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Ran Bahadur's Expenses in Banaras

(Continued)

Checks on the Ijaradar's Authority

The ijara granted to the gumasta of Sahu Dwarikadas to collect revenue in Morang district and transmit the proceeds to Ran Bahadur Shah in Banaras, and also to perform several other administrative and security functions, was subject to a number of checks. These may be listed as follows:

- (1) Establishment of an Adalat in Morang.
- (2) Despatch of official teams to discharge functions relating to land reclamation and settlement, and assignment of the newly reclaimed lands to newly recruited troops.

. Establishment of an Adalat in Morang

In May 1805 (Jestha Sudi 13, 1862) an Adalat was formed for the Kosi-Tista (Morang) region with Umanidhi Pantha and Jayanta Khatri as Dittas.

The Adalat's jurisdiction encompassed the region situated east of the Kosi river, west of the Tista river, south of Leute, and north of Moglan (India). Umanidhi Pantha was granted an annual salary of Rs. 900 to be raised from income collected by himself. The royal order of appointment added, "Dispense justice according to the regulations. Do not commit injustice, and do not take bribes. Show no fear or favor while dispensing justice. If any one complains to us against you, we shall hear both sides, and punish whoever is guilty. With full assurance, prove true to your salt, and act expeditiously. You shall be punished severely if you make any delay.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6 pp. 28-29.

Umanidhi Pantha of Tanahu was the son of Gunananda Pantha and the grandson of Tularam Pantha of Tanahu. On Baisakh Sudi 5, 1826 (April 1869), his father, Gunananda Pantha, had received birta and Bandha lands in the Chok area of Tanahu from King Trivikrama Sen of that principality.

(Maheshraj Panta, "Tanahunka Raja Tribikrama Senaka Dasha Aprakashita Patra" (Ten unpublished letters of King Trivikrama Sen of Tanahu), Purnima, No. 52, Bhadra 2039 (August-September 1982): p. 51).

The following royal order was issued in the name of Umanidhi Pantha on Baisakh Sudi 5, 1862:

You had previously taken the salt of the state (dhungo) of Tanahu, and proved true to it. Today, you need not remain at

home. We shall give you both work and emoluments. As soon as you receive this order, proceed on an auspicious day and come to us. Do not make any delay. Come here immediately by all means'.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 20, p. 226.

A royal order was also issued in the names of the Subba, Fouzdars, and other officials and functionaries and the common people of Morang informing that an Adalat had been formed for that district with Umanidhi Pantha and Jayanta Khatri as Dittas. The step was justified on the ground that "there is much injustice and oppression in that district, and no subject, high or low, gets justice."

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, p. 29.

On Asadh Badi 14, 1862, Umanidhi Pantha and Jayanta Khatri were assigned one patti each, headed by a Jamadar, from the two companies stationed at Vijayapur, namely, the Barahadal Company and the Devidal Company, to assist them in discharging their Adalat functions. They were also empowered to appoint 8 peons on a monthly salary of Rs. 3 each. The money was to be appropriated from the income of the Adalat'.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, p. 65.

Adalat Regulations

The following regulations for the Adalat were issued in the names of Ditttha Umanidhi Pantha and Ditttha Jayanta Khatri on Tuesday, Jestha Sudi 14, 1862'.

1. In case any ryot complains that the Subba or any other local authority or functionary has made collections at rates in excess of those prescribed in the Vikrama year 1850 (A.D. 1793), hear both sides. If the complaint is found to be true, refund the excess amount to the complainant and punish the person who has made the unauthorized collection'.
2. In case any person residing in any birta, jagir, fakirana, bekh-bunyad, or other mouja throughout the district complains that any revenue-collecting authority (amala) has treated him unjustly, hear both sides, and inflict appropriate punishment on the person who confesses his guilt.
3. In case any person is found to have sold the sadavarta or other guthi lands of temples, confiscate such lands, convert them into raikar, and place them under the jurisdiction of the Subba. Submit a statement of income accruing from such lands.

The purchaser shall be told to claim (his money) from the seller. A mathdhari (i.e., member of a monastic order) who has kept a wife shall be punished.

4. In case a complaint is received that a moneylender has collected interest in excess of 10 percent on cash loans, and 25 percent on loans in foodgrains, after the date when regulations controlling (rates of interest) were promulgated, hear both sides, and punish the person who had collected interest in excess of (the prescribed rates). The loan shall be repaid after adding interest (at the prescribed rates), and a fee of 10 percent shall be collected.
5. In case no confession can be obtained in cases which the Subba and the Fouzdar cannot dispose of, or in complaints of injustice by the Amali or other functionary, even after hearing both sides, and in case even Panchas are unable to ascertain the truth, conduct a trial by the ordeal of fire and water. Do not interfere in sources of revenue that have been placed under the jurisdiction of the Subba.
6. Scrutinize accounts of collection of the following fees and taxes, and realize arrears, if any:
 1. Gadimubarakh.
 2. Fees on copper-plate inscriptions of birta grants.
 3. Goddhuwa.
 4. Salami.
7. Grant rewards or expenses, if necessary, to any person in the course of the business of the Adalat, and transmit the salami fee to us. Reasonable expenses incurred for cushions, paper, files, oil, ink, etc. for the Kachahari will be debitted in the accounts.
8. Escheats and panchakhat incomes not exceeding Rs. 100 in each case have been included in the patta of the Subba transmit such incomes to him. Income from these two sources in excess of that figure, and treasure - troves (Kalyanadhana) shall be transmitted to us separately. Do not let leases for reclamation of virgin lands (kalabanjar) be terminated before the expiry of the prescribed term.
9. Allow the Subba, the Fouzdar, Chaudharis, Mokaddams, and Mahaldars to exercise their jurisdiction only as defined in their respective pattas. In areas which have received irrigation facilities from former times, arrange for the equitable apportionment of such facilities. Let not the supply of irrigation water be held up by force, thereby leaving lands uncultivated.

10. In case two royal or other orders have been issued for the same land, decide the dispute in the presence of Panchas, confirm the order that is appropriate, and cancell the order that has been unjustly issued. If you cannot arrive at a decision, refer the matter to us.
11. After you reach that territory, study the situation, and recommend what you consider appropriate, and we shall endorse it under the royal seal.
12. Schedules of khangi assignments (raibandi) for the two companies stationed in Vijayapur, namely, the Barahadal Company and the Devidal Company, had been approved in the Vikrama year 1861s. Check whether or not the Subedars have recruited men according to those schedules, and whether or not the men have received assignments accordingly. If any money has been misappropriated, recover it, and hand it over to the concerned soldier. If any unfit soldier has been recruited, tell the Subedar that he is unfit and will be useless in war, and have him recruit a good soldier. Do not let the prescribed number of men be reduced.

13. The following staff has been sanctioned for the Adalat:

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total Khang</u> i
Bichari	4	Rs 800
Nausinda	2	Rs 232

Any employee of the Adalat who is guilty of bribery, favoritism, or injustice shall be punished.

14. Dasharath Khatri has been sent (to Morang) to reclaim Virgin lands (Kalabajar). Find out what arrangements he has made, and how many villages he has settled; and also how many villages have been settled on Kalabajar lands through the Subbas. We have received reports that the Subba and Dasharatha Khatri quarrel with each other. Ascertain the facts, and take whatever decisions you can. Refer to us matters which you cannot decide yourself.

Tuesday, Jeastha Sudi 14, 1862

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 19, pp. 59-64.

Additional Regulations

On Saturday, Aswin Badi 13s 1862, Dittha Umanidhi Pantha and Dittha Jayanta Khatri were given the following additional instructions:

- (1) The Subba has been granted the right to appropriate a maximum amount of Rs 100 in each case of cheats and Panchakhat crimes. The excess amount, as well as treasure troves (kalyanadhana) shall be transmitted to us.

