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Regmi Research (Private) Ltd,
Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal.

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The Political Unification of Nepal[x]

By

Baburam Acharya.

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Prithvi Narayan Shah ascended the throne of Gorkha in 1743 A.D. His father, Narabhupal Shah, had made an attempt at intervention when the three Kingdoms of Nepal Valley were quarrelling among themselves. However, these attempts proved abortive because the internal situation of Gorkha was not satisfactory. Prithvi Narayan Shah therefore realized the need to set his own house in order first. He also felt it necessary to study at first hand the situation prevailing in India as well as the strength of the Chaubisi Kingdoms. Hence during the very year of his accession to the throne, he left for Kashi (i.e. Varanasi) on the pretext of pilgrimage. Pilgrims from all-over India visited Kashi, as it was not only a center of pilgrimage for Hindus but was also situated close to the States of Bengal and Oudh. While in Kashi, one could then easily acquaint oneself not only with the political situation in Bengal and Bihar, but also with the conditions and systems prevalent in India as a whole. Accordingly, Prithvi Narayan Shah left for Kashi soon after winter had set in, travelling through Chitaun and Patna. At Varanasi, he met a Naga mendicant, who was renowned as a saint endowed with supernatural powers. Prithvi Narayan Shah desired to gain enlightenment from the mendicant and so revealed his desire to him. The Naga mendicant then gave Prithvi Narayan Shah a sword, telling him that his desires would be fulfilled. Prithvi Narayan Shah was greatly pleased at this. King Hari Shah of Jajarkot too had gone to Kashi at that time. Prithvi Narayan Shah met him there. The two Kings vowed to maintain mutual friendship. After studying the situation in the course of his short stay at Kashi, Prithvi Narayan Shah left for home. Before departing from Kashi, he purchased some muskets and other weapons. When he reached the banks of the Gomati river on his way back home, along with his retinue, the Moghul Nawab's guards who were responsible for the collection of duties attempted to search him. Prithvi Narayan Shah, fearing that the arms in his possession would be discovered, killed the guards and reached Butaul through Gorakhpur with the help of the Naga mendicant. In Butaul, he

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[x]Baburam Acharya, Nepal Ko Samkshipta Vrittanta (A Brief Account of Nepal), Kathmandu: Pramod Shamsher and Nir Bikram "Pyasi", 1966, Chapter II "Nepal Ko Ekikaran Ko Prarambha." (The Beginning of The Political Unification Of Nepal), pp. 10-16.

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met King Gandharva Sen of Palpa, who was his maternal uncle. From Palpa, he proceeded to Tanahu, Lamjung, and other Chaubisi states situated along the Kali-Gandaki river, before returning to Gorkha in the last week of March. During this journey, he studied the situation of Tanahu, Lamjung and other areas situated along the Kali-Gandaki river.

On his return to Gorkha, Prithvi Narayan Shah thought it necessary to reorganize the Bhardari and make provisions for the appointment of ministers. Chandraprabha, his eldest step-mother, advised him to appoint Kalu Pande, son of Bhim Raj Pande, as minister. Prithvi Narayan Shah agreed to do so on the condition that the public, as well as the rulers of the Chaubisi states, also concurred with the move. As Kalu Pande had the support of all, Prithvi Narayan Shah appointed him as Kaji. According to the rules, he had already conferred the title of Chautariya to his youngest brother, Mahoddamkirti Shah. After completing the organization of the Bharadari, he reorganized his army, and then made arrangements for the supply of rations etc. to his troops.

Prithvi Narayan Shah then started preparations for invading Nuwakot. The Nuwakot area was predominently inhabited by the Khas and Magar communities. But the chief administrator sent to this area from Kathmandu was a Newar. He was therefore unable to make proper administrative arrangements in Nuwakot. Consequently, the King of Kathmandu, Jaya Prakash Malla's predecessor, had had to appoint Kashiram Thapa of Palanchok as chief administrator of Nuwakot. Kashiram Thapa was dismissed by Jaya Prakash Malla for disobedience and replaced by Kaji Jayanta Rana, who had been expelled from Gorkha. The appointment of a man who had knowledge of all the secrets of Gorkha posed difficulties before Prithvi Narayan Shah. He therefore tried his best to win over Jayanta Rana. These efforts proved futile, however. Prithvi Narayan Shah completed his preparations, by the end of the rainy season in 1744 A.D., for the invastion of Nuwakot. As a ruse, he ordered his troops to move in the guise of peasants sent to reclaim waste lands in Khinchet. On the auspicious occasion of the Indra Jatra festival, he mobilized his troops and landed in Nuwakot crossing the Trishuli river. On September 26, 1744, he attacked the forces of Jayanta Rana, who had set up a fortress at the top of the Mahamandal hill.

