



FREE



एसएसबीले दियो  
डाँकाबाट मुक्ति

Page 13 »

Big mountains  
to big apple

Page 26 »



Nepali Aawaz  
April 14.06 • Baisakh 1.63  
Vol.1 Issue 13  
nepaliaawaz.com

# नेपाली आवाज

## United we stand



Photo: Brian Sokol

The Seven Party Alliance's "decisive movement" for democracy was supposed to be peaceful, but the defensive government never gave

it a chance. Now the movement has grown beyond just the SPA's initiative as thousands of general civilians are rising up to demand the restoration of

democracy in Nepal, defying curfew and risking their lives. And King Gyanendra and the Nepali government stand alienated at home and abroad more

than ever before.

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### Diaspora

#### New Year Celebrations



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### Entertainment

"म पथ्यरको देवता हैन....., बितेका कुराले....., भन्थिन मेरी उनी....., मेरो आखामा....., भिरमा उनीनु त्यो एउटा कुरा....., हर रात सपनीमा ऐठन हुन्छ....." यस्ता दर्जनौ कालजयी गीतका गायकक, संगीत सर्जक दिप श्रेष्ठ नेपाली संगीत क्षेत्रका चम्कीला ताराको रूपमा रहेका छन् । नेपाली आधुनिक संगीतका एक अग्रज सर्जकका रूपमा रहेका दिप श्रेष्ठका ३ सय जती गीत रेकर्ड भईसकेका छन् ।

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### Nation



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Photo: Subel Bhandari

### Politics

On 11 April French Presidents Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin and their government were forced to rescind the new youth labour law after two months of relentless protests headed largely by students. The government had also come under pressure from unions, business community amongst others.

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SURAHİ PRESENTS

# NEPALI NEW YEAR NEPALI SANJH



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# Days in Nepali History

## April 1949- 1992

### Establishing Nepal's diplomatic relations

Although April 2006 has been devastating for Nepal's diplomatic relations, it was during this month in history that Nepal established many diplomatic relations around the world:

20 April 1949 with France  
25 April, 1947 with United States of America  
4 April, 1958 with Federal Republic of Germany  
15 April, 1968 with Bulgaria  
20 April, 1968 with Romania  
29 April, 1968 with Algeria  
15 April, 1971 with Ethiopia  
8 April, 1972 with Bangladesh  
18 April, 1975 with Cambodia  
14 April, 1984 with Tunisia  
28 April, 1987 with Venezuela  
20 April, 1992 with Estonia and Latvia

## 30 April, 2001

The documentary "Killing Terraces" directed by Dhurba Basnet nominated for screening at the Telluride Film Festival to be organised in Colorado, USA.

The short film documented the impact of Maoist violence in areas such

as Rolpa, Rukum and Jajarkot districts of west Nepal. 50 movies were chosen from 300 movies, which had competed for the nomination.

## 29 April 2002

Nepalnews.com says, "The Chinese authorities are installing the life size statue of the renowned Nepali sculptor Arniko in Beijing on May 1, the Arniko Society said Sunday." Arniko's 50 meter high White Stupa in Beijing was built in 1271 A.D. The statue of the artist was made of bronze by sculptors in Nepal. Chairman of the Arniko Society in Nepal, Anup Bhattarai, along with two members of the society left for Beijing to attend the ceremony, co-organized by the Arniko Society and the White Stupa Management Committee of China. "Arniko had gone to China in 1260 when he was only 16. He worked for eleven years to build the white stupa, a masterpiece of Nepalese arts and craft. His work contributed immensely to promote Buddhism in China," the news portal reported.

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# April.2006

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*Nepali Aawaz family would like to wish all the Nepalis a happy New Year 2063. May the new year bring us a loktanrik Nepal, paving the way for our hopes of a peaceful and prosperous Nepal.*

*We would also like to take this opportunity to announce that Nepali Aawaz will soon begin publishing its "Nepal Edition." We thank you for your support.*

# In Quotes

"The king should understand the situation. If he doesn't, God save the king."

- **Girija Prasad Koirala**, the senior most leader of the Seven Party Alliance that has organised the on-going protests in Nepal and the President of the Nepali Congress Party, while talking to the media in Nepal earlier this week.

"We are all ready here. When will Kathmandu rise? Until and unless Kathmandu rises, there is not much we can do from here. We are all set. There are people everywhere. Everyone participates in the movement. The police leaves when we ask them to. They do not do anything. We easily outrun them. But, it all makes no sense until it happens in Kathmandu. Here we are all anxious and excited and ready."

- **30-year-old Thir KC**, Pastor and President of a local social organization, speaking to Nepali Aawaz correspondent Subel Bhandari about the situation in Eastern Nepal town of Itahari on the 5th day of the ongoing pro-democracy protests in Nepal.

"OHCHR-Nepal does not condone in any way acts of violence committed by some demonstrators. However, it is time for the Government, and for all commanders of police and other security forces involved in policing demonstrations, to recognise that this level of violence against civilians is not acceptable and is against the obligations of the State. I urge the Government to reconsider its position on the right to peaceful assembly, and to give the security forces the clearest instructions to act only with the minimum necessary force in policing demonstrations. And I urge demonstrators and demonstration leaders to only use peaceful means of protest."

- **Ian Martin**, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

Rights on 11 April, on the escalating violence as people try to stage peaceful pro-democracy rallies in Nepal.

"Canada calls on the Government of Nepal to immediately release all those arrested and to respect the right of its citizens to peacefully protest, and calls on all protesters to engage in non-violent demonstrations."

- **Canadian Ambassador to Nepal Lucie Edwards**, in a press statement released by her office on 12 April, on the on going protests in Nepal.

"As a friend of Nepal, we must state that King Gyanendra's decision 14 months ago to impose direct palace rule in Nepal has failed in every regard. The demonstrations, deaths, arrests, and Maoist attacks in the past few days have shown there is more insecurity, not less. The King's continuing failure to bring the parties back into a process to restore democracy has compounded the problem. The United States calls upon the King to restore democracy immediately and to begin a dialogue with Nepal's constitutional political parties. It is time the King recognizes that this is the best way to deal with the Maoist insurgency and to return peace and prosperity to Nepal."

- **Sean McCormack**, Spokesman, Washington, DC, making the opening statement during the Daily Press Briefing on 10 April, on King Gyanendra's direct rule over the country since 1 Feb. 05. to bring "peace," "stability," and "meaningful democracy."

"May the efforts at ensuring sustainable peace and meaningful democracy in the interest of the nation and people bear fruit during the New Year."

- **King Gyanendra**, ending his national address on the occasion of the Nepali New Year 2063. During the speech, he also called on all political parties for dialogue and applauded the "perseverance, courage and discipline" of the security forces in 2062.

# Diaspora

## Nepalis in Japan for democracy in Nepal



Photo: Peace and Democratic Nepalese Forum Japan

Peace and Democratic Nepalese Forum, Japan (PDNFJ) organized the first ever protest rally and demonstration in Tokyo, Japan against the “current autocratic royal regime” of Nepal and to express solidarity with the ongoing peaceful movement for democracy there. The program was organized on 6 April to coincide with the day in the 1990 when the people’s movement for democracy then had reached the climax and forced the then autocratic panchayet regime to give in to forces of democracy.

Coordinator of the forum, Mahesh Shrestha, amongst others addressed the gathering in Todoroki Park near the Royal Nepalese Embassy. The demonstration then turned into a protest rally in the area around Royal Nepalese Embassy. During the event, a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, King Gyanendra, was handed to the Royal Nepalese Ambassador Dr. Ramesh Ananda Vaidya. “The success of

democracy depends on the strength of civil society and having seen the strength he is optimistic about the future of democracy in Nepal,” the ambassador told those gathered. He also requested them to look at the current crisis from all the angles in order to have a better perspective. Besides the letter, the gathered demonstrators also

told the Ambassador that those present for the rally denounce the violence committed by both state and rebels and welcome the effort of seven party alliance to bring Maoists to political mainstream. They also made clear that they are not affiliated with any political parties.

Demonstrations were then carried out in front of the National Diet Building (Japanese parliament) to draw the attention of Japanese Government and the other international communities about the situation of Nepal and to demonstrate the aspiration of Nepali people for a lasting peace and an inclusive democracy.

A delegation led by Mahesh Shrestha then held separate meetings with lawmakers of Liberal Democratic Party, Democratic Party of Japan, Social Democratic Party and Japan Communist Party and urged them to raise their voice against the violation of human rights, curb on civil liberties and arbitrary detention of political and civil society leaders by the government of Nepal.

The team also held meeting with the officers of ministry of foreign affairs and informed them about the view of general Nepali public on current Nepali crisis. More than 100 people, including some Japanese nationals, participated in the protest.

## Nepali diaspora aids democratic movement

There mustn’t be a single Nepali across the world today who is not aware of the current movement for democracy in Nepal and the fatalities and severe injuries caused by the security forces used by the government to quell this movement. Signs of support and solidarity for the movement have come in from Nepali communities abroad not just in press-statements but also as cash-funds to help treat those injured by the state’s brutality against the peaceful demonstrators. \$5000 was contributed by Nepalis in Russia while individuals across the US are now already sending money or are in the process of collecting it.

Janandolan Primary Health Treatment Fund, chaired by famous

actors and satirists Haribansha Acharya and Madan Krishna Shrestha, has been the most popular and effective organization so far. It has been learnt that while this fund was initially used to treat the injured demonstrators at Kathmandu Model Hospital, its coordinators are now trying to distribute funds for treatments in other hospitals across Kathmandu and in other parts of Nepal as well.

On behalf of the Nepali civil society in New York and all those who believe in a democratic Nepal would like to appeal to Nepalis and friends of Nepal to contribute what you can to ensure those actively involved to bring democracy in Nepal are not abandoned by us in this time of need.

## International Nepali Biomedical Society (INBS) founded

Nepali scientists from around the world have come together to form and launch the International Nepal Biomedical Society (INBS), whose headquarters will be based here in the United States. The primary objectives of the society will be to help promote biomedical education and research in Nepal, and to foster effective communication between biomedical scientists, societies and educational institutes in Nepal, and those from around the world.

“INBS aims to provide a platform for all Nepali students, scientists and other professionals of Biomedical Sciences located throughout the world,” said Dr. Gopal Sapkota, a postdoctoral scientist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, USA, and one of the ad-hoc executive committee members of INBS.

The non-profit organization also plans to initiate regular seminars

and workshops in Nepal with notable Nepali and foreign scientists invited as speakers. They also plan to establish a library in Kathmandu so that the latest scientific journals and text-books become readily available for Nepali scientists and students alike.

The society will be ably guided by a group of distinguished scientists from Nepal and abroad, including the world-renowned Nepali scientist Dr. Uttam Lal Raj Bhandary, the Lester Wolfe Professor of Molecular Biology and Associate Head of the Department of Biology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Dr. Cliff Tabin, a

professor of Genetics at Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts. More details can be found about the INSB at their official website [Nepal-biomed.org](http://Nepal-biomed.org)

## Former member of Parliament Koirala dead in Texas

Prakash Koirala, who had been elected as a member of parliament from Sindhuli in 1991, was found dead in Benny’s Ice House in Grand Prairie on 10 April. He had been living in the United States for the last 10 years and was working at the Grand Prairie when he died. Initial reports said that he was shot by assailants who set fire to the Prairie, but the official cause of death

is not yet known as the investigation is still on going. His body was severely burnt when found.

Prakash Koirala lived in Arlington, TX, with members of his family and an active member of the Nepali community. On behalf of the Nepali diaspora, Nepali Aawaz would like to express our deepest condolences to his family and friends.



## Diaspora

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## ANA Convention 2006

The ANA (Association of Nepalis in Americas) Convention, held in different cities in the US every year during the 4th Of July weekend, is the most popular Nepali gathering outside of Nepal, drawing close to 5000 Nepalis to the host city. This year, New York is host for the convention and the organizers claim it will be the biggest ever, but oddly enough its actually taking place in New Jersey. The organizing committee New York Nepali Youth Club (NYNYC) talked to Nepali Aawaz about the upcoming mega-event, why its being hosted across the river in Jersey and more.

**Everyone is waiting for this year's ANA Convention. How is the preparation for it going?**

Since the day New York Nepali Youth Club (NYNYC) accepted the challenge of hosting the biggest ANA event ever, we have been preparing for this event. We have now tightened our belts and rolled up our sleeves. The organizing committee has been meeting periodically and forming sub-committees to work on various aspects of the convention. In turn the sub-committees are focusing on their particular areas. However, this is a monumental task and we still have a

lot to accomplish. But with the present excitement amongst our members and coordinators, and support from every interested personal and organizations we here at the NYNYC are confident that the event will be a grand success.

**What will make this year's convention different from last year's or the one's before?**

This is going to be the biggest ANA event ever, we cannot stress this fact enough. The organizing committee, spearheaded by NYNYC, is comprised of relatively young individuals with new ideas and fresh vigor. But since the event is for the people of all generations, we have been planning and organizing the event with constant guidance and involvement from our senior advisors. The theme for this year's Convention is "Come Together, Initiate Change!" We will try and incorporate the theme throughout the event in all forums and programs. At the end of the convention we plan to come out with a publication that will capture the sentiments, concerns and conclusions of the Nepali Diaspora and hopefully we can circulate/communicate it amongst us and in Nepal as well. We want to take this opportunity of coming together of the Nepali community to initiate

change and work toward a brighter Nepal.

**This year's convention is supposed to be in New York but its being held in New Jersey.**

This is purely due to logistics. New York is a wonderful city but at the same time extremely expensive. We wanted to make sure the attendees get the experience of their lifetime without causing a strain on their expenses. After analyzing various parameters such as cost, distance from the airport, space for cultural shows, sporting facilities and proximity to New York City, New Jersey's Sheraton Hotel came out as a distant winner among all other options. Sheraton at Newark is very accessible from New York City through public transportation and also in terms of driving back and forth. We believe ANA guests will get the best of both worlds, being in Newark

**The concert is always a big part of the convention. Who's going to perform this year?**

As always this is the biggest question and of most interest to a lot of us. The organizing committee is evaluating every proposal and request and is also negotiating with the artists. We are in the final stage of the talks

with the key performers and bands of Nepali entertainment industry and we assure you that this year's Concert will be something terrific to look forward to. We will keep you posted as soon as we finalize the artists.

**Sporting has always been a key part of the convention too. What's in store this year?**

With all the youth involvement and excitement, and due to the fact that NYNYC is organizing the event, sports is going to be a very big part of this convention. To make it a quality sporting event, we have focused our effort on key sporting events only, including Men Soccer, Men and Women basketball and Men Volleyball. Our website (ananyc.org) will have more information for the events and how to register your team for them. We will try to update the scores as soon as possible and give as much focus and preparation as we can. We want all sporting events to have as much participation as possible.

For more information on how to contribute to the event or participate in organizing this event, please visit [www.ananyc.org](http://www.ananyc.org) and contact one of the coordinators. For details on NYNYC, visit [NYNYC.org](http://NYNYC.org).

# Diaspora

## New Year's party guide:

The Nepali New Year is just across the weekend and while many Nepali communities from the diaspora have already hosted events for it last weekend, here is a quick guide to some of the events happening this weekend and the next.

### Hong Kong

New Year's Eve 2006. Performance By Kranti Ale, Deepak Bajracharya, DJ Ram & DJ Tanak. Thursday, 13 April, 10 PM. Venue: Skitz, "Wan Chai." \$150 (Ladies) / \$ 200 (Gents)

### UK

Shangrila Experience. New Year's Eve Party With DJ Nawin & DJ Bickey. Friday, 14 April, 7PM. Venue: Tycoon Club 1261 Greenford Road, Middlesex, UK. £15.00

### USA

**CA:** New Year 2063 Party. Saturday, 22 April, 7PM. Venue: Columbia Hall 214, Ave. I, Redondo Beach. Suggested donatoin \$15 (12-year-olds and up), \$5 (6-11-year-olds).

**CT:** Nepali New Year 2063 with live music and more. Sunday, April 16, 5:30PM. Venue: West Hartford, Connecticut. More info: Raj Kunver 860-833-8757

**CO:** Ek Saanjh. Saturday, 15 April, 4:30PM. Venue: Lake Middle School, 1820 Lowel Blvd., Denver. RMFN Member student \$5, Non-RMFN student \$7, RMFN member \$7, Non RMFN member \$10.

**NY:** Nepali New Year Celebrations 2063 B.S. At Cornell University. Performances by New York Kala Manch. Saturday, 15 April, 2PM. Venue: Martha Van Rensselaer (MVR) Hall Auditorium

(MVR 166), Cornell University, Ithaca.

**NY:** Nepali New Year Nepali Sanjh. Performances by Unwritten, Karma Band (from Texas) and more. Saturday, 15 April, 7:30PM. Venue: Dhaka Club, 59-15 37 Ave, Woodside, NY.

