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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA

The Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Bimala Rai Paudyal visited Sri Lanka to participate in the 75th Independence Day functions held in Colombo on 3-4 February 2023. During the visit, Minister Paudyal paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena and conveyed the messages of the President and Prime Minister

of Nepal for the continuous peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Sri Lanka.

During the meeting with Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. M.U.M. Ali Sabry, matters including direct air connectivity between Colombo and Bhairahawa, Sri Lankan investment in small hydro power projects in Nepal, cooperation in

the field of agriculture and collaborating in teachers' training program were discussed.

The Foreign Minister participated in the luncheon hosted by the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka at Galle Face Hotel, Colombo together with other Ministers from participating countries. On the occasion, the Ministers



Foreign Minister of Nepal meeting with the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka

discussed about the climate change vulnerability of the

countries of South Asia and need for devising common

adaptation and mitigation measures.

UK MINISTER OF DEFENCE PEOPLE VETERANS AND SERVICE FAMILIES VISITS NEPAL

UK Minister of Defence People, Veterans and Service Families Dr. Andrew Morrison MP called on the Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on 8 February 2023.

Foreign Minister Dr. Bimala Rai Paudyal received the Minister at her office in Singha Durbar. During the meeting Dr. Paudyal appreciated the UK Government's continued cooperation in Nepal's socio-economic development and support during the COVID-19. She also praised



Prime Minister receiving the UK Minister of Defence People, Veterans and Service Families

the leadership role played by the UK Government in CoP26. The issue of Gorkha Veterans was also discussed.

The visiting delegates also met with the Defense Minister of Nepal Mr. Hari Prasad Upreti at his office in Singha Durbar.

VISIT OF UK MINISTER OF STATE

UK Minister of State in the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Ms. Anne-Marie Trevelyan visited Nepal from 8 to 10 March 2023. During her visit, she called on Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. During the call on, matters of Nepal-UK bilateral relations were discussed.



Prime Minister receiving the UK Minister of State in the FCDO

EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS VISITS NEPAL

The European Commissioner for International Partnerships Ms. Jutta Urpilainen called on Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' at Singha Durbar on 8 February 2023 and discussed matters related to Nepal-EU cooperation.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Bimala Rai Paudyal hosted a working luncheon in honor of the Commissioner during which they discussed the EU's development assistance to Nepal and



Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' receiving the European Commissioner for International Partnerships Ms. Jutta Urpilainen

cooperation in priority areas	clean energy, water and
including renewable energy,	sanitation, and human capital
energy security, access to	development.

NEPAL-INDIA FOREIGN SECRETARY LEVEL BILATERAL MEETING

Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal and his Indian counterpart Foreign Secretary Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra held a bilateral meeting in Kathmandu on 13 February 2023.

During the meeting, the two Foreign Secretaries reviewed various aspects of Nepal-India relations covering connectivity, trade and transit, power sector cooperation, agriculture, education, culture, health



Foreign Secretaries of Nepal and India before the bilateral meeting

sector and people to people relations, among others.	The two sides reviewed with satisfaction the progress
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Delegation level meeting between Foreign Secretaries of Nepal and India

made in the connectivity projects such as railways, transmissions lines, bridges and the ICPs. The two sides also discussed the early conclusion of the revised transit treaty and review of the trade treaty.

The two sides agreed to continue export of power from

Nepal to India on long-term basis and upgrading of cross-border transmission lines.

The Foreign Secretary of Nepal reiterated the request of the Government of Nepal for additional air-entry routes and concurrence for the near border flight operation of the Gautam

Buddha International Airport, Bhairahawa.

The two Foreign Secretaries also discussed the boundary matters and exchanged views on completing the boundary works in the remaining segments through the established bilateral mechanisms.

US UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VISITS NEPAL

The United States' Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Ms. Victoria Nuland visited Nepal on

29-30 January 2023. She called on Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Foreign

Minister Ms. Bimala Rai Paudyal. During the meetings, discussions were held on wide areas

of Nepal-US friendship and cooperation. The discussion also covered Nepal's development priorities and the role of trade and investment in the development path of Nepal.



