

नेपाली आवाज

NEPALI AAWAZ | AN INTERNATIONAL FORTNIGHTLY

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Photo: SUBEL BHANDARI

Little Buddha

The story of Ram Bahadur Bomjom

The 17-year-old "buddha reincarnate" from Nepal has made news headlines across the World in BBC to an upcoming issue of GQ. This special report from Bara, the site of Ram Bahadur's meditation, is a special report on the developing story.

राजमार्गमा माओवादीको खुल्ला सैन्य गतिविधि

सरकारी सुरक्षाकर्मीले वुट वजाने पूर्वपश्चिम महेन्द्र राजमार्गमा अहिले माओवादी सेनाहरु परेड खेल थालेका छन्। राजमार्गमा ठाउँपिच्छे सेना र सशस्त्र प्रहरीका व्यापक भएपनि त्यही विचमा माओवादी सेनाहरु हतियारसहित दुक्कसँग सैन्य गतिविधि गरिर हेका छन्।

एकतर्फी चारमहिने युद्धविराम भंग भएलगत्तै अब राजधानी र शहरमा आक्रमणका श्रृंखला तिव्र पार्ने घोषणा गरेका माओवादीहरु त्यही रणनीतिक उद्देश्य हासिल गर्नका लागि राजमार्गलाई पृष्ठभूमि बनाएको बताउँछन्।

Music legend and Nepali recording artist pioneer Tara Devi dies at age 61



Special Report:
Talking Nepal post 1 Feb. 05

A special interview feature with Kul Chandra Gautam (Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF), leading Advocate and lobbyist Dinesh Tripathi and Bharat Shakya (Chairman, Kathmandu Valley FM Broadcaster's Forum) to discuss the the situation of Nepal since King Gyanendra seized absolute control of the country on 1 Feb. 05.



Photo: ANUSHIL SHRESTHA



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REPORT • 4-6

SPECIAL FEATURE • 7-9

TALKING NEPAL POST 1 FEB.05

EXCLUSIVE REPORT • II -I3

LITTLE BUDDHA: THE STORY OF RAM BAHADUR BOMJOM

FEATURES • I4

ENTERTAINMENT • I8

SPORTS • 20

HOROSCOPE • 22

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Hi,

It's deja vu in Kathmandu. The last few days have been some of the most ridiculous days in the city in recent times. In fact, the last time I recall anything like this happening, it was just about a year ago on 1 Feb. 2005. The King was just taking over the country, and by that I don't just around that time, but literally while his speech was being broadcast on state TV, when this ridicule was played the first time. Back then many said "for better or for worse," but now it's quite clear how that move turned out.

Not only did the King do it (shut down phone lines, arrest leaders and activists and ban public assembly and rallies) once last year, but he had the audacity to repeat it again. Or try his damndest best to at least. What is wrong with him? What is wrong with the people working for him? How much will this government and King make the people of Nepal suffer? It seems he wants to do everything but deal with reality. For the King, this is quite pathetic. For Nepalis, very unfortunate.

**Suresh Shrestha,
Kathmandu.**

Hi,

Something really needs to be done about the situation of Nepal. Why isn't there enough pressure of EU, UN, US and other international communities on the King of Nepal to back down and look for peaceful and meaningful means of bringing things as close to normal as possible in the country? I have read some comments on the situation by people like Secretary General Kofi Anan, but what has been done in terms of action to ensure the King and his government doesn't continue this outrageous way of rule, one that defies and violates law and constitution? How can the world just sit back and comment but not do anything concrete? Sure we don't have oil or extreme political importance to the US or EU, but do the government of these countries stand for human rights or just self-centered interests?

**Sandhya Kumari,
US.**

Hello,

When my parents called me up and asked me about my safety situation and behavior, I was surprised to find them panicking out of the blue until they explained they read an article on Nepalnews.com. I couldn't believe that the "intellectuals" of Nepali society had so easily made up their minds about what Nepali students are like in the US. And it was even worse that Nepalnews.com spun the issues into a totally new direction. Thanks Kashish for clearing out the issue with your rejoinder. People in Nepal imagine that our lives here is like the movies, they don't think about our college deadlines and work schedules. Maybe Nepali Aawaz can do more stories about the lives of Nepali students in the US so that these wrong impressions about us don't linger. Your paper's last feature called Weekend In The Life of Nepali Students was great.

**Nepali Student,
North Carolina.**

Hi,

I am writing to quickly thank the Nepali Aawaz team for doing a splendid job by producing the first decent paper in the US that has provided good content and managed to be consistent in its publication. Congratulations also to the Shabda team in Toronto for publishing a youth magazine there. It's so wonderful to see something like this flourishing abroad.

**Samiti Pandey
US.**

Dear Nepali Aawaz team,

I am a huge fan of Nima Rumba and what a delight it was to see his pin-up in your last issue. I used to enjoy the pin-ups in your older issues too, Santana and Avril Lavigne were the ones I liked the most. Thanks for giving me nice stuff to fill up my walls with. Oh, Robin's pin-up was fantastic too. I look forward to more of those in the coming issues.

Prabal B.

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साइप्रसबाट सरिता श्रेष्ठ



साइप्रसको अमेरिकन कलेजले हरेक वर्ष भै यस वर्ष पनि गत महिना विभिन्न देशहरूबाट आएका विद्यार्थीहरूको प्रस्तुति रहेको सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम आयोजना गरेको छ।

सो कार्यक्रममा साइप्रसमा रहेका नेपाली विद्यार्थीहरूको सक्रिय सहभागिता रह्यो। एशियाको नेपाल, भारत र चीनका विद्यार्थीहरूको प्रस्तुति रहेको सो आयोजनामा नेपाली विद्यार्थीहरूले नेपाली संस्कृतिसंगै नेपाली हस्तकला, नेपाली खाना, नेपालका पर्यटकीय क्षेत्रको बारेमा प्रदर्शनी संगै जानकारी गरएका थिए।

आफ्नो देशको बारेमा जानकारी गराउने क्रममा नेपालीहरूका तर्फबाट अमर सुब्बा र विकास श्रेष्ठको संयोजनमा अभिमान राई, श्रीराम पराजुली, ऋषी थापा, शोभा राई, दुर्गा पुन, लक्ष्मण अर्याल, रमेश श्रेष्ठ र मनोज रञ्जीतकारको विभिन्न प्रस्तुति रहेको थियो। सो अवसरमा नेपाली विद्यार्थी पेमा लामाले नृत्य प्रस्तुत गरेकी थिईन। तीन घण्टा भन्दा बढीको सो कार्यक्रममा एक देशका विद्यार्थीहरूले आफ्नो प्रस्तुतिका लागि एक घण्टा पाएका थिए।

धरान उत्सवमा सांस्कृतिक रौनक



Photo: ANUSHIL SHRESTHA

धरानवासीहरू अहिले जातीय पहिचान सहितको सांस्कृतिक उत्सवको रौनक संगै रमाई र हेकाछन्। पुर्वाञ्चलकै सांस्कृतिक सहरको रूपमा रहेको धरानमा अहिले मौलिक जातीय संस्कृतिक सागर उर्लियो।

धरानलाई देशकै आधुनिक र फेशनेबल सहरको रूपमा चिनिन्छ। बाहिरबाट हेर्दा यहाँका युवाहरूलाई विदेशी पहिरन र संगीतले गाँजेको देखिन्छ तर आफ्नो मौलिक संस्कृति र गीत संगीतहरू प्रति मरिमेटनेहरूको पनि यहाँ कमी छैन भन्ने कुरा धरान उत्सवले देखाएको छ।

तीन दिने धरान उत्सव २०६२ लाई धरान वासीले नेपाली मौलिक र जातीय सांस्कृतिक उत्सवको रूपमा मनाए। प्राय जसो भड्किला पहिरनका फेशन शो र डान्स पार्टीहरू हुने सहरको रूपमा परिचित धरान मौलिक सांस्कृतिक विविधताले भरिपूर्ण सहर भएको यस उत्सवले प्रमाणीत गरेको छ। उत्सवको मञ्चमा जातीय सांस्कृतिक पहिरन प्रदर्शनी, जातीय नृत्य तथा भाँकीहरूको प्रदर्शनी र मौलिक लोक दोहोरीका कार्यक्रम प्रस्तुत भए।

बिहीबार साँझ उत्सवको मञ्चमा जातीय पहिरन सहिता राई, लिम्बु, मगर, तामाङ, शेर्पा, याक्खा, सुनुवार, तमु लगायतका जाति जातीहरूले आफ्नो जातीय नृत्य प्रस्तुत गरे। बच्चा देखी, बुढा बुढी र युवा युवतीहरू समेत जातीय पहिरनमा सजिएर धान र चण्डी नाचे, हुर्पा र माने नाच नाचे। किराँत याक्खुङ चुम्लुङ, किराँत राई यायोक्खा, सुनुवार सेवा समाज, किराँत याक्खा छुम्मा, नेपाल तामाङ घुडुङ संघ, नेपाल मगर संघ, नेपाल शेर्पा संघ, तमु छोंकधीका सुनसरी जिल्ला समितिले जातीय भाँकी प्रदर्शन गरेका थिए। भने बिहीबार राती उत्सव स्थलको

च्याम्पमा मोडलहरूले लोक संगीतको साथमा जातीय पहिरन प्रदर्शन गर्दै क्याटवक गरे।

समारोहमा धरान उत्सव मुल आयोजक समितिका संयोजक तथा घण्टाघर निर्माण तथा अनुगमन समितिका संयोजक, पुर्व नगर प्रमुख मनोज कुमार मेयाङ्बो धरान जन सहभागिताका लागि मात्र नभएर मौलिक जातीय सांस्कृतिक पहिचानका लागि समेत अग्रणी नगर भएको बताउनुभयो। “धरानवासीहरू जति आफ्नो ठाँउको विकास निर्माण गर्न आफै मरिमेटछन् त्यती नै आफ्नो सांस्कृति, गीत, संगीत र नृत्य प्रति सचेत र समर्पित छन्।”

उत्सवको अर्को आकर्षणको रूपमा धरान र आसपासका पर्यटकीय स्थलहरूको तस्वीर प्रदर्शनी रहेको छ। पत्रकारहरू डम्बरकृष्ण श्रेष्ठ, यात्रा थुलुङ, मोजेश राई, राजेश शाक्य, विष्णु बराल आदीले खिचेका पाँच दर्जन तस्वीरहरूको प्रदर्शनी धरान घण्टाघरको प्राङ्गणमा राखीएको छ।

उत्सवका अवसरमा बिहीबार नै अन्तर विद्यालय स्तरिय वाल नृत्य प्रतियोगिता सम्पन्न भएको थियो। जसमा ईथस बोर्डिङ स्कुल प्रथम, सेण्ट जोसेफ बोर्डिङ दोस्रो र ज्ञानोदय बोर्डिङ स्कुल तेस्रो भएका थिए भने लिटील हर्ट र विजयपुर बोर्डिङले सान्तन्वा पुरस्कार प्राप्त गरेका थिए। उत्सवको अन्तिम दिनशुक्रबार नाई मलाई केही चाहिँदैन चलचित्रको प्रदर्शन गरिने कार्यक्रम रहेको छ।

धरान नगर पालिका, घण्टाघर निर्माण तथा अनुगमन समितिको आयोजना, टुवोर्ग वियरको प्रायोजन तथा हिमालयन बैंकको सह प्रायोजन रहेको धरान उत्सवको प्रवर्द्धक नेपाल पर्यटन बोर्ड रहेको थियो।

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Photo: ANAND KOIRALA

किन हराउछ - गगल्स, किन हराउछ - सिक्री, किन हराउछ - खुकुरी, सिरानीको सिग्रेट र कविताको डायरी, तिम्रो छोरोले मलाई मारन खोजिरहेछ। सम्झाउनु - “छोरालाई सम्झाउनु भन्ने कविता वाचन प्रश्चात धरान निवासी एक पूर्व वेलायती क्याप्टेनले आफ्ना निकटमा वसेका साथीलाई कविता अर्थात् उदै उनले भनी हाले हाम्रो छोराछोरी साँच्चै विग्रीएका छन्। कवि मुकारुङ्गले काठमाण्डौ ओहोर दोहोर गर्ने आफ्नो वाटो चतरा भोजपुरको भरीया जस्तै देखेका प्रयोगवादी कवि मोहन कोइरालाको पोटेट कविता “मोहन कोइर

ाला” र किस्ने सुनाउँदै दर्शक एकोहोच्याउथे भने विसै नगर्चीको वयान सुनाउनु अधिनै भण्डै ३ दर्जन कविता तथा गित वाचन गरेको दर्शकले पत्तै पाएनन्। प्रथम पटक काठमाण्डौ स्थित गुरुकुलमा तथा दोस्रो काभ्रे टाइम्सको आयोजनामा काभ्रेमा एकल कविता वाचन गरिसकेका मुकारुङ्गले पहिलो पटक

पूर्वाञ्चलका कविता पारखी माझ आफ्नो तेस्रो एकल प्रस्तुती गरेका हुन।

पूर्वाञ्चलका दमक, धनकुटा, विराटनगर र इटहरीका कवि कवयित्री लगायतका धरानका कविता तथा गित पारखीहरू पहिलो पटक १०० रुपैयाको टिकट काटेर भण्डै ३०० को संख्यामा उपस्थित भइ मुकारुङ्गको स्वरमा रमाएका थिए। जसको आयोजना स्थानिय औजार साप्ताहिकले गरेको थियो। कवि मुकारुङ्गले “शुल्क तिरेर कविता सुन्ने स्रोता मेरा अमूल्य सहयोगी हुन भने। मुकारुङ्ग उपस्थितलाई देखेर मेरो प्रस्तुतीले तपाईंहरूलाई सन्तुष्ट पार्नु मेरो उद्देश्य हो भन्दै थिए”। श्रवण कुर्लिनन, मलिन स्वर र गम्भीरै मुद्रामा इतिहासलाई धिकार्दै कुर्लिका विसै नगर्चीको वयान उनले वाचन गरेपछि श्रोताको ताली गडगडाहट सुनेर धन्यवाद दिदै मुस्कराए। कवि कृष्ण भुषण बलले जनताको आवाज र स्पन्दनलाई हुने

