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A new chapter in Nepal-India relationship

Bishnu Sapkota
After Returning from India

Prime Minister Prachanda returned home after paying a five-day state visit to India. He called the visit a success and the visit has opened a new chapter in mutual relations and co-operation between the two countries.

As a member of the delegation, I covered the visit for Radio Nepal, the state owned Radio station and various other Media. The Indian government welcomed PM Prachanda's visit heartily. Although New Delhi was reeling under the panic after explosions in various parts of the city, nonetheless the Indian media paid significant coverage to the visit.

On the second day, PM Prachanda held talks with his Indian counterpart, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. A joint statement was not the issue in the meeting. However, India agreed to review, readjust, and replace all treaties including the 1950's 'Peace and Friendship Treaty'. This is a significant achievement for Nepal. Earlier he met with Indian President Mrs. Pratibha Patil, Vice-President Hamid Ansari, and President of Indian National Congress Sonia Gandhi. PM Prachanda also met the opposition leader Lal Krishna Advani, the leader of the Hindu chauvinist BJP, and who has been critical of the Maoist. Advani congratulated PM Prachanda and welcomed the Federal Democratic Re-

public of Nepal.

On the third day, he met leaders of several Communist parties in India. Later he addressed journalists at a press conference. He told a large gathering of Indian, Nepali and other international journalists about the agreements made between the two heads of governments. He said that Nepal and India have agreed to form a joint task force to study and sort out the issues that need revision. He also said that Indian leaders also agreed to help Nepal build infrastructure development and invest in the hydropower sectors.

Talking with the journalists, PM Prachanda said that his party was going to experiment with a new democratic system. He argued that his party was not practising formal parliamentary democracy or one-party communist dictatorship: "We are trying to go ahead with a new democratic system. This policy would strengthen the Proletariat, Dalits and down-trodden communities. We want a people-controlled democracy."

During the press-meet, I chatted with some Indian journalists about media coverage of the visit. They said there had been significant coverage, and especially the print media has given large coverage to the visit and agreements between the two sides in their editorials and analysis.

The visit to the southern Indian city of Bangalore, the



Prime Minister Prachanda shakes hand with Indian Prime Minister Monmohan Singh during his five-day state visit to India.

information technology hub of India, on the fourth day was significant. This was the first time any Nepali Prime Minister has visited the South Indian city during a state visit. Gates welcoming the PM were built in the city and preparation had been made to welcome the Nepali PM. PM Prachanda visited the Indian

Space Research Organisation (ISRO), INFOSYS Campus and its BIOCON office. He was quite surprised to see the overwhelming IT development in Bangalore. Addressing the luncheon meet organised by Confederate of Indian Industry (CII), Prachanda stated that he is: "seeking to bring about a similar change in Nepal." PM

Prachanda, the commander of the 10-year long People's War, had always had a keen interest in the information technology sector. He had even encouraged his colleagues and cadres to give emphasis on the information technology during the war. The Chief Minister of Karnataka, Mr. Yeddyurappa,

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On the 19th September, the Finance Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai unveiled the historic budget of Rs.236 Billion for the Fiscal Year 2008/2009. This is the first budget from the Maoist led coalition government and the new Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

The Finance Minister proposed Rs.124.19 billion for development, and Rs. 111.82 billion for general administration. Further, he has allocated Rs. 16.18 billion for the principal payment, Rs 91.31 billion for capital expenditure, and Rs 128.51 for recurrent expendi-

People-oriented budget

ture. The size of the budget of the FDR is about 39.6% more than previous governments. The government has a strategy to build the budget from different sources. One of the sources for the budget is the revenue of about Rs129 billion; foreign assistance Rs 65 billion, foreign grants Rs. 47.09 billion, foreign loans Rs. 18.70 billion and Rs 41.11 million will be the deficit of the budget.

The budget may seem somewhat ambitious, but it is well planned and thought out. Along with the establishment of the Federal Democratic Republic, the budget hopes to address the hopes and aspirations of the people. The Finance Minister has clearly presented the sources and expenditure for the budget,

every source is clearly defined. The budget addresses the problems of rural areas as well as the problems of urban areas. It addresses the marginalised, exploited, neglected peoples and ethnic groups of Nepal.

The budget has focussed strongly on education, health, women, hydro electric development, roads, irrigation, and tourism. For socio-economic transformation the government will prioritise infrastructure and industrialisation. The two pillars of socio-economic transformation will be firstly, cooperatives, and secondly, public private partnership. There is great hope that this budget will be able to change things for the better, and the poor of the country will benefit.

PM leaves for United States

Prime Minister Prachanda has left for the United States to address the 63rd general assembly meeting of the United Nations. He will address the assembly on the 26th September.

PM's spouse Sita Dahal, Chief Secretary Dr. Bhoj Raj Ghimire, PM's personal secretary Shakti Bhahaur Basent, Secretary of the Foreign Ministry Gyanchandra Acharya, PM's foreign affair advisors Hira Bahadur Thapa and others will accompany him.

Further, the PM will hold a meeting with the United Nations general secretary Ban Ki Moon. Likewise, PM Prachanda, also the Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) which is still on the US 'terrorist list' will also hold bilateral talks with US president George W. Bush. Bush has sent his invitation for the meeting. He will also attend welcome receptions organised by UN general secretary Ban Ki Moon and US president Goerge W. Bush.

Moreover, he will meet the presidents of Sri Lanka, Turkey, Switzerland, the Chief Advisor of Bangladesh, the First Vice-President of Cuba and representatives of other countries. PM Prachanda will take part in programs regarding the Millennium Development Goals and a round-table conference about hunger and poverty.

The PM will also address programs organised by the Asian society and the New School Uni- *Continued on page 8*

A matter of class interest!

Red Star Reporter

Leaders of Nepali Congress (NC), as well as some leaders of the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist) are talking against the latest comment of the Maoist Chairman and Prime Minister Prachanda about the goal of the party. Foreign Imperialist powers like the United States and Britain are backing them.

PM Prachanda clarified about 'Parliamentary system' while answering queries raised by Constituent Assembly members on the policies and programs of the government. He said in a clear remark that—"Since the country has been passing through a transitional phase, it can neither remain static by following the parliamentary system nor can it adopt socialism outright. All multi-party systems in the world are not parliamentary democracies."

Furthermore, PM Prachanda during his visit in India said that Nepal is going to experiment with a new democratic system. He added—"We have not tried to practice formal parliamentary democracy or a one party communist dictatorship. We have tried to go ahead with a new

democratic system in between the two systems."

After Prachanda's comment the NC, some UML leaders and Terai Madhesh Democratic Party (TMDP) leaders openly criticised Prachanda's statement. In the meantime, US ambassador to Nepal, Nancy J Powell, met with former Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and UML former General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal and



discussed Prachanda's remarks. Likewise, British ambassador joined the relay and showed his concern over the remarks of the Prime Minister. He also handed a letter written by the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown to Koirala.

While signing In the 12-points understanding with the parliamentary parties made in November 2005, the CPN-Maoist had agreed to overthrow

the Monarchy and establish a Republic with a progressive political direction. On the 3rd point it is clearly stated that—"Therefore, we are committed to ending autocratic monarchy and the existing armed conflict, and establishing permanent peace in the country through constituent assembly elections and forward-looking political outlet. The CPN (Maoist) expresses its commitment to move along the

new peaceful political stream through this process."

However, the attempt of the NC with the other parties is not new one, as it has tried to demolish the government from the very first day. Everyday, NC leaders say that this government will last long. Even the NC has a commitment to democratic Socialism in its manifesto, so why are they afraid of the term 'socialism'?

At the same time, the UML is

afraid of the Maoist comment on the Parliamentary system; yet the CPN-UML is known as a Communist Party. So is a Parliamentary system the ultimate goal of a Communist party? Moreover, why did Nancy J Powell meet with Madhav Kumar Nepal? Many feel that Madhav Kumar Nepal is loyal to the US; so how should people understand this meeting while the general secretary of the UML is Jhala Nath Kha-

na at present? Is the parliamentary system what the UML want to achieve? If so, Madhav Kumar Nepal should propose changing his party name.

