

Editorial

We offer the second issue of The Bhutan Journal of Bhutan Watch to readers. It gives us an immense pleasure and satisfaction to some extent. It is an unofficial link between the Bhutanese Diaspora and Bhutan. This issue also carries many grievances of the past and the agony of unsolved issues. This journal like the first one also carries sentiments and contents of Bhutanese diaspora more than Bhutan.

The political prisoners detained on charges of demanding democracy in the country are still in prisons even after 12 years of democracy. The king, who is above the law is raising an army and is in an early phase of running a parallel government.

The year 2020 also the year of coronavirus pandemic put the global population indoor for most of the time of the year. For the first time after 1990, the issue, discussion, and news on Bhutanese refugees as well as Bhutanese Diaspora remained frozen throughout the year. There were ample opportunities to raise the issues of the Bhutanese refugees in Nepal to a new height. Situation was ripe after a long time.

António Guterres, who had visited Bhutanese refugee camp as the head of UNHCR became the UN Secretary General. Filippo Grandi, who is actively interested in solving Bhutanese refugee problem became the head of the UNHCR. In Nepal, majority government was formed for the first time after many decades. The Bhutanese refugee camps are in the Constituency of the Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, who was also an important figure in the bilateral talks with Royal Government of Bhutan and the international organisations in the past. Since the start of the refugee saga, the blame of the failure to solve the refugee issue was crowned on the instability of the Government of Nepal. After the formation of majority government in Nepal, the hopes were high that it would stand strong to negotiate on the issue. In Bhutan too, a new government was headed by a more moderate and sensible prime minister. All the situations were positive except for the relief supplies to the refugees in Nepal. Their relief support was withdrawn crippling all their energy and resources necessary for a movement. The ripe situation could not be turned into an opportunity.

The refugees in the camp have lost the direct guardianship of the UNHCR. While the education of children in refugee camps is now nobody's responsibility, thereby, pushing refugee children to mass illiteracy, there are promising stories coming out of Bhutanese community in resettled countries.

There is only one way to keep the issue alive and retain a link between the Bhutanese Diaspora, refugees and their country - that is through writing and telling stories.

This issue is neither complete nor sufficient. It leaves abundant topics and issues to be covered in future issues. The challenge remains that there are limited individuals who can write in the format of a research article, and those who do may not have access to the right contents. This journal shall remain dedicated to documentation and dissemination of valuable research findings related to Bhutan and Bhutanese people in the country and in Diaspora.

We are aware of the changing dynamics in research and academic discourse and the necessity to sustain the quality and scope of this journal. We invite potential authors, reviewers, and mentors to channelise drafting of research articles by maintaining the standards.

We anticipate continuous support from the distinguished authors and valuable readers.

Editors