In the meantime, Jayanta Rana had gone to Kathmandu to bring Jaya Prakash Malla. But because of the Indra Jatra festival, he was stranded in Kathmandu. In his absence, the battle was taken charge of by his son, Shankhamani Rana. But he was defeated and killed. A few days later, Jayanta Rana reached Belkot alone and started mobilizing his troops. However, Prithvi Narayan Shah personally came forward and attacked them. When the military situation deteriorated, Kalu Pande followed Prithvi Narayan Shah and handled the situation carefully. He finally captured Jayanta Rana and took him to Nuwakot. There Jayanta Rana was flayed alive and died. At that time, rebels were punished in this manner in the Chaubisi states.

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During this period, the French in India were recruiting Indians in their army and attacking the states of the Indian Kings with their support. The English followed suit. They were also succeeding in their game of divide and rule among the Indians. This explains why no Gorkhali soldier dared join the enemy and fight against his own government for 70 years after King Prithvi Narayan Shah had inflicted such severe punishment on Jayanta Rana.

Prithvi Narayan Shah entertained no personal malice towards Jayanta Rana. After Jayanta Rana was killed, Prithvi Narayan Shah allotted lands to his children to enable them to maintain their livelihood.

Subsequently, the Gorkha troops easily reached Patibhanjyang and then occupied the whole of Nuwakot.

Jaya Prakash was not a man to lose heart soon. He summoned Ranabhim Thapa, cousin of Kashi Ram Thapa of Palanchok, his erstwhile opponent, and with his help, sought to recapture Nuwakot. But Ranabhim Thapa was found to be a weak man. Jaya Prakash therefore invited Kashiram Thapa to come back to Kathmandu. Kashiram Thapa did not come directly to Kathmandu out of fear of Jaya Prakash. However, he mobilized his troops and marched towards Nuwakot from Palanchok. In March, on hearing of Kashiram Thapa's advance towards Nuwakot, the Gorkhali troops advanced towards him and encircled his troops. Kashiram Thapa fled back to the east. The Gorkhali troops chased them up to Thapagaun and drove them out of Nuwakot. Kashiram Thapa, who thus suffered a defeat, returned to Palanchok.

Jaya Prakash Malla again insisted that Kashiram Thapa should come to Kathmandu. Finally, Kashiram Thapa came to Kathmandu and stayed at the Pashupati temple. Jaya Prakash personally went to Chabahil to bring him. When Kashiram Thapa arrived at Chabahil along with presents, including jackfruit and other fruits to have an audience with Jaya Prakash, the latter had him beheaded along with six other courtiers to quench the long-simmering fire of revenge in his heart. After murdering Kashiram Thapa, He returned to Kathmandu. He also ordered the beheading of Dati Pradhan, his younger brother, Taudhik, fled to Lalitpur, where he took shelter with King Rajya Prakash.

On hearing of the murder of Kashiram Thapa in Kathmandu, Prithvi Narayan Shah summoned his brother, Parashuram Thapa, to Nuwakot. He advised Parashuram Thapa to take revenge for his elder brother's murder. He also proposed that the forces of Gorkha and Bhaktapur should jointly occupy Sankhu and Changu, and that Bhaktapur should be granted two villages, while Gorkha should retain other occupied areas. Parashuram Thapa accepted this proposal and persuaded King Ranajit Malla of Bhaktapur also to do so.

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Having thus won over Bhaktapur to his side, Prithvi Narayan Shah, accompanied by Shivaram Simha Basnyat, his commander, marched towards Kathmandu along with his troops. First, he occupied Naldumgadhi, which was under the occupation of Kathmandu. Then he proceeded to Bhaktapur and met Ranajit Malla. Shivaram Simha took over Changu village, which was predominantly inhabited by Khasas. Jaya Prakash personally took over the command of his troops as he had no commander, and fought back the Gorkha troops. However, he was defeated. He took to his heels and returned to the Kathmandu palace. Taking advantage of the rapid advance of the Gorkhali troops, Taudhik, who had taken asylum in Lalitpur, hatched a conspiracy in collusion with Rajya Prakash. Accordingly, in mid-September, during the Dashain festival, the troops of Lalitpur encircled the palace in Kathmandu, captured Jaya Prakash and took him to Lalitpur. His son, Jyoti Prakash, was installed in the throne of Kathmandu. Later, Taudhik sent a message to Parashuram Thapa, which stated: "I have already taken revenge for the murder of your brother. If even then you continue to take sides with the Gorkhalis, how can we save Bhaktapur ?" Having received this message: Parashuram Thapa ceased to render active support to the Gorkhalis. He did not cooperate with Shivaram Simha Thapa when the latter was attacked by the troops of Taudhik with the support of Lalitpur and Kathmandu. Consequ ntly, Parashuram Thapa had to turn back to Nuwakot via Sankhu. But as he was encamping at Sangachok along with his troops, he was attacked by Taudhik's troops. The Gorkhali forces disintegrated. Parashuram Singh himself was killed. Meanwhile, Prithvi Narayan Shah was staying in Bhaktapur. Immediately on receiving the news of the defeat of Gorkhali troops at Sangachok, he proceeded towards Naldum. On the way, he met Parashuram Thapa and went up to Mahadev Pokhari, which was within the jurisdiction of Bhaktapur. He then returned. Although he was defeated at Sangachok, Prithvi Narayan Shah consoled himself, for Naldum was still under Gorkhali control. He was distressed only over the death of Shivaram Simgha Basnyat.