**MN:** Himalayan Vibe with DJ Harkay, Karma & Sugam. Saturday, 15 April, 10PM. Venue: Nochee, Minneapolis, MN. \$10

**WA:** Nepali New Year 2063. Cultural dances and shows by local talents from the community and delicious dinner. Saturday, 22 April, 5PM. Venue: Egan Hall (same hall where the last Dashain was celebrated), 123 N 79th St., Seattle, WA.

**TX:** Nepali Society of Texas presents Naya Barsha 2063 Sanjh. Featuring Samday Sherpa, Bijaya Lama, Dendi Sherpa and more! Saturday, 15 April 8PM. Venue: State Bank of Texas (Banquet Hall), 605 West Airport Freeway, Irving. \$20 (kids under 7 free).

**MD:** New Year's Party. Sunday, 16 April, evening. Venue: Kumari Restaurant, 911 Charles St., Baltimore. \$10 incls. snacks.

### Canada

Spring Bling with DJ Sonam Feat. Spin Dawg. Saturday, 15 April, 10PM. George Brown College, Casaloma Campus, Toronto. \$10.

### Australia:

Sydney: Nepali New Year 2063 Celebration. Traditional Nepali dinner and cultural performances. Saturday, 15 April, 6PM. Venue: Cottage Street (off Victoria & Williams St.), Werrington. Advance tkt sales, contact 02-47338963

## Nepal discussed at international conference in California

On 6 April, Global Majority and Monterey Institute of International Association and Conflict Resolution organized a public forum to discuss the topic "The power of civil society: Promoting Dialogue, Averting violence" in Monterey California. Nepal Supreme Court Advocate Dinesh Tripathi represented Nepal at the conference, one in many international and national conferences focusing on human rights and conflict resolution that he has taken part in during the last six months. "State terrorism and state lawlessness is the biggest issue in Nepal," he said during his presentation

on Nepal. "The royal military regime has responded in a very cruel and ruthless manner to the peaceful and nonviolent movement launched by the seven party alliance and massively participated by civil society."

The forum that lasted for three days and also adopted advocate Dinesh Tripathi as one of the international advisers of Global Majority. He has been actively lobbying to make Nepal liable to the International Criminal Court and challenging the legal grounds under which the King has consolidated power in Nepal.

## ANMN's annual basketball tournament



Photo: ANMN.ORG

The Association of Nepalis in Minnesota (ANMN) is perhaps one of the emerging larger Nepali associations in the US. And apart from sharing good times, the community members have also had the misfortune of losing three Nepali college students who died in a car accident last winter. ANMN managed the funeral services for the students. While ANMN has about 300 registered members, there are about 1,500 Nepalis in Minnesota.

"Time to look forward." says a message posted on their website on February this year. And that is just what ANMN is bracing for over the

weekend as it hosts the Second Annual New Year Basketball tournament. The one day event will be held on 15 April at the Sheridan School (1201 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis) at 12PM. The tournament is open to all Nepali teams and although the participating teams pay a registration fee of \$50, audiences can watch the games for free. The New Year celebrations will extend to cultural programs and performances and dinner. New Year's Party Guide in our Diaspora section for details.

Nepali Aawaz is the official media partner for the Association of Nepalis in Minnesota.



Photos: Chandraprakash Sharma Belbase

Above: Prof. Taranath Niraula speaks at the America-Nepal Friendship Society, INC's "Celebrating the Nepali New Year 2063" party on 8 April. The party was held at the Dhaka Club in Queens and featured Nepali music and performances. Below: Langhali (Magar) Association USA celebrated its first annual gathering in New York on 25 March. About 400 people from different states came for the program organized to preserve the Magar heritage here in America.



# Diaspora

## New York's first Nepali Mandir

New York is a cultural melting pot and Jackson Heights, Queens, is one of the biggest South Asian community center in the state. While the Bengali, Indian and Pakistani communities have long established themselves, the Nepali community has only started to stand on its feet in the last couple of years. As part of the growing process for the Nepali community, New York is now home also to the state's first Nepali temple, "Nepali Mandir Inc," a new Nepali cultural center for the community.

For years, Nepalis have been using temples established predominantly by the Indian community. These temples, conveniently located in the Jackson Heights area, have also been venue to many event hosted by the Nepali community. But with Nepali Mandir Inc. all that might soon change.

The Mandir, on 62st and 34Ave, also has a hall space large enough to comfortable accomodate 150 to 200 people. "This is perfect for meetings and events," said one of the people who attended its public launch on 9 April. The first floor of the 34-11 building, in which the Mandir is housed, has 4 rooms, a kitchen and the hall. One of the rooms is the Mandir's "worship room" with a statute of Ganesh, the Shivalinga, Buddha and a rare photo of Pashupatinath temple in Kathmandu along with commercially available framed photos of other Hindu gods and even Sai Baba. The adjacent room serve as the temple's office and the third room will be a place where Nepalis can use computer, printer and the internet for free. Across the hall is a room which New York's buddhist community use as a gumba.

During the Mandir's public opening, Buddhist members of the



Photos: Kashish Das Shrestha

Nepali and Himalayan community conducted prayers in the gumba while outside in the hall, Mandir's founder Chandra Prakash Sharma Belbase, also one of the three publishers of Nepali Aawaz, conducted pujas as almost 150 Nepalis gathered for the event. "This makes me so happy, to know that there is a Nepali mandir in New York," said an elderly Nepali woman, as she settled down to pray. Swami C.P Parajuli conducted the inaugural pujas for Nepali Mandir.

The Mandhir, although pras a Hindu temple, is not only a religious and cultural center but also a not-for-profit social service endeavor for the Nepali community. It aims to help Nepali immigrants with everything from free legal consultations, job searches, housing placements/ searches, school searches to even the basics such as free internet access and free photo copy services.



## Nepal Ireland Society

Ireland is perhaps not the most common destination for Nepalis to live, study and work in. It wasn't until 1984 that the first Nepali settlers moved to the country, but even after two decades there are only about 400-500 Nepalis in Ireland, of which about 150 live in Dublin itself.

Some of the earliest Nepali settlers in Ireland were Krishna Dongol, Ganga Ram Shrestha, Ram Narayan Poudel, Prakash Mali, Shiva Gautam and Mr. Jivan Timilsinam all of whom in 2000 helped form the Nepal Ireland Society. Despite much expectation, the Society remained dormant. But by 2000, the number of Nepalis moving to Ireland had begun to increase, and with more Nepalis came more enthusiasm to launch the Nepal Ireland Society in a sustainable manner.

On 14 April 2004 NIS managed

to host the first ever major event, a grand Nepali get-together in IT Blanchardstown, on the occasion of the Nepali new year. The overwhelming response motivated the Society to continue with regular events, not just gatherings abut also competitions for arts, music and sports. NIS also donated 1030 Euros for Tsunami victims in South-East Asia through the Irish Red Cross Society.

Nepal Ireland Society might be young, but they have managed to "successfully operate SMS communication," and maintain an official website (nepalireland.org) they are preparing for a more challenging project of launching the first Ireland based Nepali newsletter.

Nepali Aawaz is the official media partner for Nepal Ireland Society.

## Nepalis in New York protest for democracy

On 14 April, Nepalis in New York will gather to protest against the violent atrocities being performed against pro-democracy forces in Nepal by the country's government headed by King Gyanendra. The protest will also call for a restoration of democracy in Nepal and is being organized to show solidarity with those fighting for democracy back home. A delegation of Nepali activists and members of the civil society in New York are also planning to form a delegation to meet with Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Nepal to the United Nations, Madhu Raman Acharya, sometime next week. The rally on Friday is The rally is sponsored The Nepalese Democratic Youth Council in USA (NDYCUSA), Alliance for Democracy and Human Rights in Nepal, and United Democratic Forum.

A similar pro-democracy was held

on 16 September last year, during Nepal's participation in the UN General Assembly. The Nepali delegation to the UN, originally to be headed by King Gyanendra, was eventually lead by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ramesh Nath Pandey. It was speculated that the King cancelled his participation after many heads of states expressed their disagreement with his government's undemocratic ways. It was also reported that the Nepali Embassy also failed to convince members of the Nepali community to host a welcome program for the King.

Protest details:

**14 April, 3PM**

**Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 47th street and 1st Avnue**

**New York, NY 10017 (Infront of United Nations Head Quater)**

## Nepal Association of New England (NANE) established

Nepal Association of New England (NANE) is a non-profit organization established in November 2005 in Connecticut, US, perhaps the youngest Nepali Association in the US today. After a meeting in early November last year, the founding members of the association got busy contacting as many Nepalis in the area as possible and today there are almost 70 registered members in NANE.

The objective of the association, the founders say, will be to preserve and promote Nepali culture, amongst Nepalis as well as friends of Nepal. It also hope to be able to create a goodwill and a support system amongst Nepalis in Connecticut.


NANE is hosting a Nepali New Year's party on 16 April. Please check New Year's Party Guide in our Diaspora section for details.

# Diaspora



Dendi Sherpa, one of the biggest names in Sherpa culture and performances, was one of the three headlining artists that performed for the New Year 2063's party in Boston on Monday. Samday Sherpa, Bijaya Lama and Dendi Sherpa are on an American tour, organized by the Sherpa Kyidug Society of America. Read more about the Entertainment section of this issue of Nepali Aawaz.

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[www.trackabuzz.com/Alliance](http://www.trackabuzz.com/Alliance)



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## Society

लोरा लुकास- उप-निर्देशक, अमेरिकी केन्द्र  
“चलचित्र संस्कृति, समय र समाजलाई व्यक्त गर्ने जर्बजस्त माध्यम हो।”



Photo: Dr. Pradeep Bhattarai

### Pradeep Bhattarai

काठमाडौंस्थित अमेरिकी केन्द्रकी उपनिर्देशक लोरा लुकास अहिले चर्चामा छिन् । मार्च ५ मा आयोजित अस्कर अवार्डका कारण चलचित्रकर्मीहरूको महिनाका रूपमा लिइने मार्च महिनालाई काठमाडौंस्थित अमेरिकी केन्द्रले 'अमेरिकी मुभी मन्थ'का रूपमा मनाउने निर्णय गरेर १५ महान अमेरिकी चलचित्र प्रदर्शन गरिरहेको छ । यस आयोजनाको पर्दा पछाडिकी वास्तविक नायिका लोरा नामभन्दा पनि कामका बारेमा चर्चा हुनुपर्ने पक्षमा छिन् । यद्यपि, उनी मुश्किलले काठमाडौंस्थित हाम्रा व्यूरो पमुख डा. प्रदीप भट्टराईसँग अन्तर्वार्ताका लागि तैयार भइन् ।

अमेरिकी मुभी मन्थ आयोजनाको खास उद्देश्य के हो ?

विश्व विख्यात एकेडमी अवार्ड मार्च ५

मा लस एञ्जलसमा सम्पन्न भयो । हामीलाई लाग्यो विगतका महान अमेरिकी चलचित्र देखाएर तिनीहरूका बारेमा अवगत गराउने यो उपयुक्त मौका हुनसक्छ । केही वर्ष पहिले अमेरिकी फिल्म इन्स्टिच्यूटले १०० उत्कृष्ट चलचित्रहरूको सूची प्रकाशमा ल्याएको थियो । हामीले त्यस सूचीबाट १५ छानेर प्रदर्शन गर्ने निर्णय गर्यौं ।

चलचित्र छनौटको आधार चाहिं के लाई बनाउनु भयो ?

हामीले दुइवटा आधार बनायौं, पहिलो हामीलाई मन परेका चलचित्रहरू छान्यौं, दोस्रो नेपाली दर्शकहरूले मन पराउने खालका चलचित्रहरूको अनुमान गर्यौं । यसो गर्दा हामीले मिस्टर स्मिथ गोज टू वासिङ्टन जस्तो र जनीतिक चलचित्र पनि छान्यौं, स्टार वार्स जस्तो विशुद्ध मनोरञ्जक चलचित्र पनि छान्यौं । संजोग भन्यौं, स्टार वार्स मेरो बाबुको रोज्जा चलचित्र हो, मलाई लाग्छ उहाँले त्यो चलचित्र २०० पटक हेरिसक्नु भयो होला ।

तपाईंलाई के लाग्छ, अहिले हलिउडमा बनिरहेका मूलधारका चलचित्रहरूले अमेरिकी समाज र संस्कृतिको प्रतिनिधित्व गर्छन् ?

गर्छन् पनि गर्दैनन् पनि । मलाई के लाग्छ भने चलचित्र मूलतः नाटकीय हुन्छन् यो वाध्यता पनि हो । सामान्य रूपको वास्तविकता त्यति धेरै रोचक नहुने भएकाले शकहरू पनि अलि बढी नाटकीयता भएका कथाहरूमै आकर्षित हुन्छन् । त्यसैले हलिउडले भरिशक्य पृथक र अनौठा कथाहरूमा चलचित्र बनाउँछ र त्यसलाई थप नाटकीयता दिन एनिमेशन प्रविधिको प्रयोग पनि भरपूर गर्छ । यसले चलचित्रलाई थप रोचक र दर्शकीय बनाउँछ । यति हुँदाहुँदै पनि हलिउडका कतिपय चलचित्रहरूले अमेरिकी समाज र संस्कृतिलाई प्रस्तुत गरिरहेका छन् ।

सांस्कृतिक-भूमण्डलीकरणमा अमेरिकी चलचित्रको प्रभाव कतिको छ जस्तो लाग्छ ?

अमेरिकी चलचित्रको सांस्कृतिक-भूमण्डलीकरणमा पर्ने प्रभावका बारेमा यसै भन्न गाह्रो

छ । अमेरिकामा भएको सूचना प्रविधिको विकासले अमेरिकी चलचित्रको वितरण प्रणालीलाई विश्वव्यापी बनाउन यथेष्ट मद्दत गरेको छ । तर, संसारभरिकै दर्शकहरूले के बुझ्न जरुरी छ भने उनीहरू चलचित्र मनोरञ्जनका लागि हेरिने हेका हुन्छन्, आवश्यक छैन कि ती चलचित्रहरूले वास्तविक अमेरिकी समाजको नै प्रतिनिधित्व गरिरहेका हुन्छन् ।

तपाईंलाई नेपाली चलचित्रका बारेमा केही थाहा छ ?

मलाई नेपाली चलचित्रका बारेमा थाहा छैन । मैले नेपाली चलचित्र हेर्ने मौका पनि पाएकी छैन । किनकि म नेपाली भाषा बुझ्दैन र धेरैजसो नेपाली चलचित्र अंग्रेजीमा सब-टाइटल भएका छैनन् । म चाहन्छु धेरैभन्दा धेरै नेपाली चलचित्रहरू अंग्रेजीमा सबटाइटल हुन सक्नु । तर, मैले नगरकोटतिर नेपाली चलचित्र छाँयाङ्गन भएको देखेको छु । धेरै वर्ष अघि नै नेपाली चलचित्र ब्याराभान अस्करमा नामांकित भएको सुनेर म प्रभावित भएकी छु । मलाई लाग्छ, नेपाली चलचित्रहरू राम्रा र रमाइला हुनुपर्छ ।

यसपटकको अस्करको परिणामलाई कसरी लिनुभएको छ ?

मैले नामाङ्कन भएका पाँचमध्ये चार फिल्म हेरेको छु । अस्कर अवार्ड हेर्ने भने मैले पाइन । तर, क्रास उत्कृष्ट चलचित्र भएकोमा मलाई खुशी लागेको छ । यो वास्तवमै राम्रो चलचित्र हो ।

तपाईं नेपाली चलचित्र उद्योगको सफलताका लागि के सल्लाह दिनुहुन्छ ?

