

Unite Evolutionary Elements Siddhi B. Ranjitkar

All the elements that had been for changes needed to unite, as the reactionary forces had been active for countering the federal democratic republic, said Prachanda. The main counter revolutionary force most probably had been the Oli administration, Prachanda missed to state. The recent failure of the Oli administration to enforce the budget fully, to revive the state-owned factories, and to keep the media free and independent, and human rights intact had been the glaring example of the Oli administration stepping back from the possible fast economic, social and political development damaging the reputation of the federal democratic republic.

While welcoming some quitters from the Biplav party to join the Nepal Communist Party on July 29, 2019, Chairman Prachanda said that some folks had been engaged in countering the federal democratic republic; if it happened meant a disaster to the country; so all folks for transforming the country needed to unite.

Folks who had lost the power, and the glory that brought them from power would always try to regain the lost status trying every possible trick. That was natural and that happened elsewhere in the world. However, the new administration itself had been engaged in reversing the gains the revolution had brought in were surely rare but it was happening in Nepal.

Politically, the Oli administration had been for controlling the media, reporters, publication houses, and certainly the entire population muzzling the press. For example, the Oli administration had crafted the Media Council Bill to reverse the Press Council Act that had been providing the full freedom of expression, and surely to curb the freedom of expression. Thus, the Oli administration had been for upsetting the political development.

Not only communists but also anybody in power were nervous of the free press, and even the folks in the democratic countries attempted to control the media. However, the free media had been one of the four pillars of democracy. Without the press freedom, democracy could not survive. So, freedom of expression is the life of democracy. Communists had been and are for introducing the dictatorship. That was one of the reasons why the communist states one after another fell down after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990s following the domino effect.

"Press freedom is not only necessary for democracy but also it is democracy," said Walter Cronkite as published in "gorkhapatra" on July 30, 2019. So, denying press freedom meant killing democracy. That was what the Oli administration had been trying causing the entire community of press to rise up and the opposition parties to block even the proceedings of the House of Representatives protesting against the new Media Council Bill the Oli administration had crafted and submitted.

The next assault of the Oli administration on democracy had been a new human rights bill it had prepared. If this human rights bill were to be a law then it would certainly demolish the current Human Rights Commission that had been reporting on the State violating the human rights. Folks who had been enjoying fundamental human rights after the reintroduction of democracy would need to be satisfied with what the Oli administration so generously would give or take if the bill became a law. Even now, the Nepalese media had been saying that the Oli administration had been collecting the personal information on Nepalis from the records of the driving

licenses, passports and from every possible source. It was clear what the Oli administration had been for.

At the Federal State Affairs and Good Governance Committee meeting, NC lawmaker Devendra Raj Kandel said that Yukta Prasad Shrestha involved in the Lalita Niwas land case, when fell down from the eight-storey building did not shed any blood meant the death surely was suspicious; how come a 90 kilo man falling from such height did not shed blood; he questioned whether the death of Shrestha was actually murder or the suicide the police had reported, the news on <https://ratopati.com/story/95522/2019/7/30/rajya-bayawasta-samiti> stated on July 30, 2019.

Destroying anybody for cover-up was the extreme violation of the Human Rights. Killing Shrestha had been the gross violation of human rights if he were really killed. He must have been the source of the extremely valuable evidences of the Lalita Niwas land case. So, he must have been the potential threat to the decision makers at the higher levels. That might be the reason why Shrestha must have lost his so beautiful life at so early age. The death of Shrestha reminded most of the political analysts the death of Amar Lama: the driver, who drove the vehicle on which Chairman Madan Bhandari and his colleague were traveling and fell into the Trishuli River but driver Lama survived. The death of those two communists leader had remained in mystery so far. The death of driver Amar Lama had been more mysterious and the loss of the source of valuable evidences for the case of the untimely probably the stage-managed demise of those two communist leaders.

Then, the Oli administration introduced a Guthi Bill at the National Assembly provoking the stakeholders into street protests. It was obviously for legally looting the public property, and then to award it to the political cadres. The results would have been unimaginable damage probably even the death to the cultural, religious and social heritages of the entire Nepalis, and disaster to Nepal. Thanks to the federal democratic system, stakeholders could force the Oli administration to retract the Guthi Bill.

Former minister and political analyst and thinker Dr Prakash Chandra Lohani posted a warning note in Nepali on his facebook account on August 1, 2019 that a bill was going to be submitted making the decisions of the Council Of Ministers beyond the purview of the Commission On Investigation Into Abuse of Authority (CIAA). He also wrote that if this bill were to be passed then it would be the great achievement of the socialism-oriented government. He stated that there would not be any alternative to stop this bill except for the common folks taking this issue to the streets.

Folks who had been against the federal democratic republic were either naïve or really wanted to kill democracy. Currently, folks could even say and write that they did not want federalism or even republic but the same folks if they were to introduce any other system would not have even that rights to say so. Probably, they would become semi slave to the system they would like to have other than the democratic. They had seen how folks had risen up against the Guthi Bill and force the Oli administration to take it back from the National Assembly. That would not be possible in any other system other than the democratic.

