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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

1. PRESIDENT PAYS A STATE VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari paid a state visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from 16 to 20 October at the friendly invitation of the President of Myanmar Mr. U Win Myint. The two Presidents held bilateral talks on 17 October and discussed ways towards enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two countries. In the evening, the President attended a State Banquet hosted by the President of Myanmar in honour of the President of Nepal and her delegation.

State Counsellor of Myanmar Ms. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi called on the President and discussed various aspects of bilateral relations and ways of promoting the bilateral ties as well as regional partnership within the BIMSTEC framework.

While in Myanmar, the President visited places of historical and cultural importance, including Yangon, the old capital, and Bagan, a UNESCO world heritage site. The President also visited Pyin Oo Lyin and interacted with the citizen of Myanmar of Nepali origin.

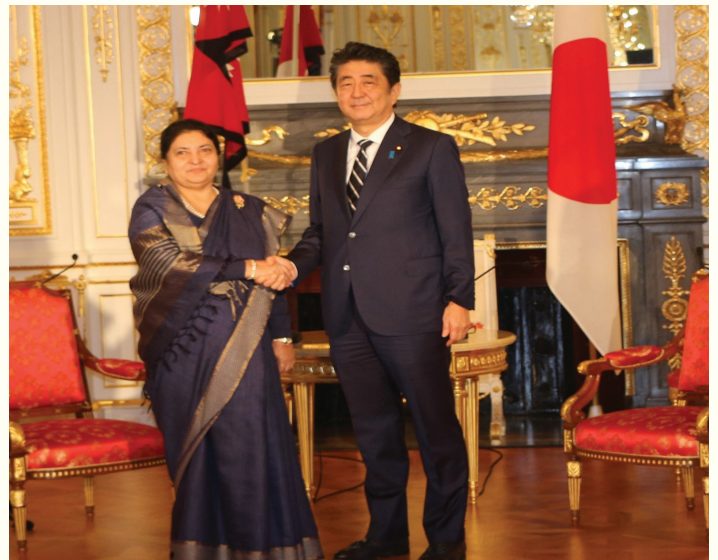


President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari with President of Myanmar U Win Myint, Nay Pyi Taw, 17 October 2019

2. PRESIDENT PAYS AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO JAPAN

At the friendly invitation of the Government of Japan, President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari paid an official visit to Japan from 20 to 22 October and attended the Enthronement Ceremony of His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito in Tokyo on 22 October.

During the visit, Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe met with the President on 21 October. Various aspects of bilateral relations, including infrastructure development, trade expansion, investment promotion, human resources development and tourism, among others, were discussed during the meeting.



President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari with Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe, Tokyo, 21 October 2019

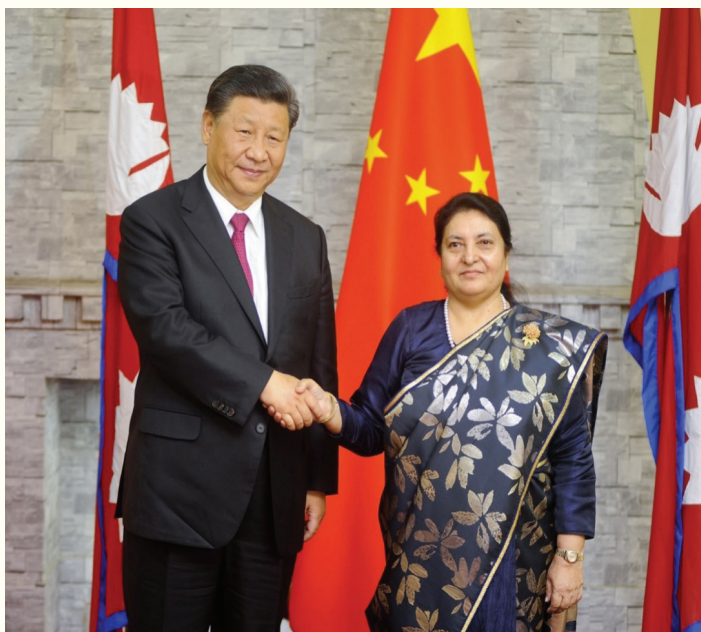
While in Japan, the President also had a meeting with President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind on 22 October. The two presidents expressed satisfaction over the age-old and friendly relations subsisting between the two countries and underlined the importance of exchanges of high-level visits on a regular basis in order to advance the bilateral ties. The two Presidents

underscored the need of timely completion of the projects under bilateral cooperation and further expand the areas of cooperation.