In the course of the capture of Naldum, Gorkhali troops had also occupied the Sindhupalchok and Dolakha areas. However, the occupation of these areas militated against the treaty concluded by Prithvi Narayan Shah with the King of Lamjung. Such violation of the treaty could mean inviting the King of Lamjung to invade Gorkha and thereby endangering the Gorkhali control of Nuwakot. Hence Prithvi Narayan Shah handed over both the Sindhupalchok and Dolakha areas to King Ranajit Malla of Bhaktapur, an ally of Lamjung. It was then that Ranajit Malla and Jaya Prakash Malla began to treat each other as enemies. Prithvi Narayan persuaded King Ranajit Malla to protect the Kabhrepalanchok area, which was under the control of Bhaktapur. He posted some Gorkhali troops at Mahadev Pokhari Gadhi and, after spending some more days in Bhaktapur, returned to Nuwakot. The Sindhupalchok and Dolakha areas went to Ranajit Malla. He appropriated revenues from these

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two areas for himself. However, in view of the cordial relations existing between Gorkha and Bhaktapur, the Gorkhalis were allowed to move freely from the Sindhupalchok area to Khasa, situated on the border between Tibet and Dolakha. The farsighted Prithvi Narayan Shah made these arrangements so that there might be no difficulty for him in reoccupying those areas eventually.

The southern border of Nuwakot across the Trishuli stretched to Kumharidanda. To the further south of the Trishuli river lay two extensive river valleys along the Kolpu and Mahesh rivers. Between those two valleys was located a long hill, which started from the western border of Kathmandu Valley, bending westwards to Trishuli. The settlement on his hill, together with the two large river valleys, was known as Lamidanda, which was then under the control of Lalitpur. After completing administrative arrangements in Nuwakot, Prithvi Narayan Shah sent a contingent of troops under the command of Kalu Pande to occupy Lamidanda. Seeing that he would not be able to defend this area through his own troops, King Rajya Prakash of Lalitpur sent a letter to Kalu Pande through one of his ministers. The letter implored Kalu Pande not to occupy Lamidanda. Negotiations for a treaty ensued. Finally in August 1747, Kalu Pande took over Lamidanda without a fight, on the condition that the subjects of Lalitpur would be allowed to gather fodder there.

With the annexation of the Nuwakot and Lamidanda areas, the territory of Gorkha nearly doubled. In the meantime, Jaya Prakash Malla was living a life of seclusion. He had later started staying at the temple of Guhyeshwari. Taking advantage of Jaya Prakash Malla's absence, Prithvi Narayan Shah consolidated administrative arrangements in the areas occupied by him. For 3 years the administration of Kathmandu was run by Jaya Laxmi, mother of infant King Jyoti Prakash Malla. During this period, hooligans were appointed as ministers. They occupied a powerful position in the administration. Jaya Laxmi herself had begun to indulge in immoral activities, so that the people of Kathmandu had had to call in Jaya Prakash Malla. With the help of his subjects, Jaya Prakash Malla eliminated all his opponents, and, on April 30, 1750, he returned to the palace. However, he conducted the administration of the country for some time as regent for Jyoti Prakash Malla, instead of becoming King himself. It was only in 1753 that he renamed Jyoti Prakash Malla as Jyotirmalla and proclaimed him as Crown Prince, while himself becoming King again. Thereafter, Jaya Prakash Malla started building up his military strength with the help of Nagarkotis brought from Kangra with the aim of recapturing Nuwakot, Sindhu-Palchoki and Dolakha.

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Chronology Of Kathmandu[x]

By

Surya Bikram Gnyawali.

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	Inscription No. 1	Inscription Nol 2	Inscription No. 3	Inscription No.
1.	Ratna Malla	Ratna Malla	Ratna Malla	Ratna Malla
2.	Surya Malla	Surya Malla	Surya Malla	-
3.	Amar Malla	Amar Malla	Narendra Malla	Amar Malla
4.	Mahendra Malla	Mahendra Malla	Mahendra Malla	Mahendra
5.	Shiva Simha	Shiva Simha	Shiva Simha	Shiva Simha Malla
6.	Harihara Simha	Harihara Simha	Harihara Simha	Harihara Simha
7.	Laxminrisimha	Laxminrisimha	Laxminarasimha	Laxminrisimha
8.	Pratap Malla	Pratap Malla	Pratap Malla	Pratap Malla
9.	-	-	-	Nripendra Malla
10.	-	-	-	Parthivendra Malla.