The Oli administration had awfully failed to enforce the budget. The first encounter of the budget implementation had been with the transporters, who had parked their

trucks on both sides of the border between Nepal and India in protest against the Vehicle & Consignment Track System (VCTS), which the transporters said was enforced on the first day of the fiscal year 2019 (2076) without having the required infrastructures making the transporters unable to use this system. This blockade must have damaged the economy considerably adversely affecting the achievement of 8.5 percent economic growth the finance minister had set for this fiscal year 2019 (2076).

The next encounter the budget faced had been with the workers that needed to register for PAN; it was declared that any workers not having registered with PAN would not receive any payments for the work they did. Transport workers had been against registering for the PAN, too stating it was too early to introduce it, as their system had not been developed to fit into the PAN. Who will win in this confrontation remains to be seen.

The first budget for the fiscal year 2018 (2075) and the second budget for the fiscal year 2019 (2076) Finance Minister Dr Yubraj Khatiwada introduced, had hit hard the stock market, which could not regain its strength, yet. The finance minister who prepared and submitted both the budgets had even said that the stock market was unproductive.

Then, what was productive? Certainly, the manufacturing and agriculture were the productive for him because they produced goods and materials required for the human consumption. So, the finance minister needed to give a new life to the State-owned large industries that could produce billions of rupees worth of goods for the local consumption, and could substitute the imports of those goods. The finance minister also needed to effectively use the subsidy on agriculture and fertilizers so that the agricultural productions would keep up with the population growth and able to feed the new mouths every year.

For example, a few State-owned manufacturing units such as Gorkhali Rubber Udyoga, Bhrikuti Paper Factory, Hetauda Textile Mill, and Birgunj Agricultural Tools could produce so many goods substituting imports. Gorkhali Rubber Udyoga could manufacture tires and tubes for vehicles substituting the millions of rupees worth of tires and tubes imported, then the paper factory papers required for the school textbooks, which again substitute the import of papers worth of millions of rupees, then the Hetauda Textile clothes that Nepal needed to import. Finally, the agricultural tools the Birgunj Tools factory could produce to substitute the import.

Now, the question to the finance minister was why he could not provide a few billion rupees for reviving those industries that could produce materials that could substantially substitute the imports. Import substitution means reducing the trade deficit. That was productive. However, the attention of the finance minister to this productive sector had not probably drawn, yet.

The finance minister could provide billions of rupees worth of subsidy on agriculture without much positive impact on the agricultural production. The finance minister had allocated NPR 9 billion to the fertilizers in the current FY 2019 (2076). However, farmers had to buy the fertilizer at the high prices in the open market, the news published on July 31, 2019 on the third page of "Artha Bazaar" supplement to "gorkhapatra" stated.

Everybody had been alarmed by the huge trade deficit Nepal had. The Nepalese imports had been fourteen times higher than the export as of the beginning of the current fiscal year 2019 (2076). Why did not the finance minister attempt to revive the carpet and garment industries, which had once been the major export items? If the finance minister were to revive a few dead industries including the State-owned industries, Nepal would not have to face such extremely high trade deficit. Many Nepalis youths would not need to work on the sizzling sun elsewhere in the world, as these industries would provide them with jobs here in Nepal.

Nepal had lost the exportable items tremendously. At one time, the products of the Nepalese carpet and garment industries were the two main export goods that earned huge foreign currency and kept the trade deficit low as much as possible. Then, the communists fighting for apparently the betterment of the workers destroyed the carpet industry and the garment too to some extent almost killing those industries.

The next question was why the finance minister who loved to talk about productive and unproductive, and the prime minister who never had been tired of to call on the foreign investors to invest in Nepal did not try to revive the few State-owned industries that had once thrived. Probably, they lacked the sincerity or they did not even know what they had been talking about or they did not even see those factories, which had so many highly costly machine and equipment but rusting rapidly and the time would soon come those machine and equipment would not be reusable particularly in the four factories such as Gorkhali Rubber Factory set up with the loan of the Asian Development, the Bhrikuti paper Factor with the grant of the Chinese government, Hetauda Paper Mill, and finally, the Birgunj Agricultural Tools Factory with the grant assistance of the then Soviet Union.

Former Industry Minister Nabindra Joshi had tried to revive those industries in question, and he even had revived the pharmaceutical industry but he had to quit the ministry before he could do anything for other State-owned industries. However, the current industry minister had visibly not taken any interest in reopening the State-owned industries that worth billions of rupees, that could produce goods for import substitution worth of again billions of rupees. Such things could happen only when the ministers were under the influences of foreign or local lobbyists.

Most probably, the foreign tire dealers did not want to see the Gorkhali Rubber Udyoga flourish. Similarly, the foreign or local paper businesspeople wanted to rust the Bhrikuti Paper Factory, same things with the Hetauda Textile Mill, Birgunj Agricultural tools Factory and other State-owned factories and industries. So, the State itself had been responsible for not functioning the industries and businesses including the Nepal Airlines Corporation. However, some of the State-owned companies such as Dairy Development Corporation, Nepal Telecom, and Nepal Oil Corporation a few to name had been performing well and making profits.

