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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

TELEPHONE TALKS BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS OF NEPAL AND RUSSIA

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha held a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr. Sergey Lavrov on 7 March 2024.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal and Russian Foreign Minister

During the conversation, the Foreign Minister of Russia expressed his willingness to collaborate on various fronts including trade, tourism, and culture, among others. The two foreign ministers discussed different aspects of Nepal-Russia relations including issues of

Nepali citizens in the Russian Army.

Earlier on 19 January 2024, Foreign Minister Mr. N. P. Saud

had met with Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Mr. Sergey Vershinin in Kampala, Uganda on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement Summit.

FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. N. P. Saud visited Australia on 8-12 February 2024. During his

visit, he held a bilateral meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Senator Penny Wong at Perth

on 9 February 2024. The two Ministers exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.



Foreign Ministers of Nepal and Australia during bilateral meeting and the signing of TIFA



Minister Saud and Minister Peters holding bilateral meeting

Following the meeting, the two Ministers witnessed the signing and exchange of the Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA). Nepal's Ambassador to Australia Mr. Kailash Raj Pokharel and Assistant Foreign Minister of Australia Tim Watts signed the Arrangement.

Following his visit to Australia, Foreign Minister Saud visited New Zealand on 13-14 February. The visiting Minister held a bilateral meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand Mr. Winston Peters at Wellington.

During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction over the excellent state of bilateral relations between Nepal and New Zealand and exchanged views on enhancing cooperation in the areas of mutual interest.

SECOND FOREIGN MINISTRY CONSULTATION WITH NEW ZEALAND

The Second Nepal-New Zealand Foreign Ministry Consultation (FMC) was held in Wellington, New Zealand on 14 February 2024. Ms. Rita Dhital, Joint Secretary, Southeast Asia and the Pacific (SEAP) Division of the Ministry and Ms. Joanna Kempfers, Divisional Manager for South Asia and Southeast Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand led their respective delegations to the Consultation.

During the consultation, the two sides took stock of various



Delegation of Nepal and New Zealand during the Second FMC

aspects of bilateral relations and exchanged views on further promoting cooperation through

enhanced economic and cultural engagements between the two countries.

VISIT OF SENIOR UK OFFICIALS TO NEPAL

Foreign Minister Mr. N. P. Saud held a constructive discussion with Mr. Andrew

Mitchell, Minister for Development and Africa of the Foreign, Commonwealth and

Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom on 20 February 2024 at the Ministry.

On the occasion, views were exchanged on further strengthening age-old relations between Nepal and the UK and enhancing partnerships in the fields of trade, tourism, energy, investment, climate change, health, people-to-people contacts, among others. The British Minister was in Nepal to witness the signing of two different MoUs on grant assistance namely 'Nepal in Business' and 'Green Growth Nepal' with Ministry of Finance. During his visit, Minister Mitchell also met with the Prime Minister and with the Finance Minister of Nepal.

Earlier on 30 January 2024, the Chief of the General Staff of the British Army Gen. Sir Patrick Sanders had met with Minister Saud. Gen. Sanders was on a visit to Nepal to attend this year's



Meeting between Foreign Minister Saud and the UK Minister for Development and Africa

British Gurkha recruit intake (2024), 'Attestation Parade'. During his visit to Nepal, the General also met with the Prime Minister of Nepal and with the Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister of Nepal. Prior to that, on 26 January 2024, Lieutenant General Mr. Richard Wardlaw, Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas had presented

the Annual Report on the Brigade of the British Gurkhas to the President of Nepal.

Similarly, the Director of India and Indian Ocean Directorate, FCDO, the United Kingdom, Mr. Ben Mellor, called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha at the Ministry on 10 March 2024.

VISIT OF US DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO NEPAL

Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs of the US Department of State Ms. Afreen Akhtar called on Foreign Secretary Ms. Sewa Lamsal on 26 February 2024 during her visit to Nepal. Discussions were held on ongoing bilateral cooperation, mutual support in international forums and prospects of future cooperation between Nepal and the US.