The President also attended welcome reception hosted in her honor by the Embassy of Nepal in Tokyo. Addressing the guests at the reception, the President appreciated the continued cooperation of the Government and the people of Japan for socio-economic development of Nepal. Similarly, she called upon the Nepali Diaspora in Japan to contribute to the development and prosperity of Nepal through the investment of capital, technology, skills and knowledge they have earned in Japan.

3. PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA PAYS A STATE VISIT TO NEPAL

At the invitation of Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal, Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, paid a state visit to Nepal from 12 to 13 October.



President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari with President of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping, Kathmandu, 12 October 2019

The two Presidents held a meeting at Sheetal Niwas on 12 October 2019 and exchanged views on diverse areas of mutual interest between Nepal and China. The two Leaders also shared ideas on elevating Nepal-China Comprehensive Partnership of Cooperation to the level of Strategic Partnership of Cooperation Featuring Everlasting Friendship for Development and Prosperity.

President Mr. Xi Jinping also attended a State Banquet hosted by President Mrs. Bhandari in honor of the Chinese President and his delegation on 12 October.

President Mr. Xi Jinping and Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli held delegation level official talks on 13 October, the second day of the visit. In the meeting, both the leaders exchanged views on further consolidating multi-dimensional relationship between Nepal and China. After comprehensive discussions on substantive matters of bilateral and multilateral fronts at the delegation level talks, the two sides issued a fourteen-point Joint Statement which reflects present state of Nepal-China relations and guides the bilateral cooperation for the days to come.



Delegation level bilateral talks between President of China Mr. Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli, Kathmandu, 13 October 2019

Following the official talks, the President and Prime Minister witnessed the signing and exchange of twenty bilateral documents- Treaty, Agreements, MoUs, and Letters of Exchange.



Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli with Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping after witnessing the signing and exchange of bilateral documents, Kathmandu, 13 October 2019

4. VICE MINISTER OF MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA MR. ZHENG GUOGUANG VISITS NEPAL

Vice Minister of the Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China Mr. Zheng Guoguang visited Nepal from 10-13 November. During his visit, Vice Minister Mr. Zheng called on Minister for Home Affairs Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa on

11 November. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on further strengthening mutual cooperation in the areas of disaster risk reduction and emergency response, with special focus on the implementation of the MOU on Disaster Risk Reduction signed between the Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal and Ministry of Emergency Management of China during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Nepal.

5. GOVERNOR OF THE YUNNAN PROVINCE OF CHINA VISITS NEPAL

Governor of the Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China Mr. Ruan Chengfa visited Nepal from 24-27 November. During his visit, Governor Mr. Chengfa called on Vice President Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun, and Minister for Energy, Water Resource and Irrigation Mr. Barshaman Pun on 25 November. During the call on views were exchanged on mutual interests between Nepal and China in general, and Nepal and Yunnan province in particular.

6. A JAPANESE DELEGATION VISITS NEPAL

A 25-member delegation led by Mr. Takami Nakada, Deputy Director-General for International Affairs Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) visited Nepal in the second week of November. The delegation paid courtesy calls on Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation. During the visit, Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC) and Japan International Research Center for Agriculture Sciences (JIRCAS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on developing agricultural technologies to increase agricultural production and improve natural resource management

7. FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS RUSSIA AND SERBIA

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali paid an official visit to the Russian Federation from 24-27 November and held a meeting with the Foreign Minister Mr. Sergey Lavrov on 25 November. The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on various aspects of bilateral relations and underscored the importance of the exchange of high-level visits and agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in trade and investment. They also discussed ways for promoting tourism and people-to-people contacts. The two sides also shared views on fostering partnership and cooperation in regional and multilateral forums on the issues of common concerns.



Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and Russian Foreign Minister Mr. Sergey Lavrov jointly addressing the Press after Delegation Level Talks, Moscow, 25 November 2019

They underlined the need of building a strong economic partnership and agreed to explore ways and means for enhancing economic and trade relations for mutual benefit. Foreign Minister Gyawali thanked the Russian Federation for providing assistance and cooperation to Nepal for the last five decades in many areas, including disaster response, human resource development, infrastructure development and cultural exchanges.