US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs with the Foreign Minister

FOURTEENTH MEETING OF NEPAL-EU JOINT COMMISSION

The European Union and Nepal held their 14th meeting of the Joint Commission in Brussels on 1 February 2023. The meeting was co-chaired by Bharat Raj Paudyal, Foreign Secretary of the Government of Nepal and Paola Pampaloni, Deputy Managing Director for Asia and the Pacific of the European External Affairs Service.



14th Nepal-EU Joint Commission held in Brussels

The meeting discussed a range of topics including the strengthening of bilateral ties, trade relations, investment potential, air safety, people-to-people contacts, global climate

and environmental governance, human rights, and COVID-19 response, among others. The EU side expressed its commitment to strengthening its

relations with Nepal across various areas, including human rights, trade, investment, culture, and the environment.

MEETING OF FOREIGN SECRETARY WITH VICE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NETHERLANDS

Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal met with the Vice Minister/ Director General for Political Affairs of the Netherlands, Mr. Marcel de Vink, in the Hague on 31 January 2023. Foreign Secretary Mr. Paudyal highlighted the Dutch cooperation in Nepal, particularly in the areas of human resources and rural development, and expressed hope that the Netherlands would continue to put Nepal on the list of priority countries for



Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal with Mr. Marcel de Vink, Vice Minister/DG for Political Affairs at Dutch Foreign Ministry

international cooperation. The Vice Minister of the Netherlands appreciated

Nepal's developmental aspirations and assured possible support.

THIRD MEETING OF NEPAL FRANCE BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM

The third Nepal-France Bilateral Consultation Mechanism meeting was held in Kathmandu on 17 January 2023. The meeting was led by Joint Secretary at the Ministry Ms. Sewa Lamsal on Nepali side and Director for Asia and Oceania at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Mr. Bertrand

Lortholary on the French side.

During the meeting, a wide range of matters relating to bilateral trade and investment, technology transfer, tourism and economic recovery after the Covid-19 pandemic were discussed. While sharing Nepal's aspiration

for graduation from the LDC status in 2026, Nepali side expressed hope for enhanced support from France and the EU during its journey towards graduation and beyond. The meeting adopted the Nepal-France Green Roadmap, emphasizing the importance of developing renewable energy projects, low-carbon



Third meeting of Nepal-France Bilateral Consultation Mechanism

infrastructure, protecting forests, and incorporating climate change adaptation

into planning documents. Possible cooperation in mutually beneficial areas at

multilateral level was also discussed.

SECOND NEPAL BELGIUM BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM MEETING

The second meeting of the Nepal-Belgium Bilateral Consultation Mechanism was held in Brussels on 2 February 2023. Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms. Sewa Lamsal and Ambassador Mr. Cornet d'Elzius, Director of the Asia-Oceania Department jointly led the proceedings.

The meeting covered bilateral relations, global issues such



Second Meeting of Nepal-Belgium Bilateral Consultation Mechanism held in Brussels

as Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals, and regional and international issues of mutual interests. The Nepali side requested for continued

support from Belgium and the EU in terms of market access and development cooperation to assist in making Nepal's journey towards graduation from the LDC status in 2026

smooth. The two sides also discussed ways to enhance cooperation in trade, tourism, investment, and people-to-people contacts.

USAID ADMINISTRATOR VISITS NEPAL

USAID Administrator Ms. Samantha Power visited Nepal on 7-9 February 2023. During the visit, she paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Foreign Minister Dr. Bimala Rai Paudyal.

During the meeting with the Foreign Minister, they discussed various aspects of Nepal-US relations and cooperation. The Foreign Minister thanked the US government for the continued cooperation in Nepal's socio-economic development and for the vaccines and medical items provided during COVID-19. While



Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' receiving USAID Administrator Ms. Samantha Power

appreciating Nepal's path towards democracy and development, Ms. Power reassured the continued support of the United States to socio-economic development efforts of Nepal.