म चलचित्र विज्ञ होइन, त्यसैले म सल्लाह दिनका लागि आफूलाई योग्य ठान्दिन । तर मलाई लाग्छ चलचित्र संस्कृति, समय र समाजलाई अभिव्यक्त गर्ने एक जर्बजस्त माध्यम हो । नेपाली चलचित्रमा लाग्ने सबैले यस सत्यलाई बुझ्ने हुनुपर्छ भन्ने मलाई लाग्छ । म उहाँहरूलाई आफ्नो चलचित्रमा नेपाली संस्कृति, समय र समाज प्रस्तुत गर्न सफलता मिलोस् भन्ने शुभकामना दिन्छु ।

## दोश्रो मि.पूर्वान्चलमा हर्कराज लिम्बु

### Anand Koirala

दोश्रो मि.पूर्वान्चल २०६२ को उपाधि ६० के.जि.तौलका हर्कराज लिम्बु (माजेस्टि जिम) ले जितेका छन् । २०६० सालका मि.धरान समेत रहेका लिम्बुले ४६ जना प्रतिस्पर्धीलाई उछिन्दै हर्कराज ले उपाधि हात पारेका हुन ।

एलाईनेट जिम धरान तथा सुनसरी ब्युकोशिन कराते डो जो संघ धरानको आयोजनामा शनिवार धरान सभागृहमा आयोजित प्रतियोगिताको फस्ट रनर अप उपाधि (फिजिकल फिटनेस धरान) ६०

के.जि.समुह का मन कुमार गुरुडले तथा सेकेण्ड रनर अप मा रवि व्ययामसाला विराटनगर का ७५ के.जि.का मणिलाल डंगोल ले हात पारे । ५ तौल समुह मा प्रतिस्पर्धा गराइएको मि.पूर्वान्चल विजेता ले मि.नेपाल मा प्रतिस्पर्धा गर्न पाउने छन ।

त्यसैगरी २०६२ को १२ औ मि.धरान मा फिजिकल फिटनेसका ७० के.जि.का कविर भगत प्रधानाड.धोषित भए । ४ तौल समुह बाट १३ प्रतिस्पर्धी सहभागि प्रतियोगितामा ५५के.जि.का सुमन श्रेष्ठ (युनिक हेल्थ क्लब) तथा पूर्ण तामाड.६० के.जि. (माजेस्टि जिम धरान) क्रमस



Photo: Ananda Koirala

फस्ट तथा सेकेण्ड रनर अप धोषित भए ।

खचाखच दर्शक उपरि थत सभागृह मा प्रतियोगिताको प्रमुख निर्णयकमा शारिरिक सुगठन अन्तराष्ट्रिय निणयक राज भगत प्रधानाड., शिव मुखिया, पुष्प श्रेष्ठ, दिनेश श्रेष्ठ, सिजर राज भण्डारि, र सोम प्रसाद पोखरेल रहनु भएको थियो

कार्यक्रममा मि. नेपाल राम बा. दहालले शारीरिक प्रदर्शनी गरेका थिए ।

# Society

## नेपाली चलचित्रको एक सिंगो इतिहास अर्थात् बसुन्धरा भुपाल

Anand Koirala

बसुन्धरा भुपाल नेपाली चलचित्र क्षेत्रको एक सिंगो इतिहास हो। नेपालमा निर्मित पहिलो नेपाली चलचित्र आमाबाट आफ्नो चलचित्र अभिनय यात्रा प्रारम्भ गर्नुभएकी बसु दिदी नेपालकै पहिलो महिला हाँस्य अभिनेत्री हुनुहुन्छ। पहिलो नेपाली यथार्थवादी चलचित्र परालको आगोकी नायिका गौथलीका रूपमा होस् या चलचित्र सिन्द्ररकी नक्कलीका रूपमा होस्,



बसु दिदी नेपाली चलचित्र इतिहासमा कलियै नमेटिने अक्षर भइसक्नु भएको छ।

बसु दिदीसँग इतिहास छ, कीर्तिमानहरू छन्, मान पदवी, तक्मा र सम्मान मात्र होइन, पुरस्कारका लामो फेहरिस्त पनि छ। नेपालजस्तो सानो र छोटो चलचित्र, नाटक र काँचको पर्दाको इतिहास भएको देशमा बसु दिदी एकलैको भागमा ४० नाटक, २५ अपेरा, ८५ कथानक चलचित्र र ६० टेलिचलचित्र परेका छन्, यिनीहरूको नामावली मात्र छाप्यो भने पनि इतिहासको धेरै पृष्ठ खपत हुन्छ। चार पृष्ठ लामो करिकुलम भिटे भइसक्दा पनि दिदीले तिनीहरूको नाम उल्लेख गर्न ठाउँ पाउनु भएको छैन। बसुन्धरा भुपाल सबैको बसु दिदी बन्नका लागि तय गरेको यात्राको एक सानो छनक मात्र हो त्यो।

नेपाली कला क्षेत्रमा कलाकर्मीका रूपमा सक्रियता मात्र बसु दिदीको परिचय होइन, तत् सम्बन्धमा बनेका संघ संस्थाहरूको नेतृत्व गर्ने इतिहास पनि बसु दिदी एकलैसँग छ। नेपाल चलचित्र कलाकार संघको एक मात्र महिला अध्यक्ष बसु दिदी अहिले चलचित्रसँग सम्बन्धित सबै संघ संस्थाहरूको छाता संस्थाकी संस्थापक अध्यक्ष हुनुहुन्छ। उहाँको साहस, लगनशीलता, समर्पण र एकलव्य यात्राले नै बसु दिदीलाई त्यो

इतिहासको असली हकदार बनाएको हो। यी तमाम कीर्तिमानहरूका अगाडि एउटा कुरा भन्न सकिन्छ, बसु दिदी नेपाली महिला कलाकर्मीहरूमा न भूत न भविष्य नै हुनुहुन्छ।

महिला हकहित, धर्म अभ्यर्चना र समाजसेवा बसु दिदीको व्यक्तित्वका अरु आयामहरू हुन्। उहाँले जुन समय र परिवेशमा हुर्केर जुन हैसियतको किताबी शिक्षा लिनुभयो र त्यसको अनुपातमा नेपाली समाजलाई जे दिनुभयो, त्यसको ग्राफ कतै मिल्दैन। उहाँले आफ्नो अथाह ईच्छाशक्तिका कारण आफ्नो वास्तविक

त भन्ने नै भए, प्रशंसकहरू पनि दिदीका आँसु धेरै बगेकोमा खुशी हुन सक्दैनन्।

दिदीको अर्को साहस भनौं या कमजोरी, कहिलेकाँही आफ्नो क्षमताले बोक्नै नसक्ने भारी बोक्न पनि रहर गर्नुहुन्छ उहाँ। त्यसलाई ढिपी अनि लिडेढिपीका रूपमा बुझ्दा अन्ततः त्यो दिदीकै लागि कतिपय अर्थमा भारी पनि परेको छ। दिदी आफ्नो सानो कोठरीमा रमाउनु हुन्छ र त्यो कोठरीले कहिलेकाँही दिदीको सोभोपनबाट फाइदा पनि लुटेको छ। यसो गर्दा कलिकाँही दिदी नरिसाउनुपर्ने व्यक्तिसँग रिसाइर खेको र कतिपय अर्थमा भगडा पनि गरिरहेको भेटिनुहुन्छ। यो बसु दिदीको कमजोरीभन्दा पनि उहाँको सोभोपनको प्रयुत्पादक परिणति हो।

कलाकारहरूको सिंहासन भनेको दर्शक, स्रोतहरूको हृदय हो। बसु दिदी लाखौं नेपालीहरूको मनको सिंहासनमा कहिल्यै उठ्नु नपर्ने गरी राज गरिसक्नु भएको छ। त्यसैले उहाँका अगाडि पद, कुर्सी, पदक, मान, सम्मानले अब खासै अर्थ राख्दैन, यो बेकारको कुरा हो। तर, कहिलेकाँही दिदी भावनामा बहकिएर पद र र कुर्सीका लागि पनि चित्त दुखाइरहनु भएको भेटिन्छ। उहाँका शुभचिन्तकहरूलाई समेत दिदीले यसरी सानो मन गरेको जाती लाग्दैन।

समग्रमा बसु दिदी नेपाली चलचित्र फाँटकी सिंगो इतिहास हुनुहुन्छ। नेपाली महिला कलाकार मा उहाँलाई छुने कुनै उचाई नै छैन। सेलिब्रिटी हुनु एउटा कुरा तर कलाकारको कुरा गर्दा बसु दिदीलाई त्यो सिंहासन प्राप्त छ, जो नेपाली चलचित्रमा महिला कलाकारका लागि न भूत न भविष्य नै हो। संख्या, समर्पण, गुण, कीर्तिमान, साहस, निरन्तरता र उपलब्धी, बसु दिदी कुनै पनि अर्थमा उन्नाइस हुनुहुन्न। त्यसमा पनि जुन कालखण्ड भएर उहाँले यहाँसम्मको यात्रा तय गर्नुभयो हरेक समय र सन्दर्भमा खट्ने उत्रन सक्ने त्यस्तो व्यक्तित्व त्यसमा पनि हाम्रो समाज सन्दर्भमा नारी व्यक्तित्व विरलै पाइन्छ।

बसु दिदी जति कलाप्रति समर्पित हुनुहुन्छ राजा, राजमुकुट र माटोप्रतिको श्रद्धा पनि उहाँको रौरौमा त्यत्तिकै जवर्जस्त उनीएको पाइन्छ। पछिल्लो समय देशमा बहूदो अशान्ति, मारकाट, हत्या र आतंकका कारण नेपाली चलचित्र क्षेत्रमा

परेको नकरात्मक प्रभावका कारण बसु दिदी निककै हतास र दुःखी देखिनुहुन्थ्यो। शायद त्यही कारणले हुनुपर्छ, पारिवारिक भ्रमणमा अमेरिका पुग्नुभएको रहेछ।

भाइ चन्द्रप्रकाशले दिदीका वारेमा केही लेखिदिन आग्रह गर्दा मैले आफूलाई सौभाग्यशाली ठानें। तर दिदीका वारेमा लेख्न मेरो लागि सजिलो छैन, किनकि दिदी मलाई अत्यन्तै माया गर्नुहुन्छ, मेरो मात्र होइन, मेरी विरामी श्रीमतीको पनि त्यत्तिकै ख्याल गर्नुहुन्छ तर पनि हामी अर्काका लागि कतिपय भगडा गरेका छौं, कयौं यात्रामा सँगै हुँदाहुँदै पनि कतिपय यात्रामा विपरित मोर्चामा बसेर भगडा पनि गरेका छौं। तर दिदीलाई थाहा छ, त्यो हाम्रो व्यक्तिगत भगडा होइन, ध्रुव फरक भएर भगडा गर्दा पनि हामी नेपाली चलचित्रको सत्यम् शिवम् सुन्दरम्कै लागि भगडा गरिरहेका हुन्छौं।

दिदीसँग मेरो पछिल्लो भेट रिपोर्टस् क्लबमा भएको थियो। म त्यहाँ रोम जलिरहेको बेला निरोले बासुरी बजाएजस्तो चलचित्र महोत्सव गर्नु हुँदैन भनेर त्यसको बहिष्कारका लागि आग्रह गर्न उभिएको थिएँ, दिदी सबै मिलेर यो सफल बनाउनुपर्छ भनेर भावुक भएर मलाई सम्झाई रहनु भएको थियो। मैले त्यही समारोहमा मुलुकमा लोकतन्त्र नआउञ्जेल म चलचित्रको च पनि लेखिदिन भन्ने घोषणा गर्दा दिदीले रुँदै भन्नुभएको थियो तिमीले त्यसो भन्न कहाँ पाउँछौं? उहाँले आफ्नो संस्थाको तर्फबाट सार्वजनिक रूपमा लेखनका लागि अनुरोध नै गर्नुभयो। दिदी, अहिले पनि भन्छु, त्यो महोत्सव अन्ततः तपाईंलाई पनि चित्त बुझेन तर म मेरो संस्था फिक्सनको अध्यक्ष भएपछि संस्थाको निर्णयअनुसार चलचित्र लेख्न थालेको छु। अब त खुशी हुनुहुन्छ होला हगि।

मुलुक यस्तो आक्रान्त भएको बेला तपाईं अमेरिकामा छोरसँग हुनुहुन्छ, पहिला भए फर्कनु भन्थे। तर, अहिले माफ गर्नुहोला दिदी, अझै केही दिन उच्चै बूनुहोस् भन्दैछु। जीवनमा पहिलोपटक मैले यसोभन्दा तपाईंलाई साँच्चै नै अचम्म लागेको होला हगि। बाँकी तपाईं फर्केपछि कुरा गरौला।

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# Politics

## Open Letters

### TO THE EDUCATED MIDDLE-CLASS YOUTH OF KATHMANDU (EXCUSE THE GENERALIZATION):

On 11 April French Presidents Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin and their government were forced to rescind the new youth labour law after two months of relentless protests headed largely by students. The government had also come under pressure from unions, business community amongst others.

On 11 April in Nepal, the Seven Party Alliance's movement for democracy was on its 6th day and had seen large participation from Nepalis of different walks of life, in Kathmandu and other parts of the Nepal. 5 civilians had died because of shots fired by security forces at the demonstrators. Yet, students out on the streets risking their lives for democracy in Nepal were largely those affiliated to political parties. All this, in France and Nepal, happened while students from Kathmandu's middle-class families educated in the finer and private schools and colleges of Nepal sat home during the curfews complaining about the curfew and the half of mobile phone services, probably to their friends through online instant messages. Why is it so difficult for this demography of educated adolescents to identify with the situation of the country?

Taking it to the streets might be extreme for most, and its understandable that parents wouldn't permit it and its almost foolish to risk one's life based on little understanding of the situation. but at least organize and issue press statements to condemn the killings and brutal use of force. One doesn't have to understand politics to realize the actions of the government this last week has been worse than just bad. And in this day and age, it takes very little to be heard. "The students of \*name of school\* disagree with the government's use of violence against peaceful demonstrators and would urge them to allow these peaceful rallies," or "We, an independent group of youth in \*name of town\* condemn the government's use of violence to contain

the planned peaceful democratic rallies." It is as simple as that, to let those in charge know that you disagree with what is happening. Email addresses and phone numbers of newspapers, magazine are easily available online, and for sure many of the middle-class youth spent much of the curfew surfing the net. The adolescents of today were too young to participate in making history during the 1990's movement, but there are no excuses now. You are educated, you have access to resources that others might now. Why not say "I think democracy is the right path and not autocracy or violence" publicly? Nepalis living around the world are sending a message to the Nepali government, why shouldn't you? You don't have to pick up a rock and behave like a hooligan. You just have to organize a small group of like minded friends and send an email to all major media houses in Nepal requesting them to make space for your peaceful expression. And while civil disobedience can be dangerous, it has been an important part of making history for a better future all over the world. On 11 April 2006, students in France forced the government to take back a law. What did you do that day? Private schools have already shown solidarity to the movement. Its time the students think about doing the same too. Ask your principals how. And if they don't help, don't hesitate to re-read this letter.

To not speak out against what is happening is to say that you are alright with what is happening or that you simply don't care. And to not care is simply awful and inhuman and something that Nepal cannot afford ever. And if you are alright with what is happening, something is definitely not alright. Speak out, you have the right to. Organize, you have the resources to. Participate, you should.

p.s. Ask your teachers or anyone of your parents and relatives who keeps telling you to leave Nepal about the new ordinance passed by this Nepali government regarding students traveling abroad. Ask them why it was designed and if it makes studying abroad easier or more difficult for Nepali students. Ask them if there was a similar law during the panchayat era (yes, there was.). While you are at it, also ask the American Embassy in Nepal how Nepali students are supposed to apply for F-1 visas to enroll in colleges in the United States this year. And ask them why the fees for tourists visa was not increased but the fees for student

visa was in 2004 (you would think students need more money than those who can be "tourists" in the USA, and you would think the American Embassy would understand this). How do you contact the embassy? Google search words: "American Embassy Nepal."

### TO THE EUROPEAN UNION (AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC NATIONS):

On Monday, 10 April, European Union imposed travel restrictions on President Aleksandr G. Lukashenko of Belarus along with 30 more officials of the country. Your reason for doing so were stated as rigging the elections held in Belarus on March 19, beating and detaining members of the government's opposition parties and making disappear four members of the opposition parties between 1999 and 2000. Dear EU, King Gyanendra, the General of Royal Nepal Army and the Nepali government officials are responsible for all that and so much more! You know well that Nepal has one of the highest state sponsored disappearances in the world, not just of members of the opposition forces but also general civilians. Last week alone, the government violently beat and detained civilians rallying for democracy and since October 2002, the government has arbitrarily detained and tortured hundreds more and the security forces have been involved more than just a few extra judicial killings. These are all facts you know. Why then does the EU, the United States and other "leaders of the free world" not impose a ban on the heads of states of Nepal, starting with it's Chairman/King/ Commander in Cheif of the Royal Nepal Army? With great ease Crown Prince Paras and his wife travelled to Austria and France two weeks ago, the trip protested in EU only by a group of Nepalis in France. It is time to tell any and all un-democratic forces of Nepal, that they are not welcome in countries that pride themselves for their democratic way of life. You probably know that too. But what I don't know is why you haven't. I am sure many Nepalis and friends of Nepal will share

my curiosity.