Meeting between Foreign Secretary of Nepal and US Deputy Assistant Secretary

CIDCA DELEGATION VISIT TO NEPAL

A four-member delegation of China International Development

Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) led by Mr. Tian Lin, Chief of

the Supervision Department, visited Nepal from 29 February

to 03 March 2024. The delegation held separate meetings with Mr. Krishna Prasad Dhakal, Joint Secretary and Head of North-East Asia Division of the Ministry and senior officials of the Ministry of Finance. The delegation also visited eight different projects of Chinese aid in Kathmandu and Pokhara.



CIDCA Delegation with Senior MoFA Officials

B. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

THE PRIME MINISTER PARTICIPATION IN THE NINETEENTH NAM SUMMIT

Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' led a Nepali delegation to the 19th Summit of Non-Alignment Movement held in Kampala, Uganda from 19 to 20 January 2024.

Prime Minister Dahal addressed the plenary session of the Summit on the theme 'Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence' on 19 January 2024. In his address, the Prime Minister underlined Nepal's longstanding commitment to the principles and values of non-alignment. While highlighting Nepal's independent, objective, balanced and non-aligned foreign policy rooted in sovereign equality, mutual respect and peaceful settlement of disputes, he reaffirmed Nepal's solidarity with the Movement. He stressed



Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' with NAM Leaders at 19th NAM Summit

the importance of NAM to build a harmonized, inclusive, and equitable global order to tackle the myriad of global challenges such as inequality, poverty, pandemics, climate change, conflict, geopolitical tensions, and terrorism.

As a graduating least developed country (LDC) and the current Chair of LDCs, the Prime

Minister called for enhanced North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation to enable LDCs to achieve their development aspirations. The Prime Minister also drew attention to the environmental impact on mountainous countries, urging NAM members to support the protection of mountains and biodiversity.

On the sidelines of the Summit, Prime Minister Dahal held the President of Sri Lanka Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe. The two leaders discussed various issues of bilateral interests, including connectivity, tourism, and regional cooperation during the meeting.

Prior to the Summit, the NAM Ministerial meeting was held on 16 and 17 January 2024. Foreign Minister Mr. N. P. Saud led the Nepali delegation to the Ministerial Meeting. Addressing a session in the meeting, Minister Saud reiterated Nepal's commitment to NAM's objectives and principles.



Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' addressing the NAM Plenary Session

Mr. Saud also called for greater solidarity and collaboration of NAM members to address the multitude of interlocking crises and challenges of the contemporary world such as

COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, economic nationalism, hunger, conflicts, and resurging geopolitical competition, among others.



Foreign Minister Mr. Saud attending the Ministerial Meeting

FOREIGN MINISTER PARTICIPATED IN THE RAISINA DIALOGUE 2024

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. N. P. Saud participated in the 9th edition of the Raisina Dialogue

held in New Delhi, India on 21-23 February 2024.

Addressing a panel discussion on “Development Deficit: Towards a Post 2030 Agenda”



Minister Saud at the Raisina Dialogue 2024

on 23 February, Minister Saud stressed the need for creating proper platforms and developing inclusive processes to forge cooperation mechanisms that adequately address the financial divide between nations. Among other things, he highlighted the need for both South-South and North-South cooperation to realise the sustainable development goals.

Minister Saud held a bilateral meeting with Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. S. Jaishankar the same day. The meeting focused on enhanced cooperation between the two countries, including in the areas agreed upon during the recently concluded Seventh Meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission.

The Nepali Foreign Minister also addressed the Global Tourism Meet at the India Habitat Centre on the same day, where he highlighted Nepal's immense tourism attractions, particularly for Indian tourists and emphasised the need for increased collaboration between Nepal and India in the tourism sector.

FOREIGN MINISTER PARTICIPATES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE

Foreign Minister Mr. N. P. Saud participated in the 7th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference held in Perth, Australia on 9-10 February 2024. The theme of the seventh edition of the conference was "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".