(2) Regulations promulgated in your names had authorized you to dispose of the following cases:

- (a) Cases which the Subba and the Fouzdar are unable to dispose of; and
- (b) Complaints of injustice by the Amil.

Do not take up cases which lie under the customary jurisdiction of the Ijaradar; let him dispose of all such cases. If you dispose of any case lying within the jurisdiction of the Ijaradar and collect fines not exceeding Rs. 100 in each case, hand over the income to the Ijaradar. If the fines and penalties are in excess of Rs. 100 in each case, deduct one-sixth of the amount, and transmit the balance to the Ijaradar.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, pp. 486-87s

Investigation Into Complaints Against Dasharath Khatri

Gosain Sarup Puri submitted a complaint to Kathmandu through Raghunath Puri making the following charges against Dasharath Khatri :-

- (1) He has shifted cultivators from mal lands to Kalabanjari lands on concessional (kamsaraha) terms, thus reducing revenue from mal lands.
- (2) He has arranged for the cultivation of lands which had been left uncultivated since 1804-5 by representing them as Kalabanjari lands.
- (3) He has displaced cultivators whom we had settled on Kalabanjari lands.
- (4) He has sent cultivators of mal lands to the Moglan, and is seeking to bring them back again for reclaiming Kalabanjari lands.
- (5) He has greatly harassed the people by collecting unauthorized taxes and payments.
- (6) He claims that he had been granted judicial authority and is disposing of complaints of the people before the Dittha of the Adalat has reached here.

Sarup Puri's letter to Raghunath Puri containing these complaints was sent to Dittha Umanidhi Pantha and Dittha Jayanta Khatri on Wednesday, Bhadra Badi 13, 1862 (August 1805). The two Ditthas were ordered to investigate these complaints and submit a report to Kathmandu.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, pp. 349-350.

Subsequent Assignments

On Saturday, Chaitra Sudi 2, 1865 (March 1809), Umanidhi Pantha was appointed Amanat administrator of Chitwan.¹

Jayanta Khatri was appointed Subedar and granted authority to promote settlement in the region east of the Kamala river. He was retained in that capacity at least from 1810 to 1826 A.D. and succeeded in settling many Lepcha communities in that region.² (R/74/76, 98).

References

1. Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 36, pp. 249-50.
2. "Land Reclamation and Settlement"; Regmi Research Series, Year 16, No. 5, May 1984, pp. 76-80; "A Lepcha Settlement in Eastern Nepal", Ibid, Year 16, No. 7, July 1984, pp. 98-99.

Settlement and Recruitment

On Wednesday, Jestha Sudi 7, 1865 (May 1808), the day when Ravilal Jari was replaced by Sahu Harikrishnadas as Sahu Dwarikadas's gumasta for operating the ijara for revenue - collection in Morang, Sardar Bhairav Simha Khawas was deputed to Vijayapur. Regulations promulgated in his name defined his functions as follows:

1. To assign jagir lands to the Devidal and Barahadal Companines and have the assignments approved from Kathmandu.
2. To promote settlement on surplus virgin lands assigned for that purpose, and arrange for the formation of a new military company with the newly-reclaimed lands.
3. To station the newly-recruited Company at the fort of Samari.
4. To report on the number of dhakre households in Vijayapur, their duties, and their jagirs, if any.
5. To attract settlers in the Mechi-Tista region from India as well as from birta lands, within the Kingdom.
6. To report to Kathmandu after the area of such newly-reclaimed lands becomes sufficient for the recruitment of yet another military company.
7. To send men (halkara) for collecting information from the south and the east.
8. To promote settlement only in areas outside the grant made to Ekanda and Indra Simha Karki, and the ijara of Vijayapur.

9. To report on any other necessary matter. (36/170).

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 36, p. 170

Sardar Gaja Simha Khatri's Mission

Seven months later, on Monday, Poush Sudi 2, 1805, Sardar Gaja Simha Khatri was sent to Vijayapur to perform the following functions outside the jurisdiction of the Ijaradar, Sahu Hari-krishnadas:-

1. To inspect the Vijayapur fort and repair and renovate if necessary through the Jhara labor of the local people, including dhakres and kiratis.
2. To inspect the arms and ammunition of the (Barahadal and Devidal) companies, and arrange for repairs, if necessary; not to let any vacancy remain unfilled in those companies.
3. To reprimand the Subba, Fouzdars, Zamindars, and birtaowners if they commit injustice and ruin the country, and make them take just steps; to report to Kathmandu if they do not do so.
4. To apprehend thieves, dacoits, and murderers, obtain a confession from them in the presence of the Amil, and inflict appropriate punishment.
5. To pay emoluments to the personnel of the two companies with income from the lands allocated for this purpose in areas east of the Kamala river, and meet the shortfall, if any, with funds obtained from Subba (Harikrishnadas); to transmit the surplus income, if any, to Kathmandu.
6. To remove encroachments by jagirdars, birtaowners, kiratis, and Bhotes on lands assigned to the two companies; to promote settlement on virgin (Kalabanjar) lands, and sanction emoluments (khangis) to persons who supply credit (bhota, tagavi) and settle people.
7. To send back people who enter into our territories after creating intranquillity across the borders; to expell them by force if they cannot be persuaded to leave.
8. To inspect areas (settled) by Sardar Bhairava Simha, but not to encroach upon the jurisdiction of the Ijaradar Sahu (Harikrishnadas); to submit report about the area of lands outside the jurisdiction of the Ijaradar.
9. To confirm the khangis granted under the royal seal to Ekunda on lands reclaimed by him after the initial tax exemption period is over and submit a statement of the surplus lands.

10. A royal order had been issued granting a sum of Rs. 350 and as much virgin lands as they can reclaim to the dhakres of Vijayapur. Apportion income from the reclaimed lands equitably and keep them ready for duty.
11. In case Lapchas, Limbus, kiratis, etc. who have settled in the Terai region of Vijayapur, capture rhinoceros calves, and collect rhinoceros horn or ivory, these shall be presented to us.

Monday, Poush Sudi 2, 1965.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 36, p. 205.

(See also: "A Special Assignment for Sardar Gaja Sing khatri", Regmi Research Series, Year 16, No. 6, June 1984, p. 81).

Taxation in Chainpur

I

Royal order to Yakha, Khumbu, Bhote, Murmi, Kumhal, Majhi, Lohar, kami, and Sarki households through the region (anchal) of Chainpur.

"Two annas is being paid to the munitions factory (at Kathmandu) from each household of Majhkirat every year. We hereby order you to make a similar payment of two annas each."

Tuesday, Chaitra Badi 9, 1867.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 34-35.

II

Royal order to all those who pay the Saune-Fagu levy in the form of goats throughout the Chainpur region.

"You have been paying one rupee in lieu of goats as Saune-Fagu levy. You may continue to do so in the future as well."

Tuesday, Chaitra Badi 9, 1867.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, p. 35.

III

A royal order issued on the same day prescribing the rates of Chandrayan fees in Chhathar, Fedap, Phhakphok, Tarhathar, and other areas in the Chainpur region is given in Regmi Research Series, Year 14, No. 9, September 1982, p. 137.

Enhancement of Jagir Rents, A.D. 1813-14

I

A royal order was issued on Wednesday, Bhadra Sudi 13, 1870, cancelling all adhiya allotments of rice-fields assigned to the Bajrawani Company as Jagir. The following new arrangements were then made:-

1. The rice-lands assigned as Jagir to the Bajrawani Company shall be allotted to cultivators on a de novo basis under adhiya or kut tenure, whichever may be appropriate.
2. New cultivators may be appointed from the Vikrama year 1871, except where the lands are cultivated by Ghansi or Gole workers.
3. If a cultivator who had received an allotment under adhiya tenure on payment of the Chardam - Theki fee to the previous landlord is willing to pay the enhanced kut rent offered by others, his tenure shall be reconfirmed. Otherwise, land shall be reallocated to the person who is willing to pay the higher kut rent.

