











# Nepal has been wonderful and unforgettable

## Smash And Grab

By Sunanda Datta Ray



In an Interview with H.E. Mrs. Capaya Rodriguez Gonzalez-Ambassador of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka.

Excellency, Venezuela is highly valued by Nepal and the Nepalese. What do you think about the development of bilateral relations, socialism and person-to-person relations between Venezuela and Nepal?

I have always thought that the relationship between the common man of one country and the other is the most important thing, which really transcends because it creates true bonds of brotherhood between the two nations. We must make our best efforts to make one country known in the other. Both have enormous potential and natural beauties admired by the whole world, for example, Nepal has the mountain range that has the highest mountains in the world, a challenge for any climber. Venezuela, for its part, has the oldest mountain formations on the planet, the tepuis, or table-top mountains, and the highest waterfall in the world, Angel Falls, in addition to paradisiacal beaches on the Caribbean Sea, among many other natural and historical sites of great interest to tourists. These coincidences must be used to strengthen ties between Nepal and Venezuela.

At the political level, this is also the time for both nations to be closer than ever. The ideological affinity has encouraged the presence of Nepalese leaders, veterans and young people, in activities that the Bolivarian Government of President Nicolj's Maduro Moros has organized to jointly evaluate the difficult current international panorama, which is characterized by the emergence of conflicts in many parts of the world, which generate great suffering to the peoples of the nations involved.

In those events that have taken place in Venezuela, representatives of Nepal have actively participated, together with delegates from numerous countries, promoting the fight against fascism in various areas of political, economic and social life at the international level, and organizing ourselves in networks of cooperation and solidarity to give an example to the world that a more just and equitable society is possible, based on the principles we share with Nepal of a humanist socialism that prioritizes human beings over personal interests or those of large economic corporations.

Excellency, you have visited Nepal three times, how has your experience been? Could you express your views to the Nepalese people and opinion makers?

My experience of the trips I have made to Nepal has been wonderful and unforgettable. I could feel in the streets, in my contact with Nepali citizens, not only the kindness and generosity of their people but also the coincidence of ideas and points of view that make this a special moment for the development of a greater bilateral exchange, which has been clearly reflected in the formation of the Nepal - Venezuela Friendship Association (NEVEFA), which the Diplomatic Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in New Delhi supports in all its initiatives, which tend to greater knowledge and relationship between both peoples and countries.

On the other hand, the importance of the spiritual element is something that is clearly felt when visiting Nepal, not only in the temples and other religious sites, but in the daily life of the Nepalis. This is an aspect to which, on a personal level, I attach great importance.

I hope to return soon to Kathmandu and other cities of Nepal to meet with the leaders of the Nepal - Venezuela Friendship Association, as well as with important Nepali leaders and personalities, in order to start conversations that allow us to develop plans and projects that have as a common objective to build a future of progress and inclusion for both nations.



By Rajan Karki and P.R.Pant

But Kazini would not budge. She stayed at home, in the small back room that was her study and whose most noticeable feature, unexpected in a woman's boudoir, was a typewriter, watching with dismay as the CRP guards were reinforced, and the gates securely locked. contd...

That was how Tenzing found the bungalow when he drove up in his Austrian half finger, three guardsmen, two of whom carried revolvers, crammed into the space behind his driver's seat. The Indian soldiers surrounding the house refused him admission because the chief minister was away and his wife did not wish to be disturbed. But Kazini saw the light mini-jeep with its four occupants, heard the exchange, and came out to ask Tenzing in. When the CRP still would not open the gates, she told him, since he was wearing a sports shirt and tight black jeans, to jump over the low bars. Apparently he did so with an easy leap, to be at once rushed by the soldiers. "They levelled their rifles at him, at least a dozen bayonets pointed at the poor boy, and I was so frightened of what they might do to dear Tenzing that I flung my arms round him and refused to let go," recalls Kazini. She embraced him in a tight hug until the rifles had been withdrawn, whereupon she explained all that had happened and apologized for her husband's vacillation. She would send him word, she promised, as soon as she had been able again to persuade the chief minister to stand firm. Tenzing went back, discovering at the palace that a felt-tipped pen was missing from his jeans pocket.

The trivial loss was soon forgotten for Gangtok was buzzing with rumours of fierce and acrimonious rows in the chief minister's bungalow. Some said Kazini had pitched into her husband with more than usual ferocity. Others, that both had been summoned to India House and given a dressing-down by the PO and the chief executive, the chief minister silently listening while his wife was berated, and that there were further rumbustious scenes when they returned home. Whatever transpired, Kazini afterwards bitterly lamented that Sikkimese men were too feeble even to protect their wives.

But it was not enough to put down Kazi and Kazini. The palace had also to be warned. Gurbachan Singh, therefore, wrote to the Chogyal, in sombre tones on 13 March:

It has been brought to my notice that, as Maharajkumar Tenzig was leaving the chief minister's residence at about 9.00 p.m. on 11 March, an object dropped from his baku which was picked up by the chief minister's bodyguard. The object could conceivably be a type of explosive device. There have, as you know, been two earlier occasions when explosives have been found buried in roads along which the chief minister was expected to travel. This incident, especially following upon the earlier two, is indeed most serious, and I cannot express strongly enough my concern and, needless to add, disapproval of this evident resort to violence as a method to overcome political problems.

