



बोलवम मेला

Page 24 »



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FREE

नपक अविज



Senior politician and Vice President of Nepali Congress is in New York for a medical treatment.

Like the kind of buzz that builds in the house when a family's patriarch visits, the Nepali Ambassador's residence in New York was a buzz on Friday, 4 August, with a small group of old party cadres in exile and well wishers gathering to meet the elderly Vice President of Nepali congress party, Sushil Koirala, who had arrived in New York only the day before. The stature of the Koirala dynasty in Nepal, for better or for worse, is also compared to the

Gandhi family of India by many. And Sushil Koirala is one of its senior most clan members of the Koirala family, the first cousin of the Prime Minister and more importantly the Vice President of the Nepali Congress party, of which the Prime Minster himself is the president. And post April Uprising, he has already held three high level meetings with Maoist supremos Prachanda and Baburam and delegates from the UML party. He is also one of the key figures

to help shape the ideals of democracy and other policies in the Congress Party through the decades. "I am somewhere in my 60s," is all he can say about his age, with no birth certificate to officially state it. "And the closest thing i've had to a wife is the idea of democracy," he adds. "How could I ever even consider marrying when I myself was in exile most parts of my life?"

6 »

Pratistha confides: "I didn't know what to do. I was scared."



When 20-year-old Nepali student Pratistha Budhathoki went missing from Estes Park, Denver, on 18 June, it became one of the biggest news in the Nepali diaspora this year. The student from St. Clouds University, MN, had gone to Denver for the second summer to work during the holidays. For two weeks during her disappearance, Pratistha became a regular lead story for local news on TV and print in Denver and the Nepali media played the story too. On 3 July, as the 24th Association of Nepalis in Americas' annual convention was coming to a close in Newark, New Jersey, it was announced that Pratistha had been found 15 days after she went missing.

7 »

Manose Singh in NY



बजेट २०६३/६४

जनआन्दोलन-२०६३ मार्फत पुनर्स्थापित प्रतिनिधीसभासमक्ष गत २८ असारमा सरकारले आर्थिक वर्ष २०६३/६४ का लागी २८ असारमा प्रस्तुत गरेको बजेटमा राजदरवारको खर्च ७० प्रतिशत घटाइएको छ । अर्थमन्त्री रामशरण महतले प्रतिनिधिसभाको वैठकमा प्रस्तुत गरेको रु. १ खर्ब ४३ अर्बको वार्षिक बजेटमध्येबाट चालुतर्फ रु.८३ अर्ब ७६ करोड, पूँजीगततर्फ रु.४४ अर्ब ८७ करोड तथा साँवा-व्याज भुक्तानीतर्फ रु.१४ अर्ब २४ करोड छुट्टाइएको छ । यसवर्षको वजेट गतवर्षको तुलनामा २८ प्रतिशत भन्दा बढी हो ।

Politics



ANA Convention 2006

Looking back at ANA NYC 2006!



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Days in Nepali History

17 July 2001

Online news portal Nepalnews.com reports that Nepal is the world's 44th most populous nation in the world. "With a population of 23.46 million, Nepal now ranks behind Iraq with 23.58 million and ahead of Malaysia with 22.65 million people," the report continues.

The figures were released this month by the Washington, D.C. based Population Reference Bureau.

Note: Nepal's estimated population for Mid- 2005 according to Population Reference Bureau was 25.4 Million and the estimated population in July 2006 according to The World Factbook- CIA is 28.287 million.

31 July 2002

Throngs of people queue outside the Royal Palace to sign the visitor's book to congratulate Crown Prince Paras and Crown Princess Himani on the birth of their son prince Hridayendra, born on 30 July. Princess Purnika is the couple's first child. Prince Hridayendra is the second inline to the succession to the throne of Nepal, his father being the first. All male royalties of Nepal were killed during or as a result of the palace massacre last year except prince Hridayendra's grandfather King Gyanendra and father Crown Prince Paras.

Note: On 31 July 2006, the cabinet drafted amendments to the law regarding the heir to the throne. The changed law declares that a Special Committee under the Prime Minister will take decisions to the accession to the throne, which will have to be passed by the parliament. It also states that the King's first child will be

the heir to the throne regardless of gender, unlike the current practice of declaring the King's oldest son the heir apparent. The amendments will be presented to the House of Representatives for approval and the existence and role of Nepal's monarchy itself will be on the line during the Constituent Assembly to be held in Nepal soon.

16 July 2003

Ramesh Khakurel is awarded this year's "INLS Best Book Award" by the International Nepali Literature Society (INLS) based in in Washington, D.C. for his epic Shragdhara. Similarly, the organization's "Dilliram Timisina Award" is given to Sudha Tripathi for the category of Best Female Literature for her book Sense of humors in the poems of Bhupi. Krishna Raj Khanal was awarded the Best new Talent.

29 July 2004

At a press meet, students of Pulchowk Engineering College announce that Nepal will be participating in this year's robot competition to be organized by Asian and the Pacific Broadcast Union in Bangkok on 24 August. 25 countries, including Nepal, will be participating. The team representing Nepal consists of 5 automatic robots and one semi-automatic robot, said Pulchowk Engineering Campus students Ajay Dhakal, Shankar Raj Uprety and Ramesh Chaudhary who also the team leader. Mechanical Department lecturer Rajesh Kayastha is the team director.

In Bangkok, the robots will participate in a sporting event and the scores they earn will determine their standing in the international contest.

In Quotes

- Wepal is a small country with vast potentials."
- **Sushil Koirala**, the Vice President of Nepali Congress party, during an interview with Nepali Aawaz in New York. Full interview on page 6.
- I know wierd things happened with me and its hard for people to believe my 15 days in wilderness. I was there in the mountains and the lake all by myself and my fear kept me hiding from everyone."
- **Pratistha Budhathoki**, the Nepali student who went missing for 15 days in Denver, in an email to Nepali Aawaz, her first interaction with the media since returning.
- The British Government has marked history by granting British citizenship to Gurkhas, now it is time for the Government of Nepal to recognize their loyalty by granting them dual nationality which would be most beneficial to Nepal's overall development."
- **Hitman Gurung**, a retired British Gurkha Captain, in a paper presented at the NRN (Non-Resident Nepalis) Regional Conference in Bunn, United Kingdom last month.
- We have not recognized the Maoists' parallel government, so no allocation has been made for the Maoists People's Liberation Army (PLA)."
- **Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat**, talking to reporters about after presenting the \$2 billion budget of the Seven Party Alliance government for the fiscal year 2006-07.
- We will have to announce a new budget after the formation of the interim government.

 Therefore he [Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat] made a ridiculous attempt [by presenting the budget]. It was totally unnecessary. He made the budget speech without consulting

- us. We feel that it was just a waste of time and energy. We will incorporate the positive proclamations of this House and also the positive provisions of the 1990 Constitution into the interim constitution."
- **Dr. Baburam Bhattari**, one of the top politbureau member of the CPN (Moaist), responding to Kantipur news team when asked if the proposed interim constitution would hold up the provisions made by the House of Representatives after its reinstatement on 2 May this year, and the recently declared national budget.
- The threat is growing the number of people, families and communities afflicted is increasing. The threat is an underappreciated cause of poverty and hinders the economic development of many countries."

 -Excerpt from the World Health Organization's (WHO) report Preventing Chronic Diseases: A vital Investment, which was released in Kathmandu on 18 June.
- "The Nepal royal family's belief in divine powers is legendary. During his 15-month rule as head of the government, the king made several disastrous decisions, said to have been prompted by his army of astrologers. One of the advices - to take a trip across the ocean to propitiate the stars - reportedly made the king go on a three-week long African safari at a time his kingdom was in a critical stage. Besides losing him his seat of power, the trip has also set him back by NRS 75.5 million, incurred just for chartering an aircraft, a daily said.
- An excerpt from an article about King Gyanendra's religious visit to Varanasi on **DailyIndia.com**. The article cites the Nepal newspaper Jana Astha's (19 June) report on the trip.

July.2006

Content

Diaspora + ANA-NYC Speical	4	Economy	18
Sushil Koirala in New York	6	Nation	19
Pratistha Budhathoki Confides	7	Op-Ed	21
Entertainment	13	Society	22

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Diaspora

Looking back at ANA NYC 2006

This year's ANA Convention was one of the largest yet. It was hosted in Newark, New Jersey, and organized and managed by the New York Nepalis Youth Council. The convention held to its traditions by organizing the popular sports tournaments, poetry recitation and contest, forums on a variety of topics and cultural shows, parties and concerts, all of which saw over whelping response from the attendees. For the first time in the history of ANA Conventions, this year's 24th ANA- NYC 2006 convention also had an official media partner, Nepali Aawaz. The Special ANA-NYC 2006 Edition with photos and write ups on the on-going convention was published on the last day of the 4-day long convention. During the final dinner gala event, it was announced that next year the convention will be hosted by Nepalis in Los Angeles, Califoornia. In this issue, we take a glance at some of the moments from the convention.

Biomedical forum

The International Nepali Biomedical Society (INBS) organized the Biomedical Forum at the ANA convention this year. Dr Gopal Sapkota, a research fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and the INBS president described the current state of Biomedical Research and Education in Nepal and the world. He emphasized the need to bring together Nepali Biomedical professionals and scientists in order to help Nepal realize the enormous potential of biomedical sciences today.

Following the presentation, Prabhat Kunwar of INBS invited the participants for open discussion on pressing biomedical issues and ways of helping Nepal. The forum worked towards finding ways for INBS and its members to overcome difficulties and help Nepal improve Biomedical Research and Education.

INBS, a US-based organization launched in April this year, aims to provide a professional forum for Nepali Biomedical Professionals from around the globe and help the biomedical research and education in Nepal through various projects. Recently it organized a day-long seminar series in Kathmandu, in which prominent biomedical scientists from the US and Nepal presented their research work.

Political forum

The Political Forum was organized by Nepalese Democratic Youth Council in USA and moderated by its president Anand Bist. Keeping in view the recent political developments of Nepal, "Transforming Nepal" was the theme for this year's forum during which several distinguished Nepalis spoke on a variety of topics. Dr. Kul Chandra Gautam, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of the UNICEF, spoke on the topic UN and the International Community's Role in Nepal's Peace-Building and Reconstruction. Prof. Ashok Gurung, Director of India China Institute and Professor in the Graduate Program in International Affairs at

The New School spoke on the topic Inclusive Institutions: Transforming Nepal. Dr. Binod Shah, Assistant Prof. at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, made his presentation on Transforming the Current Status of Terain in Nepal . The two other presentations were made by author Bandita Sijapati, a Ph.D Candidate at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, on the topic Transforming the Current Status of Women in Nepal, and Anga Raj Timilsina, doctoral fellow at the RAND Corporation, California, on the topic Transforming Nepal's Conflict into Peace.

Media forum

The media forum at this year's ANA Convention was organized by Nepali Aawaz. Panelists at the event were veteran journalist and author Deepak Thapa, Radio Sagarmatha 102.4's station manager Mohan Bista and Dr. Pradeep Bhattarai. Dr. Upendra Mahato and Jeeva Lamichane, leading Non-Resident Nepalis from the old Soviet Bloc, also took part as honorary guests and Nepali Aawaz founder editor Kashish was the forum's moderator.

The main topics of discussion at the forum included the "thin line between being an activist and a journalist" in light of Nepal's recent movement for press freedom led by the Federation of Nepalese Journalists. Other topics included investigative journalism in Nepal and the influence of corporate and major clients of a media house in its fair reporting. The veteran journalists in the panel also discussed the issue of "independent journalism" or the lack on impracticality of it in real world.

The members of the panel also later talked to Nepali students of journalism present at the event about careers in the media and shared their general experience as journalists.

Youth forum

The ANA Youth Forum was held July 1-3, 2006 at the ANA Convention, New Jersey. "Youth have the vigor to shape their careers and their communities;

let's utilize this energy towards a prospering Nepali community" The mission marked this two-day forum. "Opportunities in Nepal" and "Opportunities in the North Americas" were the central topics for the two consecutive sessions. About 80-100 people participated in the sessions each day. Two luminaries began each day's session with their keynote addresses. At "Chhalfal Ek, Dr. Upendra Mahato from Russia and Mr. Narayan Shrestha from Denver, USA and at "Chhalfal Dui," Mr. Aditya Jha from Toronto, Canada and Dr. Kunjar Sharma from Toronto, Canada delivered these speeches.

The audience, in seven smaller circles also discussed about government and policies, education, business ventures, engineering/ IT, healthcare, banking, arts and tourism. One or

more moderators at each circle led the discussions. At the end of the discussion, the seven circles synopsized their findings by answering three questions -"What are two prominent issues?" "What are two potential solutions?" and "What can I do to help?" The need for utilizing the existing resources and enhancing access to knowledgebase regarding different career opportunities was the key conclusion. At "Niskarsa", the final session where the moderators met to discuss their future action items, the group agreed to further the mission statement of the ANA Youth Forum through future events using the NRN Youth Forum platform. For more information, please contact the organizer of the Forum, Pukar Malla at pukar.malla@cornell.edu.



Top: Media Forum organized by Nepali Aawaz. Bottom: Youth Forum moderated by Pukar Malla.



Diaspora

NYNYC: Organizers of ANA-NYC 06



New York Nepalese Youth Club is a nonpolitical and non-profit organization founded in the summer of 2003 for and by a group of Nepali youth living in New York. The mission of this club is to develop communication among Nepali youth and participate in social, cultural, educational and athletic activities. TIt also has its own football team for men and basketball teams for men and women. Most people don't know this, but the ANA Convention is not really organized by ANA itself. Yes, the event is their's and they over see it all technically, but every year a local Nepali organization from the hosting state is solely responsible for making the popular ANA convention possible, everything from the first draft of proposal for the event to the actual convention's final show attended by thouasnds. Here's a quick glimpse at the main coordinators and organizers who made ANA-NYC 2006 possible.

Suman Shah, *President, NYNYC and Convener*. The founding member of NYNYC and the convener for ANA-NYC 2006 works as a Marketing Manager for SONY BMG Music company in Manhattan. He is happily married to Mrs. Gitanjali Shah and the two are parents to a 6-year-old son, Shlok Shah. The president also plays in a starting lineup for NYNYC's soccer team.

Prabhav Dhoj Shah, Vice President, NYNYC and Co-Convener. Suman's younger brother Prabhav completed his Bachelors in Electrical Engineering from City College of New York and has been working as a Nuclear/ Electrical Engineer at the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant for last 4 years. Currently completing his MS in Nuclear/Electrical Engineering (Manhattan College), the

lad is also one of the founding members of NYNYC.

Pratap Singh Kunwar, *Vice President*, *NYNYC and Co-Convener*. Apart form being one of the founding members of the club, Pratap also served as the sports coordinator for ANA- NYC 2006. After receiving his BS degree in Electronics Engineering from the University of Nebraska, he earned his Masters degree in Biomedical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) and is currently pursuing a Ph.D in Biomedical Engineering.

Anil Maharjan, Joint Secretary, NYNYC and Main Coordinator- A/V, Planning. Raised in the US by his family since the age of 9, Anil was always athletic, playing soccer and handball for three years at the Holy Cross High School in NYC. And now, for three years he has led the NYNYC soccer team to finals as the team captain, even winning the ANA Soccer championship last year. He attained his B.S. from Queens College (CUNY) and recently graduated from Pace University with a M.S. in Information Systems and has been working as an Information Technology Specialist at the New York State Insurance Fund. He is also one of the founding members of (NYNYC).

Karma Tenzing, *General Secretary*, *NYNYC*, *Main Coordinator- DJ*, *Cultural Show*, *Concert*. A former member of the NY based Nepalese rock band Samsara, Karma is a regular at the Nepali music and cultural scene in New York and an active athlete too. He currently works at Lehman Brothers and is en route towards his Ph. D in Economics at Fordham University. He too is among the founding members of NYNYC. If

you enjoyed the parties and concerts and other perfromances at this year's ANA, Karma's the man to thank.

Karishma Basnyat, Joint Secretary, NYNYC, Main Coordinator-Forums, Planning, Cultural Program/ Concert. Karishma holds a Masters degree in Accounting and is currently working for a public accounting firm in Manhattan as an auditor specializing in Asset Management. As the joint secretary of New York Nepalese Youth Club (NYNYC) she played a key role in the core organizing committee of ANA 2006. She was also one of the main forces behind this year's ANA's administration and the forums.

Poonam Maharjan, Executive Board Member, NYNYC, Main Coordinator- Sponsorship, Planning. A graduate of the Wharton School of Businiess with a concentration in Finance and Legal Studies, she is currently working as a Litigation Consultant at a Public Accounting Firm in New York City. It was hard work and planning that helped this year's event become a feasible one.

Sudeep Lamichhane, Secretary, Alliance for Democracy and Human Rights in Nepal, USA, Main Coordinator- Registration, Planning. After arriving in Nebraska in 1995, Sudeep went on earned his BA from Bellevue University and had an excellent opportunity to work as an intern with then US Senator and 1992 Democratic presidential candidate Bob Kerrey. He moved to New York in 1998 and found the love of life, his wife, Pinkey Sharma and married her in 1999 and the couple now have a 1-ear-old son Ojash. He worked two

years in an Architectural Firm in Long Island and since 2001 he is working at Management Technology Inc. as an Architecture Database Specialist for US General Services Administration and recently graduated from Baruch College (CUNY) with a Masters degree in Public Administration.

Noor Thapa, Web Master and Coordinator. Thapa laid out the overall design and functionality of the official website for the event. He too graduated from Bellevue University, with triple majors and went on to create the biggest ISP and Hosting company in Omaha, NE. When he moved ot New York, he worked for the biggest Web firm in Staten Island for 2 years and now has partnered to open his own firm in New York City.

Santosh Shrestha, Coordinator and Web Master. Shrestha is a Project Coordinator for UBS Investment Bank, Stamford CT and CKO of his company Nepo Technologies [www.nepotech.com]. He finished his high school from Budhanilkantha School, Kathmandu and BSc from University of Maine at Machias. He is currently in Connecticut and was instrumental in the design and functionalities of ANA-NYC's official website.

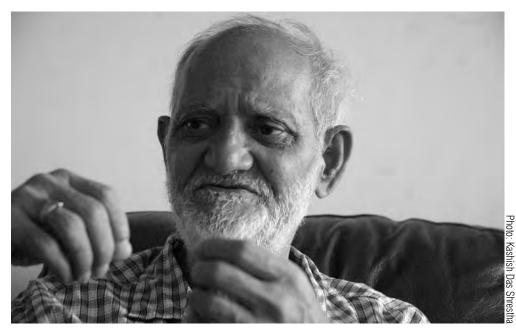
Rumee Singh, Coordinator, Web Design. Rumee Singh is a Project Manager for Nepo Technologies [www.nepotech.com] and is currently pursuing Masters degree in Journalism from Emerson College, Boston, MA. She also has an engineering degree from Pulchok Campus, Kathmandu and gave an aesthetic touch to ANA-NYC's official site. She has also recently joined the Nepali Aawaz team.

Diaspora

Its difficult to point when exactly he became involved in politics, but like a few other senior politicians and activists, he too recalls the movement of 2007B.S (1950) as the earliest memory of political activism, to overthrow the Rana dictatorship and help King Tribhuvantake back the throne of Nepal. So really, Sushil Koirala's participation in the movements for democracy in Nepal dates back from the very first to the most recent of April 2006.

Unlike the high profile US visits of Nepali politicians in the last one year, Sushil Koirala is here for a personal reason, an urgent medical treatment. On 21 July, the car he was traveling in met with an accident when a speeding army vehicle slammed into the passenger's side in Kathmandu's Garidhara intersection. "People, myself included, are shocked that I even survived that crash after seeing what state the car was left in because of the accident," Koirala marvels at his luck. He sustained no major injury but while under going treatment in Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu, a regular check up showed symptoms of ulcer on the right side of his tongue and a biopsy confirmed that it needed immediate medical attention not available in Nepal. "In Banaras [India], how can you not develop a habit of eating paan and chewing beetle nut?" he smiles, blaming the habit for his health. After coming to Nepal, way back when, he started smoking too. His surgery, which will take approximately two hours, is scheduled for Monday at the Memorial Sloan Ketterine Cancer Center and almost two weeks of bed rest will follow. But he can't wait to get over it. "I have always made it a point to meet with and spend time with Nepalis in all the countries I visit," he insists. "I have never been too fond of sight seeing as such compared to my interest in people of Nepal living in abroad. We must help them find ways of coming together and building a stronger community." He is hoping to be able to meet with Nepalis here in the US as early as possible. And in accordance with the Congress Party, the US chapter of Nepali People's Coordination Committee has also been recently established in New York under the presidency of Ananda Bista, a former member of the Congress Party's student wing Nepal Student Union and the the president of Nepali Democratic Youth Council, USA.

"My body is here, but my mind is in Nepal," Koirala explains nostalgically before proceeding to discuss the current



situation of Nepali politics.

The Road Map:

"Our [party] road map has been quite clear with three steps," the senior politician goes declares. "First, we reinstate the Parliament, second we negotiate with the Maoists and third, hold Constituent Assembly."

So far, only the first objective has been met and the third agreed upon. The second one, to negotiate with the Maoists, however, remains caught up in a deadlock though.

The Road Block:

"Its their move to make," Koirala tells us. "I told Prachanda ji and Baburam ji that we have to stick to not just the 8-point-agreement but also the 12-point agreement that was drafted last year. Where is their commitment to competitive politics and human rights and peace and end to violence? One of the first things the government did was to create such an environment for them that it would make it easy for them to negotiate after April; declaring a ceasefire, withdrawing the red-corner notice, releasing their cadres and so many other things. In fact, the current leadership even took a lot of criticism from all quarters for giving too much to the Maoists, but it was after all to create a comfortable environment for them. But extortion, violence, practicing people's courts are not activities that will not help build a conducive environment for peace and negotiations and I have personally expressed this to them many times" he explains like a father frustrated with a teenaged son coming of age. "They keep insisting we dissolve the parliament first, but things have to move in a sequence."