कवि मुल्यवान हुन्छ। धेरै कविले अकविता लेखेकाले नै कविता लोकप्रिय बन्न नसकेको बलको भनाई थियो।

कार्यक्रममा प्रमुख अतिथि वरिष्ठ कवि कृष्ण भुषण बल, कवि विवस पोखरेल र मनु मन्जुलले श्रवण मुकारुङ्गका कविता देश खोज्दै जाँदा, प्रत्यागमन र फुलको कथा तथा कवि उपेन्द्र सुब्बाले “अघि जस्तो म” वाचन गरेर सहयोग गरेका थिए।

एकल प्रस्तुती क्रममा कवि तथा गितकार मुकारुङ्गले विसै नगर्चीको वयान, आफ्नै देश सँग, माभीगाउको हल्ला, पुरानो मानीस, उत्खनन, पत्रकार, जाडो, किस्ने, प्रो. शर्मा प्रति, हराएको सूर्य, दिदी किन त्यो चन्द्रमा वाचन गर्दा दर्शक स्तब्ध भएका थिए।

मिस्टर एण्ड मिस पूर्वाञ्चल

आनन्द कोइराला



Photo: ANAND KOIRALA

हकदार भएका हुन। पौडी खेलनु, मोडलिङ गर्नु, संगित सुन्नु र असल मित्रको खोजी गर्ने रुची बोकेका जय हाल ज्वचमधवचभक्ष म्पुफिव का विद्यार्थी हुन। “The Look 2002” कन्टेस्टमा सहभागी बनेका जय ४ वर्ष पछि न्यापमा उत्रेर मि.पूर्वाञ्चल भएकोमा मेरा हितैसी साथीहरू मुकेश शर्मा, राजेन्द्र थपलिया, ज्ञानु प्रसाई र दिक्षा शर्मा प्रति आभारी छु भन्छुन। “साथीहरूकै प्रेरणाले म यो क्षेत्रमा आएको हु उनी भन्छुन।”

त्यसैगरी सोही प्रतियोगितामा पुरुषतर्फ सुदिप भण्डारी फस्ट रनरअप, किसु शर्मा सेकेण्ड रनर अप, तथा सन्तोष शाह, बाल कुमार लिम्बु र सुसान्त कोइराला क्रमशः मि. ट्यालेन्ट, मि. क्याटवक मेल, र मि. फोटोजेनिक भएका थिए। भने प्रतियोगिताको मि. पूर्वाञ्चलमा विराटनगरकी २० वर्षिया रेम्सा वास्तोला भईन। आफ्ना १२ जनाप्रतिस्पर्धी मोडलहरूलाई उछिन्दै कविता पराजुली फस्ट रनर अप, तथा ममता प्रधान सेकेण्ड रनर अप भईन। विमलेश अधिकारीको एकल कोरीयोग्राफीमा संचालीत पूर्वाञ्चल सुपर मोडल कन्टेस्टमा विराटनगर लगायत धरान, इटहरी र राजविराजका करिब ३० जना मेल फिमेल मोडल सहभागी रहेका थिए।

पूर्वाञ्चलका १७ जना प्रतिस्पर्धीलाई उछिन्दै विराटनगरका २० वर्षिय जय शर्माले गत जनवरी एकमा आयोजित “पूर्वाञ्चल सुपर मोडल कन्टेस्ट २००६” को उपाधी हात पारेका छन्। टि. एस. नेपाल काठमाण्डौको आयोजनामा विराटनगरको तोदि भवनमा गरि एको सुपर मोडल २००६ का उपाधी विजेता शर्माले लागू पदार्थलाई देशवाट निर्मुल गर्नुपरेमा तपाईंको भूमिका कस्तो हुनेछ भन्ने निर्णायकमण्डलीको प्रश्नलाई जनचेतना जगाउने र लागू पदार्थ उत्पादन गर्ने वा फैलाउनेको मूल जरा पहिल्याई नियन्त्रण गर्छु भन्ने उत्तर फर्काए पछि उनी सो उपाधीका

Lhochhar celebration in NY



Lochhar (Losar) is the New Years celebration for many ethnic groups in Nepal and is celebrated based on the Lunar calendar. For the Gurungs, it falls on the 15th of the Nepali month Poush. This celebration on 7 Jan. 06

is just one of the many taking place in Gurung and Tamang communities across the world. A Lhochhar party was also held on the same day in Sydney and the following day in Melbourne.

राजमार्गमा माओवादीको खुल्ला सैन्य गतिविधि

देशको सबैभन्दा लामो एकमात्र राष्ट्रिय राजमार्ग पूर्व-पश्चिम महेन्द्र राजमार्गमा माओवादी सेनाका खुल्ला सैन्य गतिविधि भइरहेका छन् । तर, सरकारका सुरक्षा निकायहरू सबै थाहा पाइ पाइ पनि “अज्ञात”वनेर चुपचाप रहन बाध्य छन् ।

रामेश्वर बोहरा, नेपालगन्जमा



Photo: RAMESHWOR BOHARA

A Maoist soldier on duty during the Maoists' blocking of this highway in Nepalgunj after the end of their ceasefire early this year.

सरकारी सुरक्षाकर्मीले वुट वजार्ने पूर्वपश्चिम महेन्द्र राजमार्गमा अहिले माओवादी सेनाहरू परेड खेल्न थालेका छन् । राजमार्गमा ठाउँपिच्छे सेना र सशस्त्र प्रहरीका व्यारेक भएपनि त्यही विचमा माओवादी सेनाहरू हतियारसहित ढुक्कसँग सैन्य गतिविधि गरिरहेका छन् ।

एकतर्फी चारमहिने युद्धविराम भंग भएलगत्तै अब राजधानी र शहरमा आक्रमणका श्रृंखला तिव्र पार्ने घोषणा गरेका माओवादीहरू त्यही रणनीतिक उद्देश्य हासिल गर्नका लागि राजमार्गलाई पृष्ठभूमि बनाएको बताउँछन् ।

माओवादी स्रोतका भनाइमा, यसपालि उनीहरूको बदलिएको युद्ध रणनीति राजधानी र शहरमा आक्रमणका लागि हो । पछिल्ला दिनमा राजधानी काठमाडौंको थानकोट, नेपालगन्ज, धनगढी, पोखरा, महेन्द्रनगर लगायतका स्थानमा उनीहरूले शुरु गरेको आक्रमणले पनि यसलाई पुष्टि गर्छ । माओवादीका केन्द्रिय सदस्य आरसी चौधरीकै भनाइमा, अबको सिंगो युद्ध शहरकेन्द्रित हुनेछ । माओवादीका पूर्व केन्द्रिय सदस्य एवम् वाँके-वर्दियाका इन्चार्ज अथक त त्यो रणनीतिको कार्यरूप शुरु भइसकेको समेत बताउँछन् ।

पश्चिम नेपालमा माओवादीका लागि राजमार्ग सबैभन्दा उपयुक्त युद्धथलो बन्ने गरेको छ । वितेको वर्ष उनीहरूले यही राजमार्गमा सेना

र सशस्त्र प्रहरीलाई ठूलो धक्का दिदै कैयौंको ज्यान लिए र ठूलो संख्यामा हतियार पनि कब्जा गरे । तर यसपालि राजमार्ग कब्जा गरेपनि यसखाले घटना भएका छैनन् । कारण गतवर्षका घटनावाट पाठ सिकेर सुरक्षाकर्मी व्यारेकवाहिर निस्किएका छैनन् । त्यही भएर माओवादीहरू राजमार्गलाई आधारभूमि बनाइ नजिकैको शहरमा भिषण आक्रमण गर्ने तयारीमा देखिन्छन् । त्यसैको संकेत हुनसक्छ, पश्चिम नेपालमा राजमार्ग छेउमा वढेको माओवादी सेनाको फौजी सक्रियता ।

कोहलपुरस्थित सेना र सशस्त्र प्रहरीका व्यारेकवाट मुश्किलले ३२ किलोमिटर टाढा सेनाकै अर्को व्यारेक छ । पूर्वपश्चिम महेन्द्र राजमार्गमा पर्ने यही विचको भाग गत २५ पुसको दिनभर माओवादी सेनाको नियन्त्रणमा थियो । राजमार्गमा माओवादी सेना छ्यापछु याप्ती थिए । सडकमा ढुंगा र काठको थुप्रो राखी “बैरियर”सम्म बनाइएको थियो र छेवैमा हतियारधारीहरू सर्वसाधारण र सवारी साधन बन्द गराउँदै थिए ।

वर्दिया बाँसगढीमा उनीहरूको जनसभा आयोजना गरिएको थियो । त्यही कार्यक्रमको सुरक्षाका लागि ठूलो संख्यामा माओवादी सेना परिचालन गरिएको थियो । कोहलपुर र रम्भापुरमा रहेका सुरक्षा क्याम्पका विचमा खुल्ला सैन्य गतिविधि गर्दा पनि उनीहरू ढुक्क देखिन्थे । शाही सेना आउनसक्ने खतराले

कार्यक्रमस्थलभन्दा १० किलोमिटर वरपरसम्म उनीहरूले आफ्ना सेना तैनाथ गरेका थिए ।

माओवादी वाँके-वर्दियाका इन्चार्ज अथककै भनाइमा, उनीहरू यसरी नै राजमार्ग कब्जा गरी शहर र राजमार्ग कब्जा गर्ने तयारीमा छन् । त्यही भएर २५ पुस दिनभर उनीहरूले राजमार्ग कब्जा गर्दा पनि सरकारी सुरक्षा निकायले कुनै प्रतिक्रिया देखाएनन् । माओवादीले राजमार्ग नै कब्जा गरी कार्यक्रम गरेको जानकारी सेनाले पहिल्यै पाएको थियो । स्थलमार्गवाट पनि त्यहाँसम्म सेना पुग्न सक्थ्यो । तर सेनाले त्यो जोखिम मोल्न नचाहेको देखियो ।

वर एउटा सैनिक हेलिकप्टर आइ कार्यक्रम स्थल वरपर र सडक अवरुद्ध गरेका ठाउँमा चारपाँच फन्का लगायो । भेला भएका सर्वसाधारण आतंकित भइ भाग्न थाले । तर सेनाले हवाइ आक्रमण भने गरेन । हेलिकप्टर आउनले माओवादीका केही कार्यक्रम भने प्रभावित भए । उसकै भनाइमा, बाँसगढी वजारमा दुइटा त्रिगेडको सैन्यप्रदर्शन गराउने र केन्द्रिय नेताले सम्बोधन गर्ने कार्यक्रम हुन सकेन । माओवादी स्रोतका भनाइमा, आक्रमणका लागि यहाँवाट सैन्यटोली केन्द्रकृत हुने कार्यक्रम रहेको थियो । उनीहरू छिटै कुनै ठूलै आक्रमण गर्ने योजनामा देखिन्थे, यहाँको सैन्य तयारी हेर्दा । दिनभर नै हतियारधारी माओवादी सेना राजमार्ग कब्जा गरी वस्तुलाई

खालि प्रदर्शन मात्रै ठान्न सकिन्न ।

शहरनजिकै आएका माओवादीहरू राजमार्ग पनि आफ्नो कब्जामा भएको देखाउन खोजिरहेका थिए । यस्तो देख्दा पनि सेना त्यहाँ जान नचाहनु व्यारेकभन्दा वाहिर सुरक्षित भइन्ने भन्ने खतरा नै हो ।

अहिले नेपालगन्ज लगायत पश्चिम नेपालका सबै शहरमा प्रशासनले कर्फ्यु आदेश जारी गरेको छ । सरकारले दावी गरेभैं शहरमा पनि सुरक्षा निकायको उपस्थिति मजबुत छैन भन्ने यसले देखाउँछ । हैनभने वजारमा विनाकारण कर्फ्यु लगाइरहनुपर्ने आवश्यकता थिएन । माओवादीका क्रियाकलाप नियन्त्रण गर्न कर्फ्यु लगाएको बताइन्छ । तर शहर छेउमै रहेका माओवादीलाई यो कर्फ्युले केही असर पारेको छैन । वरु सर्वसाधारणले भोग्नसम्म सास्ती भोग्नुपरेको छ ।

फोटो क्याप्सन :

२५ पुसमा माओवादीले राजमार्ग अवरुद्ध गरी वर्दियाको बाँसगढीमा आमसभा गर्दा बाँसगढी पूर्व र पश्चिममा राजमार्ग कब्जा गरी वसेका माओवादीहरू ।

Special Feature: Talking Nepal post 1 Feb. 05

A special interview feature with Kul Chandra Gautam (Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF), leading Advocate and lobbyist Dinesh Tripathi and Bharat Shakya (Chairman, Kathmandu Valley FM Broadcaster's Forum) to discuss the situation of Nepal since King Gyanendra seized absolute control of the country on 1 Feb. 05.

Kul Chandra Gautam is the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF. Recently he took time off to speak to Nepali Aawaz about his views on the pending political problems and increasing human rights crisis in Nepal and how the Nepali government might soon find itself "ostracized" by the international community if it doesn't turn things around.

The international community has continuously published many press statements condemning the way things are being done in Nepal under the King's leadership, including last week's arrests of leaders and activists. But apart from that, no body from the International Community seems to have taken any direct action against the King's 1 Feb. 05 move, the ongoing violations of Human Rights by the state and essentially the suspension of Democracy in Nepal. Isn't it possible to pressure the Nepali government with more than just words?