In his address, Minister Saud underscored the importance of the Indian Ocean for Nepal in reaching the international market and, hence, stressed the need for stability and sustainability of the Indian Ocean for the landlocked countries like Nepal. Stating

that there is an organic link between the Himalayas and the ocean, he underlined that ocean and mountain issues should be dealt with in an integrated and holistic manner.



Minister Saud addressing the conference

On the sidelines of the Conference, Foreign Minister Mr. Saud held

meetings with his counterparts from Singapore and Japan, and

with the Secretary-General of BIMSTEC.

FOREIGN MINISTER ADDRESSES THE HIGH-LEVEL HRC SEGMENT

Foreign Minister Mr. Narayan Prakash Saud, head of the Nepali delegation to the 55th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, addressed the high-level segment of the Session via a pre-recorded video statement on 27 February 2024.

In his statement, Mr. Saud reaffirmed Nepal’s commitment to all human rights while calling international community to fulfill Official Development Assistance (ODA) and climate financing commitments. He also highlighted Nepal’s positive achievement in

human rights front and ensured Nepal’s commitment to early concluding the last mile tasks of nationally led peace process including transitional justice process by upholding the victim-centric approach in consultation with all stakeholders.



Foreign Minister addressing the High-Level Segment

FOREIGN SECRETARY PARTICIPATES IN THE ASIA ECONOMIC DIALOGUE 2024

Foreign Secretary Ms. Sewa Lamsal participated in the inaugural session of the 8th edition of the Asia Economic Dialogue in Pune, India on 29 February 2024. The inaugural session was focused on promoting economic integration in South Asia including expanding all forms of connectivity. Addressing a session in the Dialogue, Ms. Lamsal stressed the need for policy initiatives to enable additional cooperation in the region, particularly in hydropower, agriculture, and tourism sectors. She also focused on the sustainable integration of the region.



Foreign Secretary Ms. Lamsal paying a courtesy call on the External Affairs Minister of India

During her visit to India, Foreign Secretary Lamsal paid a courtesy call on the Minister of External Affairs of India

Dr. S. Jaishankar. She also held meeting with the Foreign Secretary of India Mr. Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY PARTICIPATES IN THE THIRD GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT

Foreign Secretary Ms. Sewa Lamsal led the Nepali delegation to the 3rd Global South Summit held in Kampala, the capital city of the Republic of Uganda on 21 and 22 January 2024, under the theme of 'Leaving No One Behind'.

In her address to the Summit, Ms. Lamsal reiterated Nepal's support to the Group of 77 and China in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement, and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals including



Foreign Secretary Ms. Sewa Lamsal addressing the 3rd Global South Summit on 21 January 2024

Doha Program of Action. She expressed Nepal's strong commitment to fostering

solidarity, harmony, and cooperation among countries of the Global South.

While calling for the fulfilment of promises and commitments made by developed countries in terms of ODA, climate

financing, and technology transfer, she underscored the importance of strengthening North-South, South-South,

and Triangular Cooperation by focusing on the needs of LDCs in trade, infrastructure, and productive capacity.

REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING HELD IN KATHMANDU

The Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Asia and the Pacific for the Fourth Review of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (POA) and its International Tracing Instrument (ITI) was held in

Kathmandu on 23-25 January 2024. The Meeting was jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. N. P. Saud addressed the opening session on 23 January. In his opening remarks, the

Minister reaffirmed Nepal's total and unequivocal commitment to disarmament. Minister Saud stressed the need to strengthen national capacity, enhance regional initiatives and coordination, adapt strategies to address widespread security challenge of illicit trade and use of small arms.