Wednesday, Bhadra Sudi 13, 1870,
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, p. 347.

II

Royal order to cultivators of lands assigned as Jagir to the Kumaridal Company: "Huddas and soldiers of the Kumaridal Company have been deputed to inspect lands assigned as Jagir to that Company and fix kut rents. You are hereby ordered to present yourselves before them, divide lands into the four grades and fix rents on the basis of an average of the previous three years' yield. Cultivators who accept the kut rent fixed by the landlords for the year 1870 shall be reconfirmed, whereas those who do not do so shall be evicted. Any cultivator who makes false statements about the previous three years' yield shall be severely punished."

Tuesday, Marga Badi 1, 1870.
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, p. 371.

III

Royal order to the Jamadar and other officers and men of the Gorakhi Paltan: "In the future, men who are recruited to that Paltan shall sign a bond pledging that they will accept the khang allotted to them according to the prescribed schedule, and not leave the Paltan on any pretext, unless they are dismissed. Those who accept these conditions on their recruitment, but subsequently make any complaint or raise any pretext, shall not join the Paltan at all. Experienced soldiers who have become efficient in executing commands or in parades shall not be dismissed."

Those who join other companies after once accepting their khangis according to the prescribed schedule, and deserters, shall be punished through amputation of their nose and ears. Remain alert while executing commands as well as during parades and accept your khangis assignments according to the prescribed schedules. Those who accept the prescribed conditions in the beginning, but later make complaints and raise pretexts, and leave the Paltan, shall be punished through amputation of their nose and ears.

"An order containing these instructions has been sent to Kaji Ranjor Thapa. He will inflict punishment as commanded."

Thursday, Baisakh Badi 10, 1871.
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 543-44.

A separate order containing these instructions was sent to Kaji Ranjor Thapa the same day.

IV

Order to the Subedar and other officers and men of the Kalidatta Company: "Royal orders had been issued prescribing rents under the kut system on rice-lands assigned as your khangis. Because the order provided that the cultivators should not be evicted, they neither furnished loans nor sold their paddy in order to pay their rents. This has caused much loss to the Company. From the Vikrama year 1814, therefore, you are empowered to enhance kut rents on your jagir lands and allot them to cultivators. Do not let the fields remain uncultivated. Any person who allows fields to remain uncultivated will have to bear liability for the rents.

Wednesday, Baisakh Sudi 1, 1871.
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, p. 547.

Dharma - Bhot Affairs

Royal order to the inhabitants of Dharma- Bhot in Kumaun: "Blessings. You have submitted a petition through Kaji (Amar Simha Thapa) that you have suffered great injustice at the hands of the Amalis who have been appointed there, that villages have been ruined, and that no one is listening to your grievances. The petition has been referred to us. Because you had never submitted any petition before, we were confident that the bhardars had made appropriate arrangements. Last year, Vijaya Simha Budha of Juhar - Bhot had submitted a petition, and we had summoned him. He appeared before us, and left after we sanctioned new arrangements (thiti). If you are satisfied with the arrangements made by the bhardars who have been sent there, it is good. If not, let a capable and knowledgeable person who can make decisions regarding payments and other matters come to the Palace in time and we shall make appropriate arrangements.

Understand this, and, with full assurance, bring back the ryots who have left the area and let them reoccupy their lands and homesteads. Those who have remained there should engage in cultivation or trade as usual without any care'. You will learn about all this from Vijaya Simha Budha personally."

Sunday, Chaitra Sudi 7, 1867.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 55-56.

II

"Royal order to ryots who have fled from Dharma- Bhot to Garh : "We hereby confirm the arrangements made for you by Kaji Ranjor Thapa for the year 1869. Come back to your villages with full assurance and engage in cultivation or trade as usual'. Do not reduce the payment of Rs. 7,000 due under the thekbandi arrangements."

Saturday, Baisakh Badi 1, 1869.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, p. 80.

Enslavement and Capital Punishment

I

A royal order was issued on Thursday, Poush Badi 12, 1882 to Bichari Shivanidhi Padhya and Bichari Parath Khadka prescribing punishment as follows to the following persons:

1. Rambhadra Khatri of Simpani had employed Shivamaya, wife of Harilal Subedi of Dahachok, as his cook. He had sexual relations with her from Aswin 20, 1881 to Jestha 1882, when he fled to India. For this crime, Rambhadra Khatri's share of his ancestral property, after apportioning the shares of his brothers and sons, shall be confiscated.
2. Jasbhan Damai had sexual relations with Basundhari, a Kami girl residing in the kush lands of Gangaram Jaisi in Dingla, in Magh 1881. Both shall be enslaved.
3. Bhote Kami, a resident of Dorpagaun village in Majhuwa, had a quarrel with Daulat Chuhan of the same village. They started abusing each other on the road. Sarba Budathoki then asked Bhote Kami why, being a Kami, he was abusing a Bista in that manner'. At this, Bhote Kami took out his khukuri and hit at Sarba Budathoki, chopping off half of his ear and wounding his cheek. For this crime, Bhote Kami shall have his right arm amputated. His share of the ancestral property shall be confiscated, after apportioning the shares of his brothers and sons.

4. During the Dashain festival of 1882 Vikrama, while they were intoxicated with beer (janr) and were singing and beating on drums (madal) from door to door, Santare Rai, Hirakarna Rai, Haswa Rai, and Gambhir Rai caught hold of Gaje Kirati and ... on the pretext that he had abused Chaku Singh Kirati. For this crime, these four persons shall be enslaved, and their property shall be confiscated.
5. Chaku Singh Rai and Poud Rai, who beat up Gaje kirati with fists and kicks, thereby causing his death, shall be hanged in a public place until they are dead. Their share of the ancestral property shall be confiscated, after apportioning the shares of their brothers and sons.
6. Durga Sunuwar, a bondsman of Nayanand Joshi of Dumre had sexual intercourse with Dirpi, daughter of Rame kami of khamtel, on the second day of Ashadh 1979 and had children by her. Even then, he let his relatives take cooked rice from his hands, and other people water. For this crime, he shall be hanged in a public place until he is dead. His property shall be confiscated after apportioning the shares of his brothers and sons. Dirpi kami and her sons and daughters shall all be enslaved.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 34, pp. 141-43.

II

Lacchman, a slave of Subba Ramachandra khatri, had sexual relations with the daughter of Jasman Rana, a Magar. The woman was also accused of infanticide. Both of them confessed their crime in the presence of tharghars, and the case was then referred to Kathmandu. On Thursday, Ashadh Sudi 15, 1865, a royal order was issued in the names of the tharghars, namely, Gajabal khatri, Atibal Bogati, Bhujabal Basnyat, Dasya Bania, Sirapati Pandit, and Kirti Singh Rana, directing that the slave, Lacchman, be beheaded for the crime of sexual intercourse with a Magar woman, while the latter should be enslaved.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 36, p. 128.

Nepali Coins

By

Kamal Prasad Gnyawali

("Taksara Vibhagebata Utpadita Sikka ra Asharfi: Kati ra Kasta" ? (Sikka and asharfi coins produced by the Mint Department: How many and of what type ?), Gorkhapatra, Baisakh 26, 2044 (May 9, 1987). The author is connected with the Mint Department).