The ambassadors of the US and the UK have shown that they want to check the Maoist through the parliamentary system. The parliamentary system is their 'litmus paper'. However, an obvious question arises—who are they to test the Maoist and

comment on the people's choice in Nepal? They should honour the Nepali People's choice and decision in choosing their political system. Will they be happy if a Nepal ambassador suggests to American or British politicians that they should adopt Socialism.

For centuries, the parliamentary system has failed. The Nepali people are all aware of its characteristics. They understand the two-party dictatorship in US and Britain. People in these countries have no choice to choose between bad and worse. The whole world can see their parliamentary democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq. In Nepal, for the past 15 years, the parliamentary leaders have shown enough the real nature the parliamentary system.

The CPN-Maoist has never agreed to the parliamentary system. It has only agreed to struggle to achieve its goal through peaceful means. The Nepali people have rejected the failed and infamous parliamentary system and shown their inclination towards socialism. The overwhelming support for the Maoist in the CA election has shown this.

The emancipation of ploughmen

Along with the abolition of many old feudal customs, the government has declared the emancipation of ploughmen (Haliyas), thus ending an old feudal tradition that dominates in far western Nepal. The government was obliged to take action over the issue when the families oppressed by the Haliyas tradition arrived in Kathmandu and conducted a hunger strike for their emancipation.

Now they have been declared free citizens of the country. The freed Haliyas are optimistic and they expect much from the government because the government has declared a policy and program of liberty and equality.

Before the Haliyas were freed, the Kamaiyas or serfs were freed by the former government of Nepali Congress. After this declaration, however, their lives were actually harder than their previous life in the farms of the land-lords. The emancipated Kamaiyas and Haliyas did not receive equal rights and possession. The government should have provided land, homes and the opportunity of employment as declared in its

policy and programme.

Under the rule of the Ranas, Prime Minister Chandra Samsher freed 15,000 slaves from slavery. After their emancipation, the slaves were taken to a place named Amalekhganj (named after the abolition of slavery) in the Terai region. Most of the slaves were freed from the houses of Ranas, Shahs, Thapas, Basnets and the aristocrats of higher ranks, mainly from the capital Kathmandu. After they were taken to their new place, many were struck by malaria and most of the older emancipated slaves and their children died of malaria. Those left alive scattered over different parts of the country. This ended the issue of the emancipation of the slaves.

Reviewing the bitter and inhuman experiences of the past, the present government should give its priority on the actual emancipation of those Kamaiyas and Haliyas. Without actually addressing these issues, the issue of the fundamental right of a human being, it is impossible even to think of establishing a new Nepal, a civilized modern Nepal.

Interim change in Maoist organization

The ruling party, the CPN-Maoist, held its central committee secretariat meeting in Baluwater on the 15th September. The party meeting discussed the policy and programme of the government, including the budget that is coming soon.

The party meeting took some important decisions to break with the traditions of the former government and begin new ones for the betterment of the republic, the country and the people.

Those breaks are breaks in policy, plans and programs, as well as behaviour with the countries that have a bi-lateral rela-

tionship with Nepal. Because it is the first elected republican government of the 21st century, the party has given suggestions to maintain a new relationship from the standard of an elected republican government.

The Maoist party has taken some of the practical decisions to guarantee the aspirations of the people and to address the mandate. It has further suggested providing immediate relief to the flood victims as well as the poor Nepalese people all over the country.

The party has newly divided its responsibilities among the secretariat members. Ac-

cording to the decision, Mohan Baidhya 'Kiran' is now the in-charge of the party organization bureau, Post Bahadur Bogati 'Diwakar' is the in charge for the parliament-legislature bureau, Barshaman Pun 'Ananta' is the in charge of the military bureau and Nanda Kishor Pun 'Pasang', the commander in-chief of the People's Liberation Army.

The party has taken these new decisions for handling and addressing the proper management of all the problems. This meeting addressed the preparation of the forthcoming central committee meeting.

A new chapter in

hosted dinner in honour of the Nepal PM at 'The Windsor' Hotel.

The agreements between Nepal and India have been made public (see the whole text at page 3). PM Prachanda has called the visit fruitful. Speaking with the media persons at Kathmandu Airport after returning from India, PM Prachanda said that the visit has broken the continuity and started a new chapter. Many are asking; so what was the concrete attainment? In addition, most of them see the Indian grants and promises as the bigger achievement. The culture of begging from other countries has forced them to think in this way. This was just a courtesy visit to India. The intention was to inform India and the international community about the change in Nepal, the Republic, and to gather their support. PM Prachanda has succeeded in his mission. Even the BJP leader LK Advani welcomed the Republic and the change in Nepal, although he and his party were supportive of the monarchy earlier. India agreed in reviewing and adjusting the un-mutual treaties. Financial grants and promises are not such big things. We need to build our own country and that is our duty. We should do that and we can. Looking to India and other nations does not make a big difference.

PM visit to

during the discussion.

The "1950 Treaty" has constantly become a most contentious issue regarding the treaties and agreements being signed between the various governments of Nepal and India in the past during different periods. It is true that the issue of such dimension cannot be decided and reached to agreement or disagreement at on stroke and this government will not be entitled to exercise its authority to sign such treaty of national importance. But definitely this issue should come to the agenda in this visit thereby initiating the process of reviewing or making preparation for another treaty which can replace the existing one and can reflect the present reality.

Not only the people of Nepal, but many people of the world are carefully watching this visit because of more than one reason. It is being paid by the head of a Maoist led government of Nepal. It is taking place at a crucial moment in which Nepal is suffering a big shock of devastating Koshi dam episode which relates the host country in many ways. Nepal is facing fuel crisis since quite a long time back.

Therefore, this visit of the newly elected Prime minister and his team may likely to be construed as a test case for the new government; whether it will be a good beginning that will inspire the people of Nepal or disappoint them right from the very beginning.



We are fulfilling party duty through government

– Lekhraj Bhatt, Minister for Labour and Transportation

How are you harmonizing the two responsibilities of party & the government?

First of all, our party is the party with a chain of command. The state committees follow and implement the party programs after the meetings and decisions of the central committee are held and the necessary decisions taken. The meeting and interactions connect the living relationship between the party, the cadres and the people. The second thing, the party has a new responsibility to fulfil through the government. The work of the ministry is not only broader but also connected with local people. Under my ministry, I have to fulfil two main tasks: foreign employment and transportation. There is interrelationship between the tasks, issues and programs of the parties and the government.

Is the debate inside the party about how to handle the party and government or anything else?

One of the two main forms of struggle, the class struggle, is straight and open. It is antagonistic. But the inner struggle is related to transformation for adopting a new culture and ideas. Up to now, our party has successfully reached the solution through the Leninist organizational system. And our party has transformed all the tendencies into a single revolutionary tendency.

The Party and the government are related. But, there is difference in the understanding of the two things. We accept that the party and government should be under the leadership of proletarian class. These two should be handled properly to advance ahead. The

debate has now arisen from different angles and tendencies. Somewhere, ambition is also behind it.

Has the meeting of the secretariat of the central committee taken any decision for the management of the debate?

The meeting of the secretariat of the central committee has taken proper initiation for the settlement of the debate. The party has stepped forward to handle the party and the government in a proper way. The leadership of the party itself is leading the party and the government successfully. Therefore, we should focus our attention to make the leadership of the party more effective in coming days.

What type of plans have you made to handle your Ministry of Labour and Transport effectively?

At the moment, our party is leading the government of national consensus. Now, it has publicized and ratified its annual policy and plan. We have publicized the Common Minimum Programme of the government. There are two main things that I have to do under my ministry. They are concerned with foreign employment and transport. So many complex issues are bound up with them. They

all are related to the task of building a new Nepal. Further, I am going to implement them after the budget is published.

How can you manage the problems of transport scientifically?

First of all, I will try to make a settlement of uncontrolled vehicles. And, the second is better management of traffic and properly handling traffic. Scientific and practical training is necessary for the traffic police as well as decent salary and treatment. The third one is to abolish the syndicate system and to give permission for free competition and top priority to the public services. The fourth one is the investment of the state in transport and the operation of cooperatives. Here, we should observe the investment of private sector and its results, whether it is fruitful or fruitless. We should try to minimize the exploitation of investors and guarantee the rights of the workers there.

