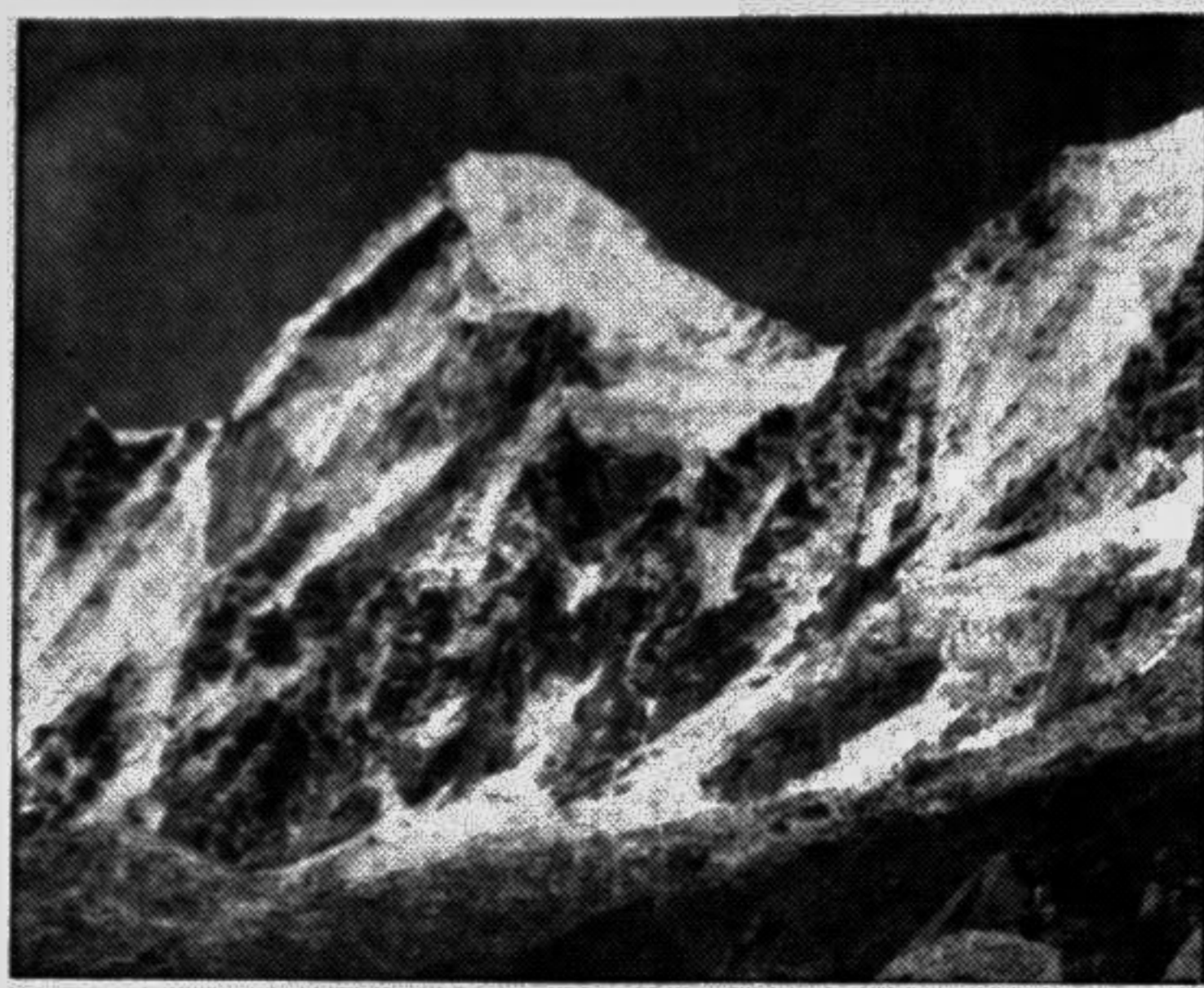


52nd Birthday of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and National Day of Nepal



His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev

b: Dec. 1945; Kathmandu

sof:

His late Majesty King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah and late Crown Princess Indra Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah.

e: Early education at St. Joseph's School, Darjeeling (India); Higher studies at Eton College (England), 1959-1964; University of Tokyo (Japan) and Harvard University (USA), 1967-1968.

ms: Married Her Majesty Queen Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah, 1970; s:2; d:1.

Royal Career:

Declared Heir-Apparent to the Throne of the Kingdom of Nepal, 1955; Coming-of-Age Ceremony, conferred the title of Grand Master of all Orders of the Kingdom of Nepal and Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Nepalese Army, 1964; Ascended the Throne, 1972; Patron, Royal Nepal Academy of Science of Technology, King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation, Lumbini Development Trust and Pashupati Area Development Trust; Chancellor, Tribhuvan University and Mahendra Sanskrit University.

Participation:

Observer:

First Non-Aligned Summit, Belgrade (Yugoslavia), 1961; Tenth Anniversary Celebrations of Bandung Conference, Jakarta (Indonesia), 1965.

