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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE NEPAL-INDIA JOINT COMMISSION

The seventh meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission was held in Kathmandu on 4 January 2024. Leading their respective delegations, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. N.P. Saud and Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. S. Jaishankar co-chaired the meeting.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed all aspects of bilateral relations in areas of cooperation including connectivity, infrastructure development, economic partnership, trade, transit, investment, power, water resources, culture, tourism, sports, health and education.

The two Ministers expressed satisfaction over mutual support in the regional, sub-regional and multilateral forums on the matters of common interest. On the occasion, Minister Saud raised the issues of additional air entry routes, and matters related to floods and inundation. Views were also exchanged on the review of Treaty of Peace and Friendship



Nepal's Foreign Minister Meeting with External Affairs Minister of India

of 1950, security and boundary related matters.

Expressing happiness over the momentum generated in further consolidating Nepal-India relations following the meetings held between the Prime Ministers of Nepal and India in 2022 and 2023, the Ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress on Indian assistance for post-earthquake reconstruction in housing, education, health, and culture heritage sectors in Nepal.

The two Ministers also remotely inaugurated the 132 kV cross-

border transmission lines between Nepal and India, namely the second circuit of Raxaul-Parwanipur line, the second circuit of Kataiya-Kusaha line and the New Nautanwa-Mainhiya line.

The following agreements were signed and exchanged during the Joint Commission:

- I. Agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the Republic of India on Long-Term Power Trade.

II. Agreement between Government of Nepal and the Government of India regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) through Governmental Organizations or any Other Organizations.

III. Memorandum of Understanding for Co-operation in the Renewable Energy Development between Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) and NTPC Limited.

IV. Agreement by and between Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and New Space India



The Seventh Joint Commission Meeting between Nepal and India

Limited (NSIL) a CPSE under Department of Space, Government of India on behalf of Indian Space Research Organization, Department of Space, Government of India for The Launch Service for Munal satellite on Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

External Affairs Minister Jaishankar paid courtesy calls on the President Mr. Ramchandra Paudel and the Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on the same day. During the calls on, various issues of mutual interest were discussed.

FIRST MEETING OF NEPAL-SRI LANKA JOINT COMMISSION

The first meeting of Nepal-Sri Lanka Joint Commission (JC) was held in Kathmandu on 20 December 2023. Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. N.P. Saud and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka Mr. M.U.M. Ali Sabry, led their respective delegations to the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the overall state of bilateral relations between Nepal and Sri Lanka. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged substantive views on further deepening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation in the areas of trade, connectivity,



The First Meeting of Nepal- Sri Lanka Joint Commission

investment, education, tourism, culture, and people-to-people relations. The two sides also agreed to continue cooperation in the

areas of mutual interest at regional and multilateral forums including in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC),

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the United Nations (UN).

A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Fields of Science, Technology

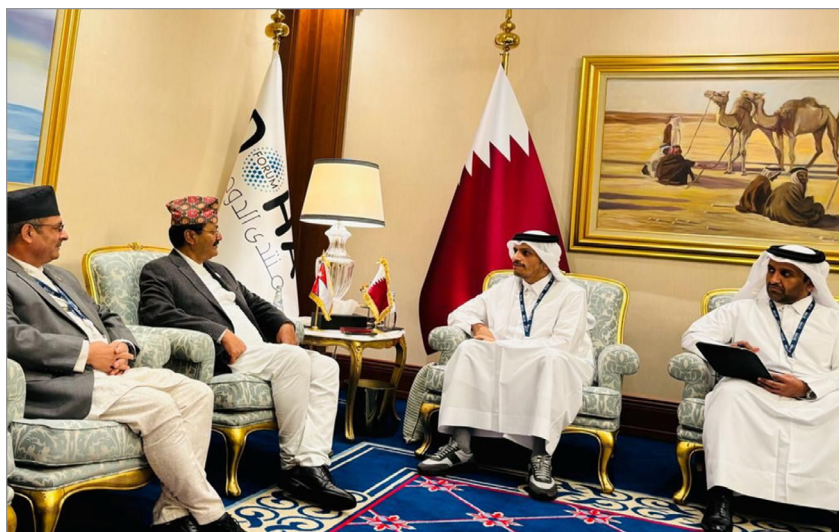
and Innovation between the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Nepal and the Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka was signed and exchanged at the meeting.

