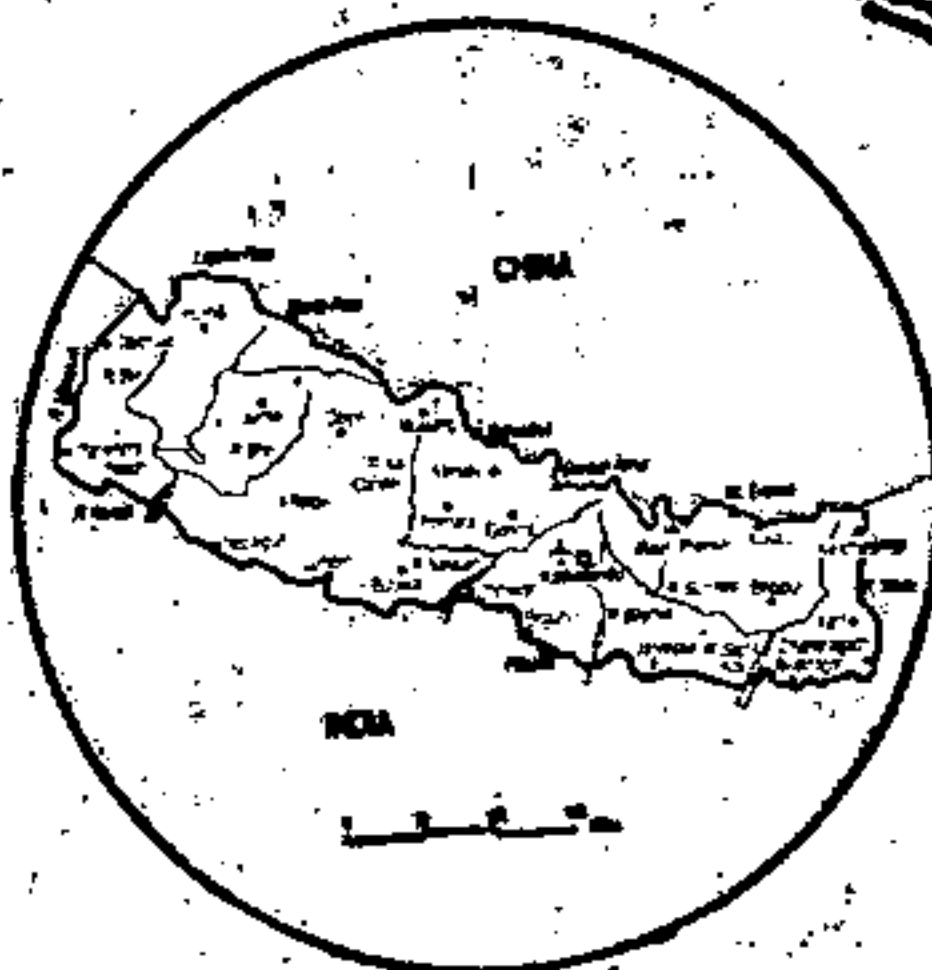




King Birendra



## Nepal maintaining good ties with neighbours

By A Staff Reporter

Nepal, the landlocked Himalyan Kingdom, with a total area of about 56000 square miles under dynamic leadership of King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev is striving to become economically self-reliant.

The objective led it to promote better ties with the neighbours and its relation with Bangladesh is excellent.

The country has a population of 1.70 crore, 90 per cent being Hindu, 6 per cent Buddhist and 3 per cent Muslims. There were 69 lakh labour force and only 6 per cent people live in cities located mainly in Kathmandu Valley.

Hardworking Nepalese have a rich heritage and culture and a large number of them work in India.

While the northern Nepal is cool, its southern Terai part is temperate where most of the agricultural land is located. One of the most important aspect of Nepalese economy is tourism round the Himalayas.

In recent days, according to officials of Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, drought had reduced the output of agriculture sector, the backbone of the economy.

In 1981-82 Nepal's total food production was 3.9 million tons. Agriculture's contribution to GDP was 60 per cent in 1982-83.

The Cattle breeding, however started to show encouraging results. Over 9.5 per cent was contributed to GDP.

The industrial sector is still in infancy and rely mainly on imported raw material. As it

happens to most developing countries, the industries often faced raw material shortages.

The basic principles of Nepal's foreign policy is to maintain friendly relations with neighbouring as well as other countries of the world. It is nonaligned country and this was reflected when King Birendra addressed

the 7th Non-aligned summit in New Delhi he reaffirmed Nepal's commitment to the ideal of Non-alignment Movement.

Nepal is also emphasising the need for establishing the New International Economic Order and South-South cooperation.

King Birendra is moving cautiously to achieve viable and stable economy to emancipate the poor people of Nepal.