Leader of Nepalese Delegation:

Fourth Non-Aligned Summit, Algiers (Algeria), 1973; Fifth Non-Aligned Summit, Colombo (Sri Lanka), 1976; Sixth Non-Aligned Summit, Havana (Cuba), 1979; Seventh Non-Aligned Summit, New Delhi (India), 1983; First SAARC Summit, Dhaka (Bangladesh), 1985; Eighth Non-Aligned Summit, Harare (Zimbabwe), 1986; Second SAARC Summit, Bangalore (India), 1986; Third SAARC Summit, Kathmandu (Nepal), 1987; Fourth SAARC Summit, Islamabad (Pakistan), 1988; Ninth Non-Aligned Summit, Belgrade (Yugoslavia), 1989.

Others:

Inaugurated the World Conference on Religion and Culture, Madurai (India), 1977; Addressed the UN Conference on Problems of Least-Developed Countries, Paris (France), 1981; Attended the Nepal National Day at Tsukuba Expo'85, Tsukuba (Japan), 1985; Attended the Commemoration of 50 years of

The Daily Star

Special Supplement

December 28, 1996



His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Her Majesty Queen Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah

peace after the end of the Second World War in Europe (United Kingdom), 1995.

Visited:

State Visits:

India, 1973; China, 1973; Yugoslavia, 1975; USSR, 1976; Bangladesh, 1978; Japan, 1978; Sri Lanka, 1980; United Kingdom, 1980; Egypt, 1981; Spain, 1983; United States of America, 1983; Thailand, 1984; Australia, 1985; Federal Republic of Germany, 1986; Finland, 1989; Denmark, 1989; India, 1993; China, 1993; Republic of France, 1994.

Official Visits:

India, 1980 and 1985; China, 1987.

Other Visits (Friendly and Unofficial):

China, 1966; Japan, 1967; USA, Argentina, Brazil, Iran and Israel, 1967-68; Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom and France, 1970; China, India, Kuwait, Holland, Canada, Iceland and United Kingdom, 1970; Szechuan and Tibet of China, 1976; China, Malaysia and the Philippines, 1978; Bangladesh, Burma and Singapore, 1980; Pakistan, Cyprus, Belgium and Yugoslavia, 1980; Bahrain, Pakistan and Italy,



1981; Gansu and Tibet of China, 1982; Italy, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Malta and The Maldives, 1983; Switzerland, Luxembourg, Japan and Hong Kong, 1983; Brunei, Malaysia and Japan, 1985; Seychelles, Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya and Oman, 1986; Yugoslavia, Turkey, Kuwait, Czechoslovakia, France and Greece, 1989; Austria, Italy and United Arab Emirates, 1994; China 1996.

hons:

Sovereign of all Orders of the Kingdom of Nepal; Supreme Commander of the Royal Nepalese Army; Subha Rajyabishka Padaka, 1956; Para Wing, 1969; Bishesh Sewa Padaka, 1970; Helicopter flying wings, 1976; Order of Million Elephants and White Umbrella Grade of the Grand Cross (Laos), 1970; Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum (Japan), 1970; Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Pakistan), 1970; Honorary General of the British Army (United Kingdom), 1973; Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws (Delhi University, India), 1973; Grand Cordon of Yugoslav Great Star (Yugoslavia), 1974; The Collar of the Nile (Egypt), 1974; The Royal Victorian Chain (United Kingdom), 1975; Collar of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum (Japan), 1975; l'Ordre Du Regne Du Laos 'Medaille en Vermeil' (Laos), 1975; Grand Cross of the Netherlands Lion (Netherlands), 1975; The Most Auspicious Order of the Rajamitrabhorn (Thailand), 1979; Grand Collar of the Order of Maccarius III (Cyprus), 1980; Field Marshal (United Kingdom), 1980; Gold Mercury Medal (Gold Mercury International), 1983; Grand Cross of Legion of Honour (France), 1983; Nishan-e-Pakistan (Pakistan), 1983; Collar De Carlos III (Spain), 1983; The UC Berkeley Medal (USA), 1983; The Doctorate of Public Health, honoris Causa (Mahidol University, Thailand), 1984; First Honorary Award of Grand Marshal Medal (Brooklyn College, USA), 1985; Special Level of the Grand Cross Order of Merit (Federal Republic of Germany), 1986; Order of the Republic Star First Class (Romania), 1987; Grand Cross of the Order of the White Rose with Collar (Finland), 1988; The Order of the Elephant (Denmark), 1989; Arden Al Merito De Chile (Chile), 1988; Head of State Medal (The International Association of Lions Clubs), 1991; Honorary Doctor of Humanities (West Virginia Institute of Technology, USA), 1994; Honorary Doctorate (Soka University, Japan), 1995.

motto:

"Knowledge is power, work is worship."

hobby:

Nature conservation, riding and painting.

addr:

Narayanrithy Royal Palace, Kathmandu.