The Foreign Minister spoke on "Deepening US-Nepal Democratic Partnership" at an event organized by the US Embassy in Nepal during USAID Administrator's visit to Nepal.

VISIT OF GERMAN SOUTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP

A delegation from the German South Asian Parliamentary Friendship Group led by Ms. Renate Künast, MP in the Federal

Parliament of Germany visited Nepal on 19-21 February 2023. During the visit, the delegation called on the Prime Minister

Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Speaker Mr. Devraj Ghimire and held interaction with Nepali parliamentarians.



A delegation from German South Asian Parliamentary Friendship Group with Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal

The delegation also had a meeting with the Foreign Secretary	Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal and discussed various aspects of Nepal-German	bilateral cooperation and relations.
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MEETINGS ON NEPAL-INDIA COOPERATION IN POWER SECTOR

The 10 th meetings of the Joint Working Group (JWG) and Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on India-Nepal Cooperation in Power Sector were held on 17 February	2023 and 18 February 2023 respectively in Mount Abu, Rajasthan, India. During the meetings, both sides reviewed various aspects of power sector cooperation	including cross-border power flow, transmission lines, intergovernmental agreement on long-term power trade and power export from Nepal to Bangladesh through India.
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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE GOETHE-ZENTRUM KATHMANDU

Ms. Sewa Lamsal, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr.	Thomas Prinz, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Nepal signed	an MOU between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal and
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the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Nepal on the continued operation of the Goethe-Zentrum Kathmandu (GZK) on 10 February 2023. The GZK through its activities has been promoting people to people relations between Nepal and Germany. The MOU is an important step in further promoting educational linkage between Nepal and Germany.



Signing ceremony of the MOU between MOFA and German Embassy on operation of the GZK

NEPAL'S HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO TÜRKIYE

The Government of Nepal sent a shipment of over 22 tons of relief materials including medicines, medical equipment, warm clothing, and other essential items for the earthquake-affected people of Türkiye following the devastating earthquakes that struck Türkiye on 6 February 2023.



Joint Secretary Ms. Sewa Lamsal handing over the relief materials

BILATERAL TRADE TALK BETWEEN NEPAL AND BHUTAN

The 5th Bilateral Trade Talk between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of Nepal

was held on 15-16 February 2023 in Thimphu, Bhutan.

Reviewing the various aspects of draft Trade

Agreement between two countries, the two sides discussed the draft rules of origin, product list and

modalities for preferential treatment. The meeting also

drew a timeline for resolving the pending issues and

expedite the conclusion of the Agreement.

B. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

NEPAL'S PARTICIPATION IN LDC5

A Nepali delegation led by Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport participated in the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) held in Doha, the State of Qatar from 5 to 9 March 2023.

Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Shrestha addressed

the General Debate of the LDC5 on 6 March 2023. In his address, Deputy Prime Minister urged for the synergized effort of the least developed countries to rebuild their economies, overcome the climate crisis, and achieve the SDGs. As a responsible member and incoming chair of the LDC group, he also expressed Nepal's commitment to upholding the group's collective interest

in all possible manners. Nepal is scheduled to take the Chairmanship of the group in April 2023 for a three-year term.

Prior to the Conference, the Deputy Prime Minister addressed the Summit of the Least Developed Countries, and delivered a keynote speech in the program commemorating fifty years of the creation of the LDC



Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha speaking at the 5th UN Conference on the LDCs

category, and addressed a side event jointly organized by Nepal, Bangladesh, and Lao People's Democratic Republic. Similarly, he also co-chaired a high-level thematic roundtable on

'Structural Transformation as a Driver of Prosperity in the LDCs'.

On the margins of the Conference, he held bilateral meetings with delegations

from different countries and the high officials of the United Nations. He also interacted with the representatives of the organizations of Nepali diasporas.

ENGAGEMENT OF NEPAL DURING THE FIFTY-SECOND SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The 52nd session of the Human Rights Council commenced on 27 February 2023 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Nepali delegation to the 52nd session of the council was led by Mr. Govinda Prasad Sharma Koirala, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Peace and Human Rights.

