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A History of Gorkha

By

Dinesh Raj Pant

(Continued)

I

Gorkha Under the Khadka Kings

As noted previously, Mukunda Sen invaded the valley of Nepal in the year 1603 Vikrama. This shows that Mukunda Sen was ruling until 1603 Vikrama.

The Gorkha-Vamshavali and the Gorkha-Rajavamshavali state that Drabya Shah conquered Gorkha from a Khadka king. After Mukunda Sen, his extensive kingdom split into several fragments. Just as Yakshamalla's sons could not maintain their control of all his territories, Mukunda Sen's sons too were unable to do so. It seems that Gorkha too freed itself from Sen control and came under the control of local rulers.

The Vamshavalis, while referring to Drabya Shah's attack on Liglig, state: "The present king (of Liglig) is strong and has been ruling there for ten or twelve years." Liglig is situated at a distance of about 3 kos from the headquarters of Gorkha. The Vamshavali account thus helps us to ponder over the issue. It may be noted that according to the Vamshavalis, different kings were ruling Liglig and Gorkha at the time when Drabya Shah founded his kingdom.

Since there is a clear reference to Mukunda Sen in 1603 Vikrama, and since Drabya Shah conquered Gorkha in 1616 Vikrama, there is a gap of 13 years between these two events. References are available to show that Liglig was conquered during the Dashain festival, and Gorkha in Bhadra 1616 Vikrama. For this reason, Liglig could not have been conquered after 1615 Vikrama. There is a gap of twelve years between 1603 and 1615, thus corroborating the Vamshavali version of "ten or twelve years". This means that after the influence of the Sens declined, that of local rulers increased in Gorkha.

Ganesh Pande, Mukunda Sen's man, had seen how local rulers raised their heads after his lord's kingdom was fragmented, and also knew their weaknesses. He seems to have been able to make an attempt to remove the Khadka king of Gorkha easily.

II

The Time of Yashobrahma Shah

Drabya Shah, a son of King Yashobrahma Shah of Lamjung, conquered Gorkha. For this reason, it is clear that Yashobrahma Shah is connected with Gorkha, the subject-matter of our study.

No contemporary document of Yashobrahma Shah's time has been found so far; nor do current Vamshavalis make any reference to his time. It is thus clear that these sources shed no light on the subject. Even then, it is not that there is no basis for discussing the question of Yashobrahma Shah's time. We shall, therefore, write a few words on this subject.

According to a Vamshavali found in Lamjung, Yashobrahma Shah became King of Lamjung in the month of Ashadha, 1550 Vikrama. References to the date, the day according to the lunar calendar, the week-day, the Zodiac sign, etc. contained in that account give an impression of authenticity at first glance, but the dates do not check. Moreover, the event is said to have antedated Drabya Shah's coronation in the Vikrama year 1616 by 66 years. Such a big gap in one generation is not possible. For this reason, the Vamshavali account does not seem to be authentic.

During the reign of King Rajendra, Major Krishneshwar Dhakal submitted a document containing the regnal years of the Gorkhali kings. According to that document, Yashobrahma Shah became King of Gorkha in the Vikrama year 1616 and that he reigned for 17 years. But it is Drabya Shah who is believed to have ascended the throne of Gorkha in the Vikrama year 1616. It is obvious that Major Krishneshwar Dhakal regarded the Vikrama year 1616 as the year of the coronation not of Drabya Shah but of Yashobrahma Shah, and the latter as king not of Lamjung but of Gorkha. The regnal period of Yashobrahma Shah as mentioned by Major Krishneshwar Dhakal accordingly does not appear to be authentic.

A petition submitted by Jahar Simha Bhandari and Kedar Simha Bhandari contains the names of the kings of Lamjung from Yashobrahma Shah to Biramardan Shah, as well as of members of the Bhandari family during their reign and after Lamjung was merged into the kingdom of Nepal. It mentions the regnal years of Yashobrahma Shah, but not of the other kings of Lamjung. According to the petition, Yashobrahma Shah became king of Lamjung in the Vikrama year 1595. Since Drabya Shah became king of Gorkha in the Vikrama year 1616, there is thus a difference of 21 years between father and son. This version, therefore, seems to be more authentic.

There are two pieces of cannon at the Kalikasthan Palace in Lamjung. One of them bears the inscription "Bhadra Badi 1598 Samvat". This shows that by that year the state of Lamjung had already been founded, and cannon too manufactured. This evidence too substantiates Bhandari's version of the date of Yashobrahma Shah's reign.

