बसन्ती पुन बनिन् हङकङकी अर्की रुपसी

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1974 AD: On Air

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कलाकारहरुको बिदेश मोह

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Nepali Aawaz
May 10.06 • Baisakh 27.63
Vol.1 Issue 14
nepaliaawaz.com
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नेपाली आवाज

Photo: Anushil Shrestha

दलालले झुक्याएर कतारमा नेपाली अलपत्र

रोजगारका लागी कतार आएका नेपालको मोरङ, बिराटनगरका परशुराम डोटेल, शुसील शाक्य र वीपीन कार्की अहिले अलपत्र बनेकाछन्,।

काठमाण्डौको शुभम ओभरसीजका नामबाट गंगा बहादुर बस्नेतले प्रति ब्यक्ति ६० हजार लिएर पठाएका मोरङका यी तीन जना दुई महिनादेखि कतारमा अलपत्र परेका हुन् । उनीहरुलाई खान र बस्न समेत कठिन भएको छ ।

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Diaspora

Talk program on Nepali media

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Politics

"History need not be lived again." Yet we are reliving it, *Netajis*, because of your lack of leadership and courage. Just look around as you stand behind that high podium that you claim to be your pulpit. Everything looks eerie as Nepal finds itself, once again, trapped in the vortex of the same historic karmic chakra that has gripped it in the past.

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Nation

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ANA Convention 2006

New York Nepal Youth Council, the organizers of the 24th annual ANA convention "ANA-NYC 2006." and this publication, Nepali Aawaz, thave officially entered a partnership in which the newspaper will be the official media for the ANA- NYC 2006. During the convention, Nepali Aawaz will be publishing an "ANA-NYC 2006 Special Edition."

7 »

We
Life Conversations
Democracy
Literature
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You Nepal Progress
the Future

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Nepali Aawaz launched its first "Nepal Edition" in Kathmandu (RB Distribution), Pokhara (Safal Media), and Purbanchal (Birat Media) in Nepal during the last two weeks of April. Above: The paper on display on newstands in New Road.

Days in Nepali History

Diplomatic ties established by Nepal in May

Laos People's Democratic Republic, 20 May 1960
New Zealand, May 1961
Spain, 13 May 1968
Vietnam, 15 May 1975
Albania, 23 May, 1972
Republic of Korea, May 1974
Iceland, 25 May 1981
Columbia, 7 May, 1987
Bolivia, 21 May 1987

Although Nepal had found itself alienated by the international community during King Gyanendra's coup since 1 Feb. 2005, the international community has been working closely with Nepal's democratic forces after King Gyanendra was forced to hand power back to the people on 24 April after three weeks of a popular uprising against the King's dictatorship saw millions of people taking to the streets against his rule. In his televised national address, the King reinstated the dissolved parliament/ house of representatives and stepped down as the country's direct ruler.

7 May 1989

Mark Merrony (Wales) cycles for 30 minutes in Nepal at 21,030 feet.

15 May 1969

The Centre for Economic Development and Administration is established under a tripartite agreement between His Majesty's Government of Nepal, Tribhuvan University and the Ford Foundation. Started as an autonomous institution, the Centre was integrated as an institute into Tribhuvan University on 15 December, 1975. The Centre’s basic goal is to contribute to the nation building through analytical and problem solving works in the areas of socioeconomic and administrative development.

2 May 1956: (Reported by *the Hindu*) Mahendra Vir Vikram Sha Deva was crowned King of Nepal on May 2 at the Hanuman Dhoka Palace in ancient Hindu traditions that have marked the coronations of all the Gurkha monarchs of this kingdom, nestling in the Himalayas. Exactly at 10.33 a.m., named as the most auspicious hour for the ceremony, the royal priests placed the crown on the head of King Mahendra, with Queen Ratna Devi by his side. Priests chanted Vedic hymns and sounded conch shells, the bands struck up the national anthem and guns boomed the royal salute to announce the enthronement of the son of the late King Tribhuvan. To Nepal's high dignitaries, the 87-year-old primate of the royal priesthood then proclaimed in archaic Sanskrit: "Oh people! This man is your King. He is Soma, the King of us Brahamanas". And from the thousands who crowded the Darbar Square outside the palace, cheers rose hailing the ushering in of the Mahendra reign in Nepal. The two-hour Vedic rites over, King Mahendra promised his people from the four-and-a-half century old palace: "I shall see to the growth of the country, regarding it as God Himself, this ever and always". Slowly but in a firm voice, the 36-year-old King then repeated in Sanskrit the pratijna administered by the primate: "Whatever law there is here and whatever is dictated by ethics, and whatever is not opposed by politics. I will act according to, unhesitatingly, and I will never be arbitrary".

April.2006

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In Quotes

“ Nepal is an example of fight for democracy and freedom of press for the South Asian region. But there are still challenges ahead for the press”

- **SAFMA Secretary General Intiaz Alam**, *on the Federation of Nepali Journalists' movement for press freedom in Nepal since Feb. 2005, while addressing a press conference in Nepal this week.*

“ We are not in favor of continuing this parliament for an indefinite period, but it must continue to exist until the problems facing the country, especially the Maoist conflict, are resolved through dialogue.”

- **Communist Party of Nepal - UML General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal**, *while speaking at the talk program "Constituent assembly for democratic republic and peasants' concern" organized by All Nepal Peasants' Association (ANPA).*

“ What I understand from constituent assembly elections is giving the people an opportunity to choose between constitutional monarchy and a democratic republic. Therefore I do not understand exactly what they mean by conditional or unconditional constituent assembly elections. No conditions have been attached, however, with the decisions taken by the HoR over the constituent assembly elections.”