### TO THE NEPALI GOVERNMENT:

With all the evidence and public sentiment that has mounted against you, out of sheer shame and moral obligations you should have decided to step down by now if not soon after 1 Feb. 05. Leave alone the fact that your legitimacy is contested by almost every legal expert in the country as well as the international community. According to a nationwide Himalmedia Public Opinion Poll 2006 conducted in mid-March, 65% of the polled citizens said it was "Not at all" alright for the King to remove the parties and rule by himself. In the New Year's message King Gyanendra has called upon all political parties to "bear the responsibility of and contribute towards activating the multiparty democratic polity." But is the King ready for a Constituent Assembly or curtailing what powers he has been given in the 1990s constitution, if not the growing idea of a "ganatranrik loktantra," or is he only willing to hold the parliamentary elections sometime this year like he had planned to all this while, as a gesture of "giving the political parties an option to take part in a "meaningful democracy"? The SPA parties might agree to some of the King's demands for now, just so as to at-least reactivate democracy even if it means having to do so with a constitutional Monarch. But the SPA parties leaders of today will not be the leading Nepal's major political parties forever and people's feelings towards the Monarchy has shifted drastically twice in this millennia; after 1 June 2001 and 1 February 2005. You cannot do anything but listen to the people's call for a full democracy and hope to be able to make amends with the population in years to come, and hope for their forgiveness. It seems the people of Nepal and the King both believe in "democracy." But do both of them really believe in it? We now know that the Nepali people do. Step down and make way for the changes that Nepalis want and deserve.

*Signed: Kashish Das Shrestha.*

# Economy

## ‘कृति अवार्ड २०६२’



Photos: Anup Prakash

गत चैत २० गते सोल्टी होटलमा सम्पन्न नेपाली विज्ञापन व्यवसायको ‘कृति अवार्ड २०६२’मा यस पटक नेपालका प्रमुख सात विज्ञापन एजेन्सीले ‘कृति अवार्ड’ जिते। प्रिज्मा एडभरटाइजिङले वर्षकै उत्कृष्ट विज्ञापन एजेन्सीको पुरस्कार पाएको छ।

कुल १३ विधामा वितरित अवार्ड मध्ये एडभरटाइजिङ एभेन्युजले ५ विधामा, वेलकम एडभरटाइजिङ एन्ड मार्केटिङले दुई विधामा, विजनेस एडभरटाइजिङ दुई विधामा र एड मिडिया, इको एडभरटाइजिङ, एनएस क्रियसन र प्रिज्मा एडभरटाइजिङले एक/एक विधामा सो अवार्ड पाएका छन्। विगत तिन वर्षदेखि आयोजना हुँदै आएको यो अवार्डका लागि यस पटक २३ वटा विज्ञापन एजेन्सीहरूले २ सय २८ मनोनयनपत्र दाखिला गरेकोमा १५ एजेन्सीका ६३ वटा विज्ञापनहरू उत्कृष्ट मनोनयनमा परेका थिए।

एडभरटाइजिङ एभेन्युजले उत्कृष्ट निर्देशक (टीभीसी), उत्कृष्ट टेलिभिजन विज्ञापन, उत्कृष्ट बाह्य विज्ञापन, उत्कृष्ट कला निर्देशक (टेलिभिजन विज्ञापन), र उत्कृष्ट कला निर्देशक (छापा) विधामा कृति अवार्ड हात पारेको थियो। वेलकम एडभरटाइजिङले उत्कृष्ट जिंगल र उत्कृष्ट जिंगल निर्माताको विधामा सो अवार्ड पाएको छ। त्यस

तै, विजनेस एडभरटाइजिङले उत्कृष्ट ‘कपिराइटर’ र उत्कृष्ट छापा विज्ञापन विधामा अवार्ड जितेको छ। एड मिडियाले उत्कृष्ट लोकप्रिय विज्ञापन विधामा, इको एडभरटाइजिङले उत्कृष्ट सामाजिक ‘क्याम्पेन’ विधामा तथा एनएस क्रियसनले उत्कृष्ट व्यावसायिक ‘क्याम्पेन’ विधामा कृति अवार्ड पाएका छन्। यस पटकदेखि थपिएका ५ विधामध्ये जनताको मतका आधारमा ‘लौन अब त केही गरौं...’ ले उत्कृष्ट पुरस्कार पायो।

यसपटकदेखि नेपाल विज्ञापन एजेन्सी संघ (आन) ले शुरू गरेको लामो समयदेखि विज्ञापन व्यवसायको क्षेत्रमा सङ्गठनात्मक तथा व्यावसायिक योगदान दिने व्यक्तिहरूलाई ‘लाइफटाइम एचिभमेन्ट अवार्ड’ वरिष्ठ विज्ञापन व्यवसायीहरू वंशीधर पौडेल र जेके स्थापितलाई प्रदान गरियो। सो अवसरमा विज्ञापन एजेन्सीहरूको एसियाली सङ्गठन (आफा) का निवर्तमान अध्यक्ष पीएस योङले नेपालको विज्ञापन व्यवसायको विकास तथा प्रवर्द्धनका लागि आनले खेलेरहेको भूमिकाको सहाहना गरे। आनका अध्यक्ष भाष्करराज र जकणिंकारले ‘कृति अवार्ड’ आगामी वर्षमा १५ विधामा पुऱ्याइने जानकारी। विज्ञापन व्यवसायले देशको अर्थतन्त्रमा प्रत्यक्ष प्रभाव पार्ने भए तापनि विज्ञापन व्यवसायप्रति स्पष्ट दृष्टिकोणको अभाव रहेको उनले बताए।

### कसले के अवार्ड पाए ?

एडभरटाइजिङ एभेन्युज

- उत्कृष्ट निर्देशक (टीभीसी)
- उत्कृष्ट टेलिभिजन विज्ञापन
- उत्कृष्ट कला निर्देशक (छापा)
- उत्कृष्ट बाह्य विज्ञापन
- उत्कृष्ट कला निर्देशक (टीभीसी)

विजनेस एडभरटाइजिङ

- उत्कृष्ट कपिराइटर

वेलकम एडभरटाइजिङ

- उत्कृष्ट जिंगल

वेलकम एडभरटाइजिङ

- उत्कृष्ट जिंगल निर्माता

विजनेस एडभरटाइजिङ

- उत्कृष्ट छापा विज्ञापन

एड मिडिया

- उत्कृष्ट लोकप्रिय विज्ञापन

इको एडभरटाइजिङ

- उत्कृष्ट सामाजिक क्याम्पेन

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# एसएसबीले दियो डाँकाबाट मुक्ति

Anushil Shrestha

दैनिक जसो डकैती हुने मोरङका सीमावर्ती गाविसहरूमध्ये डाइनियादेखि दक्षिण भारतको मुर्तीपुर पञ्चायतको सिक्टीमा ११ महिना अघि एसएसबी क्याम्प बसेपछि डकैतीका घटना भएका छैनन्। भण्डै दुइ वर्ष अघि ४३ परिवार विस्थापित भएको डाइनिया-३, हरिश्चन्द्रगढी अहिले शान्त छ। स्थानीय एमाले नेता हसन इमाम बक्स भन्छन्, “भारतीय सुरक्षाकर्मीका कारण हामीले शान्ति पाएका छौं।”

नेपाल-भारत सीमा क्षेत्रमा बढ्दो माओवादी गतिविधि रोक्न भारत सरकारले सशस्त्र सिमा बल (एसएसबी) का १० हजार सैनिक थप्ने नीतिअनुसार सुरक्षा ‘क्याम्प’ खडा गर्न थालेको छ। यसबाट सीमा क्षेत्रमा माओवादीलाई चलखेल गर्न त कठिन हुन थालेको छ नै, उता डाँका आतङ्क खेपिरहेका सिमा आसपासका बासिन्दाले राहत पनि पाउन थालेका छन्।

पूर्वमा दार्जिलिङदेखि पश्चिममा चम्पारणसम्म एसएसबीको नयाँ बटालियन थप हुनेमा किशनगञ्ज, अररिया, सुपौल, मधुवनी, दरभंगा, पूर्वी र पश्चिम चम्पारणसहित ८ जिल्ला छन्। भारत सरकारले प्रान्तीय सरकारलाई ती जिल्लाहरूमा एसएसबीको बटालियन थप्न आदेश दिइसकेको छ।

एसएसबीका अनुसार नेपाल-भारत सीमा क्षेत्रमध्ये ७ सय २६ किलोमिटर क्षेत्रमा माओवादी गतिविधि निकै बढेर गएको छ। खुल्ला सीमाका कारण नेपालका माओवादीहरूले भारतीय भूमिको प्रयोग गरी आतङ्कवादी गतिविधि सञ्चालन गर्ने र अवैध हातहतियार भित्र्याउने गरेको पाइएपछि सो क्षेत्रमा शसस्त्र सिमा बलको क्याम्प स्थापना गर्न थालिएको हो। ‘तपाईंको सीमा तपाईंको जिम्मा’ को रणनीति अन्तर्गत थपिन लागेका एसएसबीका ती जवानसँगै स्थानीय बासिन्दालाई पनि उक्त सुरक्षा अभियानमा सहभागी गराइनेछ।

विहार अररिया एसएसबीका कमाण्डर के.सी. विक्रमले नेपालको मोरङ र सुनसरी जिल्लासँग सिमा जोडिएको अररिया र किशनगञ्जमा मात्र १८ वटा एसएसबी क्याम्प राखिने बताए। भने, “फोर्स थपेपछि दुई देशबीच सूचना आदानप्रदान हुने क्रम बढ्नेछ र यसबाट अपराध नियन्त्रणमा मद्दत पुग्छ।” अररियाका एसएसबी प्रमुख के.सी.को भनाइसँग सहमत पूर्वञ्चल क्षेत्रीय प्रहरी कार्यालय विराटनगरका प्रहरी नायब महानिरीक्षक अशोक श्रेष्ठ भन्छन्, “अपराध कम गर्न भारतीय सुरक्षा अधिकारीहरूसँग पटक पटक भएका वार्ता र छलफल पछि नै उताबाट एसएसबी क्याम्पहरू राख्न थालिएको हो। र, यसबाट दुवै देशलाई फाइदा हुन्छ।”

एसएसबी तैनाथ भएका क्षेत्रहरूमा डकैती र लुटपाटका घटनामा कमी आए पनि अन्य क्षेत्रमा अझै यस्ता घटनाहरूमा कमी आएको छैन। १४



Above: Residents of the Harchangadi gau in Morang. Next page: Armed Indian border patrol. All photos: Anushil Shrestha

फागुन २०६२ को राती सुनसरीको दक्षिणवर्ती गाविस मध्य हर्साही-६ मा भारतीय डाकाहरूले लुटपाट मच्चाउँदा प्रतिकारमा रामजी मेहेता, अरुण मेहेता र बन्नी मेहेता घाइते भए। ८ घरबाट २५ चौपाया, नगद र गरगहनासहित लुटेर डाकाहरू सीमा पारि गएका थिए। ११ फागुनको राती सुनसरीको पूर्वकुसाहामा डकैती प्रतिकार गर्ने ४० वर्षीय जोगिया रायको मृत्यु हुनका साथै गोली प्रहारबाट ६ जना घाइते भएका थिए।

त्यस्तै १७ माघको राती सुनसरीको महादेवा-६, छालागाछीमा डाकाहरू ८ राउण्ड गोली फायर गरेर ७ घरबाट चौपाया, लत्ताकपडा र गरगहना लुटी भारत छिरेका थिए। २६ भदौको राती विराटनगर- २२ को दक्षिणी क्षेत्रमा भारतीय डाकाहरूले दश सन्तानकी आमा कुरेशा खातुन र उनका दुइ छोराको हत्या गरेर भारत छिरेका थिए।

## पारी एसएसबी, वारी खाली पोष्ट

सुरक्षा अभावका सीमावर्ती गाउँहरूमा डाँकाको विगविगी बढ्दो रहेको अवस्थामा सीमा क्षेत्रमा भारतीय सुरक्षा बल तैनाथ हुन थालेपनि नेपाल तर्फका अधिकांश क्षेत्रमा भने सुरक्षाकर्मीको

उपस्थिती देखिन्दैन। १० भदौ २०६० मा माओवादीसँगको दोस्रो युद्धविराम भङ्ग भएपछि सरकारले यस क्षेत्रमा रहेका प्रहरी कार्यालयहरू लगभग सबै उठाएपछि माओवादी चलखेल सँगै डकैतीका घटना बृद्धि भएको हो।

सुनसरीका सीमावर्ती गाउँमा रहेका ११ मध्ये अहिले एउटा मात्र प्रहरी चौकी बाँकी छ भने मोरङको रङ्गेली इलाका प्रहरी कार्यालय बाहेक त्यस अन्तर्गतका १७ वटा स्थायी र ६ वटा अस्थायी समेत २३ वटै चौकी हटाइएका छन्। सुनसरी जिल्लामा रहेका ३५ प्रहरी चौकीहरू मध्ये ५ वटा मात्र बाँकी रहेका छन् अरु सबै जिप्रकमा गाँभीएको छ। भ्रूपा जिल्लाको अवस्था पनि मोरङ र सुनसरीकै जस्तो छ। गौरीगञ्जमा संयुक्त सुरक्षा फौज रहे पनि अधिकांश गाँउहरू सुरक्षाकर्मी विहीन छन्।

प्रहरी नायब महा निरीक्षक अशोक श्रेष्ठ भारतिय क्षेत्रमा नेपालमा जस्तो माओवादी गतिविधी नभएकाले उनीहरूलाई सुरक्षा क्याम्प राख्न सहज भएको बताउछन्। भन्छन् “हाम्रो क्षेत्रमा ०५२ साल अघि जति सुरक्षा कर्मी सिमा क्षेत्रमा थिए अहिले छैनन्, प्रहरी चौकीहरू खाली नै छ तर भारतिय पक्ष संग दुवै तिरका जनताको सुरक्षा र अपराध नियन्त्रणमा सहमती भएको छ र हाम्रो तर्फबाट पनि नियमित गस्ती त भईहाल्छ।”

पूर्वी मोरङको दक्षिण भागसँग जोडिएको

भारतको मुरारीपुर सिक्टी स्थित सीमा सुरक्षा बल (एसएसबी) क्याम्पका प्रमुख ताजबरसिंह रावत माओवादी र डाकाहरूको साठगाठ भएको खबर पाएर यस क्षेत्रमा सुरक्षा व्यवस्था कडा गरिएको बताउछन्। ‘नेपाल भारतका कुनै पनि अपराधीलाई दिन रात कुनै पनि समयमा हामी छोड्दैनौं’ उनले भने। गत वर्ष तीन जना हतियारधारी नेपाल तर्फ आउदै गर्दा आफुहरूले लखेटेर एकलाई पक्राउ गरिएको बताउदै रावतले दुई जना नेपाल तर्फ नै प्रवेश गरेर भाग्न सफल भएको बताए। पक्राउ पर्नेको साथबाट एक थान पेस्तोल बरामद गरिएको थियो। उनले खुल्ला नाका धेरै लामो क्षेत्र भएकाले पुर्ण रुपमा निगरानी गर्न नसकिएको बताए।

माओवादीको डरले सुरक्षाफौज सीमा क्षेत्रमा गस्ती यदकदा मात्रै जाने गरेको छ। संयुक्त सुरक्षाफौजलाई मात्रै ग्रामिण इलाकामा जाने निर्देशन भएकाले सूचना पाए पनि भनेका बेला गस्ती गर्न नसकिएको प्रहरी अधिकृतहरू बताउछन्। पूर्वमा माओवादीले गतिविधि संचालन गर्न सुनसरी मोरङसँग जोडिएको भारतबाट हतियार भित्र्याउने गरेता पनि रोक्न सकेको छैन। तर, मोरङका प्रजिअ दाहाल भने ‘सूचना पाए तत्काल कारवाहीमा जान्छौं’ भन्छन्।

मोरङका डाइनिया, आँपगाछी, गोविन्दपुर, भुर्किया, बडडा र महादेवा तथा सुनसरीका

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हरिपुर, अमडुवा, देवानगञ्ज, श्रीपुर, भुटाहा, साहेवगञ्ज, प्रकाशपुर, भाण्टावारी र घुस्की गाविसमा पर्ने गाउँ-बस्तीहरू र भापाको खजुर गाछी, कुमारखेत, घेरावारी, केरावारी, गौरीगञ्जमा पर्ने गाँउहरू पनि भारतीय डाँकाको निशाना बन्दै आएका छन्। प्रहरी प्रशासनबाट सुरक्षा नपाएपछि, डाँकाबाट ज्यान-माल बचाउन टोल सुरक्षा समिति मार्फत सङ्गठित भई राति गस्ती गर्ने, गाउँ उज्यालो राख्ने, सानातिना बम र पटाखा पड्काउने, घर-गाउँ वरिपरि बिजुलीको धराप (करेन्ट) विछ्याउने जस्ता प्रयाशबाट पनि गाउँलेहरू सुरक्षित रहन सकेका छैनन्। केही गाउँका गाँउलेलाई डाँकाको प्रतिकार गर्न गाँउबाट प्रहरीले खोसेका हतियारहरू दिएपछी गाउँलेहरूले सुरक्षा सर्माति गठन गरेर गस्ती गर्ने गरेकाछन्।