Notes:

1. A reference to the account contained in the Vamshavali of Lamjung has been made in Voice of History, year 3, p. 29. "The King of Lamjung was crowned on Sunday, Ashadh 15, 1550 Vikrama/ 1415 Shaka, on the tenth day of the lunar calendar, at 9 ghadis and 25 palas after sunrise."

The same date of Yashobrahma Shah's coronation has been given in "Gorkhavamshayali", Itihasa Prakasha, vola 2, part 3, p. 417

However, the particulars do not check, as for Ashadh Badi 10, 1550 falls on Ashadh 13, 1550.

2. The following unpublished document (No. 506, Bundle No. 3) is now in the possession of the National Archives. It was formerly in the possession of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:-

Petition submitted by Jahar Singh Bhandari and Kahar Singh Bhandari
(Abstract translation)

Jitaram Bhandari came to Lamjung from Jumla. Because he did not want to live under a Ghale King, he sent Dara Ghimire to Nuwakot and invited Kal Shahi to occupy the throne. However, Kal Shahi was assassinated by the Ghale. Jitaram Bhandari then procured Jasbam Shah and placed him on the throne in the year 1460.

The names of the kings of Lamjung and of contemporary members of the Bhandari family were as follows:-

King Jasbam Shah:	Jitaram Bhandari, and his son, Bardeo Bhandari.
King Narahari Shah:	Bardeo Bhandari, and his son, Ransingh Bhandari.
King Chura Shah:	Ransingh Bhandari, and his son, Devdas Bhandari.
King Achindra Shah:	Devdas Bhandari, and his son, Sire Bhandari.
King Narindra Shah:	Sire Bhandari, and his son, Mane Bhandari.
King Naraj Shah:	Mane Bhandari, and his son, Ananta Bhandari.
King Keharinarayan Shah and King Dabadal Shah:	Ananta Bhandari, and his sons, Umme Singh and Gora.
King Raksheshor Shah and King Bhima Shah:	Umme Singh and Gora, Umme Singh's sons Kunjar, Kalu, Angad, Jaisingh, and Hari, and Gora's sons Ganapati; Ganapati's sons Nathu, Kalu, Parath, and Indramana.

Kunjar, Kalu, and Parath belonged to the reign of King Ripumardam Shah. These three Bhandaris were invited by His Majesty to Gorkha. Thus only Jaisingh, Kunjar's brother, remained in Lamjung during the reign of King Biramardam Shah.

Kunjar's son was Dhokalo. We two (Jahar Singh Bhandari and Kahar Singh Bhandari) are sons of Dhokal.

Kalu and Parath were sons of Ganapati and grandsons of Gorao Kaji Chamu. Bhandari is Kalu's son, while Jasiwanta Bhandari and Ghanashyam Bhandari are sons of Parath.

During the conquest of Nepal, Kunjar Bhandari was granted rewards two or three times.

Among our relatives, Hari Bhandari was killed in Bhadgaun, Mane Bhandari in Langur, Jairam Bhandari in Gilug, Karbir Bhandari in Jhamtagadhi, and Beoal Singh Bhandari in Parsa-Gadhi. All their orphaned children are living with us.

We are now engaged in attendance at the royal palace up to 12 or 15 ghadis in the night in the hope that we Bhandaris will be assigned to some districts. We are not allowed to enter into the palace, and have no one to represent our cases. We are suffering for lack of food and clothing.

The Struggle for Kangra Fort

By

Dro Shiva Prasad Dabral "Charan"

(Continued)

The ruler of Patiala, Saheb Singh, wanted to join the Gorkhali army with the objective of deriving advantage from the conquest of Sirmur. In particular, he wanted to occupy some villages of Sirmur which were situated in the hill region and adjoined his state. Saheb Singh had already signed a treaty of subsidiary alliance with the East India Company. For that reason, he informed Ochterlony: "My relations with the Gorkhalis are close and friendly. The Gorkhalis are preparing to invade Sirmur, and I want to join them." However, Saheb Singh had to drop his plan because of the Governor-General's opposition.

The Gorkhalis soon laid siege to the fort of Mornio. The troops of both sides attacked each other with muskets, cannon, swords, javelins, khukuris, khundas, and other weapons. Birabhadra jumped into the midst of the army of Sirmur with his sword in his hand. The hill soldiers fled when he brandished his sword. They were powerless before such brave Gorkhali commanders as Ramasundar Thapa, Ranajor Thapa, Bali Simha Adhikari, Dalajit, Ripumardan Thapa, ~~Arimardan~~ Thapa, Chandrabir Thapa, Bhagawanta Adhikari, Jaya Krishna Thapa, Bir Umrao, and Minaraj Thapa. Ratna Prakash too fled, leaving his family behind. The ladies of his household were forced to follow him on foot. His subjects fled to the forests.