The Parliament:

After the Parliament was reinstated in April, it became the most powerful body

in Nepal and made several historical changes, including stripping away the Monarchy's powers, declaring the Hindu Kingdom of Nepal a secular state and agreeing on holding a Constituent Assembly. But as negotiations continue with the Maoists, their demand to dissolve the Parliament right now seems unrealistic to some. "How can we just dissolve this parliament?", Koirala asks rhetorically. "It is the one mechanism that is legitimate, when it was reinstated after April's movement the world gave us recognition and support on the grounds of the fact that we have a parliament. But of course it will be dissolved, when we hold constituent assembly it will dissolve naturally. But until that happens, we cannot just dissolve it without another solid alternative. There is no other reality, we cannot afford to have that vacuum. And things must go sequentially. The conditions in the 12-point-agreement must also be upheld by the Maoists. But them not wanting to disarm but demanding the parliament be dissolved will not help things progress easily. And what has it done wrong anyway that we must get rid of it right now? Of course we can find ways of including the Maoists in it, but before that we have to deal with the issue of the People's Liberation Army and so on. Once we find a way to get to the point of Constituent Assembly and hold elections, and if the Maoists win they can make all the changes they want to. But just demanding that the parliament be dissolved will not get us

Weapons Management

The issue of managing Maoists' arms is a key to how the political situation will unfold in Nepal. And there is no denying that the Maoists themselves should be ready to disarm

and convert themselves into a political force, and not just a military one, not only in words but in spirit and action tpp. They are not the first political party in Nepal to be armed. As Koirala tells us, "Nepali Congress was armed, we had weapons too but when B.P Koirala entered Nepal, gun-politics stopped and national unity worked like a cannon. The arms issue is a big deal, you can't hold any election as long as you have armed political parties."

The Role of Monarchy:

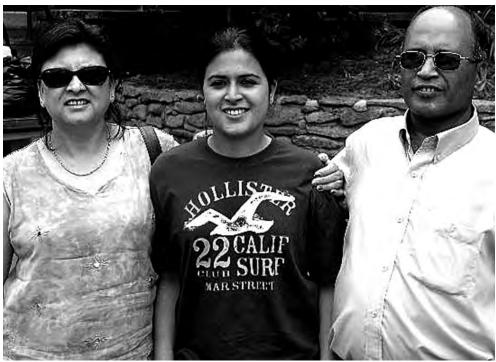
It has been known in the past that to become a Congress party cadre, you must accept a ceremonial monarch. But the tone of April's Uprising was distinctly a "democratic republican Nepal," a country with no role for the Monarchy. This issue will also be a major card in the elections to be held in the country. But the current stand on Monarchy, is a consensus as Sushi Koirala explains. "Right now, the King has no power as per the declarations made by the House of Representatives. The decision for now is to make sure the monarchy has no other role than that of being ceremonial, and that is not a Nepali Congress stand but one made by the seven parties represented in the government right now. Tomorrow, Constituent Assembly will decide the role of the monarchy but the Parliament's declaration has space for everyone including a ceremonial king and as long as people of Nepal don't decide otherwise, that is how it will remain. Out stand is the people's stand. But if you look at the interviews given by Prachanda ji, he has actually said that his party will accept the King's rule if the people chose it. But Nepali Congress will not accept anything more than a ceremonial king, we will accept an autocratic rule of any form."

NC and the NC-D:

The possibility of Nepali Congress merging with Nepali Congress-Democracy has been high the last few months. For one thing, a united Congress party would be stronger than a divided one. Apparently, even party workers in NC-D have been hoping for the remerging of the once single Nepali Congress. Koirala agrees to such possibility of unification with optimism. "The changes of the two parties merging is very high right now. Both of us are doing homework and holding discussions. For democracy's future and the sake of Nepal we must unite, not just NC and NC-D but all democratic forces."

Diaspora

Pratistha Budhathoki confides: "I didn't know what to do. I was scared."



Pratistha Budhathoki with her parents in Estes Park, Denver.

When 20-year-old Nepali student Pratistha Budhathoki went missing from Estes Park, Denver, on 18 June, it became one of the biggest news in the Nepali diaspora this year. The student from St. Clouds University, MN, had gone to Denver for the second summer to work during the holidays. For two weeks during her disappearance, Pratistha became a regular lead story for local news on TV and print in Denver and the Nepali media played the story too. On 3 July, as the 24th Association of Nepalis in Americas' annual convention was coming to a close in Newark, New Jersey, it was announced that Pratistha had been found 15 days after she went missing. Nepalis breathed a sigh of relief. It was revealed that a frail looking Pratistha had contacted the local authorities and decided to be found. Her mother Sarita Budhathoki and father Yam Bahadur Budhathoki had arrived in Estes Park from Nepal that very day too.

"The way media was over hyping it in Nepal was torturous for us. We were already panicking as it is," Pratistha's mother, tells us over the phone from Denver. "But we are just so glad that she is back and we cannot express our gratitude towards the Nepali and Estes Park's local community for all their help. We hadn't imagined how helpful they had been in this case."

In her first media interation since returning, Pratistha confides to Nepali Aawaz about her depression, fear, regrets and overcoming them all.

Everyone thought you had gone missing. But it turned out, and quite fortunately too, that you had personally decided to leave. Why?

Last semester was a bit messsed up

in college and I hadn't talked to anyone about it. It had been playing in my head all this while and I was quite tensed over my college grades. It was all just bottled up inside me. You know, we are international students and its not easy to live and study in the US because of financial reasons. So I was just worried that already I am spending so much money to study and that too I didn't do well at all. I was feeling down about all this and that day, I just decided that I wanted to leave, somewhere. I couldn't control myself. And after I left, going back became harder for me, just thinking about having to answer questions and everything. And when I saw myself in the news, it scared me even more. So i just kept hiding.

Why did you choose to not contact anyone, family or friends?

I was feling very awkward. I thought i'd solve it on my own, and then later my cell phone had died anyway.

But you must have realized you had been reported as missing?

I hadn't told anyone anything, so I figured they must have thought I was lost. Then four, five days later I saw news about me in the paper. I was in the [Prospect] mountain for a few days. Then I was afraid to come form the main tram where everyone could see me. So I was in area behind the mountain in this place called Mary's lake.

Weren't you worried about what your family and friends might be going though?

Of course, I was worried.. but I was in a different state of mind, I was afraid.

There were rumours that you had once

tried to commit suicide in Nepal.

No, thats not true. But I had gone through a depressive phrase when my [student] visa was rejected. I was a bit tensed, so I fell into a depression and withdrew into myself. I wasn't talking much at that time and had become very introverted.

You reportedly looked frail when you returned

While I was in the mountain I ate at delis there. Then I didn't eat anything for the rest of the 10 days, I was just drinking water. I was afraid people would see me to I looked for quiet parts of the mountain to sleep in. After i went to Mary's lake side I took shelter in the woods there.

Your parents had just arrived in Estes Park when you returned.

Yeah, I was initially afraid to face them. But when I saw them they talked to me and were glad to just find me alive. They are going to stay with me for a while. My mom might stay with me in Minnesota for a while but dad will probably return. It has helped that they are here for me.

So you will be resuming college this fall?

Yes, I will resume college. I am undergoing counseling right now and I will probably continue therapy there too. But I hope to continue with my undergraduate studies and major in Finance.

Looking back, how does it feel? For 15 days you were gone.

I made a mistake, I don' t know what I was thinking. Its made it very awkward for me to get back to normal life. I do want to thank everyone that helped and my apologies for all the inconvenience I caused.

The following is a note Pratistha sent to Nepali Aawaz for publication:

"I know weird things happened with me and its hard for people to believe my 15 days in wilderness. I was there in the mountains and the lake all by myself and my fear kept me hiding from everyone. No one is to be blamed for what happened to me. After all this happened and my publicity in the media has given me a hard time to come upfront. It was not at all my intention to trouble others but certainly when I look back I was being selfish being indifferent to everyone even my near and dear ones. I hope and pray to the god that no one ever does this and go through this.

"The main thing that I want you to include in your paper is my wholehearted thanks to everyone's love, concern and prayers for me. My family, friends, relatives, Estes Park Community and all the organizations here, Nepali Community and simply $every one. \, It was \, a \, trouble some \, situation$ for everyone because of me. I want to greatly apologize to everyone for what have done and be responsible for the situation everyone has gone through. I want to clarify that I am not being in much contact with people not because I am ignoring them or forgetting what they have done for me but because honestly I am kind of embarrased. And it will take sometime.

- Pratistha.



Diaspora

Nepalis at SAJA Convention



Associated Press' Tom Curley (left) and SAJA's Sandeep Junnarkar presented the award to Professor Dharma Adhikari (center) at this year's SAJA convention.

This year's annual South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA) convention at Columbia University, New York, was different in at least one aspect from previous ones. While Indians and Pakistanis hugely dominate SAJA convention, this year for the first time, a group of Nepalis participated at the four-day event.

"We're ecstatic to see the number of Nepali participants at the convention this year," said Deepti Hajela, SAJA president and Associated Press newswoman.

The convention was attended by Nepali professors of different universities, professional journalists working under a fellowship and students studying print and broadcast journalism in school. "There was some Nepali participation in SAJA before, but not enough," said Hajela. "Looking at this year, we hope that the diversity at SAJA will get better."

SAJA brought several keynote speakers such as Brian Williams, NBC Nightly News, Tom Curley, Associated Press and Riz Khan, AlJazeera International during the convention. The convention has regular frameworks of diverse workshops and panels on issues ranging from making documentary, solving visa issues to winning prestigious fellowships.

During the final awards ceremony, Dharma Adhikari, professor of communications at Southern Georgia University won an award in the best opinion column category for his article The Reversal of Democracy in Nepal published in Counterpunch. Nepali student Sumit Dayal, a graduate of Institute of Photography bagged the \$1,500 graduate scholarship awarded by SAJA every year.

Here are what some of the Nepali participants at this year's SAJA had to say about their experiences:

"Interesting workshops, exciting opportunities and a lot of networking, that's what SAJA convention was all about for me. As a journalism student and a volunteer for the convention, the event was a platform for me to explore

and reach out to South Asian journalists; moreover, I was able to interact with a small community of Nepalese who attended the convention. I'd say there is definitely a need for more active participation of Nepali journalists and students in the US. We can try to make the most of organizations such as SAJA to voice our thoughts and make a more prominent mark in the community."

- Rumee Singh is a graduate student of Broadcast Journalism in Emerson College, Boston, MA.

"This pleasant and lively gathering was very infomative and meaningful. It would have been great if there could have been a large number of representatives representing all the nations of the sub continent rather than just having mostly from India. However, I appreciate Shree Sreenivasan's endeavour in making this event a great success and a memorable one."

- Sita Pandey is the author of several Nepali books, currently residing in New York.

"This was by far the largest gathering of journalists I had attended in my four year old career—not just in terms of sheer numbers but the region it represented. The workshops were valuable in providing heads-up for new avenues for diversification. But the most fascinating aspect of it was the opportunity for networking that was available. It was really heartening to see the height South Asian journalists have climbed in this country. More the reason for others to aim even higher." - John Narayan Parajuli is a journalist from Nepal currently on a journalism fellowship in Pennsyvania.

"Finally, it was time to get up and meet those desi journalists whom I'd envied for the last couple of years. SAJA became a platform for me as a young journalist to interact with veterans in the job such as Rajiv Chandrasekaran. It was a positive step for me to break out of my hectic cocoon and attend SAJA convention because it provided an occasion to gain a different perspective. On one hand, the panels and workshops provided a valuable perspective on some of the key issues in journalism, on the other, I was intrigued by the simplicity in connecting with different people be it a broadcast major in University of Southern California, an intern at San Jose Mercury-News or news anchor for the CNN. Networking, a key to success in journalism came alive during the convention. It wasn't just about exchanging visiting cards - it was about exchanging ideas and experiences."

-Anup Kaphle is a journalism student currently interning at Newsweek International

Nepali Journalism professor in US

It sounds like a weird transition, but not for Dharma Adhikari. After teaching media studies and English literature at Ratna Rajya Campus in Kathmandu, Adhikari is currently an associate professor for Journalism at Georgia Southern University. He started teaching at Georgia State after completing his Masters and Doctorate degree at University of Missouri – Columbia, where he came as a Fulbright scholar in 1997.

Adhikari started his journalism career as a freelance writer for The Rising Nepal. Along with a tourism and travel writer for Kathmandu Review (inactive now), Adhikari also claims to have spearheaded the idea of investigative journalism in Nepal. While in the USA, he helped to found an online magazine, Newslookmag.com, which was the first site to be banned by the royal government, according to him. Adhikari also launched Nepalmonitor.com, a semi-scholarly online journal with Chiranjibi Kafle, a journalism professor in Kathmandu. He is a frequent contributor to Opendemocracy.net.

Adhikaribelievesthatthejournalists need to maintain their professional integrity. "Are we watchdogs or lapdogs?" he says. "We must be

careful about setting any precedence." Although he does not disagree with the journalists protesting in the streets, he feels that journalists should not be politically biased. "Journalists must be able to convey facts, not feed on emotions," he says. "But there was, and is, groupism in the media sector - there are Congressi journalists, UML journalists, royalist journalists and not to mention the Maobadi journalists." Adhikari shared an example of the formation of monarchist National Federation of Journalists last year. "That is a culture of protests within protests," he said.

Adhikari was recently awarded the best Op-Ed category writing by South Asian Journalists Association, at their annual convention in Columbia University, New York. His article Reversal of Democracy in Nepal was published in Counter Punch. "In the article I argued that democratic attitudes matter more than democratic structures in Nepal," he said. "Ours is a cultural problem ingrained in our habits and mannerisms that are too often egoistic." In the article, Adhikari also called for a dialogue and international mediation in resolving the problem.

Diplomat-in-session: Boucher talks Nepal at SAJA



Anup Kaphle

Responding to the Nepali journalists' questions at the SAJA convention, Richard Boucher, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, said that the Maoists are still continuing violence in remote areas of the countries and for them to gain legitimacy from the American government, their heinous acts have to stop.

"They are continuing extortion and abduction and haven't renounced violence," he said. "If they want to be in the government, then they have to follow the peace procedure."

Boucher supported the proposal to involve the United Nations as a third party to monitor Maoist disarmament. "However," he said, "the political parties should take an initiative in the

process as well." He also said that the Nepal Army "has an important role to play" and step up to their commitment to people's security. Boucher's response came almost a week after US ambassador to Nepal James Moriarty threatened to stop all US assistance to Nepal if the Maoists joined the interim government without disarming.

Although Boucher was reluctant to answer if America would stop assisting Nepal given that the Maoist form a government through a democratic process, he vaguely answered that America would continue to support democracy. "We have to see if the Maoists come to the political process fulfilling their commitment to abandon violence," he said. "If that's what the Nepali people want then the US government is fine with it," he said.

In recent news from Nepal, the Maoist leader Matrika Yadav declared a war against Janatantirk Terai Mukti Morcha (JTMM), accusing them of killing some Maoist cadres in Saptari district.

JTMM was formed by ex-Maoist leader Jay Krishna Goit, to fight for Terai autonomy, after separating from the Maoists two years ago.

Diaspora

ANTA Meeting in New York

On July 1, 2006 on the sidelines of the ANA (Association of Nepalis in America) Convention being held in Newark, New Jersey, the ANTA (Association of Nepali Teraian in America) New York City chapter organized a dinner to honor three successful Nepali entrepreneurs – Upendra Mahato and Jeeba Lamichhane from the former Soviet bloc, and Aditya Jha from Toronto, Canada. A chic downtown Newark location – a short drive from the convention site at the Sheraton near the Newark International Airportwas chosen for the occasion.

All the central leaders of ANTA were in attendance, namely Ratan Jha, Jay Mandal, Lalit Jha, Pramod Kantha, and Mukesh Singh. A lot of local ANTA luminaries were also in attendance, namely Binay Shah, Ritesh Chaudhary, Satya Narayan Yadav, Biplav Yadav, Binod Shah, and Satyendra Shah, among others. During the occasion, Upendra Mahato emphasized there were three pillars to success – hard work and honesty you have to have and the luck you create. If you have all these, structural prejudices fall by the way side.

Aditya Jha expressed the gathering was an emotionally intense experience for him while Jeeba Lamichhane was offended how Upendra Mahato was not recognized at the ANA inauguration

ceremony. He said the Nepalis in America were as arrogrant as the American government. He ascribed, at least partly, the relatively lukewarm response in America to the NRN (Non Resident Nepali) movement being spearheaded by Upendra Mahato since 2003, to Mahato being a Madhesi.

The three were made honorary members. A string of ANTA members spoke. Some emphasized issues in personal responsibility, others emphasized Madhesi pride, and still others felt the need to be aggressive about Madhesi empowerment. All three took questions from the floor towards the end. Many were to do with curiosities about their mindboggling business successes. After the formal ceremony was over, ANTA had its grandest meeting ever. All the structural issues were settled, and a strong internal unity was cemented. A grand decision was taken to go on a massive membership drive under the leadership of Dr. Binod Shah and to hold ANTA's first ever elections in September.

This was described as the largest gathering of Madhesis in American history. It was noted that the ANTA NYC chapter was already its biggest, and now doubled in size by the end of this event.

अमेरिकामा रहेका जनजाति आदिवासीहरुद्वारा संविधानसभाको चुनावमा समानुपातिक प्रतिनिधित्वको माग

नेपालको बहुजातीय, बहुधार्मिक एवं बहुसांस्कृतिक शाश्वत सत्यलाई ध्यानमा राखेर नेपाललाई धर्मिनरपेक्ष राष्ट्र घोषणा गरिएकोमा अमेरिकामा रहेका सम्पूर्ण नेपाली जनजाति तथा आदिवासी संघ-संस्थाहरुको छाता संस्था ग्लोवल नेपाली जनजाति/आदिवासी महासंघ, अमेरिकाले एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ती प्रकाशित गरी सबै नेपाली, संसद तथा नेपाल सरकारलाई धन्यवाद ज्ञापन गरेको छ। महासंघका तर्फबाट अध्यक्ष कर्मा ग्याल्जेन शेपाले उक्त ऐतिहासिक निर्णयको स्वागत गर्दै तर, केही समययता केही हिन्दू अतिवादी संस्था तथा व्यक्तिहरुले त्यस ऐतिहासिक कदमको विरुद्धमा आवाज उठाउने दुस्साहस गरेकोमा घोर आपत्ति प्रकट गर्दै त्यसको निन्दा समेत गर्नभएको छ।

सदिऔकालदेखि हिन्दूधर्मको नाममा शासक वर्गदेखि हिन्दू अतिवादीसम्मले अन्य धार्मिक समुदायहरुमाथि गरेको दमन र कट्टर अतिवादी व्यवहारको विरुद्ध आन्दोलित वृहत जनसमुदाय मुलुकमा सच्चा प्रजातन्त्र र मानव अधिकार को पुनर्स्थापना तथा बहालीको लागि उन्मुख भएको ठहर गर्दे संविधानसभाको चुनावमा नेपालका आदिवासी/जनजातिहरुको जनसंख्याको आधारमा समानुपातिक रूपमा तथा अल्पसंख्यक आदिवासी/जनजातिहरुको प्रतिनिधित्व गराउँदै उनीहरुको धार्मिक सांस्कृतिक, आर्थिक तथा र जिनैतिक अधिकारहरुको सुनिश्चितताको गर्नुपर्ने माग पनि गरेको छ ।

हङकङमा भानुजयन्ती



नेपाली भाषा तथा संस्कृतिको अभिवृद्धिमा स्रष्टाको जयन्ती मनाओं भन्दै हङकङ नेपाली कला मन्दिर को आयोजनामा गत जुलाई १३ (२८ असार) का दिन १८२ औं भानुजयन्ती सगरमाथा नेपाली विद्यालय, युनलङमा सम्पन्न भएको छ । शिक्षाविद गणेशवहादुर राई प्रमुख अतिथि रहनु भएको उक्त कार्यक्रममा हङकङमा रहेका कवि, साहित्यकार, गीतकार, पत्रकार एवं विधार्थीहरुको उपस्थित रहेको थियो।

हङकङ नेपाली कला मन्दिरका अध्यक्ष एकराज राईले नेपाली भाषाको उद्भव, चीनको भूमिमा नेपाली समाज निर्माणमा नेपाली भाषाको महत्वका बारेमा चर्चा गर्दै भानुभक्तको बारेमा समेत प्रष्ट पारे पछि शुरु भएको उक्त जन्मजयन्ती समारोहमा भानुभक्तद्वारा लिखित कृति रामायणमा माल्यापण गरिएको थियो। कार्यक्रममा हङकङमा अध्ययनरत नेपाली विधार्थीहरुले रामायण पाठ एवं भानुभक्त आचार्यका बारेमा जीवनी पढेर स्नाएका थिए।

हङकङ नेपाली महासंघका अध्यक्ष हेजेन राई, एभरेष्ट साप्ताहिकाका सम्पादक किसन राई एवं सगरमाथा किण्डरगार्टेनकी प्रिन्सिपल कमला राई विशेष अतिथिको रुपमा उपस्थित रहन् भएको थियो । कमल प्रसाद पौडेल, रामकृष्ण बान्तावा, नागेन्द्र श्रेष्ठ, राई चन्द्र दुमी लगायतका ब्यक्तिहरु अतिथिकोरुपमा उपस्थित हन्भएको थियो । प्रमुख अतिथि गणेशवहादुर राईले नेपाली भाषामा भान्भक्तले पुऱ्याएको योगदानको बारेमा चर्चा गर्न हुँदै वर्तमान अवस्थमा भान्भक्तको महत्व धेरै रहेको विचार ब्यक्त गर्नु भएको थियो। समारोहमा हेजेन राई, कमलप्रसाद पौडेल, किसन राई, कमला खप्तावली, राई चन्द्र दमी लगायतका ब्यक्तिहरुले समेत नेपाली भाषामा भानुभत्तले पुऱ्याएको योगदानका बारेमा चर्चा गर्न भएको थियो।

कार्यक्रममा पाक काउ क्लेजमा अध्ययानर त सुप्रिया गुरुड, सोनम राना, पीएच केन्द्रीय प्रथामिक विद्यालयकी सृजना गुरुड, चुनु लिम्बू, कुसुम गुरुड, चञ्चल गुरुड, शाहिल प्रधान, गम्बिरा नेपाली, संजिला गुरुड लगायतका विधार्थीहरुले रामायण, तथा आफ्ना रचनाहरु समेत पाठ गरेका थिए।

Tara Niraula "City Leader" in New York

Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr. honored five city leaders at his annual South Asian Heritage Celebration on Wednesday, June 28, 2006. The event was co-sponsored by Asia Society, Federation of Indian Associations for New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and Jackson Heights Merchants Association.