What are you thinking about the solution to the problem of foreign employment? Are you developing any alternatives in the country to replace foreign employment?

The foreign employment issue will carry on until there is an alternative in the country.

The remittance has been a huge amount of national revenue. The recent work of the ministry will be to make it transparent and more scientific, along with freeing the people, the employees, from the hands of notorious man power company brokers. This action will be fruitless and unproductive if we try to ban foreign employment before developing any proper alternatives in the country.

Nepal has a specific geopolitical situation. Benefiting from it, India has a monopoly in the Nepalese market. How can you satisfy India when you open highways and link-roads for transportation from China?

The former governments had no clear ideas about it. They sometimes used China and sometimes India as bargaining cards. We are not in favour of that idea. We will apply the policy of equal-distance to both neighbours, which will free Nepal from the problems of the past. The two neighbouring countries have entered into international free market competition. Therefore, the building of roads and the highways will connect the borders of both countries, which will help them to expand their trade.

Joint Press statement of Prime Ministers of Nepal and India

Joint Press Statement on Official visit of Rt. Hon'ble Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Prime Minister of Nepal to India (14-18 September 2008)

1. The Rt. Hon'ble Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Prime Minister of Nepal, is on an official visit to India from September 14-18, 2008 at the invitation of H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister of Nepal is accompanied by Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Yadav, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Minister for Information and Communication, Hon'ble Mr. Bishnu Prasad Poudel, Minister for Water Resources and Hon'ble Mr. Rajendra Mahato, Minister for Commerce and Supplies. The delegation includes four members of the Constituent Assembly, senior officials of the Government of Nepal, a business delegation and a delegation of media representatives.

2. During his visit, the Prime Minister of Nepal called on H.E. Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the President of India, and on H.E. Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, the Vice President of India. The Prime Minister of Nepal had a

meeting with the Prime Minister of India, which was followed by delegation level talks, led by the two Prime Ministers, on issues of mutual interest and concern. The Prime Minister of India hosted a banquet in honour of the Prime Minister of Nepal. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of External Affairs, Prof. Saif-u-Din-Soz, Minister of Water Resources and Shri L.K. Advani, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha called on the Prime Minister of Nepal. The Prime Minister of Nepal had a meeting with Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the President of Indian National Congress. The Prime Minister of Nepal also visited Rajghat and paid homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. An interaction with the Indian business community was jointly hosted by ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI in honour of the visiting dignitary. During his stay in India, the Prime Minister is visiting Bangalore from September 17-18, 2008.

3. The Prime Minister of India extended a warm welcome to the Prime Minister of Nepal as the first Prime Minister of Federal Demo-

cratic Republic of Nepal. The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the age-old close, cordial and extensive relationships existing between Nepal and India. Both Prime Ministers expressed their support and cooperation to further consolidate the relationship in the days ahead.

4. The talks were held in an atmosphere of utmost cordiality and warmth. They shared their views and assessment of the situation. The two Prime Ministers acclaimed the importance of peaceful, political, democratic transformation of historic significance in Nepal.

5. The Prime Minister of Nepal appreciated the positive support extended by the people and Government of India throughout the peaceful political democratic transformation in the country.

6. The Government of India expressed full support to the peaceful, political, democratic transition in Nepal.

7. Both leaders recognized the historic changes that have taken place in Nepal with the elections to the Constituent Assembly and the declaration of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal ac-

ording to the wishes of the people of Nepal.

8. The Prime Minister of Nepal stressed that following the Constituent Assembly elections, bringing the peace process to a logical conclusion, writing a new Constitution and accelerating the pace of economic development are the main priorities of the Government of Nepal in the days ahead.

9. The two sides felt the need to inject new dynamism into the relations between the two countries for a forward looking change in tune with the realities of the time as well as the wishes and aspirations of the people of both the countries.

10. Both sides agreed to reactivate the existing bilateral mechanisms in the evolving context.

11. Both sides noted that the multi-faceted and deep-rooted relationships between the two countries needed further consolidation and expansion in a forward-looking manner to better reflect the current realities. It was in this broader context that the two Prime Ministers agreed to review, adjust and update the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friend-

ship and other agreements, while giving due recognition to the special features of the bilateral relationship. A High-Level Committee at the level of Foreign Secretaries will be set up for this purpose.

12. The Nepalese side informed that Government of Nepal will take further necessary measures for the promotion of investor friendly, enabling business environment to encourage Indian public and private sector investments in Nepal.

13. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in handling cross-border crime and security concerns. Home Secretaries will meet soon to implement this decision.

14. Government of India will continue to assist the Government and people of Nepal in its peaceful, democratic transition; its economic development and reconstruction. The areas of assistance would include infrastructure, human resource development, health and education.

15. Both sides expressed concern over the large-scale damage caused by the breach of embankment by the river in the Kosi bar-

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EDITORIAL

Manifesto of FDR

The government has publicized and ratified its policy and programme for the F/Y (Fiscal year) 2065-66, from the position of an elected national coalition government. The policy and programme has shown a clear path to institutionalize the FDR by creating paths to new possibilities. The government has clearly centralized the main three responsibilities: 1) writing the constitution, 2) bringing the peace process to a logical conclusion and 3) bringing a socio-economic and cultural transformation in the country.

1) The primary task of the government will be to write the constitution in a fixed time, which will be the most reliable written document of the FDR of Nepal. The government expects help from every section of society to help complete the constitution. The constitution should address the needs, aspirations, hopes, ambitions and dreams of all the Nepalese people who are looking to the government with optimism. The government and its leadership should be aware that the revival of the monarchy or the imposition of fascism is a possibility because the newly born is always haunted and followed by the past. The constitution should be like a real garden of many flowers, all blooming in the country.

2) The second task of the government will be to bring the peace process to a logical conclusion. The former rulers and governments could not fulfill their commitment to the people. They fooled the Nepalese people by deceiving them after struggles and movements. Now, however, the government is fully committed to accomplish its promises. The government was formed on the basis of consensus, compromise, agreements and understandings, including the Comprehensive Peace Accord after the decade long People's War and the 19 day Peoples Movement. Only after the formation of the government under the leadership of the CPN-Maoist can this be possible.

3) The third important task of the government will be to launch progressive socio-economic and cultural transformation programs. It will be necessary to launch the programs in the form of big campaigns in order to end the remnants of feudalism in the country. Only after ending feudalism can the foundation of an independent and self-sufficient new Nepal begin. Long term peace, progress and prosperity are dependant on the strong foundation of the FDR.



■ C P Gajurel

The Prime minister of the first government of the new Republic of Nepal decided to pay his first visit to the Northern neighbor rather than its Southern one. It is quite understandable that China must have desired either head of the state or the head of the government to be present in the Olympic game opening ceremony or closing ceremony or both, since it was really a historic event for China to organize this prestigious game, in which the giant state is said to have spent around \$40 billion. The first elected President of the Republic chose not to attend the opening ceremony of the international game in spite of great effort of the Chinese government. The reason put forward is far from being satisfactory for many people. Anyway it was a good opportunity for the new Prime minister to take the China, the long friend of Nepal and the Nepalese people in confidence.

The Prime minister among his series of foreign visits is in a five day long state visit to India right at this moment. What should be the major agenda of the bilateral talk between the high level delegations of Nepal and India is a matter of concern for many people in Nepal. There are clearly different kinds of opinion floating in Nepal regarding the type of the state visit that the Prime minister is going to make.

The former Prime minister and present leader of the opposition in the Constituent Assembly, Mr. G P Koirala, said that the present government is also a caretaker government and that it has no right to sign any agreement with any friendly country including India. Regarding the authority of the present government in sign-

ing an agreement or treaty, there are two aspects: One it is true that this government will not have authority to sign treaties of national significance. Such treaties deserve to be discussed among all the political parties and also in the house of the Constituent Assembly and should be determined by the same body whether such a treaty should be signed or not. But it is quite unreasonable to insist that present Prime minister has no right to sign an agreement of any magnitude with any country. Though the tenure of this government is supposed to be two years, however it is an elected government and it enjoys all rights to be exercised like a full fledged government during the stipulate period.