The Gorkhalis displayed extraordinary bravery and cruelty in the battle. They cut off the nose, ears, hands, and feet of many of the enemy. They surrounded the women of the town in their houses and raped them, or stripped them naked for public display. Maularam has written a very graphic account of the battles.

Ranajor Thapa then assumed charge of the administration of Sirmur. He brought people back to their towns and villages, and the people of Sirmur accepted him as their new lord. Ranajor Thapa appointed officials known as Bichari and Achari to run the administration. Ranajor Thapa used to sit on a balcony listening to the petitions from people in the courtyard below. In Sirmur, Ranajor Thapa began to live like a King. He honored Brahmans with gifts, and no poet or artist was allowed to leave empty-handed. Pleased with a poem composed by Maularam in his praise, Ranajor Thapa gave him a horse, a pair of gold bangles, and the village of Pawatagaun.

The conquest of the fort of Morni, and the reoccupation of Sirmur, led to an increase in the Gorkhali reign of terror. Amar Simha Thapa then summoned Birabhadra Kunwar and launched a fresh attack on the fort of Kangra. Sansar Chand then appealed to Ranjit Singh for assistance, pointing out that the Gorkhali conquest of Kangra would open up the way for their conquest of Kashmir, Lahore, and Peshawar. Sansar Chand also pointed out to Ranjit Singh that once the Gorkhalis controlled the hills, and the British the plains, he would not be able to expand his own territories. Sansar Chand even offered to hand over the fort of Kangra to Ranjit Singh, thinking that he would be able to get it back later.

Ranjit Singh's army reached Kangra in August 1809. Amar Simha Thapa tried to bribe it to go back. However, Ranjit Singh was determined to drive out the Gorkhalis from the region. Accordingly, he rejected Amar Simha Thapa's offer. Meanwhile, Sansar Chand called off his negotiations with Amar Singh Thapa. When Ranjit Singh reached there, the rulers of the hill states deserted the Gorkhali side and joined him. They began to stop the supply of food to the Gorkhalis. On Shrawan 5, 1866 Vikrama, Sansar Chand and Ranjit Singh held a meeting at the temple of Jwalamukhi and took oath not to deceive each other. Sansar Chand agreed to hand over the fort of Kangra to Ranjit Singh on the condition that the Gorkhalis were driven out.

Meanwhile, the Gorkhali forces were suffering from a shortage of ammunition as well as from an epidemic. Ranjit Singh advanced toward the fort of Kangra along with his army and began bombarding the Gorkhalis. It was by no means an easy task to resist Ranjit Singh's army. Even then, according to Nepali authors, the Gorkhalis stood their ground for five days. In the beginning, many men of the Sikh force were killed, but soon the Gorkhali forces were surrounded on all sides by the enemy. Many Gorkhali soldiers were sick or injured. Supplies of food and ammunition were almost non-existent. The inhabitants of Kangra were waiting for an opportunity to take revenge upon the Gorkhalis. It was in these circumstances that Amar Simha Thapa proposed a treaty with Ranjit

Singh. The latter received a sum of Rs. 100,000 from the Gorkhalis and ordered them to go across the Sutlej river. He threatened to drive them out by force if they refused to do so. Amar Simha Thapa had then no alternative but to withdraw his forces from Kangra.

Riding on the same elephant, Ranjit Singh and Sansar Chand reached the gates of Kangra fort. Sansar Chand ordered Naurang in writing to hand over the fort to Ranjit Singh. The latter occupied the fort in Shrawan 1866 (24 August 1809). The defeated Amar Simha Thapa then laid siege to the fort of Malakada, but the Sikhs drove him toward Charbagh. Amar Simha Thapa was then forced to cross the Sutlej river.

Amar Simha Thapa informed the court of Nepal that Ranjit Singh had occupied the fort of Kangra and ordered the Gorkhalis to confine themselves to the eastern side of the Sutlej river. Amar Simha Thapa also wrote: "We were unable to resist the massive army of Ranjit Singh, which desires to conquer territories up to Kashmir, Multan, and Khorasan. Our hold is firm on the territories east of the Sutlej river. Ranjor Thapa has been given charge of the administration of Sirmur, Kunwar Balabhadra of the Doon Valley, and Bahadur Bhandari and Dasharath Khatri of Srinagar-Garhwal. I am waiting for orders."

Bhimsen Thapa and King Girban Yuddha Vikram felt very angry when they received this letter. They deputed Kaji Bakhtwar Simha Basnyat to lead the campaign on the western front.