It is true that the repeated statements of concern by the international community have not produced dramatic change in the behavior of the various parties to Nepal's conflict. However, some significant changes have taken place. A number of countries have suspended military aid to the government. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has established its largest office in the world in Nepal to monitor human rights violations. The Maoists have agreed to honor basic operating guidelines for allowing unhindered provision of humanitarian assistance to people in need in areas under their control or influence. But none of these measures have led to restoration of peace, democracy and human rights. The international community, and especially those countries with the greatest possible influence on the government of Nepal such as India, China, USA, Japan and the European Union can and need to take stronger action. To be effective, these countries should send a joint and common message to the King and other parties in Nepal. These countries also ought to empower the United Nations to take more effective action to help Nepal.

There is an emerging movement from the Nepali civil society to endorse Nepal for the International Criminal Court. Under the Rome Statute, the UN Security Council could refer Nepal's case to the court. What will it take for this to happen?

In order for the UN Security Council to refer the matter of war crimes or crimes against humanity to the International

Criminal Court, the case must first be referred to the Security Council and then the Council must vote to refer the case to the ICC. Nevertheless, it is important for civil society activists to compile and publicize evidence of any gross violations of international law. Even if the case does not go immediately to the ICC, it serves a useful purpose of raising awareness, advocating against impunity, and deterring criminal behavior.

Nepal has violated many conditions required to maintain in order to remain a member of the UN, suspension of democracy and human rights violations by the state for example. Is there any chance Nepal's membership in the UN or role as a UN Peacekeeper can be suspended as an action to ensure these violations don't continue?

While many deplorable things are happening in Nepal, these do not constitute adequate grounds for suspension of its membership in the UN. Besides Nepal, there are many other odious, dictatorial regimes in the world which continue to be members of the UN. But there are other indirect ways in which a government that violates international treaties, conventions and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations can be ostracized. The fact that the King of Nepal had to cancel his

“As evidence emerges of human rights violations and war crimes by RNA inside Nepal, it will be a serious impediment to its continuing participation in UN peace keeping operations. One hopes that the leaders of RNA are intelligent enough to realize this danger.”

attendance at the UN General Assembly and World Summit in September 2005 is an example of such moral pressure.

The UN does take into account the discipline and conduct of a country's military in accepting them in peace keeping troops. So far the behavior of the Royal Nepalese Army in UN peace-keeping operations has been exemplary. However, as evidence emerges of human rights violations and war crimes by RNA inside Nepal, it will be a serious impediment to its continuing participation in UN peace keeping operations. One hopes that the leaders of RNA are intelligent enough to realize this danger. It is the duty of independent journalists, human rights activists and civil society to bring such issues to light. In doing so, one must not forget similar violations of

international law by the Maoists, which also must be denounced unequivocally. In particular, the Maoists' abuse of children must be condemned as a serious crime.

In your view, has it been a mistake on the Nepali Government's part to repeatedly refuse the UN's offer to mediate between the Maoists and them?

Ideally, Nepalis should try to solve their own problems without any external mediation. However, it is clear that all efforts to do so have failed so far. Many observers and friends of Nepal believe that it would be in Nepal's interest to seek the support of a friendly, neutral, respected organization like the United Nations to help resolve the conflict in Nepal. The 12 point Memorandum of Understanding between the 7 party alliance and CPN-Maoist specifically calls for UN's support in negotiations leading to the election of a Constituent Assembly and for disarmament. In the absence of a better and more credible



universally agreed principles as a multi-party democracy, respect for human rights and rule of law.

The King's government in Nepal has not at all responded positively to much of what is being said by the International community, including repeated calls by UN Secretary General Kofi Anan to restore democracy and uphold human rights. What can or will the UN do in order to ensure the safety of members of the civil society in Nepal and the general citizenry in days to come?

Through the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal, the UN is strengthening its capacity to monitor human rights violations by all parties to the conflict. Many Nepali human rights activists and civil society leaders have found the presence of OHCHR in Nepal reassuring and helpful. However, at present the UN does not have the mandate or the resources needed to effectively protect and defend civilians against atrocities by the RNA or the Maoists. Nepalis and international community should continue to advocate for giving the UN a stronger mandate and more resources if it is to be more effective in helping Nepal to end the conflict, strengthen democracy and help in post-conflict reconstruction and development.

road-map by the government of Nepal to resolve the conflict, its refusal to seek UN's offer of help seems unwise. Let us remember that Nepal is a long-standing, loyal member of the UN. It has a right to seek the UN's help, and the UN has a duty to offer such help. As the UN does not have any other vested interest in Nepal, nobody should think of UN's help as interference by an external third party.

How does the UN see Nepal's current political deadlock between the King, the parties and the Maoists coming to an end?

The UN believes that there is no military solution to Nepal's conflict. It must be resolved through negotiations, and that any solution must guarantee such

Broken laws, and constitution

At home in Nepal advocate Dinesh Tripathi was one of the most active lawyers to not just speak up for the constitution and human rights law in Nepal after the "military coup" of 1 Feb. 05, but he also personally filed and handled more than 300 habeas corpus cases immediately after it. Here in the United States, he is finding himself busy endorsing Nepal for the International Criminal Court. He took time off to speak to Nepali Aawaz about his work and fight for the fundamental rights of Nepal and Nepalis.

You were playing a key role in the legalities of constitution and habeas corpus cases after 1 Feb.05 in Nepal. Tell us a bit about it.

The King made a military coup on 1 Feb.05, which was unconstitutional. This act seriously undermined and went against the very heart and soul of constitution and violated basic tenet of rule of law and democracy. The King has no authority to exercise executive power under the constitution of 1990, but that day, after the completion of his televised address he put almost every prominent political leader behind bars or under house arrest. The military was deployed in all the media houses, Internet and phone services were curtailed indefinitely. So after 1 Feb., I thought that lawyers should work as defender of fundamental rights of peoples. I filed and represented around three to four hundred habeas corpus cases before the Nepali Supreme Court, which include cases of political detainees, members of civil society and members of the press. In addition to that I also filed cases in supreme court against the Royal Commission of Corruption, challenging its constitutionality, a Contempt of Court petition against the Home Minister, against the banning of news on FM stations, suspension of mobile phones and ban of peaceful assembly. Those were some of the things I was immediately active in post 1 Feb. last year.

You also represented a lot of Unions in Nepal. Could you briefly talk to us about it?

After 1 Feb. several leaders of civil society and leaders of unions like those of students, trade, journalists, women's organizations were detained by state against norms of human rights and rule of law. It was a total violation of constitution and International human rights law. So I represented their cases before the Supreme Court and eventually the court did issue a release order. But in large number of cases the security force did not comply with the court order and in some cases government rearrested people soon after having to let them go.

What has brought you to the US?

I came here for study and at the same time I also thought that it is an opportunity to build international support and solidarity for struggle of human rights, democracy and rule of law in Nepal. Because we really do need it. Despite the crisis in Nepal there is still not enough international attention on Nepal. It is time the international community should come forward and pay attention and adopt a concrete measure to restore Human rights, democracy and peace in Nepal.

You are strongly lobbying for to ensure Nepal is recognized by and responsible to International criminal court.

Essentially, what happens in the people who are committing war crimes and human rights abuse in Nepal, everybody from Kings, generals and anybody else can be charged for crime in the international court. Now to talk about it in more detail, a massive and systematic

“ In Nepal impunity has become rule rather than exception.”

violation of International human rights and humanitarian law is taking place in Nepal which amounts to crime against humanity and war crimes by both the state and Maoists. Murder, torture, disappearances, rape, illegal imprisonment are some of the crimes and atrocities committed against citizens there. Law enforcement agencies and security forces are working with total impunity and without any accountability. In Nepal impunity have become rule rather exception. Security forces of Nepal has become one of the biggest human rights violators of this era. Security forces are acting like criminal gangs. Likewise non-state actor Maoist has also committed a lot of atrocities and crimes which is not acceptable. Nepal is part of all the four Geneva Conventions. Common Article three of Geneva Convention has become part of International convention and no state party is allowed to disregard it. Nepal is under treaty obligation to abide by Geneva Convention. To end impunity concerning grave crime International Criminal Court came into existence in 17 July 1998 with representatives of 120 nations. It came into operation in July 2002. This transnational mechanism is needed because, for example, in a country like Nepal the rule of law ceases to function and national court and other domestic mechanisms are not effective and fail to address the widespread problem of impunity and maintain the rule of law. So International criminal court can play an important role to end this unfortunate culture of impunity and

unaccountability in Nepal. Article 7 specifies the nature of crime in which jurisdiction of International criminal court can be attracted. Nepal fits the case for International criminal court. The perpetrator crime must be brought before justice and they must face trial and be punished for their criminal acts.

What is the biggest challenge to making this (Nepal liable to International Criminal Court) happen?

Nepal has not yet ratified the Rome statute of International Criminal Court. Nepali civil society should build massive pressure for this ratification. But UN Security Council can play a very important role under Rome Statute to refer the matter to the court. Likewise UN Secretary General can also bring the attention of Security Council regarding any matter of International Criminal court. Now in this critical juncture we need to build a massive pressure to activate the court to adopt Nepal's case. It is the need of the hour.



they are working on sending an international delegation and fact-finding mission to Nepal to put pressure on the King to abide by norm of rule of law and international human rights law. The biggest thing this delegation could do for Nepal is of course help attract the much needed international attention.

It has been one year since the king took over Nepal. What are some of the most worrying violations of the constitution/law you have seen being committed by state?

Constitutionalism stands for supremacy of people, a limited government and fundamental rights of people. But sovereignty of people have been severely undermined while the state has become arbitrary and tyrannical and fundamental rights ensured by the constitution have been taken away from the people. And even dissenting against this is not allowed. The constitutional machinery has been completely broken down while Nepal is heading towards becoming a failed state.

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FM radio in Nepal since 1 Feb. 05

"The state is worried that if we start broadcasting news and facts, they will fall."



Photos: KASHISH DAS SHRESTHA

Image FM was just one of the many FM stations where soldiers were based for days after the King's take over last Feb.

Image FM [originally KATH 97.9FM] is one of the largest private FM stations in Nepal, broadcasting through almost half of the country's geographical boundaries. Station Manager Bharat Shakya took time out to speak to Nepali Aawaz about his station's success and some of the darkest times for Nepali FM stations and media since the King's take over on 1 Feb. last year.

You have been Image FM's station manager for a long time and it just celebrated its 7th anniversary. How is the station doing in the market today, listenership wise?

We are proud of where we have reached over the years, one of the best listenership in the country. Personally, however, I am still not satisfied. There is still tremendous space for us improve our technical side and program quality. But again, as far as the market is concerned, AC NELSON just reported that we are on top in Eastern Nepal and second in Kathmandu Valley and Western Nepal.

That's right, Image FM is now broadcast in eastern as well as western Nepal, since last year. How difficult has it been to manage it all?

The fact that we are broadcast in East and West Nepal has definitely been one of the biggest leaps for us. By 2005 we had successfully started broadcasting in Dharan via the Bhedatar Station in the east and in Pokhara in the west. Initially it was a satellite link system but now we

are broadcasting independently from all the three stations. It's not easy for sure, broadcasting 24-7 in all three stations, but it's been a great experiment and experience.

How is this year's Image Awards coming along?

Like last year, the 8th annual Image Award is scheduled for the 2nd week of May. The registrations of songs, released between 1st Baisak to 15 chaitra, started on 14 Jan. There are 25 categories and the final list of nominations will be announced on 15 April.

You are also the head of an FM organisation in Nepal. Can you tell us about the organisation and your role in it?

Yes, I am the Chairman of Kathmandu Valley FM Broadcaster's Forum, basically an association of all the leading private FM stations in Kathmandu Valley. FM stations vary a great deal in its operation, for example, some are commercial some community. So the main thing about our forum is to create a common platform for stations of all kinds and help solve any problem one might face, and share professional experiences.

Can you tell us what happened on 1 Feb. 05?

It was a dark day for media and the beginning of some very bad days for FM stations in Nepal. As the King's speech was being broadcast on state TV and

Radio, security forces started systematically shutting down FM stations across the country. After a few hours we were told not to speak at all on air, so we had to play non-stop music. They specifically told us "no news, opinions and live phone calls from listeners." For several days security forces based themselves in the buildings of FM stations. The following week we were allowed to start regular programs minus the news and information or phone calls.

Can you tell us a little about the Kantipur FM and Sagarmatha FM station incidents?

According to the new media audience, FM stations cannot uplink any program simultaneously with the original broadcast. And of course no news on air. Kantipur FM was, however, running as usual, and there was no denying that the government was targeting that company in particular. That night [21 Oct. 05] the government essentially broke into the station and took away the satellite link equipment. Quite naturally it became an issue of Rights of Information and human rights, then an issue of the Nepali democratic movement. Sagarmatha FM's case [27 Nov.05] was very similar. The government wasn't too pleased about them broadcasting the BBC Nepali service. The day the government took action against them, BBC was scheduled to broadcast an interview of the Maoist Chairman Prachanda and the government obviously did not want that to air. So again, the government took away Sagarmatha's broadcast equipment and told

the station to close. Both incidents were illegal of course.

What is the situation of freedom of speech and information, in the FM case right now?

Few stations have started broadcasting news now. The decision of the Supreme Court gave permission to broadcast news but the situation is a difficult one. We cannot broadcast all the kinds of news we would normally, since the ordinance also forbids certain kinds of news items.

How has FM stations helped different communities in the last few years?

It should be noted that Sagarmatha FM 102.4 was the first community FM in South Asia. FM stations have been great at grass roots level across the country. It relayed information so easily for everyone. They were empowering and developing many communities to quite a degree. It was educating people a great deal.