Apart from the genelogies contained in Vamshavalis, Pratap Malla, the well-known King of Kathmandu, and his grandson, Parthivendra Malla, have given their genealogy in 4 stone-inscriptions, which are listed below:

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[x]Surya Bikram Gnyawali: Nepal Upatyakako Madhyakalin Itihas (Medieval History of Nepal Valley), Kathmandu: Royal Nepal Academy, Vol. 9 (1962), Chapter XI: "Kathmandu Ka Itihasko Kalanirnaya" (Chronology of Kathmandu) pp. 112-120.

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1. Pratap Malla's stone-inscription of Jestha, 762 Ne[illegible] (May 1643) at the temple of Taleju (Sanskrit Sandesh, Year I, No. 2).

2. Pratap Malla's stone-inscription of Falgun 769 Nepal era (February 1649) at the Hanuman Dhoka Palace (Bhagavan Lal Indraji, No. 18; Sanskrit Sandesh, Year I, No. 3).

3. Pratap Malla's stone-inscription of Magh 777 Nepal era (January 1657) at the Pashupatinath temple.

4. Parthivendra Malla's stone-inscription of Marga 799 Nepal era (November 1679) at the Pashupatinath temple.

In Pratap Malla's three stone-inscriptions, there exists only one inconsistency. In his stone-inscription at the Pashupatinath temple, he names Narendra Malla as the successor of Surya Malla, while in his other two inscriptions, he gives the name of Amar Malla. However, in view of the fact that Pratap Malla mentions the name of Amar Malla in two inscriptions, while mentioning that of Narendra Malla only once, it may be assumed that Narendra Malla was another name of Amar Malla.[x]

However, Parthivendra Malla's stone-inscription of 1679 presents some difficulties. It mentions Amar Malla as the son of Ratna Malla, and does not even refer to the name of Surya Malla, who is mentioned in other stone-inscriptions as the actual successor of Ratna Malla. This is indeed surprising. However, in the absence of further evidence it is difficult to express a definite opinion in this matter.

According to the Vamshavalis, Mahendra Malla was succeeded by Sadashiva Malla, who was later dethroned and replaced by his brother Shivasimha. But none of the lists given above mentions the name of Sadashiva Malla. Perhaps this might have been due to the prevailing practice of not mentioning the name of a deposed King. Even then, Shivasimha was succeeded by his own son and there was hardly any need to write Sadashiva Malla's name.

A gold inscription dated Ashadh 632 Nepal era (June 1512) discovered at Maru Sattal in Kathmandu describes Ratna Malla as the King of Nepal.

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[x] Lalit Jung Sijapati, author of "Some Famous Kings of Greater Gorkha" (Vishal Gorkha Ka Kehi Prasiddha Rajaharu), also expresses the same opinion.

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This proves that Ratna Malla had ruled over Nepal at least till 1512 A.D. Two other authentic dates linked to his rule are specified in the Vamshavalis. The Vamshavalis tell us that Ratna Malla had defeated the Thakuri King of Nuwakot in 611 Nepal era (1491), and that in Magh 621 Nepal era (1502), he had established the temple of Tulaja. These accounts indicate that Ratna Malla had become King of Kathmandu long before 1491 A.D.

No authentic date regarding the rule of Surya Malla, successor of Ratna Malla, is available yet. There is also lack of chronological details regarding the rule of Amar Malla (or Narendra Malla), son of Surya Malla. Bendal has cited a manuscript written in Shravan 671 Nepal era (July 1552). This book definitely proves that he had ascended to throne in 1552 A.D. Lalit Jung Sijapati has referred to the stone-inscriptions of Amar Malla installed during the period from 649 Nepal era (1529) to 680 Nepal era (1560). A manuscript, said to be a copy of the original Geeta-Bhashya (commentary on the Geeta), prepared at the instance of Mukunda Sharma, a Minister of Amar Malla, refers to the Laxman Sen era, which many scholars say had been started in 119 or 1120 A.D. On the basis of the Laxman Sen era referred to in this work, it is possible to establish that it had been written around 1554 A.D.

Amar Malla (or Narendra Malla) was succeeded by Mahendra Malla. A manuscript dated Shrawan 686 Nepal era (1566 A.D.), which refers to Mahendra Malla, has been cited by Bendall. According to the Vamshavalis, Mahendra Malla had installed the idol of Taleju in Magh 684 Nepal era (1564). Amar Malla's stone-inscriptions until 680 Nepal era only are available. This indicates that the minimum gap between Amar Malla and Mahendra is 4 years only.

Mahendra Malla was succeeded by Sadashiva, his son. Bendall has cited a definite date linked to Sadashiva. That date is 696 Nepal era (1575-76). According to Oldfield, the Mahabauddha shrine was built in 705 Nepal era (1585) during Sadashiva Malla's rule.