MESSAGE



As the people of Nepal are happily celebrating the fifty-second auspicious birthday of His Majesty the King by organising various befitting programmes, I am extremely pleased to know that the auspicious occasion is also being commemorated in Bangladesh by publishing a Special Supplement. The celebration of this important occasion has a new significance this year as we are also observing the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, His Majesty the King is the symbol of national unity and inspires us to devote ourselves for promoting national interest and the well-being of the people of Nepal. We wish His Majesty good health and happy life.

Nepal and the People's Republic of Bangladesh enjoy close and cordial ties of friendship and co-operation since the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between us. On behalf of His Majesty's Government and people of Bangladesh all success in their endeavours for achieving faster pace of socio-economic development as they are celebrating the Silver Jubilee of their glorious war of liberation. I am fully confident that the ties of mutually beneficial co-operation and friendship so happily existing between our two countries will be further strengthened in future.

Sher Bahadur Deuba
Prime Minister of Nepal

Foreign Investment Policy and Institutional Arrangement

NEPAL is a landlocked Himalayan Kingdom with an area of 147,181 sq km situated between China to the north and India to the east, west and south. The population of the country is 19 million with an annual growth rate of 2.08 percent.

Politically, Nepal has adopted multi-party democracy with the constitutional monarchy. The concept of the rule of law is enshrined within an independent judicial system. The Constitution guarantees basic human rights, freedoms and equality. The government is committed to alleviate poverty and to achieve sustainable economic development.

Nepal has adopted a liberal and open economic policies. Important measures under these policy reforms include delicensing in industrial investment, autonomy in pricing of industrial products, trade liberalization, tax reform, tariff rationalization, financial sector reform and debureaucratization. The main objective of such reforms is to improve efficiency in resource allocation,

public health and environment related ones.

Institutional Arrangements

Industrial Promotion Board under the Minister for Industry is the apex body for formulation and implementation of the policies, laws and regulations relating to industrial development. The board constitutes of

Nepal is still in an early stage of industrial development. The contribution of the manufacturing sector to the GDP is less than 10 percent. The dependency of economy upon agriculture is still high.

His Majesty's government has accorded top priority to the development of the industrial sector. The Industrial Policy of 1992 is a major thrust towards an open economy with the creation of liberal and competitive economic environment to encourage private sector taking the lead in industrial and business activities. Deregulation of industries has been introduced with the elimination of licensing requirement for most industries except for security,

high level government authorities as well as reputed persons from the private sector. The IPB is responsible to grant permission for any foreign investment in the country except industries with fixed assets up to five hundred million rupees of which Department of Industries will provide the permission.

Likewise, One Window Committee in the Department of Industries is formed to provide quick and efficient service on infrastructural and other matters of primary concern to industrialists. This Committee, which is constituted under the conensorship of the Director General of Department of Industries, is also represented by Director Generals and higher officials representing different government agencies (Abridged)

MESSAGE



people of Nepal, our warmest greetings to the Government and friendly people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of their independence after a heroic and glorious war of liberation. We rejoice at their marvellous socio-economic achievements during the last two and a half decades of the evolution of Bangladesh as a proud member of the international community of sovereign states.

It is pertinent to note that Nepal and Bangladesh enjoy excellent bilateral relations since the establishment of formal diplomatic relations as Nepal was one of the first few countries to extend immediate recognition to the birth of Bangladesh. Strong bonds of people-to-people relations and mutual respect for each other's aspirations have continuously nurtured Nepal-Bangladesh ties, irrespective of changes in the systems of governance in our two countries. Frequent exchange of high-level visits has remained an important hallmark of Nepal-Bangladesh relations. Their Majesties the King and Queen have been to Bangladesh four times. Likewise, leaders of Bangladesh have paid visits to Nepal on several occasions.

As members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Nepal and Bangladesh attach significant importance to this regional organisation. His

Majesty's Government of Nepal is keenly interested to further consolidate mutually beneficial ties of friendship and cooperation with Bangladesh as our two countries face common problems of poverty, malnutrition and underdevelopment. Our two countries have a shared belief that there exists tremendous scope for promoting sub-regional cooperation involving Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and India's north-eastern states. This region also known as the Ganges-Meghna-Brahmaputra (GMB) growth triangle in the definition of development economists, has the dubious distinction of having one of the largest concentrations of the world's poor and underprivileged people. The GMB region awaits speedy action and sufficient political will in order to utilise the vast potentials of the area for uplifting the standards of living of our peoples.

To conclude, I wish to extend sincere felicitations to the people and leaders of Bangladesh in their noble endeavours for raising the quality of life through timely and rapid socio-economic development programmes. Let us pledge to further consolidate our bilateral relations in the years to come. Long live Nepal-Bangladesh relations.

Thank you.

Lok Bahadur Shrestha
Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh



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Heartiest Felicitations to His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev on the auspicious occasion of 51st Birthday and National Day of Nepal

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