During his visit to Nepal, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister paid a courtesycall on the Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. Discussions were held on matters of mutual interest between Nepal and Sri Lanka.

FOREIGN MINISTER PARTICIPATES IN 21ST DOHA FORUM

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. N.P. Saud attended the 21st edition of the Doha Forum, held in Doha, Qatar on 10-11 December 2023. Addressing a panel discussion on the theme of "Governing Our Climate Future" in the Forum, Minister Saud highlighted the brunt of climate change Nepal is bearing and urged international community to accord priority towards the protection of the Himalayas through increased climate finance as well as early operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund.

During his visit to Qatar, Minister Saud paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of the State of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani. Besides



Foreign Minister Mr. Saud paying a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Qatar

discussion on other matters of mutual interests and priorities, the Minister requested for the support from the Government of Qatar in releasing Bipin Joshi from the captivity in Gaza. The Qatari Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs shared that Qatar

has continuously made efforts towards this end.

Minister Saud also held meetings with other high-ranking dignitaries from Qatar as well as foreign leaders attending the Forum.

CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENARY OF NEPAL-UK FRIENDSHIP TREATY 1923

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a special event to commemorate the 100 years of Nepal-United Kingdom Friendship Treaty of 1923. The event was organized at Hanuman Dhoka Durbar Square, Kathmandu on 26 November 2023.

As chief guest of the program, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. N.P. Saud highlighted the significance of the treaty and its contribution to the bilateral relations between Nepal and the United Kingdom. Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Nepal Mr. Rob Fenn also addressed the

program sharing his remarks on the significance of the treaty in the bilateral relations.

The keynote speaker of the programme, historian Prof. Dr. Tri Ratna Manandhar, delved into a comprehensive discourse on the context and consequences of the treaty. A collection of rare

photographs and documents related to the 1923 Treaty were displayed at the Programme. A band of the Nepal Army performed 'band display' towards the end of the Programme.

The Ministry also organized a Commemorative Programme at Singhdurbar State Hall on 21 December 2023. The Friendship Treaty was signed between Nepal and the United Kingdom on 21 December 1923 at the same Hall exactly a hundred years before. Foreign Minister Mr. N.P. Saud graced the occasion and highlighted the significance of the Treaty. British Ambassador Mr. Rob Fenn also spoke on the occasion in Nepali language highlighting significance of the Treaty on Nepal-UK bilateral ties.



Celebration of the centenary of Nepal-UK Friendship Treaty 1923



The Foreign Minister and the Ambassador of the UK during the commemorative program

VISIT OF THE STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF QATAR TO NEPAL

The State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi paid an official visit to Nepal on 23 and 24 November 2023. During his visit to Nepal, State Minister Al-Muraikhi paid courtesy calls on the Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. N.P. Saud.

Mr. Al-Muraikhi held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal.



Mr. Al-Muraikhi paying a courtesy call on the Prime Minister



Mr. Al-Muraikhi during courtesy call on Minister for Foreign Affairs

On the occasion, matters of mutual interest including trade, investment, development

cooperation and employment of Nepali nationals in Qatar were discussed including the support

of the Government of Qatar in securing the release of Bipin Joshi.

VISIT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UPPER HOUSE OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND TO NEPAL

Mr. Jerry Buttimer, Chairman of the Upper House of the Parliament of Ireland paid an official visit to Nepal on 8-12 January 2024 at the invitation of the Chairman of National Assembly of Nepal Mr. Ganesh Prasad Timilsina.

During the visit, the delegation paid courtesy calls on the President Mr. Ramchandra Paudel, the Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal and held meetings with the Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr. Devraj Ghimire, the Chairman of the National Assembly Mr. Ganesh



Meeting of the Visiting Delegation with the Foreign Minister

Prasad Timilsina and the Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. N.P. Saud. Matters related to parliamentary cooperation, and other possible

areas of cooperation between Nepal and Ireland, including in education sector, were discussed during the meetings.

