



NEWSLETTER

NO. 3



Ambassador Presents Letters of Credence to King of Jordan

The Ambassador of Nepal to Egypt, Sushil Kumar Lamsal, also accredited as Non-Resident Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, presented his Letters of Credence to His Majesty Abdullah II, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at Basman Palace in Amman amidst a credentials ceremony on June 5, 2023.

The Ambassador held a brief conversation with His Majesty King Abdullah II following the presentation of the Letters of Credence.

His Majesty the King extended his warm congratulations to Mr. Lamsal on assuming his role as Ambassador to Jordan and assured that the Jordanian Government would extend its full support to the Ambassador's efforts in advancing ties between the two countries.

Stressing on the need to expand bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and tourism, His Majesty the King said that the government was committed to ensuring the welfare of Nepali workers in the country.

Following the ceremony, the Ambassador laid wreaths at the tombs of Their Late Majesties King Hussein Bin Talal, King Abdullah I and King Talal Bin Abdullah at the Royal Cemetery.

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Evacuation of Nepalis from Sudan

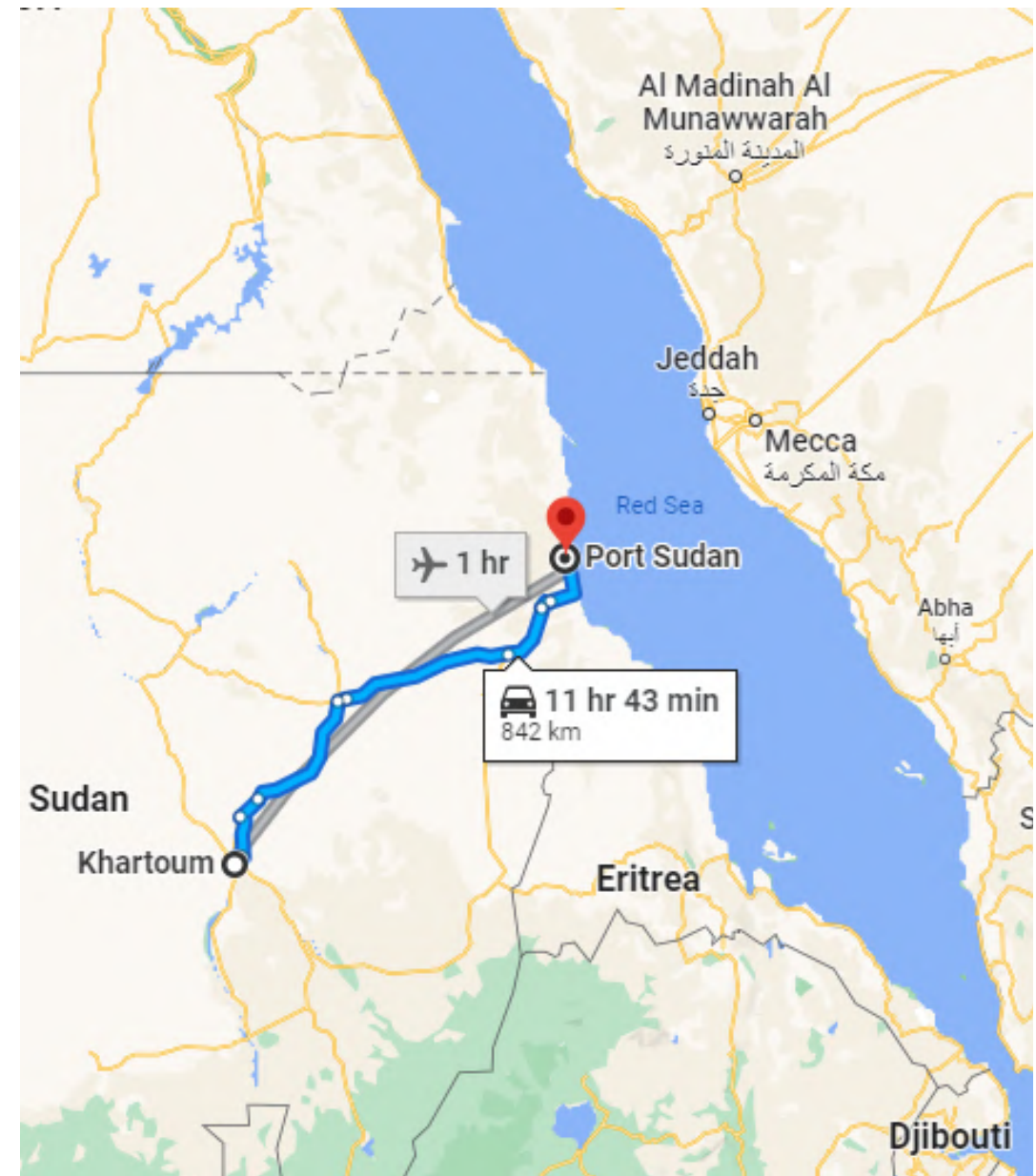
Twenty-eight Nepali nationals were rescued from Sudan following the escalation of violence between the country's two rival military factions, the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that began on April 15.

