooperation, including in the field of foreign employment, welfare and interest of Nepali migrant workers.



Prince Faisal bin Fahran Al Saud with the Prime Minister

The two Foreign Ministers also signed General Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Agreement aims to enhance cooperation in the field of economy, commerce, investment, education, science, technology, tourism, youth and sports.



Dr. Narayan Khadka, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia during the signing ceremony

FOREIGN MINISTER PARTICIPATES IN ANTALYA DIPLOMACY FORUM

At the invitation of Foreign Minister of Turkey Mr. Mevlut Cavusoglu, Foreign Minister Dr. Narayan Khadka participated in the Antalya Diplomacy Forum held on 11-13 March 2022. Addressing the panel on 'Democratic Governance and Security,' Dr. Khadka shared his perspectives on the role of democratic governance in creating a peaceful, stable and prosperous society. Sharing Nepal's journey marked by struggles in the institutionalization of inclusive democracy, Mr. Khadka underscored that 'Democracy is the best guarantor of security.'

On the sidelines of the Forum, Dr. Khadka held



Foreign Minister participates in Antalya Diplomacy Forum

a bilateral meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Mr. Mevlut Cavusoglu and Minister of Economy of the United Arab Emirates Mr. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri.

Foreign Minister Dr. Khadka and his delegation were welcomed by Konysiad, a business association in Konyaalti District, for an

interaction with a group of Turkish entrepreneurs representing various sectors such as agriculture, construction, hospitality and health. The Nepali delegation interacted with the business community for potential business collaborations between Nepal and Turkey in prospective areas.

VISIT OF NEPAL-FRANCE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

A three-member parliamentary delegation led by the Chair of France-Nepal Parliamentary Friendship Group Mrs. Véronique Riotton visited Nepal on 8-12 March 2022.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Deuba expressed his appreciation for the valuable contributions made by the Parliamentary Friendship Group in promoting Nepal-France bilateral relations, and highlighted the need for strengthening cooperation in the sectors of trade and investment, tourism and climate change. Mrs. Riotton appreciated Nepal's efforts



French Parliamentary delegation meets the Prime Minister

in promoting women's participation in politics and in combating climate change, and expressed the willingness to strengthen Nepal-France co-operation in the fields of sustainable development

and agriculture.

The delegation also met with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairperson of the National Assembly and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND STATE MINISTER OF UK

Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Narayan Khadka received a telephone call from Mr. Lord Ahmad, State Minister of Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom on 04 March

2022. During the telephone conversation, various matters relating to Nepal-UK bilateral relations and cooperation were discussed. The Foreign Minister thanked the Government of the UK for its

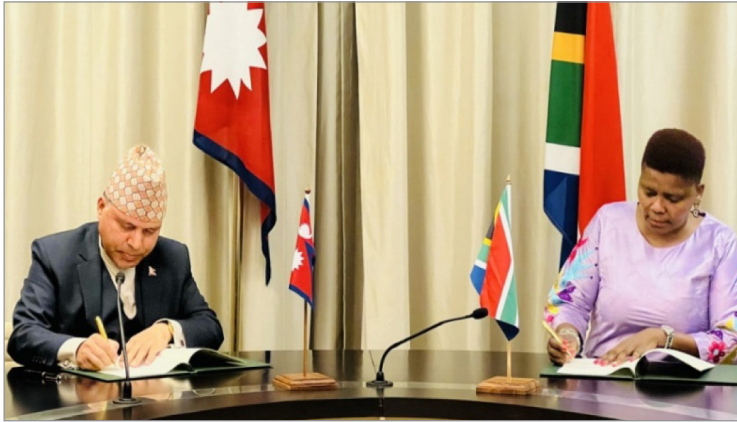
support of vaccines to Nepal. The two sides also exchanged views on cooperation in regional and multilateral forums, including in the area of climate change.

FIRST BILATERAL CONSULTATION MEETING BETWEEN NEPAL AND SOUTH AFRICA

Foreign Secretary of Nepal, Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal and the Acting Director General of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, Ms. Nonceba

Losi signed the Declaration of Intent on Cooperation between the Government of Nepal and the Government of South Africa on behalf of their respective governments on 10 March 2022.

Likewise, Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal also had a meeting with Candith Mashego-Dlamini, Deputy Minister for International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South



Foreign Secretary and Acting DG of Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa signing Declaration of Intent on Cooperation

Africa on 10 March 2022. During the meeting both sides acknowledged cordial bilateral relations existing between Nepal and South Africa and expressed satisfaction over the signing of Declaration of intent and also successful holding of its first meeting.

The first Bilateral Consultations between Nepal and South Africa was held in Pretoria on 10 March 2022. Mr. Harishchandra

Ghimire, Joint Secretary, Central Asia, West Asia and Africa Division, Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, Nepal and Ms. Sindiswa Mququ, Acting Deputy Director General: Asia and Middle East branch, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa led their respective delegations in the meeting.

The meeting encompassed a wide range of bilateral relation issues such as trade, tourism, foreign direct investment, people-to-people contact, and cultural cooperation among others.