After providing for necessary troops and supplies at Kangra fort and receiving a tribute (nazarana) from Sansar Chand, Ranjit Singh returned to Lahore. He left 1000 troops at the fort of Nadaun. Ranjit Singh also ordered Sardar Fateh Singh Kalianwala to remain in Bijwada along with his troops and maintain a close watch on the movements of Amar Simha Thapa.

Amar Simha Thapa did not give up his plans of conquest even after being defeated and driven across the Sutlej river. He began to plan to reorganize his forces in the Cis-Sutlej region in order to occupy the hill regions of the west. He constructed new forts in the state of Baghal and strengthened old ones. He also built the well-known fort of Jagatgarh (Jutoggarh) near modern Shimla. Strong forts were constructed in the states of Sabathu and Dharmu on his orders. Amar Simha Thapa also renovated a large number of small and big forts in the hill valleys of the Jamuna-Sutlej region and made Arki his capital. In addition, Amar Simha Thapa started giving his troops nutritious food in order to enable them face the Sikhs. The Gorkhali troops then began to eat up goats from the Himalayan villages in such large numbers that the price of each animal increased to thirty rupees.

Their defeat in Kangra, and their expulsion to the Cis-Sutlej region had greatly undermined the prestige of the Gorkhali army as well as of Amar Simha Thapa. The rulers of Busahr and three other adjoining states then decided to drive out the Gorkhalis in the same manner as in Kangra. In Shrawan 1867

(August 1810), Amar Simha Thapa was forced to withdraw his troops from Rampur, the main town of Busahar. The Gorkhali army then set up its headquarters at a place called Jadapantha. There the ruler of Busahar and his three allies besieged the Gorkhalis during the month of Shrawan (July-August) when the rivers were flooded. According to Maularam, the Gorkhalis had ten companies there with about 1000 troops, while the hill rulers had assembled a force of 12,000 fighters. The Gorkhali Commander, Shumshere Jung Rana, and his troops were terrified. On the advice of Harku Padhya, an astrologer, the Gorkhalis attacked the enemy with their khukuris on the seventh day of the month of Shrawan and slaughtered about 700 hill fighters. The Gorkhalis then succeeded in reaching a safe place.

But this victory did not help Amar Simha Thapa and the Gorkhali army retrieve their position. The Chand and Panwar rulers of Kumaun and Garhwal had eliminated the chiefs of those forts centuries before. After those rulers were defeated, there was no local lord either in Kumaun or in Garhwal who could lead the people's resistance against the aggressor. There were many principalities in the region west of the Jamuna river whose rulers or princes were ready to fulfill that role. The first half of the Gorkhali rule of about ten or eleven years in Himachal Pradesh was one of victory, terror, and glory. But the second half witnessed a progressive decline, opposition to the Gorkhali rule by the local rulers and their subjects, growing disobedience, and delays in payment of taxes.

Nepal's expansion toward the east had been checked by the East India Company on the frontiers of Sikkim. Ranjit Singh similarly checked it on the Sutlej river. The Himalayas were an effective deterrent to expansion toward the north. Prime Minister Bhimsen Thapa, therefore, began to make plans for expansion toward the Bhabar and Tarai areas in the south. Amar Simha Thapa made attempts to occupy Pinjor, Narayangadh, and Laharpur, which once belonged to the states of Nahan and Sirmur. He made similar attempts to occupy Budhiya and Palasi, which once formed a part of the territories of the state of Hindur.

However, the East India Company had already incorporated the states in the plains of the Jamuna - Sutlej region into its system of protectorates. The British Commander in Ludhiana, Ochterlony, warned Amar Simha Thapa that the East India Company would not tolerate any attempt to extend Gorkhali control to territories situated in the sub-montane region east of the Sutlej river. The Governor-General endorsed Ochterlony's line. The East India Company did not want the fertile valley of Pinjor to pass into Gorkhali hands and enrich them. Amar Simha's defeat in Kangra had greatly damaged his prestige, and he did not want it to be further harmed by suffering a defeat at the hands of the East India Company as well. For these reasons, he agreed in A.D. 1810 to withdraw his troops from Pinjor.

But soon thereafter the Gorkhalis occupied four villages in the Batauli area of the state of Patiala. Ochterlony wanted to punish them, but was not allowed by the Governor-General to take any action. Amar Simha Thapa knew that his position in Himachal Pradesh had become very weak. He was, therefore, determined to maintain friendly relations with the East India Company at any cost. He withdrew the Gorkhali troops from these four villages and informed the Company that he was prepared to vacate not only four but even twenty villages in the interests of friendship.