What kinds of political pressure are FM stations under right now?

Quite essentially, they are insecure about the power of the air waves. FM stations are broadcasting all over the country and the state is worried that if we start broadcasting news and facts, the state will fall. So they have been trying their best to close down the stations or at least reduce its impact in the society as much as possible.

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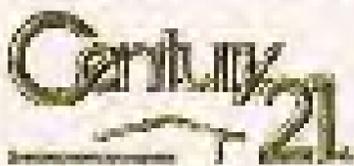
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Little Buddha: The story of Ram Bahadur Bomjom

The 17-year-old "buddha reincarnate" from Nepal has made news headlines across the World in BBC to an upcoming issue of GQ. This special report from Bara, the site of Ram Bahadur's meditation, is a special report on the developing story. -SUBEL BHANDARI

In a tropical forest 9 kilometers Northeast from the East-West Highway in Bara district, not so far from the monsoon river Lalkhola in Ratnaganj -1, a young boy leaves behind his world on a hot summer day and begins to meditate in a todka of a Papal tree. The 17-year-old boy, Ram Bahadur Bomjom (of Tamang clan), has been doing so since 17 May last year, creating an international buzz with everybody from BBC to GQ covering the developing story. "I am no Buddha boy," Ram Bahadur declared on 6 Nov. 05, the last time he spoke. He also said he was on a mission to bring peace to Nepal.

In the last eight months since he started meditating, he hasn't spoken for the last three months, and has neither eaten or drunk anything nor relieved himself. The locals and media alike have dubbed him the "Buddha Boy," with the locals particularly insisting he is Buddha reincarnate, the skeptical government has asked for scientific tests, although of what really isn't clear, and thousands of people have thronged, creating a small bazaar in a place that could possibly be only ever talked about after something like this.

Ram Bahadur becomes Palden Dorje:

The impoverished family of Bomjoms migrated from Aashrang VDC of Lalitpur to Terai of Bongjor, Tarangunj -5, Bara in 1971. Ram Bahadur Bomjon was born third to this now eight-member family on 9 April 1990, a full moon day. His father Bir Bahadur Bomzom, Tamang was a regular meditator of "Chhyasi Mahankal". His mother Maya Devi remembers a sharp scream he cried as soon as he was born. Ram Bahadur did his early schooling from a local school called Nepal Rastriya Pra. Vi. But soon after his fourth grade, he quit. He went to study to become a Lama in a monastery four hours away from his village. His guru Som Bahadur Lama gave him the Buddha's "Panchasil" mantra and christened him "Palden Dorje." He studied there for almost three years before he went to Lumbini for a Buddhist ceremony. The revered head-guru from Dehradun Gumba Rinpoche performed the ceremony which lasted for ten days. From there, the Tapaswi went to Dehradun to study further with the Guru for two years. But after one year, he fled and came back to his village.

The lost child:

Ram Bahadur often made himself lost in and around the village. Once he went to Pokhara for ten days. When he returned, he was injured and could not walk properly. He recovered soon but nobody knows where in Pokhara he was or what happened there. And last May he got lost again, only to be found two days later under a tree, about 15 meters away from the one he is under now. He changed his place after one week due to hoodlums bullying him.

The meditation and snake bites:

During Dashain last year, he requested his childhood friend and pujari Prem to light 100,000 lights for the animals being killed during the annual Hindu festival. He has spoken only on four occasions since he started meditating. On 6 Nov. 05, he was said to have been bitten by a snake for the second time. The first time was when a snake got caught in a barbwire six months ago. The guards and neighbors did not want to kill it. So Ram Bahadur went to free the snake. The snake bit him. The second was said to be an attack on him by his enemies or other Lamas who are jealous of him. "I heard my name being called in a very faint sound so I immediately went to see the tapaswi. He told me that he had been bitten by a snake but he was fine



Deep within: Ram Bahadur Bomjom, the "buddha reincarnate" has been in deep meditation without food and water for months now.

was for an indefinite period of time.

and that I should just put a veil in-front of him and not disturb him. The tapaswi was sweating profusely. I thought he would die," Pujari Prem remembers of the event. As requested, a curtain was drawn around him for five days after which he spoke for the last time. "Tell people not to call me a Buddha. I don't have the Buddha's energy. I am at a Rinpoche's level." That day, he also announced that he will go for a six-year-long meditation as previously it was thought the meditation

His childhood:

According to neighbors, relatives and his family, Ram Bahadur was a loner while growing up, trying his best to avoid doing anything wrong. He was a nature lover often vanishing into the woods and hills at times for days. When inquired about his trips, he would rather cry than discuss his whereabouts. Soon after he turned four, Ram Bahadur always had the first meal in the

All Photos: SUBEL BHANDARI

EXCLUSIVE REPROT

family. He would otherwise stay hungry all day. He never added a second portion to his meal and he never ate meat and was strictly against violence and killing of animals. His friend Prem recollects, "He used to talk less and smile more." Elder brother Til Bahadur Bomjom added, "He used to read a lot of Buddhist scripts too."

The site: religion, economics and environment

In the past few months, Ram Bahadur has clearly shrunk and you can see the dust and dirt covering his body and wrinkles on his arms. His growing hair has covered his forehead and almost half of his eyes. He maintains his unwavering posture in the comfort of the todka in the Papal tree. There is a small ditch around the tree. No one, including his pujari, is allowed to cross this laxman rekha. The First fence is about 20 meters away from the tree, and the second one about 80 meters. Till recently, pilgrims were allowed only to the second fence. Now, due to overwhelming requests to get a closer look at the "Buddha", the committee managing the site has decided to let people go to as much as 40 meters from the tree. Thousands of people are flocking to the site everyday to see and pay respect to this meditating young boy. During last Dashain and Tihar alone more than 20,000 people flocked to the site.

The once dead-silent jungle is a bustling market place now and except for meat, you can get everything here. The jungle is now also covered with a lot of waste products littered everywhere and the committee has not been able to maintain the forest's pre-"buddha" buzz cleanliness. Here, you can buy books on him for Rs 15 to 25 (approx. \$0.45). His photographs are on sale for Rs. 5 to 15 (approx. \$0.20). A Video CD copy of a documentary based on him costs anything from Rs. 20 to 60 (approx. \$0.30-\$0.90). Zivesh Yonjan recently made a documentary titled "Antar Yatra" about the boy. Another documentary, filmed under the guidance and management of filmmaker Yubaraj Lama, was received by bad reviews because the actual site is called Ratanpur Village Development Committee, but since Yubaraj Lama is from Neejgad, a town nearby, the 33 minute documentary talks mostly about Neejgad. There is no mention of Ratanpur whatsoever.

The rumors:

Some say they see a light emanating from the teenager's forehead. And then there are suspicions as people whisper speculations, one of the most popular being that he eats at night when no one is around. This reporter stayed there all night, even if was just one night, and saw nothing suspicious. The villagers and neighbors are so naïve and unaware of the outside world that it's hard to imagine them executing a hoax as grand as this.

Rumors also has it that Makwanpur-3 Hadikhola's resident Basudev's daughter Parvati and Sarlahi Aprauli's

resident Rajesh Mahato, both dumb, spoke after they visited the Buddha.

The Committee:

An 18-member committee "Om Namo Buddha Tapoban Samrakchyan ra Sambardhan Samiti" has been formed to help and conserve the forest and the tapaswi, but it has not been validated by the government. Even though they have completed and followed all the government procedures, they still have not been able to register as a committee for protection and conservation. The government fears that any decision they take might backfire somehow in the future. "This is a very touchy subject, for them," the officials said under anonymity. 18 volunteers are employed at a monthly salary of Rs. 2000 (approx. \$25/month) each. 60 more volunteers are helping for free. "We are an open book," says the Chairman of the committee Baid Bahadur Lama. They had raised Rs. 801,519 (approx. \$11,289) by the end of October 05, of which Rs 372,799 (approx. \$5,250) was spent on fences, cleansing, incense and lights, tents for volunteers, and salary for the volunteers. These days, an average of Rs. 20,000 (approx. \$281) is collected by every 3 days. The chairman and other committee members are annoyed by the government's constant laxity to conduct any investigation or help in any way. Even though Santa Raj Subedi, the Chief District Officer of Bara district appealed to the official in the capital for assistance and examination of the case, nothing has been done so far. Local doctors and scientists asked the committee to let them take out the blood and DNA for examination. However, they did confirm that the boy was still alive. About three months ago RONAST (Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology) had announced that they would visit the boy but still haven't.

The committee has also started having arguments within itself. The Lama's Committee to help perform "religious ceremonies" for the boy was formed under the main committee. The founding members claim that the Lamas are known to have collected and used money for their personal use since the money they received as donation was not shown in the committee's treasury. The founding committee, therefore, accused the Lamas of taking money for "lights and incense" from the committee while keeping the donations for themselves. "Instead of giving security and conservation, they started making money for themselves," one of the high officials at the committee said under anonymity. The Chairman of the Committee was also lambasted by several members for being arrogant and obnoxious.

The buzz:

The villagers and neighbors are fumed at some of the journalists and reporters. Indian News Channel Aaj Tak reported that Maoist activities are being harbored in this part of Nepal under pseudo "Buddha" pilgrimage. Few others thought he was a wax figure. Vladimir, a Moldovan surgeon and



Top to bottom: 1. Pilgrims and visitors enter the site through the giant tree root. 2. A shrine with posters of buddha, Prem and Ram Bahadur. 3. A stall sells "buddha boy" merchandise to pilgrims and visitors.

All Photos: SUBEL BHANDARI



Top to bottom: 1. Ram Bahadur's parents. 2. Prem, Ram Bahadur's close friend and pujari. 3. (right). Counting the donatoin collected, Rs.20,634 (approx. \$290) that day .

Shaolin Temple student of seven years, was at the jungle meditating for six days just outside the second fence. He said, "This is very moving and extraordinary. I believe there must be help from above for him to carry out such an almost impossible task." He also added that he has read of people who had been able to carry out similar meditations in ancient China. "The difference was, they were in their practice for more than 10-15 years. You have to have the knowledge, ability and practice. The boy is hardly 17 and has not been trying for so many years. This is his first attempt. It's impossible for him to do this without any help."

Something like this usually requires a guru who would guide Ram Bahadur through the difficult phases. But, since Ram Bahadur fled from Dehradun and his childhood guru Som Bahadur Bomjon is out of reach, he started his meditation independently.

As it is, his guru in Dehradun, who has been informed of the situation, is currently under a six-month meditation and can only see Ram Bahadur after his own mediation is completed.

According to Buddhist experts, the tapaswi" takes the energy from the wind. Technically, there should be a veil covering him from the evils and the world. According to Buddhism, your soul can leave your body and fly while your body takes energy from the wind. The soul starts learning and seeing things from a different perspective as Gurus from the past will teach and enlighten the student. So, when your soul goes back to your body, you become the enlightened one.

Halu Rinpoche of Farping Gumba said, "He is on a great mission and should be helped in all ways possible." He however did not say anything about the boy's fasting. From Lumbini, Dr Naresh Man Bajracharya and Maitreye Bhikchhyu also visited the boy with recommendations from Home Ministry. Both were unavailable for comment. Ministry of Local Development, Monastery Management and Development Committee recently conducted a week long secret surveillance under President venerable Khenpo Chime Tsering. The reports are still not out yet and his office refused to give anything to press before the official reports are out. Unofficially, he said, "It all looks very genuine and no ruse."

The young faith

Nepal is perhaps living through some of the darkest days in its modern history and the villages of Nepal have been the hardest hit. People have been alienated by the state and the Maoists. So when a boy whose mother's name ironically is the same as that of Siddhartha Gautam Buddha, a boy who abandons his family to meditate until enlightenment just like Buddha did, a boy who even apparently naturally cures himself of two snake bites comes along, it is easy for a society still largely dictated by religion and supernatural beliefs to find faith in such a boy. And a "Buddha" after all is not a person but rather a state of mind. "After six years, he might be the enlightened one. But for now, he is a Grand Master," Vladimir, a surgeon and a student of the Shaolin temple, said. And for a country sore with war and political instability, he is a hope of peace, one that might not end wars but certainly has proven to heal minds and souls.



Almost a year since King Gyanendra seized absolute



Photo: SUBEL BHANDARI

Soldiers stand guard in New Baneshwor during last Friday's curfew in Kathmandu.