Sadashiva Malla was succeeded by Shiva Simha, his brother. A number of his works have been discovered. Copies of the stone-inscriptions dated Magh 714 (January 1594) and Baisakh 715 Nepal era (April 1595), both discovered at the Swayambhunath shrine, have been published in Sanskrit Sandesh.[x] Bendall has also cited a stone-inscription of 720 Nepal era (1600), located near the temple of Narayan at Lagan Tole. According to Brahma Shamsher, Shivasimha had built the temple of Degutale in Patan in 755 Nepal era (1692 Vikram era or 1635 A.D.). But it is hard to express definite opinions about this date, as there exists a wide gap between it and the dates mentioned above.

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[x] Sanskrit Sandesh, Year 2, Nos. 4-6.

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Shivasimha was succeeded by his son, Laxmi Narasimha. On ascending to throne, he minted coins in his name. But these coins do not mention the year in which they had been minted. These coins therefore do not help to determine the period of his rule. A facsimile of Laxmi Narasimha's stone-inscription of Ashadh 761 Nepal era (1641), written in the Nepali language, has been published in Itihas Prakash (Vol. 1, p. 61). The first coins bearing the name of his son, Pratap Malla, have been discovered. These were minted in 761 Nepal era. This shows that Laxmi Narasimha Malla's rule had formally ended in 761 Nepal era (1641), although one stone-inscription suggests that Pratap Malla had become King in 760 Nepal era (1640).

A number of authentic proofs such as coins, books and stone-inscriptions connected with the rule of Pratap Malla have been discovered. On the basis of this evidence, it may be assumed that Pratap Malla had a long rule. A manuscript entitled Puja Kalpalata, written in 789 Nepal era (1669) states that Pratap Malla's rule had been very stable. From this, it may be inferred that his rule had been free from internal weakness as well as from external threat, even though he had become old. A silver coin minted in 789 Nepal era (1669), bearing the name of his son, Chakravartindra Malla, has been discovered. But it is not clear whether the coin had been minted in the name of Chakravartindra Malla on the order of his father, or whether he had become an independent King himself. According to the Vamshavali, Pratap Malla had been succeeded by Nripendra Malla. Coins of 795 Nepal era (1675), bearing the name of Nripendra Malla, have been discovered. These coins, however, are believed to have been minted in his name after he ascended the throne following the death of Pratap Malla. It may therefore be presumed that the death of Pratap Malla occurred in 794 Nepal era (1674). This view is corroborated also by accounts given in some Vamshavalis.

On the other hand, Wright writes that Pratap Malla had died in 809 Nepal era (1689 A.D.). According to one Vamshavali in the possession of the author, the year of his death was 797 Nepal era (1677). According to the Vamshavali, Pratap Malla had enthroned his sons by turns and minted coins in their names when he was still alive. This may explain the reason for the wide gap between the two years mentioned above. It is probably on the basis of this account that a number of historians have included the reign of Nripendra Malla and Parthivendra Malla, who succeeded Pratap Malla, in the total period of the latter's rule. Any way, the Vamshavalis not only contain conflicting accounts regarding the probable year of Pratap Malla's death, but also fail to give details of the rule of Nripendra Malla and Parthivendra Malla.

A copy of the stone-inscription of Marga 7986 Nepal era (November 1678) has been published in Sanskrit Sandesh. It indicates that Nripendra Malla's rule had been a very short one. He had probably ruled till the end of the eighth century Nepal era. Silver coins bearing the name of Parthivendra Malla

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and dated 800 Nepal era (1680) have been discovered. Parthivendra Malla too does not appear to have ruled long. A coin of his son, Bhupalendra Malla, which was minted in 812 Nepal era (1692) proved that Parthivendra Malla had died before that year. The Vamshavalis do not contain any reference to the year in which Parthivendra Malla had died, nor is any other documentary evidence available in this regard. Wright mentions 809 Nepal era (1689) as the year of Pratap Malla's death. As such, it may be presumed that he had probably died during this year.

A stone-inscription of Kartik 810 Nepal era (October 1689), mentioning the name of Bhupalendra Malla, son of Parthivendra Malla, has been found. This stone-inscription, installed by Riddhilaxmi Devi, mother of Bhupalendra Malla, proves that he had become King in 1690 A.D. A copy of the copper-inscription of 818 Nepal era (1698 A.D.), installed at the main gate of Patan has been published in Sanskrit Sandesh. It mentions the names of 3 contemporary Kings, among whom was Bhupalendra Malla. This shows that he had been King of Kathmandu till 1698 A.D. He appears to have died some time after that year. The definite year of his death is not known, but it is presumed to be 818 Nepal era (1698). A coin (Suki) bearing the name of his son Bhaskar Malla and dated 818 Nepal era (1698) has been discovered.

Bhaskar Malla ruled for a long time. He was also the King of Patan. He assumed the name of Mahindra Singh after becoming King of Patan. He died in 842 Nepal era (1722). A coin of the same year, bearing the name of his successor, Jagajjaya Malla, has been discovered. Jagajjaya Malla died around 854 Nepal era (1734 A.D.). This is proved by the coin of Prakash Malla, dated 856 Nepal era (1736). Prakash Malla, the last King of Kathmandu was defeated by Prithvinarayan Shah in 1768.