The Mint Department was established in the Vikrama year 1989 (A.D. 1932) by Prime Minister Bhim Shumshere during the reign of King Tribhuvan. In that year, the Department started its operations with one-rupee dabal coins, as well as paisa coins of the denominations of 50 paisa and 20 paisa. In the Vikrama year 1992 (A.D. 1935) it also started minting 2-paisa coins. Minting of 1-paisa coins started in the Vikrama year 1995 (A.D. 1938).

During the first decade of its operations, from 1989 to 1999 Vikrama (A.D. 1932-42), the Mint Department minted coins of a total value of Rs. 25,854,112.91. For the next decade, from 1999 to 2009 Vikrama (A.D. 1942-1952), the figure was Rs. 66,052,667.56.

On Kartik 21, 2007 (November 7, 1950), Prime Minister Mohan Shumshere placed Prince Gnyanendra Bir Bikrama Shah, the second grandson of King Tribhuvan, on the royal throne of Nepal. One-rupee dabal coins, as well as 50-paisa coins, were then minted in his name. But only a small number of these coins were minted, so they did not come into circulation.

After democracy was introduced in the Vikrama year 2007 (1950-51), King Tribhuvan made radical changes in the minting system. One-rupee dabal coins, as well as paisa coins of the denominations of 50 paisa, 25 paisa, 10 paisa, and 5 paisa, were then brought into circulation.

When the late King Mahendra ascended the throne in 2011 Vikrama (A.D. 1954), the Mint Department minted 2-tola, 1½-tola, and 1-tola asharfi coins in his name.

During the coronation of King Mahendra in the Vikrama year 2013 (A.D. 1956), asharfi coins of dagal, moher, and suki denominations, as well as commemorative coins of the denominations of one rupee, 50 paisa, 25 paisa, 10 paisa, 5 paisa, 2 paisa, and 1 paisa were minted.

During the decade from 2010-2019 Vikrama (A.D. 1953-63), the Mint Department minted coins of a total value of Rs. 32,417,033.83, that is, 50.92 percent less than during the previous decade. The decline was due to fluctuations in the value of the coinage.

On the request of FAO, Nepal minted "Food for All" commemorative coins of a special design in the denomination of Rs. 10 in the Vikrama year 2025 (A.D. 1968) and gifted 2000 such coins to FAO. Nepal won the first place among the countries minting such commemorative coins.

After King Mahendra's death on Magh 17, 2028 Vikrama (January 30, 1972), His Majesty King Birendra ascended the throne. The Mint Department minted 10-gram, 5-gram, and 3.5-gram asharfi coins on that occasion, as well as other coins of the denominations of one rupee, 50 paisa, 25 paisa, 10 paisa, 5 paisa, 2 paisa, and 1 paisa. On the occasion of His Majesty King Birendra's coronation

in the Vikrama year 2031 (A.D. 1974), the Mint Department issued a Coronation Set consisting of 25-rupee, 1-rupee, 50-paisa, 25-paisa, 10-paisa, 5-paisa, and 1-paisa coins. It also minted asharfi coins of 10 grams, 5 grams, and 2.5 grams each.

During the decade from 2010 to 2019 Vikrama (1953 to 1962), the Mint Department minted coins of a total value of Rs. 15,363,969.92 only.

During the Vikrama year 2031 (A.D. 1974), the Mint Department minted the following commemorative coins:-

- (1) FAO commemorative coins of 10 paisa and 5 paisa.
- (2) On the request of the World Wildlife Fund, it minted a gold coin bearing the effigy of a rhinoceros, a 50-rupee coin bearing the effigy of a bear, and a 25-rupee coin bearing the effigy of the damphe pheasant.

In the Vikrama year 2032 (A.D. 1975), International Women's Year, coins of the denominations of 20 rupees, one rupee, and 10 paisa were minted. These coins bore the effigies of both His Majesty king Birendra and Her Majesty Queen Aishwarya.

In the Vikrama year 2036 (A.D. 1979), International Year of the Child, 100-rupee coins, as well as 2-tola asharfi coins, were minted through the U.S. Mint.

In the Vikrama year 2036 (A.D. 1979), the Mint Department minted 50-rupee and 10-paisa coins bearing the legend "Rural Women, Awake, and March Toward Progress" on the request of FAO.

In the Vikrama year 2037 (A.D. 1980), again on the request of FAO, the Mint Department minted 5-rupee coins, as well as asharfis of 10 grams, 5 grams, and 2.5 grams.

In the Vikrama year 2038 (A.D. 1981), the tenth anniversary of His Majesty King Birendra's accession to the throne, the Mint Department minted 250-rupee coins, as well as 28.5-gram asharfis. In the same year, the Silver Jubilee of the Nepal Rastra Bank was commemorated through 5-rupee coins, and the International Year of the Disabled through 50-rupee, 50-paisa, and 25-paisa coins. For FAO, 100-rupee, 2-rupee, 50-paisa and 25-paisa coins were minted in the same year.

On the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Mint Department in 2039 Vikrama (A.D. 1982), the following coins were minted:-

- (1) 50-rupee coins bearing the legend: "Mechanization of the Mint."
- (2) 250-rupee coins, and 15.98-gram asharfis, on the 75th anniversary of the International Scouts Movement.

During the decade from 2030 to 2039 Vikrama (A.D. 1973 to 1982), the Mint Department minted coins of a total value of Rs. 69,849,212.03.

On Marga 15, 2040 (November 30, 1983), the Mint Department was transferred from the Ministry of Finance of His Majesty's Government to the Nepal Rastra Bank. The commemorative stamps minted thereafter are as follows:-

2041 Vikrama (A.D. 1984-85)

- (1) A 25-rupee coin marking the Silver Jubilee of the Auditor General's Department.
- (2) 5-rupee and 25-paisa coins for the Nepal Family Planning Association.
- (3) 2-rupee, 1-rupee, and 25-paisa coins commemorating the National Population Year.

2042 Vikrama (A.D. 1985-86)

- (1) A 25-rupee coin commemorating the Silver Jubilee of the Panchayat system.
- (2) A 5-rupee coin commemorating the International Social Service Day.
- (3) A 5-rupee coin commemorating the International Youth Year.

2043 Vikrama (1986-87)

- (1) A 5-rupee coin commemorating the 15th World Buddhist Conference.
- (2) A 5-rupee coin for FAO with the legend "Food for All".
- (3) A 300-rupee coin commemorating the first Scout Jamboree.

Such commemorative coins are minted according to designs and weight, and in the number approved by His Majesty's Government.

Similarly, the Mint Department produces medals, decorations, seals, etc. for different agencies according to specimens furnished by them.

Since Poush 18, 2042 (January 1, 1986), the Mint Department has minted the following ashraf coins:-

6286 coins of 10 grams each.

6172 coins of 5 grams each.

These ashraf coins are being sold to the public. The gold required for minting such coins is purchased from customs offices.

To meet the growing demand for small coins, the small coins section has been working from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM in two shifts daily since Kartik 4, 2043 (October 21, 1986). It is minting coins of the denominations of 50 paisa, 25 paisa, 10 paisa, and 5 paisa worth Rs. 35,000 every day.

During the fiscal year 2042-43 (1985-86), the Mint Department minted small coins as follows:-

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Value</u>
50, paisa	Rs 216,784.50
25 paisa	Rs 3,014,479.25
10-paisa	Rs 870,774.10
5-paisa	Rs 196,756.65
Total	<u>Rs 4,298,794.50</u>

For the six-month period between Kartik 4, 2043 (October 21, 1986) and Baisakh 4, 2044 (April 17, 1987), the figures are as follows:-

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Value</u>
50-paisa	Rs 811,966.50
25-paisa	Rs 1,417,501.50
10-paisa	Rs 1,771,667.00
5-paisa	Rs 137,301.50
Total	<u>Rs 4,138,436.50</u>

These coins are, handed over to the Banking Office of the Nepal Rastra Bank at Thapathali, from where they are distributed all over the Kingdom.