Some people suggest that this visit was arranged in hurry and there was not enough time for both sides for the preparation of a full fledged bilateral meeting. Some others argue that making it as a good will visit is a big success in itself and there is no need to put any agenda with the host government on the first visit of a new Prime minister. According to them, to achieve good will from a huge country like India is a big victory for Nepal and the rest can be achieved in course of time. It will be premature trying to raise contentious issues like Agreement on Koshi Project, 1950 Treaty, Mahakali Agreement and others at the first visit of a new Prime minister. They go to the extent that even the devastating loss caused by the Koshi dam episode should not be raised at this visit.

We have totally disagreement with these views. We think that this visit is being planned in a specific situation of Nepal in which she is suffering from a calamity caused by the destruction of the Koshi dam. Now it is clear for everybody that the destruction of the dam was not a divine episode, rather it was caused by human mistakes. This dam was constructed by India on the basis of "Agreement of Koshi Project,

1954" signed with the then governments of Nepal and India. This agreement is also considered to be one of the unequal treaties and agreements signed between the two countries. It was guessed right at the beginning that the dam collapsed because of the overflow of water in the Koshi river. But it was not true. The water swelled in the large river because of two reasons: first, due to the blockade caused by the deposit of sand right around the dam which blocked the flow of water. Second, all the gates of the dam were not opened which caused further swelling of huge amount of water resulting to collapse of about a kilometer long bridge. According to the terms and conditions of the agreement it is the responsibility of the Indian side to clean the sand deposit and also the opening or closing of the dam gates. Over 50 thousand people have been displaced, over 100 were washed away and about other 100 died after the incident; property worth billions of rupees was lost due to this calamity. The land washed away can be counted in miles and kilometers.

Therefore it is quite natural that the people of Nepal want the various aspects of the Koshi dam issue such as compensation, reconstruction of the dam, and reviewing of the "Agreement on Koshi Project, 1954" to be given prime importance in this visit.

There are some hydro power projects such as Upper Karnali and Arun Third signed with the Indian contractors in which there is serious dispute in Nepal, and is likely to surface during the discussion.

The border specialists in Nepal have indicated that there are over 60 points in the border which is encroached by the Indian side and amongst them are Susta in Nawalparasi district of Nepal, Dodhara and Chandani in Mahakali, and some points in Jhapa district of Eastern Nepal are the main. Definitely, these issues also may come to the forefront

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Joint Press statement....

rage area and decided to launch relief and rehabilitation measures for the victims and the reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure, and other measures as per the agreements, immediately, and take up preventive measures to avoid the recurrence of such events in the long term. They decided to take up preventive measures for the Gandak and other barrages under existing bilateral arrangements. Likewise, the two sides also discussed the problem of inundation in the border areas between Nepal and India and agreed to take up necessary work

for its effective prevention on the basis of bilateral consultation.

16. Government of India will provide Rs. 20 crores as immediate flood relief to the people in Nepal. Government of India will also rebuild the segments of the East-West Highway, damaged in the recent Kosi floods.

17. Both sides agreed that Government of India will set up a camp office in Biratnagar for facilitating movement of Nepali vehicular traffic through Bihar for improved access to other parts of Nepal till the Highway is repaired.

18. A three-tier mechanism at

the level of Ministerial, Secretary and technical levels will be established to rationalize and raise the efficacy of the existing bilateral mechanisms in order to push forward discussions on the development of water resources in a comprehensive manner, including hydro-power generation, irrigation, flood control and other water related cooperation. The Secretaries will meet in two weeks.

19. The two Prime Ministers directed the Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) at the level of Commerce Secretaries to meet in one month to initiate a comprehensive review of the existing trade and transit arrangements with a view to promoting indus-

trialization in Nepal, expanding complementarities of bilateral trade on a sustainable basis and removing the barriers to trade.

20. Both sides agreed to further enhance the pace of economic development between the two countries by extending support for the preparation and execution of mega projects, including infrastructure development such as road, rail and hydel-power projects. As a gesture of goodwill of the Government and people of India, Government of India agreed to implement the Naumure Hydro-electric Project on Rapti river.

21. In view of the shortages felt in Nepal for the essential com-

modities, Government of India will remove bans on the export of rice, wheat, maize, sugar and sucrose for quantities agreed with Nepal. Government of India will also provide a credit of up to Rs. 150 crores to Government of Nepal for the next three months to ensure uninterrupted POL supplies to Nepal.

22. The Prime Minister of Nepal extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to pay an official visit to Nepal at an early date. The Prime Minister of India accepted it with pleasure. The date of the visit will be decided through the diplomatic channel.

New Delhi,
September 17,2008



■ Laxman Pant

The historical victory of Com. Prachanda to the post of prime minister marks the beginning of a new era in Nepal. Once again, the Nepali people have endorsed the model of Nepali revolution that includes the fusion of both open and underground activities, pen and gun, bullet and ballot, people's war and mass movement. With the election of Chairman Prachanda, our party has become the first ever party in the one-hundred-sixty-year history of international communist movement – with a separate army of proletariat under its command to make it to the government using these different methods. Following the demise of Com. Mao in 1976, the CPN (Maoist) is the first ever revolutionary Communist party to lead the government after thirty two years.

The new Maoist government in our country is also different in the sense that it is based on the joint dictatorship of both the proletariat and the bourgeois class. There are not any references of such kind of joint dictatorship in any of the Marxist thesis; the Marxist principle that the joint dictatorship of two antagonistic classes in the state is impossible. However, the experience of Nepal has shown it otherwise. The philosophical and theoretical base of the Nepali experience and experiment will have to be synthesized in the days to come. History has put the onus to justify dual dictatorship of the state on the shoulders of Maoists of the twenty first century.

Fall of Koirala dynasty

The victory of Chairman Prachanda has another historical facet. This marks the end of five decades of 'Congressocracy' and the Koirala dynasty that has served as the main bulwark for imperialism and expansionism, and has been an embodiment of feudalism and imperialism. The 30th day of Shrawan has a historical significance in this sense, too. The collapse of Koirala dynasty is a signal of the fall of a pillar of imperialism. This bears no less significance than the fall of monarchy. Truly, the Nepali people were equally suffering from the monarchy and Koirala dynasty. Generally speaking, it was the Koirala dynasty and the 'Congressocracy' that served as the main basis for the existence of Monarchy for half a century. The fall of Girija is a watershed in Nepali people's fight for nationalism, against imperialism and expansionism.

After achieving the goal of republic, the immediate goal of the revolution has also changed and so has been the equation of friends and foes of the revolution. Obviously, hitherto friends have turned into foes and vice versa. Of the two gigantic mountains of feudalism and imperialism, the Nepali people have demolished one huge mountain of feudalism. As of now, standing in front of the Nepali people is the terrible and gigantic rock of imperialism and expansionism. The conspiracies to prevent the CPN Maoist forming the government during these last four months were the outcome of this.

The Nepali people have, to the large extent, won the struggle of democracy by defeating feudalism, even though it is yet to be institutionalized. However, the fight for absolute nationalism is yet to be started and victory accomplished. The nature and method of that battle cannot be predicted right at the moment. However, there are no two minds that the

fight for nationalism will bear a national character, will be more complicated and a fiercer struggle. The political line of the party, now, must be directed towards that.

A lot of reverberation and kind of sensation was caused among the rank and file of revolutionaries by rapidly changing circumstances following the election of Constituent Assembly. The election of President and Vice-President as well as the collaboration with the UML generated a ripple effect in the party. Most importantly, whether it was correct to join the government has become the central point of debate in the party that has stirred the minds of the rank and file.

We must seek out the answers to the above questions in totality, not in fraction, in content, not in the form. The answer to these questions lies in the strategy formulated by the party, not in the tactics. The revolution never advances in straight line. The revolution moves ahead through many advancements and retreats, victories and defeats, offenses and defenses and so on and so forth.