List of Malla Kings

	Nepal Era	A.D.
1. Ratna Malla	611 or 621	1491-1501
2. Surya Malla	632	1512
3. Amar Malla or Narendra Malla	671	1512
4. Mahendra Malla	686	1567
5. Sadashiva Malla	696	1575-85

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6. Shivasimha	714-7201	1596-1600
7. Laxmi Narasimha	761 1 -	1642
8. Pratap Malla	761-795	1642-1675
9. Nripendra Malla	795-800	1675-1680
10. Parthivendra Malla	800-818	1680-1698
11. Bhaskar Malla	818-842	1698-1722
12. Jagajjaya Malla	842-856	1722-36
13. Prakash Malla	856-888	1736-1768

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Treaty Signed By King Jaya Prakash Malla Of Kantipur In Favor Of King Prithvi Narayan Shah[x]

I hereby sign this pledge in favor of King Prithvi Narayan Shah Dev.

Coins shall be minted in both Kathmandu and Gorkha. No impurity shall be mixed in rupee coins. Both mints shall use the same alloy. The coins of Gorkha shall be accepted by Kathmandu, and vice-versa.

Coins and goods shall be sent to Tibet in equal amounts or quantities. Envoys (wakil) of both Kathmandu and Gorkha shall be stationed in Tibet. Both envoys shall seal consignments of goods and despatch the same.

Goods exported or imported without the consent of both envoys shall be confiscated. Half of the goods confiscated by Kathmandu shall be handed over to Gorkha, and vice-versa.

In case coins minted by Kathmandu are not accepted by anyone in Gorkha, he shall be punished. In case anyone in Kathmandu does not accept the coins minted in Gorkha, he shall be punished. Merchants coming through Patan shall be looted, and their possessions shall be confiscated.

An envoy (wakil) of Gorkha shall be stationed in Kathmandu, and vice-versa. Consignments of goods shall be opened and inspected with the permission of the Wakil. Trade with Tibet shall be conducted through Nuwakot. Such goods brought from Gorkha as are declared shall not be confiscated by Kathmandu. Only smuggled goods shall be confiscated. Goods brought from Kathmandu shall not be confiscated by Gorkha if they are declared, but if such goods are smuggled, these shall be confiscated.

Gold and silver brought from Tibet shall be shared (by Kathmandu and Gorkha) equally. Coins brought from the plains (Madhesh) shall also be shared equally.

Patan shall be taken over by Gorkha, while Kathmandu shall be assisted to take over Naldum. When Patan is occupied by Gorkha, Kathmandu shall support such occupation. In the event that Kathmandu occupies Patan, it shall hand Patan over to Gorkha. Gorkha shall have precedence over Kathmandu in this matter.

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[x]Naya Raj Pant et. al, Sri 5 Prithvinarayan Shahko Upadesh (Teachings of King Prithvi Narayan Shah). Lalitpur: Jagadamba Prakashan, n.d. pp. 973-977.

May adherence to this treaty promote religion. In case any side violates this treaty, may the five great sins fall upon him.

Tuesday, Poush Badi 8, 1814
(December 1758).

Explanation:-

This pledge was signed by King Jaya Prakash Malla of Kantipur on Poush 23, 1814 (January 6, 1758) in favor of King Prithvi Narayan Shah. It sheds much light on the political and economic conditions prevailing at that time. The salient features of this document are as follows:-

(1) Both Kathmandu and Gorkha agreed to mint pure silver coins of uniform mold and the coins of one Kingdom circulated in the territory of the other.

(2) Both sides agreed to remit money and export goods to Tibet on a fifty-fifty basis, station each other's Wakils there, arrange for the export of goods under the supervision of such Wakils and share the gold procured from Tibet equally.

(3) Both sides agreed to conduct trade with Tibet through Nuwakot.

(4) Kathmandu and Gorkha agreed to maintain Wakils in each other's territory and develop trade with each other.

(5) Both sides agreed to share coins received from Madhesh (India) equally.

(6) The two sides agreed that Kantipur should accept Gorkha's occupation of Patan. They also agreed that if Kantipur itself occupies Patan, it should eventually hand Patan over to Gorkha. They agreed, in addition, that merchandise brought from Patan should be confiscated.

(7) Gorkha agreed to hand over Naldum to Kathmandu.

On Jestha 19, 1814 Vikrama (June 3, 1757) that is 7 months before the conclusion of this treaty, Prithvinarayan Shah had, for the first time, invaded Kirtipur. At that time, Kantipur, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur all considered Gorkha to be their common enemy. The Kings of these three Kingdoms therefore sent their troops to defend Kirtipur. The Gorkhalis sustained a humiliating defeat in the battle of Kirtipur. Jaya Prakash

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also had played a key role in the defeat of Gorkha in this battle. He had personally taken part in the Kirtipur battle. However, Kirtipur was a part of the territory of Lalitpur, and so Jaya Prakash Malla did not derive any direct benefit from this battle notwithstanding his victory.