VISIT OF A PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION OF MONGOLIA TO NEPAL

Ms. Munkhtsetseg Gompildoo, MP and Chairwoman of the Standing Committee on Education, Culture, Science and

Sports of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia visited Nepal on 17-20 December 2023, leading a parliamentary

delegation. Ms. Gompildoo and her delegation held separate meetings with Mr. Bhanubhakta Joshi, Chairman of Education,

Health and Information Technology Committee of the Federal Parliament of Nepal and Mr. Sudan Kirati, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. During the meetings, Chairwoman Ms. Gompildoo highlighted the need for greater cultural cooperation between Nepal and Mongolia.



Ms. Munkhtsetseg Gompildoo during the Meeting with Minister Kirati

VISIT OF SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS TO NEPAL

Mr. Shi Yugang, Deputy Secretary of the Standing Committee of CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee and his delegation visited Nepal from 4 to 6 January 2024.

While he was in Nepal, Mr. Yugang paid courtesy calls on Vice President Mr. Ramsahay Prasad Yadav, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development Dr. Bedu Ram Bhusal and Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Sudan Kirati. During the meetings, Mr. Shi shed light on the similarities between Nepal and Yunnan province with special emphasis on agriculture, livestock, tourism and cultural aspects.

Ms. Wu Zhongqiong, Vice Secretary of the Standing Party Committee of Jiangxi province visited Nepal from 19 to 22 November 2023. The delegation led by Wu paid courtesy calls on Mr. Ashok Kumar Rai, Minister



Mr. Shi Yugang during the courtesy call on Mr. Ramsahay Prasad Yadav, Vice President

for Education, Science and Technology and Mr. Salikram Jamarkattel, Chief Minister of Bagmati Province. Ms. Wu also attended Jiangxi Province Promotion Conference held with the theme “Introducing Jiangxi to Nepal”. Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha was the Chief Guest of the conference.

Similarly, Member of Standing Committee of CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee and President of Guangdong Overseas Friendship Association Mr. Wang Ruijun visited Nepal from 14 to 16 December 2023, leading a six-member delegation. The delegation visited Lumbini and held meeting with senior officials of Lumbini Development Trust.

B. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

PRIME MINISTER DAHAL PARTICIPATES IN COP 28 IN THE UAE

The Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' led a Nepali delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28), held in Dubai, Abu Dhabi from 30 November to 12 December 2023.

The Prime Minister attended the opening session of the COP 28-World Climate Action Summit and delivered a national statement on 2 December 2023. In his statement, the Prime Minister stressed that least developed mountainous countries like Nepal are disproportionately bearing the brunt of adverse impact of climate change despite near zero contribution. The Prime Minister also underscored the need to ensure climate finance and climate justice. In the margins of the High-Level Segment of CoP 28, the Prime Minister held meetings with high dignitaries.



Prime Minister Dahal addressing the COP 28-World Climate Action Summit in Dubai

On the same day, the Prime Minister hosted a high-level side event entitled 'Call of the Mountain: Who Saves Us from the Climate Crisis?' to raise the voice of Nepal on climate change and promote mountain agenda in the COP negotiation process. The Prime Minister chaired the event and delivered the opening remarks.

During his remarks, the Prime Minister highlighted the adverse impacts of climate change on mountainous countries and appealed for urgent actions to stop the crime against nature and humanity.

The event was addressed by UN Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres, the Prime Minister of Andorra, the Foreign Minister



Prime Minister chairing a high-level side event hosted by Nepal during COP28 in Dubai

of Kyrgyz Republic, the State Secretary from Bhutan and the representatives from international organizations.

The Prime Minister also addressed the 'Global Stocktake High-Level Leaders' Event on Adaptation and Delivering Early Warnings for All' event. He stated that Nepal has already submitted

its second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and has prepared National Adaptation Plan. The Prime Minister urged the leaders for abiding by 1.5-degree celsius climate limit. 'Time is running out, we must act now,' he emphasized.

During his stay in Dubai, the Prime Minister visited the

Embassy of Nepal in Abu Dhabi and interacted with Nepali communities. Addressing the Nepal-UAE Business Summit, Prime Minister Dahal invited business communities in UAE to invest in Nepal in view of the enactment of various legislations to promote and accelerate business enabling environment in Nepal.