Members of delegations of Nepal and South Africa for inaugural Bilateral Consultations

FOREIGN SECRETARY HOLDS VIRTUAL MEETING WITH ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER OF CHINA

On 28 January 2022, Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat

Raj Paudyal held a video conference with Assistant

Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China,



Assistant Foreign Minister Mr. Wu Jinghao and Foreign Secretary during the virtual meeting

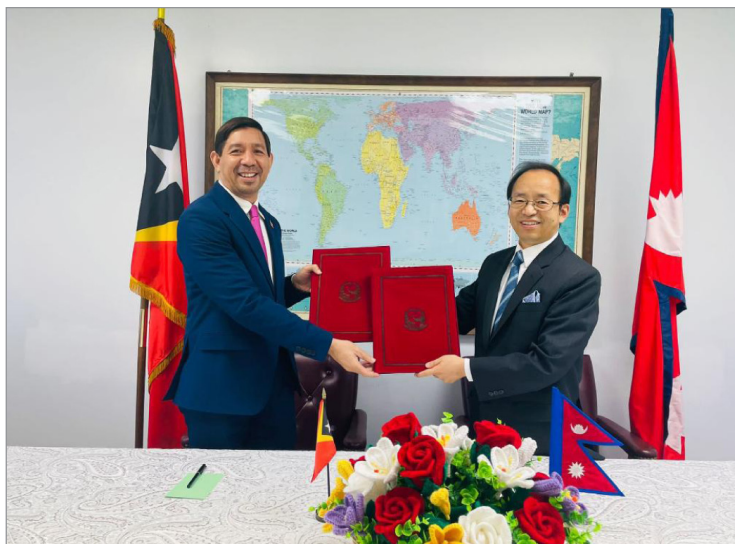
Mr. Wu Jianghao. During the video conference, both sides discussed the various

aspects of Nepal-China relations including bilateral cooperation in the sectors of

trade, investment, tourism, vaccine assistance and people-to-people contacts.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN NEPAL AND TIMOR-LESTE

Ambassador Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations and Ambassador Mr. Karlito Nunes, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations signed a Joint Communiqué on 11 February 2022 establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. Timor-Leste is the 173rd country with which Nepal has established diplomatic relations.



Permanent Representatives of Nepal and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste exchanging the Joint Communiqué

NEPAL-INDIA JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE AND JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETINGS ON POWER SECTOR

The 9th meeting of Nepal-India Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and Joint Working Group (JWG) on Power Sector were held on 23-24 February 2022 in Kathmandu. The Nepali delegations for JSC and JWG meetings were led by Mr. Devendra Karki, Secretary, and Mr. Chiranjewee Chataut, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of

Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation respectively. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Alok Kumar, Secretary and Shri Ghanshyam Prasad, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Power, Government of India respectively.

The meetings reviewed various aspects of power

sector cooperation including cross-border power flow, transmission lines, coordinated grid operation of India and Nepal grid, and joint development of large-scale hydropower projects in Nepal through collaboration between Nepal and India. The meeting also reviewed import and export of power between India and Nepal.

NEPAL-INDIA JOINT COMMITTEE ON INUNDATION AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT

The fourteenth meeting of Nepal-India Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management (JCIFM) was held on 9-13 March 2022.

The Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Susheel Chandra Acharya, Director General, Department of Water Resources and Irrigation and

the Indian delegation was led by Mr. Sher Singh, Member (Planning) of Ganga Flood Control Commission.

The Joint Committee visited various areas near the India-Nepal border to inspect the works on inundation and flood control in the rivers including Khando, Banganga

and West Rapti. The Joint Committee also visited the sites of emergent works proposed to be undertaken by the Committee. The Joint Committee assigned the

JCIFM sub group to monitor the physical and financial progress of works approved by JCIFM and examine other matters.

SITUATION IN UKRAINE AND RESCUE OF NEPALIS

The Government of Nepal brought out a statement on 24 February 2022 on the developments in Ukraine, calling on all parties concerned to exercise

maximum restraint not to escalate tension. The Ministry mobilized its Missions in Berlin and Moscow to rescue the Nepalis living in Ukraine. Around 600 Nepalis were

relocated to safer destinations in neighbouring countries, including Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Spain, Germany, Romania and Moldova for repatriation to Nepal.

B. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

NEPAL PARTICIPATES ON HIGH LEVEL THEMATIC DEBATE ON GALVANIZING MOMENTUM FOR UNIVERSAL VACCINATION

Dr. Narayan Khadka, Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed the High-Level Thematic Debate on Galvanizing Momentum for Universal Vaccination convened by the President of the General Assembly through a pre-recorded video message on 25 February 2022. In his statement, Mr. Khadka called for a strong push to make vaccines accessible and affordable to all. Foreign Minister underscored that



Minister for Foreign Affairs addressing the High-Level Thematic Debate on Galvanizing Momentum for Universal Vaccination

universal vaccination is the only reliable assurance for the prevention of the pandemic,

and urged for focusing on the promotion of vaccine equity.