Dr. Niraula is a senior research scholar and Research Director at Columbia University's **Teachers** College, where he is responsible for designing and implementing research studies, as well as producing reports to help prepare the next generation of teachers, school leaders and education scholars. In the policy field, Dr. Niraula served as Newcomer Education Policy Director for the New York Immigration Coalition, where he tracked, analyzed and documented education issues and policies affecting immigrant and refugee students in the New York City public school system. He has served on

the Schools Chancellor's Advocacy Task Force and helped to develop the New York City Department of Education's English language learner/immigrant and refugee students' education reform policy. Prior to those efforts Dr. Niraula was an Education Program Officer for both the Swiss Development Corporation and the Save the Children Fund in Katmandu, Nepal. He is currently president of the America-Nepali Friendship Society and General Secretary for the Nepalese Americas Council.

Thompson presented Dr. Niraula with an award, "in recognition of his commitment and patience as a teacher; his dedicated efforts to assist the educational goals of immigrants and refugees; and his willingness to put his knowledge and time in the service of noble public goals."

During the event, Dr. Tara said," It has been said that immigrants create the fabric of American life."

He added, "Our Nepali culture places great emphasis on hard work, honesty, loyalty, bravery and perseverance. These are the same personal traits and characteristics embodied by the founding fathers and laid out in the United States Constitution. While our cultures can at times appear very different, we are very much the same, and our stories are very similar to the waves of immigrants from different nations who have come before us.."

Others honored at the event were Father Francis Maurice, Parochial Vicar, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Roman Catholic Church; Daljit Dhaliwal, International Journalist and Anchor of the PBS Series "Wide Angle"; Dr. Avtar Singh Josen, Police Surgeon, Medical Division New York City Police Department (Retired); and, Dr. Uma Mysorekar, President, Hindu Temple Society of North America.

Diaspora

प्रेमराजाको हिमालयन हाउस म–ह जोडीद्वारा उद्घाटन



Entertainers Hari Banksha and Madan Krishna inagurate a Nepali's store while on their US tour.

नेपाली लोक गीत-संगीतकै सद्भावना राजदूतका रुपमा रहेका प्रेमराजा महत आफ्ना अनन्य व्यवसायी मित्र विजय श्रेष्ठसँग मिलेर अन्ततः रेष्टुरेन्ट व्यवसायी बन्न सफल भएका छन्। सधैं नै केही फरक गर्न चाहने यी लोकप्रिय गायक महतले आफ्नो नयाँ रेष्टुरेन्ट ब्राण्डको उद्घाटन पनि ढिलै होस् तर छोरै होस् भन्ने नेपाली उखानलाई पछ्याउँदै निर्धारित समयभन्दा दुई महिना ढिलो मह जोडीलाई पर्खेर फरक शैलीमै गर्न भ्याए।

गत जुलाई १७ तारिख साँभ उनले आफ्नो रेष्टुरेन्ट हिमालयन हाउसको उद्घाटन नेपालकै सर्वाधिक लोकप्रिय कलाकारद्वय मदनकृष्ण श्रेष्ठ र हरिवंश आचार्यद्वारा गराए । उनको रेष्टुर न्टको व्यवसायिक अभिव्यक्ति पनि फरक थियो-नेपालीपनको रेष्टुरेन्ट नेपाली मनको परिकार । वाल्टिमोरकै सबैभन्दा व्यस्त र पर्यटकीय क्षेत्रका रुपमा रहेको इनर हार्वरस्थित महतको आफ्नैनयाँ घरमा रहेको छ- हिमालयन हाउस ।

अमेरिकामा नेपाली कलिउडका रुपमा प्रख्यात कमाइरहेको बाल्टिमोरमा त्यहा रहेका नेपाली सेलिब्रेटीहरुको बाक्लो उपस्थितिमाभ मह जोडीका म अर्थात् मदनकृष्ण श्रेष्ठले आफ्नो विनोदी शैलीमा हिमालयन हाउसको उद्घाटन गर्दै भन्नुभयो - 'हिमालयन हाउस हिमालजस्तै अटल रहोस्, शुद्ध र कञ्चन रहोस्। त्यसमा महका ह अर्थात् हरिवंश आचार्यले थप्नुभयो-जसरी हिमालयले सबै पर्यटकहरुलाई एकनाश आकर्षण गरिरहन्छ, हिमालयन हाउस पनि आफ नो विशिष्ठ नेपाली शैली/परिकारका कारण सबै पारखीहरुको जित्रामो भुण्डिरहोस्। गायक प्रेमराजा महत पनि आफू सांस्कृतिक उद्यमी बन्न पाएकोमा कम दङ्ग छैनन्। उनी भन्छन्- यो मेरो सुन्दर सपना हो। म यसलाई नेपाली परिकार को सांस्कृतिक पहिचानसहितको नेपाली मनको रेष्टुरेन्टका रुपमा विकसित गर्न चाहन्छु । मेरो लक्ष्य भनेको बाल्टिमोरमा भएका मात्र होइन, अमेरिकामा छरिएर रहेका नेपालीहरुलाई नेपाली मनले स्वागत गर्ने र नेपालीपनको परिकारको सन्तुष्टि दिने हो।

म-ह जोडीको अमेरिका भ्रमण सम्पन्न

नेपालकै सर्वाधिक लोकप्रिय कलाकारद्वय म-ह जोडी र टोलीका अन्य सदस्यहरु ३७ दिन लामो अमेरिकाको सांस्कृतिक भ्रमण पूरा गरेर नेपाल फर्केका छन्। म-ह टोलीमा लोकप्रिय कलाकार द्वय किरण के.सी. र नरेन्द्र कंसाकार अनि मीठो स्वरकी धनी उद्घोषिका श्रीमती मीरा आचार्य संलग्न हुनुहुन्थ्यो। जुन १३ मा नेपाल छोडेर सनफ्रान्सिस्को हुदै जुलाई १८ मा न्यूयोर्कको रिजउडमा अन्तिम कार्यक्रम प्रस्तुत गरेर म-ह टोली जुलाई १८ मा जोन एफ केनेडी विमानस् थलबाट विदाई भएको थियो। विदाई गर्न म-ह टोलीमा अमेरिकामै संलग्न सदस्यहरु गायक प्रेमर ।जा महत र यमन श्रेष्ठ, अभिनेत्री पूजा चन्द र नेपाली आवाजका कार्यकारी निर्देशक चन्द्रप्रकाश शर्मा विमानस्थलमा हुनुहुन्थ्यो।

अप्रिल क्रान्तिका नामले प्रख्यात नेपालमा भर्खरै सम्पन्न लोकतान्त्रिक आन्दोलनका अगुवा समेत रहनु भएका मदनकृष्ण श्रेष्ठ र हरिवंश आचार्य यसपटक फरक परिस्थिति र उद्घोषका साथ अमेरिका यात्रामा हुनहुन्थ्यो । त्यसअघि बेलायतको पाँचहप्ता लामो यात्राबाट उहाँहरुको यो चरणको सांस्कृतिक-अभियान शुरु भएको थियो । बेलायतमा उहाँहरुलाई त्यही रहेका गायक विवेक श्रेष्ठ र शर्मिला वर्देवाले साथ दिएका थिए भने अमेरिकामा प्रेमराजा महत, यमन श्रेष्ठ र पूजा चन्द अभियानमा संलग्न

लोकतान्त्रिक नेपाल र नेपालीको तर्फबाट अभिवादन भन्दै मञ्चकौ एकातिरबाट मदनकृष्ण श्रेष्ठ मञ्चमा देखिनुहुन्थ्यो, अको तर्फबाट हरि वंश आचार्य आउनुहुन्थ्यो, लोकतान्त्रिक गीत गाएर मञ्चको माहौल नै संवेदनशील बनाइ दिनुहुन्थ्यो । हाँसोको अपेक्षा गरेर आएका दर्शकहरु म-ह जोडीको यो फरक प्रस्तुतीबाट नोस्टलजियामा पुग्थे । त्यसपछि किरण के.सी. गायकका रुपमा अनि पूजा चन्द गायिकाका रुपमा प्रस्तुत भएर दर्शकहरुलाई थप अचिम्भत पार्थे । यमन श्रेष्ठ गायक र जोक-मास्टरका

रुपमा जम्थे भने रेडियोमा मीठो स्वरले उद्घोष गर्ने श्रीमती हरिवशं अर्थात् मीरा आचार्य मास्टर अफ सेरेमोनीका रुपमा प्रस्तुत हुन्थिन् । मह जोडी नरेन्द्र कंसाकार र पूजा चन्दसँग मिलेर चोरलाई अभिनन्दन गर्थे भने श्राद्ध उहाँहरुको अर्को रोचक कार्यक्रम रहन्थो ।

हेल्प नेपालको संयोजनमा सम्पन्न कार्यक्रम अमेरिकाका विभिन्न आठ स्थानमा स्थानीय आयोजकहरुको व्यवस्थापनमा सम्पन्न भएको थियो । आरपी इन्टरटेन्ट इन्कले भर्जिनियामा आयोजना गरेको कार्यक्रम सबै अर्थमा भव्य र हेको थियो । स्मरणीय रहोस् आरपी इन्टरटेन्मेन्ट नेपालका लोकप्रिय आरजे/भिजे रिव लामिछानेले पंकज बास्तोलासँग मिलेर खोलेको संस्था हो ।

सांस्कृतिक भ्रमण सम्पन्न गरेर नेपाल फर्कनुअघि मदनकृष्ण श्रेष्ठले नेपाली आवाज(लाई भन्नुभयो- 'यसपटकको हाम्रो भ्रमण फरक परिस्थितमा भएको थियो । पहिलोपटक हामी नेपाल लोकतन्त्र भएपछि अमेरिका आएका थियौ र यहाँ रहेका सबै नेपालीलाई नेपालमा लोकतन्त्र वहालीका लागि उहाँहरुले निर्वाह गर्नुभएको भूमिकाका लागि कृतज्ञता प्रकट गर्न आएका थियौं ।' उहाँले अगाडि थप्नुभयो- हामीले पहिलोपटक यहाँ पनि नेपालीको स्वाभिमान जागेको पायौं।

हरिवंश आचार्यले भन्नुभयो- 'हामी यस भ्मणका क्रममा जहाँ जहाँ पुग्यौं, त्यहाँ त्यहाँ नेपालमा भएको सकरात्मक परिवर्तनको सन्देश प्रवाह गऱ्यौं। हेल्प नेपालको लोककल्याणकारी अभियानका लागि केही भएपिन सहयोग जुटाउन सक्यौं र सबैभन्दा महत्वपूर्ण कुरा हामीले हाम्रा आदरणीय स्रोता/दर्शकलाई भेट्न पायौं। यसरी हेर्दा हाम्रो यो भ्रमण धेरै अर्थमा महत्वपूर्ण रहयो।

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हिमाली क्षेत्रमा रहेका वौद्ध धर्मावलम्बीहरुको धार्मिक एवं सांस्कृतिक मूल्य र मान्यताहरुको संरक्षण गर्दे उनीहरुको सर्वाङ्गिण विकासका लागि नेपालको हिमाली क्षेत्रमा छरिएर रहेका जातीय एवं भौगोलिक समाजहरुको प्रतिनिधित्वमुलक संस् थाका रुपमा हिमालय कम्युनिटीको स्थापना गरि एको छ ।

अमेरिकामा रहेका नेपालीहरुकै सबैभन्दा ठूलो संस्था शेर्पा किद्धुकका सभापति लोवसाङ्ग थिन्ले सालाकाको अध्यक्षतामा गठित उक्त संस् थाको उपाध्यक्षमा मुस्ताङ्ग किद्धुकका अध्यक्ष सोनाम लामा, महासचिवमा वलुङ्ग किद्धुकका अध्यक्ष तेन्जिङ्ग उक्याव, सचिवमा तामाङ्ग समाजका अध्यक्ष राम तामाङ्ग, कोषाध्यक्षमा योल्मो समाजका अध्यक्ष निमा लामा र कार्यकारी सदस्यहरुमा मनाङ्ग समाजका साम्दूप घले, गुरुङ्ग तमु समाजका नारायण गुरुङ्ग र योल्मो समाजका पेम्वा शेर्पा हुनुहुन्छ । यसैगरी लेखापालमा ग्याल्सुम्दो सेवा संस्थाका अध्यक्ष श्रीमती निमा ल्हामो रहनुभएको छ ।

जुन १ मा विधिवत् रुपमा स्थापित हिमाली समुदायका तर्फबाट हालै आयोजित एक पत्रकार सम्मेलनमा उक्त संस्था स्थापनाको औचित्य एवं विशेषताहरुको बारेमा प्रकाश पारियो । हिमाली क्षेत्रमा छरिएर रहेका सबै वौद्ध धर्मावलम्वी संघ-संस्थाहरुको छाता संस्थाका रुपमा विकसित

एवं संरक्षण गर्ने मूल उद्धेश्य रहेको उक्त संस् थाको आयोजनामा सन् २००७ मा तिव्वतका आध्यात्मिक नेता दलाई लामाको समुपस्थितिमा सातिदने ध्यानिशिविर कालचक्रको आयोजना गरि ने जानकारी पिन पत्रकार सम्मेलनमा दिइएको थियो। संस्थाका अध्यक्ष लोब्साङ्ग थिन्ले 'सालाक(ा'का अनुसार कालचक्र आयोजनाका लागि सन् २००५ सेप्टेम्वर २८ मा आध्याम्तिक नेता दलाई लामाको दर्शन गरी औपचारिक निम्तो दिइएको थियो।

गरी त्यस क्षेत्रको धार्मिक एवं सांस्कृतिक विकास

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न्यूयोर्कमा रहेका नेपालीहरूबीच नेपाली खानाको तलतल बिर्साउदै आएको हिमालयन याक रेष्टुरेन्टले नेपाली गीत-गजलका पारखीहरूका लागि एक अनुपम सांगीतिक मेनु पस्केर 'नेपाली खानाका साथ नेपाली गाना' कार्यक्रम पनि शुरु गरेको छ । याकको यो नयाँ योजनाअन्तर्गत नेपालकै चर्चित गायिका सपनाश्रीले गत जुलाई ७ देखि हरेक शुक्रबार र शनिवार साँभ आफ्नो कोइली-स्वरको जादू छुदैं आएकीछिन्।

नेपालको पाँचतारे एभरेष्ट होटलमा नेपाली तथा हिन्दी गीत/गजल प्रस्तुत गरेर गीत/गजलका पारखीहरुलाई सांगीतिक तृष्णा मेटाउँदै आएकी सपनाश्रीका गीत/गजल सुन्नका लागि शुक्रवार र शनिवार रेष्टुरेन्टमा पाइला टेक्ने ठाउँ पिन हुन छोडेको छ । नेपाली गीत/गजल मात्र होइन, हिन्दी गीत/गजल पिन उत्तिकै सुरिलो स्वरमा गाउन सक्ने सिद्धहस्त गायिका भएका कारण पिन याकमा अव नेपाली मात्र होइन, भारतीय मूलका स्रोताहरुको पिन भींड लाग्न थालेको हो।

हिमालयन याक रेष्ट्ररेन्टका प्रोपाइटर सोनाम लामा नेपाली कला-संस्कृतिका पक्षमा केही गर्ने उद्धेश्यले आफ्नो रेष्ट्ररेन्टमा नेपालकै वरिष्ठ गायिका सपनाश्रीलाई आमन्त्रण गरेर मञ्च उपलब्ध गराउन पाएकोमा सन्तुष्ट छन् । उनी भन्छन्- 'म आफूलाई व्यापारीभन्दा पनि नेपाली कला, संस्कृति र संस्कारको सांस् कृतिक व्यवसायी भन्न चाहन्छु । त्यसैले मैले न्यूयोर्कमा पनि नेपाली गुन्दुक र तामासहितको नेपाली थाली उपलब्ध गराएको हूँ। मलाई लाग्यो, नेपाली परिकारसँगै नेपाली गीत/सङ्गीत पनि किन नसुनाऊँ ? त्यसैले मैले सपनाश्रीजस्ती नेपालकै नम्बर १ गायिकालाई उपलब्ध गराएको हूँ। '

गायिका सपनाश्री पिन अमेरिकामा आएर पिन नेपाली गीत/गजल सुनाउन पाउँदा दंग छिन्। उनी भिन्छन्- अमेरिका आएर पिन मैले आफ्नो कला प्रस्तुत गर्न पाएको छु। कुनैबेला सपनामा पिन सोच्न नसिकने कुरा आज विपना भएको छ। मेरा लागि योभन्दाठूलो सौभाग्य के हन सक्ला र?'

अहिले शुरुमा सप्तान्तमा दुईदिन मात्र कार्यक्रम प्रस्तुत गर्दे आएकोमा केही दिनपछि नै आइतबार पिन कार्यक्रम थप्ने सोचाई भइर हेको छ, हिमालयन याक रेष्टुरेन्टका प्रोपाइटर सोनाम लामा भन्छन् । नेपालको पाँचतारे एभरेष्ट होटलमा सपनाश्रीसँगै गीत/गजल गाउने नेपालकै लोकप्रिय गायक आनन्द कार्कीलाई पिन ल्याएर उक्त बहुचर्चित जोडीलाई सँगै प्रस्तुत गर्ने योजना बनाइरहेका लामा भन्छन्- हेरौ, समयले कित साथ दिन्छ ।

सांसद बस्नेतसहितको प्रतिनिधिमण्डल नेपाल मिशनमा राष्ट्र संघका लागि नेपाली स्थायी प्रतिनिधिद्वारा दुःख प्रकट

अमेरिका भ्रमणमा रहनुभएका सत्तारुढ नेपाली कांग्रेस (प्रजातान्त्रिक)का प्रभावशाली सांसद मोहनबहादुर बस्नेतले नेपाली आवाजसँग एक संक्षिप्त भेटमा भन्नुभयो- 'नेपालमा सम्पन्न लोकतान्त्रिक आन्दोलनमा विदेशमा रहेका नेपालीहरुको पिन महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रहेको छ । त्यसैले उहाँहरुप्रति कृतज्ञता प्रकट गर्न, देशको पिछल्लो स्थितिका बारेमा विचार विमर्श गर्न र आगामी दिनमा उहाँहरुबाट मुलुकले गरिर हेको अपेक्षाका बारेमा बताउन अहिले म अमेरि का आइपुगेको हूँ । यहाँ आउनुअघि मैले पि(ञ्लिपिन्स र थाइल्याण्डका नेपालीहरुसँग पिन यस् तै किसिमको विचार विमर्श गरेको थिएँ।'

राजनीतिशाश्त्रका विद्यार्थीसमेत रहनुभएका सांसद बस्नेत प्रखर वक्ता मानिनुहुन्छ । प्रष्ट विचार र स्पष्ट अडानका लागि सुपरिचित उहाँले नेपालको पछिल्लो राजनीतिक स्थितिका बारेमा पनि प्रष्ट शब्दमा भन्नुभयो- 'अहिले पनि नेपालको राजनीति अत्यन्तै तरल अवस्थामा छ । यसैले नेपाल भित्र होस् या बाहिर जहाँ रहेका नेपालीहरू पनि चुप लागेर बस्नुपर्ने ढुक्कको अवस्था छैन । अहिले रक्षात्मक अवस्थामा पुगेको प्रतिगामी तत्व कुनैबेला पनि आक्रमक अवस्थामा पुग्को प्रतिगामी तत्व कुनैबेला पनि आक्रमक अवस्थामा पुग्को प्रतिगामी तत्व कुनैबेला पनि आक्रमक अवस्थामा पुग्को देखन चाहने सम्पूर्ण नेपालीहरूलाई 'वाच-डग'का रुपमा रहन आग्रह गर्दछ ।'

विगतमा राम्रा कामहरू धेरै भएको भए पनि राजनीतिक पार्टी र नेतृत्व पंक्तिहरूबाट केही कमजोरीहरू पनि भएकै हुन् भन्नुहदै सांसद बस्नेतले अगाडि भन्नुभयो- 'तर त्यसलाई महसुस गरेर सच्याउने प्रतिवद्धता आएपछि हामी सबैले त्यही कुराको पछि मात्र लाग्नुहुदैन । हामीले त्यसो गऱ्यौ भने हाम्रो मूल शत्रु गौढ हुन्छ । अहिले त्यो बेला होइन । मलाई खुशी लाग्यो यसपटक विदेशमा बसेका नेपालीहरूले पिन यस सत्यलाई राम्ररी बुभ्ग्नुभएको रहेछ । त्यसका लागि उहाँहरूलाई जित धन्यवाद दिए पिन कमै हन्छ ।'

नेपालमा लोकतन्त्र आए पिन अभै हाम्रो मानिसकतामा त्यो छिर्न नसकेकोमा दुःख प्रकट गर्दै सांसद बस्नेतले भन्नुभयो- 'यही कारणले होला शायद यहाँका नेपाली मिशनहरुमा पिन नेपालीहरुले दुःख पाएको गुनासो सुनेको छु। मैले त्यस बारेमा गम्भीरतापूर्वक जिम्मेवार व्यक्तिहरुसम्म आवाज पुऱ्याएको छु। म सकर ात्मक परिणामको पक्षमा छु। यदि त्यो भएन भने म अभ्रमाथिसम्म पिन आवाज पुऱ्याउन पिछ पर्दिन। नेपालीले अनावश्यक दुःख पाएकोमा चुप लागेर बस्नै कुरै आउदैन चाहे जहाँसुकै होस् या जस्तोसुकै पदमा बसेको मान्छेबाट किन नदोस।'