FOREIGN MINISTER PARTICIPATES IN 'HUMAN RIGHTS 75' HIGH-LEVEL EVENT

A high-level delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. N.P. Saud participated in the "Human Rights 75" High-Level Event organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland on 11 and 12 December 2023. The event was organized to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

During the event, Minister Saud joined the high-level roundtable themed "The Future of Human Rights, Environment and Climate" as a part of Leaders' Segment. The round-table was moderated by the Prime Minister of Iceland and composed of high-level dignitaries and climate activists. Speaking at the roundtable, Foreign Minister Saud called for climate action specifically designed for the mountain countries and communities.



Foreign Minister Mr. Saud addressing the high-level roundtable event



Foreign Minister Mr. Saud with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Volker Turk

During his visit to Geneva, the Foreign Minister met with Mr. Volker Turk, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

Rights and attended the luncheon hosted by the High Commissioner in the honour of visiting leaders. On the margin of the event, the

Foreign Minister had a courtesy meeting with the Vice President of Maldives Mr. Hussain Mohamed Latheef.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER PARTICIPATES IN THE LLDC MINISTERIAL MEETING

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. N.P. Saud led a high-level Nepali delegation to the LLDC Ministerial Meeting held on 14 and 15 December 2023 in Yerevan, Armenia. The Ministerial meeting was held under the theme 'Enhancing equitable, affordable, and inclusive transport connectivity as a driver for more sustainable and resilient economies in LLDCs'.

During his address to the Ministerial Meeting, Minister Saud pointed that LLDCs face structural limitations stemming from geographical isolation, transit and trade vulnerabilities, and poor infrastructure and connectivity. He stressed the need to build affordable, sustainable, resilient, and robust transport connectivity to overcome territorial disadvantage, promote

regional and global integration, and unleash opportunities for sustained resilient and sustainable economic growth.

The Foreign Minister also chaired a session on 'Lessons learned on transport connectivity during the implementation of the Vienna Program of Action' during the Ministerial Meeting. The session was co-organized by the Government of Armenia and



Foreign Minister Mr. Saud participating in the LLDC Ministerial Meeting in Yerevan, Armenia



Foreign Minister Saud Chairing the Session

the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least

Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small

Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS).