Amar Simha Thapa's position had, in fact, become very shaky. When Ranjit Singh reached Kangra, the rulers of the states west of the Sutlej river left the Gorkhali side to join him. Amar Simha Thapa's hold on the states east of the river was also not strong. There were apprehensions that in the event of relations with the East India Company worsening, all the hill rulers would go over to its side and oppose the Gorkhalis. Amar Simha Thapa, therefore, began to make special efforts to maintain amicable relations with the East India Company. In Kartik 1870 Vikrama (November 1813), he sent rare hill birds, musk, and other articles as "a humble present from the hill region" to Ochterlony through Bhakti Thapa. Bhakti Thapa informed Ochterlony that if the East India Company promised not to interfere, Amar Simha Thapa intended to attack Kangra again. He also conveyed Amar Simha Thapa's desire to meet Ochterlony.

A meeting was held between Amar Simha Thapa and Ochterlony near Pinjor on November 10, 1813. They expressed their desire to develop amicable relations, although both knew that these relations could erupt into hostility at any moment. Amar Simha Thapa did not let relations with the East India Company be harmed. He sent several letters to Ochterlony requesting for military assistance to free Kangra from Ranjit Singh's control. He wanted that relations between the East India Company and Ranjit Singh should deteriorate, thereby enabling him to entrench his position in the hill region. Amar Simha Thapa also believed that if the Sikhs, Marathas, and Gorkhalis united, they could defeat the British.

But the Gorkhali empire between the Kali and Sutlej rivers was built on sand. The Gorkhalis had alienated the local people through their oppressive behavior. In 1805, General Lake, while in pursuit of Amir Khan Rohilla, had crossed the Beas river and encamped at Jelalabad. His troops did not procure a single grain from the local people without payment. No one, high or low, had been oppressed, or employed to work without wages. The Gorkhali behavior was just the opposite. The unfortunate period of Gorkhali rule in Kangra and Himachal Pradesh can never be forgotten.

(Concluded)

Ran Bahadur's Expenses in Banaras

The 1801 Treaty

On October 26, 1801, a treaty was signed between the government of Nepal and the East India Company stipulating an annual payment of Rs. 72,000 in cash, and elephants worth Rs. 10,000 every year to Ran Bahadur Shah so long as he remained in Banaras or elsewhere in the territories of the East India Company. The treaty also stipulated that "the Pergunnah of Beejapoor (i.e., the eastern Terai district of Morang), with all the lands thereunto attached (excepting rent-free lands, religious or charitable endowments, jaghires and such like as specified separately in the account of collections) be settled" on Ran Bahadur Shah,

C.U. Aitchison, A Collection of Treaties, Engagements, and Sunnuds Relating to India And Neighboring Countries, Calcutta: Bengal Printing Co. Ltd., 1863, Vol. II, pp. 203-5.

Subba Dasharath Khatri and Subba Gaja Simha Khatri

In October, 1802 (Kartik Badi 4, 1859), Subba Dasharath Khatri and Subba Gaja Simha Khatri were granted an ijara for revenue collection in Morang for a three-year period. A royal order issued in their names in January 1803 (Magh Badi 9, 1859) specifically mentioned that "the ijara has been granted to you so that you may send funds to (Ran Bahadur Shah) in Banarasa." However, the Khatri were not able to discharge their assignment faithfully. Indeed, they even sent a false report to Kathmandu that they had remitted funds to Banaras. They were, therefore, severely reprimanded, and ordered to send Patna Rs. 38,000 to Kathmandu for remittance to Banarasa.

References

1. Revenue regulations for Morang in the Name of Subba Gaja Simha Khatri and Subba Dasharath Khatri, Kartik Badi 4, 1859.

Regmi Research Collection Vol. 6, pp. 631-636.

2. Royal order to Subba Dasharath Khatri and Subba Gaja Simha Khatri, Magh Sudi 9, 1859.

Regmi Research Collection Vol. 20, p. 6.

Because of their unsatisfactory performance, Subba Dasharath Khatri and Subba Gaja Simha Khatri were dismissed in April 1803 notwithstanding the fact that the ijara had been granted to them for a three-year period.

("Royal Order Replacing Subba Dasharath Khatri and Subba Gaja Simha Khatri by Hastadul Shahi as Ijaradar of Morang", Chaitra Sudi 15, 1859, Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 20, p. 25).