There is no denying that imperialism and expansionism stands in the way of Nepali revolution. The party has identified this even before the beginning of the PW. Imperialism and expansionism are the two major strategic enemies of the revolution... The success in overthrowing Girija is a major chain in the struggle against imperialism.

We are in the transitional phase of negating the old contradiction and the emergence of new contradictions. This process will take a definite duration to complete. Without the completion of this duration, as well as the process to talk about the movement or uprising or to pull out from the peace process with petit-bourgeoisie impatience will be sui-

cidal. In order to wage the struggle in the days to come, for nationalism along with the total struggle, the need of the hour is broad polarization and forging alliances not only on national level but also in the international level. This is the stage of forging alliance among patriotic, democratic and left forces. It can be done equally by joining the government or by staying out of the government. It is not the case of something to be 'finished' if the party joins the government or vice versa. Instead of initiating the debate on whether or not to join the government, it is more important and pertinent to start the discussions on whether or not we would be able to mobilize and open multi-dimensional fronts of the revolution in the future. The question that whether we will be competent to effect sharp polarization between revolutionary and reactionary forces is the most important one, rather than the question of joining or not joining the government.

The question of joining or not joining the government cannot be the theoretical one, it is a tactical question. If joining the government helps in the advancement of the future revolution, paves the way to achieve people's democracy, ensures the victory in the struggle for nationalism or pushes the revolution one step forward towards a New Democratic Revolution, then participation in the government is correct, otherwise it is wrong. If we are unable to chalk out new plans and policies and program of the revolution, to formulate new political and military line in accord with the changed circumstances, we cannot advance the revolution even if we do not join the government. If we are able to sharpen and intensify the class struggle even if we remain in the government, we can advance toward the path of revolution.

New economic achievement through government's programs



■ Bhim Regmi

For the first time in Nepal's political history, the President of Federal Democratic Nepal, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, presented a 90-point historic document Policies and Programs of the government at the budget session of the constituent assembly on September 10. Consequently, the budget session of the CA passed it with a majority vote. Now, the Nepali people are curiously waiting to know how the government allocates the budget funds to achieve those national goals publicized in the policy and programme.

If anyone goes minutely through these policies and programs, s/he will certainly find they are the outcome of ten-year People's War and a nineteen-day People's Peaceful movement that made the people sovereign for the first time. The program mainly aims to bring the peace

process towards logical end, to provide sufficient relief to the people and finally to achieve high economic growth rate. In order to bring about socio-economic transformation through rapid economic growth, the government has proposed a public private partnership (PPP) economic concept in the policy paper. Under the point 14 of the policy paper, it says the government will give high priority to the bases of common minimum programs prepared by the alliance parties before forming a new national government. In order to eradicate poverty, according to one report over 31 percent of the total population lives under absolute poverty, unemployment, hunger, no access to education (illiteracy), dependency and inequality, the government will implement transitional economic policy based on PPP concept.

The Policy paper forecast a double-digit economic growth is possible in this historic land through the generation of hydropower. Thus, this policy paper says the coming decade of Nepal will be of economic revolutionary decade. Therefore, the government gives priority to generate different hydroelectric projects

i.e. mini, micro, and small and mega projects using unlimited water resources. Almost all human and government economic activities primarily depend on the production of hydropower. If the government supplies targeted amount of electricity, the national will certainly achieve the double-digit economic growth rate. Unfortunately, now our average economic growth rate is 2-4 percent, which is not enough to reduce poverty, hunger, and disease from the nation. Really, this is the time of using water resources for supplying pure drinking water, irrigation, generating electricity maintaining eco-system rafting etc. Beside these, our biggest rivers have created many troubles in lowland region Terai and the government has to control the flood and manage the water that flows throughout the year.

Now, every Nepali wants to see a prosperous country. For a long time, different castes, communities and regions were marginalised and they could not contribute anything to nation building. Now in reverse, the government ought to give them a specific role in a restructured country. After collapsing

the feudal autocratic regime, the Karnali people, Dalits, women etc. should go ahead in order to awake their home areas. For this, the government should bring out a new policy regarding human resources and natural resources like forest, land and water. Hence, emphasis should be on human cooperation, national understanding, government and private investment. However, domestic investment will not be enough to operate all projects in a confident way. So, foreign investment is required to use these natural resources for the well-being of the Nepali people.

Now, the problem of unemployment is a serious issue that forces the Nepal youth to leave the nation and to work taking for a pittance abroad. First, the government should bring a new industrial policy that strengthens the present industries and encourages the private sectors to invest money to generate jobs, areas written the country. Second, the government has to facilitate the young people to go abroad safely. Now, different types of training are needed for them to get sound benefit from their labours. More or less, it partly solves the problems of

unemployment.

This policy paper aims to modernise the agricultural sector through implementation of co-operation. Then, if we establish agro-based small, domestic or medium sized industries, we can generate new jobs and increase the national income of Nepali farmers. Really, the agricultural sector is a backbone of Nepal's economy. However, Nepal people are dying of hunger. In one side, around 82 percent people are farmers but on the other side, our food production is not sufficient to kill the drought. The real farmers do not own their own land; they are working on the land of others. Hence, the redistribution of land is necessary to increase the production to solve the problem of unemployment.

In short, this is a good detailed policy of the Nepal government. Then, the main thing is to see how it will be implemented in the days to come. Certainly, the new finance minister will address all these issues via the budgetary funds of new budget to bring the programs into reality. If it happens, it will be easier to achieve the national goal in the future.

Literature, art and sympathy



■ Anil Sharma

Literature and art are means of struggle in class society. Human sympathy is based on the measurement, norms, values and psychology of class society. Feeling is love between people, appreciation, sorrow and happiness and cooperation to get rid of oppression, be unsatisfied, be agitated, see dreams and be ready for sacrifice. Human sympathy is the source and basis of epics. So, the people with sentiment are always affected and are in turmoil with the incidents and scenes taking place in the world.

A famous Russian poet Pushkin said, "A type of craziness is necessary for poetry". This means that sympathy is necessary in creation. We can say a little more than Pushkin that sympathy is compulsory for every creation. A woman cannot be a mother without menstruation, in that way a creation can not take birth without a continuous waterfall of feeling flowing from the heart of a creator like a

heavy rainfall of summer under the cover of cloud. Sympathy is not a God (Navraj, in Nepali Swasthani epic) born into a pot. It is a sharp and a bitter experience of objective reality. Let's say that it is the pangs of child birth and a quake of the Earth during the time of the crack.

The child takes birth if the pang of the child birth is endured. The life and residence perishes at the time of volcano. Precious gems are found after destructive volcano breaks out. A poem can be created if sympathy can reach up to the vast sky. The trend of the life flows continuously like the Brahmaputra River. If sympathy does not get expressed, the life of a poet comes to meet the fate of the Russian poet Mayakovsky.

Sympathy is a uterus where the embryo of intellect develops. Sympathy cannot be without exception to class. It brought humans to the society from the jungle. There is no imagination without love and dream, and no dream without imagination. Consciousness cannot be without sympathy or idea without consciousness. Human civilization developed in search of consciousness; about the life and the Earth. The glory of human being is in it. It has been said, "Nobody reaches to the climax, without the glory of the self". In this context, sympathy becomes the way

of decay and destruction.

Human sympathy can take the form of a poem when it is expressed artfully. It is not compulsory that each of the sympathies is expressed in a poetic form. If fresh water is mixed with gutter water, it becomes dirty and an ugly poem is created. Therefore, sympathy is expressed as a sacrifice against ugly reality. The reality of a great sacrifice created by a new reality creates revolt and revolutionary consciousness against oppression. This is why; human sympathy is the basis of creation and sacrifice.

Literature is the expressive form of sympathy, which is artistically and symbolically expressed by the representatives and characters of society. Art is a style, colouring and beautifying. Mature creators say that a dumb lady becomes beautiful as she is beautified. Ideas are made expressive after they are carried in a beauty parlour of sympathy. Popularity is the expressivity and it is the measurement of value of art. In the sector of art and literature, idealism gives emphasis only in to the form; while dogmatism negates the value of art by giving emphasis only to ideology. Marxist aesthetics has been victorious in the struggle against both.