## दुई पक्षिय सम्बन्ध

सीमा क्षेत्रका सुरक्षाका बारेमा नेपाल र भारतका स्थानीय प्रशासक तथा सुरक्षा प्रमुखहरूबीच पटक पटक वार्ता हुँदै आएका छन्। २७ कात्तिकको भारतीय विधानसभा निर्वाचन विथोल्न दुई देशका माओवादीबीच सुनसरीमा बैठक भएको थाहा पाएर दुई देश बिचका अधिकारीहरूको ११ असोजमा बसेको बैठकले सीमा बन्द गर्दै कडा सुरक्षा दिने निर्णय गरेको थियो। जसका कारण भारतमा अपराध गरि नेपालमा आएर बस्ने अपराधीलाई

नेपाली प्रहरीले पक्राउ गरि भारतीय प्रहरीलाई बुझाउने गरेको छ। भारतीय प्रहरीले पनि त्यसै गर्छ। नेपालमा मान्छे मारेर भारतमा लुकेको देवानन्द भालाई एक महिना अघि भारतीय प्रहरीले पक्राउ गरि इलाका प्रहरी कार्यालय रानीलाई बुझाएको छ।

८ कात्तिक २०६२ मा पूर्वक्षेत्रीय प्रहरी कार्यालय रानी विराटनगरमा डिआइजी अशोककुमार श्रेष्ठ सहितको नेपाली प्रहरी टोली र भारतीय अर्ध सैनिक वल एसएसबीका डिआइजी एच.सी.खर्कवालको नेतृत्वमा आएको टोलीसँग सीमा क्षेत्रको अपराध नियन्त्रणका विषयमा छलफल गरेको थियो।

सो बैठकले अवैध हातहतियार लागु औषध ओसार पसार नियन्त्रण, चेलिवेटी बेचबिखन नियन्त्रण, आतंकवाद नियन्त्रण, जालि नोट भन्सार चोरी निकासी, पैठारी नियन्त्रण, सीमा र तम्भहरूको मर्मत सम्हार गर्ने, सीमा क्षेत्रको चोरी डाँकेती नियन्त्रण गर्ने, अपराध गरि नेपाल र भारतमा लुकिछिपि रहेका अपराधिहरूलाई सुपुर्दगि गर्ने, सीमा अतिक्रमण गरि वसेकालाई हटाउने, सीमा इलाकामा गस्ती तथा पेट्रोलिङ गर्ने निर्णय गरेको थियो।

यस वर्ष पुर्वाञ्चलका डिआइजी र भारतीय डिआइजी बिच तीन चरणमा बैठक सम्पन्न भइ सकेको छ। ३ असारमा डिआइजी श्रेष्ठले भारतीय डिआइजी राजेन्द्रप्रसाद सिंहसँग र ३१ वैशाखमा डिआइजी कृष्ण बस्नेतले भारतीय

डिआइजी सिंहसँग बैठक गरेका थिए। यस अघि ८ भदौ ०६१ मा भारतको पुर्णियामा, १० असोजमा भारतको अररियामा र ८ कात्तिकमा विराटनगरमा डिआइजी स्तरमा बैठक भएको थियो।

सुचना प्रदान र अपराध नियन्त्रण तथा रोकथामका लागि दुवै पक्षबाट हुन सक्ने सहयोग र समन्वयका लागि सहमती भएपछी तीन वर्षमा ५ जना अपहरितलाई भारतबाट फर्काउन सफल भएको छ। २४ असार २०६० मा वविया ५ सुनसरीकी अपहरित १५ महिने बालिका एलिजा बुढाथोकीलाई फिर्ता ल्याइएको थियो। डाकाहरूले धनमाल लुटि बालिका अपहरण गरि लगेका थिए। १५ चैत २०६० मा भुटाहा ५ सुनसरीबाट अपहरण गरी भारत लगीएका ३ वर्षे बालक अविशेष नन्दीलाई भारतीय प्रहरीको सहयोगमा फिर्ता ल्याइएको थियो। त्यस्तै २०६१ साउन २८ मा मोरङ आपगछि ६ का सिताराम ठाकुर र रमानन्द ठाकुरका २७ वटा चौपाया भारतीय प्रहरीको सहयोगमा फिर्ता ल्याइएको। भारतीय डाकाले धनमाल सहित चौपाया लुटेर लगेका थिए। यसरी ३४ वटा चौपाया फिर्ता ल्याइ सकिएको डिआइजी कार्यालयले जनाएको छ।

## नेपालीलाई भारतमा मुद्धा

पूर्वी मोरङ, डाइनिया-३, हरिसचन्द्रगढीका ७० वर्षीय मो. सदिम आफ्नो घरबाट २ सय

मिटर दक्षिण सीमा क्षेत्रमा जान सक्दैनन्। ५५ वर्षे ताहिर मियाँको समस्या पनि त्यही छ। उनीहरूसँगै २३ सर्वसाधारणलाई भारतमा मुद्धा चलाइएकाले उनीहरू आफ्नै गाउँमा पनि खुल्ला रूपमा हिड्न सक्दैनन्।

२२ साउन २०६१ मा रंगेलीबाट गएको सेना र प्रहरीको टोलीले दिउँसै भारतीय डाका ताहिर मियाँलाई गोली हानेर मारेको थियो। डाकालाई नेपाली गाउँमा डाँकेती गर्न आउने क्रममा मारिएको सुरक्षाफौजले बताए पनि भारतिय प्रहरी भने त्यसलाई मान्न तयार छैन। सुरक्षाकर्मीको कारवाहीमा भएको सो हत्यामा भारतले स्थानीय बासिन्दाहरूलाई पक्राउ पुर्जी जारि गरेको छ।

सीमाको हर्चनगढी र केलावारीबीच वर्षौंको पारिवारिक सम्बन्ध भएपनि अहिले उनीहरू टाढिएका छन्। “पल्लो गाउँमा ससुराली र आफन्तजन छन् तर, प्रहरीले पक्राउ गर्ने भएकाले जान सकिदैन” ६० वर्षीय अबुल क्लाम मियाँ र ५५ वर्षीय मो. ताहिर मियाँले भने “माच्यो सेनाले फस्यौं हामी।” स्थानीय जफार मियाँ हिमालसँग भन्छन्-“यहाबाट समस्या समाधान भएन अब भारतीय दुतावास सम्म कुरा पुऱ्याईदिनु पर्‍यो।”

सो मुद्धामा रंगेली स्थित प्रहरी र सेनालाई मुछिए पनि प्रहरी अधिकृतहरू सरुवा भएर गईसकेकाले समस्या गाउलेलाई मात्रै छ। मुद्धा लागेकाहरूमा अजिम मिया, इस्माफिल मिया, मो.समिद, मो. हारुन, लोट्ना मिया, मो वसिर, मो ताजिर, मो अस्लम, मो स्माईल, ताहिर मिया, मो पर्वेज, सलाउद्दिन मिया,मो नुरुल, जियाउद्दिन मिया, मो डाक्टर वाउद्दिन, मो आजाद, सजाद मिया, रजाक मिया, मो मुस्लीम, मो नुरहसन, मो तस्लिम रहेकाछन्। उनीहरू माथी इण्डियन प्यानल कोर्टको दफा १४७, १४८, १४९, ३४१, ३२३, ३०७, ३७८, ३६४, ३०२ र २७ आर्म एक्ट अन्तर्गत मुद्धा लगाईएको छ।

भारत विहारको अररिया जिल्ला मुरारीपुर पञ्चायत सिक्टीस्थित प्रहरी थानाले ४३ जना विरुद्ध डाकालाई मारेको अभियोगमा मुद्धा चलाएको छ। ती मध्ये १८ जनाले भारतीय प्रहरीलाई पैसा खुवाएर मुद्धा मिलाएका छन्। मुद्धा लागेका दुईको मृत्यु भइसकेको छ। पक्राउ परेका सलाउद्दीन प्रहरीलाई १५ हजार भारु तिरेर मुक्त भए पनि फेरी कुन बेला पक्राउ परिने थाहा नभएको बताउछन्। उनी भन्छन्- ‘एक किलो चिनी लिन जानु पर्दा पनि अरुलाई पठाउने गरेको छु।’ हरिश्चन्द्रगढीवासीका लागि नजिकको बजार भनेको भरतीय सिक्टी क्षेत्रनै हो। तर, भारतीय सिक्टी थानाका प्रमुख दलजित भा वारेण्ट जारी गरिएका सबैलाई पक्राउ गरेर कारवाही चलायने बताउछन्। केहि गाउलेहरूले भारतीय प्रहरीलाई प्रति ब्यक्ति ८ हजार भारुका दरले पैसा खुवाएर सामान्य हिडडुलको वातावरण बनाएका छन्। पैसा नहुनेलाई भने समस्या यथावत छ। मुद्धा लागेका गाउलेहरूको नाममा अररिया जिल्ला अदालतले पत्र पठाएको छ। पत्रमा दफाहरू खुलाई मुद्धाको कारण बताईएको छ। उक्त उजुरीमा दावी गरे बमोजिम दण्ड भएमा नेपालीहरूले एक वर्ष जेल र सर्वस्वहरण

## Nation

# United we stand

« Continued from Page 1

The Seven Party Alliance's "decisive" movement for democracy starting 6 April was supposed to be peaceful, but the King's government never gave it a chance. Now 5 civilians have died at the hands of the security forces and dozens more are critically injured. And despite the government's threats to use more force, hundreds of thousands of pro-democracy protesters have broken the government's curfew for five days, something last seen only in the 1990's people's movement for democracy which peaked in April. And while the King and the government has never been this alienated since 1 Feb. 05, Nepalis and friends of Nepal from across the world have been raising funds to help treat those injured by police brutality. Photo feature and full report inside.



# Nation

## United we stand



Photo: Anushil Shrestha



Photo: Anushil Shrestha



Photo: Rabin Giri



Photo: Anushil Shrestha



Photo: Rabin Giri



Photo: Rabin Giri

Page 15: People protest in the eastern city of Biratnagar. Left, top to bottom: Police stops a woman from going out to collect water during curfew hours in Kathmandu. Doctors and Ex- Gurkha servicemen (above) stage democratic rallies in Eastern Nepal. Right, top to bottom: Police use teargas to try and disperse the demonstrators in Kathmandu. People defy the government's curfew orders and come out to protest. Women of various ethnic communities show solidarity for democracy in Eastern Nepal.



## In Cold Blood

King Gyanendra's message to the nation on the occasion of the Nepali New Year 2063 started with the words, "On the occasion of the advent of the New Year 2063, we extend best wishes for peace, good health and prosperity of all Nepalese, living in the country and abroad. We appreciate the understanding and patience of the Nepalese people, conscientiousness of the civil servants and the perseverance, courage and discipline displayed by the security personnel during the past year."

In the last one week five people have died because of shots fired by the security forces while scores more have been severely injured and are in critical condition. These aren't the first incidents in which the armed forces of Nepal have killed civilians when such action could have been averted. But the Royal Nepali Army and the Armed Police Force of Nepal have one of the worst reputations for disregarding human rights. This is not just the fault of the soldiers, it is also the fault of the government which has given the armed forces unprecedented power while curbing civil liberties in Nepal and press freedom. So just what have the soldiers of Nepal done in the last four years? Rape, torture, pillage, conduct extra judicial killings, arbitrary arrests and disappearances of prisoners is a shot list with deep implications about just how out of control the armed forces have become. Of course, the Maoists have done exactly the same, perhaps with the exception of rape, at least in the frequency and amount the soldiers are responsible for. But It is unfortunate that in Nepal brutality committed by the state and those that the state calls "terrorists" are not so different after-all.

Terrorism and Destructive Activities (TADA) act is perhaps one of the more dangerous ordinances introduced by the Nepali government in their series of ordinances they have been declaring since 2002. Not only is it open ended about the definition of terrorism and the authority it grants security forces to "fight" terrorism, the ordinance also grants impunity to the security forces of Nepal.



UML Activist Bhimsen Dahal was shot dead in Pokhara by an RNA soldier during a peaceful pro- democracy rally.

Photo: Hinal Khabrapatrika

### CIVILIANS SHOT AT BY THE SECURITY FORCES IN 2006:

8 FEBRUARY

*Municipal Elections held by government, general strike called by the Maoists:*

**Horilal Rana (Tharu), Dhangadi** Shot dead while relieving himself at a stream. His body was delivered to his father Gangaram Rana, an illiterate senior was asked to sign a paper declaring his son was a "terrorist."

**Umesh Thapa, Dang** Shot dead while taking part in a peaceful demonstration by the Seven Party Alliance.

8 APRIL:

**UML Activist Bhimsen Dahal, Pokhara** Shot dead by the army in Pokhara during a pro-democracy protest. Several people injured.

9 APRIL:

**Tulasi Chettri, 32, Chitwan** One of three women injured by bullets when security forces open fired in random directions to scare away pro-democracy demonstrators on 8 April. The three women were sitting on the roof of their own houses at the time they sustained the injury.

**Shiva Hari Kuwor, 22, Banepa** Shot dead when security forces opened fire at the pro-democracy rally he was taking part in. Three other adolescents were also injured in the head by the bullet spray, all three are said to be in critical conditions.

11 APRIL:

More than a **dozen protesters** critically injured after security forces open-fired at the angry demonstrators who had begun to pelt stones at the house of Police force' Assistant Inspector General Roop Safar Moktan in Gangabu, Kathmandu.

12 APRIL:

**Bishnu Pandey, 23, Nawalparasi** Shot dead while protesting against the government. Four others sustained bullet injuries.

On far too many occasions the Royal Nepali Army has used helicopters to indiscriminately launch arial attack on Maoist areas, injuring many civilians in the process. Incidents like these have become increasingly frequent since 2002.

### Numbers

**444** An approximate number of children killed during the 10-year Maoist insurgency.

**218** Number of children killed at the hands of the security forces (from 444)

**196** Number of children killed at the hands of the Maoists (from 444)

(Source: *Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre*)

**861** Number of people killed by the State between 1 Feb. '05 - 30 Nov.'05

**482** Number of people killed by the CPN (Maoist) in the same period.

**8,457** Number of people killed by the State between 13 Feb.'96 - 12 Mar '06

**4,733** Number of people killed by the CPN (Maoist) in the same period.

**13190** Total number of people killed.

**8,777** Number of people abducted by Maoists during a period of ceasefire between 2 Sept. - 2 Dec. '05

**30,000** Number of students affected in this period.

**214** arrested from 35 districts with accusation of being Maoists, out of which 36 were re-arrested despite the court's order to release them, in the same period\*.

**75** Nepalis killed during the Maoist-called ceasefire, 62 by the security forces and 13 by the Maoists, also in the same period.

\*(Death Toll and Ceasefire data Source: INSEC)

# King and government must step down; democracy must be restored.

**Kashish Das Shrestha**

When people unite and start a movement for a fundamental right like democracy, it is only a matter of time that dictatorships collapse. For Nepal, April has thus far shown unprecedented unity for democracy growing by the day- at home and in most diplomatic quarters. Support for this andolan has come from unaffiliated civilians, the business

community (Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry), civil servants, private sector workers, political party workers, human rights activists, lawyers, journalists, doctors, artists, writers and poets, members of national and international NGOs, Nepali diaspora, tourists in Nepal, and the international community at large.

## Unfeasible governance

The King has repeatedly talked about politicians being "corrupt" during democracy. However, the fact that he himself has abused people's tax money for personal use instead of using it for the country's development is now a fact that the public knows, thanks to independent media reports. Following is a quick-check list of the King's corruption and the financial loss he has caused the country through some irrational acts.

\$265 (approx. Rs. 18, 815): The average yearly income of one working Nepali. Poverty, lack of basic infrastructures and health services are some of the most severe problems facing Nepal.

RS. 50 BILLION (APPROX. \$704 MILLION) =

average annual income of about 2,657,454 Nepalis: Amount of money the Palace, Home Ministry and Defense Ministry took from the National Treasury without any accountability

## Where does the power balance in Nepal stand today?

### PEOPLE'S POWER

#### Pro-democracy protesters in Fall 2003-Spring 2004

More than 100,000

#### Pro-democracy protesters in Fall 2005 (Countrywide)

More than 100,000

#### Pro-democracy protestors since 4 April 2006 (country wide)

Approximately 500,000

#### Pro-democracy civil society (lawyers, journalists, doctors, writers, poets, human rights activists amongst others)

Approximately 20,000 (Federation of Nepali Journalists and the Nepal Bar Association both have more than 5,000 members each)

#### People defying the Government's curfew to participate in the demonstrations through 5-11 April (country wide)

Approximately 200,000. On several occasions the protesters have even over-run the police, forcing the security forces to flee from the area, such as in the eastern town of Itahari.

#### Number of people arrested by the government since the protests started

2,300 (1,300 remained in detention till 10 April).

#### Number of journalists arrested by the government since the protests started (country wide)

59 between 6-8 April, about 50 on 12 April (these are only accounts from a few reports, more have possibly been arrested since the protests started).