On April 30, a total of 19 Nepalis were evacuated from Port Sudan across the Red Sea to Jeddah with the support of the Saudi Arabian government.

They were taken from the Sudani port to Jeddah onboard HMS Al-Diriyah, along with the nationals of USA, Oman, and Pakistan.

Out of the 19 persons, 13 flew to Nepal and the rest left for Dubai, UAE, where their employer company is based.

Similarly, on May 4, nine Nepalis were evacuated from Port Sudan aboard an Indian Air Force C17 special flight carrying the 23rd batch of 192 evacuees as part of Operation Kaveri, conducted by the Government of India.





Nepal values its ties with Jordan: Amb

on June 4, the Ambassador met with H. E. Amb. Ms Lina Al-Hadid, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates to present the copies of his Letters of Credence. Matters relating to the advancement of bilateral ties, including through the conclusion of an agreement on setting up a consultation mechanism between the foreign offices, were discussed during the meetings.

On June 6, the ambassador met with Director of Consular Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Hamzah Al Omari to discuss consular issues related to Nepali nationals in Jordan. On 04 June 2023, Ambassador Lamsal met with the General Secretary of Ministry of Labor of Jordan H.E. Mr. Farouq Al-Hadidi, and discussed issues relating to the implementation of Nepal-Jordan General Labour Agreement. On June 6, the ambassador met with Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Interior Dr. Khaled Mohammed Abu-Hamour.



From left, General Secretary of Ministry of Labor of Jordan Mr. Farouq Al-Hadidi, Ambassador Lamsal and SS Deepak Ghimire



On June 7, the ambassador met with Vice-Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of Jordan Mr. Jamal Al-Refaei at the latter's office. The ambassador discussed with Mr. Al-Refaei the scope of Nepal-Jordan cooperation in the fields of business and investment. Mr. Al-Refaei said that the Chamber looked forward to working together with the Embassy in advancing cooperation in areas of mutual interest.



Screening of Nepali Documentary at Cairo Opera House

Nepali documentary film *Bagh Ko Bangara* was screened at the Cairo Opera House in the Egyptian capital on June 14 by the Embassy of Nepal in Cairo in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of Egypt. The documentary, produced by Bidhya Chapagain's Herne Katha team and directed by Kamal Kumar, presents a vivid picture of harvesting honey in Jajarkot district of western Nepal. In his welcome speech at the screening of the documentary, Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal said that the documentary, which is an example of a new genre of experimental film making in Nepal, was an inspiring story of human courage amid an extremely challenging natural environment. On the occasion, prominent Egyptian photojournalist Ashraf Talaat said that Nepal's natural splendor and beauty were a never-ending resource for filmmakers and photojournalists around the world. The screening was attended by an audience comprising of personalities in the fields of film and culture as well as journalists and media workers, photojournalists, ambassadors and diplomats, travel and tour operators, businessmen and students.





Glimpses of Visit to Garment Factories in Jordan

On June 6, Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal visited Mas Kreeda at Al Safi, Sahab in Jordan, and met with Nepali workers. On June 7, he visited the factory of Classic Fashion Apparel Industry Private Limited, and held interactions with the Nepali workers as well as the management.





Asian Ambassadors' Meeting

The Asian Ambassadors' Group (AAG) Dinner Meeting was held at the Residence of the Ambassador of Nepal on June 15. Former Prime Minister of Egypt, H.E. Prof. Essam Sharaf was Guest of Honor at the event. AAG is an informal grouping of ambassadors from Asia and the Pacific (excluding West Asia) in Cairo. Former Prime Minister Sharaf, in his remarks, highlighted the important role of soft power in forging harmony and cooperation among states, and stressed the need to promote regular people-to-people exchanges, civilizational linkages and connectivity in advancing stronger ties between Egypt and Asian countries. He said that Asia's prominent place in the politics and economy of the contemporary world meant that relations between Egypt and countries in the Asian continent were bound to grow further in the coming decades, and in this regard, the Asian ambassadors had an important role to play. Seventeen ambassadors from the Asia Pacific region participated in the dinner meeting.