In his statement during the High-level segment of the Council on 28 February 2023, Mr. Koirala highlighted that the Constitution of Nepal guarantees judicial independence, rule of law, freedom of the press, and civic space, among others and further elaborated that under the Constitution,

not only civil and political rights, but also economic, social and cultural rights are enforceable. He reaffirmed Nepal's commitment to conclude the transitional justice process and provide justice and reparation to the victims of conflict as it moves towards establishing reconciliation in society.

ONE HUNDRED FORTY SIXTH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr. Devraj Ghimire led a Nepali delegation to the 146th Assembly of the Inter-

Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Manama, Bahrain from 11-15 March 2023. Speaker Mr. Devraj Ghimire addressed the

Assembly's General Debate on the theme "Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance".

NINETEENTH MINISTERIAL MEETING AND THE PRECEDING MEETINGS OF BIMSTEC

The 19th Ministerial Meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was held

virtually in Bangkok, Thailand on 9 March 2023. The Nepali delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal.

The Ministerial meeting was preceded by the Twenty-Third Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting and Sixth Meeting

19th Ministerial Meeting of BIMSTEC

of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (B-PWC).

Addressing the Meeting, leader of the Nepali delegation, Foreign Secretary Paudyal called for meaningful regional cooperation to deal with the defining challenges of the time such as, climate

change, energy crisis, food insecurity, and the large-scale pandemics.

The Meeting endorsed several important instruments including the BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030, Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation, Terms of Reference for Eminent

Persons' Group, inclusion of "Blue Economy", "Mountain Economy", and "Poverty Alleviation" as sub-sectors under "Trade, Investment and Development" sector, "Environment and Climate Change" sector and "People-to-People Contact" sector respectively, among others.

SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67) was held from 6 to 17 March 2023 in New York. During the session, Nepali delegate

Mr. Suman Raj Aryal, Secretary at the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Minister delivered a statement on 9 March 2023 on the theme "innovation

and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls" and underscored Nepal's major

achievements made in the field of gender equality and women empowerment. Nepal participated in various side events during

the session and also co-sponsored a side event 'Unlocking the Future of Gender Equality and Sexual and Reproductive

Health and Rights through Technology' along with Spain and Luxembourg.

C. SERVICE DELIVERY

NON-RESIDENT NEPALI

S. N.	Services (from the Ministry)	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	9

PASSPORT

S. N.	Services	Number	Remarks
1	E-passport issued	2,33,207	Ordinary
		79	Diplomatic
		808	Official
		1	Gratis Ordinary
2	MRP passports issued (According to document type)	704	Ordinary
		215	Official
		11	Travel Document (TD)
3	Total passports issued	2,35,025	From Districts, Missions and the Department
4	Emails responded including through social media	767	
5	Cancelled Passports	94	
6	Verification of Citizenship records and letters of in-approval	271	
7	Revenue collected from the Department of Passport (NRs.)	29,81,99,500/-	

CONSULAR

S. N.	Services	Number
A	<i>Consular and Legal Counselling</i>	
1	Recommendations for medical treatment, religious tour and others	12
2	Issuances of No Objection Certificate for education	75

3	Recommendations for character verification	137
4	Recommendations for procurement of chemicals & explosives	12
5	Correspondences regarding Power of Attorney	7
6	Correspondences concerning search and rescue of Nepali nationals	61
7	Correspondences with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepali nationals from abroad	29
8	Correspondences regarding citizenship renouncement	109
B	<i>Visa and Exemption</i>	
1	Issuances of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	425
2	Issuances of diplomatic/official ID Card	104
3	Issuances of recommendation letters for exemption	778
4	Issuances of SAARC Visa stickers	6
5	Other correspondences and recommendations	227
6	Number of visa recommendations to the foreign missions on Government of Nepal's nominations	215
C	<i>Attestation</i>	
1	Number of documents attested	82,967
2	Revenue collected from the Department of Consular Services (NRs.)	4,30,62,000/-

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Minister for Foreign Affairs

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