Foreign Minister Mr. Gyawali also visited the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO-University) and delivered a speech on Nepal-Russia relations in a Talk Program organized at the MGIMO. The Talk Program was attended by faculty and students of the University.

Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali paid a visit to the Republic of Serbia from 27-28 November and held delegation level talks with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia Mr. Ivaca Dacic on 28 November. During the talks, the two Foreign Ministers took stock of overall aspects of bilateral relations and exchanged views on further enhancing cooperation between Nepal and Serbia in economic, social, cultural and technological avenues.

They also underscored the need for setting up a permanent mechanism between the two foreign ministries in order to facilitate regular contacts and exchanges. The two sides also agreed on the need for an enhanced level of cooperation and partnership in regional and multilateral forums on the issues of mutual concerns and interests.

8. NEPAL AND NORWAY ESTABLISH BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM

Nepal and Norway have established a bilateral consultation mechanism. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Foreign Ministries of Nepal and Norway was signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kathmandu on 04 November.



Foreign Ministers of Nepal and Serbia jointly addressing the Press after Delegation level Talks, Belgrade, 28 November 2019

Joint Secretary of Europe America Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal Mr. Nirmal Raj Kafle and Ambassador of Norway to Nepal Mr. Lasse Bjørn Johannessen signed the MoU on behalf of their respective Ministries. Both the Foreign Ministers witnessed the signing.

As per the MoU, Nepal and Norway will hold regular consultations alternatively in Kathmandu and Oslo in order to review bilateral relations and identify new areas of cooperation between the two countries, as well as exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

9. THE 11TH MEETING OF NEPAL-EU JOINT COMMISSION CONCLUDES

The 11th meeting of the Joint Commission between Nepal and the European Union (EU) was held in Kathmandu on 8 November. A wide range of issues of mutual interest were discussed. Both delegations agreed to further strengthening the political partnership, development cooperation and promoting global and regional collaboration on matters of common interests.



Signing Ceremony of the MoU Establishing Nepal-Norway Bilateral Consultation Mechanism, Kathmandu, 4 October 2019

Nepal and the EU have taken firm steps to reinforce their partnership, including through the decision of upgrading the Joint Commission to annual meetings from biennial ones from 2019 onwards. Both delegations underlined the importance of high-level visits to further consolidate bilateral relations and cooperation, and agreed to plan such exchanges in the near future.

The Joint Commission was co-chaired by Mr. Shanker D. Bairagi, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Nepal and Ms. Paola Pampaloni, Deputy Managing Director for Asia and the Pacific of the European External Action Service for the EU.

Prior to the Joint Commission meeting, the 3rd meeting of the Sub-Commission on Development Cooperation between Nepal and the EU was held in the Ministry on 7 November. The meeting exchanged views on the whole spectrum of the ongoing development cooperation between Nepal and the EU and also discussed future course of action. The Sub-Commission was co-chaired by Mr. Nirmal Raj Kafle, Joint Secretary of Europe and the Americas Division at the Ministry and Ms. Libuse Soukupova, DG, International Cooperation and Development at EEAS of the EU.



11th Meeting of Nepal-EU Joint Commission, Kathmandu, 8 November 2019

10. NEPAL-NEW ZEALAND FIRST BILATERAL FOREIGN MINISTRY CONSULTATION MEETING

Nepal-New Zealand First Bilateral Foreign Ministry Consultation meeting was held on 2nd October in Kathmandu. Mr. Tapas Adhikari, Joint Secretary, South East Asia and the Pacific (SEAP) Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Mr. Andrew Needs, Additional Secretary, South and South East Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand led their respective delegations to the meeting. During the meeting, the two sides took stock

of various aspects of bilateral relations and exchanged views on further promoting cooperation especially through enhancing economic engagements between the two countries. The meeting also discussed the Climate Change issue in reference to the forthcoming Sagarmatha Sambaad to be held in Kathmandu in April 2020.