Former Prime Minister Essam Sharaf Stresses Ties with Nepal



On April 6, Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal met with former Prime Minister of Egypt, Essam Sharaf at the latter's office in Dokki, Cairo. The Ambassador expressed his sincere thanks to the ex-Prime Minister for his support in promoting the close, friendly and co-operative relations between Nepal and Egypt. Sharing his views on various matters of international relations from an Egyptian perspective, Mr. Sharaf discussed the evolving dynamics of regional and world politics.

Essam Sharaf, a prominent participant in the Tahrir Square demonstrations, was Egypt's first post-Revolution Prime Minister after the downfall of Hosni Mubarak's regime in 2011.

Visit to Suez Canal

On April 9, Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal met with Admiral Osama Mounir Rabie, Chairman of Suez Canal Authority, and discussed matters of mutual concern.



Meeting with Parliamentarian Dr Heba

On April 4, the Ambassador met with former MP Dr. Heba Hagra, who is also a disability activist. Dr. Heba shared her experience in leading the legislative process of enacting laws relating to the rights of persons with disabilities in Egypt.





Republic Day Celebration

On the occasion of Republic Day on May 29, the Ambassador of Nepal to the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Mr. Sushil K Lamsal hoisted the national flag of Nepal at the Embassy premises.

A minute of silence was observed in memory of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom, equality and civic rights in the country.

The national anthem of Nepal was played during the flag-hoisting ceremony.



Amb addresses UN Regional Workshop on Civil Society Organizations

Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal addressed the inaugural session of the Regional Workshop on the Essential Role of Civil Society Organizations in Anti-Trafficking Responses, organized jointly by the Government of Egypt, IOM and UNODC, in Cairo on May 2. In his remarks, Ambassador Lamsal discussed the role of civil society organizations in identifying the specific challenges in combating human trafficking at the grassroots level. He expressed the hope that the workshop would facilitate mutual learning and exchange of best practices in the countries represented in the workshop. The Session was chaired by Ambassador Naela Gabr, Chairperson of the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons. A three-member delegation of Maiti Nepal led by Ms Anuradha Koirala attended the workshop. Representatives from Bangladesh, Tunisia, Morocco, Iraq, Netherlands, and Belgium also participated in the event.

The Nepali delegation was welcomed at the Ambassador's Residence on May 1.



Egypt attaches importance to relations with Nepal: House Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Darwish

On May 10, Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal met with Mr. Karim Darwish, MP and Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, the lower house of the Egyptian Parliament. Shedding light on the friendly and cooperative relations between Nepal and Egypt, Ambassador Lamsal expressed satisfaction over the collaborative and mutually beneficial ties subsisting between the two countries.

He expressed his willingness to work together with the Foreign Affairs Committee in deepening the ties between the parliaments of the two countries. Mr. Darwish said that Egypt attached importance to its relations with Nepal and expressed the hope that parliamentary exchanges between the two countries would contribute to further strengthening bilateral ties.



Prospects of Nepal-Egypt investment cooperation are growing: GAFI Chairman

On June 1, Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal met with the President of General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI) of Egypt, Mr. Hossam Heiba. Ambassador Lamsal shed light on the liberal foreign investment policy adopted by the Government of Nepal, and Nepal's investment-friendly environment and legal regime for foreign investors, and requested GAFI's assistance in encouraging greater bilateral collaboration in the trade, tourism and investment sectors.

President Heiba welcomed the ambassador's suggestions for bringing together business entrepreneurs of the two countries together, including through online conferences and exchange of business delegations, and assured the ambassador that his agency would be glad to help promote Nepal as an investment destination among Egyptian business community.



Painting Competition for Schoolchildren

On June 3, the Embassy of Nepal organized an art competition under the theme of 'Mountains and Climate Change' to mark World Environment Day 2023. More than twenty students of various nationalities studying at Pakistan International School, the Irish International School, Maadi British International School, Cairo American College, and Nasser Private School participated in the art competition. Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal thanked the participating students and schools for their active involvement in the art competition, and highlighted the need for raising awareness among children of the existential threat posed by climate change. Yunjia Zhang (China) of Pakistan International School secured the first prize in the competition, whereas Puteri Alisha Daania (Malaysia), and Manuela Canto Lopez (Spain) from the same school got the second and third prizes, respectively.