Dasharath Khatri was then assigned the task of promoting settlement in the Koshi-Tista region.¹ In Jestha 1862, he was functioning as Subedar of the Devidal Company in Vijayapur.² On Shrawan Badi 9, 1864, he was sent to Bara and Parsa to collect revenues on Amanat basis.³ Two days later, on Friday, Shrawan Badi 11, 1864, he was concurrently granted the responsibility of collecting revenue from jagir, birta, bekh-bunyad, manachamal and mokarri lands in the eastern Terai districts of Morang, Bara, Parsa, Rautahat, Saptari, and Mahottari, with the exception of (1) lands which had been restored through royal orders, and (2) those who had been included in the revenue-collection ijara for the concerned district.⁴ On Falgun Badi 10, 1865 (February 1809) Subba Dasharath Khatri was dismissed from his assignment in Bara and Parsa.⁵ He then seems to have been assigned to Garhwal.

References

1. Adalat regulations for Morang in the names of Umanidhi Panthar and Jayanta Khatri, Jestha Sudi 14, 1862, Sec. 14, Regmi Research Collection Vol. 19, p. 64.
2. Royal order to Subedar Rudra Simha Khadka of the Barahadal Company and Subedar Dasharath Khatri of the Devidal Company in Vijayapur, Jestha Sudi 13, 1862, Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, p. 29.
3. Amanat regulations in the name of Subba Dasharath Khatri for Bara and Parsa, Shrawan Badi 9, 1864, Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 20, pp. 459-461.
4. Royal order to Subba Dasharath Khatri, Shrawan Badi 11, 1864, Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 20, pp. 462-463.
5. Royal order replacing Dasharath Khatri by Jayafar as Subba of Bara and Parsa, Falgun Badi 10, 1865, Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 36, p. 218.
6. Edwin T. Atkinson, The Himalayan Districts of the North-Western Provinces of India, Allahabad: North-Western Provinces and Oudh Government Press, 1884, Vol. II, p. 619.

Subba Hastadal Shahi

Subba Hastadal Shahi, who belonged to the royal family of Gorkha¹ was sent to Morang on a three-year ijara on April 1803. (Baisakh Badi 11, 1860). Payment due under the ijara amounted to Rs. 67,001 in 1803, Rs. 72,003 in 1804 and Rs. 79,003 in 1805. Hastadal Shahi was ordered to remit these funds to Ran Bahadur Shahi in Banaras in installments every year.² According to regulations promulgated in his name on that date:³

If you are unable to remit funds to our father in Banaras in the prescribed installments, we shall dismiss you notwithstanding year three-year term as soon as we receive letters from there.

However, Hastadal Shahi too appears to have been unable to work satisfactorily, and was soon replaced by Subba Sarup Puri⁴

References

1. Regmi Research Series, Year 19, No. 1, January 1987, pp. 6-8.
2. Ijara grant to Subba Hastadal Shahi for revenue collection in Morang, replacing Subba Dasharath Khatri and Subba Gaja Simha Khatri, Baisakh Badi 11, 1860, Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 20, pp. 44-46.
3. Revenue regulations for Morang in the name of Subba Hastadal Shahi, Baisakh Badi 11, 1860, Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 20, pp. 48-52.
4. Documents relating to the appointment of Sarup Puri as Subba of Morang are not available. However, there is evidence that Sarup Puri was functioning in that capacity until Vikrama 1862, when he was replaced by Ravilal Jani. (Royal order to the Subedars of the Devidal and Barahadal Companies in Vijayapur regarding the appointment of Ravilal Jani as Subba of Morang, replacing Sarup Puri, Poush Badi 3, 1862, Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, pp. 676-678.)

Ravilal Jani's Ijara

On Monday, Poush Badi 3, 1862, Subba Sarup Puri was dismissed and replaced by Ravilal Jani, an agent (Gumasta) of Sahu Dwarikadas. Ravilal Jani was appointed as Ijaradar of Morang district for a five-year term, that is, until the year 1867 Vikrama. According to regulations promulgated in his name:

"Remit funds as follows from 1863 to 1867 Vikrama to pay off debts incurred in Banaras as well as (in Nepal) through Sahu Harikrishnadas.

<u>Year</u>		<u>Amount</u>
1863	...	Rs. 15,000
1864	...	Rs. 18,000
1865	...	Rs. 18,400
1866	...	Rs. 17,800
1867	...	Rs. 17,000

"So long as you fulfill the conditions stipulated by you, we shall not dismiss you before the expiry of your five-year term, even if any other person makes a higher offer."

Poush Badi 13, 1862

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, pp. 684-686.

Information to Local Companies

I

Royal order to the Subedar of the Barahadal Company and the Devidal Company in Vijayapur.