Drabya Shah

By

Dineshraj Pant

(Gorakhako Itihasa, Part I, pp. 46-64. Condensed).

According to the Gorkha-Rajavamshawali, King Yashobrahma Shah of Lamjung had three sons, namely, Narahari Shah, Drabya Shah, and Narapati Shah. However, the Bhasha-Vamshawali mentions only two, Narahari Shah and Drabya Shah, while, according to the Gorkha-Vamshawali, Drabya Shah was the third and youngest son of Yashobrahma Shah.

At Chhoprak, Narayan Arjyal, the astrologer who had predicted that Narahari Shah and Drabya Shah would become kings, met Ganesh Pande, who once belonged to Mukunda Sen's army. They decided to replace the Khadka King of Gorkha and install Drabya Shah on the throne.

The Court of Lamjung had given Drabya Shah the charge of defending Raginas. From Raginas, Drabya Shah maintained contacts with Ganesh Pande in Chhoprak. Ganesh Pande married the daughter of a Panta of Lamjung in order to provide a pretext for his frequent visits to that state. Ganesh Pande and Drabya Shah then jointly planned to take over Gorkha.

On the advice of Narayan Arjyal, Ganesh Pande and Gangaram Rana went to Lamjung with an invitation to Drabya Shah. Drabya Shah came to Chhoprak along with Bhagirath Panta, Sarveshwar Khanal, Keshav Bohra, and Murali Khawas. They decided to start their campaign with an attack on Liglig.

According to the tradition followed in Liglig, the man who could reach Liglig-kot first in a race on the Vijaya Dashami day would become King for that year. The incumbent king had been the winner for 10 or 12 years consecutively. Drabya Shah attacked Liglig-kot at the time when the Ghaes were choosing their king. Liglig-kot was occupied after a brief fight.

It is not possible to say how this account, based on the Vamshawalis, is true. There is no doubt, however, that Liglig was the first territory that Drabya Shah occupied.

According to the Bhasha-Vamshawali and the Gorkha-Vamshawali, Narahari Shah was King of Lamjung at the time when Drabya Shah became king of Gorkha. The Gorkha-Rajavamshawali, on the other hand, maintains that Yashobrahma Shah was still King of Lamjung at that time. However, the Gorkha-Rajavamshawali itself later mentions Narahari Shah as King of Lamjung at that time. This version, therefore, appears to be more plausible, although it is difficult to be certain.

Drabya Shah next attacked Gorkha, but was unable to occupy it even after fifteen days of fighting. Ganesh Pande, Narayandas Arjyal, Bhagirath Panta, and Keshav Bohra then took Drabya Shah to Tallokot in Gorkha in the night. They called on the Khadka king to surrender, but the negotiations failed. Thereafter, they launched an attack through Darhagaunda. The Khadka king was killed at the hands of Drabya Shah, and Gorkha was conquered.

The Shasha Vamshawali implies that Drabya Shah conquered Gorkha before conquering Liglig, but this version lacks credibility.

According to the Vamshawalis, Drabya Shah's coronation was solemnized at midnight on Wednesday, Bhadra Badi 8, 1616 Vikrama, but contemporary evidence is not available. The correct date, according to records maintained by Laxmipati Pande between 1849 and 1870 Vikrama, seems to be Friday, Bhadra 25, 1616 Vikrama.

Drabya Shah next defeated the Ghale king and conquered Upalokot.

Meanwhile, Narahari Shah of Lamjung, jealous at the success of his brother, Drabya Shah, started quarrelling with him. Their mother, therefore, made them accept the Chepe river as the boundary between the two kingdoms.

According to the Gorkha-Rajavamshawali, Gorkhali troops led by Ganesh Pande then occupied Sirhanchaok, situated to the north-west of Gorkha across the Daraundi river, and Ajirgadh. Ajirgadh seems to have formed a part of the territory of the principality of Warpak, which was then ruled by Surtan.

King Narahari Shah of Lamjung is said to have conspired to assassinate Drabya Shah after the death of their mother. He invited Drabya Shah to a place near the Chepe river to perform jointly the Shraddha ceremony of their father, Yashobrahma Shah. Drabya Shah accepted the invitation on the condition that both sides should come without weapons. Narahari Shah agreed, but had his men hide weapons on the sandy banks of the river. Drabya Shah received information of the plot from his nurse's daughter, and succeeded in crossing the Chepe and escaping to Gorkha. Narahari Shah and his men pursued him up to Gurunthok near the royal palace of Gorkha, but was repulsed by the Gorkhalis.

Neither Gorkha nor Lamjung thereafter observed the Chepe river as their boundary, but began to attack each other from time to time. Their enmity ended only after Lamjung was merged into the kingdom of Nepal in 1839 Vikrama.

Various dates have been given for Drabya Shah's death: 1627 Vikrama according to the Vamshawalis, 1626 Vikrama according to records in the possession of Ishwari Prasad Sapkota of Charanga, 1631 Vikrama according to an almanac of 1849 Vikrama, and 1645 Vikrama according to records in the possession of Major Krishneshwar Dhakal. It is not possible to say which of these dates is correct.

The Use of Firearms

According to Hamilton, one reason for the military successes of Prithvi Narayan Shah was "the introduction of firelocks, which until his time was totally unknown among the hills." But this observation cannot be substantiated by available evidence. With the possible exception of the very small principalities who lacked the means or the motivation to acquire firearms, their use seems to have been known in several states of the Himalayan region¹.

In the state of Lamjung, adjoining Gorkha, cannon seems to have been in use during the early sixteenth century.²

During Prithvi Narayan Shah's campaign for the conquest of Nuwakot in 1744, Kathmandu's forces which were defending the fort against the Gorkhalis used firearms against the Gorkhalis.³ These firearms were certainly not of local manufacture, but there is evidence that gunpowder was manufactured locally. The gunpowder spread by King Jaya Prakash Malla on the steps of the Taleju temple at Kathmandu before he took refuge at Bhadgaun in the face of the Gorkhali attack in September 1768, which later exploded and killed a Gorkhali commander, was also of local manufacture.⁴ A royal order issued to the inhabitants of 37 villages in Kathmandu valley and the adjoining areas in 1797, during the reign of King Ran Bahadur, states that they had been supplying saltpeter to a gunpowder factory in Kathmandu since before the Gorkhali conquest.⁵

States that had political and commercial relations with the rulers of northern India seem to have been able to acquire firearms on a fairly large scale. Makwanpur, which held the Tarai territories of Bara, Parsa, and Rautahat under the suzerainty of the rulers of Bengal, was one of such states. When the Gorkhalis conquered Makwanpur in 1762, they were able to seize as many as 700 muskets, as well as other arms and ammunition.⁶

Notes

1. Francis Hamilton, An Account of the Kingdom of Nepal (reprint of 1819 ed.), New Delhi: Manjusri Publishing House, 1971, p. 246.
2. Dineshraj Panta, Gorakhako Itihasa (A history of Gorkha), Kathmandu: the author, 2041 (1985), pt. 1, p. 27.
3. Yogi Naraharinath (ed.), Gorakha - Vamshawali, Varanasi: Aryavirasangha, 2021 (1965), p. 184.