नेपालमा संविधानसभाको निर्वाचन भएर हाम्रा हक र अधिकारहरु सुनिश्चित नभएसम्म सबैलाई चनाखो हुन आग्रह गर्दे उहाँले नेपाली आवाजलाई पिन त्यो मिशनमा आफूलाई सिरक राख्न आग्रह गर्नुभयो। राजनीति गर्नुहुदैन भन्नु नै राजनीति गर्नु हो त्यस किसिमको चिन्तन बोक्नेहरु अराजनीतिक कुरा गरेर राजनीति गरिर हेका हुन्छन्। त्यसबाट सबै मुक्त हुनुपर्छ।'





Diaspora

नेपाली मन्दिरमा आचार्य केशवशरण संस्कार-संस्कृतिमा राजनीति निमसाउन जोड

नेपाली सनातन धर्मका प्रखर वक्ता आचार्य केशवशरणले नेपाली मन्दिरमा आफुनो दुईदिने प्रवचन शिविर सम्पन्न गर्नुभएको छ । नेपाली मन्दिरको निमन्त्रणामा न्यूयोर्क आउन्भएका आचार्य केशवशरणले पहिलो दिन जुलाई २२ मा शाश्त्रीय पद्धति र हाम्रा मूल्य एवं मान्यताका बारेमा प्रवचन दिनु भएको थियो भने दोस्रो दिन जुलाई २३ मा मानवताको रक्षा कसरी हुन्छ भन्ने बारेमा विद्वतापूर्ण प्रवचन दिनुभएको थियो। न्यूयोर्कमा रहेका नेपालीहरुको बाक्लो उपस्थितिमाभ सम्पन्न प्रवचनहरुले आम जनमानसमा सनातन धर्मका बारेमा सकरात्मक सन्देशहरु प्रवाह गर्न सकेकोमा सन्तोष व्यक्त गर्नुहदै आचार्य केशवशरणले नेपाली आवाजलाई भन्नुभयो- ' धर्मलाई जडका रुपमा भन्दा पनि संस्कार र संस्कृतिका रुपमा लिन आग्रह गर्नुहुर्दै यसमा कुनै पनि प्रकारको विभेदकारी राजनीति गर्न नहने आग्रह गर्नभयो।'

न्यूयोर्कमा समेत नेपाली मन्दिर स्थापना हुनु अत्यन्तै सकरात्मक भएको विचार व्यक्त गर्नुहुदै सन्त शिरोमणि आचार्य केशवशरणले यसको निरन्तरताका लागि सहयोग गर्न, सद्भाव राख्न सबैलाई आग्रह गर्नुहुदै हाम्रो सांस्कृतिक पहिचान बचाउनका लागि समेत यस्ता संस्थाहरुको सरक्षण आवश्यक भएको विचार व्यक्त गर्नभयो।

जुलाई १ देखि ३ महिनाका लागि अमेरिका भ्रमणमा रहनुभएका आचार्य केशवशरण विभिन्न राज्यहरुमा प्रवचन, सप्ताहव्यापी श्रीमद्भागवत गीता पाठलगायतका महत्वपूर्ण कार्यक्रम एवं धार्मिक अनुष्ठानहरुमा सहभागी रहदै आउनुभएको छ । अमेरिकामा रहेका आफन्तहरुलाई विजया दशमीको टीका लगाई दिएर त्यही साँभ नेपाल फर्कन लाग्नुभएका आचार्य केशवशरण वित दुईदशकदेखि विश्वका विभिन्न भूभागहरुमा सनातन धर्म एवं पूर्वीय दर्शन र शाश्त्रका बारेमा प्रवचन दिदै आउनुभएको छ ।

शरणागित इन्टरनेशनल स्प्रिच्युअल ट्रष्टका संस्थापक संरक्षक समेत रहनुभएका सन्त शिर मिण आचार्य केशवशरण पूर्वीय दर्शन एवं शाश्त्रका विद्वान हुनुहुन्छ । संस्कृत, नेपाली अंग्रजी र हिन्दीमा गरी ४४भन्दा बढी कृतिका श्रष्टासमेत रहनुभएका प्राध्यापक आचार्यले त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय र महेन्द्र विश्वविद्यालयमा गरी तीन दशकभन्दा बढी प्राध्यापन गर्नुभएको थियो।

नेपाली मन्दिरमा साई बहिनीको दुईदिने प्रवचन शिविर

साई बिहनीका नामले प्रख्यात साईसाधिका श्रीमती वृहस्पित श्रेष्ठको दुईदिने प्रवचन शिविर नेपाली मिन्दरमा सम्पन्न भयो । न्यूयोर्कमा रहेको नेपाली समुदायमाभ कानून व्यवसायीका रुपमा सुपरिचित अधिवक्ता विनोद रोक्काको विशेष पहल र सिक्रयतामा सम्पन्न साई शिविर मा न्यूयोर्कका विभिन्न भागमा छिरिएर रहेका साईभक्तहरुको ठूलो सहभागिता जुटेको थियो । जुलाई १५ र १६ मा सम्पन्न प्रवचन शिविरमा साई विहिनीले साई वावाको अध्यात्मिक चेत र दर्शनका बारेमा प्रवचन दिन् भएको थियो ।

साई पन्थमा विश्वास गर्ने नेपालीहरुमाभ अत्यन्तै श्रद्धाका दृष्टिले हेरिनुहुने साई विहनी एक सिद्धसाधिका मानिनुहुन्छ। उहाँले भक्तहरुलाई विगुत सिर्जना गरी उपलब्ध गराउनुका साथै भगवानबाट प्राप्त अलौकिक प्रसादहरु पनि केही भक्तहरुलाई उपलब्ध गराउनु भयो। कार्यक्रमको अन्तमा हरेक दिन भजन-किर्तन आयोजना गरि एको थियो।

प्रवचन शिविर सम्पन्न भएपछि नेपाली अवाजसँग कुराकानी गर्दै साई वहिनीले आफ् नो अमेरिका भ्रमण सफल भएको बताउनु भयो । न्युयोर्कमा पिन यित्तका साइभक्तहरु हुनु र यित्त भव्य कार्यक्रम आयोजना गरिनु आफैमा ठूलो उपलब्धी हो, उहाँले भन्नुभयो । आयोजक भक्तहरुलाई धन्यवाद दिदै साई वहिनीले कार्यक्रमका संयोजक विनोद रोक्काको खुलेर प्रशंसा गर्नुभयो ।

साई वहिनीले समेत कार्यक्रम सफल भएको प्रतिक्रिया दिनु भएकोमा आयोजनाका संयोजक अधिवक्ता विनोद रोक्काले खुशी व्यक्त गर्नुभयो । अमेरिका त्यसमाथि पनि न्यूयोर्कको व्यस्त जीवनको बाबजुद पनि यित्तको संख्यामा भक्तजनहरूको सहभागिता हुनु सन्तोषको विषय हो, उहाँले भन्नुभयो ।

अमेरिकामा रहेका नेपाली कलाकारहरुको संस्था ...आनाँ गठन

अमेरिकामा रहेका नेपाली कलाकार तथा कलासँग सम्बद्ध व्यक्तिहरुको एक भेलाले एशोसियन अफ नेप्लिज आर्टिस्ट इन अमेरिका (आना) गठन गरेको छ । लोक-श्रष्टा प्रेमराजा महतको संयोजकत्वमा गठित संस्थाका संस्थापकहरुमा अभिनेत्री पूजा चन्द, संगीत-श्रष्टा यमन श्रेष्ठ र मुनलाइट रेकर्डस् का अध्यक्ष चन्द्रप्रकाश शर्मा हन्हन्छ ।

नेपालका सुप्रसिद्ध कलाकारद्वय मदनकृष्ण श्रेष्ठ र हरिवंश आचार्यको प्रमुख आतिथ्यमा जोन अफ केनेडी अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय विमानस्थलस्थित होटल मेरिटमा गत जुलाई १८ मा सम्पन्न भेलाले सो संस्थाको स्थापना गरेको हो।

अमेरिकामा विभिन्न राज्यमा छिरिएर रहेका नेपाली कलाकार तथा कलासँग सम्बद्ध सम्पूर्ण श्रष्टा/सर्जकहरुको हक-हित र अधिकारहरुको संरक्षण गर्दे नेपाली कला र संगीतको संरक्षण एवं प्रचार-प्रसार गर्ने उद्धेश्यले स्थापित आन(ालाई चाडै नै विधिवत्रुपमा दर्ता गरिने छ, संयोजक प्रेमराजा महतले नेपाली आवाजलाई बताउनुभयो । उहाँका अनुसार सबै नेपाली कलाकार एवं कलासँग सम्बद्ध व्यक्तिहरुलाई सदस् यता प्रदान गरेर आनालई छिट्टै नै पूर्णता दिइने छ ।

हरेक वर्ष अमेरिकामा रहेका नेपाली कलाकार तथा कलासँग सम्बन्धित व्यक्तिहरुको सहभागिता तथा नेपालबाट पनि कलाकारहरु आमन्त्रण गरेर मा वृहत सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम आयोजना गरिने निर्णय पनि भेलाले गरेको छ । भेलाका प्रमुख अतिथिद्वय मदनकृष्ण श्रेष्ठ र हरिवंश आचार्यले संस्थाको सफलताको कामना गर्नुभएको थियो ।

अमेरिकाको सांस्कृतिक भ्रमण सम्पन्न गरेर नेपाल फर्कन लाग्नुभएका मह-टोलीका सदस् यहरुको विदाई गरेर आनाले आफ्नो विधिवत् कार्यक्रम शुरु गरेको छ।





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Manose Singh: The flute virtuoso



Manose Singh is one of those rare Nepali musicians who has managed to break into the international music scene. In fact, no other Nepali musician has probably worked with as many international artists as this flute virtuoso has, John Densmore, the drummer and founding member of the legendary rock outfit Doors, and the 2002 Grammy nominee Jai Uttal amongst others. In Nepal, he emerged as one the country's most soulful flutists and a member of the fusion rock group 1974AD, earning critical acclaim.

In 2002, Manose moved to San Francisco and is now an active artist here in North America. On 22 July, Manose performed at the annual Summerstage Concert series, one of the most popular and largest outdoor summer festivals held in Central Park, New York. He was on stage as member of the renowned sufi singer Riffat Sultana ensemble.

When did you start playing the flute?

I was 8 or 9 when I remember starting to play the bansuri. Late Madan Dev Bhatta was my first formal teacher.

You did a few shows with the trio Mahayantra in early 2000s. Was that your first major line up in Nepal?

No, I had actually already established a career as a solo flute player by the time I assembled Mahayantra. I was also in a group called Prastar with senior tabala player Homnath Upadayaya who is actually a visiting music professor at UCSB [University of California, Santa Barbara] right now.

Tell us a little bit about your life in San Francisco.

I live in the Richmound district of San francisco with is very close to the Golden Gate Bridge and Golden Gate Park. Even though I say i live here, I am actually on the road most parts of the year. But whenever I am back I enjoy the beauty of the city and calmness of my neighborhood. I also teach and perform around here whenever i can. I have a few private students who come to my home and I also teach every year in a music camp called Lark in the Morning. You have also played with some very big names, including members of the Doors. How did you end up playing with them? Yes, I have been very lucky to be working with some of amazing musicians here. I met John Densmore through my friend, poet Joe Sakarchi. I met Joe in nepal while playing in the temple of Boudha and we later met here. He had mentioned to me before that he has a friend who is a member of the Doors but at that time I had no idea who the Doors were. One day I got a call from John Denmore saying that he will be in San Francisco and that we will be making a cd with Joe. I was just amazed, obviously by then I knew who he was. Now we are very good friends. When ever I am down in L.A. he comes to my concert and we hang out. By the way, he loves Nepali food. I am planning to bring him over to Nepal some time.

How often do you visit and perform in Nepal?

I go to Nepal at least twice a year. Whenever I am there, I work with 1974AD as well as doing some of my own classical performances. My favorite place to play is the Kirateshwor Sangeet Ashram.

You work with 1974AD is very different, they are a fusion-rock band.

I love working with the Band. all the boys are so talented and so into music. It's a pity that I can't join them all the time but I do my best to perform and compose for them and it has been so rewarding. Our new album is going to be out soon and I am excited about the songs that I wrote for it. I hope they can be here in the US for the next Nepali convention [2007] in L.A.

What are some of the projects your are currently involved in?

My own albums, that keeps me busy. And I will also be making an album with Riffat Sultana, a fusion sound with a kind of DJ mixes. I am also doing some production and working on an instrumental album with Grammy nominee [20020] Jai Uttal.



1974AD rocks Europe



"Well, you wont believe this," says Nirakar from 1974AD. While in Kathmandu, the guys from the Himalayan Eyes Germany had visited Moksh the night they were playing. "We had a great night and they (the organizers from the HEG) were talking about how they wanted us to perform in Germany, which i did not take too seriously, but it all happened, man!" Nirakar adds gladly.

Their two-week tour divided into two parts began on 16 June at the Tivoli concert hall in Freiberg, where many other legendary bands such as Nazareth, Uriah Heep, Scorpions have also performed in the past. With a tunr up of at least 500 in the audience and three other supporting German bands 1974AD was the main act closing the show. The band was overwhelmed by the extensive media coverage. The second show on 17 June was held in Dresden at the Bunte Repblik (Flower

Generation) Festival where there over 10,000 poeple, mostly Europeans, had come to watch. The concert featured several bands from all over Europe and South America. 1974AD were on stage for about an hour and a half, which for them was as an "amazing experience." The Second part of their tour from 23-28 June was especially meant for the Nepali community. The band played in different places including Frankfert, Belgium and Hamburg.

With the company of Peter- the "Sax Player," the band played a lot of Nepali Funk Fusion and of course 1974AD standards. Must've been great! The people certainly loved them since they apparently sold a lot of CDs and on top of that have also been invited for the Annual Rock Festival in Prague next summer. The band has also applied for the Woodford Festival in Australia to be held in December. PartyNepal.com was also part of the tour.







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Robin: "It was a magnificent day with over 200,0000 Nepalis coming out to show their support for democracy."



Robin is, by far, Nepal's biggest rock star. The thick growling voice with which he sings and the grunts that punctuate his songs, his dominating size of 6 feet something and the oozing confidence all add to his rock star persona that no one else can claim in Nepal. His talent as a singer-song writer and a great live act and his many years as the front man of Robin N Looza has earned him legions of fans. On stage, he commands the respect of thousands of rowdy boys, stopping them from pelting stones out of excitement at the very artists they have come to watch live. Off stage, he is a father, a husband and an entrepreneur who runs the Bamboos Club in Thamel, a restaurant that serves up great live performances. Robin took time out from his family vacation in France to talk with Nepali Aawaz editor Kashish.

You're on your annual summer trip in

Yeah, as you know my wife happens to be French and we have a 7-year-old daughter, Tara, and every year during the monsoon we head over to France. This gives us an opportunity to catch up with the other side of our family. It balances our integration of cultures, which I see as a positive environment for our daughter to grow up in. Best of both worlds as I like to call it. We usually

Robin (top) with Looza: in 2002 (Center) and The New Revolution (bottom) in 2005.



head back sometime in August, ready for the tourist season to start, then it's back to work at the Bamboo Club.

You had dedicated Robin N Looza's second album Adhunik Angaan to your daughter. Does she know daddy's a rock star?

She definitely knows dad's a rock star. Shegrewupinamusicenvironment, from going to rock concerts to seeing our practice at home.

What language is most commonly spoken at home, French, English or Nepali?

We speak English.

What was this April like in Nepal?

As you know this April was a turning point in the political history of Nepal and I'm proud to say that I was a part of it. I was there at the protest march in Ring Road. It was a magnificent day with over 200,0000 Nepalis coming out to show their support for democracy. That's what I call people power.

Youhavetalkedtomeonseveraloccasions about Nepalis who have disappeared in the last 10 years of Maoist conflict at the hands of the Maoists as well as the various governments that have come into power during that decade. There's a song about this in your upcoming album

Most of the songs in this album deal with what has happened throughout the conflict and the conclusion we have come to. It deals with moving forward in a positive light but not forgetting the sacrifices that people have made with their lives.

You are not new to singing about social and political issues; there have been a few songs about these things in all of your 3 albums with Looza and your last album with the New Revolution band. Is politics the main theme in your coming album also? Is it possible for you to even avoid addressing Nepal's situation?

I guess it's unavoidable. I'll always try and voice for the underdogs. Doing this through music is the only way I know to making a better life for the generation to come, which includes my daughter by the way.

All your albums have at-least one English cover.

Yeah, we have a few english covers in this one too.

Does the upcoming album have a title yet?

13,000

Are there any guest musicians or "featured" artists?

That's a surprise.

Recorded at BMI studio?

Where else! Iman understands what I want.

A lot of people, myself included, were disappointed when one of the best collaborations in Nepali music ended when Robin and Looza separated. The band had great chemistry in studio and even more on stage. It also had an unprecedented audience size that I remember once filled up a good part of Tundikhel parade ground. Even in the last event we did together in Dharan (August 2005), people were still thinking "Robin N Looza" were coming.

There has been so many speculations as to why we broke up, let me put it simply by saying that creatively I think it was time for us to move on. There is and will always be a lot of people in the Nepali music Industry that I would like to work with. I feel it will only make me a better artist and a better person.

The New Revolution is made of veteran session musicians. How is your collaboration with them going?

It's been good; so far it has been a mutual collaboration. As you know our new album and second studio collaboration will probably be out late August or early September.

Apart from the release of 13,000, are there any gigs or other events lined up when you get back to Nepal?

We were busy before I came to France. Let's see what happens when I get back. Two of my boys, Pravin and Rajesh, are on tour in the US right

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कतारमा काम गर्दे, संगीतमा रमाउदै



Anushil Shrestha

बैदेशीक रोजगारीका लागी कतार आएका नेपाली युवाहरु काममा मात्रै सीमीत होलान जस्तो धेरैलाई लाग्न सक्छ। तर, कतारमा दिनको १२ घण्टा सम्म काम गरेर पनि संगीत र कला क्षेत्रमा लागी परेका युवाहरु प्रशस्तै भेटिन्छन्।

नेपालका बिभीन्न स्थानबाट काम गर्न आ(एका युवाहरुले एक साँगीतिक समुह बनाएरै आफ्नो प्रतिभालाई प्रस्तुत गरिरहेकाछन्। "नाई मलाई त्यिह केटी चाहिन्छ..." भन्ने रुञ्चे गीत गाएर नेपाली साँगीतिक क्षेत्रमा चिनीएका गायक प्रकाश पौडेल पिन विगत द महिनादेखि कतारमै छन्। दोहाको टाईसर पेट्रोल पम्पमा एकाउण्टेनको काम गर्दै रहेका पौडेल कतारका नेपाली संघ-संस्थाहरुले आयोजना गर्ने साँगीतिक कार्यक्रममा छाईरहेकाछन्। त्यस्तै आधा दर्जन युवाहरु मीलेर एक वर्ष अघि स्थापना गरेको संघर्ष ब्याण्डले कतारका डेढ लाख नेपाली माभ अलग्गै पहिचान बनाई सकेको छ।

बुटबलका सन्तोष परियार ब्याण्डका मूख्य गायक हुन भने पोखराका सन्तोष गुरुडले लीड गीतार बजाउदै उनलाई सघाउछन्। काठमाण्डौका सुरज प्रधान बेस गिटार, गणेश लामा ड्रम, नवराज रोक्का कि बोर्ड र शिव पाण्डे गितार बजाउछन भने पाल्पाका मनोज गोतामे रिदम गीतार बजाउछन्। ब्याण्डका गायक सन्तोष रोजगारका लागी बिदेश आए पनि आफ्नो प्रतिभा पोख्न साथीहरुसंग मीलेर ब्याण्ड बनाएको बताउछन्। उनी भन्छन "हाम्रो प्रयासलाई सबैले साथ दिईरहेकाछन्, गीतहरु मनपराएर हौसला बढाईरहेकाछन्।"

कतारमा दिनरात संघर्ष गरेर बँचेको समय संगीतलाई दिएका युवाहरुको यो समुहले गत महिनामा आफ्नै ब्याण्डका नाममा नयाँ सांगीतिक एलवम "संघर्ष" समेत निकालेको छ । पप, आधुनिक र राष्ट्रिय गीत समेटिएको एलवम प्रवासकै संघर्षको उपज भएको ब्याण्डका सदस् यहरु बताउछन् । ब्याण्ड बनाएपछि उनीहरुको ब्यास्तता बढेको छ । हरेक हप्ता शुक्रवारको सार्वजनिक बिदामा उनीहरुको कहि न कतै सांगीतिक कर्न्सट भईनै रहन्छ ।

यो ब्याण्डले आफ्नो पहिलो लाईभ कन्सर्ट गत मई ५ तारिकमा दोहाको अमीर सिनेमाहलमा आयोजना गर्दे आफ्नो पहिलो एलवमको विमोचन गरेको थियो। कतारमा रोजगारका लागी आएर यहि मृत्यु भएका स्याङ्जाका तीन नेपाली युवाका परिवारहरूलाई आर्थीक सहयोग जुटाउन कतार स्थित स्याङ्जा सहयोग समाजले गरेको विवीध सांगीतिक कार्यक्रममा संघर्ष ब्याण्डको महत्वपुर्ण सिक्रयता थियो। कार्यक्रममा कतार स्थित नेपाली दुतावासका राजदुत श्यामानन्द सुमन, गैर आवासीय नेपाली समाज अन्तर एम्या समन्वय परिषदका उपाध्यक्ष सागर नेपाल, एनआरएन, कतारका अध्यक्ष बद्रीप्रसाद पाण्डले संयुक्त रुपमा संघर्ष ब्याण्डको नयाँ सांगीतिक एलवम "संघर्ष"को विमोचन गरेका थिए।