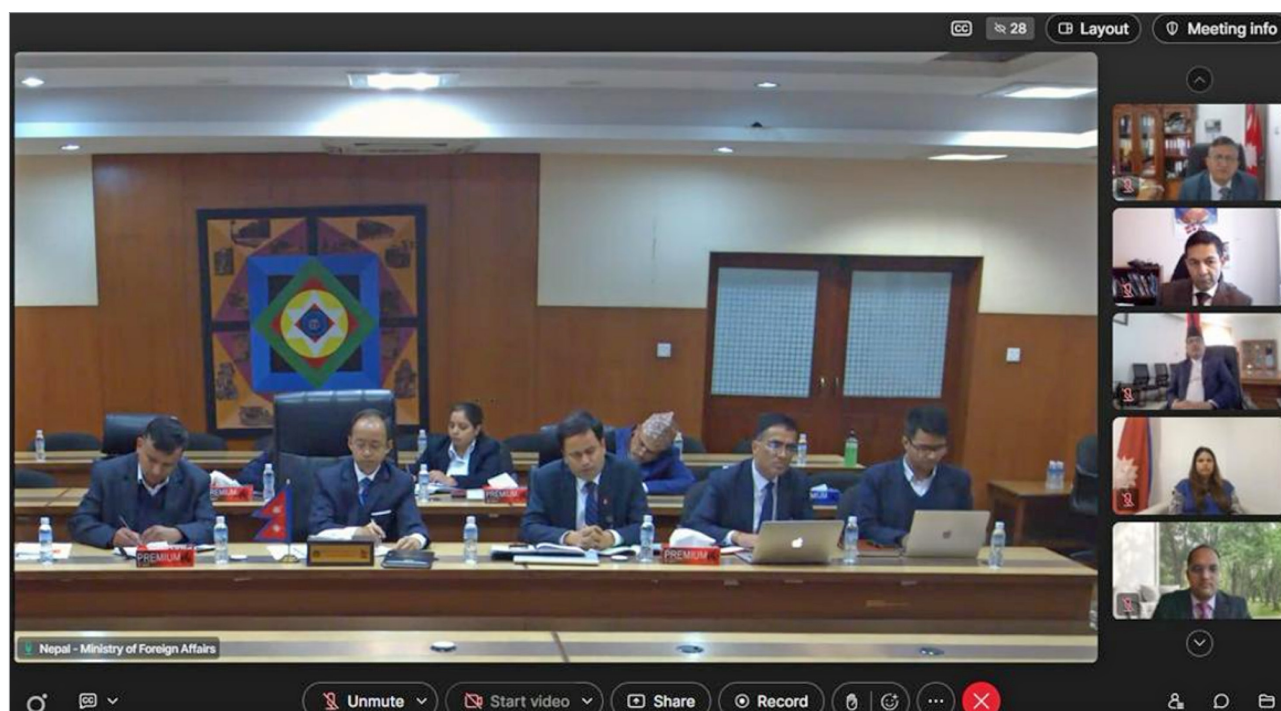
C. DEVELOPMENT DIPLOMACY

INTERACTION PROGRAMME ON ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY AND NTIS 2080

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) organized an interaction programme on the role of Nepali Missions in Economic

Diplomacy and Nepal Trade Integrated Strategy (NTIS) 2080 on 30 November 2023 in a hybrid format.

The programme chaired by Acting Foreign Secretary Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai was held to execute the annual plans and



Participants in the interaction programme

programs of economic diplomacy. Ambassadors/Heads as well as officials of Nepali Missions abroad participated virtually in the program. Joint Secretary from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supply Mr. Lila Prasad Sharma, CEO of Trade

and Export Promotion Centre (TEPC) Mr. Sharad Bikram Rana and officials of both the ministries participated in person.

In the program, Joint Secretary Sharma made a presentation highlighting the role of diplomatic

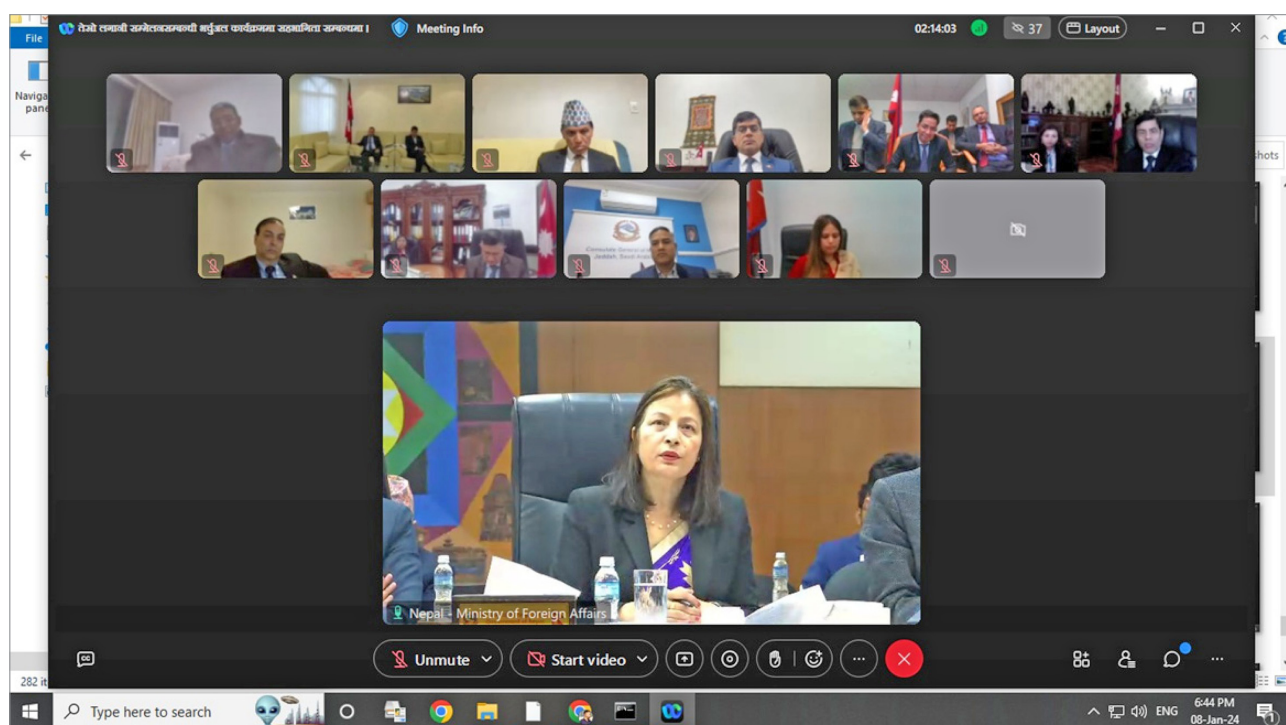
missions in operationalizing the activities of economic diplomacy in general and strategies referred in NTIS 2080. Various matters related to trade promotion in foreign countries and the role of Nepali Missions were discussed in the program.