4. Daniel Wright (ed.), History of Nepal (reprint of 1877 ed.), Kathmandu: Nepal Antiquated Book Publishers, 1972, p. 231n
5. "Royal order to Inhabitants of Patan, Bhadgaun, and Other Areas Regarding Supply of Saltpeter", Monday, Aswin Badi 13, 1854 (September 1797), Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 1A, p. 9. The order reconfirms the obligation, dating back to the time of the Malla kings, to supply saltpeter for a gunpowder factory at Kathmandu.
6. Nayaraj Panta etn al., Shri 5 Prithvinaravana Shahako Upadesha (Teachings of King Prithvi Narayan Shah), Lalitpur: Jagadamba Prakashan, no date, p. 844.

Bandha Land Grants in Tanahu

Six bandha land grants made by King Trivikrama Sen of Tanahu between 1800 and 1821 Vikrama (A.D. 1743 and 1764) have been published in: Pant, Maheshraj, "Tanahunka Raja Trivikrama Senaka Dasha Aprakashita Patra" (Ten unpublished letters of King Trivikrama Sen of Tanahu) in Purnima, year 13, no. 4, Bhadra 2039 (August-September 1982), pp. 47-51. These grants stipulate that "the mortgage will be redeemed when the money is paid back." These grants are as follows:-

- (1) 1 khet of ricefields along with the attached homestead at Purkot mortgaged to Ramakrishna Dhauladi for Rs 367. Baisakh Sudi 10, 1800.
- (2) 180 muris of rice-fields along with the attached homestead in the Madi area (on the banks of the Radikhola) mortgaged for Rs 900 to Bishwarup Acharya. Magh Sudi 5, 1809n
- (3) 240 muris of rice-fields in Kalru thum, along with the attached homestead, to Hira Pantha for Rs 981n Thursday, Magh Sudi 11, 1815.
- (4) 460 muris of rice-lands in Purkot and elsewhere along with the attached homestead, to Gunananda Pantha for Rs 743. Friday, Jestha Badi 14, 1816.
- (5) 160 muris of rice-lands in Purkot, along with the attached homestead, to Krishnadeva Pandit for Rs 601. Tuesday, Baisakh Sudi 14, 1817.
- (6) 200 muris of rice-fields, along with the attached homestead, to Jadhupati Pokhariya for Rs 330 and 5 dams. Chaitra Sudi 10, 1821.

The following is another bandha land grant made by king Trivikrama Sen in Tanahu.

Royal order to Maniram Tewari: "King Trivikrama Sen had granted 240 muris of rice lands in the village of Kategaun to you as bandha-bitalap on payment of Rs 1,381n. We hereby confirm the grant. You shall comply with any arrangement that may be made subsequently regarding Mohariya grants of the 8000 households of Tanahu."

Ashadh Badi 10, 1845
Regmi Research Collection, Voln 5, p. 716n

Land Tenure and Taxation in Nepal

By

Kaviraj Shyamaldas

(Source: Vir Vinod, by Kaviraj Shyamaldas, Court Poet of Maharana Sajjan Singh (1874-1884) of Mewar, Rajasthan. The 2800-page work was printed in folio size in a limited edition in Udaipur around 1890. Facsimiles of Folios 1809-88, along with an introduction, have been published in Theodore Riccardi, Jr.n "An Account of Nepal from the Vir Vinod of Shyamaldas", Kailash, Vol. III, No. 3, 1975, pp. 199-286. The translation given here covers the text from Folios 1831-34, corresponding to pp. 229-32 of Kailash.)

Systems of land tenure and taxation in Nepal are as follows:

In the Kingdom of Nepal, peasants whose lands do not yield paddy pay tax at the rate of one rupee per household every year if they possess yokes of oxen. There is no limit to the area of land which such households may cultivate. Such peasants pay only one rupee even if they possess fifty yokes of oxen. If a peasant has only one ox, he pays tax at the rate of twelve annas a year. A peasant who does not possess any oxen of his own, but borrows oxen from others to plow his fields, pays a tax of only eight annas a year. Peasants of these three categories are known as Hal, Pate, and kudala respectively.

In addition, every peasant household pays two annas a year as Saune-fagu, and one anna as Sarvachandrayan. The Sarvachandrayan tax is paid to the Dharmadhikari Pandit appointed by the king, who sends his men to villages and localities with a scrip, known as pativa, containing a verse in Sanskrit absolving the payee of sins according to the scriptures. The Dharmadhikari issues similar scrips in cases relating to adultery, which contain a detailed account of the offense on payment of fees as follows:

Rs 3½ from persons who take food from the hands of adulterers.

Rs 1½ from persons who take food from the hand of those mentioned above

14 annas from persons who take food from the hands of those mentioned above.

Payment of such fees results in absolution.

A person who takes water from the hands of a woman who had sexual relations with a person whose touch pollutes water (rendering it unfit for use by persons belonging to higher castes) may receive absolution on payment of half the fees mentioned above.

Absolution is granted on payment of one rupee and twelve annas to a person who has tied a cow in such a manner that it dies."

Fees are similarly collected for absolution from several other offenses as well. So long as offenders or polluted persons do not obtain such scrips of absolution, they are not entitled to share water or food with other persons belonging to their caste.

On rice-lands, half of the crop is collected as tax. On the occasions of the sacred-thread investiture ceremony of the eldest royal prince, as well as of a royal coronation, additional taxes are collected as follows:-

Hal ... One rupee

Pate ... 12 annas

Kudale... 8 annas.

A similar tax is collected on the occasion of the wedding of the eldest royal princess."

Whenever a new King ascends the throne, weights and measures (dhak, pathi, kuruwa, mana) are stamped again on payment of a fee of eight annas from each household.

These taxes are collected from free-hold landowners and merchants as well, but only at the discretion of the vizier.

Ordinary ryots, whether or not they are government employees, pay the Sarvachandrayan tax at the rate of eight annas per household.

In times of war, a levy known as rasad is collected in kind from peasant households at the following rates:-

Hal ... 16 pathis, that is, slightly more than 1½ maunds.

Pate ... 12 pathis, or 1¼ maunds.

Kudale ... 8 pathis, or 30 seers.

Payment for these foodgrains is made at 150 percent of the current rates, and the peasants are obliged to deliver them at the prescribed place. A peasant who grows 200 maunds of rice has to supply 5 maunds, and the rates are proportionate to the

output. Tax-free landowners are required to make payments in cash equivalent to one-third of their total output. Such landowners own lands under birta, bekh, phikdar, marwat, jiuni, manachamal, petiya, and chhap tenures.

Birtas are granted to Brahmins through copper-plate inscriptions.

Bekh is granted to Kshatris and others.

Tax-free land grants made to Shudras are known as phikdar. The reason is that the king spits betel-juice on the document recording the grant.

Marwat lands are granted to the children of persons who are killed while discharging their official duties.

The king cannot resume lands of the four categories mentioned above. The lands are inheritable and salable.

Life-time land grants are known as jiuni. Manachamal grants are made to meet living expenses, which are listed in detail in the document recording the grant.

Petiya lands denote lands granted by the state to foreigners for their maintenance.

Chhap lands are granted to persons of high social status.

No taxes are collected from merchants in the beginning of a war. Collections are made from them at rates based on their capacity.

Common people everywhere have to supply 16 pathis or 1½ maunds of paddy from each household and obliged to transport it to the prescribed destination. They are, of course, paid for the supplies at the rate of eleven or twelve annas each, but the obligation to transport such supplies to distant destinations through hilly terrain is a source of considerable hardship. In remote areas in the hills, horses or other pack-animals cannot be used, so that everything has to be transported through porters.

The inhabitants of villages through which government supplies are transported have to provide portage services for such supplies up to the next village.

On lands located near the big towns, half of the produce is taken as rent, irrespective of the type of the crop.

In the Tarai region, land taxes amount to between two rupees and five rupees on each bigha according to the grade. The people of that region are also required to pay all the other taxes mentioned above, with the exception of Sarvachandrayan. As regards the rasad levy, it is collected at the discretion of the vizier.

