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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO ICELAND

President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari visited Iceland to attend Reykjavík Global Forum – Women Leaders that was held in Reykjavík on 8-10 November 2022. The Forum was co-hosted by Women Political Leaders (WPL), the Government of Iceland, and the Parliament of Iceland. President Mrs. Bhandari was awarded with the prestigious WPL Trailblazer Award by the Women Political



President Mrs. Bhandari receiving Trailblazer Award 2022

Leaders in recognition of her contribution to Nepali politics as a woman leader.

FOREIGN MINISTER ATTENDS THE STATE FUNERAL OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Narayan Khadka attended the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey on 19 September 2022. He also signed the Official Condolence Book at Lancaster House on 18 September 2022.



Foreign Minister Dr. Khadka signing the Official Condolence book at Lancaster House

Minister Khadka had brief conversation with some Members of the Royal Family, the British Prime Minister, former British Prime Ministers, British

Foreign Secretary and other British Cabinet Ministers and visiting leaders and Ministers from the region and around the world. He was accompanied by

Ambassador of Nepal to the UK, Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya and Joint Secretary Ms. Sewa Lamsal on these occasions.

NEPAL-CANADA BILATERAL CONSULTATION

The third meeting of Nepal-Canada Bilateral consultation mechanism was held in Ottawa on 29 September 2022. Mr. Bharat Raj Poudyal, Foreign Secretary and Mr. Paul Thoppil, Assistant Deputy Minister of Global Affairs Canada, led their respective delegations.

Nepal and Canada discussed a range of matters of bilateral interest that included development cooperation, trade and investment, education, culture and tourism as well as the environment and climate change, among others.

The two sides reviewed the progress made since the second meeting of the BCM held in December 2020. The Foreign Secretary shared with the Canadian side about Nepal's development



President Mrs. Bhandari receiving Trailblazer Award 2022

priorities, graduation from the LDC category and the efforts made toward meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals. He underscored the need for an enhanced level of cooperation from Canada in terms of resources and technology for Nepal's smooth and sustainable transition from the LDC status. The Canadian side expressed its readiness to support Nepal in its development pursuits.

In view of the growing size of the Nepali diaspora in Canada and increasing people to people contacts between the two countries, Foreign Secretary Paudyal requested Canadian side to consider establishing Canadian representation in Nepal and making arrangements for the issuance of visas in Kathmandu.

NEPAL AND ITALY SIGNED MOU FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM

Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal and Ambassador of Italy to Nepal Vincenzo De Luca signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Establishment of a Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) between the two Foreign Ministries in Kathmandu on 10 October 2022. The Mechanism is an important platform for dialogue on regular basis



Signing ceremony of the MoU on establishment of BCM

between the Ministries in relations and promoting further enhancing bilateral areas of cooperation.

GERMAN PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY VISITS NEPAL

A German delegation led by Parliamentary State Secretary Dr. Bärbel Kofler met Foreign Secretary, Mr. Bharat Raj Poudyal at his office on 2 November 2022.

The four-day visit of the German delegation focused on German Development projects, interaction with the local community, partners and civil society.



German Parliamentary Delegation with Foreign Secretary of Nepal

NEPAL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 41ST SESSION OF ICAO

Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Jeevan Ram Shrestha led a Nepali delegation to the 41st session of ICAO that was held at

the ICAO Headquarters in Montreal from 27 September to 7 October 2022. Addressing the 41st ICAO General Assembly, Minister

Shrestha stated that the safety and security of civil aviation remains a top priority of the Government of Nepal reiterating Nepal's adherence

to the Chicago Convention, 1944 and the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices for a safe, secure, efficient, and environment friendly civil aviation around the world.

Highlighting the importance of air transport in mountainous country like Nepal, he mentioned about the focus laid by the government on

developing human resource and building necessary infrastructures with the state-of-the-art facilities.

NINETH MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND SEVENTH MEETING OF JOINT STANDING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The 9th meeting of Nepal-India Joint Committee on Water Resources was held in Kathmandu on 23 September 2022. The meeting was preceded by the 7th meeting of Nepal-India Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) on Water Resources.

Comprehensive review of water-sector cooperation between Nepal and India,

including the implementation of Mahakali Treaty, Saptakoshi High Dam Multipurpose Project, and bilateral cooperation in flooding and inundation issues was done during the meetings. Moreover, the meetings also reviewed the activities of bilateral mechanisms related to water resources such as Joint Committee on Koshi

and Gandak Project (JCKGP), and Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management (JCIFM). The JCWR also extended the tenure of the Team of Experts (TOE) till March 2023 for the finalization of the DPR of Pancheswar Multipurpose Project and mandated the TOE to undertake its activities in a time-bound manner.

SIXTH NEPAL-INDIA COORDINATION MEETING BETWEEN INSPECTOR GENERAL OF APF, NEPAL AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SSB, INDIA

The 6th Nepal-India Coordination Meeting between Inspector General of Armed Police Force, Nepal (APF, Nepal) and Director General (DG) of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB, India) was

held in Kathmandu from 27-29 September 2022.

Both sides deliberated on the issue of security situation in border areas, trans-border crimes, regulating

the movement of third country nationals through designated border crossing point, and timely exchange of information between two agencies.

B. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

NEPAL'S PARTICIPATION AT THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF UNGA

A delegation led by the Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat

Raj Paudyal participated in the 77th Session of the

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held at

the UN Headquarters in New York under the theme, “A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges”.

In his address to the Assembly, the Foreign Secretary underlined the indispensability of multilateralism with the United Nations as its centre to promote global cooperation based on sovereign equality and mutual respect. As the second-largest troops and police contributing country,



Foreign Secretary Mr. Paudyal addressing the 77th UNGA

he reiterated Nepal's support to all major initiatives aimed at reforming UN peace operations. Mr. Paudyal also

expressed Nepal's support for UN reform initiatives to make it more representative, inclusive, and transparent.

FOREIGN SECRETARY'S ENGAGEMENTS ON THE SIDELINES OF THE UNGA

On the sidelines of the General Assembly, the Foreign Secretary held bilateral meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nicaragua, and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Vietnam. He also addressed the Ministerial

meetings of NAM, LDCs, LLDCs, G77 and China.

Foreign Secretary held meetings with Ms. Rabab Fatima, UN Under-Secretary-General & High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs & SIDS; and Under

Secretary General for Peace Operations Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix on 23 September 2022 and exchanged views on matters of common interests.

Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal participated in a high-level event on



Foreign Secretary with USG, Peace Operations



Foreign Secretary with USG, OHRLS

“Democracy Delivers” organized by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) on 20 September 2022. The program presented Nepal as a ‘democratic bright spot’.

In his statement at the event, Foreign Secretary highlighted Nepal’s journey of democratic struggles that culminated in 2015 with the making of an inclusive and democratic Constitution by the elected representatives.



Foreign Secretary Mr. Paudyal with the US President and Mrs. Biden

As Head of the Nepali delegation to the 77th UNGA, Foreign Secretary also attended the reception hosted

by President of the United States Mr. Biden and Mrs. Biden.

FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE UPR REVIEW WORKING GROUP

Nepal actively participated in the 41st session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group. In its statement, Nepal welcomed the positive developments in the areas

of the establishment of an independent National Human Rights Institution, practices to promote gender equality, empowerment of women, minorities, and vulnerable groups,

protection and promotion of child rights, climate change, actions against domestic and gender violence, racism and discrimination in all the 14 States under review.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BIMSTEC PERMANENT WORKING COMMITTEE

A Special Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent

Working Committee was held virtually on 10 October

2022 to finalize the Rules of Procedure for the Core



Special Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee

BIMSTEC Mechanisms. deliberations on the of Procedure for Core
The meeting held extensive draft text of the Rules BIMSTEC Mechanisms.

C. PROTOCOL RELATED AFFAIRS

President Mrs. Bidya Devi residential ambassador of ambassador of Iceland at a
Bhandari received the Finland and the United special ceremony held at Sital
credentials from the foreign States and non-residential Niwas on 21 October 2022.



The President with Mrs. Riina-Riika Heikka, Ambassador of Finland



The President with Mr. Dean R. Thompson, Ambassador of U.S.A.



Mr. Gudni Bragason, Ambassador of Iceland, presenting his credentials to the President.

E. SERVICE DELIVERY

NON-RESIDENT NEPALI

S. N.	Services (from the Ministry)	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	16

PASSPORT

S. N.	Services	Number	Remarks
1	E-passport issued	2,27,438	Ordinary
		110	Diplomatic
		341	Official
		5	Gratis Ordinary
2	MRP passports issued (According to document type)	2925	Ordinary
		2	Diplomatic
		15	Travel Document (TD)
3	Total passports issued	2,30,764	From Districts, Missions and the Department
4	Emails responded including through social media	1192	
5	Cancelled Passports	33	

6	Verification of Citizenship records and letters of in-approval	455	
7	Revenue collected from the Department of Passport (NRs.)	74,89,50,000/-	

CONSULAR

S. N.	Services	Number
A	<i>Consular and Legal Counselling</i>	
1	Recommendations for medical treatment, religious tour and others	11
2	Issuances of No Objection Certificate for education	140
3	Recommendations for character verification	88
4	Recommendations for procurement of chemicals & explosives	32
5	Correspondences regarding Power of Attorney	8
6	Correspondences concerning search and rescue of Nepali nationals	73
7	Correspondences with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepali nationals from abroad	26
B	<i>Visa and Exemption</i>	
1	Issuances of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	285
2	Issuances of diplomatic/official ID Card	130
3	Issuance of SAARC visa stickers	3
4	Issuances of recommendation letters for exemption	495
5	Other correspondences and recommendations	156
6	Number of visa recommendations to the foreign missions on Government of Nepal's nominations	256
C	<i>Attestation</i>	
1	Number of documents attested	47,789
2	Revenue collected from the Department of Consular Services (NRs.)	2,91,84,000/-



OBITUARY



Astha Subba

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all the civil servants working within its structure are deeply saddened by the untimely demise of our colleague Astha Subba on 3 November 2022 at a fatal road accident.

Late Subba joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2012. During a decade long service, she served in the Department of Passports, Department of Consular Services, various divisions in the Ministry as well as in the Embassy of Nepal in Tel Aviv.

Late Subba was a competent, motivated and highly professional officer of Nepal Foreign Service. She will always be remembered for her honesty, hard-work and dedication.

We express our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family members.

May the departed soul rest in peace in heavenly abode!

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Singha Durbar



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