MEETING ON BBIN MOTOR VEHICLE AGREEMENT

The Meeting of Bangladesh, India and Nepal under the BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement (BBIN- MVA) was held on 07-08 March 2022 in New Delhi. The Nepali delegation was led by

Mr. Keshab Kumar Sharma, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport. The Indian delegation was led by Ms. Smita Pant, Joint Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs.

Similarly, the Bangladesh delegation was led by Mr. A.T.M. Rokebul Haque, Director General (South Asia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Draft Enabling MoU of BBIN MVA, draft Protocol on Passenger Vehicles and Draft Protocol on Cargo Vehicles were discussed during the meeting. With a view to expediting finalization of the draft protocols, the

meeting decided to create two Working Groups, one on Transport and another on Customs. The Working Group on Transport will work on routes, traffic volumes, permits, fees and charges and insurance policies. Similarly,

the Group on Customs will work on border crossing points, temporary admission, fees, Electronic Cargo Tracking System, internal transit, and other issues of cooperation.

SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Nepali delegation led by Ms. Uma Regmi, Minister for Women, Children and Senior Citizens participated in the 66th Session of the

Commission of the Status of Women organized on 14-25 March 2022. In her statement, Minister highlighted the efforts

made by Nepal in ensuring meaningful participation of women in every walk of life to achieve gender equality and sustainable development.

FORTY-NINTH SESSION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Nepal participated in the 49th Regular Session of UN Human Rights Council in Geneva which started from

28 February 2022. The Nepali delegation led by Permanent Representative of Nepal to Geneva Mr. Mani Prasad

Bhattarai, reiterated Nepal's commitment to promotion and protection of human rights.

NEPAL'S PERIODIC REPORTS SUBMITTED AND REVIEWED

Nepal submitted report on United Nations Convention against Corruption and it was

reviewed from 25-27 January 2022. Similarly, Nepal also submitted 6th and 7th Report

on the implementation of Convention on the Rights of the Child.

C. PROTOCOL RELATED AFFAIRS

On 23 February 2022, President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari received the credentials from the foreign non-residential ambassadors of Colombia, Cuba and Kazakhstan. The President also received credentials from the foreign non-residential ambassadors of Mauritius, Botswana, Maldives and Tunisia on 2 March 2022.



The President with Mrs. Mariana Pacheco Montes, Ambassador of Colombia and Honorary Consul of Colombia to Nepal during the Credential ceremony.



The President with Mr. Alejandro Simancas Marin, Ambassador of Cuba during the Credential ceremony.



The President with Mr. Nurlan Zhalgasbayev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan and embassy official during the Credential ceremony.



Mrs. Santi Bai Hanoomanjee GCSK, Ambassador of Mauritius presenting her credentials to the President



The President with Mr. Gilbert Shimane Mangole, Ambassador of Botswana and embassy officials during the Credential ceremony



The President with Dr. Hussain Niyaaz, Ambassador of Maldives, his spouse and embassy officials during the Credential ceremony



Mrs. Hayet Talbi EP Bilel, Ambassador of Tunisia presenting her credentials to the President

D. SERVICE DELIVERY**NON-RESIDENT NEPALI RELATED**

S. N.	Services (from the Ministry)	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	14

PASSPORT RELATED

S. N.	Services	Number	Remarks
1	Passports issued	93787	From Districts, Missions and the Department
2	Total number of MRP passports issued (According to document type)	8273	Ordinary
		44	Diplomatic
		102	Official
		915	Gratis Ordinary
		9	Travel Document (TD)
		9343	Total
3	E-passport issued	84444	
4	Emails responded including social networks	3264	
5	Lost passport registered in the Interpol	2833	
6	Verification of Citizenship records and letters of in-approval	1596	
7	Revenue collected (From the Department of Passport in Rs.)	57,36,76,500/-	

CONSULAR RELATED

S. N.	Services	Number
A	Consular Activities and Legal Counselling	
1	Recommendations for medical treatment, religious tour and others	3
2	Issuances of No Objection Certificate for education	953
3	Recommendations for issuing Nepali driving license	6
4	Recommendations for character verification	52

5	Recommendations for procurement of chemicals & explosives	33
6	Correspondences regarding the citizenship renouncement	12
7	Correspondences regarding the Power of Attorney	20
8	Correspondences to district administration offices regarding compensation	4
9	Correspondences concerning search and rescue of Nepali nationals	119
10	Correspondences with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepali nationals from abroad	37
B	<i>Visa and Exemption</i>	
1	Issuances of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	212
2	Issuances of diplomatic/official ID Card	35
3	Issuances of recommendation letters for exemption	781
4	Other correspondences and recommendations	384
5	Number of visa recommendations to the foreign missions on Government of Nepal's nominations	86
C	<i>Attestation</i>	
1	Number of documents attested	59,541
2	Revenue collected from the Department of Consular Services (in Rs.)	2,97,70,500/-

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Minister for Foreign Affairs

Patron: Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal
Foreign Secretary

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