11. GERMAN PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION VISITS NEPAL

Parliamentary State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation Mr. Nobert Barthle visited Nepal from 2-5 October. While in Nepal, Mr. Barthle paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli and also had meetings with high dignitaries, including Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, and Minister for Communication and Information Technology. During his visit, a Nepal-German Business Forum was organized in Kathmandu and a Technical Vocational School in Dhading established with the support of German Cooperation was inaugurated.

B. REGIONAL & MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

1. PRIME MINISTER MR. K P SHARMA OLİ PARTICIPATES IN THE 18TH NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) SUMMIT

Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli participated in the 18th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan from 25-26 October. The Nepali delegation was comprised of spouse of the Prime Minister Mrs. Radhika Shakya, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister Mr. Bishnu Rimal, Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr.



Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli addressing the 18th Summit of NAM, Baku, 26 October 2019

Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, and senior officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli was elected as the Vice-President of the Summit representing the Asia-Pacific region. In this capacity, the Prime Minister chaired the afternoon session of the Summit on 25 October.

The Prime Minister addressed the general debate of the Summit on 26 October under the theme of Upholding the Bandung Principles to ensure concerted and adequate response to the challenges of contemporary world. In his statement, referring the Non-Aligned Movement as a synonym for peace, security, justice and development, the Prime Minister highlighted its time-tested value and appeal. He also underscored the role of the Movement in ensuring prosperity for all so that no one would be left behind, as envisioned by the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sharing the context of Nepal, the Prime Minister stated that as enshrined in the Constitution, the objectives of NAM have been the fundamentals of Nepal's foreign policy. He also expressed Nepal's wish to see a NAM that is internally cohesive, united, strong and externally influential so that the entrenched global inequalities are uprooted for once and all.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister also informed the gathering about the decision of the Government of Nepal to host the Sagarmatha Sambaad, a global dialogue forum in Nepal and to hold its first edition in April 2020, under the theme of Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity.

While in Baku, the Prime Minister held separate bilateral meetings with Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu; President of Pakistan Arif Alvi; Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina and the President of Azerbaijan, among others, on the sidelines of the Summit.

2. PREPARATORY MINISTERIAL MEETING OF NAM

Prior to the NAM Summit, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali led the Nepali delegation to the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting for the 18th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Baku, Azerbaijan and addressed the Ministerial Meeting on 23 October.

In his address, Foreign Minister underscored the special responsibility of NAM in using its numerical and moral strength to ensure adequate and predictable



Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali delivering a statement during the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting of the 18th NAM Summit, Baku, 23 October 2019

resources for preventing conflicts and help member states achieve peace and stability. Minister Gyawali further added that a stronger and revitalized NAM is a sine qua non for achieving peace, development, and security and urged member countries to support each other in building domestic capacity by sharing their experiences, best practices and provisioning of resources through the South-South Cooperation. He also underlined the importance of NAM for equal rights, equal opportunities, equal protection and equal respect for all countries.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF VISITS NEPAL

Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UNICEF Ms. Henrietta H. Fore visited Nepal to participate at the Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) Global



Executive Director of UNICEF Ms. Henrietta H. Fore paying courtesy call on President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari Kathmandu, 4 November 2019

Gathering held in Kathmandu from 4 to 7 November. During her visit, she paid courtesy calls on President Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari, and Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali at their respective offices.

During the calls on, achievements made by Nepal in the areas of the rights of children along with enhancing the cooperation between Nepal and UNICEF were discussed. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended coordination and logistic supports to the SUN Global Gathering.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNFPA VISITS NEPAL

The Executive Director of UNFPA Dr. Natalia Kanem visited Nepal from 20 to 22 October to extend an invitation for Nepal's participation in the Nairobi Summit on International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD 25). During her visit, she paid courtesy call on Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli on 21 October at his residence. She also paid calls on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health and Population Mr. Upendra Yadav, and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, separately. During these meetings, matters related to enhancing cooperation between Nepal and UNFPA along with Nepal's participation in the ICPD 25 were discussed.



UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem with Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli, Kathmandu, 21 October 2019

5. THE CHAIRPERSON OF GANHRI CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER

Chairperson of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Dr. Carlos Alfonso Negret Mosquera paid a courtesy call on Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali on 14 November. During the meeting, matters related

to promoting cooperation between the Government of Nepal, National Human Rights Commission and GANHRI were discussed.