सरकारले सात दलको शान्तिपूर्ण सभामा माओवादी घुसपैठ भएको भन्दै सभा विथोल्न राजधानीमा कर्फ्यु, धरपकड जारी नै राखेको छ भने तीन महिने नजरबन्दको पुर्जी दिईएका केही शिर्षस्थ नेताहरूलाई नजरबन्द फुकुवा गरेको छ तर दलहरूको आन्दोलन जारी नै रहेको छ ।

७ माघमा सरकारले राजधानीमा दिनभर कर्फ्यु आदेश जारी गरेपनि शनिवार दलहरूले बसन्तपुर मै पुनः सभा गर्ने तयारी गरेपछी राजधानीमा सुरु भएको तनाव अझै शान्त भएको छैन । शनिवार र आईतवार सर कारले दलहरूको प्रदर्शनमा हस्तक्षेप गरी तीन सय भन्दा बढी नेता, कार्यकर्ताहरूलाई पक्राउ गरेको थियो । प्रदर्शनकारिहरूमाथी सुरक्षाकर्मीले लाठठी चार्ज गर्नुका साथै अश्रु ग्यास समेत प्रहार गरेका थिए भने यस पटक प्रदर्शनकारीलाई नियन्त्रण गर्न शाही सेनाको समेत प्रयोग गरेको छ । दलहरूको सभा हुने भनिएको बसन्तपुर आसपासका क्षेत्रमा दिनहु जसो जुलुश प्रदर्शन र झडप भईरहेकाछन् । आईतवार सरकारले नजर बन्दमा राखेका नेपाली कांग्रेस र एमालेका प्रमुख नेताहरू गीरीजा प्रसाद कोईराला, माधव कुमार नेपाल, भरतमोहन अधिकारी, केपी ओली नेमकिपाका नारायणमान विजुक्छे मध्ये गीरीजा, अधिकारी, ओलीर विजुक्छेलाई मुक्त गरेको छ भने थुनामा राखीएका एमाले नेता प्रदिप नेपाललाई मानवअधिकारवादीहरूको दवावका कारण रिहा गरिएको छ । प्रदिप नेपाललाई अस्वस्थ रहेका कारण छाडीएको हो । रिहा भएका र नजरबन्दमा रहेका शिर्षस्थ नेताहरूले निरंकुश राजतन्त्र विरुद्धको आन्दोलन जारी रहने र सात दलले माघ १३

गते नेपाल बन्दको घोषणा समेत गरेकाले दल र सरकार बीचको द्वन्द्व वार की पारको स्थितीमा पुग्ने देखिएको छ ।

यस अघि ७ माघमा सरकारले गरेको कर्फ्युका कारण दिनभर राजधानी ठप्प रहेपनी दलहरूले राजधानी भित्र छिटफुट र रिड रोड बाहीर खुलेर प्रदर्शन गरेका थिए । किर्तीपुर मा ७ दलका कार्यकर्ता र सुरक्षाकर्मी बीच झडप २ घण्टा सम्म झडप भएको थियो झडप पछी चर्को नारा सहितको जुलुशले किर्तीपुर बजार परिक्रमा गरि आमसभा गरि एको थियो । यस अघि विहवार विहानै देखी राजधानीमा झण्डै २ सय विद्यार्थी, नेता तथा कार्यकर्तालाई सरकारले सेना र प्रहरी लगाएर गिरफ्तार गरेको थियो । विहान ८ देखी साँझ ६ बजे सम्म राजधानीको रिड रोड भीत्र सरकारले कर्फ्यु जारी गरेको थियो । दलहरूको प्रदर्शनमा माओवादी घुसपैठ हुने डरले सरकारले कु-शैलीमा नेताकार्यकर्ता, विद्यार्थी तथा नागरिक समाजका अग्रजलाई पक्राउ गरेको हो । त्यस अघि बुधवार मध्यरातबाटै टेलिफोन र मोबाइलको लाइन काटनुका साथ सेना र प्रहरी नेताहरूको घर मा छापापार्न पुगेका थिए । विहान साढे ८ बजे वाट दुरसञ्चारको लिज लाइन टेलिफोन खुलेको भए पनि मोबाइल भने यो समाचार तयार पार्दासम्म खोलिएको छैन । सरकारले व्यापक सङ्ख्यामा सुरक्षाकर्मी परिचालन गरेर दिनभरजसो नेता, कार्यकर्ता र विद्यार्थी खोजी गर्ने क्रम जारी राखेको थियो । गत शनिवार राजधानीको नाका थानकोट र दधिकोटमा माओवादी आक्रमण गरेर १२ प्रहरीको हत्या गरेपछी राती लगाईदै आएको कर्फ्यु साँझ ११ बजे सारिएको छ ।

मानवअधिकारवादीहरूको संगठन हुनेले आईतवार दिउसो सम्ममा २ सय ५० भन्दा बढी नेताहरू पक्राउ परेको जनाएको छ । विहवार विहानैदेखि राजधानीका क्याम्पसहरूमा विद्यार्थीका ठाँउमा सादा पोसाकका सुरक्षाकर्मी मात्र देखीएका थिए । थुनामा रहेका गरिएका नेताहरूमा एमालेका विद्या भण्डारी, युवर ज्ञवाली, मुकुन्द न्यौपाने, भीम रावल, गोकर्णराज विष्ट, केशव बडाल, महेन्द्र पाण्डे, कृष्णलाल महर्जन, राजेन्द्र श्रेष्ठ, कृष्णगोपाल श्रेष्ठ, सुवास नेम्वाङ, रघुजी पन्त, त्रिलोचन ढकाल, ईश्वर पोखरेल, कांग्रेसका रामचन्द्र पौडेल, रामशरण महत, डा. शेखर कोइराला, डा. शशाङ्क कोइराला, सुजाता कोइराला, महेश श्रेष्ठ, नेपाली कांग्रेस प्रजातान्त्रिकका कार्यवाहक सभापति गोपालमान श्रेष्ठ, र अन्य दलका कृष्णलाल श्रेष्ठ, परि थापालगायतलाई गिरफ्तार गरिसकेको छ । सरकारले यस अघि नै ८ विद्यार्थी संगठनका नेतालाई पक्राउ गरी तीन महिने पुर्जी थमाएको छ ।

यस पटक पनि गत वर्ष माघ १५ गते शाही घोषणालगतै भै दलका नेतालाई पक्राउ र नजरबन्द गर्न विहानैबाट नेताहरूको घरमा सुरक्षाकर्मी खटाइएको थियो । सात दलको सभा सफल हुन नदिन मन्त्रपरिषद् का उपाध्यक्ष डा. तुलसी गिरी र गृहमन्त्री कमल थापाले सुरक्षा निकायका सबै अड्डाका प्रमुखलाई आदेश दिएका थिए । दुई दिन अघि मात्र पुर्वाञ्चलको इटहरीस्थित पुर्वी पृतना मुख्यालयमा श्री ५ को दर्शनभेटपछि काठमाडौं फर्किएका गृहमन्त्री थापाले बुधवार दलमाथि कडा टिप्पणी गर्दै सरकारले जस्तोसुकै कठोर नीति लिन पछि नपर्ने चेतावनी दिएकोको भोली पल्टै सरकारले पक्राउ र

मोबाइल फोन बन्द गरेको थियो ।

भोली पल्ट विहवार विहानैदेखि शहरका प्रमुख स्थान र नाकाहरूमा आधुनिक हतियार ले सु-सज्जित सुरक्षाकर्मीलाई व्यापक परिचालन गरेको थियो । भने सरकारको कठोर रवैयाका विरुद्ध आन्दोलनरत दलले आफ्नो कार्यक्रमलाई तीव्र बनाउने घोषणा गरेको थियो । अहिले सरकारविरुद्ध ७ राजनीतिक दल अझ कठोर कार्यक्रम ल्याउने तयारीमा जुटेको छ । सुरक्षाकर्मीले घरघरबाटै नेतालाई पक्राउ गर्न थालेपछि अधिकांश नेता अर्ध भूमिगत भएका छन् । क्याम्पस हिंडेका विद्यार्थी तथा घर बसिरहेका नेतालाई समेत सादा पोशाकमा गएका सुरक्षाकर्मीले पक्राउ गरेका थिए । सरकारले पक्राउ परेका विद्यार्थी नेता तथा कार्यकर्तालाई विभिन्न प्रहरी गण तथा गोदाममा भेडा-बाखा राखेभै कोचेर र खिचिएको छ । त्यस्तै शाही नेपाली सेना, सशस्त्र प्रहरी, नेपाल प्रहरी र राष्ट्रिय अनुसन्धान विभागका गुप्तचरसहितको टोलीले विद्यार्थीलाई पक्राउ गरेको थियो ।

सुरक्षा निकायले कृष्ण पहाडी, डा. मथुरा श्रेष्ठ, डा. देवेन्द्रराज पाण्डेलगायत एक दर्जनभन्दा बढी मानव अधिकारवादीलाई पक्राउ गरेको छ । सुरक्षाकर्मीले गिरफ्तार गरिएका नेतालाई खाद्य संस्थानको गोदाम, महार जगञ्जस्थित प्रहरीको २ नम्बर गण, भक्तपुरको बोडेलगायत विभिन्न प्रहरी कार्यालयमा थुनेर राखेको थाहा भएको छ ।

(अनुशील श्रेष्ठ, काठमाण्डौमा)

power, there is no sign of peace or democracy in Nepal

A brief look at some major developments during the last 9 days in Kathmandu

14 Jan. 06: At 5:30PM, Maoists launch 2 simultaneous attacks in Kathmandu valley; the Police station in Thankot, the main entry point into Kathmandu valley by road, and the Dadhikot Police Station in Bhaktapur. 11 police officers were killed and one Sub-Inspector seriously injured in Thankot and 1 in Dadhikot. More than 40 police officers were stationed in Thankot at the time of the attack and according to unconfirmed reports, the police never returned fire. It was reported that 17 police officers were stationed in Dadhikot at the time.

After the unilateral ceasefire ended in early Jan.06, the Maoists had declared that they were marching their way to the nation's capital.

15 Jan. 06: Security is beefed up in various parts of the city.

16 Jan 06: Home Ministry declares a curfew within the Ring Road in Lalitpur and Kathmandu between the hours of 11PM and 4AM. Other parts of the country, including Dhading, Biratnagar, Chitwan follow suit. Curfew for those hours also declared on the Prithivi Highway. Home Ministry also declares a ban on peaceful assembly, processions or sit-ins in most parts of Kathmandu and Lalitpur, in hopes of stopping the planned 20 Jan. rally by the 7 party alliance.

17 Jan.06: Home Ministry declares the curfew to start at 10PM, extending it by an hour since it was first declared the day before.

18 Jan. 06: The mass peaceful rally planned by the agitating 7 party alliance stays its course and is to be held on 20 Jan. Home Ministry extends the curfew by yet another hour, now starting it at 9PM. Home Ministry also starts defending its claim that they have reports the planned demonstration would be infiltrated by the Maoists and turn violent.

19 Jan. 06: Just like on 1 Feb. 05, when the King wanted to minimize or prevent agitating forces to organize rallies against his "coup", the government again cuts off all phone lines, landline and mobile, from 5:30AM to 8:30AM. Land line resumes operation largely after 8:30AM, mobile phone services remain cut off. Reports come in that Security forces had been systematically arresting people directly involved with the 7 party Alliance and the forthcoming mass rally since 4AM. Those arrested include leading human rights activists too. It becomes clear that the government is trying its best to foil a mass demonstration rather than an immediate threat of violence. Government, in yet another desperate move to stop the rally, declares a curfew not just between 9PM to 4AM but also from 8AM to 6PM tomorrow, when the rally was supposed to take place. By night, more than 200 activists, student and party leaders have been arrested. International communities condemn the King's move. They had done so last year on 1 Feb. too, for very similar reasons.

20 Jan. 06: Curfew begins at 8AM. Communist party leader Madhav Kumar Nepal and Congress Party president Girija Prasad Koirala placed under house arrest. Small protests break out in different parts of the city. A rally is held in Kirtipur, which falls outside the Ring Road/ curfew zone. Parties declare that the protest planned for today will take place tomorrow.

21 Jan.06: The army confiscates video tapes of CNN-IBN and Star News TV channels which had footage of soldiers inside the CPN-UML leader Madhav Kumar Nepal's house. The footage is erased and returned to the journalists. Government demands cable TV distributors to suspend transmission of two leading Indian news channels Star News and Aaj Tak. Curfew hours decreased to between 10PM and 4AM. The 7 party alliance calls for strikes from 26 Jan and to disrupt the Municipal elections planned by the government for 8 Feb.

22 Jan. 06: A minister is quoted in local media as saying government might "consider" deferring the polls. King Gyanendra and Queen Komal returns to Kathmandu after a three week tour of Eastern Nepal during which time major political developments took place in western parts of Nepal from Kathmandu on. Government lifts house arrests of GP Koirala (Nepali Congress), and UML leaders Madhav Kumar Nepal, KP Sharma Oli along with other high ranking party leaders from the 7 party alliance. Clashes occur between protestors of the recent government actions and security forces, 30 or more arrested. Nepalis living in India take out rally demanding restoration of democracy in Nepal. Curfew hours further relaxed from 11PM to 4AM.

23 Jan. 06: Post paid mobile services resume services with no word about when pre-paid services might resume. Possibly from pressure, both national and international, the government decides to relax ban on rallies in Kathmandu. Protesters and police continue to clash. Night time curfew is also withdrawn almost after a week since it was declared. Media reports Nepal buying military hardware from China. National Human Rights Commission reports that 276 leaders and activists still detained.



Top to bottom: 1. A rally breaks out in Kirtipur (outside the ring road) while a curfew was in effect in Kathmandu (within the ring road) on Friday. 2. Protestor of government's ban on peaceful assembly gets arrested by police on Saturday. 3. Police prepare to disperse protestors in New Road, Kathmandu, on Saturday.

All Photos: ANUSHIL SHRESTHA

How the Nepali Government explained itself to the International Community on 19 Jan. 06

Statement by Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ramesh Nath Pandey, at the briefing session organized for the heads of diplomatic missions stationed in Kathmandu, Thursday 19th January 2006.

Excellencies,
Friends from the media,

I am pleased to have your presence here this evening. The basic objective of this session is to update you on the current situation in Nepal, including the upcoming municipal elections.

In the direction towards reenergizing multiparty democracy, the country is all set to hold municipal election in all 58 municipalities on February 8, 2006. People in all municipalities have excitingly expressed themselves in favour of election and are eagerly waiting for the poll date. It is our fundamental view that the upcoming election is an important exercise in democracy that aims at empowering people in the process of governance. In any democracy, elections are the only means to secure constitutional legitimacy. There is no democracy without elections. The municipal election will not only be a major democratic step forward, but also pave the way for general elections that are to be held before April 2007. Once we complete both elections, the country will be back on democratic track and the sovereign people of Nepal will exercise their powers as defined by the Constitution as well as other relevant laws and rules.