### PRO DEMOCRACY NEPALI DIASPORA

Although there are some factions of the diaspora that believe in the King, the general trend seems to be pro-democracy and anti-monarchy. Many "friends of Nepal" also take part of the pro-democracy programs. According to sources directly involved, the Nepali Embassy had offered thousands of dollars to the Ethnic group to organise a "welcome" event for the King in September 2005.

#### Australia

Nepalese Forum for Human Rights and People's Democracy (NEHURIPD), Australia, organized a pro-democracy rally on 1 Feb. 05. This week, the Nepali community submitted a letter of recommendation to the Australian government, asking it to condemn the actions of the Nepali Government and restore democracy in the country.

#### Belgium

Nepalis residing in Brussels and European civil society members staged a pro-democracy rally on 1 Feb. 05. Anti-US Imperialism and anti-monarch protest in March 06.

#### France

Anti-monarch and pro-democracy protests in April 06.

Hong Kong: Anti-monarch, pro-democracy rally in March 06.

India: Three massive protests since 1 Feb. 05, the recent one on drawing approximately 30,000 Nepalis.

#### Japan

Pro-democracy, anti-monarch rally in April 06.

United Kingdom: Members of the Nepali community held a protest against the King's rule on 1 Feb. 05.

#### United States

Two protests DC and New York. Another protest in NY is scheduled for 14 April.

#### Countries (since April 2006) that insist democracy should be restored in Nepal (in alphabetical order)

Canada, European Union, India, Japan, United Kingdom and United States of America

#### Some of the many individual(s) / Organizations that have condemned Nepali government's undemocratic ways and use of violence

Kofi Anan, General-Secretary of the United Nations | Amnesty International Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Nepal | Reporters Sans Frontier | Thailand: Although the government has not officially spoken about the situation, trade unions and women's rights staged a protest in Bangkok on 1 Feb. 06. | International Federation of Journalists | World Association of Newspapers

### KING'S POWER

Royal Nepali Army: The first part of the RNA's honour code says, "The Safety, Honour And Welfare of Your King And Country Come First Always And Every Time..." in that order. King Gyanendra is the Supreme Commander In Chief of the Royal Nepali Army. He decides who becomes the Chief of Army Staff (on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. Before mid-1990, the King himself also personally appointed the Prime Minister). The highest-ranking army officers, most of whom belong to Nepal's traditionally elite class that switched its support to the Shah Kings when the Ranas were overthrown in 1951, remain royalists and command their forces with that mindset. These officers were not happy with the multi-party democratic governments that generally neglected strengthening the army, whose role had remained "ceremonial" for decades. In 1998, the RNA force was approximately 52,000. By 2001, the RNA had a force of almost 70,000. Today the force is about 97,000 strong and the RNA hopes to make it 100,000 so that army crops of 50,000 each can be developed for the military division of Nepal into Eastern and Western zones, respectively. The first year of training per soldier costs an estimated Rs. 300,000 (\$4,225) and the RNA plans to add 3000 more soldiers this year which would cost the tax payers approximately Rs.900,000,000, i.e. approx. more than \$12.6 Million. The budget for the Defense Ministry has also sky rocketed by the billions, the ministry has been asking for more and more since 2001. It is not clear if the security forces will actually perform a genocide to keep the Monarchy and the current government in power even if their commanders order them to, but

# Nation

## United we stand

in the last four years. The money was supposed to be used for other official purposes but the majority of the money was used by the Palace for personal purposes, such as buying luxury cars and hosting wedding parties etc. (Source: Himal Khabarpatrika)

RS. 2.5 BILLION (APPROX. \$352,112) =

average annual income of about 1328 Nepalis: Loss incurred by Nepal Telecom because of the government's orders to shutdown mobile phone services thrice since 1 Feb. 05. The government insists this is helping stop terrorism in Nepal

when in fact it is quite clear that they are only trying to make it difficult for protesters to organize themselves. The tactic was first practiced on the morning of 1 Feb. 05 when along with mobile phone lines, land lines and internet services were also severed indefinitely. (Source: Nepal Telecom)

RS. 350 MILLION (APPROX. \$4,929,577) =

average annual income of about 18602 Nepalis: The total sum of the trip's allocated budget and the loss incurred by RNAC on the King's South African tour with no clear or urgent purpose in Jan

2006. (Source: Himal Khabarpatrika)

RS. 60 MILLION (APPROX.

\$8,450,704) =

average annual income of about 31,889 Nepalis: The money spent to give 2 Rhinoceros to a zoo in Austria and to take the Crown Prince and Princess to Europe, UAE and back. No body really knows why we had to give away those animals in such urgency, or at all but the palace has been working on monopolizing the nature conservation sector in Nepal, to ensure that they control all funds coming to Nepal for

conservation work. (Source: Nepali Times)

RS. 5,600,000 (APPROX. \$78,873) =

average annual income of about 297 Nepalis: Amount given to Bharat Keshar Simha, Chairman of World Hindu Federation. He helped to declare King Gyanendra the "emperor of the world's hindus" and a living incarnation of Lord Vishnu. The money was used for hosting the Silver Jubilee celebration on 8 April. The "emperor" himself was the key note speaker.

UNACCOUNTED (2006):

Because King Gyanendra had decided to run office from his retreat palace in Pokhara, ministers and generals have been flying back and forth for weeks on end, costing the state millions of rupees. It was the same when the King was based in the barracks of Itahari. His constant trips to temples and religious functions are also paid for by the people. There has been no declaration of how much all this is costing the people of Nepal.

RS. 509,55,599,934 (APPROX.

\$717684506) =

One year's total income of 2,708,243 Nepalis has been misused by the King and his government since 2002. And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

One of the key rules of democracy is that if the government is not democratically elected, the people can decide to not pay taxes. But people in Nepal have continued to pay taxes even after October 2002, when the last elected government was dissolved by the King. And Nepal's dependency on foreign employment and foreign aid is what keeps the country running. But while Nepalis and friends of Nepal try their best to keep the country's economy rolling, it is clear the King and his government will not stop any of their personal whims and wishes regardless of what it costs the people of Nepal.

in recent times these organizations have earned a tarnished reputation for having one of the worst human rights abuse records the world over for extra judicial killings and torture. See our report "In Cold Blood."

### Government

He is it's self-declared Chairman and all members of the Cabinet are his appointees. Through his self-appointed government, the King and his council have drafted many acts/ ordinances that curtail civil liberties and democracy at large and empower the armed forces since 2002. Primarily, the government is a tool used to legitimize the King's rule, such as by holding futile elections (8 Feb. 06) and declaring planned anti-government rallies as those organized or "infiltrated" by "terrorists," consequently using that as a justification to use of excessive force against peaceful demonstrators or whimsically declaring curfews and bullying private businesses, such as the Internet Service Providers and Nepal Telecom, to comply with their orders of cutting phone lines and internet services at their whim. The government has also been used to draft laws that make arbitrary and unwarranted arrests as legitimate as possible. See our report "In Cold Blood."

### Dangerous minds

Vice-Chairman Tulsi Giri, Home Minister Kamal Thapa and State Minister for Information and Communication Shrish Shamsher Rana have all made it clear, through the media, that they are not budging from the Chairman's road map. Tulsi Giri has questioned and insulted Nepal's 1990 Constitution's legitimacy in order to

defend the King's rule and Ministers Kamal Thapa and Shrish Shamsher have both said the government can't declare a ceasefire with the Maoists because the government has not declared a war to start with. It is hard to tell if what they say are their own ideas or scripted by higher authorities, mainly the Chairman and his army's Generals, or even long time monarchists like Sharad Chandra Shah, Sachit Shamsher JBR, Bharat Keshar Simha and Dr Kesharjung Rayamajhi, who have proved their loyalty to the crown in the last two or three decades and have been reportedly active behind the scenes pst 1 Feb. 05 also.

### World Hindu Federation

They declared King Gyanendra the Emperor of the world's Hindus and Living incarnation of Lord Vishnu. The King's government in return has given Retd. Major General Bharat Keshar Simha, Chairman of the radical religious federation, Rs. 56,00,000 (approx. \$78,873) as donations and funds to organize festivals since 1 Feb. 05. While the country was exploding with protests and three Nepalis had died to shots due to shots fired by security forces, King Gyanendra visited temples in Pokhara and attended the Silver Jubilee function of the Nepal based World Hindu Federation on 8 April, in Birgunj where he called for "peace." It was clear that the security forces did not hear his call as they continued to shoot at demonstrators across the country in days to follow. Number of members unknown.

### Sports Council Nepal

The boxers and martial artists from this council are street- muscle power

for Crown Prince Paras, a patron of the council. Jagat Gauchan, involved in an attempted murder of jouranlist Padam Thakurathi almost 18 years ago, is a member for the council and Chairman of Nepal Karate Association. He was briefly made an Assistant Minister by the King after 1 Feb. Chairman of the All Nepal Football Association, Ganesh Thapa, is a brother of Home Minister Kamal Thapa. Sharad Chandra Shah, a hard-core royalist, was accused of using the Council to try to quell the 1990s movement for democracy during which time he was the Vice-chairman of the Population Commission. Number of members unknown.

### Unaffiliated civilian royalists

Difficult to estimate at this point, although many had welcomed the King's coup because they had imagined he meant what he said. Support for the King has fallen sharply in Kathmandu and outside."We don't even want to use the new money with that murderer's face," said villagers in Sanfey Bagar in 2004, where most villagers believed he killed his own brother to take full control as a King. It is known that the government or wealthy pro-monarchists have in the past paid for pro-King rallies taken out immediately after 1 Feb. 05. "We had planned everything for this [pro-King] rally last week," one of the organizers of the first valley wide pro-King Rally in Kathmandu on 3 Feb. 05 had said when asked how they managed to organize everything when phones aren't working and mass-rallies have been banned in Kathmandu following the coup. Nitsche Shumsher's pro-King party headed one of the larger rallies. He was later made a Minister of the King's cabinet.

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# Nation

## “The ban on rallies is preventive and aimed at maintaining law and order to save the lives and property of the citizens.”

*An exclusive interview with Hon. Yankila Sherpa, Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation, in New York.*

Hon. Yankila Sherpa, Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation was promoted in was in New York on 13 April and took time off to answer a few questions about the state of tourism in Nepal, the manner in which heads of state should be allowed to travel regardless of what it costs the state and the on going protests amongst other things. The interview was conducted by Nepali Aawaz Editor Kashish via email and the answers published are unedited.

**Ma'am, what is the purpose of your visit to the United States?**

I was in Washington DC for an official program on tourism to participate in the Global Summit of Travel and Tourism.

**Tell us a little about the 'Naturally Nepal, Once is Not Enough' campaign.**

Naturally Nepal is a brand to introduce Nepal's image as a tourism destination. This concept is aimed to help promote Nepal's immense natural beauty, cultural diversity and opportunities in tourism. 'Naturally Nepal, Once Is not Enough' is targeted at bolstering Nepal's tourism industry in the international tourism market. It aims at attracting additional 300,000 tourists in Nepal. This new brand concept aims to reinvent Nepal's diversity, modernity, and cultural heritage to make the country a more popular tourism destination. It focuses on mountain tourism, adventure holidays, which are a lifetime experience. The brand targets pioneer explorers, enterprising citizens, and travel intermediaries as customers of Nepali tourism industry. Jointly promoted by His Majesty's Government and

Nepal Tourism Board, this is a wonderful product launched with the initiative of the public-private partnership in Nepal. This also aims to penetrate into new tourism markets worldwide and serves to highlight the potentials of Nepal's tourism.

**What is the government's expectations for tourist arrival this season?**

Despite some adverse publicity and some problems because of strikes called by the political parties, we are hoping this season we will still see an increasing number of tourist arrivals in Nepal.

**Tourists also took part in pro-democracy protests in Nepal last week, and many of them were arrested. They have been witnessing government brutality during their stay in Nepal and cannot understand why democracy cannot be restored in the country. As a Minister of State for Tourism, how do you explain the government's arrest of tourists?**

Sometouristsmayhavebeenspotted in some places of protest as they had nothing to do during the bandh days. Normally, tourists traveling to Nepal are very sensitive and do not participate in any local political activities. Even if there were tourists participating in the street protests, I think they were doing so, demanding for peace and stability. They could be tired of the bandhs which caused inconvenience in their holiday programmes.

\*Ed. note: Dr. Brian Cobb, an American national who had been giving first-aid to injured security forces as well as protesters all week since 6 April, was first arrested by the government and then deported on 13 April. He had also been arrested in Spring 2004 for participating in a peaceful pro-democracy rally.

**It is clear that the international community and friends of Nepal are all pro-democracy and consequently against the current government and the King's direct rule. How do you think this will effect tourism in Nepal?**

First of all I don't think the entire international community is against Nepal. There are friends who are saying things should settle peacefully and soon. His Majesty the King is committed to resolve the problems facing Nepal and strengthening multiparty democracy through a constitutional process. I am confident that the current crisis situation in Nepal cannot go on too long. There is a better future which increases the prospects of peaceful development, including that of tourism in Nepal, for which there is immense potential. His Majesty's Government is seriously committed to work towards bringing peace and stability keeping in view the situation persisting in Nepal today.

**Ma'am, you are also the Minister of State for Civil Aviation. RNAC, the state run national airline, has been desperately struggling financially and when one of**

**their Boeing 757s was used by the King for his 21-day trip in December last year, it was paid for only 48 hours of flight time and the ground handling charges, landing and parking fees and loses of rerouting the pre-booked passengers are not even included here. The airline was paid about Rs.37 Million, but if it had flown its own regular scheduled flight they would have earned about Rs.97 Million, and so on this trip RNAC made a loss of about Rs. 56 Million. What did you do to help RNAC, since this fall directly under your portfolio?**

I don't think Heads of State should be traveling in excursion fares and encircling the continent when you don't have direct flights between various capitals. You have to conduct the visit of the Head of State in certain dignity, which will enhance the dignity of Nepal. Also I am not very sure the financial figures and the exact flight details given in your question are correct or not.

\*Ed. note: The so-far uncontested figures were published by the weekly Nepali magazine Samaya on its 29 December 2005 edition.

**How would you explain what is happening in Nepal now? Why aren't people being allowed to hold peaceful rallies and why were there armed security forces in plain clothes participating in a pro-**

**democracy rally in Nepalgunj?**

You must have noticed that His Majesty the King in a message to nation on the occasion of Nepali New Year's day called upon political parties for dialogue to bear the responsibility of and contributing towards activating multiparty democracy. The ban on rallies is preventive and aimed at maintaining law and order to save the lives and property of the citizens. It was, however, not aimed at preventing right to peaceful demonstrations. You must have also heard of the infiltration of the Maoists in the rallies, which has led to the strict security measures taken by the government.

**What kind of role do you see for the Monarchy in Nepal's democratic future? And what kind of role do you see for the people of Nepal in formulating government policies?**

Monarchy is the symbol of national unity and has always been a guardian of Nepal's democracy, peace and development. Monarchy can play an instrumental role in streamlining democracy and correcting abnormalities that may arise out of our young exercise in democracy. His Majesty the King has, time and again, expressed earnest commitment to adhere to constitutional monarchy and multiparty democracy publicly.

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# Entertainment

## Pop Express

### DJ Raju gets hitched!

Dj Raju, the man whose re-mixed version of the folk song Chyangba hoi Chyangba become something of an anthem across the country last year, has found his own Maichyaang, Reena. The couple is set to get married on 7 May. DJ Raju has been DJing for several years in Kathmandu now. In July 2001, he won Nepal's first DJ contest, War of the DJs! organized by Radisson Hotel. He has also worked as the in-house DJ for the Hyatt Regency's Rox Bar in Kathmandu. Apart from DJing, this one time fan of heavy metal and rock



music also designs album covers when he has free time. Although he had already become one of Nepal's most known DJ's, he achieved superstardom last year when his remix of the song Chyanba hoi Chyangba featuring pop-stars Kranti Ale, Mausami Gurung, DA 69, along with Aid Ray topped all music charts and his debut album DJ Raju Remix became instant hit.

(Photo: Anup Prakash)

### Radio Nepal hosts annual music contest

18-year-old crooner Suniti Adhikari has won the Nepali Modern Song Competition's "Best Vocalist" category, an annual contest organized by Radio Nepal to mark its anniversary. The event was held last week at Radio Nepal's premises, where the Nepali music industry's pioneers first got their break. This year 38 young and new singers participated in the competition. Suniti sang a song written and composed by the popular fusion composer and performer Anil Shahi. She has also performed three songs in Anil's latest solo album "Basanta Ritu" released last year.

Kala Rai and Rupak Chaudhari were awarded second and third prizes respectively. The three Best Vocalists were given a cash prize of Ten Thousand, Seven Thousand and Five Thousand each, respectively, and an opportunity to record a song with Radio Nepal. Other categories included Best Composition, which Bipin Agasti won, and Best



Composition, which the Satya-Sworup Raj Acharya brothers won. The brothers are already renowned performers in the Nepali music industry and are sons of the respected music artist Bhakta Raj Acharya.