Public opinion in the state is incensed enough, particularly over the Rangpo incident last week. Now we have a direct indication of your son's intentions which will, if remaining unchecked, most certainly lead to consequences which the government of India does not desire. Nor, I am sure, does the government of Sikkim and, I should sincerely like to hope, that it is not your desire either. However, one cannot conclude otherwise judging by the actions and activities, I assume on your behalf, if not under your direction or at least with your knowledge, of those close to you. contd...

## Nepal: SAARC is dead, Greater South Asia is taking shape!

- NP Upadhyaya

### In the neighborhood:

Trouble begins when India enters. From installing a visibly India tilted set up in the otherwise calm and quiet nation the Maldives, the Modi regime has now been creating a constitutional crisis in the Island nation, Sri Lanka. This is what Nepal has experienced over several decades. The poll defeated President Abdulla Yameen of the Maldives is not that weak though yet. The new Maldivian government of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, much publicized to have been installed by India has called for a review of Chinese-bankrolled projects initiated under his predecessor Yameen. Former president Mohamed Nasheed, now President Solih's mentor and prime advisor has accused China of a land grab in the strategically placed Indian Ocean archipelago, and called a free-trade agreement (FTA) agreed with Beijing under Yameen as one-sided. Understandably, Mohamed Nasheed is an India man. The new government in Maldives has taken a rough and tough steps against China immediately after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi landed in Male a few days back to bring in the new President

Solih to his firm grip. But can Solih challenge mighty China, China has already warned Maldives that while making any unilateral decision in the mutual agreements, Male has to make "correct choice". Here lay the warning in an oblique manner from China to the archipelago nation. Understanding the Chinese message perhaps the fresh announcement of Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid that he will visit Beijing soon came after he held talks with the Chinese ambassador in Male, Zhang Lizhong, on Monday. Delhi is facing to face with Beijing in Male. Let's hope they do not collide. Meanwhile in Sri Lanka, the Chinese Ambassador in Colombo Cheng Xueyuan, November 19, 2018 said that "pragmatic cooperation between Sri Lanka and China under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has brought tangible benefits to both countries and their peoples". The Chinese envoy made these observations amidst the constitutional crisis that has gripped Colombo of late and India

wants to fish in the troubled waters. The Chinese envoy speaking at the International Seminar under the theme "BRI at Five Years — Regional and Global Dimensions", jointly organized by the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka and the Bandaranaike Center for International Studies (BCIS) in Colombo, said that over the past five years, the BRI had developed from an initiative to a reality, from a vision to an important platform, and had become more popular around the world. This means that Beijing is not going to lose Colombo so easily that India may have thought of. Both Maldives and Sri Lanka are active members of the SAARC regional body. However, SAARC is talked to have accepted a

premature death. Others say that India has killed SAARC in lieu of BIMSTEC. India's closely nurtured baby Bhutan's silent cry is growing against India which better late than never has come to its senses as the Indian "debt trap" shall soon gulp the nation once and for all. The Indian foreign secretary, Mr. Gokhale, was recently in the tiny Himalayan Kingdom assuring the baby for more financial aid. This is how the baby is falling into the India manufactured debt trap. Interestingly the newly elected Prime Minister, if reports are not fake then wants to take out his country from the Indian grip. China is just watching. Now to the main point of today's discussion. **Greater South Asia:** Very freshly in Beijing, November 17, 2018, Chairman of the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) and Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed told that there is a shift in global economic and political power from the West to

the East, and China's peaceful rise and amazing development is an important inspiration for developing Countries. It was this Pakistani scholar who coined the term "Great Game" which he hinted to have been a match being played by Western powers to contain China. While addressing the 4th CPEC Media Forum in Beijing, Mushahid Hussain said that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has now spawned a Greater South Asia comprising South Asia, Central Asia, China, Iran and Afghanistan driven by economy and energy. He said that the BRI is opening the door to a new World with China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as its success story since it is the flagship & pilot project of the BRI. What was more than important and ear pleasing is Mr. Hussain's announcement that a "Greater South Asia" was in the making which shall include China and some very powerful Central Asian Countries. It is these countries which have pleasingly joined the Chinese initiative, the CPEC, which has taken deep roots in Pakistan through China initiated projects. Mr. Hussain prefers Iran also to be included in the Greater South Asian scheme. If so and if that materializes time permitting then that would surely cut wings

of the Indian regime which has been opposing the CPEC tooth and nail. India prefers BIMSTEC over SAARC. India if it so desires can also join this greater South Asia. But hopefully India shall not. Observers in Nepal wish to call Greater South Asia as stated by Hussain as Greater SAARC. The 4th CPEC Media Forum was jointly organized by the China Economic Net (CEN) and the PCI in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad. Mr. Hussain, if the Pakistan Prime Minister and his cabinet members so desire, may appoint him as ambassador at large and send him to several countries wherein he can sell the idea of the Greater South Asian phenomenon. Pakistan shall benefit for sure. Mr. Hussain is basically a media man. He worked for the Muslim daily in the early 1980s. He was with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the just concluded Malaysia visit. The purpose of the forum was to disseminate factual information on CPEC, and also to devise a joint Pakistan-China strategy to counter negative perceptions that are generated by vested interests and detractors in the region. India is the master planner of the fake news dissemination. contd...