Amb Stresses Economic Ties with Alexandria



Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal paid a three-day visit to the Governorate of Alexandria from July 12-14. On July 13, he met with Governor Major General Mohamed Taher Elsherief to discuss promotion of bilateral economic exchanges. During the meeting, Amb Lamsal shed light on the prospects for enhanced business cooperation between Nepal and Egypt, and sought the assistance of the Governor in encouraging entrepreneurs from Alexandria to explore investment opportunities in Nepal, especially in areas such as tourism, agriculture, hydropower and infrastructure.

Governor Elsherief welcomed the ambassador's proposal, and said that Nepal and Egypt should cooperate with each other in expanding economic and business ties.

Alex Biz Association for Promoting Business Exchanges with Nepal

On July 13, the ambassador visited the headquarters of Alexandria Business Association and met with Vice-President, Treasurer, and Board Member Engg. Medhat Kady, and Vice-Chairman Dr. Mohamed Mehrem. During the meeting, the ambassador highlighted the scope of bilateral economic cooperation in sectors such as tourism, energy and agriculture, and answered queries about tax structure, logistics, infrastructures and visa policies. The ABA delegation expressed its interest in exploring the prospects for trade and business between the two countries, and expressed thanks for starting contact between the association and Nepal.



'Ojaswirajanya Manpadawi' conferred on President Anwar Sadat by King Birendra during the latter's visit to Egypt in February 1981 has been kept at Bibliotheca Alexandria, a major tourist attraction of the city.



Nepal-Egypt Webinar on Tourism Cooperation



An online conference on promotion of cooperation in tourism between travel and tour operators of Nepal and Egypt was held on May 25. Welcoming the participants in the conference, Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal said that as countries with ancient civilizations of great cultural and natural heritage, Nepal and Egypt were both likely to benefit greatly through partnership in the tourism sector.

Highlighting the increasing interest about Nepal in Egypt, he said that the event was organized with the aim of initiating a platform to encourage cooperation between the travel and tour operators of the two countries.

Speaking as Chief Guest, Mr. Suresh Adhikari, Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, said that the government was determined to providing necessary support for the advancement of tourism cooperation between the two countries.

General Manager of Egypt Tourism Authority, Mr. Ahmed Ali said that the authority was willing to welcome Nepali travel agencies on a familiarization tour to Egypt. Senior Manager of Nepal Tourism Board, Sunil Sharma and General Secretary of Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents (NATTA) Kumar Mani Thapalia made presentations about Nepal's tourism heritage and the potentials of tourism cooperation between Nepal and Egypt. Representatives of more than 20 travel tour companies from Nepal and Egypt participated in the conference.





Nepal Business Promotion Programs held in Cairo and Alexandria



On July 5, the Embassy hosted, in cooperation with the Arab Women Investors Union, a business forum on foreign investment opportunities in Nepal. Speaking at the function, Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal described how Nepal was an attractive destination for foreign investment due to its unique geographical location, abundance of natural resources and skilled young workforce and urged Egyptian entrepreneurs to take advantage of the growing investment opportunities in the country. President of the Federation of Arab Women Investors, Dr. Hoda Yassa said that Nepal was a new but promising destination for Egyptian investors. The program was attended by about fifty participants, including Egyptian investors, journalists and representatives of the media. Another promotional event was held in Alexandria on July 13.





Orientation Program for Migrant Workers

On May 7, the Embassy, in collaboration with the local Nepali community, organized an interaction event for migrant workers to disseminate information on various facets of foreign employment as well as various kinds of consular services provided by the Embassy.

Welcoming the participants, Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal said that the program was organized with a view to facilitating closer communication and cooperation between the Embassy and the Nepali community for promoting the rights and welfare of the migrant workers in Egypt.

Deepak Ghimire, Second Secretary, briefed the participants on protection of the rights of migrant workers and financial literacy.

Madhab Kaphle, Third Secretary made a presentation on passport and consular services.

Around 80 participants attended the program.





Promotional Program at October 6 University

A stall displaying artifacts related to Nepal's art, culture and tourism was set up at the International Cultural Festival at the October 6 University on May 13-14. The stall was decorated with metal and wooden craft as well as Nepali flag, Pashupatinath Temple and Buddha statue, Rhinoceros, Elephant, Karuva, Mukhundo, Khukuri, Peacock Window, Singing Bowl, Madal, Murchunga and Dhaka decorations including Nepali art and culture. Brochures and posters about Nepal's tourism were distributed.



The stall attracted a steady flow of visitors from among the 25 thousand students of the university over the two days of the exhibition. October 6 University is one of the largest private sector universities of Egypt, attracting students from the country and the Arab region.