संघर्ष लाईभ ईन कन्सर्ट नाम दिईएको कार्यक्रममा संघर्ष ब्याण्डसंगै नेपालका चर्चीत युवा गायक प्रकाश पौडेल प्रस्तुत भएका थिए । त्यस्तै सन्ध्या ग्रुप, तमु बौद्ध सेवा समाजका कलाकारहरुले गीत नृत्य प्रस्तुत गरेका थिए।

कतारको अलिमस्नादमा रहेको सन्ध्या ग्रुप कतारको अर्को सिकय समुह हो । यो गायक, संगीतकर्मी, नृत्यकार, रङकर्मीहरुको यो समुहलाई कतारमा हुने हरेक साँगीतिक कार्यक्रममा देख्न पाइन्छ। सन्ध्या ग्रुपका उपाध्यक्ष बीरेन्द्र याक्थुम्बा समुहले नेपाली मौलिक गीत संगीत र नृत्यलाई कतारमा रहेका नेपाली माभ प्रस्तुत गर्दे आएको बताउछन् । कतारमा संघ-संस्थाहरुका कार्यक्रम, नेपाली चाड पर्व र मुशलमान समुदायको ईदमा हुने लामो छुट्टीमा सांगीतिक तथा सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमहरु हुने गर्दछ । यस समयमा नेपालबाट चर्चित कलाकारहरु भिकाएर कार्यक्रमहरु समेत गर्ने गरिएको छ तर अहिले कतार मै रहेका प्रतिभाशाली कलाकारहरु मञ्चमा छाउन थालेको मितेरी क्लबका अध्यक्ष ज्योती रानाभाट बत(।उछन् ।

कतारमै काम गर्दे गायन र संगीत क्षेत्रमा देखा पर्ने कलाकारहरुमा प्रकाश दर्नाल, राज राई, प्रभात त्रिपाठी, ज्ञानेन्द्र स्वर्णकार बन्दिपुरे आदी रहेकाछन्। उनीहरुले पुराना आधुनिक देखि आजका लोक र पप गायकहरु सम्मका चर्चीत गीतहरु गाउने गरेकाछन्। उमेरले २० पनि ननाघेका राज राईको स्वर ब्यावसायीक गायकहरु भन्दा कम छैन्। कतारको एक कम्पनीमा काम गर्ने उनी नेपालीहरुका कार्यक्रममा दौरा सुरुवाल लगाएर मञ्चमा प्रस्तुत हुन्छन् ।

ओम भट्टराई, फुर्वा योञ्जन, सुन्दर सिँजाली, कृष्ण, सुरज, शेरु थापा, धनेश्वर र राम आदीको नृत्य कतारका कार्यक्रममा जम्छ । नृत्य गर्ने केटी नपाईने भएकाले केटाहरु नै महिला पहिर नमा प्रस्तुत हुदा दर्शकलाई केटा केटी छुट्उने गाहो पर्छ। नृत्य क्षेत्रमा भापाका सुवास कार्की र काठमाण्डीका भविन्द्र कार्की पनि नछुटाउने नाम उनी उनीहरु कतारका प्राय सबै जसो स्टेजमा देखिन्छन्। कतारमा हुने कार्यक्रमहरुमा युवा संञ्चाकर्मी रिव भट्ट उदघोषकको रुपमा चर्चीतछन्। कतार एयर वेजमा एयरहोस्टेस

बनेर कतार पुगेकी नेपाली चर्चित मोडल तथा रेडियो एङ्कर प्रज्ञा पन्त पनि हिलेकाहि नेपाली कार्यक्रमको मञ्चमा उदघोषण गर्न पुग्छिन् ।



सृजनामा ब्यस्त प्रकाश



चार वर्ष अघि "नाई मलाई त्यिह केटी चाहिन्छ..." भन्ने रुञ्चे गीत गाएर चिनीएका प्रकाश पौडेल ८ महिनादेखि दोहामा छन् । टाइसर पेट्रोल पम्पमा एकाउण्टेटको ८ घण्टे जागीरबाट बचेको समय उनको संगीत सृजनामै बित्छ । कतारमा हुने आधा दर्जन नेपाली कन्सर्टहरुमा उनी प्रस्तुत भईसकेकाछन् । साताको दुई दिन उनी त्यहाको ईण्डो अरिवक म्युजिक सेण्टरमा गिटार, गायनको कक्षा लिदै गरेको बताउछन् ।

थ्रि मच, रेस र भाइरस नामक एलवम नेपाली साँगीतक बजारमा ल्याएका प्रकाशका घाँस काट्नु खुर्केर...., डाक्टर साहब..., पैसा पैसा... आदी गीतहरु पछिल्लो समयमा स्रोताले रुचाएका थिए । एलवममा चेलिबेटी बेचबीखन, लागुऔषध, मादक पदार्थ, एचआईभी एडस बिरुद्धका सन्देशमुलक गीतहरु समेत समेटेका प्रकाश "माइण्ड फ्रेश" गर्न बिदेशीएको बताउछन् । वीपी प्रतिष्ठान धरानका जागीरे प्रकाश एलवम, स्टेज शो र जागीरको कमाई धरान-काठमाण्डौ गर्दै नपुग्ने भएकाले केहि समय पैसा कमाउन पनि कतार आएको

बताउछन । भन्छन "कतार आएर पिन संगीतमै ब्यस्त छु, नयाँ एलवमको गीतहरु बनाएको छु।" लण्डनबाट ५८ देशमा प्रसारण हुने नेपाली टिभिका लागी कतारबाटै कार्यक्रमहरु बनाृने तयारी समेत गरिरहेकाछन उनी।

कतारमा रहदा उनी नेपालबाट आएर दु:ख पाएकाहरुलाई सहयो गर्न समेत अग्रसर हन्छन । कतारका अन्य साथीहरुसंग मीलेर मीतेरी क्लब नै बनाएर उनी सहयोगका कार्यमा जुटेकाछन्। आफ्नो नया एलवमको गीत रेकर्ड गर्न चाडै नेपाल फर्कने उनी बताउछन्। नयाँ एलवममा पनि बिदेशको अनुभव, दु:ख, समस्या संगै एड्सबारे चेतना मुलक गीतहरु रहेको उनले बताए । "मेरो नया एलवमा अरवी र नेपाली संगीतलाई मीक्स गरेर नया स्वाद दिन लागेको छु " नयाँ एलवको केहि गीतको म्युजिक भीडियो कतारमै कनाउने उनको योजना छ। बिदेशीनु अघि उनले नायकको रुपमा अभिनय गरेको नेपाली चलचित्र "नाई मलाई केहि चाहिदैन" को प्रर्दशन भखरै कतारमा भएको थियो। बहुमुखि प्रतिभा भउका प्रकाश भन्छन "रुञ्चे गायकको रुपमा चिनीए तर रोएर मात्र हैन अरु पनि गर्न सक्छु भनेर म देखाउन चाहन्छु।"

नयाँ एलवममा नेपालीहरु बाध्यतावश बिदेश आउनु पर्ने र आएर दुःख पाउने गरेका समस्याहरु समेटेको बताउछन् । "दल बहादुर" बोलको उनको नयाँ गीतमा खाडी राष्ट्रमा काम गर्न जाने नेपालीले दलालहरुबाट कसरी दुःख पाईरहेकाछन् भन्ने सन्देश दिईएको उनले बताए । काम गरीरहेका बेला पनि उनी एलवमको नयाँ गीत गुन्गुनाईरहेका हुन्छन् ।

"नेपालीलाई मारेर, नेपालीलाई ठगेर बिदेश लान्छु भनेर ठुलो सपना देखाई हिड्दैछ दल बहादुर......"

Entertainment

ANA- NYC 2006: Music, sports, fun, scenes from behind the scenes and memories. The extensive photo gallery at Nepaliaawaz.com.









Kutumba's electric performance

In true Kutumba tradition, the folk music ensemble performed a series of popular Nepali folk tunes and a select few fusion numbers with guest artists Raman Maharjan on the flute, Sundari Mica on vocals and Sunit Kansakar, rock band Looza's lead guitarist, on sitar and slide guitar. The performance included songs from their first two albums as well as their third upcoming studio set. Needless to say, the show was enthralling.

The venue was an art gallery and the crowd mostly folk connoisseurs and friends of the performers who make up the ever growing legion of Kutumba fans. Singa Art Gallery, tucked away within the Patan Industrial Estate, offered the event comfortable carpeted floor seating and a superb painterly ambience - another Kutumba discovery in their quest to find and promote space for traditional Nepali performance art. Watch out for Kutumba's third album,





Opening Band:
New Edition-Featuring Hits FM Award nominated HIP HOP Artist NURBU
August 19,2006 SATURDAY

US + 30.00 including Dinner
Time: 8:30pm · 4.00am
Queens Palace
37-11, 57th Street
Woodside 11377
Between 37 & 38 Avenue

Entertainment

गूरुकुलमा रिमालका शालिक र अर्को नाटकघर धरान आइडल ०६३



पुरानो वानेश्वर स्थित गुलुकुल परिसरमा २४ असारमा रिमाल नाटक घरको उदघाट् न तथा गोपालप्रसाद रिमालको पुर्णकदको शालिक संस्कृतविद् सत्यमोहन जोशीले अनावरण गर्नुभयो । चार वर्ष अघि नाटककार वालकृष्ण समको नामा स्थापना गरिएको सम नाटकघर पछि कवि/नाटककार गोपालप्रसाद रिमाल र रङ्गकर्मी/ गायक हरिप्रसाद रिमालको नाममा आधुनिक नाटकघर निर्माण गरिएको हो।

आधुनिक गद्यकविता परम्पराका प्रबर्तक गोपालप्रसाद रिमालका कवितामा क्रान्ति चेत पाइन्छन् । रिमालको एकमात्र कविता सङ्ग्रह 'आमाको सपना' ज्यादै लोकप्रिय र उच्चकोटीको छ । यिनी कुशल नाटककार पनि हुन् । नारी समस्या केन्द्र यथार्थवादी नाट्य धाराबाट नेपाली नाट्य परम्परालाई नौलो मोड दिने श्रेयपनि यिनलाई नै जान्छ। दुई नाट्य कृतिहरु यो प्रेम र मसान नेपाली नाटक विधाका उदाहरणीय कृति हुन्। मात्र तीनवटा कृति लेखेर पनि यिनले नेपाली साहित्यमा छुट्टै मानक खडा गरे।

त्यसैगरी हरिप्रसाद रिमालले रङ्गमञ्च र गायन दुबै विधामा उत्तिकै विशिष्ट स्थान बनाएका छन् । छ दशकभन्दा बढी नेपाली रङ्गमञ्चमा अभिनय तथा निर्देशन गरिसक्नु भएका रिमालले राष्ट्रिय नाचघरमा नाटक निर्देशकका रूपमा रहँदा नाटकलाई ब्याबसायिक बनाउन ठुलो योगदान पुऱ्याउनु भयो। उहाँले 'फगत एक नजरमा...'जस ता धेरै कर्ण प्रिय गीत पनि गाउनु भएको छ । त्यसैगरि केही ठुला पर्दाका चलचित्रमा पनि अभिनय गर्नु भएको छ । नेपाली रङ्गमञ्चमा तत्कालीन बातावरणमा पनि यथार्थपरक र जीवन्त अभिनय गर्ने रिमाल नेपाली रङ्गमञ्चका एक स्क्ल हुन्।

४ सय दर्शक क्षमता रहेको नव-निर्मित रिमाल नाटकघरमा सामान्यतया एउटा आध्निक नाटकघरमा हुनुपर्ने सुविधाहरु उपलब्ध छ । प्रकाश, संगीत तथा मञ्च सामग्रीको सुविधा छ । यस नाटकघरको मूल ढोका एउटा र सहायक ढोकाहरु तीन वटा छन्। यो आधुनिक प्रेक्षागृह अर्थात ब्ल्याक बक्स अवधारणामा निर्मित छ । यस नाटकघरको लागत करिव ५० लाख रहेको गुरुकुलले जनाएको छ।

गोपालप्रसाद रिमालको शालिक भने कलाकार पुर्ण वनेमले बनाएकाहुन् । गुरुकुल परिसरमा अबस्थित पूर्ण कदको यो शालिकको उचाई करिव ५ फिट ४ इन्च छ । मूर्तिमा रिमालले एउटा हातमा आफ्नै कृति मसान बोकेका छन्। मूर्तिकार पूर्ण वनेम: मोरङ्ग सुन्दरपुरमा आजभन्दा ३५ वर्षीय अघि जन्मिएका हुन् । कलाकार वनेमले संगीत र कलामा स्नातक गरेका छन्। वनेमले भातखण्डे संगीत महाविद्यालय र लखनौ आर्ट कलेजबाट संगीत र कलामा स्नातक गरेका हुनु । हाल काठमाडौमा बसोबास गर्दे आएका यी कलाकार मूर्तिकला र चित्रकलामा उत्तिकै सिक्रय छन्।

सो अवसरमा मूर्तिकार पूर्ण वनेमलाई कदर-पत्र प्रदान गरिएको थियो। आरोहणका निर्देशक सुनिल पोखेलले आफ्नै प्रयासबाट गुरुक्लले नया नाट्घर निर्माण गरेको जानकारी दिएका थिए। सो अवसर प्रा. अभि सुवेदीले पनि बोल्नु भएको

धरान - दुईसय प्रतिष्पर्धीलाई उछिन्दै धरान-१५ का २३ वर्षिय कुशल थलङ्ग(लिम्बू) सुरसाज धरान आइडल ०६३ भएका छन्।

शनिवार धरान सभागृहमा आयोजित खुल्ला कन्सर्ट मार्फत चार राउण्डमा उत्कृष्ट गायन प्रस्तुत गर्दे कुशलले उपाधी जितेर धरान आइडल वनेका हुन । "म अव अभै सकृय भएर गायन क्षेत्रमा लाग्छु"-धरान आइडल कुशलले हर्षित मूद्रामा भने। अन्तिम प्रतिष्पर्धामा उत्कृष्ठ तीन मध्येबाट उनले सनम राई र विष्णु आङ्गबोहाङ्गलाई पराजीत गरेका थिए । 'पूरा भयो सपना मेरो' गीतको ट्रयाकमा स्वर हालेर हल गुञ्जायमान गराउदा दर्शकबाट कुशलले वाहवाही पाएका थिए। ०५८ सालमा नेपाल टेलिभिजनबाट प्रसारण हुने ब्राइटर तिम्रो सुर मेरो गीत कार्यक्रमको पुर्वाञ्चल स्तरिय प्रतियोगितामा नेपाली तारा दिपक लिम्बु संग प्रतिस्पर्धी भई दोश्रो उपाधी जितेका कुशल निर न्तर गायन क्षेत्रमा समावेश नाम हो। कुशल नेपाली तारा दिपक लिम्बुका समकक्षी पनि हुन । धराने उत्कृष्ट प्रतिभाको खोजी धरान आइडल प्रतिस्पर्धा गत बैसाख १८ गते देखि नेपाली तारा कार्यक्रमको सिको स्वरुप शुरु गरिएको थियो।

वरिष्ट संगीतकार सुरेश अधिकारी प्रमुख निर्णायक रहनु भऐका फाइनल प्रतिस्पर्धामा दोश्रो स्थानमा सनम राई तथा विष्णु आङ्गबोहाङ्ग तेश्रो स्थानमा रहे । उत्कृष्ट दश प्रतिस्पर्धी अर्पण चेम्जोङ्ग, रोसन राई, सम्भना राई, अनिल घिमिरे, गंगासागर राई, तीर्थ गुरुङ, प्रेमक्षितिज



राई , सान्त्वनामा चित्त बुक्ताएका थिए।

सुरसाज संगीतालय धरानको आयोजनामा प्रतिभा छनौटको निर्णायकहरुमा वरिष्ट गायक कुवेर राई, एल.पी. जोशी, कुशेश्वर राई र हुनुभएको थियो।

गरिमा डान्स सेन्टर, नवोदय विद्यामन्दीर र मुनलाईट डान्स एण्ड पर्फमीङ्ग सेन्टरका कलाकारहरुद्वारा रोमान्चक नृत्य संगै दर्शकलाई मनोरञ्जन दिलाएका थिए। प्रतियोगितामा धर ान आइडलले उपाधी संगै सुरेश अधिकारीद्वारा संगीतवद्ध एक नेपाली चलचित्र गीतमा गाउने अवसर पाउन्का साथै उपाधी विजेतालाई क्रमशः १० हजार, ७ हजार र ५ हजार नगद सहित एकवर्षको नि:श्लक संगीत कोर्ष सिक्ने अवसर पाउने छन्।

आइडल विजेता कुशलले विष्णु आङ्गवृहाङ्ग संग मिलेर भार्खरै मात्र 'फ्रेण्डसिप' नामक साँगीतिक एल्वम निकाली चर्चामा रहेका थिए।

हामी साथीभाईको छाायांकन शुरु दिलिप रायमाभी पनि चलचित्र निर्माणमा

नेपाली चलचित्रका लोकप्रिय अभिनेता दिलिप रायमाभीले पनि अब चलचित्र निर्माणमा हात हालेका छन्। श्रेया फिल्मस्का लागि चलचित्र 'हामी साथीभाई'को छाँयांकन शुरु गरेर उनी चलचित्र निर्माणमा संलग्न भएका हुन्। एक(दशकयता नेपाली चलचित्रकर्ममा छाएका दिलिप राम्रो नृत्य गर्न सक्ने एक भर्सटायल अभिनेताका रुपमा गनिन्छन्।

नेपाली आवाजसँग कुराकानी गर्दै दिलिपले भने- 'हामी साथीभाई एक पारिवारिक कथामा आधारित नेपाली चलचित्र हुनेछ । यो कुनै नयाँ शैलीको चलचित्र नभएर मुलधारकै नेपाली चलचित्र हो। यसले मित्रताको मूल्य र मान्यता आँकलन गर्नेछ । चलचित्र निर्माणमा संलग्न रहनुपर्नाको कारण बताउँदै उनले भने- नेपालमा

लोकतन्त्र स्थापना भएपछि चलचित्र निर्माणको माहौल सकरात्मक हुदै गएकाले आफू पनि चलचित्र निर्माणमा सहभागी भएको हो। आफूले जानेको क्षेत्र पनि यही हो। यसै क्षेत्रबाट कम(ाएको केही आर्जन, अनुभव र सीपलाई यसै क्षेत्रमा लगाउने सोचाई हो।'

चलचित्र हामी साथीभाईमा दिलिप रायम(ाभीका अलावा निखिल उप्रेती र सुनील पाण्ढे अभिनेताका रुपमा र रहेका छन् भने निरुता सिंह र विपना थापा अभिनेत्रीका रुपमा एकसाथ देखिने छन्। चलचित्र रवि अर्यालको लेखन तथा निर्देशहमा निर्माण हुने छ।

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Economy

Talking economics with Kiran Nepal



Kiran Nepal is the General Secretary of Society of Economic Journalist of Nepal (SEJOB), editor of Himalkhabar. com, the Nepali news portal, and a special correspondent for one of Nepal's most widely read magazines Himal Khabarpatrika. The following are excerpts from his interview with Nepali Aawaz in June.

Earlier in the year, Nepali economists had analyzed that the economy was at the brink of failure. What is the state of our nation's economy at present?

We don't have a yardstick for an economic crash. Despite that, what the economists said then were not untrue. They were prompted to make such predictions because of the economic reality around them, and they were right on target. The negligible growth of GDP [and, in fact, if the rate of population growth at 2.4% is factored, it is actually a negative growth], the decrease in foreign aid, the plummeting tax collection, the arrested infrastructure development, the decrease in export especially of ready-made garments, Pashmina, etc., the unbearably inflated general expenditure, and above all, the non-transparent fiscal practices of the royal regime prompted the accurate analysis by our economists. Added to that were the shortsighted policies of the regime, incessant political turmoil, and Maoist violence, all of which led to the decrease in confidence of the private sector. The dismal analyses were informed by similarly dismal circumstances.

India has pledged a historical amount of aid to Nepal. What is the immediate, and long-term, relief brought to Nepal by this aid?

The latest aid package from India is indeed remarkable. It is also a great surprise to a section of Nepali society steeped in centuries of anti-India sentiments. Everybody is wondering why India has extended help in such an unprecedented scale if it isn't seeking

to achieve anything in return. I think this gesture should be taken at its face value. New relations between Nepal and India cannot be guided by a basis of old understandings. This aid package seems to indicate a new desire on part of India to regard Nepal differently. If, indeed, they have no Machiavellian intentions, India must have realized that it is the country to be affected most by Nepal's internal problems like the Maoist insurgency.

The government, which was stuck in a fiscal morass, has found some relief through this aid. The exemption of all tariffs except a 4% custom tax on export to India has removed major obstacles on trade. Similarly, extending the deadline for amounts owed for military expenditures is also a form of relief, and deciding a timeline to implement the declared aid package is also a great help.

How are trade relations between Nepal and India? How different is the situation compared to the past few years?

India remains Nepal's largest trade partner. But there is a huge trade deficit between us. That deficit must be narrowed. Nepal should have been able to take far more advantage of a market the size of India, but it has failed to do so. There has to be a fundamental change in our perception of the Indian market. Nepal needs to create an environment of trust, whereas India must practice a spirit of generosity.

What areas in the economy need immediate reform? On which particular areas should the government focus?

We cannot expect major changes in the national economy before the election of a constitutional assembly. This is an ad-hoc government. It cannot implement any long-term economic policy. It shouldn't either. Each political party in the government has its own political and economic agenda. The priority of the moment is to bring back the derailed political situation on track. It is also important to make the people feel some degree of economic vibrancy. The government can introduce shortterm economic packages aimed towards this end. If the numerous obstacles placed on fiscal transactions are removed, a small economy like ours can become vibrant again.

Has the media given the economy the space it needs?

Certainly. In recent days the media is giving economic issues more space than before. There are investigative reports on the economy. Analytical writing is on the rise. But there is need

for more of the same. Specialization in this field is necessary, and things are gradually shaping up in that regard, too.

Most economic analyses and reporting are difficult to understand for the laymen. How often do journalists reporting on economic issues address the Nepali layman in their writing? How important is it to address the layman on economic issues?