Chairperson of GANHRI Dr. Carlos Alfonso Negret Mosquera with Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, 14 October 2019

6. NEPAL PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF CWC

Nepal actively participated in the National Authorities Meeting of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (CWC) held at OPCW headquarters in the Hague, the Netherlands from 5 to 7 November. Joint Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal led the Nepali delegation to the meeting. He briefed the Meeting about the efforts made by Nepal to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention and reiterated Nepal's unflinching commitment to disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, including the Chemical Weapons.

7. NEPAL PARTICIPATED IN THE NINETH SOUTH ASIA IHL CONFERENCE

Nepali delegation led by Joint Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal participated in the 9th South Asia International Humanitarian Law Conference (IHL) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 11 to 13 November. Joint Secretary Paudyal chaired the first session of the Conference.

8. THIRD MEETING OF SAARC MINISTERS OF EDUCATION/HIGHER EDUCATION

Minister for Education, Science and Technology Mr. Giriraj Mani Pokharel participated in the Third Meeting of the SAARC Ministers of Education/Higher Education held in Malé, Maldives on 10 October. The Ministers recognized the central role of education in human rights and development and agreed to strengthen cooperation to comply with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4). The meeting adopted Malé Statement

on Education/Higher Education at the end. The Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Education/Higher Education was preceded by the Meeting of Senior Officials of Education/Higher Education.

9. FOURTH INFORMAL MEETING OF SAARC FINANCE MINISTERS

The Fourth Informal Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was held for the first time in Washington DC on 17 October on the side-lines of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the World Bank. Minister of Finance Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada chaired the meeting. The Finance Ministers from all the Member States briefed the meeting about the status of economic progress achieved and appreciated the contribution made by the World Bank in their economic growth. They also expressed their hope that the activities under SAARC would make further progress to achieve its full potential for the benefit of peoples of the region.

10. SIXTH MEETING OF SAARC INTER-GOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON TRANSPORT (IGGT) CONCLUDES IN KATHMANDU

The Government of Nepal, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport hosted the Sixth Meeting of SAARC Inter-Governmental Group on Transport on 19 November in Kathmandu. Inaugurated by Hon. Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport Mr. Raghu Bir Mahaseth, the meeting discussed SAARC Regional Agreements on Connectivity for further deepening of regional connectivity.

11. GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS OF SAARC ENERGY CENTRE (SEC) AND SAARC AGRICULTURE CENTRE (SAC)

Nepal participated in the Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC Energy Centre (SEC) hosted by Pakistan in Islamabad from 6-7 November. Nepal also participated in the Thirteenth Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) which was hosted by Bangladesh on 15-16 October. Both of the meetings discussed on the activities of the centres held in 2019, considered the calendar of activities and budget of the Centres for the year 2020, and discussed on various other pertinent issues relating to the regional Centres.

12. GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF SAARC TUBERCULOSIS AND HIV/AIDS CENTRE

Nepal organized the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) in Kathmandu from 21-22 November. The Governing Board assessed the

activities of the Centre for the year 2019, finalized the budget and activities for the year and discussed different relevant issues of the Centre.

13. SECOND MEETING OF THE BIMSTEC PERMANENT WORKING COMMITTEE

Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 10-11 October. A two-member delegation led by Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi, Joint Secretary of the Regional Organization Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the meeting. The Meeting deliberated on the BIMSTEC Charter, rationalization of the sectors and sub-sectors under BIMSTEC cooperation, the Memorandum of Association for establishment of BIMSTEC Centres/Entities, among others.

14. THE FIRST BIMSTEC PORTS CONCLAVE

The First BIMSTEC Ports Conclave was held at Visakhapatnam Port Trust, India from 07-08 November. Nepalese Delegation comprising the officials from the Ministry of Industries, Commerce and Supplies and other agencies participated in the Conclave. The Conclave aimed at providing a platform for maritime interaction, port-led connectivity and sharing best practices in the field of transit-transport and maritime cooperation among the BIMSTEC Member States.

15. PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE SECOND BIMSTEC DISASTER MANAGEMENT EXERCISE

A Preparatory Meeting for the Second BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise was held in Puri, Odisha, India from 14-15 November. The meeting worked on the modalities and requirement of the Second BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise being held from 11-13 February 2020. A three-member delegation from the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of Nepal participated in the meeting and shared Nepal's priorities.