From the year 1863 Vikrama Samvat, Ravilal Jani, an agent (gumasta) of Sahu Dwarikadas, has been appointed as Subba of Morang district, replacing Sarup Puri. The two companies stationed at Vijayapur have traditionally remained under the command of the Subba to help him in collecting revenue, operating checkpoints, and performing guard duties. Depute one patti of musket-men, as well as one jamadar, from each company to function under the gumasta appointed by Ravilal Jani, to perform functions relating to collection of revenue, safety of the treasury (khajana), and escort consignments of coins, without causing any adverse effect on duties at the fort. Provide services to Ravilal Jani's employee in matters relating to revenue collection and security as ordered by him in matters that promote our interests. You shall be held responsible if you make any complaint or raise any obstruction in this regard and disobey his orders, so that work is harmed, and if the gumasts of Ravilal Jani submits a complaint to us. If you appoint additional soldiers to perform the duties assigned to you, their salaries will be deducted from your emoluments. Understand this, and act as ordered.

Monday, Poush Badi 3, 1862

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, pp. 676-78.

II

Royal order to the Subedars Jamadar, Hudda, and Soldiers of the Company stationed at Chisapani.

Permit cash and goods sent to the plains (Madhesh) by Ravilal Jani, gumasta of Sahu Dwarikadas, and the men escorting them, as mentioned in the passport, to pass without any restriction. Also permit cash and goods received from the plains, and men, to come here on the basis of identity documents issued by Ravilal Jani. Permit mail sent from here to pass if these bear the seal of Kaji Bhimsen Thapa. Do not open such mail. Do not open or hold up any mail received from the plains. Send the couriers here along with an escort of your musketmen. Have such mail inspected and opened in the presence of of the Sahu and the Kaji. Do not make the slightest delay there. You shall be held responsible if you make any delay and work is adversely affected here.

Monday, Poush Badi 3, 1862

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, p. 678c

Ravilal Jani Replaced by Harikrishna Das

As mentioned above, Ravilal Jani had been appointed as Ijaradar of Morang for a five-year term beginning April 1806. However, he was replaced in May 1808 by Sahu Harikrishnadas, another gumasta of Sahu Dwarikadas, apparently at the initiative of Sahu Dwarikadas himself.¹ Payments stipulated from Sahu Harikrishnadas during a three-year period from 1808 to 1810 were as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1808	... Rs. 96,159
1809	... Rs. 100,656
1810	... Rs. 103,958

It is significant that Sahu Harikrishnadas was ordered "to deposit payments due under the Ijara to the treasury" every year rather than to remit them to Sahu Dwarikadas in Banaras.

References

1. Royal order to Ravilal Jani informing him of his replacement by Harikrishnadas as Ijaradar of Morang, Baisakh Sudi 14, 1865, Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 36, p. 80.
2. Letter of appointment to Sahu Harikrishnadas, Jestha Badi 13, 1865, Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 36, pp. 90-92; Regulations in the name of Sahu Harikrishnadas, do, Ibid, pp. 92-96.

Chandrabir Thapa Appointed Subba

The five-year ijara granted to Sahu Dwarikadas's nominee expired in Chaitra 1867 (April 1811). Subba Chandrabir Thapa was then appointed as Subba for revenue collection in Morang on Amanat basis.¹

However, arrears of revenue for the year 1810-11 were still due to Sahu Harikrishnadas. Since his ijara authority had already come to an end, Kathmandu deputed two Subedars, namely Devendra Padhya and Shashidhar Padhya, to realize them and transmit the proceeds to the Sahu.²

References

1. Royal order to Subba Chandrabir Thapa of Morang regarding collection of arrears of revenue, Magh Sudi 3, 1867, Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 36, pp. 722-723

2. Regulations in the names of Subedar Devendra Padhya and Subedar Shashidhar Padhya regarding collection of arrears of revenue in Morang on behalf of Sahu Hari Krishnadas, Marga Sudi 4, 1867, Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 38, pp. 678-681; see also royal orders to the two Subedars, and to Kaji Balabir Rana and Sardar Gaja Simha Khatri, on Magh Sudi 3, 1867, Ibid, pp. 718-720.

Reappointment of Harikrishna Das

Chandrabir Thapa's tenure, however, seems to have been short-lived, for there is evidence that Harikrishnadas was again appointed as Ijaradar of Morang. On Sunday, Chaitra Sudi 3, 1869 (March 1813), Anup Simha Adhikari and Dhokal Khawas were appointed Subbas of Morang, and the letter of appointment clearly states that they were to succeed Harikrishnadas. Their appointment was effective for a five-year period from Baisakh Badi 1, 1870 to Chaitra Sudi 15, 1874. Although it was on Amanat basis, they stipulated a payment of Rs. 127,001 a year, against Rs. 115,001 stipulated by Harikrishnadas.