### Paribesh's sixth album

Pokhareli band Paribesh's frontman Tilakbam Malla is now based in Kathmandu and has recently opened a recording studio in Putalisadak with his band's name "Paribesh Recording Studio". Last week, he also released his band's sixth album "Namaste," A collection of folk-pop originals. In a press conference organized for the launch, the music video for "Ghumi Ghumi Nachideu," the album's first single, was also released. The music video is directed by Raju Yakachha, makeup artist for Kantipur Television.

### Music album on top of the world

The 2-time Mt. Everest summiteer without oxygen, Tashi Lakpa Sherpa will be releasing his debut music album on top of the world. Singer and Musician climber Tashi has already released two album during his previous climbs. His forthcoming album "Sherpeni Kanchhi" will feature pop-stars Kranti Ale, Raju Lama, Sumit Khadka, Vijay Lama and Rahul Pradhan as co-singers and composers/arrangers. Tashi Lakpa will also be taking along a flag of Kantipur FM's flag, to plant it on top of the summit one he gets there for the third time.

### Another Nirnaya da NSK

#### news

Nirnaya da' NSK has done it again. And

this time, he is in news for performing for the first time in the hills of Nepal. Who said only urban youth listen to Hiphop? Rapper Nirnaya along with rap group Madzone performed in a



concert in Diktel of Khotang district last week. "It was an amazing and exciting experience. We were a little afraid at first because of the current situation. But, it was a good show and an excellent crowd", said NSK after the tour.

### Music Dot Com plans Talents 4

Established pop-stars Nima Rumba, Babin Pradhan, Raju Lama (of The Angels) made their musical debut in 1992 with the compilation album

"Talent Vol. 1." The album featured a total of 10 singers and received great feedback. The album was released by Harati Music Center, owned by Anil Sthapit and pop-star of the early 90s Bhim Tuladhar. It was the label's first album too. The "Talent" installments continued with the release of "Talents Vol. 2" in 1994 and "Talents Vol. 3" in 1996. Anil Sthapit, a wellknown music album cover designer, is now giving life to the series and plans to launch the 4th installment in the series, "Talents Vol. 4," through the music label Music

dot com. It will feature 8 to 9 songs, all by fresh talents including Dharmendra Sewan, runner-up of the televised talent show Nepali Tara and Ashusen, Amul, Subash, Jabik and Rajesh. Popular VJ and Television Producer (from Image Channel) Asif Shah is also singing for the first time. His song features DA69 of the popular rap group The Unity. The recording phase is almost complete and the release date has been fixed for May, 2006.

This April also marks the 4th Anniversary of Music dot com. Congratulations on your four years of contribution to Nepali music.

great music.

### Ram Krishna Dhakal sings Hindi Bhajan and releases two compilations

Ram Krishna Dhakal has released his first single in Hindi. He has given his voice to a collection album "Jeevan Dhan," written and composed by the Indian Hindu spiritual teacher Jagatguru Shree

Kripaluji Maharaj. In the collection album released last week, Ram Krishna Dhakal has sung two Hindi Bhajans, "Ore More Mann" and "Shree Govinda Govinda Bol". The music videos for the two songs were also screened at the press conference for the album's launch. In the same conference, Music Nepal also launched two compilations, "Best Music Videos of Ram Krishna Dhakal," which includes a video of the start performing when he was only 13, and a karaoke CD of this most popular songs "I Can Also Sing."

(Photo: Anup Prakash)

## Entertainment

### मनोरञ्जन / गतिवीधी



A scene from Sarwanam (above) and Mayadevi's Dream (next page) . Photo: Anushil Shrestha

#### गुरुकुलमा मायादेवीको सपना

समनाटकघर गुरुकुलमा १० चैतबाट डा. अभि सुवेदीको नयाँ नाटक मायादेवीको सपना प्रदर्शन भइरहेको छ। द्वन्द्वग्रस्त ग्रामीण समाजमा चरम पीडा भोगिरहेका नेपाली महिला र लाहुरे परिवारको कथामा उनीएको एक घण्टाको नाटकको निर्देशन निशा शर्मा पोखेलले गरेकी हुन्।

नाटककार अभि सुवेदीले आफ्नो नाटकलाई यथार्थ र सपनाको सन्धी मानेका छन्। एक घण्टाको नाटकले देशको द्वन्द्वरत जटिल परिस्थितिलाई केलाउन खोजेको छ। जनयुद्धका कारण देशमा युवाहरूको पलायनसँगै गाउँमा लग्ने मान्छेहरूको अभाव खटकिएको छ। मारिने र मर्नेहरूमा युवाहरू नै बढी छन्। कयौं आमाका

काखहरू रित्तिरहेका छन्। नाटकले द्वन्द्वबाट उत्पन्न समस्या मात्र देखाएको छैन, युद्ध त्यागेर शान्ति स्थापना गर्नका लागि सन्देश समेत दिएको छ।

१२ वैशाखसम्म दैनिक रूपमा प्रदर्शन हुने मायादेवीको सपना मा निशा शर्मा, सरिता गिरी, वसन्त भट्ट, सौगात मल्ल, सुरेश चन्द, पशुपति राई, ओमप्रकाश कर्ण, प्रमिला कटवाल, समुना केसी, रामहरि ढकाल, सरस्वती चौधरी, प्रवीण ढकाल, राजन खतिवडा आदिको अभिनय रहेको छ।

#### आदवासी गीती सम्मान बैरागी काइलालाई

आदवासी गीतकार समाज नेपालले १८ चैतमा प्रज्ञा भवनमा आयोजित कार्यक्रममा कवि एवं गीतकार प्राज्ञ बैरागी काइँला (तिलविक्रम नेम्बाङ)लाई आदिवासी गीतिसम्मान प्रदान गर्‍यो।

प्रमुख अतिथी वरिष्ठ संगीतकार अम्बर गुरुङले साहित्यकार बैरागी काइँलालाई सम्मान पत्र, दश हजार रुपैया नगद प्रदान गर्दै दोसल्ला ओढाउनुभयो। त्यसैगरी धरान निवासी गीतकार शशी थापा (सुब्बा)लाई ५ हजार पुरस्कार र ११शिको आदिवासी गीतिप्रतिभा पुरस्कार प्रदान गरिएको थियो। गीतकार शशी कार्यक्रममा अनुपस्थित रहनुभएको थियो। कार्यक्रममा साहित्यकार डा. अभि सुवेदी, संगीतकार कर्म योञ्जन, कवी श्रवण मुकारुड आदिले बोल्नुभएको

थियो।

#### सर्वनामको प्रतिबन्धित पात्रहरू

चर्चित नाट्य समूह सर्वनाम २५ औं वर्षमा प्रवेश गरेको अवसरमा सो समूले १८ चैत्रमा नाटक प्रदर्शन तथा सम्मान कार्यक्रम गर्दै र जधानीमा रजत वर्ष मनायो।

रजत वर्ष मनाउने क्रममा रसियन कलचरसेण्टरमा आयोजित कार्यक्रममा आशेष मल्ल द्वारा लिखित तथा निर्देशित प्रतिबन्धित पात्रहरू नामक प्रयोगात्मक नाटक मञ्चन गरिएको थियो। 'प्रतिबन्धित पात्रहरू'लेसिर्जना प्रतिबन्धित हुनुको पीडाले आक्रान्त समयकोकथा निर्धक्क बोलेको थियो। नाटकभित्र नाटककारका

# Entertainment



सिजना प्रतिबन्धित देखाइन्छ। अनेक(अनेक पात्रहरु नाटककारको गर्भमा जन्मको प्रतिक्रिया हुन्छन्। तर पात्रहरु वर्जित हुन्छन्। नाटककारका निमित्त सिर्जना अपराध भएकोसमयमा मुक्तिका निमित्त छटपटाएका पात्रहरु बीचको अन्तर्द्वन्द्व नै नाटकको मूल विषय रहेको थियो। अशेष मल्लको लेखन तथा निर्देशन रहेको यस नाटकमा ओममणी शर्मा, हरिशचन्द्रके.सी., मुरारी लामिछाने, परमेश्वर के.सी. लगायत सर्वनामका लगभग तीन दर्जन रङ्कर्मिहरुले अभिनय गरेका थिए।

सो अवसरमा मोफसलमा रहेर रङ्कर्ममा निरन्तर लागी परेका सुनिल मिश्रलाई सर्वनाम पुरस्कार २०६२ बाट सम्मान गरियो। मिश्रले विगत अर्धदशक देखि मैथली नाट्य क्षेत्रमा संलग्न रहि महत्वपूर्ण योगदान पुऱ्याउँदै आउनुभएको छ। सो अवसरमा दुर्घटनामा परि अपाङ्ग हुनुभएका कलाकार अर्जुन तिम्लीनालाई

पनि सम्मान गरिएको थियो।

## यात्रीको निर्वासित मनहरु

नेपाल राजकीय प्रज्ञा-प्रतिष्ठान र ज्योतिपुञ्ज साइन थिएटरको संयुक्त आयोजनामा १० चैतमा नाटक निर्वासित मनहरु को मञ्चन भयो। साँस कृतिक संस्थानले आयोजना गरेको मध्यमाञ्चल स्तरीय नाटक प्रतियोगिता २०६२ मा उत्कृष्ट निर्देशन, अभिनेता र प्रस्तुतिको तीन विधामा पुरस्कृत निर्वासित मनहरु को लेखन/निर्देशन/परि कल्पना कृष्ण शाह यात्रीको रहेको छ। द्वन्द्वको मारमा परेर ज्यान बचाउन र पैसा कमाउन विदेशिएका नेपालीहरुले भोग्नु परेको कथा समेटिएको नाटकमा किशोर अनुराग, विनोद श्रेष्ठ, निराजन सिग्देल, अशोक शिवाकोटी, जगतबहादुर खडका, जे.बी. रुवाली, जीवन साथी बस्नेत र रीता थापाले अभिनय गरेका थिए।

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# Entertainment

## Big mountains to Big Apple



Photo: Kashish Das Shrestha

In March, the Sherpa Kyidug Society of America invited three prominent artists from Nepal, all members of the Himalayan Community. During their stop over in New York, Dendi Sherpa (left), Samday Sherpa (right) and Bijaya Lama (center) took time out to speak with Nepali Aawaz.

### Bijaya Lama

A native of Kavre district, Bijaya Lama moved to Kathmandu when he was 7-years-old. Along with artists like Dhiraj Rai, Raju Lama, Bijaya Lama has also become one of the Himalayan Community's prominent pop-stars since he entered the music scene 14-years ago. "I am the first person to take up music, although my mom used to sing a lot in our village," he tells us. "And my sister has been one of my biggest supporters."

Bijaya's music fits comfortably under the tag "folk-pop fusion." "Its based in our tradintaionl styles like Tamang sello, which I fuse with more Western styles, but not rock music," he explains.

In 1992, Bijaya fronted the group called 5 Heartbeats. In a local competition that year, he even won an award for the "Best Performance." But it wasn't until 1998 that he released his first album Besaro Jiwan, which received less than moderate success also partly because of poor management and marketing. "I had my weaknesses too," he admits. His 2nd album, Lhaso, was released in 2001 and despite the low media coverage, it fared well in the market, especially in the Himalayan community. The following year, he released his 3rd album, On Mane Peme, and with it he achieved national success and fame. The media was quick to cover his story. By this time Bijaya was on a roll. Earlier this year he released his latest album Dorje, and "I hear that its doing well in Nepal right now," he says with a smile. "Its

there in the higher parts of the [music] charts." Most of the songs in Dorje as folk based, and several of them fused with Techno beats too. "I do a lot of song-writing, but I always like meeting new upcoming writers and composers and working with them," he says, about the song-writing and compositions in his albums. "But you know, most of the songs are about romance, and usually sentimental in mood.. but most of my fans are predominantly mature adults and not the screaming young teenagers and high school girls," he admits laughing. "But I sing for everyone."

Bijaya has already toured most major towns and cities in Nepal and this American tour is his first international tour. "Its been going gerat!," he admits. This year, he is also scheduled to perform in London, Canada and Hong Kong. But what does he think of the obvious comparisons between him and his contemporaries from the Himalayan community? "We don't fall into the same group, they are seniors to me and I do respect them. But the generations, they change, so there's Raju Lama, today there's me, Bijayal Lama, and tomorrow there will be others. But we're all good friends. We meet quite regualrly."

One of his fondest memories has been an incident during a 2002 concert in Pokhara. His single "Na khanu pani Tongba ko" was a hit single at the time so he was scheduled to be the grand finale of the show. "There was a Gurung bahini, she ran onto the stage and hugged and kissed me on my cheeks," he says, not being able to stop grinning.

"That was my first such experience with a fan, I don't think i'll ever forget that. There have been several romantic incidents here in the US as well, with both Nepalis as well as Americans and I feel lucky, these are all memories of my success. Our first stop on this tour was Seattle and the fans literally cired when we were leaving Seattle, and i couldn't help crying myself. To have come so far and touch the hearts of people... It was just quite something."

### Dendi Sherpa

Originally from Ramechap, Dendi Sherpa moved to Kathmandu in 1980. Today he is one of the leading culture preservationists in the Sherpa community. "I have dedicated my life to the presevation of Sherpa culture and will spend the rest of this life for it," he says, with sense of pride. Despite the personal hardships and regular financial difficulties, in the last 10 years he has released a series of music albums, videos and hosts a regular weekly show on HBC FM in an effort to do his part for the preservation of a culture he loves with all his life.

Seeing Sherpas living in New York, he told us, "Back when I moved to Kathmandu, Sherpas didn't have house there, leave along living in New York. They came from the mountains and lived on rent and in hotels. They had a small room that they used as kitchen, bedroom everything. The situation was very weak. There was no Sherpa gumba in Kathmandu at the time. Sherpa Sewa Kendra was the first organization to help the growing

community in the valley and then came Nepal Sherpa Sangh. Now there are Sherpa orgs for almost everything and there are Sherpas almost everywhere in this world." And the further they move away from home, it seems, the closer they come to losing and forgetting their cultural heritage.

Dendi Sherpa has been involved in music for almost 18 years now. For several years he taught songs and dance to Sherpas through the Kathmandu Himalayan Culture Center, an organization that worked for the preservation of Sherpa culture in Kathmandu. "They had brought some instruments like Tungna but no one there really knew how to play it. But I used to play it as a child so i was the actually the first one to play it there at the center," he reminisced. As much as he wanted to be involved full time with this work, his main source of income was his work in the trekking industry of Nepal. However, for Dendi Sherpa trekking wasn't only about taking tourists up to the mountains, it was also a perfect opportunity to study and document the himalayan cultures, to learn their folk artistic cultures. During his trips, he would regularly write and collect songs of the indigenous ethnic groups he would meet.

In his first recording experience, Dendi Sherpa recorded 23 group songs in a day. "I was one of the singers and played the music instrument in all of them," he recalls. "The quality, as you can probably imagine, wasn't too great. Now days I take as much as 20 days or more just to record one song."

In 1994, Dendi Shepa released Sherpa Songs Vol.1 and Vol.2 and the following year Vol.3. But he was growing tired of the passive ways of the Culture Center and decided to leave it, taking a sabbatical from teaching and recording music for several years although he continued playing the Tungna and collecting songs. In 1999, he released his fourth album Sherpa Pop Song 1998. This time, he fused elements of pop-music with the traditional Sherpa sounds. The album was released by Moonlight Records, the publishing house of this paper. "A lot of people told me that there was no such album avaiable and they wanted it for Sherpa functions. But when it was released, we took it over to a Loshar celebration in Boudha," he said. "Only 13 copies sold, and there were four to five thousand Sherpas gathered at the event." Determined to preserve his culture regardless of how it fared



# Entertainment

in the market, in 2000 he released the Millennium Sherpa Hit Song, also produced by Moonlight Records. "People did not realize that this wasn't just music, it was also a way to preserve our language." In 2001 he released an instrumental album, Music Of Sherpa, and another album New And Old Song Sherpa Song. "There aren't really one of those albums that fly off the shelves," he laughed. "It sold, but very slowly, that was the only pattern we could detect in its sales."

In 2002, the Himalayan Sherpa Arts Center opened and Dendi Sherpa soon found himself working with them. Teamed with a new group, he released the album Sherpa Folk Song 2003 and then Sherpa Giti Sangraha, a book with over 200 songs. His latest album Me And My Lute came out earlier this year.

Apart from music album, Dendi has also release several instructional VCDs and DVDs on traditional Sherpa dances. In fact, a performance troupe in Sikkim went on tour across India performing those dances they learnt from his videos.

"Its really difficult to get fiancaily assistance for this sort of work from the community," he says, sounding somewhat disappointed. "I make a living from trekking."