16. THE FIRST COASTAL SECURITY WORKSHOP FOR BIMSTEC COUNTRIES

Nepal participated in the First Coastal Security Workshop for BIMSTEC Countries held at Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), Gurugram, India from 20-22 November. The Workshop provided a forum for sharing expertise and experiences on areas of common concern within the domain of maritime cooperation among the Member States.

17. THE SECOND BIMSTEC THINK TANK DIALOGUE ON REGIONAL SECURITY

The Second BIMSTEC Think Tank Dialogue on Regional Security was held at the Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi from 27-28 November. The program continued the robust interaction and deliberations by regional Think Tanks and strategic communities towards formalizing security cooperation in the BIMSTEC region.

18. WORKSHOP ON EFFECTIVE WRITING SKILLS IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), hosted a three-day "Workshop on Effective Writing in Multilateral Diplomacy" in Kathmandu from 18-20 November. The Workshop was conducted by Mr. Lars Tillfors from the UNITAR. A total of 36 participants from Foreign Ministry, Home Ministry, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, and Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) benefitted from the training. Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi concluded the workshop by distributing certificates to the participants.



Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi with the participants of UNITAR workshop, Kathmandu, 28 November 2019

19. INAUGURATION OF THE SAGARMATHA SAMBAAD SECRETARIAT AND PRESS MEET

Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali inaugurated the Secretariat of the Sagarmatha Sambaad amidst a special function held at Narayanhiti premises on 21 November.

During the inaugural ceremony, Foreign Minister shared with participants about the aims of the Sagarmatha Sambaad, a global forum established by the Government of Nepal. Foreign Minister Gyawali

also highlighted about the first edition of the Sambaad to be held on the theme of Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity in Kathmandu from 2 to 4 April 2020.

Foreign Minister Gyawali expressed that the main objectives of the first edition of Sagarmatha Sambaad are to forge a consensus among countries on the impending climate crisis. It also aims to encourage political leaders to mobilize their willpower to tackle the menace of climate change and create awareness among participants, stakeholders and the entire world about the direct relation that exists between the climate change and mountain ecology. Sagarmatha Sambaad, which will be held every two years, will be jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) and Policy Research Institute (PRI).



Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali inaugurating SAGARMATHA SAMBAAD Secretariat, Narayanhiti, Kathmandu, 21 November 2019

While updating about the ongoing preparation for the Sagarmatha Sambaad, Minister Gyawali sought cooperation from all stakeholders including government, non-government international organizations, international community, development partners, academia, experts, entrepreneurs, civil society, media, among others.

20. BRIEFING TO THE DIPLOMATIC AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ON SAGARMATHA SAMBAAD

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized on 21 November a briefing programme to the Kathmandu-based Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Diplomatic Corps and Representatives of Regional and International Organizations about the establishment of the Sagarmatha Sambaad and its first edition. The inaugural episode of the Sambaad is scheduled to be held in Kathmandu from April 2 to 4, 2020 on the theme “Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity”.



Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali briefing about the Sagarmatha Sambaad to the Diplomatic and International Community, Kathmandu, 21 November 2019

Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, in presence of Minister for Forests and Environment Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet, and Minister for Finance Dr. Yuba Raj Khatriwada, briefed the diplomatic corps and representatives of international and regional organizations based in Kathmandu about the objectives of the Sambaad, its logo, organizational structure and Nepal’s expectations from the Sambaad.

Minister Gyawali also requested the diplomatic and international community for their goodwill and support for the success of Nepal’s initiative.