There is the problem of failing to connect the economic issues of the day to the layman's pockets. Economics journalism resorts to vague terminology. We haven't been able to do as much as we ought to have done in the field of political economics. But this is something that improves with time. SEJON has periodically attempted to acquaint its members with the economic issues of the day, to train journalists on issues ranging from the local to [issues] pertaining to the WTO, and to hold regular interactions with various stakeholders to discuss fiscal and economic policies. I am hopeful that economic journalism in the future will be more accessible and full of investigative reporting, and more aware of political and economic trends and realities.

बजेट २०६३/६४ दरवारको खर्चमा ब्यापक कटौती

जनआन्दोलन-२०६३ मार्फत पुनर्स्थापित प्रतिनिधीसभासमक्ष गत २८ असारमा सरकार ले आर्थिक वर्ष २०६३/६४ का लागी २८ असारमा प्रस्तुत गरेको बजेटमा राजदरवारको खर्च ७० प्रतिशत घटाइएको छ । अर्थमन्त्री रामशरण महतले प्रतिनिधिसभाको बैठकमा प्रस्तुत गरेको रु. १ खर्ब ४३ अर्बको वार्षिक बजेटमध्येबाट चालुतर्फ रु.८३ अर्ब ७६ कर छ, पूँजीगततर्फ रु.४४ अर्ब ८७ करोड तथा साँवा-व्याज भुक्तानीतर्फ रु.१५ अर्व २४ करोड छुट्टाइएको छ । यसवर्षको वजेट गतवर्षको तुलनामा २८ प्रतिशत भन्दा बढी हो ।

विनियोजित बजेटकालागि आन्तरिक राजस्वबाट है. ५० अर्ब ६२ करोड, वैदेशिक सहयोग अन्तर्गत अनुदानबाट २३ अर्व ७२ करोड र वैदेशिक ऋणबाट १६ अर्ब ६० करोड स्रोत परिचालन हुन गई करिब है. २२ अर्ब ४५ करोडले बजेट न्यून हुने अपेक्षा अर्थमिन्त्रको रहेको छ । ग्रामिणमुखी यस बजेटले ग्रामीण पूर्वाधार विकास, ध्वस्त संरचनाको पुनःनिर्माण, विस्थापितहरुको पुनंस्थापन, छात्राहरु त्यसमा पनि विशेषगरी दिलत परिवारहरुको शिक्षा लगायतलाई प्राथमिकता दिएको छ ।

बजेटमार्फत मिंदरा, वियर तथा चुरोटतर्फ प्र प्रतिशतले अन्तशुल्क बृद्धि गरिएको छ । निजामती कर्मचारीहरुकालागी तलबको १० प्रतिशतले हुन आउने रकम महंगी भत्ताकारुपमा बढाइएको छ । राजदरबारको खर्चकालागी चालुवर्षको तुलनामा करिब ७० प्रतिशतले कमिका साथ रु.२१ करोड २७ लाख विनियोजन गरिएको छ । चालु वर्षमा र ाजदरबारको खर्चकालागी शुरुमा रु.४० करोड ४० लाख र पछि ३४ करोड ४१ लाख थप गरी कुल रु.७४ करोड ६१ लाख विनियोजन गरिएको थियो । तुलनात्मक रुपमा गाउँलाई प्राथमिकता दिएको यस बजेटले ग्रामीण पूर्वाधार विकास, ध्वस्त संर चनाको पुनःनिर्माण, विस्थापितहरुको पुनर्स्थापन, छात्राहरु त्यसमा पनि विशेषगरी दलित परिवार हरुको शिक्षा लगायतका कुराहरुमा आफूलाई केहि हदसम्म केन्द्रित गर्न सफल भएको छ । सुरक्षा खर्चमा कमी ल्याइएको छ भने राजदर बारको खर्चमा भारी कटौती गरिएको छ । मुलुकले दिशानिर्देश गरिसकेको संविधानसभाको निर्वाचनका लागि रकम छट्टाइएको छ ।

वजेटमा संविधानसभाको निर्वाचनकालागी रु.१ अर्ब २५ करोड छुट्टाइएको छ । हाल प्रत्येक गाविसले पाउँदै आएको रु.५ लाख अनुदानलाई कायमै राखिएको छ । र, स्थानिय सहभागीताको आधारमा सडक, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा लगायतका क्षेत्रमा खर्च गर्ने गरि योजना आएको खण्डमा रु.५ लाख थप गर्न सिकने व्यवस्था गरिएको छ । यसरी थप गरिएको रकम मध्येबाट रु. २ लाख अनिवार्य रुपमा आफ्नो क्षेत्रका विद्यालय तथा स्वास्थ्य संस्थाकालागी शिक्षक तथा स्वास्थ्यकर्मीकालागी छट्टाउन्पर्ने हन्छ ।

अर्थमन्त्रीका अनुसार वार्ताको माध्यमबाट हिंसाको अन्त्य हुने, शान्तिपूर्ण वातावरणमा कलकारखा(नाहरु नियमित संचालन हुने, नीतिगत स्थायित्व आउने, ग्रामीण पूर्वाधारमा पूँजीगत लगानी हुने तथा वैदेशिक रोजगारबाट आउने रेमिटेन्सको परिमाण बढ्ने लगायतका कुराहरु आगामी आर्थिक वर्षकालागी अनुमान गरिएका आर्थिक परिसूचकहरुको आधार हुन्।

वि.सं. २०५६ मा संसद विघटन भए यता र ाजाको प्रत्यक्ष शासनका ४ वटा आर्थिक वर्षभर आएका बजेटको तुलनामा पछिल्लो बजेट नेपाली समाजमा एउटा अलग्गै रुपमा आएको छ । यो बजेतले 'नयाँ नेपालको खाका कोर्ने' काममा समेत आफनो अग्रसरता देखाएको छ ।

Nation

Catching up with Gagan Thapa

In 2003, Gagan Thapa emerged as one of the most charismatic and powerful student leaders in Nepal. And he continues to remain so. Originally from Solukhumbu, the Kathmandu based activist was a key figure and leader in many of the large protests for democracy in the last three years. His demand and lobby in the streets of Kathmandu for a republic found more appeal than the 10-year bloody war waged by the Maoists for the same cause. The security forces, then working for the Royal regime, constantly sought him and Gagan had to regularly remain "underground," emerging only to organize and lead political demostrations. He has been accused of being a palace "agent" by his party's spiteful leadership but he remains one of the most potent cadres of the Congress Party. Nepali Aawaz caught up with Gagan Thapa to ask him why he has been missing in action after the April Uprising in Nepal and to talk about the unfolding political situations in the country. The following are excerpts from an interview conducted in mid-July.

A lot of people are wondering where you have been since the April uprising.

To the districts. I have already toured more than 15 districts in the last two months or so. I never got the opportunity to do this before as I was entirely busy here in Kathmandu. For Kathmandu- based people like me, it is time to understand the demands and needs of people in rural Nepal. This is something that will undoubtedly help me in getting a clearer picture of what a "New Nepal" should be like.

What is important for the people to understand about the political developments happening in Nepal right now?

The House of Representatives [HOR] has become a problem; it should be dissolved at the earliest. Most of the parliamentarians are opposing the eight-point agreement. They are more concerned about their own political future. As far as the delivery mechanism, transparency, mindset of office bearers goes, one can't say that this is a government formed just after a people's movement.

So far, Maoists have shown that they are committed to peaceful settlement. But their swollen pride and their dominating ways in the rural areas



Student leader Gagan Thapa gives an impromptu speech during a protest outside PK Campus, Kathmandu, in 2004.

have to come down. Royal groups have already started conspiracies. They will use every means possible to bring a rift amongst the seven parties. It would be in their interest to keep the HOR as it is. Nevertheless, interim constitution should be finalized within few days paving the way forward for the election to Constituent Assembly.

What is your personal opinion about the recent political developments in Nepal, such as the idea of interim government with the Maoists, the UN involvement in Nepal, the Maoist mass meet in Kathmandu and so on?

I see solution in the eight-point agreement. UN team would monitor weapons, Maoist will join the interim government, and all these parties would be responsible to create a fearless atmosphere for holding the elections to Constituent Assembly.

The Maoists have declared an armed war against the Janatantrik Morcha group. What do think this will do to the prospect of Maoists becoming a mainstream party?

I don't think it is official. This is true that Maoist these days are worried about losing grounds in Terai. And its obvious that Janatantrik Morcha has been backed up by the palace. For these two reasons they are really worried about the terai region. But if they do something nonsense like starting an armed war against this group, it is going to be suicidal for them.

In 2004, 2005 and 2006 you fought against the security forces because

there was a "riot prone zones" and protests were banned in some parts of the city. Now, the reinstated parliament and the current government have also declared parts of the city as zones where you can't protest, such as in front of Singha Durbar where the kamaiyas wanted to protest but got arrested for their

attempts. What do you think?

Both the declarations are same in words but not in spirit. Before it was made to curtail people's fundamental right to protest or to assemble and by and large to sabotage the whole movement [for democracy]. Now I think it has been done so that [the] government can act efficiently as it is needed. What I think is government should declare some zones where people can assemble and put forward their demands. But again, the question is will the government listen to them?

What is happening with internal party politics right now? Between the two congress parties and between the several mainstream parties?

Same old things. We have experienced a lot of changes but political parties appear so reluctant to make reforms within themselves. The possibility of unification of two Nepali Congress factions has become high mainly due to the potential threat of Maoist taking the lead, international pressure and of course the mounting pressure for unification within each party.

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PS: Please contact Mrs. Gita Khatri to participate in poem competition and register your team with Mr. Nagendra Ignam for Volleyball competition.

20

Nation

सजिलो छैन, हतियार व्यवस्थापन





People's Liberation Army (PLA), the Maoist's armed forces, in Eastern Nepal last year. The PLA boasts a wide range of automatic machine guns such as the AK-47 (left) and Indian manufactured INSAS and old .303s (right) seen above.

Anushil Shrestha

२०६२-६३ को जनआन्दोलनपछि अहिले नयाँ नेपाल पुनःनिर्माणको क्रम सुरु भएको छ । १२ वर्ष अघिदेखिको नेकपा (माओवादी)को सशस्त्र जनयुद्ध शान्तिपूर्ण अवतरणको क्रममा छ । दल र सरकारसँग शिखर वार्ता समेत गरेर माओवादी अन्तरिम सरकारमा जाने तयारीमा छ । तर, यो अवस्थामा माओवादीसँग रहेको हितयार व्यवस्थापन भने जिटल समस्याको रुपमा देखापरेको छ ।

हुन त सरकारले संविधानसभाको निर्वाचनअघि हतियार व्यवस्थापन गर्न सहयोग आग्रह गर्दै संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघलाई पत्र पठाएको छ । २ असारमा राजधानीमा माओवादीका अध्यक्ष प्रचण्डको उपस्थितिमा भएको सरकार-माओवादी शिखर वार्तामा हतियार व्यवस्थापनका लागि संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघलाई बोलाउने सहमति भएको

थियो । द्वन्द्वरत दुवै पक्षले सहमित जनाइसकेपछि आधिकारिक रूपमा सरकारले राष्ट्र संघलाई पत्र लेखेर आग्रह गरेको हो । १८ असारमा बसेको मन्त्रिमण्डलको बैठकको निर्णयअनुसार पत्र पठाइए पनि हतियार व्यवस्थापन गर्न सजिलो भने छैन ।

एकातिर माओवादीले आफ्नो सेनालाई नेपाली सेनामा विलिन गर्नुपर्ने माग राखिरहेको छ भने अर्कोतर्फ सरकारमा जान हत्तारिरहेको छ । युद्धविराम गरेर वार्ता प्रिक्तया थाल्नासाथ आफ्ना सेना पाल्न राज्यको आधा बजेट छुट्टयाउनु पर्ने माग राख्ने माओवादीले लगातार हत्या, चन्दा सङ्गलन र जन-अदालत सञ्चालन गर्दै आएको छ । देशभरका शहर, बजार, गाउँ सबैतिर छरिएर रहेका सशस्त्र माओवादीहरुले आफ्नो साथमा र हेको हितयार कसरी बुकाउने हुन्? अहिले सर्वत्र चासो देखिएको छ ।

माओवादीसँग सात ब्रिगेड अन्तर्गत २५ हजार सेना रहेको अनुमान छ। साधारण भरुवा बन्दुकदेखि, थ्री नट थ्री, इन्सास, एसएलआर, एसएमजी, एमएमजी, एके ४७ सम्मका आधुनिक हतियार छन्। लामो दूरीमा प्रहार गर्ने ट्-इञ्च र ८१ मोर्टारदेखि घरेल् ट्की, प्रेसर क्कर, पाइप बमहरु प्रशस्तै छन्। उनीहरुसँग रहेको हतियारको कुनै लेखाजोखा छैन । संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघको निगरानीमा आफ्नो सेना र हतियार र ाख्न माओवादी तयार रहे पनि सम्पूर्ण हतियार ब्ञाउलान् भन्ने क्रामा भने शंका गर्न सिकन्छ । माओवादीको नेतृत्व तहले सबै हतियार बुछाउन भन्दा कतिपयले नबुञाउने र लुकाएर राख्ने सम्भावना पनि उत्तिकै छ । जातीय स्वार्थका लागि माओवादीसँग आवद्ध जातीय मोर्चाहरुले अरू नै अडुको थापेर छुट्टै विद्रोह गर्नसक्ने सम्भ(ावना पनि देखिन्छ ।

शान्ति स्थापनापछि "विकास लेऊ, हरि तयार देऊ" भन्दै हतियार व्यवस्थापन गरिएको कम्बोडीयाको उदाहरणले पनि समस्याको अर्को पाटो देखाउछ । त्यहाँ गाउँ-गाउँमा विद्यालय तथा पानी ट्याङ्की निर्माण गरिदिएर गाउँलेसँग भएका हतियार फिर्ता लिएर डोजरले पेलेर, आगो लगाएर नष्ट गरिएको थियो। तर, सम्पूर्ण हतियार फिर्ता नभएकोले गाउँमा पानीको कुलो लगाउने कुरामा र छर-छिमेकको ऋगडामा समेत गोली चल्ने समस्या त्याहाँ छ । यस्तै समस् या नेपालमा पनि नरहला भन्न सिकन्न । त्यसबेला कम्बोडीयामा खमेरुज राज्यकालमा सन १८७४-१८७८ सम्म भएको नरसंहारमा मात्र देशभरि १२-१५ लाख मारिएको इतिहासकार हरुको अनुमान छ। यसतर्फ बेलैमा सोचेर हि तयार व्यवस्थापन गर्न आवश्यक छ।





Op-Ed

देशमा राजनीतिक परिवर्तनपश्चात राजनीतिक निकासको संकेत

Dilliraj Poudyal

राजनैतिक परिवर्तन राजनैतिक निकासको पूर्णता होइन बरु त्यसको प्रारम्भिक चरण हो। अर्थात् एउटा शासन प्रणालीको अन्त्य र अर्को नयाँ प्रणालीको अभ्युदय हुने राजनैतिक परिवर्तनको समय आफैमा एउटा राजनीतिक संक्रमणको समय समेत हो। स्वभाविक रुपमा राजनैतिक संक्रमणको समय ज्यादै अस्थीर र चलायमान हनेहँदा राजनैतिक दल र उनीहरुको राजनैतिक सक्षमता र पारदर्शिताको आधारमा नै यसले आफ्नो स्वरुप निर्धारण गरी राजनैतिक सार प्रदान गर्दछ। यसै राजनैतिक तरलताको समयमा जिम्मेवार राजनैतिक दलहरुले परिवर्तित राज(नीतिक परिवेशलाई मार्गप्रशस्त गर्दै स्पष्ट र ाजनैतिक निकास प्रदान गर्न सकेनन् भने र ाजनैतिक प्रतिगमन भई राजनैतिक परिवर्तन नै प्रत्युत्पादक हनसक्ने सम्भावनालाई समेत नकार्न सिकदैन ।

नेपाली जनताकै विलदानीपूर्ण संघर्षकै उपज आज मुलुकमा राजनैतिक परिवर्तन भई कम्तीमा राजा ज्ञानेन्द्रद्वारा अपहरित संसदको पुनर्स्थापना भई सांसदहरुले दौरा सुरवल र मन्त्रीहरुले चिल्ला गाडी चढेर मनत्रालय जाने संसदीय पुनर्अभ्यास भएका छन्। त्यसैगरी खुल्ला राजनैतिक वातावर णकै उपज माओवादीहरु अव जंगल छोडेर शहर पसी सभा र आमसभा गर्दै चर्का भाषणहरु गर्दे हिडे तापिन मुलतः देशलाई सार्वभौम सम्पन्नता र संवैधानिक सर्वोच्चताको अनुभूति दिलाउने मुख्य कार्यमा भने अभैपिन राजनैतिक दलहरु त्यित स्पष्ट हुन सकेको देखिदैन।

यद्यपि राजनैतिक परिवर्तनको छोटो समयावि धमा नै उल्लेख्य राजनैतिक विकासको अपेक्षा गर्नु आफैमा सान्दिभृक नहोला तर वर्तमान राजनैतिक परिवेशको आधारमा भने सरकार र राजनैतिक दलहरुको यस्तै सुस्त र अरु प्रष्ट राजनैतिक चालले नेपाली जनताको निद्रा राजनैतिक प्रगतिको चाहना र मुलुकको चल(।यमान राजनैतिक अवस्थालाइ सहजै थेग्नसक्ने अवस्था देखिदैन ।

सरकार र माओवादीहरु बीचमा वर्तमान र परिवेश र भावी राजनैतिक वरुपको निर्माण गर्ने सन्दर्भमा कार्यान्वयनको सवालमा देखिएको अस्पष्टता नै वर्तमान र ाजनैतिक अन्यौलताको एउटै मात्र कारण हो भन्ने आम राजनैतिक पर्यवेक्षकहरको धारणालाई तर्कसंगत नमान सिकदैन । मुलतः वर्तमान सर कार भनेको ऐतिहासिक जनआन्दोलन २०६३ र त्यसबाट प्राप्त उपलब्धीलाई रक्षा गर्दे आम नेपाली जनताको लोकतान्त्रिक नेपालको चाहना(लाई मध्यनजर राखी आम राजनैतिक दलहरु र नागरिक समाजसँग छलफल र अन्तरिक्रया गर्दै लोकतान्त्रिक नेपालको मार्गप्रशस्त गरी त्यसलाई मृर्तरुप दिने जनआन्दोलनद्वारा म्याण्डेटप्राप्त वैधानिक सरकार हो । त्यसैले राष्ट्रिय दायित्व र ऐतिहासिक जिम्मेवारी वहन गरिरहेको वर्तमान सरकारले यथासक्य चाँडो लोकतान्त्रिक राज्य संरचना (अन्तरिक संविधान, राजनैतिक सम्मेलन र संविधानसभा) तयार पार्नु

र त्यसलाई मूर्तरुप दिने विश्वस्त वातावरणको तैयार पार्नु पहिलो कर्तव्य हो । त्यसैगरी माओवादीहरु पनि वर्तमान सरकारसँग हातेमालो गर्दे सरकार वा अन्य राजनीतिक दलहरुलाई पक्ष वा विपक्षको रूपमा भन्दा पनि बरु जनआन्दोलनका सहकर्मी तथा लोकतान्त्रिक नवनेपालका पक्षधर का हैसियतले हेर्दे सरकारलाई समर्थन तथा रचनात्मक आलोचना गर्दामा नै स्वयं माओवादी र सिंगो मुलुकको समेत कल्याण हुने छ। तर, यथार्थतामा मुल्कको वर्तमान गतिविधि नेपाली जनताले सोचेभन्दा फरक ढंगले सञ्चालन भइर हेछ । मूख्यत: सात राजनीतिक दलसहितको वर्तमान राजनीतिलाई वस्त्गत ढंगले केलाउन सिकरहेको देखिदैन । न सरकार परम्परागत शैलिको संसदीय प्रजातान्त्रि प्रणालिको विकास गर्न सक्छ जुन जनआन्दोलनको म्याण्डेट पनि होइन न त समावेशी लोकतन्त्रात्मक प्रणालिको विकासलाई सुदृढ बनाउन नै सक्छ। संसदबाट ऐतिहासिक भनी गरिएका कतिपय प्रगतिशील निर्णयहरुलाई समेत माओवालीहरुद्वारा आफनो सहभागिता विनाको निर्णय भन्दै आलोचना गरिर हेको सन्दर्भ एकातर्फ छ, भने अर्कोतर्फ विना अभ्यास हतारमा गरिएका कतिपय निर्णयहरु आज पनि अनुत्तरित र जिम्मेवारविहीन अवस् थामा रहनुलाई सरकारको निर्णायक क्षमता र राजनैतिक पारदर्शिताको अभावभन्दा बढी केही भन्न सिक्टैन ।

एकातर्फ सरकार नेपाल प्रहरी र सेनालाई कार्यबाही र विभिन्न तरहले रुष्ट्याउदैछ/विच्क्याउदैछ भने अर्कोतर्फ माओवादीहरु आफ्ना सेनालाई कायम राख्दै राष्ट्रिय सेनाको हैसियत र संख्या निर्धारण गर्दैछन्। त्यितमात्र होइन, सरकार दैनिक शान्ति सुरक्षामा खिटने प्रहरीलाई बन्दुक थुतेर लौरो समाउदैछ भने माओवादीहरु हिजो आफू पुग्न नसकेका ठाउँहरुमा समेत सशश्त्र पुगेर हितयार को नृत्यमा रमाउदैछन्। माओवादी प्रचण्डकै शव्दमा अवैधानिक भिन्एको सरकारको अन्तर