(Royal order appointing Anup Simha Adhikari and Dokhal Khawas as Subbas of Morang, as well as regulations issued in their names; Sunday, Chaitra Sudi 3, 1869, Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 39, pp. 562-568.

(To be Continued).

Miscellaneous Documents of Chaitra Sudi 14, 1869

1. Kushle Musicians at Vajrajogini Temple

Royal order to Tejapat Kushle: "Your family has been enjoying the privilege to play on musical instruments during regular and ceremonial religious functions at the temple of Sri Vajrajogini, as well as every morning and evening. However, your services were interrupted for one or two years. We now reconfirm your traditional privilege. With full assurance, play on musical instruments every morning and evening, and enjoy your jagir."

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 39, pp. 585-86.

2. Management of Guthi Endowments

I

In the year 1867 Vikrama, Bamshidhar Chaudhari had been given charge of the management of a Sadavarta endowment in Patan town. The assignment was reconfirmed on Chaitra Sudi 14, 1869.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 39, p. 586.

II

Pratiman Khatri was given charge of guthi endowments made for the temple of Sri Gokarneshwar. The royal order added, "The Bhatta priest and the Bhandari attendant shall work under your control. Income from the guthi endowments shall be used to finance customary regular and ceremonial religious functions at the temple and appropriate emoluments for the Bhatta and the Bhandari. You may appropriate for yourself any surplus income that may be left after meeting these expenses."

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 39, p. 586c

3. Appointment of Auditors

Royal order to Dittha Pitambar and his elder brother: "We hereby grant you authority effective Marga Sudi 13, 1869, to scrutinize documents from all over our kingdom. Show no fear or favor to any one, high or low, do not take bribes, and act justly. Your emoluments shall be as follows:-

- (a) Rs. 1,500 a year from income collected by you while discharging your functions
- (b) Farakhtana fees shall be collected from revenue functionaries at the rate of five rupees on each Rs. 1,000 cleared off. Half of such income shall be transmitted to the government, and the other half shall be shared by the Dittha and the Mukhiya."

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 39, pp. 586-87.

4. Appointment of Tahabildar

Bishwanath Upadhyaya was appointed as Tahabildar of the Dafdarkhana effective kartik Sudi 15, 1868 with the responsibility of safe-keeping its documents, stores, and cash. He was given a monthly salary of Rs. 12½.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 39, p. 587.

5. Disbursement Orders

- (a) Subba Gajabal Simha Baniya of Chitwan - Belod was ordered to disburse a sum of Rs. 335 to Shyamlal Panta as part of his emoluments from payments due for the Vikrama year 1870.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 39, pp. 587-88.

- (b) The Dittas of the four Adalats were ordered to disburse the following amounts to Chhatrapati Das, a clerk at the Nasarchok - Baithak Tahabil, from the Adalat revenues: (1) Rs. 15 a month as salary. (2) Rs. 30 for clothes during the Dashain festival. (3) Rs. 4 as Dashain expenses. (4) Rs. 5 for Shraddha expenses. (5) Rs. 1½ for Dwat Puja ceremonies.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 39, p. 588.

- (c) Subba Rudravir Shahi was ordered to make the following disbursements from the 1870 Vikrama revenues of Salyan: (1) Rs. 4 for marriage expenses of Chautariya Pran Shah's daughter. (2) Rs. 300 for marriage expenses of the daughter of Chautariya Pran Shah's brother, Shumshere Shah.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 39, p. 588.

- (d) On Poush Sudi 15, 1868, Gosain Hulas Giri had supplied banat robes worth Rs. 7,000 to the Palace. Payment was made to the Gosain as follows: (1) Rs. 3,000 from Ijara revenues from Rautahat for the Vikrama year 1870, according to a royal order issued to Subba Sukhalal Giri, and (2) Rs. 4,000 from the sale of four bull elephants and five cow elephants, according to another royal order issued to Daroga Damodar Joshi and other officials of the Hattisar.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 39, pp. 588-89.

- (e) Subba Gajabal Baniya of Chitwan - Belod was ordered to disburse a sum of Rs. 140 from the Ijara revenues of the Vikrama year 1870 as emoluments of Ranabir Baniya. Of that amount, Rs. 130 was in lieu of 520 muris of rice lands, and Rs. 10 as (Khuwa) revenue from kumhalgaun village, which had been assigned as Jagir to Ranabir Baniya.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 30, p. 590.