The throne of Lalitpur at that time was occupied Rajya Prakash, who was Jaya Prakash Malla's own brother. Rajya Prakash had rebelled against Jaya Prakash and fled from Kantipur and later become King of Lalitpur. Hence the two brothers were never on good terms with each other. Jaya Prakash was always planning to harm Lalitpur.

Having lost much of its territory extending from Nuwakot to Naldum, Kantipur was suffering considerable losses at that time. Its financial condition was deteriorating on account of the dislocation of its trade with Tibet resulting from the loss of these territories. It was therefore natural that Jaya Prakash Malla should have sought to find out means to improve the situation.

Prithvi Narayan, who was then trying to advance farther to the east, wanted to have a foothold in Kathmandu Valley by any means. He won over some people in Kathmandu Valley, and, with their help, kept himself abreast of developments in all the three kingdoms comprising it. Given chance, he was prepared to resort to any political maneuver.

Jaya Prakash Malla may have concluded this treaty with Prithvi Narayan Shah at a time when he was very angry over the conduct of Lalitpur. This is substantiated also from the letter he had written to Kalu Pande in 1813 Vikrama (1756), in which he had said he intended to fight against Bhadgaun, not against Patan. Jaya Prakash too indulged frequently in diplomatic maneuvers.

The conclusion of such a treaty with Prithvi Narayan Shah was not specially advantageous to Jaya Prakash Malla. However, he thought it to be in his interests to do so because it might pave the way for trade relations with Tibet and the western principalities including Gorkha, thereby bringing economic benefits to his Kingdom. In addition, he thought that the treaty would enable him to recover Naldum and settle scores with Lalitpur.

To Prithvi Narayan Shah, however, the treaty was particularly advantageous from both the political and economic viewpoints. It helped him much in his long-standing efforts to strengthen the economic position of his Kingdom. The provision made in the treaty for Kathmandu's support for Gorkha's occupation of Patan constituted a political gain for Prithvi Narayan Shah.

It is not known whether the treaty was ever enforced, or how long it remained in force. Anyway, the treaty reveals the political acumen of Prithvi Narayan Shah, who succeeded in winning over one of his bitter foes, and persuading him to sign it.

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Guthi Land Endowments By Sen Kings Of Vijayapur

1. From King Hari Narayan Sen,

(Royal Titles).

We hereby endow the following 2 villages (mouja) of Nolgaon and Majhigaon in the Nongaon area of the riparian region (ghat) of Morang for propitiating Goddess Pindeshwari.

The Jangam Gosain shall take charge of these lands, reclaim and cultivate them and use the produce thereof to perform religious functions at the Pindeshwari temple as well as at the monastery.

Falgun Badi 14, 1786
Vijayapur
(March 1730 A.D.)
Regmi Research Collections,
Vol. I, p. 454.

Attested By:

Dewan Pratap Singh Rai.

2. From King Hari Narayan Sen,

(Royal Titles).

We hereby endow the village of Dumariya in the Bariyarpur revenue division (tappa) of Morang to Goddess Pindeshwari. We also hereby entrust charge of this endowment to Mahant Tilanayak Saiva of the same village.

Consider (this village) to be under your charge and promote reclamation and settlement. Use the produce thereof to meet the requirements of the Pindeshwari temple and bless us.

Jestha Sudi 4, 1786
Vijayapur
(June 1729 A.D.)
Regmi Research Collections,
Vol. I, p. 457.

Attested By:

Dewan Pratap Singh Rai.

3. From King Hari Narayan Sen,

(Royal Titles).

We hereby endow (the village of) Guabari in the Chawkibari area for performing religious ceremonies at the temple of Pindeshwari.

The Jangam Gosain shall take charge of this village, and reclaim and cultivate it. He shall use the produce thereof to perform religious ceremonies and offer lamps at the temple.

Magh Badi 5, 1785
Vijayapur
(January 1729 A.D.)
Regmi Research Collections,
Vol. I, p. 456.

Attested By:

Dewan Pratap Singh Rai.

4. From King Kamadatta Sen,

(Royal Titles).

We hereby endow the village (mouja) of Goarpara in Morang as Birta for financing religious functions at the temple (asthan) of ...

With due assurance, reclaim and cultivate this village, regarding it as Bitalab exempt from all taxes and levies (Sarba Anka Abwab). Utilize the produce thereof for offering incense, lamps and eatables at the temple. Pray for our prosperity, and serve and propitiate (the god).

Ashadh Badi 1810 Bikrama
Vijayapur
(June 1753 A.D.)
Regmi Research Collections,
Vol. I, p. 453.

Attested By:

Dewan Sirikantha Rai.

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Management Of Guthi Lands In Dolakha, 1759[x]

From King Prithvi Narayan Shah,

To Dhana Datta, Ratuabir Sim and Simdev Thakur.