The representatives of 25 countries from the Asia and Pacific Region attending the meeting

THE 59TH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE OF SAARC HELD IN KATHMANDU

The Programming Committee of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) held its fifty-ninth session at the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, on 06-07 March 2024. Ms. Sewa

Lamsal, Foreign Secretary of Nepal in her capacity as the Chairperson of the SAARC Standing Committee, addressed the inaugural session. In her inaugural address, the Foreign

Secretary highlighted the need to hold regular meetings of the SAARC Charter Bodies, including the Programming Committee.



The 59th Session of the Programming Committee of SAARC

The Programming Committee reviewed the status of regional cooperation in the identified

areas since its last Meeting. The Committee finalized the budgets and Calendars of Activities of the

SAARC Secretariat, Specialized Bodies and Regional Centres for the year 2024.

NEPAL HOSTED THE MEETING OF BIMSTEC EXPERT GROUP ON TOURISM

As the lead country for People-to-People Contact sector of cooperation, Nepal organized the 2nd Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Tourism in Kathmandu on 17-18 January 2024. The meeting was chaired

by Mr. Gobinda Bahadur Karkee, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation.

The meeting discussed and finalized the updated draft Plan of Action on Tourism. It

also made important decisions regarding the operationalization of the Virtual BIMSTEC Tourism Fund and BIMSTEC Tourism Information Center, among others.



Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Tourism

BIMSTEC EPG MEETINGS HELD IN DHAKA

The First and Second Meetings of the Eminent Persons’ Group (EPG) on the Future Directions of BIMSTEC were held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 25 January 2024

and 11-12 March 2014 respectively. Both the meetings were chaired by Dr. Soonthorn Chaiyindeepum, an EPG member from Thailand, the current Chair

of BIMSTEC. The members of BIMSTEC EPG from all seven member states participated in the meetings.



EPG Members with the Secretary General of BIMSTEC

NEPAL PARTICIPATES IN THE BIMSTEC AQUATIC CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

Nepal won a bronze medal in the BIMSTEC Aquatic Championship 2024 held in New Delhi, India

on 6-9 February 2024. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports of India Mr. Anurag

Singh Thakur and Minister for Youth and Sports of Nepal Mr. Dig Bahadur Limbu attended



BIMSTEC Aquatic Championship 2024 opening ceremony

the opening ceremony. It was the first sports event organized

within BIMSTEC framework. Over 400 athletes from BIMSTEC

Member States participated in the Championship.

MEETING OF THE BIMSTEC EXPERT GROUP ON FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK

Nepal participated in the First Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Fisheries and Livestock held virtually on 12 March 2024 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

The Meeting finalised the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Expert Group on Fisheries and Livestock, and the Plan of Action on BIMSTEC Fisheries and Livestock

Cooperation. The Plan of Action outlines 23 actions across 4 areas of cooperation to enhance food security, safety, and nutrition.



Participants during the First Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Fisheries and Livestock