The idealistic aesthetics of "Art for art's sake" considers the art only for the luxurious

means for the rich and forgets the masses. Left sectarianism annihilates the value of art under its priority in ideas. Extreme emphasis in ideology makes lessens sympathy; similarly, the overemphasis on sympathy creates illusion. These both are equally harmful. Lack of sympathy and illusion both create deviation, pessimism, humiliation, slavery, hopelessness and disinterestedness in the creation. Therefore, the literature that can not create sensation can be neither the source of a poem nor the basis for sacrifice.

There is a big development in the expressive forms of human sympathy along with the development of the science and technology. Sympathy can be expressed through sound, wave, song, speech, recitation style, icon (picture), shade, sound, symbol, dance, acting, colour, light, ray, rise-fall of tone and diction. The forms of sympathy created in picture or emotion through the proper mix of rays in camera to attract the readers through the deep emotion with which to touch their heart.

Dialect, folk rhythm, rhyme through the model characters can make sympathy alive. The creation is more alive if it is related with the soil and the labour. Therefore rural sympathy has a natural flow like a fish in the river. Popularity depends

on the language of common people, their tongues and their psychology and the level of their consciousness. Capitalism has made the interest of the people corrupt and deformed.

Art and the literature become non-sympathetic if the measurement of the value of the art, talent and appropriateness is money. Death of the art and the literature is inherent in it. Mind reacts according to the sympathy which enters inside the heart of the creator or the people through the form, taste, scent, touch and scene. The intellectual situation of a man is the expression of his physical situation.

The sources of sympathy are the love to another human being, belief in labour and devotion that makes a creator or human sincere to him or her as well as the society. Anthony Queen expresses his bitterness in the way, "We all are renegades; because we have forgotten to love others." There is no feeling without imagination and nihilism has no sympathy. F. Garcia Lorca says, "In the time of shaking the entire world, all the artists are necessary to laugh and weep together." Therefore, the appropriateness of literature must be concerned with society.

Sharma is a prominent progressive literary figure of Nepal.

Nepal-China-India, triangle possibilities of mutual friendship



■ Melsam Ojha

There are five landlocked states (LLS) in Asia: Mongolia, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Laos and Nepal. Nepal has two neighbors, China and India. A triangle can be sketched to promote friendship in-between our neighbors.

We all Nepalese have entered into a new era, thrashing feudalism; adjacent to our victory is the great opportunity to review our foreign affairs with both the countries from new phase. Being focused on our own national interests, we should build common outlook.

On the Basis of Infrastructure:

It is certain that low income and lack of infrastructure are the major added handicaps of the LLS. But, our country is endowed of natural resources. Protecting and utilizing these sources, we can give a face-lift to our motherland. We can overcome the lack of infrastructure. If we utilize our infrastructures in a right approach, then our business services will be of advanced quality and it will not be costlier. Our LLS can thus face the inflation phase.

Our south neighboring country has again woken up in search of raw materials from other countries. Perhaps, it might be to execute Version 2.0 of Booming India. "India's economy is jogging along, despite

the media hype about a slowdown. But India Inc. needs crucial raw materials that are available only in other countries. Rather belatedly, the Government of India is waking up to the economic potential of diplomacy." (See pg 18 Business Today May 4 2008).

While our cooperative friend in the north; has advanced its infrastructures. "China is emerging as a major financier of infrastructure projects in Africa....." (See Building Bridges, A report released by the World Bank.)

With this regard, Nepal can play as a transit route for India and China, enormously. Most often think-tank and Asian Track Diplomats have their own prophecy. According to their notion, another Suez Canal and Panama Canal is possible via Koshi River Route in an enormous effort of Nepalese people and peoples Government.

The economic-architects of our glorious party need to sketch an equilateral triangle that formulates equidistant policy and utilize both the friendly countries to advance our infrastructure.

Uncertainty with the Pro-Indian and South

The truth is on the surface. Persons do not reveal themselves to be pro-Indian but in core, they act in such a way, people ultimately define them as their puppets. In a program run by BBC World Service Trust, Minister of Foreign Affairs initially declared PM's India Visit will just to make a goodwill. No revision over the issue of unequal treaties will execute, as per his address via saajha sawal. Pro-Indian, are purposefully sympathetic with the south-block and seek for goodwill. Instead, we hope peoples' Prime Minister precisely broach over the particularly criticized issue.

The Indian ruling class has its own haughtiness. South block is always worried with the penetration of Himalayan Frontiers as prescribed by the architect of foreign policy. Our Nepalese leaders have no essential to bow down before Indian rulers. Beloved Government of Nepalese people need to review the foreign policy and new treaties will be made based on equality. Moreover, Chairman Comrade has already made amply clear in his recent address to nation as First Prime Minister of FDR Nepal. He committed his Government to conduct the traditional foreign policy based on Panchasheel- the five principle of co-existence.

India being a transit state for Nepal, sometime, it uses its strategic position as an economic or political lever against LLS. We had also passed through such incident once with India. It was India's irrational role to lure Nepalese leaders to adopt special bilateral relationship with them.

We can take the illustration of South African Countries, Uganda and Kenya. Uganda had also faced such relation with Kenya, the transit point. When Uganda's Minister of Labor announced a policy of replacing unskilled Kenya-workers' with Uganda nationals in 1970, the Government of Kenya threatened to refuse handling Uganda's goods at the important port of Mombasa. (See The Transit Problem of Uganda within the East African Community).

But there are still a lot of queries in an Indian's role. Do they really like to see developed Nepal? Will they stop their double platform policy? Will they act as a good transit-neighbor state? Do they accept Nepal as an independent, sovereign country

with its own identity from their inner core of their heart?

Diplomatic Role of Nepal for Peace, Progress and Prosperity

Nepalese ruler P.N Shah and popular Essayist and Poet L P Devkota comparison is still incomplete as per the demand of time in the context of 21st Century. Other if tends to violate peace and seize Peoples' Rights will certainly adopt the definition of Comrade Badal.

Nepal and Nepalese people can also play crucial role as an intermediary in-between China and India. In other word, Nepal can act as a Cultural Diplomat. Only then, equidistant policy could come into practice. A tripartite association of Nepal, China and India could be formed to discuss over the regional peace, progress and prosperity.

According to Nepalese Government Policies and Programs, survey will be carried out to construct Lhasa-Kathmandu-Pokhara-Chitwan Route and Raxaul-Amlekhgunj petro-pipeline project will be completed within this financial year. This type of balanced co-operation between Nepal - India and Nepal - China will certainly promote equidistant policy. Moreover, to introduce Nepal as a Universal Zone of Peace, Progress and Prosperity and to Buddha (a traditional socialist) as a Light of Universe are genuinely important matters. South Block needs not to be worry with the penetration of Himalayan frontiers.

Hence, there is a possibility of mutual friendship. Previously, demolishing "big-brother" arrogance with the south is the prior. Promotion of continuing mutual friendship with Peking is not a great deal. Finally, tripartite friendship exists.

“He was a rare boy”

(Conversation with Dr. mizanur Rahaman Tutul's mother.)

Mohammad Arifuzzaman: how do you do?

Novera Begum: I am so old woman and suffering from many diseases. I did not expect so painful hurt in this raged age. I am speaking less to talk to the death of my son. I wanted my departure before him but he died before me. I used to pray to Allah day-night to take me before his death. But Allah did not accept my prayer.

Arifuzzaman: we come to know from print and electronic media and print media that Dr. Tutul arrested by RAB from utara on July 25 nights. Later we get this death news. Both police and RAB denied his death. What are the facts? Are they telling lies and if so why?

Begum: He was not arrested from utara but from meerpur, Dhaka. A source informs the addresses to be house# 17, section-6, block- D, Road-8, Meerpur, Dhaka. He was arrested at very much morning and police came to my residence on day after morning. Police inquired into the identity of Tutul's father. Then I suspected. Thereafter a source confirmed us about his arrest. I along with my relatives and person go the DC office with a memorandum and also hold a press conference in Jhenaidh press club. RAB and police found many people talking against his crossfire (line of fire) and they (police and RAB) his arrest. But he was fired to the death on the said night.

