

Nepal's Historical background of present political questions

When one turns over the pages of Nepalese political history, at moment it appears to be a fable and at other a bloody struggle of power. The tradition of organizing the running competition to select the king in Ligligkot is not less than any tale and this behavior of using physical strength to acquire power is manifested, till date, in the national political arena. Since Jung Bahadur Rana staged the Kot massacre in 1846 (rise of rana regime), Nepelese people were bound to observe series of such bloody power game spanning from Bhandarkhal massacre to royal palace massacre (2001).

The modern history of Nepal after the unification of many small principalities by king Prithivi Narayan Shah is full of conspiracies. During the 104 years of rana regime, king was stripped of all his powers and the Rana prime minister vested all the executive and legislative power. The succession of premiership was limited only to the Rana family. The king was confined within the palace as a puppet. The different groups in Rana and Royal families constantly struggled to control the best positions in the administration. The autocratic rulers were mainly concentrated in their family interest and in consolidating their power. They prohibited people from their basic rights and could not deliver development.

With the growing dissatisfaction the democratic movement to overthrow the autocratic Rana regime gained momentum with the establishment of various political parties (Nepal Praja Parisad, Nepali Congress-1947, Nepal Communist Party-1947 and others). During this movement political activists collaborated with king Tribhuvan for the cause of democracy. There activities were detected and foiled. The four members of the Nepal praja Parisad were arrested and executed by the regime. The king was helpless, and was unable to interfere the execution of his own political friends. But the movement continues, fundamental objectives of the movement were to end the autocratic Rana rule and to establish a democratic system with a constitutional monarchy. Nepali congress lunched the civil disorder and the armed movement against the regime in september 1950 in collaboration with the king (so Maoist insurgency is not the first armed resistance in Nepal). Midst of these demonstrations in november 1950, king left the palace with his family members and took asylum in Delhi. The Rana regime succumbed to arm assault, demonstrations of the parties and diplomatic pressure of India. This led to the Delhi agreement among the Ranas, Nepali congress and the king under the supervision of India establishing the democratic system with an interim government. The main goals of the government were to conduct

the constituent assembly to rewrite the constitution. The king agreed upon the demand of constituent assembly and declared through a Royal proclamation: "There-after the people of Nepal should be administered in accordance with a democratic constitution to be framed by the constituent assembly elected by the people. But this constituent assembly election never took place in the history of Nepal and the cause is attributed to conspiracy of palace against it and the failure of the parties to capitalise the opportunity. Instead the popularly elected democratic government and parliament was dissolved by king Mahendra and partyless Panchayat system was introduced in 1962. And simultaneously constitution was amended, in which king was the head of the state and the government, source of legislative organ and fountain-head of justice. The political activities were banned. Nepalese people were once again forced to obey the autocratic constitution. Over 30 years of partyless panchayat system people were not only deprived of their basic rights, but also saw many distortions and disparities. Once again, the political parties demonstrated solidarity for democracy, Nepali congress and the united left front lunched a public demonstration in 1990 re-establishing the democratic system. The constitution of Nepal-1990 was formulated by constitution commission comprising of the members representing various Political parties and the Palace (As a way to reconciliation

between parties and Palace), which made Nepalese people sovereign, ensure the basic human rights and introduced the multi-party democratic system and constitutional monarchy. The process of formulating the new constitution was not smooth, palace tried to intervene to curtail the rights of people, but without success. The democratic governments after 1990 were performing satisfactorily. But after couple of years of re-establishment of democracy in 1995, Communist party of Nepal (Maoist) started armed resistance demanding constituent assembly with the aim to establish a republic state.

Because of increasing violence and armed resistance of Maoist, the government was losing its ground, its machinery being inefficient.

The insurgents used the loophole of differences among parties to divide them to win politically. Palace controlled and used army to prevent any fruitful national discussion and any political Change.

The ideological differences among parties to solve the Maoist insurgency caused rise and fall of different governments deteriorating the security and developmental situation. The situation in villages was so violent and dangerous that there was no possibility of conducting the scheduled parliamentary election without a nod from Maoist side. The political opinions were divergent, nation plunged into violence, then king Gyanendra, rather than assisting to solve

the existing problem through democratic instruments, took over the executive power of the nation manipulating the existing constitution, which does not allow him to do so.

This act of him was merely the repetition of history (1962 take over by King Mahendra). He was determined to act alone weakening and ignoring the democratic institutions, made people feel always betrayed by the palace and evoked the debate of constituent assembly from national to grass root Level, which was one of the core demands of Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist).

As they were looking for a safe landing opportunity to the main stream politics, they immediately expressed their commitment to accept the result of the constituent assembly election, in the form people choose it. Though the parties were divided on this issue due to the threat of the Kings' army, the will and support demonstrated by people to solve the decade long armed conflict and to secure the stable democratic system through the election of constituent assembly brought all the parties in the same boat of constituent assembly.

Binaya Shrestha

The present governance style of Nepal Government

Introduction: Janaandolan II (People's revolt II, the 1990 revolt is called I) of Nepal has ended the autocratic regime of King Gyanendra. On his stepping-down speech end of April the King handed over the governance duty to the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) according to the road map of SPA and revived parliament, which was dissolved nearly four years back. It is important to understand what is included in the road map of SPA.

After the 12 point understanding signed between SPA and the Maoists on November 2005 at New Delhi, the main points of the road map includes the following point:

1. Formation of an all party Interim Government (including the Maoists)
2. Management of arms and army of warring parties
3. Holding Constituent Assembly election
4. The Interim Government holding elections for next parliament after the formation of new Constitution

The revision of parliament was not on the agenda of SPA, neither was it a slogan of the people who protested on the streets. Rather it was one of the wishes of one of the parties of SPA. Even the party who wanted the revival of the parliament was of the opinion that it will be dissolved soon after addressing urgent issues .

The mouth of a thousand pitchers can be closed but not one man's mouth.