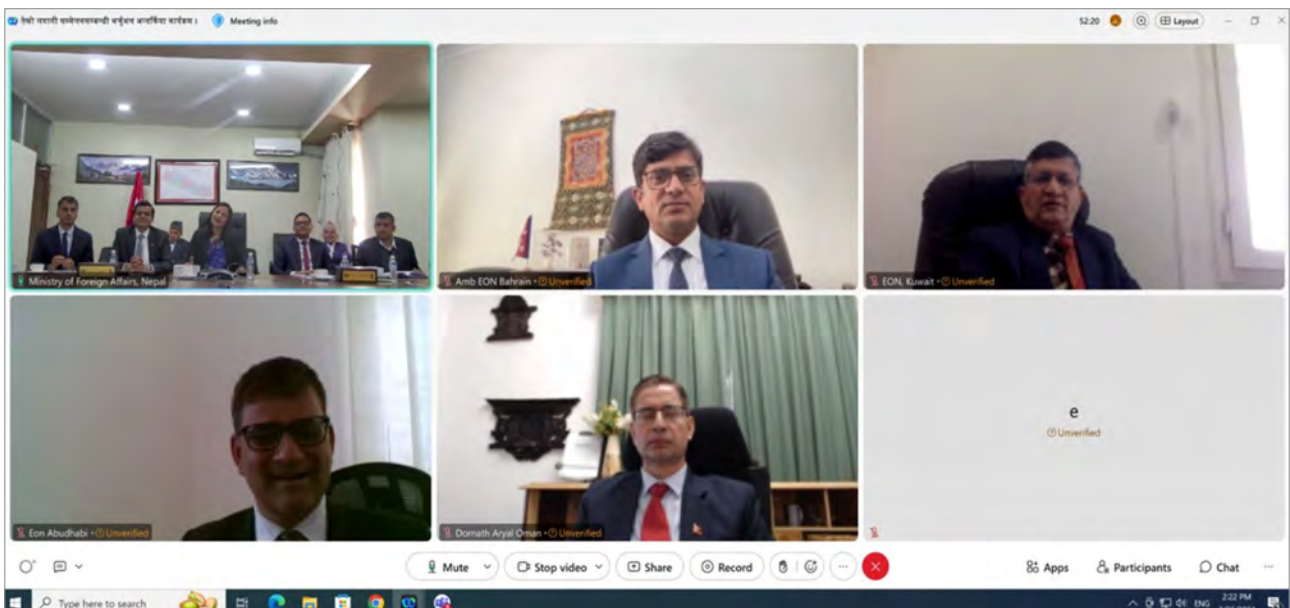
C. DEVELOPMENT DIPLOMACY

INTERACTION PROGRAMME ON THE THIRD INVESTMENT SUMMIT

The Ministry organized an interaction programme on

‘Role of Nepali Missions in Gulf countries for the Third Investment

Summit’ on 26 February 2024. Foreign Secretary Ms. Sewa



Participants of the Interaction Program

Lamsal chaired the program, joined by CEO of Investment Board Nepal Mr. Sushil Bhatta and officials from the Board as well the Ministry. Ambassadors/ Heads of Nepali Missions in

the Gulf region attended the interaction virtually. Updates on the preparations for Third Investment Summit scheduled to be held in Kathmandu on 28-29 April 2024 were shared in the

interaction. The participants also discussed extensively the role of the Missions to make the Summit a success.

D. SERVICE DELIVERY AT THE HEADQUARTERS

NON-RESIDENT NEPALI (NRN) IDENTITY CARD

S. N.	Services (from the Ministry)	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	24

PASSPORT SERVICES

S. N.	Services	Number	Remarks
1	E-passport issued	2,72,662	Ordinary
		41	Diplomatic
		797	Official
		7	Service
2	MRP passports issued	66	Ordinary
		4	Travel Document (TD)
3	Total passports issued	2,73,577	Districts, Nepali Missions and the Department
4	Emails and social media responses	548	
5	Number of revoked passports	134	
6	Issuance of various documents	601	
7	Revenue collected at the Department of Passport (NRs.)	631,923,222.00	

CONSULAR

S. N.	Services	Number
A	<i>Consular and Legal Counselling</i>	
1	Recommendations letters	26
2	Issuances of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for education	116
3	Recommendations for character verification	149
4	Recommendations for procurement of chemicals & explosives	33
5	Documents issued for compensation cases abroad	68
6	Search and rescue correspondences	234

7	Correspondences for repatriation of deceased Nepali nationals	41
8	Correspondences on citizenship renouncement	24
9	Issuance of diplomatic and official card	27
B	<i>Visa and Exemption</i>	
1	Issuances of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	84
2	Issuances of recommendation letters for exemption	504
3	Issuances of SAARC Visa stickers	3
4	Other correspondences and recommendations	443
5	Number of official visa recommendations	249
C	<i>Attestation</i>	
1	Number of documents attested	118664
2	Number of Service Recipient	104082
3	Revenue collected at the Department of Consular Services (NRs.)	5,93,32,000/-

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Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Patron: **Ms. Sewa Lamsal**
Foreign Secretary

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