ाष्ट्रिय समर्थन तथा सद्भावना जुटाउने आर्थिक प्याकेजसहितको भारत भ्रमण आलोचित हुन्छ भने स्वधोषित वैधानिक माओवादीहरुद्वारा आज पनि न्यून आय भएका नेपाली जनता माथि मच्चाएको चन्दा आतंक सुपाच्य भइरहेको छ। अहिले माओवादीहरुकै चल्तीफूर्ति देखिन्छ। प्रचण्ड सार्वजनिक विशेष समारोहका लागि गृहमन्त्री अनको प्रवन्ध मिलाउन काठमाडौ-पोखरा अन्य मन्त्रीहरु वार्ताका ठेलीहरमा हराउदैछन् भने अध्यक्ष प्रचण्डले प्रधानमन्त्री कार्यालयमा ख्ल्ला पदार्पण गरी लञ्च खाइरहेको बेला माओवादी कार्यकर्ताहरु जिविस कब्जा तथा विद्यार्थी अपहरण र मृत्युजस्ता आफ्ना दैनिक कार्यहरुमै व्यस्त छन् । त्यसैले प्रचण्डले ठीकै भनैका छन् वर्तमान सरकार कृहिराको कागजस्तै बनेको छु, जसले आँखा देखेर पनि उडुन सिकरहेको छैन, सुनेर पनि बोल्न सिकरहेको छैन।



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कर्मा ग्याल्जेन शेर्पा: "म नेपालिभत्र नभए पनि मिभत्र नेपाल राखेको छु।"

व.स. २०१३ सालमा सोलुखुम्वुको टाप्तिङमा जन्मनुभएका कर्मा ग्याल्जेन शेर्पा विगत १० वर्षदेखि अमेरिकाको न्यूयोर्कमा बसोवास गर्दे आउनुभएको छ । न्यूयोर्कको नेपाली समुदायमा सबैभन्दा घना संख्यामा रहेको शेर्पा समाजकै अग्रज व्यक्तित्व र शेर्पाहरुको साभा संस्था शेर्पा किध्दुकको अध्यक्ष रहिसक्नुभएका शेर्पा हाल सो संस्थाको सल्लाहकार र अमेरिकामा र हेका विभिन्न आदिवासी एवं जनजातिहरुको छाता संस्था ग्लोवल फेडेरेशन अफ इण्डिजिनियस पिपुल अफ नेपाल, न्यूयोर्क-यूएसए (ग्लोवल नेपाली जनजाति/आदिवासी महासंघ, अमेरिका) को अध्यक्ष हन्हन्छ ।

२०२६ सालमा रेडियो नेपालमा पाइला टेकेर गीत गाउने पहिलो शेर्पा उहाँ २०३३मा एक खेलाडीका रुपमा नेपालको प्रतिनिधित्व गर्दै चीन जानुभएको थियो। यसरी गायनबाट जिन्दगी शुरु गरेका शेर्पा, त्यसपछि खेलाडी अनि ए-क्लासको ठेकेदार हुदै अहिले आफ्नो समुदायको मात्र होइन, सिंगो आदिवासी एवं जनजातिहरुकै अग्वा व्यक्तित्व बन्न पुग्नुभएको छ।

नेपाल र नेपालीको सम्मान र प्रतिष्ठाका लागि सदैव चिन्तनशील शेर्पा अन्याय-अत्याचार पटक्कै सहन नसक्ने स्वभावको प्रष्ट वक्ता हुनुहुन्छ। राजनीतिक रुपमा सचेत उहाँ नेपाल र नेपालीलाई हेपेको र कसैले अनाहकमा दुःख दिएको कुराको अग्रपंक्तिमा रहेर विरोध गर्नुहुन्छ। यही विद्रोही स्वभावका कारण उहाँ सधैभरी चर्चामा रहनुहुन्छ। अहिले पनि उहाँ नेपालमा लोकतन्त्र आए पनि अमेरिकामा रहेका नेपाली मिशनहरुमा लोकतन्त्र नआएको भन्ने विचार व्यक्त गरेका कारण चर्चाको शिखरमा रहनुभएको छ। प्रस्तुत छ, उहाँसँग गरिएको भेटवार्ताः

नेपाली मिशनमा लोकतन्त्र नआएको भनेर फोरि एकपटक तपाईले विरोधको स्वर उर ल्नु भएको छ , आखिर के भएको हो, केही बताइदिनुहोस् न।

मुलुकमा लोकतन्त्र ल्याउन हामीले पनि आफूले सकेको भौतिक एवं नैतिक समर्थन गरेकै हो। हेर्नुहोस्, हाम्रो लागि नेपाल भनेकै यहाँको मिशन हो । हामीलाई लागेको थियो देशमा लोकतन्त्र आएपछि यहाँको मिशनमा पनि पक्कै पनि लोकतन्त्र आउला । तर दु:खका साथ भन्नुपर्छ, त्यहाँका केही कर्मचारीहरुमा उही पुरानै दु:ख दिने प्रवृति कायमै छ । पैसा भन्यो या कसैले ठूलो स्वरमा कराउन सक्यो, उसको काम बन्ने जसले त्यसो गर्न सकेन, उसको काम नै नबन्ने, यो पुरानी रोग अर्फ अहिले पनि जारी छ । खासगरी शेर्पाहरुको सोभोपनको फाइदा उठाएर यहाँ द:ख दिने रोग पुरानै हो। लोकतन्त्र आएपछि त त्यसो नहोला भन्ने लागेको थियो । तर, फोरि पनि राहदानी नवीकरण गर्दा घुस मागिएको कुरा मैले आफ्नै शेर्पा दाजुभाइहरुबाट सुने । हेर्नुहोस्, म अन्याय-अत्याचार नसहने मान्छे, म त्यो सहन नसकेर नेपाल मिशनमा गएकै हो। मैले भनेको छु, यदि मिशनका केही कर्मचारीहरु यही चाला जारी राखेर पैसा भार्नकै



लागि अमेरिकी अध्यागमनले गर्ने काम गरिहरने हुन भने हामी त्यहाँका भ्रष्ट-घुसखोर कर्मचार निहरुको विरोधमा कालो भण्डा लिएर प्रदर्शन गर्नेछौं। तर, त्योभन्दा पहिले नै उहाँहरुको सद्वुद्धि पलाओस् र हामीले त्यसो गर्न नपरोस् भन्ने कामना छ।

त्यसो गर्दा शेर्पा समुदाय र मिशनका बीच तनाव सिर्जना हुदैन त ?

हामी चाहन्छौ, त्यस्तो अप्रिय परिस्थिति सिर्जना नहोस्। तर, हाम्रो चाहनाले मात्र पिन त हुदैन। नेपालकै हिमाली क्षेत्रका आदिवासी हामी शेर्पाहरुलाई आफ्नै देशको राहदानी नवीकरण गर्न चार-चारसय घुस माग्न थालिएपछि हामीले पिन त तनाव बढ्छ भनेर चुप लाग्नु भएन नि। त्यसबारेमा हामीले भन्दा पिन देशको प्रतिनिधित्व गर्न भनेर न्यूयोर्कका ठूला महलमा बस्ने, भण्डावाल कारहरुमा चढ्ने उहाँहरु जस्तो ठूला मान्छेहरुले सोच्ने कुरा हो यो। यदि उहाँहरु सोच्नुहुन्न भने यसबाट उत्पन्न हुने कुनै पिन अप्रिय परिस्थितिको जिम्मेवारी पिन उहाँहरुले नै लिनुपर्छ।

तपाई सधैं विद्रोही स्वभावको मान्छे हुनुहुन्छ भनिन्छ नि ?

हेर्नुहोस् के गर्ने ? आफू शुरुदेखि नै अन्याय-अत्याचार नसहने स्वभावको मान्छे परियो । नानीदेखि लागेको बानी यो उमेरमा एकैचांटि छोड्न पनि नसिकने रहेछ । नेपाल छोडेर अमेरि का आइयो, तर त्यो नेपाली बानी भने छुटेकै छैन । फेरि विद्रोही नहुने भनेर अन्याय-अत्याचार सहने कुरा पनि त भएन ।

तपाई अनेकौं संघ-संस्थाको निर्णायक तहमा बसेर तिनीहरुको नेतृत्व पनि गरिसकेको मान्छे, त्यसमा पनि न्यूयोर्क कलामञ्च त तपाईकै ड्रिम हो भनिन्छ, अहिले फेरि तपाई त्यसमा हुनुहुन्न, हैन र?

म सदैव नेपाली कला, साहित्य र संस्कृतिको पक्षपाती रहदै आएको छु। २०२६ सालमा रेडियो नेपाल छिरेर गीत गाउने पहिलो शेर्पा पनि म नै हुँ। इतिहास साक्षी छु, अमेरिका आएपछि मेरा साथीहरु न्हूच्छेमान डंगोल, नरबहादुर दाहाल, रामराज क्षत्रीहरु मिलेर न्यूयोर्क कलामञ्च भन्ने संस्था खोल्यौं । मलाई लाग्छ, यथार्थवादीभन्दा पिन बढी भावुक भएर नै हामीले त्यो संस्था खोलेका थियौं । साँच्चै भन्ने हो भने त्यतिबेला हामीसँग संघ-संस्था चलाउने कर्पोरेट-कल्चर नै थिएन । अनुभव थिएन, समय र श्रोत पनि भएन। त्यसो भएपछि खाली भाडा बज्ने भनेभै हामी आफैबीच पनि मनहरु बज्न थाले। मन बजाएर साथीभाइको सम्वन्धमै असर पार्नुभन्दा बरु संस्था नै छोड्नु बेस भनेर मैले संस्था नै छोडें । तर, जसरी एउटी आमालाई आफ्नो सन्तान प्यारो हुन्छ त्यसरी नै मलाई आज पनि त्यो संस्थाको माया लाग्छ ।

तपाई त शेर्पा किध्दूकको पूर्व अध्यक्ष र अहिलेको सल्लाहकार, यस संस्थाको बारेमा केही भनिदिनुहोस् न ।

संस्था खोल्नु भनेको आफैमा ठूलो कुरा होइन, तर त्यसलाई जोगाउनु, गितशील बनाउनु र समाजमा प्रतिष्ठित बनाउनु चािह चुनौतिपूर्ण कुरा हो। शुरुमा यहाँ हामी शेर्पाहरुलाई भारी बोक्ने मानव खच्चड र हिमाल चढ्ने अनौठो प्राणीका रुपमा ज्यादै 'अनअर्गनाइज्ड' जातिका रुपमा मात्र लिइन्थ्यो। त्यस धारणालाई बदल्न सबैभन्दा पहिला त अर्गनाइज्ड हुन आवश्यक हुन्छ भनेर हामीले यो संस्था खोलेका हौं। हामीले त्यही संस्थामार्फत् हरेक शेर्पालाई गौर वशाली जातिका रुपमा बाँच्न अभिप्रेरित गऱ्यों। फलस्वरुप आज हाम्रो संस्था अमेरिकामा रहेका नेपाली संघ-संस्थाहरुमै सबैभन्दा ठूलो र प्रतिष्ठित संस्था बन्न सफल भएको छ। हामीले हाम्रो समाज र समुदायको उत्थानका लागि पनि धेरै काम गरेका छौं। अरु सबै सम्दायसँग भाइचारा

स्थापना गर्दे शेर्पा जातिलाई मात्र होइन, सिंगो नेपाली जातिलाई नै प्रतिष्ठापूर्ण जीवन बाँचने 'युनाइटेड-भ्वाइस' दिन पिन हाम्रो संस्था सक्षम भएको छ । आज यहाँ जित पिन कार्यक्रमहरु हुन्छन्, हाम्रो समाजलाई बाहिऱ्याएर सम्भव छैन, यसले पिन हाम्रो समाजको महत्व प्रष्ट हुन्छ । मेरो विचारमा अमेरिकामा रहेका नेपालीहरुमाभ हाम्रो समाज आफैमा एउटा माइलस्टोन सावित भएको छ ।

तपाई त अमेरिकामा रहेका नेपाल आदिवासी जनजातिहरुको छाता संस्था ग्लोवल फेडेरेशन अफ इण्डिजिनियस पिपुल अफ नेपाल, न्यूयोर्क-यूएसए (ग्लोवल नेपाली जनजाति/आदिवासी महासंघ, अमेरिका) को अध्यक्ष पिन हुनुहुन्छ। यसरी आदिवासी र जनजातिलाई मात्र छुट्टै लिएर हिड्दा नेपाली जातिलाई नै गोलवन्द गर्न अप्ठ्यारो पर्दैन त?

हेर्न्हास्, हामी सबै नेपाली जाति र समुदायहरुप्रति घुणाभाव जगाउन होइन, सद् भाव बनाइराख्नका लागि आदिवासी जनजातिहरुको यो छाता-संस्थामा आवद्ध भएका हों । हामी सम्पूर्ण नेपाली आदिवासीहरुको हक, अधिकार र प्रतिष्ठाको लडाईमा होमिएका छौं । यसोगर्दा आफ्नो अधिकार गुम्ने भयो भनेर कसैकसैले हामीलाई गलत किसिमले प्रस्तुत गर्ने र साम्प्रदायिक रंग दिने लोभ पनि गरेका होलान्। तर, हामी अर्काको अधिकार खोस्ने होइन कि आफ्नो अधिकार पाउने मात्रै कुरा गछौं, अरु सबै जातिप्रति सम्मान व्यक्त गछौं र हामी पनि अरु सबैबाट त्यस्तै व्यवहारको अपेक्षा गर्दछौं। यसो भन्दा साम्प्रदायिक भइन्छ, जस्तो मलाई लाग्दैन । यसले त सबै जाति जनजातिलाई नै गोलवन्द गर्दै अन्ततः सम्पूर्ण नेपालीहरुबीच भाइचारा स्थापना गर्न सहयोग पुग्छ।

नेपालमा भएको राजनीतिक परिवर्तन र संविधानसभासम्मको राजनीतिक यात्रालाई कसरी हेर्नुभएको छ ?

नेपालमा सम्पन्न ऐतिहासिक जनआन्दोलनका अनेकौ आयामहरु छन्। यो परिवर्तन मात्र र ाजनीतिसँग जोडिएको छैन । यो सामाजिक, जातीय, धार्मिक, भाषिक, सांस्कृतिक अनेकौ असमानताहरुविरुद्धको आन्दोलनका रुपमा पनि विकसित र सफल भएको हो। पनि कनै पनि स्वाभिमानी, परिवर्तनकामी नेपाली यस आन्दोलनको विरुद्ध जानै सक्दैन । तर, यो आन्दोलन अभै टुंगिएको छैन । सडकको आन्दालन टवलमा पुगका छ । आन्दालनका रुप मात्र परिवर्तन भएको हो, सार होइन । मलाई लाग्छ, नेपालको बहुभाषिक, बहुसांस्कृतिक, बहुजातीय स्वरुपलाई सम्मान गर्दै समावेशी लोकतन्त्रको खाका नकोरुञ्जेल यो आन्दोलन जारी रहन्छ । हुन त अभै पनि आदिवासी, जनजातिहरुलाई नीति निर्माण तहमा समान्पातिक प्रतिनिधित्व गराइएको छैन। अन्तरिम विधान मस यौदा समितमै पनि आफ्नो प्रतिनिधित्वका लागि हामीले आन्दोलन गर्नुपऱ्यो। यो कस्तो विडम्बना

Society

हो हरेक कुराका लागि आन्दोलन नै गर्नुपर्ने, तर ढिलै भए पनि सरकारको वृद्धि पलायो र भिन्नै संख्यामा भए पनि आदिवासी-जनजातिहरुको प्रतिनिधित्व भएको छ ।

जहाँसम्म नेपालको राजनीतिक परिस्थितिको कुरा छ, अहिले यो अत्यन्त तरल अवस्थामा छ, यस अवस्थालाई कसरी जनताको पक्षमा ठोस रुपमा प्रस्तुत गर्ने हो त्यसका लागि हाम्रा राज(नीतिक पार्टीहरु, राजनेताहरु, नागरिक समाजका अगुवाहरु सबैले परीक्षामा उभिनुपर्ने स्थिति छ। जहाँसम्म नेपाल आदिवासी जनजाति महासंघको कुरा छ, हामी समावेसी लोकतन्त्रको पक्षमा छौं। र, त्यसका लागि हामी सबै मोर्चामा खरो किसमले उत्रने छौं। अरु सबै राजनीतिबाट टाढा हुनुपर्छ भन्छन् म चाहिं यसलाई माया गनुपर्छ भन्छ। अरु र म मा त्यही फरक छ।

तपाई नेपालको राजनीतिप्रति त्यति सन्तुष्ट हुनुहुन्न, नेपालको राजनीतिलाई ट्रयाकमा ल्याउन के गर्नुपर्ला ?

सबैभन्दा पहिला राजनीतिलाई घृणा होइन, माया गर्नुपऱ्यो । एसएलसीमा बोर्डमा ल्याउने आफ्ना छोराछोरीलाई राजनीतिशास्त्र पढ्न र राजनीतिमा आउन अभिप्रेरित गर्ने वातावरण बनाउन् पऱ्यो । आफुना छोराछोरी सबैलाई डाक्टर इञ्जिनियर बनाएर पैसा कमाउने लाइनमा उभ्या(उने अनि राजनीति भएन भनेर नेताहरुलाई गाली गर्ने, मेरो विचारमा यो पनि एक किसिमको पाखण्डीपन नै हो । सबै नीतिको राजा नै राजनीति भएकोले हामी सबै यसमा सहभागी हुनैपर्छ, यसलाई बुफ्नुपर्छ र आ-आफ्नो क्षेत्रबाट हस्तक्षेप गर्नेपर्छ । अरुको क्रा जान्दिन, म चाहिं मेरा छोराछोरीलाई राजनीतिशास्त्र पढ्न अभिप्रेरि त गरिरहेको छु । मेरो सपना उनीहरुलाई राजनीतिशास्त्री बनाउने छ । म निश्चित रुपमा भन्नसक्छ, यदि पहिलो श्रेणीमा पास गर्ने मेधावी विद्यार्थीहरुमध्ये आधाले राजनीतिशास्त्र पढेर क्नै न कुनै रुपमा राजनीतिमा संलग्न हुने हो भने हाम्रो देशको राजनीति ठीक हुन्छ, त्यसपछि बाँकी सबै नीतिहरु आफै ठीक हुदै जान्छ। मेरो विचारमा देशलाई प्रणालीमा हिडाउने सबैभन्दा उत्तम उपाय भनेकै यही हो।

तपाई त एउटा गायक र गीतकार पनि हुनुहुन्छ, अहिलेको नेपाली संगीतको माहौललाई कसरी हेर्नुभएको छ ?

म सदैव नेपालीपनको गीत र संगीतको पक्षमा रहेको छु। मादल, डम्फू र सारंगीको धुनको पक्षमा रहेको छु। मलाई लाग्दछ, हरेक गीतमा एउटा जीवनको कथा हुनैपर्छ । यस तो कथाले स्वतः थुप्रै स्रोताहरुको मन छुन्छ र साफा कथा बन्न सक्छ। त्यसैले मलाई गाउँबेसी, मेलापात, चाडबाड, उकाली-ओराली, भञ्ज्याङ्ग-चौतारीकै गीत मनपर्छ। त्यसैले म चाँडै नै नेपाल गएर एउटा एलवम निक(ाल्ने योजनामा लागेको छु। म मेरो डायरीमा टिपेका शव्दहरुलाई संगीतमा ढालेर जीवन उन्ने इमान्दार कोशिस गर्नेछु। साँच्चै भन्ने हो भने, मलाई पश्चिमा ढर्रामा नेपालीहरुले गाएका

गीत नै मन पदैन, त्यसमा हाम्रो आफ्नोपन नै केही हुदैन भन्ने मलाई लाग्छ । अहिले यसको बाढी आउनुमा सरकारको सांस्कृतिक नीति जित जिम्मेवार छ, मिडियाहरुको सांगीतिक दृष्टिकोण नहुनु पनि त्योभन्दा कम जिम्मेवार छैन ।

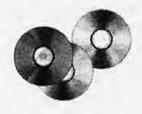
तपाई नेपाल जार्दै हुनुहुन्छ रे, के गर्ने योजना छ ?

म दश वर्षपछि नेपाल जादैछु । पहिला त आफ्नै आँखाले देखेर, भोगेर नेपाल कस्तो अवस्थामा छ, त्यो बुभ्नुपऱ्यो । त्यसका लागि पिन मलाई केही समय लाग्छ नै । तर पिन म अमेरिकामा रहेका नेपाली आदिवासी एवं जनजातिहरुको संविधानसभाको पक्षमा आफ्नो धारणा के छ, त्यसलाई प्रष्ट पार्न एउटा पत्रकार सम्मेलन आयोजना गर्ने पक्षमा छु । म आफ्नो जन्मभूमी गएर समाजसेवाका लागि केही गर्ने र अरु केही दिन बढी बसेरै भए पिन समावेसी लोकतन्त्रको पक्षमा जनमत बनाउन लागिपर्ने विचार पिन गरेको छु ।

बस्न चाहिं कहाा बस्ने नि ?