INTERACTION PROGRAMME ON THIRD INVESTMENT SUMMIT

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized an interactive programme on 'Role of Nepali Missions in Third Investment Summit' on 8 January 2024. The programme, chaired by Foreign Secretary Ms. Sewa Lamsal, was

attended by Ambassadors/ Heads of the Nepali Missions abroad virtually, CEO of Investment Board Nepal Mr. Sushil Bhatta and the officials from the Board as well the Ministry. During the programme, Foreign

Secretary Ms. Lamsal and CEO of Investment Board Nepal Mr. Bhatta highlighted major updates on the Third Investment Summit and role of diplomatic missions abroad for the success of the summit.



Foreign Secretary Ms. Lamsal addressing the Interaction Programme

D. PROTOCOL UPDATES

AMBASSADORS OF SRI LANKA, BELGIUM AND PANAMA PRESENT THEIR CREDENTIALS

Residential Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Nepal Mr. Sudharshana Pathirana presented his Letter of Credentials to the President of Nepal Mr. Ram Chandra Paudel amidst a special

ceremony organized at Rastrapati Bhawan, Maharajgunj on 14 December 2023. Non-residential Ambassador of Belgium to Nepal Mr. Didier Anna L Vanderhasselt and non-residential Ambassador

of Panama to Nepal Ms. Yasiel Alines Buillo Rivera also presented their Letters of Credentials to the President in the same ceremony.



Air Chief Marshal (Rtd.) Sudharshana K. Pathirana, Ambassador of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka presenting his credentials



Mr. Didier Anna L. Vanderhasselt, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium presenting his credentials



Ms. Yasiel Alines Buillo Rivera, Ambassador of the Republic of Panama presenting her credentials

E. SERVICE DELIVERY

NON-RESIDENT NEPALI

S. N.	Services (from the Ministry)	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	26

PASSPORT

S. N.	Services	Number	Remarks
1	E-passport issued	2,44,683	Ordinary
		127	Diplomatic
		1,846	Official
		5	Service
2	MRP passports issued (According to document type)	19	Ordinary
		4	Travel Document (TD)
3	Total passports issued	2,46,683	Districts, Missions and the Department
4	Emails responded including through social media	634	
5	Cancelled Passports	171	
6	Verification of Citizenship records and letters of in-approval	430	
7	Revenue collected from the Department of Passport (NRs.)	84,75,28,000.00	

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	237
3	Recommendations for character verification	35
4	Recommendations for procurement of chemicals & explosives	24
5	Correspondences regarding Power of Attorney	0
6	Correspondences concerning search and rescue of Nepali nationals	190
7	Correspondences with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepali nationals from abroad	40
8	Correspondences regarding citizenship renouncement	15
B	<i>Visa and Exemption</i>	
1	Issuances of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	222
2	Issuances of diplomatic/official ID Card	64
3	Issuances of recommendation letters for exemption	696
4	Issuances of SAARC Visa stickers	2
5	Other correspondences and recommendations	418
6	Number of visa recommendations to the foreign missions on Government of Nepal's nominations	227
C	<i>Attestation</i>	
1	Number of documents attested	116761
2	Revenue collected from the Department of Consular Services (NRs.)	5,89,33,500/-

Chief Patron: Hon'ble Narayan Prakash Saud
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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

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