You are well aware that these local level bodies along with the Lower House of the Parliament were dissolved by the then democratically elected Prime Minister in consensus with all the major political parties. This "democratic vacuum" both at the local and central levels was created by then elected Government that went on to dissolve all local bodies despite the fact that there was a provision in the relevant law under which the tenure of local bodies could have been extended. They themselves are now demanding for what they call the formation of a "constitutional elected government" to conduct these elections. The question is how we are going to have the so-called "constitutional elected government" in order to conduct these elections when they themselves prematurely dissolved all semblance of elected institutions while they were in power?

Let me also take you back to the year 1999 when I was myself a cabinet minister under Prime Minister G.P. Koirala comprising of representatives of the Nepali Congress, CPN (UML) and Sadbhavana Party to conduct the parliamentary elections. As soon as the election results were declared, the entire opposition cried foul during the conduct of polls and demanded resignation of the elected Prime Minister. They continuously disturbed the proceedings of the House. Ultimately, a parliamentary committee was formed under the Prime minister himself to recommend

suggestions in order to ensure free and fair elections in the future. But this committee never presented its report to the Parliament. Therefore, it has always been a tendency of the parties to be in the government first and try to rig the elections for their own party benefit. If they are not in the government, it is nothing new that they either boycott the elections or accuse the administration for manipulating the poll verdict. For a person like me who was in the parliament for 20 years and minister for 5 times, these characteristics of Nepali politics is something that keeps on

“ It is our firm belief that our friends and well wishers who are really interested to see a peaceful, stable and democratic Nepal will lend their valuable support to make the upcoming municipal election a success. I hope, Excellencies, you all will be able to report to your capitals with this correct picture of the current situation in Nepal. ”

repeating itself under various pretexts.

Needless to repeat, we have been fighting one of the ruthless forms of terrorism for over a decade now. However, I do not think it necessary at this moment to detail the atrocities committed by terrorists. What I would like to emphasize here that we cannot allow the democratic process to remain in limbo forever under the pretext of terrorism. The Maoists did try to disturb the elections in 1999 also but were unable to stop the sovereign people of Nepal in exercising their constitutional right. Altogether 43 districts of the Kingdom will be seeing elections on February 8 and it is natural that the Maoists don't want to see this happening. They want the democratic vacuum to persist like the one that the elected Prime Minister created for them by dissolving all elected edifices of the country.

We have seen elsewhere in the world, including in the neighbourhood, that elections are held in much more difficult situations than the one we are facing today. If we allow our democracy to succumb to gun power, we will never have a stable democracy in the country, as some other disgruntled groups will eventually emerge to challenge democracy with the threats of bullets. Our goal is, therefore, to defeat terrorism by strengthening a

meaningful democratic process that is both inclusive and sustainable. We are convinced that the power of the ballot is much more powerful than that of the bullet. History is replete with experiences to tell us that democracy has always emerged victorious in all kinds of ideological struggles.

His Majesty the King has time and again expressed his unwavering commitment to multiparty democracy. As His Majesty is really serious in the realization of his commitment that he solemnly made to his people and you all are fully aware

of it, it is unfair to raise a question mark on His Majesty's democratic credentials. His Majesty's road map to peace, stability and democracy is concrete and realizable. The people of Nepal have never experienced the Institution of Monarchy going against their will and consent. His Majesty is aware of this glorious tradition maintained ever since the founding of the Nepali state and is committed to carry forward this tradition in the larger interest of the Nepalese people. His Majesty is committed that Nepal should not be allowed to witness the kind of political instability that we witnessed in the last one and half decade. That period was characterized by frequent changes of government, unholy alliances among political parties to capture power at the cost of ideology, and internal bickering within the ruling party that did not allow a single parliament to complete its tenure. This kind of political culture is harmful both for democracy and political stability.

These days you are witnessing that His Majesty is touring the eastern region of the Kingdom where the people, reinforcing the unique bond existing between the Institution of Monarchy and the people, have greeted him spontaneously. Unfortunately, the political parties who should have taken this path have rather confined them to Kathmandu and are now

busy mulling over ways and means to disturb municipal elections. Whenever the King reaches out to his people, some sections always feel unease and tempt to excite the people saying that the King is competing with parties for political power. This perception is not only baseless and unfounded, but is also guided by the malicious objective of tarnishing the image of the revered Institution of Monarchy. I categorically refute all such allegations associated with this misperception. It is indeed strange that those who vow to disturb the elections and hinder the sovereign people in exercising their constitutional right call themselves "democrats" and the government that tries despite odds to conduct free and fair polls in the country after a gap of 7 years is termed as "repressive". This kind of myopic attitude will lead us nowhere, but to confrontation at the cost of the country and people.

In the present situation, especially in the context of the upcoming municipal elections, it seems that democracy in Nepal is facing a serious threat from two quarters. While terrorists do not believe at all in democracy, it is inscrutable why the political parties having faith in democracy have decided to take the similar line that of terrorists to disturb municipal elections by declaring protest programmes. The political parties and our friends in the international community must clearly understand that terrorists anywhere in the world do not believe in competitive democratic political process. It certainly sounds strange if one takes note of the fact that political forces with democratic credentials in Nepal have conveniently chose to side with the forces that are not only the enemies of democracy, but are bent on overthrowing the established constitutional order and replacing it with a system of one party dictatorship in which human rights and civil liberties have no place. It is widely held that by concluding the so-called "12-point agreement" the political parties have helped embolden terrorists, as is evident from sudden increase in terrorist activities in and around the Kathmandu valley and in other parts of the country. Our well-wishers and friends both at home and abroad used to suggest that the Government should have reciprocated the so-called cease-fire. We were convinced given the past experiences, and are now proved right, that it was not a genuine offer. It was a strategic ploy on part of terrorists to accumulate resources and strength to launch a series of attacks against innocent civilians and security personnel. The brutal killing of unarmed police personnel on traffic regulation duty in Thankot a few days ago has demonstrated beyond any doubt that terrorists never believe in peace and stability.

What is also incomprehensible is that

while human rights organizations both at home and abroad are always on the forefront to point out even minor aberrations made by the security forces while on duty, there has not been a matching concern in respect of atrocities committed by terrorists. Interestingly, the champions of human rights and civil liberties have remained silent even when terrorists have committed gross violation of human rights by brutally killing unarmed police personnel on duty. Can't we call this double standard? It is sad that human rights organizations are increasingly behaving as political activists in breach of their professional ethics, including the core values of impartiality and neutrality. While our commitment to human rights is total and unflinching, we do not accept human rights activists dictating on matters that fall essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of a sovereign country. There is a great hesitation in certain quarters to recognize the improved human rights record of the security forces and the efforts they have made to improve it further through different ways such as human rights education and training. There is nothing like impunity today as those who have breached human rights and have been alleged to abuse human rights have been brought to justice. It is simply a preconceived allegation that the Royal Nepalese Army is being used against the society and in non-professional activities. We firmly deny such an allegation as baseless and unfounded and urge all those who nurture such a perception to be objective in making assessment in respect of the RNA as well as refrain from making pejorative remarks directed against the country's security forces fighting one of the deadliest terrorisms, as it will only embolden terrorists, but not the country and people at large. It is a well-established fact of which you all are aware that the Royal Nepalese Army has earned international repute for its outstanding performance, based on professionalism, dedication and impartiality, in various peacekeeping, peace-building and post-conflict recovery missions under the aegis of the United Nations.

We have seen that even in developed democracies facing terrorism and other serious crimes, national security has always received priority over civil liberties. It is also true in countries like ours. However, it does not mean that in the name of national security, the State can go to the extent of restricting the basic rights of the people at will. It all depends on the demand of a particular situation. Here again, we have been the victims of double standard. One must understand, beyond any doubt, that a Government facing a serious threat of terrorism has the legitimate right to take steps that are needed to maintain law and order, and to protect the lives of the citizens and to safeguard vital infrastructure and other public goods. How can we say that our friends in media and human rights organizations who are guided more by political objectives than by professional ethics are ignorant of this essential duty of a State? We should avoid the culture of looking at

everything from the eyes of politics.

Now that the Maoists and political parties have declared that they will make every effort possible to disturb the upcoming municipal polls, His Majesty's Government has been compelled to take some preventive measures such as prohibitory orders in certain areas and nighttime curfew solely to maintain law and order in the country and to ensure that the municipal polls go peacefully. These measures have been put in place based on credible information that terrorists who have already infiltrated into Kathmandu with sophisticated weapons are all set to create large-scale violence during the protest programmes organized by the political parties. Except for this, His Majesty's Government has no intention to curtail the right of peaceful assembly as provided for in the country's constitution as well as international human rights instruments. These measures are in line with the provisions of Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966, which reads as, "The right of peaceful assembly shall be recognized. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interest of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

Coming to the municipal elections, His Majesty's Government is fully committed to uphold the right to vote of the people. It will not tolerate any attempts that are directed against this very fundamental exercise of democracy. Appropriate security arrangements are being made to ensure that election is held in a safe, free and fair manner. Security coverage is also available for all those who are involved in election.

His Majesty has asked all the political forces that believe in democracy to effectively participate in municipal election to establish themselves through collective wisdom of the people. Those who believe in democracy and people's power have no logic to shy away from election. While you can say that you are not interested in contesting election, but you cannot put pressures on others to take your line when they are willing to take part in exercising their fundamental democratic right. His Majesty's Government will not tolerate any attempts that seek to constrain the right to vote of the people. If that happens, His Majesty's Government will be compelled to take unpleasant action against those who are indulged in such activities during the poll.

It is our firm belief that our friends and well wishers who are really interested to see a peaceful, stable and democratic Nepal will lend their valuable support to make the upcoming municipal election a success. I hope, Excellencies, you all will be able to report to your capitals with this correct picture of the current situation in Nepal.

How the International Community reacted

United States:

19 Jan. 06

The United States condemns the decision by the King of Nepal to detain political party leaders and civil society activists in advance of political demonstrations scheduled for January 20. These arrests and harassment of peaceful democratic forces is a violation of their civil and political rights. The United States calls on the King to release these activists. Dialogue between the King and the parties and a return to democracy are the only effective ways to address the Maoist insurgency in Nepal.

India:

19 Jan. 06

We are receiving reports from Nepal about the arrest of leaders of political parties as well as human rights and civil society activists. We are also aware of the latest measures announced by His Majesty's Government of Nepal curbing political activity in Kathmandu and other cities. These actions of His Majesty's Government of Nepal are regrettable and a matter of grave concern to all those who wish to see the constitutional forces in Nepal working together to achieve peace and stability in the country.

United Kingdom:

19 Jan. 06.

'The UK is extremely concerned by the King's actions, and we can see no grounds for these anti-democratic

measures. I call on the King urgently to release those arrested, and to find ways to resume dialogue with the political parties. Only by reaching out to the political parties to develop a common agenda will there be any prospect of a meaningful exercise in democracy. 'We will be making our profound concerns known to the Government of Nepal at the highest level.'

(Dr Howells, MP)

United Nations:

19 Jan. 06.

The Secretary-General is dismayed by the latest developments in Nepal where, on the eve of a major demonstration planned for tomorrow [20 Jan.06] in Kathmandu, the Government has arrested a large number of political party leaders and other critics. The Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal, Ian Martin, has raised the matter with the Government. OHCHR-Nepal officers have visited 97 of the more than 120 persons reported to be in detention. The Secretary-General had repeatedly called for urgent dialogue in order to avoid confrontation, and for a bilateral ceasefire between the Government and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist. This appeal was not heeded, and the four-month unilateral ceasefire declared by the Maoists came to an end. The Secretary-General once again appeals to all sides for calm, the suspension of fighting and the urgent initiation of an inclusive national dialogue.

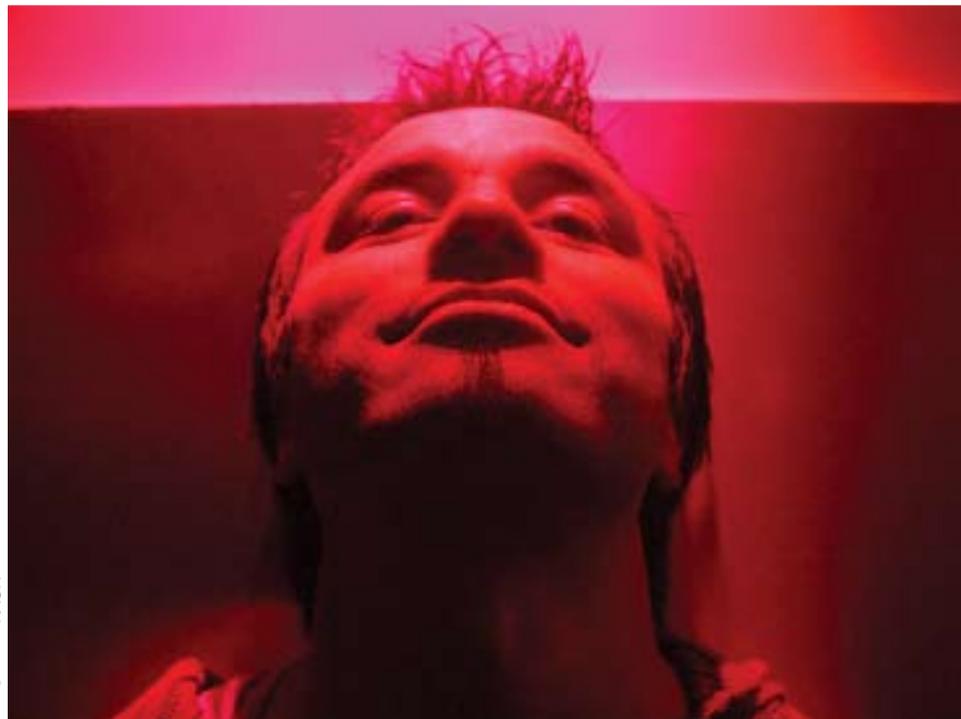
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 Position last week 1

- 2** **Song: Paschataap Timro Maan Ko Dailo**
Artist: Dibya Subba Sugam Pokharel
 Position last week 4

- 3** **Song: Ma Sansar Jitne**
Artist: Sabin Rai
 Position last week 3

- 4** **Song: Sirima Siri**
Artist: Brinda Singh
 Position last week 6

- 5** **Song: Kasko Aankha Lagyo**
Artist: Reema Gurung
 Position last week 5

KTM Rocks ko chilling spree



Photos : KTMROCKS.COM

Underground outfit Prakandabhima rocks the show at MPC

MPC (Mahendra Police Club) has been quite a popular venue for local gigs where Nepali underground bands get a chance to put their magnetic- metallic musical performances on display. One more concert of the kind took place here on 6 Jan. but instead of the indoor hall, the organizers set this one out by the pool.