C. PROTOCOL, NON RESIDENT NEPALI, SERVICE DELIVERY INCLUDING PASSPORT AND CONSULAR MATTERS

1. PROTOCOL MATTERS

The Ministry facilitated, coordinated and arranged various incoming and outgoing high-level visits, visits at other various levels, presentation of credentials by new foreign Ambassadors, official luncheons and dinners and issuance of exequaturs to honorary consuls in Nepal. During the reporting period, the Ministry facilitated and coordinated five incoming/outgoing visits at the level of Head of State and Head of the Government as follows:

S. N.	High Level Visits	Date	Type
1.	State Visit of the President of the People’s Republic of China	12-13 Oct	Incoming
2.	Official Goodwill Visit of the President of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh	12-15 Nov	Incoming

3.	State Visit of the Rt. Hon. President to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar	16-20 Oct	Outgoing
4.	Official Visit of the Rt. Hon. President to Japan	20-23 Oct	Outgoing
5.	Official Visit of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to Azerbaijan	25-26 Oct	Outgoing

Necessary coordination and arrangement of the ceremony for presentation of Credentials for Residential and Non-residential Ambassadors-designate were arranged at Presidential Office, Sheetal Niwas on 11 November.



President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari receiving Credentials from Ms. Himalee Subhashini de Silva Arunatilaka, Residential Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to Nepal



President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari receiving Credentials from Mr. Daniel Chuburu, Ambassador of Argentine Republic to Nepal with residence in New Delhi



President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari receiving Credentials from Mr. Abdulrahman Mohamed Ahmed Al Gaoud, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Nepal with residence in New Delhi



President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari receiving Credentials from Mr. Bounneme Chounghom, Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Nepal with residence in New Delhi

Five exequaturs were issued in favour of the following Honorary Consuls:

1. Mr. Rahul Chaudhary, Honorary consul of Maldives to Nepal
2. Mr. Rajesh Chaudhary, Honorary Consul of Tanzania to Nepal
3. Mr. Shashi Kant Agrawal, Honorary Consul to Ecuador to Nepal
4. Mr. Nirvana Chaudhary, Honorary Consul of Serbia to Nepal
5. Mr. Barun Chaudhary, Honorary Consul of Kazakhstan to Nepal

Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi hosted a farewell luncheon in honour of the outgoing British Ambassador Mr. Richard Morris in Kathmandu on 04 November 2019.

2. NON-RESIDENT NEPALI (NRN) RELATED SERVICES

S. N.	Services (Only from the Ministry)	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	9
2	Processing of Land Purchase Approval to NRN	0

3. PASSPORT SERVICES

The Department of Passports has carried out the orientation and interaction programme on Passports to the District and Area Administration Offices in Province No. 1 among 25 officials. The Passport Rules, 2076 has been preliminary drafted by the Committee for the amendment of Passport Rules, 2067.

S. N.	Activities	Number	Remarks
1	Applications received	1,21,546	Excluding Live Enrollment Counters
2	Passports issued	1,20,705	From Districts, Missions and the Department
3	Total Number of passports issued (According to document type)	1,18,875	Ordinary
		70	Diplomatic
		424	Official
		1313	Gratis
		23	Travel Document (TD)
		1,20,705	Total
4	Emails responded including social networks	2,833	
5	Grievance handled	2,802	
6	Lost passport registered in the Interpol	6,177	
7	Feedback Forms Collected	1,002	
8	Revenue collected (From the Department only)	51,79,23,500/-	

4. CONSULAR SERVICES

S. N.	Details of Services	Number
A Consular and Legal Counseling Section		
1	Recommendation for Medical treatment, religious tour and others	4
2	Recommendation related to India education No Objection Certificate	204
3	Recommendation for Indian pension	3
4	Recommendation for issuing Nepali driving license	28
5	Recommendation to Indian Embassy for character verification	87
6	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	16
7	Recommendation to Indian Embassy for issuing vehicle permit	4
8	Correspondence regarding the citizenship renouncement	16
9	Correspondence regarding the Power of Attorney	41
10	Correspondence regarding authenticity of documents issued by the Government of Nepal	33
11	POA, VOR, H-Form Request (Malaysia), and correspondence to the District Administration Office for compensation to Nepali citizens	66
12	Correspondence concerning search and rescue of Nepali nationals	100
13	Correspondence with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepali nationals abroad	56
14	Number of draft received for the compensation from Malaysia	232
16	Correspondence to the government agencies in Nepal	5
B Visa and Exemption Section		
1	Issuance of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	259
2	Issuance of diplomatic/official ID Card	63
3	Issuance of SAARC visa stickers	25
4	Number of recommendation for exemption	512
5	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions of GON's nominations	308
C Attestation section		
1	Number of Registered documents for Attestation	36954
Total		39016