Arifuzzaman: after the arrest of Dr. Tutul's you applied to the DC not to kill him with out his trail. You prayed for his trail. But the DC did not receive your application; why?

Begum: We went to the residence of the DC at 7 pm with a memorandum. But his PA (personal Assistant) refused to receive it and asked us to submit the same office on the following day at 9 am. We repeatedly requested to receive the memorandum. But no body on behalf of the DC received the same. You know, the following morning required no appeal for accepting the memorandum.

Arifuzzaman: JMB, Harkatul Jehad Bangle vai & Abdur Rahaman put the country under extreme unrest situation by bomb attack. Despite, all they were brought to trail. But armed leftist communist are killed without trail. Your son is one of the victims. We find double standard in the same country. Would you please comment?

Begum: Right to defense is the constitutional right of any offender. One can be only awarded punishment by the court in due process of law. Some are will be sent for trail and some one will be killed without trail, such duple standard is not acceptable.

Arifuzzaman: how do you consider extra judicial killing?

Begum: Extra judicial killing is a severe offence. To combat offence state has got law, court, administration & law enforcing agencies. Who ever causes murder should be put under trail. If any forces of the state cause the murder shall be consider as state violence. None will fell safe it extra judicial killing continues. I condemn extra judicial killing making no mother crying.

Arifuzzaman: how was your son Tutul's in his child heard? How did he involve his politics?

Begum: In his very tender age he was restive but memories which in high School, he becomes calm & attentive. He was inspired by communism while studying in Rajshahi medical college. He wanted to be fully engaged in politics leaving his studies in medical college. His father said to him, "I have spent a lot for your educational expenses; you must complete your education to be a doctor."

He become a doctor & put the certificate to his father saying, "you asked me to be a doctor & I have obtained the certificate the. Keep it."

He did service for only a month because of his father's repeated insistence & left the job. Thereafter, he was fully engaged in politics.

Arifuzzaman: once you were a well to do family! How has the condition worsened?

Begum: my issues are two; a son & a daughter. His father was a big businessman. We had huge cultivate land in the village. My daughter is a master degree holder. She was married while studying in Rajshahi University. Tutul passed MBBS from Rajshahi medical college. We hoped tutul to be an established doctor to enhance our riches. But his participation in communist politics kept his away from jobs. Rather he sold most of our land for the welfare of poor people. Now I live alone. I meet my expenses from the rest of house rent and from the produces of agrarian land.

Arifuzzaman: Dr. Tutul dreams for a class-less society. What do you think as of his mother?

Begum: I often told him that he would not be able to do the work. Rich people will not leave their wealth. You will be come their enemy. Government will also in favor of reach people. They will not let you live.

Arifuzzaman: will you challenge this extra judicial killing in court or will you apply to United Nation Organization or human rights Organization like amnesty international for justice against the uncivilized killing?

Begum: My old age does not allow to go else where. I would have gone every where to save my son's life if he where alive But he is no more. I can go to Jhenaidh court if a case is filed there. But it is difficult for me to move to Dhaka. I shall welcome it id any national or International human rights Organization come forward for seeking justice of the killing of my son.

Arifuzzaman: your son was involved in underground communist politics to change the society. Do you think such kind of activity can change the society?

Begum: I don't think that such kind as underground activity only can change the society, it will also help to fight the over ground on the society. Sometimes tutul told me, "we have gather knowledge from Nepal." But his party didn't have any mass organization practice. Their have only class struggle based a party & a military organization.

After killing of Saheed (Mofakkar Chowdhury) police informed that Tutul was also killed. Later we know that it was wrong information. I said to tutul, "Sha-

heed is killed, they will search you out. They will not let you live. I am giving you money selling my land. You leave this country." He kept silent & used to laugh silently.

Arifuzzaman: News were published about Red flag (East Bangle communist party ml-red flag) in news papers alleging that the party tortured people & also engaged in much killing. How do you evaluate tutul as being the supreme leader of the said party?

Begum: Fake reports were published in news papers about the party (East Bangle communist party ml-red flag) Red flag. The media did not report the views the party. Tutul did a lot for the welfare of the poor people.

His face will not tell that he is a bad man.

Arifuzzaman: How & whom did he marry & why the marriage was dissolved? How is his son?

Begum: Tutul married Luchi at fulltala, Khulana. After marriage his wife was also involved with his part organization for many years.

After they were blessed with a son, she (Luchi) wanted to ordinary life to bring up the chilled & took a job in a NGO.

After 10/11 years conjugal life, the marriage got dissolved. Their only son Pitul is an abnormal mental patient. He passed SSC last year.

Arifuzzaman: what do you people of the locality think of tutul?

Begum: People think like me. He is a rare boy.

This interview was published at www.ukbengali.com on 7 august, 2008. This interview was taken by Mohammed Arifuzzaman from Bangladesh.

Bihar floods : criminal negligence, not divine

The Nitish Kumar regime's boasts of 'Bihar Shining' are now submerged by the cries of Bihar Drowning. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government's claims of 'good governance' have proved a wash-out in the face of the floods, and now the Chief Minister is trying to paint the floods as a 'natural' calamity or divine 'Deluge' ('Pralay'). Nothing could be further from the truth. The flood devastation was highly preventable – and is a direct result of callous negligence of basic flood-prevention strategies by Governments both at Patna and Delhi . Despite the fact that every year breaches in embankments cause floods in the State, maintenance and repair of embankments were rampantly neglected. It took the Bihar Chief Minister two weeks after the first breach appeared in the Kosi embankment to begin the most primary initiatives for evacuation, rescue and relief. As the Kosi changed its course and flood waters covered entire villages, affecting over 25 lakh (250, 000) people in nearly 12 districts of the State, the desperate pleas for help were ignored by the State Government. Even today – in all the flood-affected areas, there is an acute shortage of rescue motorboats and boats, as well as food, drinking water, polythene sheets and other emergency essentials. At the Centre too, the Prime Minister apparently woke up late to the magnitude of the calamity. And United Progressive Alliance (UPA) leader and Rail

Minister Laloo Yadav (whose home constituency Madhepura is one of the worst-affected areas) has been fiddling as the floods swallow Bihar . His gesture of donating his 'earnings' at a TV reality show Paanchvi Pass mocks at the misery of the flood-affected people. Of course, that's nothing new. When Laloo Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) ruled Bihar, he is the one who made the remark (worthy of Marie Antoinette) that floods are good for the poor because that's when fish from the ponds of the rich swim into the homes of the poor.

In the mirror of the Bihar's flood waters every year, the rot in Bihar 's polity and society can be seen starkly: its nexus of corrupt politicians, bureaucrats, and middlemen for whom the floods are a bonanza; criminalised goons governing and monopolising the structures of rescue and relief; and state repression on protesting people. Even last year, there were instances of police firing on protesting flood victims. A few years back, Time Magazine had lionised a young Bihar District Magistrate Gautam Goswami for his sterling work in flood relief – later it came out that he, along with thugs backed by ruling politicians, had siphoned off crores of funds meant for flood victims. This year too – the same story is unfolding. Recent reports in papers indicate that thugs are cornering rescue boats for themselves and are snatching and hoarding relief materials.

In the same mirror, we can also see

clearly the sordid reality behind the Central Government's boasts of '9% growth', of India being a 'rising Asian superpower', and 61 years of planning and development in independent India . Chronic hunger and starvation in India , we know, is not due to 'natural' drought and famine but due to deliberate institutional callousness and skewed priorities. The same is the case with floods too – plans for flood control on the Kosi river have been shelved and sidelined year after year for half a century. In 1951, the people of eastern Bihar had faced the fury of the Kosi's floods – and as a result, comprehensive plans had been chalked out to tame the floods. In keeping with these plans, a treaty was signed with Nepal in 1954 and the foundation laid for the Kosi Barrage in 1959. But subsequently the other dimensions of the Kosi Project were forgotten and neglected by successive Governments at Bihar and the Centre. Under the bilateral agreement with Nepal in 1954, maintenance and repair of embankments on the Kosi were the Bihar government's responsibility. Today, in order to explain away its neglect of that responsibility, Governments of India and Bihar are seeking to shift blame for the floods onto Nepal .