"Originally, we wanted to release a KTM Rocks compilation CD featuring some of our great underground bands but, due to lack of finances, we could not," says Umes, who started KTMrocks.com, an online forum for Kathmandu's underground rock music. "So the main purpose of organizing this concert was to raise money for the CD." The album is going to come out some time soon and is going to star bands like Maya, Holocaust, Atomic Bush, Cruentus, Dristi and many more acts, 14 in total.

Though 'KTM Rocks Chilling Spree' took off at around 4:30 in the afternoon, it wasn't long before incredible guitar tunes and throbbing drum beats heated up the gray winter evening. Vhumi, Naïve, Prakanda Bimba, Zany Zealot, Atomic Bush, HMG's Ministry of Rock and Roll and the ever popular Cruentus were the acts on stage. Despite the hype, Albatross did not show up for the gig.

The show revolved mostly around metal while there were bands like Zany Zealot, who also played some rock and roll covers with their own additional twists to the classics, and Atomic Bush who showed off their progressive rock project. Ever since they played and won first place at the Rock Heads Band competition in 2005, Atomic Bush have had a budding fan following. This became ever clearer when audiences sitting and enjoying the music at the pool side finally got up and made their way to the front of the stage as soon as Atomic Bush went up on stage. Their original "Ma Sano Prakash Pyudai Chu" was a hit once again!

Despite the great shows put by the bands, the sound system ruined it for all once again! The problem with substandard sound systems in concerts is nothing new though. Some of the band members could be heard grumbling about it. "I couldn't hear my own voice while singing," says Bibhusan, guitarist/vocalist of Atomic Bush, "so I don't really know how we sounded on stage!" No doubt concerts like these play an imperative part in promoting local musicians. Some of the underground bands are even better and have a greater intellect of music than those you see on TV.

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Music legend and Nepali recording artist pionner Tara Devi dies at age 61



Photos: MUSICNEPAL.COM

An undated photo of Nepali music legend Tara Devi.

Legendary Nepali female recording artist pioneer Tara Devi passed away on Saturday, 22 January 06 at the age of 61. She had been ailing from disease the last five years and had stepped out of the music field, although still occasionally gracing functions and events. The singer, suffering from Parkinson's disease, died after a stroke while under treatment in Kathmandu's Norvic Hospital.

Friends, family, relatives, fans and well-wishers paid homage to the legend at her house. Usually national figures such as herself are kept at the Royal Nepal Academy for public homage, her family insisted to do so at home. Musical legends Ambar Gurung, Kiran Kharel, Premdhwoj Pradhan, Yogesh Baidhya were among others who arrive to pay their last respects to her.

Tara Devi has recorded more than 4,000 songs during her career. She started singing under the guidance of Ustad Bhairav Bahadur in the early fifties. Her first song was a duet with Premdhwoj

Pradhan called "Yo Nepali Shir Uchali", still popular during sporting events. It was recorded in 1956 in Radio Nepal. She had also sung live songs when she was a child. She was appointed as a non-gazetted officer at the Radio Nepal and rendered her services to improve Nepali music for 30 years. Late king Birendra promoted her to gazetted officer but only to be discharged from duty the following year without any reason. The same year, she lost her son Shashi to cancer and soon she lost her husband Shiva Bahadur Shrestha in a plane crash.

Some of her more popular songs are the classics "Ukali Orali Ma" and "Sochey Jasto Hunna Jiwan."

Tara Devi has been decorated with a number of national awards, including the prestigious Chinnalata Puraskar, Indra Rajya Laxmi Pragya Puraskar, Jagadamba Shree Puraskar, Maina Her music will forever remain one of Nepal's most valuable collections of performing arts.



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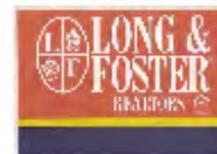


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Sports Update

Young Tennis player cheated

In a rather bizarre incident, a 13-year-old tennis player was left stranded at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) on his way to Myanmar despite being selected to represent Nepal in an international event. Angel Bhattarai, who was selected for the 14th Asian Junior Under-14 Tennis Championship in Rangoon was left behind and returned back home by team manager Hem Lama, his family reported. The young player had been bid farewell by National Sports Council (NSC) Member-secretary Kishore Bahadur Singh at the TIA. Team manager Lama of the four-member squad took Ramesh Karki instead, who did not even play the selection tournament. According to the player, Lama took him to the house of Ramesh before reaching TIA and asked to hand over his pocket money, US\$ 20, before leaving him alone at the airport. Angel said that Lama told him that he was on a waiting list. The family also accused Lama of not providing the facilities provided by International Tennis Federation (ITF) to the player. "ITF makes special arrangement of tickets but he asked us to buy the tickets," they said. The family spent around Rs 55,000 for Angel's travel. "He is very keen to play and we have always encouraged him to play," they added. They demanded compensation, punishment of the culprits and dissolution of Nepal Lawn Tennis Association. Meanwhile, NSC sent message to bar the unselected player from participating in the tournament. Ramesh Karki was barred from participating in the tournament. Gaurav Shah, the other player in the squad, played the event. The council has also vowed to take action against the guilty after proper investigation.

Open Athletics C'ship

Birthday Cup Open Athletics Championship concluded here at the Dasrath Stadium with Nawalparasi district dominating the junior events. A total of 85 players, including 25 women, competed in nine events of the championship. Jagadish Chaudhary of Nawalparasi won the boys' 100m race in 12.43 seconds at the Open Athletics Championship, organised by Nepal Athletics Association to mark the 35th birthday of Crown Prince Paras. Praful Chaudhary (12.50) and Hari Mahato (12.60) came second and third. In girls' 100m, Roma Panjiyar of Nawalparasi came in 14.50, ahead of Salina Shrestha (14.80) and Binda Shrestha (14.90). Adarsha School's Binda also won 800m gold in 2:43.30, followed by Rabina Duwal (3:05.60) and Deepa Joshi (3:06.10). Sunil Twayana of Padma School (4:36.17) came first in boys' 1,500m race, while Umesh Shrestha (4:40.18) and Yadav Dahal (4:58.40) came second and third respectively.

Roma also won the girls' long jump with a distance of 3.94m, whereas Salina Shrestha covered a distance of 3.75m for the second spot and Akiba Tuladhar cleared 3.69m to win the bronze. Praful Chaudhary (6.79m) won the boys' long jump with a distance of 6.79m, followed by Dharendra Cha-udhary (5.61m) and Hari Bahadur Mahato (5.40m). Chandrakala Thapa won the women's 400m race in 1:03.05s, beating fellow MPC runners Sabitri Nepal (1:03.80) and Bishnu Kafle (1:05.80). Tribhuvan Army Club won the top three spots in men's 400m with Pratap Chand claiming the gold in 50.30. Dharendra Chaudhary won the men's high jump with a jump of 1.65m, followed by Hari Bahadur Mahato (1.60) and Tirtha Raj Oli (1.60).

RIBS clinches ANFA-Mayos Inter-school title

Rhodendron International Boarding School (RIBS) came back from a goal down to beat Marigold School 2-1 in the final of the Kathmandu District-wide ANFA-Mayos Boys' Inter-School Football Tournament. Ronald Gurung and Milas Shahi scored one each for the winning team while Pankaj Lama scored for Marigold. Pankaj Lama had provided the lead to Marigold in the 11th minute but Gurung levelled the scores in the 41st minute before Shahi notched the decider in the 66th minute for RIBS. Ajay Thapa of RIBS was adjudged best player of the tournament while New Summit School won the Fair Play award. Karma Tsering Sherpa, vice president of ANFA, gave away prizes to the winners of the tournament which was participated in by 22 teams.

The Inter School ANFA-Mayos Boys Football Tournament will have 38 district representatives playing against each others starting from next month.

CCRC beat White House

Capital College and Research Centre (CCRC) defeated Himalayan White House International College by 28 runs to win the Dr Thakur Nath Panta Memorial Inter-College Cricket Tournament organised by National Campus for Business Studies. Batting first, CCRC scored 134 runs in 24.2 overs and then restricted White House to 106 runs. Pawan Das top scored with 35 runs for the winners while Lakpa fought a lone battle scoring 44 runs for HWHIC. Mehboob was declared man of the match for the sixth time and also man of the series for his 280 runs and 20 wickets throughout the tournament. He pocketed a cash prize of Rs 8,000. Likewise, Dipendra Chaudhary of Don Bosco received Rs 4,000 with the Best Batsman award for his 217 runs. Lakpa was declared Best Bowler and awarded Rs 4,000. Don

Bosco's Pareshe Lohani was given the Best Fielder award. The winning team received a cash prize of Rs 30,000 while runners-up White House received Rs 15,000. The event was organized by National Campus for Business Studies in memory of educationalist late Dr. Thakur Nath Pant.

Gurung, Sandhya lift golf trophies

Major Lachhimi Prasad Gurung won the King Birendra Memorial Golf Tournament 2006 at the Royal Nepal Golf Club (RNGC) today. He netted 35 points, two more than Rabindra Man Shrestha, to win the tournament sponsored by RNAC. Similarly, Tashi Ghale had the best gross of 30 while Major Paire Lal Thapa (12) won the super seniors' category in the event played in stableford ? handicap format. Likewise, Sandhya Rai (25) edged Kaushi Maya Rai by a point to finish top in the ladies' category. Rabindra Man Shrestha had the most birdies (2) while CB Bhandari hit the longest drive in the 13th hole. Shastika Shrestha hit the closest to the pin in the tournament. In all, 58 golfers, including five in ladies and two in super senior sections, took part in the tournament. Mphan P Khanal, MD, RNAC, gave away prizes.

Birthday Cup weightlifting

Kamal Bahadur Adhikari of Tribhuvan Army Club and Raj Laxmi Thapa of Nepal Police—who happen to be husband and wife—have set a three national records in weightlifting during the Birthday Cup Weightlifting Championship at the Dashrath Stadium. Shrestha broke national records in 63kg women while Kamal did the same in 71kg men. Nita Thapa also broke the national record in 48kg while Tara Devi Pun did the same in clean and jerk in 69kg women. Niti Thapa and Jhanta Katuwal won the titles of 53kg and 58kg women while Pannu Tandukar, Bikash Thapa, Raju Rana, Gyan Bahadur Shrestha, Puntalil Yadav and Gopal Bahadur Shrestha won the titles in various weight categories in men's event.

Indo-Nepal taekwondo

Nepal International Taekwondo Federation is organizing Indo-Nepal Invitational Taekwondo Tournament on January 28, a press release issued today said. The event will feature 50 players from Nepal and 45 from India and Pakistan. A organizing committee headed by Raju Gadtaula has been formed for the successful organization of the event.

CAN names U-19 squad

Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) has retained the team that won the U-19 ACC Cup recently for the U-19 Youth World Cup, scheduled to begin on February 5 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. According to a release by CAN, the selectors have kept faith on the cricketers who won the U-19 ACC Cup for the third time in Kathmandu in November last year. Squad: Kanishka Chaugai (captain), Paras Khadka (vice-captain), Sharad Vesawkar, Gyanendra Malla, Yashwant Subedi, Prem Chaudhary, Basanta Regmi, Mahesh Chhetri (wicket-keeper), Raj Shrestha, Shashi Keshari, Avaya Rana, Bantu Bataju, Amrit Bhattarai and Ratan Rauniyar. Four cricketers, Akash Gupta, Dipen Shrestha, Suraj Timilsina and Nirmal Simangaida are kept as reserves.

Malaysia may host ACC Trophy

Nepal's hopes of hosting the ACC Trophy this year received a big blow as Asian Cricket Council's Development Committee proposed Malaysia as the host country. The Committee under the chairmanship of Mohammad Ali Asghar has proposed to the Executive Board that the next ACC Trophy be held in Kuala Lumpur in August: ACC's official website said. Malaysia hosted the last edition of the event. Nepal's claim was founded on the successful organization of the U-19 ACC Cup last year. "Malaysia's climate is well-suited to cricket at that time of the year," Sultan Rana, ACC Development Manager was quoted in the news. "They have all the necessary facilities and the infrastructure there is to host a tournament involving 18 countries. If 18 nations are to participate in the ACC Trophy, China will be making a debut in international cricket. China was given the affiliate membership of International Cricket Council in 2004.

Meanwhile, the committee has also proposed to set up two levels of tournament for members country and two-day matches in junior level tournaments to improve playing standards amongst juniors.

If their proposal is approved by the executive board, Malaysia will host the Elite Group U-15 Tournament in May, 2006 and Thailand the Plate Group U-15 Tournament in December, 2006. Plate Group matches will continue to be 50-over games.