Over the years, he has also toured extensively in Nepal and twice in Sikkim. This is his first American tour and the next stop is Canada. Dendi also regularly hosts a radio show on HBC FM in Kathmandu on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:30 - 7AM. His latest projects include a video he is currently developing to help Sherpa children living outside of Nepal to learn about their native culture and he just finished a documentary titled Dumji-Festavl of the Everest Region. Based in the Khumbu region, the documentary follows the lives of the locals as they collect money to celebrate and worship during this annual festival.

"I want to make learning Sherpa cultures as accessible as possible so that children can chose what they want to learn at home everyday through different mediums like music, video and books," he tells us. "If you cannot even speak your native language and dont' know your own culture and traditions, how do you prove you are a Sherpa? Just the clothes you wear? In that case, you might as well just let a Chinese or Japanese wear our clothes and call them Sherpas. Sherpa means language, art, religion, these are elements that make our identity."

## Samday Sherpa

Samday Sherpa is one of Nepal's leading satirists and a pioneer in the art of caricature. Originally from Shyama Village Development Committee, Dolkha district, he has lived in Kathmandu for almost 20 years now. It was in school, back in 1981, that he first performed comedy in public. Even as a student in Amrit Science Campus in Kathmandu, he continued putting up shows. It was here that he did his first parodies and at a time when the movement for democracy was picking up steam, he found respect from the audience for his work and from senior artists for his talent. He would often be request to sing contemporary songs but he felt comedy was his "calling."

His first major show was a drama titled "Mama Bhanja" that he performed with Dinesh DC at the Rastriya Nach Ghar. He regularly took part in shows for the Free Student Union events and soon enough invitations and requests to perform for political events came pouring in. The government in Nepal was still an autocratic one, ruled by the King, and censorship was heavily imposed. There was no way he would be allowed to perform in the National Academy Hall so he often found himself performing in Kritipur, on the Tribhuwan University's auditoriums, always packed with an enthusiastic and usually politically charged audience. Invitations also started coming in from various parts of Nepal such as Pokhara, Butwal and towns in Eastern Nepal.

When the 1990s movement for democracy picked up steam, he went on to take part in it with senior satirists and parody artists like Madan Krishna and Hari Banksha. "They were one of my inspirations to being who I was," he says. "Their voice against the system was what moved me to a great deal."

But Samday Sherpa and his colleagues weren't just people randomly making political jokes on stage. His friends and him were politically charged and left leaning and well versed in their ideology. And the Panchayat system wasn't his only target, he also often quipped about the internal conflicts in the Communist parties of Nepal. In fact, Samday Sherpa's friends and him were even dubbed "Communist artists," but the media did eventually give them a larger coverage and toay he is recognized as a National level artist and not bracketed into a box. "I would study about artists from other countries," he says. "I felt that I had to constantly grow as an aritsts."

When his album Narayanhitit Becheyra Hanga" came out, the politically charged atmosphere of the

country turned it into an instant success with the people and the government banned it. The album was a satire at how the Palace sold national treasures to setup big foreign bank accounts. Samday Sherpa and his friends then went on a 2-month nation wide tour. "I was delightedly surprised to see the huge turn out in the audience," he reminisced. "People were very curious about me. There used to be special security arrangements for me because of the huge crowd that would come to see me. It was like prajatantra came into my life."

Samday's caricature also made him a prominent comedian. His caricature of King Birendra's declaration of the 1990's constitution only added to his growing popularity. "It wasn't just about the palace, it was about anyone who mattered to the country, whose decisions and words made a difference in what happened in Nepal," he explained. Hence the theme of his next album, "Ticket," about the election tickets that politicians received during democracy. But even though democracy had been declared in Nepal by spring of 1990, the government banned both of Samday's albums and arrested people for playing its songs. "It was like we had lost democracy within weeks of the King's declaration of the new constitution." His third album Dalley Khorsani featured gainey songs, and recordings of his televised caricatures.

By 1991, Samday had started what he calls "working professionally," with senior artists like Santosh Panta. This is also year he started performing for the annual Gai Jatra festival, stopped only in 2001 after the Royal Massacare. "It was a bit insecure at that time, and there was gai jatra on the streets so what do we do on stage?" he groaned. Over the years he has also toured extensively, included performances at the South Asian Theatre Festival in Pakistan 1991 to represent Nepal. Ashes Malla, Krishana Pahadai (one of Nepal's leading human rights activists today) and Govind Sigh Rawat ji were also part of the troupe. He has also performed in Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Brunei, Korea, London, Germany, Australia, Qatar, Kuwait, Malasiya, Israel amongst other countries and this is his first American tour.

So what does Samday Sherpa think of the current situation of Nepal? "The difference is that this system isn't decalred as panchayat but it is running like one. But the realization of people has come a long way since the 1980s, people don't think the same way anymore. During democracy, people have all become chetanamulak. The King's declaration has been anti-constitutional and thought the system cannot be called pancahayat the people running the show are from that era. Its clear that the King is running a dictatorship. But the artists are doing what we have to do."

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# Nation

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तथा मृत्युदण्ड समेत पाउन सक्नेछन् । नेपाल तर्फको हरिशचन्द्रगढि र पारि पडिको केलावारी गाउ विच एक विवाहवारीको घटनालाई लिएर फाटो बढेपछी भारतीय हतियारधारी समुहले लुटपाट मचाउन थालेका थिए । जसका कारण ४३ परिवारले गत वर्ष घर छोडेर छिमेकि कहा ३ महिना आश्रय लिएर बसे । दुइ देश विचका डिआइजी विच विभिन्न चरणमा वार्ता भएपछि सीमा क्षेत्रमा सुरक्षा ब्यवस्था कडा बनाइएको थियो ।

यस घटनाबारे सीमापारि सिक्टीरि थत एसवीका टोली प्रमुख तजवरसिंह र तवत आफूलाई थाहा नभएको बताउँछन् । भन्छन्-‘प्रहरीको काममा हामीले बोलन मिल्दैन ।’ एसएसवीबाट भने गाउलेलाइ समस्या छैन शान्ति ने पाएको बताउछन् । यता इलाका प्रहरी कार्यालय रंगेलीका प्रहरी निरीक्षक लालमणि आचार्य भारतीय डाका नियन्त्रणका विषयमा भारतीय प्रहरीसँग छलफल भएपनि गाउँलेले समस्या नराखेकाले यस विषयमा कुरा कानी नगरिएको बताउँछन् ।

## सीमा क्षेत्रमा माओवादी चलखेल

माओवादी समुहले २०६२ जेठको पहिलो साता मोरङको दक्षिण भागको नेपाल-भारत खुल्ला सीमाबाटै आधुनिक बन्दुक एसएमजी तीन थान, एलएमजी र एसएलआर एक/एक थान नेपाल भित्र्याए । बोकेर पैदल मार्ग हुँदै नेपाल भित्र्याइएका ति बन्दुक बाहुनी गाविस हुँदै एउटा टुकमा लोड गरि बाहुनी, दुलारीवाट महेन्द्र र जमार्ग निकालेर सुनसरीको इटहरी स्थित बुढि खोलाको बगरै बगर राती उत्तर मोरङको केर वारी पुऱ्याइएको थियो ।

सो हतियार लिन गएका २० मध्ये एकका अनुसार, हतियार सुरक्षित तरिकाले सम्बन्धित ठाउसम्म पुऱ्याउन टुकका अधि दुइ मोटरसाइकल लागेका थिए । मेची-कोशी सातौ ब्रिगेड २५ औ वटालियन सी कम्पनीले जिम्मा लिएको सो हतियार ल्याउने जनसेना र जन मिलेसियाका कार्यकर्ताहरू थिए । बन्दुक बोकेको टुक हिडाइएको इटहरी स्थित बूढि खोला र सेनाको पूर्वी पृतना मुख्यालय बीचको दुरी पाँच सय मिटर मात्र छ । माओवादीका पुर्वाञ्चल ब्युरो सदस्य सुरेन्द्र भारत प्रवासमा रहेर यहाँको हात हतियार फाँट हेर्छन् । ती पाँच थान आधुनिक हतियार उनले नै पठाएको हो ।

२०६१ भदौ पहिलो साता माओवादीका मोरङ जिल्ला सदस्य किरणले विहार अररियाको फारविसगञ्जवाट नौ राउण्ड गोली जाने ब्राण्ड नामले चिनिने दुइ थान माउजर, छ राउण्ड जाने एक थान सिक्सर र एक गोली जाने तीन थान कटुवा बोकेरै नेपाल प्रवेश गरे । भदौ १२ गते सुनसरीको भरौलमा सम्पन्न मिलिसिया जिल्ला भेलामा उनले सोहि हतियार मिलिसियालाई दहो बनाउन जिल्ला कमाण्डर सौगातलाई जिम्मा लगाए ।

सुनसरी जिल्ला जनसरकार प्रमुख रोजिना भने भारतबाट हतियार भित्र्याउने कुरा अरि वकार गर्छीन । भन्छन् ‘ शत्रुको हतियार खोसेर उनीहरूलाई नै ठोक्ने हो ।’ तर, माओवादी प्रयोजनका लागि भारतबाट नेपाल भित्र्याउने

क्रममा ठुलो मात्रामा विस्फोटक पदार्थ डेटोनेटर र जिलेटिन १० माघमा बरामद गरेर मोरङ प्रहरीले सफलता पाएको थियो । मोरङको वाहुनी-४ नयाँ टोल स्थित गोपाल कार्कीको कामतमा भुई तलाको दुई कोठामा लुकाएर राखिएको २० हजार थान डेटोनेटर र ८ सय १४ किलो जिलेटिन जफत गरिएको थियो । प्रहरी उपरिक्षक जगतबहादुर विष्टका अनुसार यती ठुलो मात्रामा डेटोनेटर बरामद गरिएको नेपालमै पहिलो हो ।

माओवादीलाई हतियार बिक्री गर्ने गरेको आरोपमा दुइ जनालाई ३० माघमा भारतीय प्रहरीले पक्राउ गर्‍यो । नेपाल भारत सीमा जोगवनीवाट पाँच किलोमिटर दक्षिण बथनाहामा कपडाको ब्यापार गर्ने उपेन्द्र सिंह र संजय सिंहलाई साँझपख तीन थान पेस्तोल सहित फारविसगञ्ज प्रहरीले पक्राउ गरेर भोलिपल्टनै अररिया जिल्ला कारागार चलान गर्‍यो । बथनाहामा सातामा तीन दिन लाग्ने हाटका दिन माओवादीलाई सिंहद्वयले हतियार उपलब्ध गराउदै आएको भारतीय प्रहरीले जनाएको छ । फारविसगञ्ज र बथनाहा प्रहरीले नक्कली ग्राहक बनाई ब्यापारी कहाँ हतियार खरिद गर्न पठाएका थिए । सोही समयमा उनीहरूलाई पक्राउ गरिएको थियो । फारविसगञ्जका डिएसपी पंकजकुमार भन्छन्- ‘यिनीहरू १५ वर्षदेखि हतियार तस्करी गर्दै आएका थिए ।’

माओवादीले ३० जेठमा अतिरिक्त हुलाक सिजुवा मोरङका प्रमुख धुवनारायण तजपुरियालाई सिजुवा-१ डागी टोल स्थित उनकै घरमा छातीमा गोली हानी हत्या गरे । डंग्राहाका श्रवणकुमार विश्वास तथा मभारे -३ का मुनिलाल महतो र मोहनकृष्ण कामतलाई पनि गोली हानी हत्या गरे । माओवादीले मोरङमा ६१ र सुनसरीमा २० जनाको हत्या गरिसकेको छ ।

## नेपालको विद्युत चोरी

नेपालको विद्युत अवैध रूपमा चोरी गरी मोरङको डाइनिया गाविससँग जोडिएको भार तको अररिया जिल्लास्थित मुरारीपुर सिक्टी क्षेत्रमा विजुली प्रयोग गर्ने गरेको पाइएको छ । विद्युत चोरीवाट लाखौ रुपैयाँ नोक्सानी हुँदा पनि प्राधिकरण र स्थानीय प्रशासन मौन देखिएको छ । सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रमा रहेको सीमा सुरक्षा बल (एसएसवी), गाउँ पञ्चायतका प्रमुख र उनको छिमेकी कहाँ बतीको भिलिमिली छ । उनीहरूले अवैध रूपमा नेपालतर्फको विजुली लगेर प्रयोग गरिरहेका छन् । डाइनिया हर्चनगढीस्थि थगत सीमासंगै जोडिएको नेपाल चोकबाट तार तानेर भारततर्फ लगेको छ । पञ्चायत प्रमुख (मुखिया) वाजुदिन र उनका छिमेकीले साँझ परेपछि हुकिड गरेर विजुली लान्छन् भने प्रहरी र एसएसवीले लगेको तार दिनभरी पनि जोडिएको हुन्छ ।

विद्युत प्राधिकरणको रंगेली शाखाका प्रमुख चन्द्रनारायण साहलाई भारतीयले विद्युत चोरेको सम्बन्धमा प्रश्न गर्दा उनले चोरी नभएको दावी गरे । रंगेली प्रहरीसँग अनुमति लिएर भारतीय प्रहरीले गत वर्षदेखि नै नेपालको विजुली प्रयोग गर्दै आएको स्थानीयवासी बताउछन् ।



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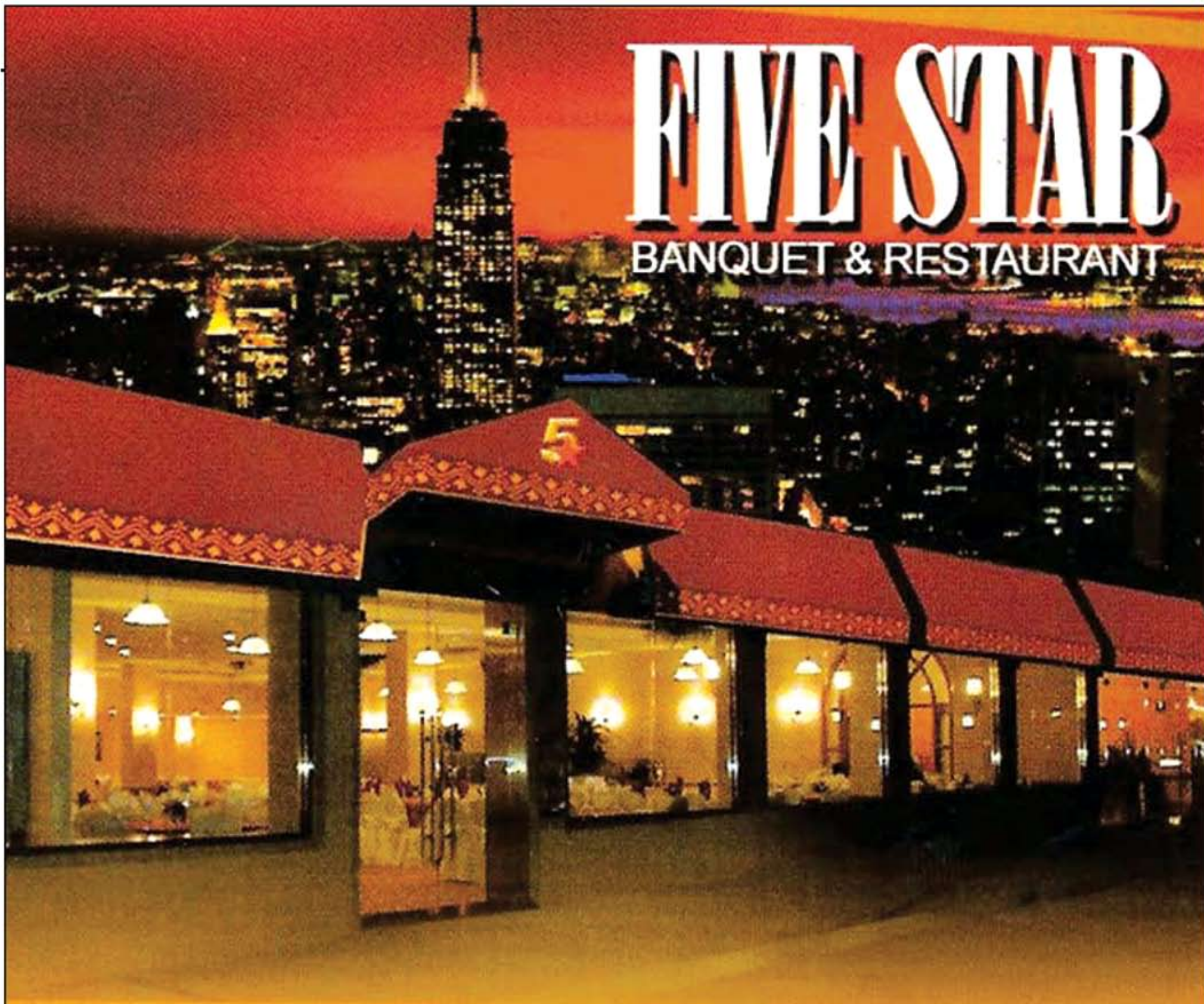
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