हेर्नुहोस्, शरीर नेपालमा नभए पिन मन(
भित्र नेपाल राखेर बसेको मान्छे हुँ म ।
त्यसैले मलाई लाग्दछ, कहाँ बस्ने भन्ने प्रश्न नै
होइन । अमेरिकाको ग्रीन कार्ड पाइयो भन्दैमा
आफ्नो जन्मभूमि छोड्ने कुरा आउदैन । म
ग्रीनकार्ड पाए पिन अमेरिकी नागरिकता नै
चाहिं निलने विचारमा छु । तर, त्यसका लागि
नेपालमा पिन निर्धक्कसँगले सास फेर्ने वातावरण
त बन्नुपऱ्यो नि । हामी सबै मिलेर त्यसका लागि
भगवानसँग प्राथना गरौं, आ-आफ्नो क्षेत्रबाट
केही योगदान गरौं । म नेपाल र नेपालीका
लागि आफ्ना ठाउँबाट गर्न सिकने जे काम गर्न
र जस्तोसुकै योगदान गर्न पिन तैयार छु ।

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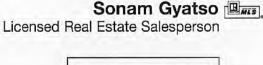
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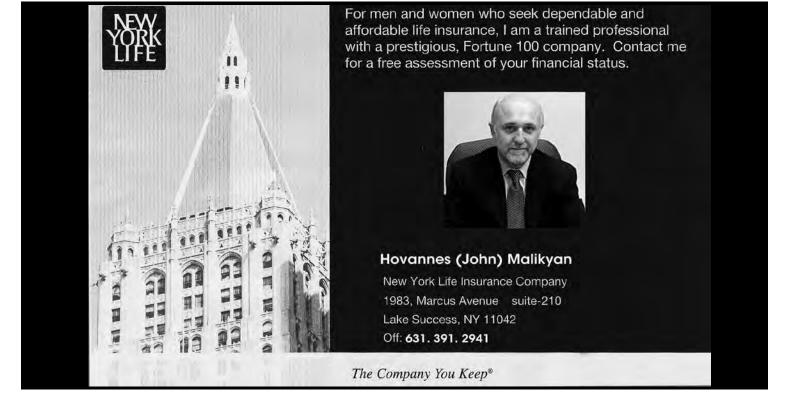
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मिस फेयरी धरान

Ananda Koirala



धरान-१६ की १७ वर्षिया सरिना राई १४ जना प्रतिस्पर्धीलाई उछिन्दै मिस फेयरी धरानको ताज हात पारेकी छन्। सुलक्ष्य अ डिभिजन अफ जीत हाम्रोको आयोजनामा शनिबार धर ानको स्थानिय बृटिस गोर्खा सामुदायिक भवन आयोजित कार्यक्रममा उत्कृष्ट पाँच जनालाई सोधिएको समाजमा नारीको भूमिका कस्तो हुन्छ, भन्ने प्रश्नमा समाजमा नारीको भूमिका जस्तो हाम्रो शरिरमा मुटुको हुन्छ, साथै मलाई राम्रो

आमाहरु देउ म तिमीलाई राम्रो राष्ट्र दिनेछु भन्ने भनाइलाई उदगृद गर्दै सिरना प्रथम भएकी थिइन् । त्यस्तै समाज बनाउने नारीनै हुन् र नारी बिना राम्रो समाज बन्न सक्दैन भन्ने उत्तर दिएर धरान-१५ कि १४ वर्षिया विमर्शा लिम्बु प्रतियोगिताको फस्ट रनर अप भएकी छन् । नारीहरु पुरुष भन्दा कमजोर हुदैनन् र नारी नै भविष्यमा असल आमा र उनैले नै संसारको सृष्टि गर्छिन भन्ने जवाफ दिएर धर ान-१८ की१४ वर्षिया अमृता लिम्बु सकेण्ड रनर अप भएकी छन् ।

त्यस्तै प्रतियोगीहरुमा बेस्ट डे्स र चार्मिङ्ग पर्सनालिटीमा समिट स्क्लकी एनी सोनम, विजयपुर स्क्लकी दिपाञ्जली थापामगर बेस्ट फोटो जेनीक र अन्जु लिम्बु बेस्ट स्किन, युरेका स्कुलकी रोशिसका शाही मस्ट फ्रेण्डली, सरि ना राई बेस्ट वाक र भावना स्न्वार बेस्ट स माइल, कार्मेल स्कुलकी निलम लिम्बुले बेस्ट फिगर र बेस्ट हेयर र नवज्योती स्क्लकी प्रशंसा देवानले मस्ट टयालेन्टको अवार्ड हात पार्न सफल भएकी थिए। प्रतियोगीतामा विनोद श्रेष्ठ, उत्तम बनेपाली, विद्या शाक्य, केशव श्रेष्ठ, राजकमार कार्की निर्णायक मण्डलमा र निर्णायक को-अर्डिनेटरमा मोहन श्रेष्ठ रहन्भएको थियो। कार्यक्रमको एङकरीङ मिस फेयरी २००४ की फस्ट रनर अप तथा रेडियो सिटी एफ एमकी कार्यक्रम प्रस्तोता सोफिया महर्जनले गरेकी थिईन ।

धरानका १५ जना टिनएजर किसोरीहरुको सहभागीता रहेको प्रतियोगिताको कोरीयोग्राफी शुशील दहालले गर्नु भएको थियो।

चिल्ड्रेन्स फोटोजेनिक कन्टेस्ट २०६३

Ananda Koirala



चिल्ड्रेन्स फोटोजेनिक कन्टेस्ट २०६३ मा दिल्ली पब्लीक स्कुल धरानकी श्रेया खड्का मिस फोटोजेनिक घोषणा भएकी छिन् । कुल २० वालवालिका मध्ये मिस फोटोजेनीक फष्ट रनर

अप इथोस इङ्गलीस बोर्डीङ्ग स्कूल धरानकी हिना लिम्बु र सेकेण्ड रनरअप बुद्ध आदर्श स्कुलकी निवना चेम्जोङ्ग रहेकी छन्।

२० वालक प्रतिस्पर्धी मध्ये मास्टर फोटोजेनिक तर्फ यूरेका रेसिडेन्सीयल स्कूल धरानका विकल्प श्लेष्ठ भए भने फस्ट रनरअप एभरेष्ट बोर्डीङ्ग स् कूल विराटनगरका दिक्षान्त श्लेष्ठ र सेकेण्ड रनरअप सेण्ट जोसेफ स्कूलका नगेन बुढाथोकी रहेका छन्।

स्वयं आर्ट ग्यालरी धरानको आयोजनामा धर ान, इटहरी, उर्लावारी र विराटनगरका नर्सरी देखि कक्षा ५ सम्मका वालवालिका सहभागी रहेका थिए। १८ विद्यालयका ४० प्रतिस्पर्धीलार्य क्यालेण्डर मार्फत सार्वजनिक गरिएको थियो। कुल प्रतिस्पर्धीहरु मध्येबाट १० जना निर्णायकहरु तथा सर्वसाधारणबाट छनौट कुपनको आधारमा उत्कृष्ट ३/३ जना छनौट गरिएको ग्यालरीका निर्देशक स्वयंप्रकाश श्रेष्ठाले वताए।

बोलवम मेला



साउनको महिना को सुरुवात संगै पूर्वान्चलको धरानमा अवस्थित पिण्डेश्वर वावाधाममा दर्शनार्थीको घइचो वर्षेनि वढदै गएको छ । सप्तकोशीबाट पवित्र जल ल्याएर पिण्डश्वर मन्दिरमा चढाउने बोलवम मेला धामिक पर्यटनको हिसावले महत्वपूर्ण वनेको छ । यस वर्ष त यो सख्या अभ बढेको छ । आज भन्दा २४ वर्ष अधि २०३८ सालमा शूरु भएको थियो यो यात्रा ।

गत वर्ष गेरु वस्त्रधारी र साधारण गरि पाच लाखभक्तजनले जल चढाएका थिए पिण्डेश्वरमा । यस पटक पिन साउन दोश्रो साता सम्म जल चढाउनेहरु डेढ लाख नाघि सकेको पिण्डेश्वर बावाधाम समितिले जनाएको छ । अहिले हरेक आइतवार र सोमवार गेरुवा वस्त्रधारीहरुको ठूलो भिडले पुरै धरान र चतरालाई पहेल पूर बनाईरहेको छ । हजारौ शिव भक्तहरु आफ्नो मनोकाक्षां पुरा गर्न १७ किमि को पैदल यात्रा गरेर पिण्डेश्वर मिन्दर पुगि सप्तकोशीको जल चढाउछन ।

अहिले हरेक आइतवार र सोमवार गेरुवावस्त्रधारीहरुको ठूलो भिडले पुरै धरान र चतरालाई पहेलपुर वनाईरहेको छ । वम वम भोल बोल वम...... को नाराले धरान देखि चतराको सडक बजार गुन्जयमान वनाईरहेको छ हजारौ शिवभक्तहरु आफ्नो मनोकांक्षा पूरा गर्न १७ किलोमिटरको पैदल यात्रा गरेर पिण्डेश्वर मन्दिर पुगि सप्तकोशिको जल चढाउछन् ।वच्चा देखि वुढावुढि,युवायुवित सवै उमेरका भक्तजनहरु पहेलो वस्त्रमा रुद्राक्षको माला लगाई कमण्डलु,कांवर वोकेर उत्साह पूर्वक बोलबम यात्रामा सरिक हुने गरेका छन्।

पिण्डेश्वर बाबाधाममा जल चढाउदा पाप मोक्ष हुने , चिताएको कुरा पुग्ने ,रोग भोक आदिबाट मुक्ति पाउने विश्वस छ । पौराणिक कथामा आधारीत प्राचिन देवस्थलको रुपमा पिण्डेश्वर मन्दिर रहेको छ । यहाको विजयपुर क्षेत्र हिमालय पर्वताखण्डको एक सानो खण्ड हो। हिन्दुधर्मको १४ आराण्य मध्ये १० औ आर एय रुद्राक्षारण्य विजयपुरमा नै पर्दछ । त्यहिको रुद्राक्षारण्य क्षेत्रमा हिन्दुधर्ममा आराध्यदेव शिवजि अन्तरध्यान हुनु भएको स्कन्द महापुराणमा वर्णन गरिएको छ ।

२०१५ सालमा योगिनरहरिनाथ ले प्राचिन देवस्थल पिण्डेश्वरवारे व्यापक प्रचार प्रसार गरेका थिए। त्यस पछि यसको महिमा भारतको विहार, वंगाल र उत्तर प्रदेश, सिक्किम, आसाम, मद्रास सम्म पुगेको थियो। भारतको वैधनाथ घाम भन्दा प्राचिन मानिने धरानको पिण्डेश्वर अहिले भक्तजनका लागि वैधनाथ धामकै विकल्प वनेको छ। उता जाने थुप्रै यात्रुहरु अहिले यता ओइरीरहेका छन।

यहाँ जल चढाउने कार्य २०३४ सालको साउनमा शुरु भएको थियो । २०४० सालदेखि भने साउनमा प्रत्येक सोमबार पहेंलो बस् त्रलगाई जल चढाउन थालिएको हो । यसरी जल चढाउनेको संख्या २०५६ सालमा ६० हजार र ०५७ सालबाट १ लाख नाघ्दै हाल पाँचलाख बढी पुगेको पिण्डेश्वर बाबाधाम समितिले जन(। एको छ ।

हजारौंको संख्यामा मानिसहरुको घुइँचो लाग्ने बोलबम मेलामा यस पटक पनि व्यापक भिंड बढेको छ । उता बोलबम बाबाधाम समितिले विभिन्न सेवा र सुधारहरु गर्दै आएको छ । सिम(तिका अध्यक्ष कृष्णप्रसाद श्रेष्ठका अनुसार मेलाका लागि धरानका सम्पूर्ण संघ संस्था, प्रहरी प्रशासन साउन महिनाभर सिकय राखिएको छ ।

साउनको सोमबार विशेष हुइचो लागे अवसर पारेर धरान, बिराटनगर, इटहरी, इनस्वादेखी दमक विर्तामोड राजबिराज, जनकपुरसम्मका यात्रुबाहक तथा भाडाका सवारी साधनहरूले चतर ास्थित सप्तकोशीसम्म सेवा संचालन गर्न थालेका छन् । त्यस्तै भक्तजनलाई कावरिया संघ धर ानलगायत मासु व्यवसायी संघ, मनिहारी संघले विभिन्न सेवामूलक सहयोग गर्दे आएका छन् । भक्तजनहरूलाई बाटोमा खानेपानी, खाजा, चिया

Society

लगायत स्वास्थ्य उपचार समेत नि:शुल्क गरिने भएपछि प्रशिद्ध तिर्थस्थलमा भक्तजनहरुको सहभ(गिता उत्साहजनक भएको पिण्डेशवर बाबाधाम समितिको दावी छ।



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बुढा सुब्बा टुबोर्ग गोल्डकप २०६३

अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय आमन्त्रण नवौं बुढा सुब्बा टुबोर्ग गोल्डकप २०६३ आगामी फागुन दोस्रो हप्तादेखि सञ्चालन हुने भएको छ। बुढा सुब्बा गोल्डकप आयोजक धरान फुटबल क्लबले विहीवार एक कार्यक्रम का बिच सो जानकारी दिएको हो। आर्थिक वर्ष २०६३/०६४को बार्षिक बजेट तथा बार्षिक कार्यक्रम बारे जानकारी दिने उद्देश्यले आयोजित पत्रकार सम्मेलनमा क्लबका अध्यक्ष सुवास राईले क्लबको बार्षिक कार्यक्रम सार्वजिनक गर्नुभयो। क्लबको स्थापनाकालदेखि नियमित सञ्चालन हुदै आएको गोल्डकपको आगामी संस्करणमा थप विदेशी टिम सहित चर्चित राष्ट्रिय टिमहरुको सहभागीता गराउन गृहकार्य थालेको उहाँले बताउन् भयो।

अधिकतम राम्रो विदेशी टिम र राष्ट्रिय टिम समावेश गर्ने लक्ष्य सिंहत क्लबले अखिल नेपाल फुटबल संघ, नेपाल पर्यटन बोर्ड,र ष्ट्रिय खेलकुद परिषद एवं विदेशी राजदुतावास मार्फत सहयोग जुटाउन अग्रसरता गरेको जानकारी दिनुभयो । नवौं गोल्डकप आगामी फागुन ८ गतेदेखि १८ गते सम्म धरान रंगशालामा सञ्चालन गरिने छ । क्लबका नव निर्वाचित सचिव तथा खेलाडी डिल्लीराम श्रेष्ठ मिलनले क्लबको आगामी बार्षिक कार्यक्रम तथा नीति सम्बन्धि पत्रकारहरूलाई जानकारी दिनुभयो । सचिव श्रेष्ठका अनुसार क्लबले यस आर्थिक वर्षभित्र लागु औषध विरुद्धको अभियान कार्यक्रम सहित ११ वटा विभिन्न कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गर्ने भएको छ ।

धरान फुटबल एकेडेमि लाई विधालय फुटबल उत्तप्रेरण कार्यक्रम गर्ने घोषणा गरेको छ। क्वले गत वर्ष देखि शुरुगरेको बुढासुब्बा गोल्डकप हड.कड.को दोश्रो सस्करणलाई समेत निरन्तरता दिने छ,अन्तराद्विय आमन्त्रणको प्रथम दन्तकाली गोल्डकप महिला फुटबल प्रतियोगिता, निम्न माध्यामिक विधालय स्तरिय फुटबल प्रतियोगिता संचालन गर्ने र पूर्वान्चल खेलाडि अक्षयकोषको निर्माण गर्ने कार्यक्रम घोषणा गरेको छ । त्यसैगरि धरान नगरवासीहरुलाई प्रत्यक्ष संग्लन गराई प्रतेक प्रतियोगितालाई स्तरियता तथा पार दशीता गर्ने निति सार्वजनिक गरेको छ। त्यस्तै धरान रंगशालाको हालको अवस्थलाई सधार गरि थप शौचालय र चेन्जिड रुम सहितको क्लबको कार्यालय समेत रहने गरि भवन निर्माण गरिने लक्ष्य राखिएको जानकारी दिईयो।

हड.कड.मा बसोवास गर्ने नेपालीहरूको सहभ(
गितामा नेप्लीज युथ अर्गनाईजेशन हड.कड.ले
क्लवको स्वीकृति प्राप्त गरि दोश्रो सस्करण समेत
गर्ने जानकारी गरायो प्रतियोगिताको दोश्रो सस् करण हड.कड. स्थित कउलन पार्क स्टेडियममा
सेभेन ए साईडमा गत सालको विजेता टिम हे हे
क्लब हड.कड. ,चाईनिज, भारतिय र पाकिस्तनी
टीमहरू लाई सहभागीता गराईने छ प्रतियोगिता
विजेता तथा उप विजेतालाई क्रमस १०हजार र
४ हजार हड.कड. डलर पुरस्कार घोषण समेत
गरेको छ । प्रतियोगिता आगामी अक्टुबर २८
र ३० गते हने छ।

आय व्यय सार्वजनिक

बुढासुब्बा टुबोर्ग गोल्डकप आयोजक धरान फटबल क्लबले आठौ सस्करणको आय तथा ब्यय सार्वजनिक गरेको छ। गत फागुन १५देखि २८ गते सम्म संचालन भएको आठौ वढासब्बा गोल्डकपमा २ लाख ५२ हजार ८२ रुपैया मनाफा भएको छ। सार्वजनिक हिसाबमा आठौं गोल्डकप नाफामा गएको देखाईएको थियो। धर ान फ्टबल क्लबका नव निर्वाचित अध्यक्ष स्वास राईले आठौं संस्करणमा सो रकम नाफा गरेको जानकारी गराउन् भयो । जस मध्य क्लबले टिकट विक्रीबाट मात्र ६ लाख ६३ हजार संकलन गरेको छ । त्यस्तै आर्थिक संकलनबाट १ लाख ३७ हजार संकलन गरेको थियो। गोल्डकपको आय तर्फ क्ल १७ लाख ३८ हजारको कारोबार भएको छ भने खर्च तर्फ १४ लाख ८१ हजार र हेको अध्यक्ष राईले बताउन् भयो। जस अन्तर्गत व्यक्तिगत तर्फ ५८ हजार भुपु खेलाडी तथा एन्फाबाट संकलित ५४ हजार समेत देखाईएको छ । त्यस्तै धरान नगरपालिका,मुख्य प्रायोजक, सह प्रायोजक र विभिन्न संघ संस्थाबाट ७ लाख ७४ हजार संकलन गरेको थियो त्यसैगरी धरान फटबल क्लबले पहिलो संस् करणदेखि आठौं संस्करण सम्म ६ लाख ८८ हजार रुपैयाँ क्लबको ऋण तथा दायित्व रहेको सार्वजनिक गरेको छ। जसमा आठौं संस्करणको होटल व्यवसायीलाई मात्र १ लाख ४२ हजार क्लबले भुक्तानी गर्न बाकी रहेको तथा विभिन्न व्यक्ति , कर्मचारी तर्फ अन्य ऋण रकम तर्फ २ लाख ८६ हजार बाकी रहेको सार्वजनिक गरेको छ । क्लबको बाँकी बक्यौता रकम आगामी वर्षमा हुने प्रतियोगीताबाट भुक्तानी गरिने क्लब अध्यक्ष राईले बताउन् भयो।

धरान नेस

पूर्वाञ्चल स्तरिय दोस्रो विष्णु मेमोरियल च्यामपीयन अन्तर मावि बास्केट बल प्रतियोगीता भाद्र दोस्रो सातदेखि धरानमा सञ्चालन हुने भएको छ । धरान बास्केट बल संघको आयोजना तथा धरान नगरपालिकाको संयोजनमा हुने प्रतियोगीतामा कुल १६ विद्यालयको सहभागीता रहने छ ।

भाद्र ८ गते देखि श्रूरु हुने प्रतियोगीता विष्णु मेमोरियल स्कुल खेलमैदानमा सञ्चालन हुने आयोजक धरान बास्केट बल संघका अध्यक्ष सुरज लामाले नेपाल समाचारपत्रलाई बताउनु भयो । उपाधी विजेता समुहलाई रिनङ् शिल्ड सिहत बेष्ट स्कोरर,बेष्ट प्लेयर सिहत थ्री पईन्ट सुटर समेत घोषणा गरिने बताईएको छ । गत वर्ष प्रतियोगीताको उपाधी डिपो मावि धरानले हात पारेको थियो ।

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न्यँयोर्कमा रहेका
नेपालीहरुका लागि नेपालमा र
हेका आफना सन्ततीहरु र अन्य
व्यक्तिहरुका लागि बैंकमा खाता
खोल्ने सुविधा र अत्याधुनिक
बैकिंग सेवा छिटो छिरतो र
सरल ढंगले उपलब्ध गराउने
उद्येश्यले हालै बैंकिंग कारोबार
प्रारम्भ भईसकेको कुरा न्यँयोकिर
थत ज्याक्शन हाईट ७२,२०मा
रहेको नेपाल मनि एक्शप्रेसका

बैंक खाता तपांईको नाममा पनि खोल्न सक्नु हुने छ र तपाई यहां रहेर नेपालमा रहेका कोही पनि व्यक्तिको नाम सिफासि गर्नासाथ त्यस व्यक्तिकोनाममा बैंक खोलिने छ र तपाईको पैसा उक्त खातामा जम्मा हुने छ ,जसले गर्दा सुरक्षित ढंगले तपांईले पठाउन खोजेको व्यक्तिको

नाममा रकम स्थानान्तरण हुने छ ।बैदेशिक र ोजगारबाट आर्जित रकमलाई भरपर्दो माध्यमबाट

प्रवन्धक राज् त्लाधरले बताउन् भएको छ।

संचित गर्न यो प्रिकया निकै लाभप्रद रहेको छ । काठमाडौ स्थित प्रभु विक्तिय संस्था लिमिटेडको विशेष स्विधाहरु निम्न प्रकारको रहेको छ :

निक्षेप प्रभु बचतमा रु १०,०००मा खाता खोल्न

सिकेने,र वार्षिक ६.५ प्रतिशतले ब्याज दिइने,निक्षेपकर्ताका लागि १ लाख रुपैयासम्म दँघंटना बीमा व्यवस्था गरि परिवारलाई आर्थिक सुविधा उपलब्ध गराउने छ ।त्यसैगरि साधारण बचतमा रु ५००ले खाता खोल्न पाईने छ ,वार्षि ब्याज ६ प्रतिशत पाईने ,र निक्षेपकर्ताका लागि १ लाख रुपैयासम्म दँघंटना बीमा व्यवस्था गरि परिवारलाई आर्थिक सुविधा उपलब्ध गराउने छ ।त्यसैगरि

मुद्धती निक्षेपको पनि आकर्षक व्यवस्था गरिएको छ । मुद्धती निक्षेपमा ७.५० प्रतिशत सम्म ब्याज प्राप्त गर्न सिकने छ । यस संस्थाले कम्पँटर प्रणालीबाट आफना ग्राहक बर्गलाई छिटो छिर तो र विश्वसनीय सेवा उपलब्ध गराउने लक्ष्य लिई काठमाडौस्थित कान्तिपथमा सुविधायुक्त सेवा उपलब्ध गराउदै आएको छ ।



(Above) Nepalis cheer as Italy (finally) wins the World Cup. A big screen viewing was held at the Nepali Mandir in Queens. (Below) The NYNYC members get together for a post ANA-NYC 2006 gathering and certificate distribution to volunteers.





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