Birthday Cup

Saraswati Baniya of Nepal Police finished first with 364 points in the individual 10m Air Pistol event at the Birthday

Cup Shooting Tournament organised by Nepal Shooting Association to mark the 34th birthday of Crown Prince Paras. Sangita Karki (348) and Sabita Basnet (336) finished second and third respectively. In 10m individual Air Rifle event, Fulmaya Kapchhaki (377), Rita Shrestha (358) and Ashmita Shrestha (353), all from Nepal Police, grabbed the top-three spots respectively. Rudra Raj Maskey (346), Suraj Bikram Shahi (338) and Ashish Bikram Shahi (331) came first, second and third in men's 10m Air Pistol event; while Suraj Bahadur Singh (362), Prashant Narayan Singh (358) and Prahalad Karki (333) grabbed top three in 10m Air Rifle. In 10m Air Pistol team event, Central Region 'A' (776) and 'B' (686) and Nepal Police (668) emerged victorious whereas Central Region came first with 765 points, followed by Nepal Police 'A' and 'B'.

Veteran's tennis

Dharma Shahi entered the quarterfinals of the +35 age category defeating Anil Tulachan 10-7 in tiebreaker today in the Veteran's National Lawn Tennis Championship organized by Parsyang Tennis Club in Pokhara. Raju Shrestha beat Pema Tashi 6-2, 6-3 and Atma Tulachan defeated Himal Gurung with identical score to advance into the quarterfinals along with Abatar Gurung. In +35 doubles, Himal Gurung and Binod Moktan entered the last eight while Manoj Rana and Chemba Dhondup entered the semifinals. Chandra Man Tuladhar and Gautam Lal Pradhan won in +55 age category.

Moktan bags golf title

Major Bejoy Moktan won the Crown Prince Paras Birthday Cup Golf Tournament at the Royal Nepal Golf Club (RNGC). He netted 38 points to finish ahead of DIG Niraj Pun (34) in the two-day event. Similarly, CB Bhandari had the best gross of 30 while Sandhya Rai (27) was the runaway winner in the ladies' section as Shastika Shrestha finished seven points behind. Bhandari also had the most birdies at four. Likewise, Bishnu Bikram Shahi (27) topped the seniors' category edging out Rabindra Raj Pandey by two points. Neeraj SJB Rana had the longest drive in the 10th hole while Sandhya Rai hit closest to the pin. The tournament played in stableford 7/8 handicap format featured 61 golfers including five ladies and nine seniors.

Muna, Rabindra take honors in Table Tennis

Muna Basukala stunned Nepal's number one Sandhya Shakya 4-2 to claim the women's singles title of the 35th National Table Tennis Championship. In men's singles too, Rabindra Shrestha defeated number one Rajendra Kapali 4-2 to bag the men's title. In a fierce battle lasting almost an hour at the Pokhara Covered

Hall, Sandhya fought hard till the end in the final which saw five games being decided after deuce. Muna won the match 14-12, 12-10, 5-11, 10-12, 13-11, 12-10. Likewise, the men's singles final between Rajendra and Rabindra ended in favor of the latter. He won the match 11-7, 11-6, 7-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-7. The men's single finalists teamed up for the doubles but lost the final to Shiva Sundar and Mohan Das 12-10, 8-11, 8-11, 12-10, 11-8. Ajay Suwal conceded just a game to beat Amar Lal Malla 11-5, 11-6, 8-11, 11-8 in the boys juniors' singles final.

Mixed doubles title went to Gopal and Sandhya who edged Shiva and Muna 11-5, 10-12, 11-6, 11-7. Likewise, Swechhya Nemwang convincingly beat Alisha Shrestha 11-7, 11-9, 11-7 to win junior girls' singles title. Swechhya had another triumph as she combined with Geeta to win girls' doubles title. The pair thrashed Sandhya and Nabita 11-8, 8-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-6 (4-1). Lalitpur won the men's team event after Rabindra and Rajendra reigned over Bhaktapur's Shiva and Mohan 3-0. Both the Lalitpur players defeated Shiva and Mohan in singles event as well as doubles. In women's team event, Bhaktapur beat Sunsari 3-1. Member-secretary of National Sports Council Kishore Bahadur Singh gave away the medals and certificates to the winners and runners-up. A total of 200 players from 23 districts participated in the tournament featuring nine categories.

Seven-a-side soccer

Jawalakhel Youth Club is organising the Seven-a-side Football Tournament on February 4 and 11. Around 16 teams are expected to participate in the league-cum-knock tournament, said the organisers in a press release. "The objective of the tournament, apart from popularising the sport, is to develop brotherhood among the clubs and associations," JYC president Sunil Shrestha said.

New Year's Cup on 21 Jan.

Le Meridien Gokarna Forest Golf Resort and Spa is organising the New Year's Cup Golf Tournament on January 22 under the sponsorship of Tourism Malaysia, Qatar Airways and Marcopolo Travels. Around 100 amateur golfers from Gokarna Golf Club, Royal Nepal Golf Club, Tribhuvan Army Officers' Golf Club, Himalayan Golf Club of Pokhara and Nirvana Country Club of Dharan are expected to take part in the one-day event. Till date, 10 lady golfers have registered their names for the event. Started to celebrate the millennium in 2000, the New Year's Cup has become an annual fixture of Gokarna Forest Golf Resort, said the organisers at a press meet. The winner of the tournament will get a holiday package from the sponsors. The package include four nights stay at Kuala Lumpur and two nights stay at Penang and round trip tickets by

Qatar Airways for two persons. "The prize is a strong commitment on our part to assist in the development of golf tourism in the region," said the sponsors in a statement. The tournament will be played over 18 holes in the stableford format with 3/4 handicap at the par-72 Gokarna Forest Golf Resort. Gyan Amerasinghe, Area Manager of Qatar Airways; Deepak Acharya, golf director and golf instructor at Gokarna Forest Golf Resort; Subodh Rana, Managing Director of Marcopolo Travels; and Rajiv Shrestha, Director of Sales of Gokarna Forest Golf Resort expressed their views on the occasion.

National Open Marathon

The Men's National Marathon and Women's Half Marathon is schedule for January 21 in Kathmandu, the joint organisers Nepal Athletics Association (NAA) and Rastriya Banijya Bank (RBB) said at a press meet held at the Nepal Sports Journalists' Forum. The marathon

will begin from RBB central office in Singa Durbar enroute to Maitighar, Thapathali, Tripureswor, Sundhara, Ratna Park, Jamal, Lainchaur, Lajimpat, Maharajgunj, Basundhara, Gangabu, Balaju, Sitapaila, Kalanki, Balkhu, Satdobato, Koteswore, Tribhuvan International Airport, Gausala, Chabahil, Maharajgunj, Lajimpat, Lainchaur, Durbar Marg, Ghantaghar, Bhadrakali and back to the starting point.

The womens' half marathon begins from RBB passing through Singa Durbar, Bhadrakali, Sundhara, Ratna Park, Jamal, Lainchaur, Lajimpat, Maharajgunj, Basundhara, Gangabu, Balaju, Sitapaila, Kalanki, Kalimati, Tripureswore, Thapathali, Maitighar and back to the beginning point. The events are part of the 39 events of the national athletics tournament slated for March 3-6, said the organisers. The marathon winners will get Rs 25,000, Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000 respectively while the winners in the half marathon will get Rs 15,000, Rs 10,000 and 5,000 respectively.

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मेघः

कारोबारबाटमा अप्रत्याशित किसिमको लाभ प्राप्त हुने छ । प्रतिस्पर्धिसँगको प्रतिस्पर्धामा सफलता हात लाग्ने छ । स्वास्थ्यमा केही समस्या आए पनि चिन्ता गर्न जरुरी छैन । सुखद् समाचारसहित सन्देश प्राप्तिको योग छ । राजनीतिक तथा सामाजिक सक्रियता बढ्ने छ ।

वृषः

प्रेम प्रसंगले नयाँ मोड नलेला भन्न सकिन्न । नयाँ जिम्मेवारीका साथ विदेश भ्रमण गर्ने योग छ । पाहुनागणको अप्रत्यासित आगमनले खुशीको माहौल छाउने छ । इष्टमित्र तथा बन्धुबान्धवबाट रचनात्मक सहयोग पाइएला । नोकरी तथा व्यवसायबाट सफलता र आमदानी प्राप्त हुने छ ।

मिथुनः

महत्वपूर्ण उपहार या एकमुष्ट रकम प्राप्त हुने योग छ । आफन्तजनहरूबाट सहयोगको आश्वासन प्राप्त हुने छ । नयाँ कामको प्रस्ताव नआउला भन्न सकिन्न । अप्रत्यासित यात्राको सम्भावना पनि बढ्दो छ । प्रेमसंगतबाट मन प्रफूलित एवं रोमाञ्चित हुने छ ।

कर्कटः

स्वास्थ्योपचार तथा लेनदेन व्यवहार मिलाउन खर्च हुने भएकाले अर्थ-अभाव हुने योग छ । पारिवारिक दायित्व बढ्ने छ । शारीरिक क्षमतामा न्हास आउने योग छ । मनमा क्रोध एवं अहंकारजन्य विकार बढ्नाले काममा विग्रन पनि सक्छ । पारिवारिक समस्या सिर्जना नहोला भन्न सकिन्न ।

सिंहः

अनावश्यक विवादका कारण मानसिक क्लेश बढ्ने तथा अपयश प्राप्त हुने योग छ । आफूले विश्वास गरेको मान्छे तथा नजिकको मित्रबाट धोका पाइने सम्भावना छ । सोचेअनुसार सफलता प्राप्त नहुँदा मनमा खिन्नता बढ्ला । निर्णय गर्ने क्षमतामा हास आउनाले बनेको काम पनि विग्रन सक्छ ।

कन्याः

विवेकमा प्रश्नचिन्ह नलाग्ला भन्न सकिन्न । व्यवसायमा अवरोध सिर्जना हुँदा मनमा खिन्नता बढ्ला । मनमा नकरात्मक विचारको प्रवेशले धन तथा समयको नोक्सानी हुने छ । साथीभाइको संगतबाट अस्वस्थ चाहना बढ्ने तथा निरर्थक घुमफिरमा समय तथा धनको खती हुने छ ।

तुलाः

आत्मीयजनबाट हुने अकल्पनीय व्यवहारले कष्ट नपाइएला भन्न सकिन्न । जति मेहेनत गरपनि वाञ्छित सफलता पाउँन गाह्रो छ । कार्य-व्यवसायमा बढ्दो अस्वस्थ प्रतिस्पर्धाले मानसिक तनावसमेत बढ्ने छ । स्वास्थ्यमा केही प्रतिकूलताहरू आउँने र काममा समेत बाधा पुग्ने छ ।

वृश्चिकः

जीवनशैलीमा सकरात्मक परिणाम आउनाले सामाजिक प्रतिष्ठा प्राप्त हुने छ । भाग्यले साथ दिदा नसोचेको सकरात्मक परिणाम पनि नआउला भन्न सकिन्न । स्वतन्त्र व्यवसायबाट पर्याप्त आमदानी हुने छ । यात्रा तथा शुभकार्यमा केही मात्रामा खर्च पनि होला ।

धनुः

विपरीतलिंगी मित्रबाट अनपेक्षित सुख तथा सहयोग पाइने छ । व्यावसायमा लगानीको योग छ । राजनीतिकर्मीका लागि शुभ योग नभए पनि विद्यार्थी तथा कर्मचारीवर्गलाई भने समयले साथ दिने छ । महिनौदेखिको पारिवारिक समस्या समाधान हुने छ । नयाँ काम मिल्ने योग छ ।

मकरः

प्रभावशाली व्यक्तित्व विकास भई नयाँ पद प्राप्तीको योग छ । आर्थिक समस्याको समाधान हुने एवं व्यवसायमा उत्पन्न अवरोध समाप्त हुने छ । साहित्य-संगीत-कला आदि क्षेत्रमा सक्रियता बढ्ने तथा सामाजिक प्रतिष्ठा प्राप्त हुने छ । यात्राको सम्भावनालाई नकार्न सकिन्न ।

कुम्भः

वैचारिक द्वन्द्वका कारण एकाग्रता भंग हुने योग छ । आमदानीको तुलनामा खर्च धेरै भइदिनाले आर्थिक पक्ष दुर्बल होला । कामकाजप्रति अनपेक्षित उदासिनता बढ्ने तथा मनमा गलत विचारले प्रवेश पाउने छ । आफन्तहरूसँग मनमुटावको प्रयाप्त सम्भावना छ ।

मीनः

कार्यक्षेत्रमा सामान्य अवरोध उत्पन्न होला । राज्यपक्षबाट कष्ट नपाइला भन्न सकिन्न । परिवारबाट पाइने साथले मनोबल उच्च हुने छ । गरिआएको कामकाजप्रति उदासिनता बढ्ने छ । मित्रवर्गबाट शत्रुवत् व्यवहार हुँदा मन खिन्न होला । यात्राको सम्भावनालाई नकार्न सकिन्न ।

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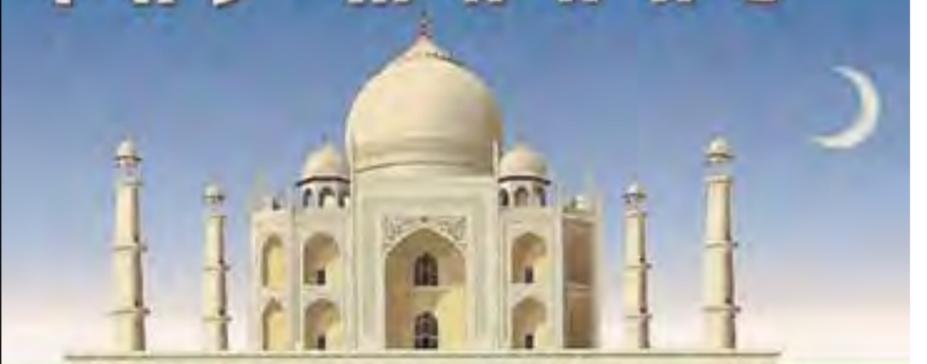
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