Where there is a will there is a way. This is a proverb that says if anybody has a will then s/he could overcome any obstacles and do something.

The Oli administration had probably lacked any will or skill to work for the benefits of all Nepalis despite the slogan "Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepalis" the prime minister had put forward. So, most of the things that would have directly benefit the common folks, had not been happening. The finance minister had increased the tax that common folks needed to pay whereas he reduced the capital tax gain from seven percent to five percent.

However, some folks including KP Oli in the Oli administration had been expert speakers to promise the common folks anything they needed but not even completing the Melamchi Drinking Water Project that had been infamous for delay, and had been postponed several times its completion date probably under the influence of the lobbyists particularly the water companies. They talked about railroads, seaways, monorails and metro because these mega projects probably would bring them the windfall benefits in various forms of commissions. However, they did not even fix the broken roads the common folks needed to travel every hour of a day. They did play the drama of doing something during the last two months of the fiscal year only to consume the budget.

The Oli administration had consumed NPR 2.36 billion under the Prime Minister Employment program at the end of the fiscal year 2018 (2075), the news posted on <https://www.nayapatrikadaily.com/news-details/21442/2019-08-01?fbclid=IwAR3vJwKOMjhngtMrWM8ItAEVIdVhO7g8QJEOG8bILreBSm2iwJtcrrWA9E> stated on August 1, 2019. The news stated that the Oli administration had allocated NPR 3.1 billion to this program; NPR 2.36 billion sent to the local governments had been spent in a hurry mostly on weeding grasses out was seen in the picture, which also showed the folks wearing helmets busy with the work; helmets were purchased with the intention of consuming the budget; the State was preparing to take loan of NPR 13 billion from the World Bank at the annual interest rate of 0.75 percent; this loan amount would be enough for the program for five years, the State would pay back the loan at the annual rate of NPR 457 million for 32 years; the interest alone would be NPR 1.46 billion while paying back the loan in 32 years. Here was the will the Oli administration had shown firmly to do something for the unemployed folks probably at the cost of the entire populace.

The news on the front page of "gorkhapatra" stated on August 2, 2019 that a press conference was held at the Ministry Of Labor, Employment And Social Security on Thursday, August 1, 2019; Minister Gorkarna Bista told the reporters that the Prime Minister Employment Program had been a success even though it had been only for a short period; 175,909 had the employment opportunities of 2,262,269 days; 6,864 projects had been completed during this period; the completed projects were the community building, community hospital building, public toilets, drinking water project, road improvement, public park, repair of bridge, and repair of sewer; even though it was said that employments would be for 30 days only about 176,000 people had the employment of 13 days in average; more than 1.7 million unemployed had registered in the fiscal year 2018 (2075).

This Prime Minister Employment Program was hastily implemented in the last two months of the fiscal year 2018 (2075). As already stated in the private media that most of the budget was consumed for weeding out grasses. Even though the minister had claimed that a number of other construction work had been done. However, the question was again whether construction materials were provided or hurriedly purchased.

However, even from the statement of Minister Bista only slightly more than 10 percent of the registered unemployed had the employments for 13 days, as only 175,909 people were employed out of more than 1.7 million registered unemployed, which was 5.67 percent of 30 million population. How could the minister prove that those folks receiving employments were not the political cadres only, and why about

90 percent of the registered unemployed had been left out? Was this what the minister thought a success of the program?

The total amount probably paid to the laborers could be 2,262,269 days x NPR 500 per day = 1,131,134, 500 rupees. So, the money gone to the pockets of the laborers had been only slightly more than NPR 1.131 billion whereas the private media stated the center had sent 2.36 million to the local governments for running the Prime Minister Employment Program for two months. Where had gone the rest of the money, to buy the helmets?

Please unite all the change lovers to face any regressive forces including the Oli administration that had been attempting to put the political, economical and social development in the reverse gear crafting the bills such as Media Council, Human Rights, and Guthi. If these bills were to be laws then Nepalis would be moving back. So, all the folks loving to move forward needed to unite and force the Oli administration to move forward as fast as possible for the political, economical and social forward development so that common folks would have the feeling of living under the federal democratic republic system.

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Picture published on nayapatrikadaily.com

Does anybody know why the weeders need to wear fresh yellow helmets?



Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani

7 minutes ago · 🌐

मन्त्रि परिषद ले गरेको निर्णय अख्तियार ले हेर्न नपाउने नया कानुन पेस हुदैछ। यो पारित हुन सक्छ किनभने नेपाली काँग्रेस ले यसलाई बिरोध गर्न सक्ला जस्तो छैन

यदि यो कानुन पास भयो भने नेपाल मा भ्रस्टाचार पूर्ण रुपमा संस्थागत हुनेछ र समाजबाद उन्मुख यो सरकार को अर्को "महान" उपलब्धि हुनेछा यस लाई रोक्न नागरिक अब सडक मा उत्रिनु को विकल्प छैन

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Dr Lohani's warning in Nepali posted on his facebook account on August 1, 2019