Gorkhali Rule in Garhwal

By

Dr. Shiva Prasad Dabral "Charan".

From A.D. 1803 to 1815 (1860 to 1872 Vikrama), Amar Simha Thapa kept himself preoccupied with plans to expand the Gorkhali empire to Kangra, Jammu, and Kashmir after overrunning several principalities in Himachal Pradesh. His mercenary troops from Doti, Kumaun, and Garhwal, who numbered twice the Gorkha troops, kept shedding their blood for the sake of making the people of Himachal Pradesh slaves of the Gorkhalis on the orders of the Gorkhali commanders.

No detailed study has been made so far regarding the way Doti, Kumaun and Garhwal were administered at that time. Doti is now a part of Nepal. Gorkhali rule over Kumaun was generally described as "Gorkhyol", which we will describe in the history of Kumaun. In this chapter, we will describe the main features of Gorkhali rule over Garh, known as "Gorkhyani".

The King of Nepal directly ruled over Kumaun for nearly 25 years, and over Garh for 12 years. The Gorkhali authorities were required to remain in constant touch with the Palace in Nepal. They regularly received orders bearing the royal seal from the Palace. It was necessary for them to receive prior permission from the Palace for executing any important plan. Occasionally, they were transferred after a short period on the orders of the Palace. However, no contemporary register, document, diary, or record providing coherent and detailed information about the authorities who ruled the regions to the west of the Kali river, and about their work is available in Kumaun, Garh, Himachal Pradesh, or Nepal.

Materials shedding light on this subject may be available in the private libraries of reputed families in Nepal. However, efforts of scholars of Nepal, India and foreign countries to acquire them have not yet been successful. The rule of the Rana family, who must have possessed such materials, came to an end in 1951. No effort has been made since then to search, compile, preserve, edit, and publish those materials.

So far the following materials on Gorkhali rule in Garh written in the Gorkhali language have been found.

(1) Letters written by the Gorkhali authorities to the Kamins of Gujardu and Dhangu, including the orders of Hastidal Chautariya, Kaji Randhir Simha Basnyat, Bhaktibir Thapa, Tularam Adhikari, and others. These documents are in the possession of the descendants of Kamins Vishnu Simha, Gorla Rawat, and Autar Simha Rawat.

(2) Copper-plates dating back to the reign of Ran Bahadur Shah and Girban Yuddha Bikram Shah, which are preserved at the Kamaleshwar Temple of Srinagar, the Kedarnath Temple, the Ukhirmath and other temples. Some other copper-plates referred to by Traill, which, according to Atkinson, were in the possession of the District Office at Pauri, but are said to have disappeared.

(3) Sanads issued by Gorkhali officials to individuals and temples, which are mentioned by Traill.

(4) Documents on land tenure arrangements issued by Gorkhali officials particularly, Kaji Bahadur Shah Shandari and Bakshi Dasharath Khatri, in favor of several kaminss. On the basis of those documents, Traill had made a preliminary land settlement in Garhwal.

Maularam's Works

The works of Maularam, a contemporary writer, particularly Rajavanshakavya, Ranabahadur Chandrika and Shumshere Jung-Chandrika, and his miscellaneous poetry selections, provide much important and interesting information about the Gorkhali conquests and administration of the western hill region. In 1867 Vikrama (A.D. 1810)s Kaji Bakhtawar Simha Basnyat, who had been sent by the Nepal Palace to the western front, reached Srinagar. At his request, Maularam described to him in detail the Gorkhali administration since 1861 Vikrama (A.D. 1804)s. Pleased with him, Bakhtawar Simha Basnyat gave him 61 gold sovereigns, a horse, a robe, and weapons as a reward. He also restored to Maularam his jagir villages, and the daily allowances which had been suspended by his predecessors.

Maularam composed the Bakhtawar Yasha-Chandrika, and dedicated it to Bakhtawar Simha Basnyat. The work dealt with the past, presents, and future of Gorkhali rule over Garh. Maularam probably revised this work after the end of the Gorkhali rule. Like the Garhrajya-Vamshakavya, this work predicted that Gorkhali rule in the region west of the Kali river would eventually collapse. I have tried hard to find this work, but so far I have not been able to do so. Manmathasagara and one other book written by Maularam, are also said to shed some light on contemporary politics. However, not only Manmathasagara but also six other works of Maularam have mysteriously disappeared. In the form of answers to questions by Maniram Bairagi, Maularam has also described in a separate poem the political changes which had resulted in the destruction, in 1875 Vikrama (A.D. 1818) of Srinagar, which had been a thriving city in 1812 Vikrama (A.D. 1755). Only one page of this work has been discovered so far.

During Gorkhali rule, Captain Raper, Lt. Webb, Captain Hearsey, Colebrooke, and Moorecroft had toured Kumaun and Garh and collected vital information. Rutherford and Hodgson also had tried to gather information from different sources. Shortly after the Gorkhali rule, Fraser had toured Tehri and Garhwal and recorded much interesting information.

Other Sources

Information made available by Harshadeva Joshi regarding Gorkhali rule to Cherry, Graham Fraser and Hearsey, materials compiled by Traill on the basis of documents concerning the Gorkhali administration, accounts of Garhwal and Kumaun, written by Moorecroft and others in the early days of British rule, reports of Beckett, Batton, Poe and others, documents preserved in the archives of Tehri state, and the pre-mutiny British records preserved in Pauri, Dehradun and Almora, provide important information about Gorkhali rule in Garhwal. During the Gorkha war, letters written by some Gorkhali commanders, as well as by several Garhwalis passed into the hands of employees of the East India Company. These letters contain interesting information about the contemporary situation. Several contemporary documents are preserved, albeit in scattered form, in the Uttar Pradesh State Archives in Allahabad and the National Archives in Delhi.

Military Rule

As in Kumaun, the Gorkhali rule in Garh state was essentially military in character. In this state, the Gorkhalis had three battalions of troops each comprising five companies. These troops were paid emoluments from the local revenues. The number of troops stationed in each garkha depended on the amount of revenues collected there. Thus, according to a letter written by Sardar Bhakti Bir Thapa in March 1807 (Chaitra 14, 1864), revenues in Dhangu Garkha were used to pay emoluments to 25 soldiers. The responsibility of collecting revenue and handing over the same to the Sardar was entrusted to kamins. Any delay in this regard was not tolerated by the troops. Kamins were entrusted with the responsibility of handing over a sum specified in a written order issued by the Sardar immediately after receiving it. The presence of Gorkhali troops in every garkha turned the Gorkhali rule into a most cruel one and reduced the subjects of Garhwal to the status of slaves forced to supply provisions to the army. They could be sold as slaves in case they failed to pay their taxes.

Although Kumaun and Garh were both under Gorkhali military rule, there was a notable difference between their administrative systems. During their 14-year rule from A.D. 1790 to 1804 (1847 to 1861 Vikrama) the Gorkhali governors of Kumaun initially treated the subjects brutally, but later started improving relations with them. Due to the absence of any new campaign of military conquests during that period, they had, thanks to the active cooperation of opportunists like Joshi, gradually shaped the administration of Kumaun in a way which helped to bring the rulers and the ruled closer to each other. On the other hand, the Gorkhali commanders in Garh had had to engage in a continuous campaign of conquests in the western region immediately after their occupation of Garh. They were competing with each other for getting as much credit as possible in that campaign. They were no less attracted by the wealth accumulated by the unorganized principalities of Himachal through generations, as well as by the prospect of satisfying their sensual and other desires.

The governors assigned to Garh usually stayed away from that state in order to be able to continue their campaign of conquest in the Himachal region, or to maintain their siege of Kangra fort'. They delegated their functions in Garh to their assistants or representatives, who were called Bichari (judge) or Achari (deputy administrator)'. These Bicharis and Acharis considered themselves representatives of the governor and exercised all his powers at their own descretion.