You are hereby entrusted with the responsibility of looking after the following Khet lands endowed as Guthi as follows:-

25 muris of Khet lands known as Dhulpu endowed as Guthi to Shri Narayana.

25 muris of Khet lands known as Guthibu endowed as Guthi to Shri Bhairava.

12 muris of Khet lands known as Khoj endowed as Guthi to Shri Bhimasena.

We hereby make a donation (Bakas) of these lands to you. Dhanadatta and Ratna Sim shall look after (these lands) and construct temples, rest-houses and roadside shelters.

Wednesday,
Jestha Sudi 4, 1816 (Jestha 19, 1758)
June 1, 1759).

Explanation:

Prithvi Narayan had adopted the policy of confirming Guthi land endowments made for the maintenance of temples, rest-houses and roadside shelters. This letter shows that he had confirmed the Guthi lands belonging to the temple of Dolakha Narayan after his conquest of Dolakha. It gives an idea of the policy followed by Prithvi Narayan Shah towards land endowments.

Prithvi Narayan Shah was finding it hard to conquer Kirtipur. He could not weaken Kirtipur from within with the help of local agents. That was the reason why he had had to use force to conquer Kirtipur. He had the nose of several people of Kirtipur cut off in order to teach them a lesson and insure that they did not revolt later. But in spite of what the people of Kirtipur had done, Prithvi Narayan Shah had, on conquering Kirtipur, made Guthi endowments for the performance of religious functions at local temples.

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[x]Naya Raj Pant, op. cit., pp. 981-983.

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This shows the policy followed by King Prithvi Narayan Shah for consolidating his hold on conquered territories.

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Land Grants By King Prithvi Narayan Shah

1. From King Prithvi Narayan Shah,[x]

To Indramani Jaishi.

We hereby grant you the following lands belonging to you as Bandha-Bitalap-Bakas:-

Designation of Land		Area
Furanu-Saro	...	60 muris
Amubote	...	120 muris
Nibuwabote	...	80 muris
Tallo-Arubote	...	80 muris
Upallo-Barrabote	...	20 muris
Gahiri-Khet	...	60 muris
Khola-Khet	...	110 muris
Dhabya-Katuwa	...	20 muris

A tract of uneven land situated at a high altitude occupied by Punya Darbug.

Hillside land situated between two streams below your homestead.

A tract of uneven land and a pond situated above your homestead.

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[x] Ibid, pp. 983-985.

These lands have been granted to you along with the attached homesteads, Pakho and other lands, as well as the Simle and Dumari hills, the Nasingtar-Pakho lands and the high lands used to raise seedings.

The Umra shall have no jurisdiction over the holding of Indramani.

We have received Rs 2,950 (from Indramani Jaishi). Whenever we shall repay this money, we shall resume the lands.

Sunday, Jestha Sudi 4, 1817 (Jestha 9, 1817)
(May 12, 1760).r

Explanation:

In 1817 Vikrama (1760 A.D.), Prithvi Narayan Shah had received an amount of Rs 2950.00 from Indramani Jaishi. According to this document, he granted tax exemptions to Indramani Jaishi on both his old and new lands. It is not known who Indramani Jaishi was, or where he lived. But it may be surmised that he was a wealthy person with extensive land holding. This explains why he was able to pay a sum of Rs 2950.00 to Prithvi Narayan Shah for having his old lands confirmed, purchasing new lands and having them exempted from taxation.

Prithvi Narayan Shah always needed money to finance his military campaigns. He had to devise various means for collecting money. At that time, sale and mortgage of land were important sources of revenue. Numerous documents issued by Kings in consideration of payments made in the course of such transactions have been discovered. Prithvi Narayan Shah too appears to have issued the above document to Indramani Jaishi after receiving money from him to meet his needs.

2. From King Prithvi Narayan Shah,[x]

We have accepted a present of Rs 125 from Birabhadra Khajanchi in consideration of the purchase of Birta lands at Manthali from a Khas. We hereby confirm the lands as Birta and grant exemption (from taxes). Utilize the lands with due assurance.

Jestha 1821
(May 1764)l

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[x]Ibid, pp. 1002-1003.

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Explanationd

Prithvi Narayan Shah issued this document confirming Birta lands in Manthali after receiving a sum of Rs 125.00 in Jestha 1821 Vikrama. Manthali is situated on the banks of the Tamakoshi river to the south of Dolakha district.

When a Kingdom changed hands, thedrights of people over their lands were not considered secure unless these were confirmed by the new rulerd It was therefore natural for a landowner to try to have his lands confirmed by the new King. King Prithvi Narayan Shah used to confirm the lands of some people without any charge and of others on payment of fees, taking the situation into consideration. He confiscated the lands of those who opposed him. He had taken the situation into account while issuing this document confirming Birta lands in Manthali.

This document mentions only the year and the month, not the date. It is therefore not possible to calculate the exact date on which it was written.

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(S.B.M.)