Hurricane Katrina exposed the underbelly of the superpower USA – the mightiest Army in the world failed to protect its people; racist callousness of the Government towards the (largely Black) poor of

Louisiana was on display; and the myth of corporate 'efficiency' was exploded. In contrast, Cuba (David to the US ' Goliath) did a far more creditable job of protecting its people when the same hurricane hit its shores. The episode proved that in dealing with such crises, it is the priorities of nations and administrations that are more decisive that actual affluence or wealth. It is concern for and participation of common people which is actually effective and 'efficient', while corporatized governance displays efficiency only in greed and loot. The floods in Bihar prove the same.

As the people of Bihar battle the floods, the first priority must of course be rescue, relief and humanitarian helping hands. But our concern also demands that we take Governments at Patna and Delhi to task for their apathy and negligence, so that the yearly recurrence of the tragedy can be prevented. Activists of our party and mass organisations in the affected districts of Bihar are at the forefront of rescue and relief activities. Apart from rescue, relief and rehabilitation as well as compensation for the flood-affected, we are also demanding that a time-bound judicial enquiry be set up to investigate the many instances of negligence by Governments in the matter of flood-control.

This article is taken from CPI (ML) Liberation's Publication, ML Update, 2-8 September, 2008.

Ambitious plans for nation building

Dipak Sapkota

The first government of the Republic of Nepal is now set to implement its ambitious policies and programs after they are passed by the legislature parliament. The implementation of the policies and programs and its results will not only determine the future of Nepal but will play a vital role for the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), who is now leading the government.

The government presented its policies and programs in less than a month after the Maoist Chairman was elected as the Prime Minister. President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav read it out in the Constituent Assembly meeting on 10 September. Despite the amendment proposal floated by various parties, including the Nepali Congress, the Legislature-Parliament endorsed it with overwhelming majority.

The document had stated that the major responsibility of the government is to guide the socio-economic transformation process toward a progressive direction by taking the peace-process to a logical end: "It is the Government's primary responsibility to help in the process of writing the Federal Democratic constitution within the stipulated timeline, in keeping with the peoples' mandate together with bringing the on-going peace process to a logical conclusion and taking the socio-economic transformation process to a progressive direction. The Government of Nepal is quite aware and conscious towards this end. The present Government is expectant of the active co-operation, participation and support of all the honourable members, political parties, intellectuals, professional organizations/institutions, civil society, Nepalese sisters and brothers of a wider spectrum, levels/groups, class, gender to realise this common responsibility with ease and felicity."

The government has vowed to pay special attention to relief, rehabilitation and better care of family member of the martyrs of the People's war, the People's Movement and Madhesh movement. Likewise, the document

has stated to honour the Martyrs and the injured, and special attention be paid for treatment of the injured. For all these factors, the government is setting up various commissions, including one to investigate the cases of the disappeared people.

The document says that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) will be integrated within six months, according to Comprehensive Peace Accord and the Interim Constitution. Some Parties including the NC have repeatedly opposed the integration of PLA and the Nepal Army into a

ed. All the headquarters will be linked with roads in two years time. The government document says that all the Nepali people will have clean drinking water in five years time.

The document has clarified that the role of government and the private sector co-operation will be re-defined for the benefit of the people and public-private partnership will be implemented. The government will encourage co-operatives. The document explains the government policy in the following way:

Work will be initiated to

introducing necessary reforms in the policy, laws, institutions and the procedures so as to simplify the process of industry establishment and create investment-friendly environment."

Taking the agriculture as the mainstay of the rural economy, the government: 'will give attention to bring about changes in production relations, increase irrigation facilities and extension of improved and appropriate technology so as to increase agricultural productivity.' The government has vowed 'to make available fallow public land to

On September 14, PM Prachanda clarified a question raised by lawmakers, and said that the country cannot remain static by following the parliamentary system. He further said 'all the multi-party systems in the world are not parliamentary democracies.'

He informed the legislature parliament that the government would introduce ration-cards to provide relief for the poor through the budget. He also clarified that the government would adopt land reform policies based on national welfare for the benefit of the people from lower classes and to establish the farmers' right to the land.

While the document contains a lot of positive factors, some plans seem to be ambitious to accomplish in its stipulated time. Making all the citizens literate within two years is one of them. It seems like a joke which overshadows other serious matters. Likewise, generating 10 thousands Mega Watts of electricity also seems over-ambitious. Moreover, linking all the district headquarters with serviceable roads within two years will be hard to do.

It is clear that this document is a common expression of the coalition government. The government has the major task of writing a new constitution, but this shouldn't hamper the mission of restructuring the state and establishing people's rule. People had expected a more revolutionary and clear-cut policy and program in favour of the oppressed people from Maoist-led government. As the document had to take on board the plans and policies of the CPN UML and the MJF as well as other small parties, it has been a cause of disillusionment in some contexts. The policy of creating a harmonious environment between investors and workers, returning the land of big feudal occupied by landless may create confusion for the oppressed people. The Maoist leaders will have to work hard to convince the people that they stand on side of the poor and oppressed people, as they did in the past.



President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav reads out the government policy and program

National Army, but the coalition government has reiterated its commitment for it.

The document also contains several ambitious plans for the economic and infrastructure development. Declaring the coming decade a 'decade of economic revolution' the government has promised to run a hydro-power development campaign. Through this way, the government aims to generate 10 thousands Mega Watts of electricity in ten years time. In this way every household in Nepal will have electricity within that time.

Likewise, the government will initiate the construction of fast track road that will link Kathmandu with the Terai. The survey for an electric railway from Tibet to Chitwan via Kathmandu, Pokhara, Lumbini, and from east to west will be pushed forward-

develop cooperatives as a strong movement so as to make it a hub for the development of areas such as employment, income generation, poverty reduction as well as the modernization of welfare-oriented and cottage and small scale industries, forest, agriculture etc; to make it competitive with the private sector. In this regard, the existing organization structure, policies and working system of the cooperative sector will be reviewed. In this process, a High Level Cooperative Board headed by the Prime Minister will be formed to promote the growth of the cooperative sector in a coordinated manner.

Likewise the government will establish a 'high level investment board headed by the Prime Minister "to make available the facilities to be provided to the industries in a co-ordinated way by

the landless, the freed bonded-labours (Haliya, Kamaiya) for joint and cooperative farming. Special attention will be given to promote skill development, employment and accommodation facility to these groups by making arrangements for the necessary resources."

The government will provide free education at the school level. It will give emphasis to technical education to develop skilled manpower. The document has clarified to keep the policy to provide education through open schools and open universities.

The government has also promised to review treaties and agreements concluded with various friendly countries in the past that are inconsistent with the national interest, and they will be redrawn on the basis of mutual benefit and equality.

PM leaves....

versity in New York. Before returning to Nepal, he will attend directive meetings with Nepali envoys in various countries in Europe. He will arrive back in Nepal on 30th September. This is his third foreign visit after China and India.

But, it is unclear whether he will be able to meet with representatives of the RCP USA or their Chairman, Bob Avakian, during his visit. CPN-Maoist and RCP USA both are the members of Revolutionary Internationalist Movement.



Bon Voyage Prachanda-PM poses for photographs before leaving to United States

South Asian Judo competition

The 5th south Asian Judo Championship, held in Nepal, successfully ended last Saturday.

Nepal received the 2nd position in the tournament by winning two gold, eight silver and four bronze medals. India was 1st with eleven gold and one silver medal; Afghanistan was in the third place with one gold, three silver and two bronze medals; Sri Lanka won two silver and four bronze medals.

In the collaboration of Judo Union of Asia, the tournament was organised by Nepal Judo Association. Indira Rai and Saraswoti Thapa won gold medals in the tournament. Trishna Gurung and Indira Rai won the best players of the tournament; Saraswoti Thapa was declared as the most disciplined player.

The best player received a cash prize 5000 Rs. each. Thapa won a cash prize of 3000 Rs. There were 39 players from Nepal, India, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, all competing for 14 gold medals. The 6th South Asian Judo Championship will be in Sri Lanka in 2009.

Photo- Dinesh Shrestha