These days, high-ranking authorities are subjected to criticism if they appoint their relatives in important posts. But during the Gorkhali rule, the authorities had full freedom to do so. Indeed, the state itself accepted such a practice as justified. Many of the officials stationed in the conquered territories to the west of the Kali river belonged to the Thapa family. The top authorities appointed Bicharis and Acharis as their representatives usually from among their relatives, since they were regarded as more trustworthy. It was believed that such representatives would never do anything that might harm the interests and prestige of the top authorities who were their own relatives'.

In Garh, as in Kumaun, administrators with the ranks of Subba, Naib Subba and commander (Senapati) were appointed. The Subba was the Chief Officer of the province or state'. There were one or more Naib Subbas under him who managed the affairs of different administrative units'. The commander (Senapati) was the chief military officer of the army deployed in the state'. According to his orders, companies of Gorkhali troops assisted in maintaining order and security as well as in the collection of revenue. It is difficult to say anything about the exact nature of the relationship among Subba, Naib Subbas and commanders (Senapatis). Traill, who took over the administration of Kumaun and Garhwal shortly after the end of the Gorkhali rule, did not find any definite clue in this regard'.

In modern times, the authorities of the state are divided into two main categories: civil and military'. Authorities belonging to the two categories have separate jurisdictions, powers, and duties'. But no such arrangement existed during Gorkhali rule. No restrictions were imposed on the conduct of these state functionaries, who were directly appointed by the Nepal Palace. It was not necessary for these functionaries to be educated and civilized. Nor did any age limit apply to them. They were usually transferred according to the orders of the Nepal Palace, and were all responsible to it.

Relations among some of the authorities of the state were not good. They sent reports about each other's faults to their superiors as well as to the Nepal Palace. They did not have a clear-cut policy regarding the way they should deal with the subjects'. For instance, a criminal punished or imprisoned by one officer could be freed by another if the latter so desired. They also followed contradictory policies in dealing with foreigners'.

During British rule, Garhwal was made just a pargunna or Tahasil of Kumaun. Even after Garhwal was up-graded to a district in 1839, Kumaun remained the headquarters of all government departments stationed there, and remains so. Garhwal was subsequently upgraded to the status of a division with a Commissioner, but the headquarters of government departments have been retained in Kumaun. During Gorkhali rule, Kumaun and Garhwal were administered as separate and independent units. Accordingly, Subbas, Naib-Subbas and commanders (Senapatis), were separately appointed for the two units. The whole of Garh state (including Tehri and Doon) was considered part of Garhwal. The state was divided into three Tahasils, namely, Srinagar, Langur (or Dhangu), and Kainyour (or Chandpur). Srinagar was the headquarters of the state.

Military Leadership of Amar Simha Thapa (1804-15)

On his return from Kashi, Ran Bahadur Shah appointed Amar Simha Thapa as military commander in the region west of the Kali river. Amar Simha Thapa was a brave, courageous and dedicated planner and successful commander. The troops had boundless faith in him. They were ready to participate in any battle under his command. Both soldiers and civilians believed that Victory always smiled on him. He had a moustache, kept his beard and hair long. He used to wear an iron helmet and an iron shield. Amar Simha Thapa was fair in complexion. He was handsome and strong. His eyes were deep and impressive. Certainly he was the greatest military commander of Nepal, for he had sent the flag of Nepal flying as far as the fort of Kangra across the Sutlej river. From A.D. 1804 to 1815 he remained the supreme military governor of the conquered territories, stretching from the Kali river to the region beyond the Sutlej. The Subbas, Naib-Subbas and commanders appointed by the Nepal Palace were required to act as ordered by Amar Simha Thapa. The Nepal Palace acted according to his advice in matters concerning the administration of the conquered territories to the west of the Kali river. Only those persons in these areas whose loyalty was confirmed and commenced by Amar Simha Thapa were granted Jagirs by the Nepal Palace.

During 1860-61 Vikrama (A.D. 1804) when the Gorkhali army was engaged in a campaign to conquer the valleys of the Alakananda and Bhagirathi rivers, and the Doon region, after defeating Pradyumna Shah, Amar Simha Thapa was the supreme military commander in both Kumaun and Garhwal. Hastidal Chautariya was appointed Naib Subba, and Kaji Ranadhir Simha Basnyat as commander for Garh under him. So far, I have not found the original texts of orders issued by Amar Simha Thapa with regard to the administration of Garh. But a document issued by Hastidal Chautariya and Kaji Ranadhir Simha is available. It contains the seal of Hastidal. The two men jointly issued it to the landowners of Sanglakoti.

There was one special reason for despatching Hastidal Chautariya and his brothers to the western front. At that time, an intense power struggle was taking place between the Thapa and Chautariya factions. After the assassination of Ran Bahadur Shah by Sher Bahadur Chautariya, Bhimsen Thapa, Prime Minister,

obtained a good pretext for eliminating the Chautariya sardars, who were powerful foes of the Thapa faction. He immediately had Sher Bahadur, Narasimha Kaji, Tribhuvan Kaji and Bidur Shahi who were prominent Chautariyas, executed. But it was not possible to wipe out all powerful Chautariya sardars. Bhimsen Thapa removed many of them from their posts, and confiscated their Jagirs. Anticipating strong opposition to any attempt to execute Brahma Shahi (Bam Shah), an uncle of the king, and his two brothers, Hastidal Shahi and Rudravir Shahi, Bhimsen Thapa deputed them to the western front. There was little possibility of these Chautariya Sardars raising the banner of revolt once they were posted in distant Kumaun and Garhwal, where Amar Simha Thapa, a close confidant of Bhimsen Thapa, was chief military Commander.

At the time of the Gorkhali attack on Garh state a majority of the rural people of Salana, who were familiar with the atrocities of the Gorkhalis, had fled to the plains in panic. The inhabitants of the central part of this area had shifted to pasture areas along with their livestock. Several villages, where none stayed to look after crops or cultivate farms, became depopulated.

It was in this manner that villages in Doon valley became depopulated. Anarchy prevailed in the Tarai areas in the south of Kumaun and Garhwal. Oppressed by their administrators, the local people fled to the hills or to the plains, but nowhere did they find security. Archibald Seton, British Commissioner of Kashiपुर, has given a description of the state of anarchy that prevailed in Kumaun under the administration of Rudravir Shahi. His description applies to Garh as well. A terrible famine ravaged Rohilkhand, Moradabad and the southern regions of Kumaun and Garhwal in 1860 Vikrama (A.D. 1803). Public life became insecure in those regions because of the depredations of Hedi, Mewali, and other lawless elements. It was in this situation that Amar Simha Thapa made an attempt to restore order and tranquillity in Garh with the help of the former officials.

Amar Simha Thapa made preliminary administrative arrangements in Srinagar with the cooperation of former Defdaris, Kamins, and other functionaries and respectable people. He tried to enlist the cooperation of Maularam and other prominent and influential persons. He left the traditional land system of the state unchanged. As before, Kamins remained responsible for the collection of revenue in the village. Nor was any change made in the practice of collecting duties at ferry-points. Land endorsements made by the Kings of Garh to temples were reconfirmed. Amar Simha Thapa did not interfere with the Jagirs and allowances of those officials who cooperated with the new rulers. Accordingly, they pledged their cooperation. Amar Simha Thapa appointed Ranjit Kunwar, Angad Sardar, and Sardar Parashuram Thapa, his deputies, as chief of the three revenue divisions of Garh, namely, Srinagar, Langur, and Kainyour (Chandpur).

(To be Continued)