- **Pradip Nepal**, *Central leader of the CPN-UML, when asked by Kantipur publications about the meaning of "conditional and unconditional constituent assembly.*

“ We are forced to work for daily wages. Nevertheless, we fought eleven hungry days for the sake of peace and stability. The newly formed government is revoking all decisions made by the erstwhile royal chairmanship. Let this government also rid of the price hike. The even those like us would feel like we have achieved something through this revolution.”

- **Prem Shrestha**, *Abukhaireni, Tanahun, in a letter to the editor of Kantipur.*

“ गत मंसिर ७ गते सात राजनैतिक दल तथा हाम्रो पार्टीबीच सम्पन्न १२-बुँदे ऐतिहासिक समझदारीप्रति पूर्ण प्रतिबद्ध हुँदै संविधानसभामार्फत अग्रगामी र ाजनैतिक निकासको पक्षमा हाम्रो पार्टी दृढतापूर्वक अघि बढिरहेको सर्वविदितै छ । १२-बुँदे समझदारीको मर्मअनुसार जनयुद्धको क्रममा विभिन्न व्यक्ति वा राजनैतिक दलका कार्यकर्ताहरुको अन्यायपूर्ण तरिकाले कब्जा गरिएको घर जग्गा तथा सम्पत्ति सम्बन्धमा सम्बन्धितलाई फिर्ता गर्ने काम सुरु भइसकेको छ र बाँकी काम सम्बन्धित व्यक्ति वा पार्टीका कार्यकर्तासँग छलफल गरी पुरा गर्न स्पष्ट निर्देशन भइसकेको छ ।
त्यसरी नै वार्ता प्रकृयालाई सहज तुल्याउन युद्धविराम र यसअनुरुप तयार भएको आचारसंहिताको आधारभुत मर्मलाई इमान्दारीपूर्वक लागू हुने कुरा पनि हामी यहाँ स्पष्ट गर्न चाहन्छौं । हामी सत्ता पक्षँबाट पनि सोही बमोजिमको प्रतिबद्धता र पालनाको अपेक्षँ गर्दै वार्ता प्रकृयालाई अझै सहज बनाउन सत्ता पक्षँबाट पनि देशभित्र र भारतमा बन्दी बनाइनु भएका हाम्रा पार्टीका नेता तथा कार्यकर्ताहरुको शीघ्र रिहाइको प्रकृया सुरु गर्न विषेश अपिल गर्दछौं ।
२६ वैशाख ०६३”

- **CPN (Maoist)**, *in a press statement.*

“ They [UN] discussed how the restoration of democracy will be transferred into long-lasting peace and how the UN could help.”

- **Dr Suresh Chalise**, *secretary of the foreign affairs wing of the Nepal Congress party, speaking of the talk between Tamrat Samuel, a special adviser to the UN’s department for political affairs, and Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala.*

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Diaspora

Aitabarey Mela first Sunday every month

Photo: Paramendra Bhagat

On 9 May, Nepali Mandir in association with Nepali Aawaz organized the first of the "Aitabarey Mela," a monthly festive- gathering to be held on every first Sunday of the month at the Nepali Mandir premises on 34-11, 62 St. and 34 Ave., Jackson Heights, Queens.

The first mela hosted stalls selling food and beverages, clothes, CDs and DVDs and even health insurance and lasted from 2PM to 9PM. Its basic idea is for Nepalis to come together and meet up in a festive and casual atmosphere. "The melas will only get bigger and better," Chandra Prakash Sharma, the organizers, said.

Photos and video clips from the event can be found at the DFN blog: http://demrepubnepal.blogspot.com

Celebration of democracy in Nepal in NY

On 6 May, the Nepal Democratic Youth Council, New York, organized an evening of speeches and festivities at a Jackson Heights location to celebrate the phase one victory of the democracy movement in Nepal.

Anand Bista of the organization chaired the ceremony. Columbia University Prof. Tara Niraula, Former Permanent Representative to the United Nations Murari Sharma, President of Alliance for Human Rights and Democracy in Nepal, New York, Sanjaya Parajuli, lawyer Binod Roka and Angdawa Sherpa spoke were some of the speakers at the function. Speakers also noted that while there is much to celebrate about, this is no time to rest and that bigger challenges for democracy lie ahead in Nepal.

Video clips from the event can be viewed at the DFN blog: http://demrepubnepal.blogspot.com

Artist honored in Baltimore

RP Entertainment hosted their first event, a live concert to honor Prem Raja Mahat, a renowned folk singer residing in Baltimore. Suman Kharel, from BBC London presented the award.

Nepalis participate in int'l fest in MN

Aashish Khatri & Bishal Upadhyay

The 8th International Festival jointly organized by International Student Office, International Student Association and Mankato Area International Community at the Mankato East High School on 23 April continued to enjoy a successful participation from the community this year too, this year's festival became the second largest international festival held in Minnesota. Though being culturally diverse, people from more than 35 countries came together as a single family and helped making the festival a remarkable one. The main attractions were the food stalls, dances, songs and traditional attires that were displayed through a fashion show at the end of the program.

Of all the visitors, the number of attendance from the Nepali community was the largest, numbering in hundreds. And of the many food stalls, the Nepali stall serving "momo" become one of the busiest stall at the venue.

Students from other countries that were actively involved during the event included Irish, African, Somalian, Vietnamese, Japanese amongst others. And while students from Vietnam performed the amazing traditional dragon dance, the Nepali band from Minnesota State University, Mankato gave a new life to the festival with their melodious songs, bringing the audiences on their feet to dance the night away.

The authors are staff sriters for MSU Reporter.

Adhikaar: Immigrants Have Rights, Needs

New York City, April 30. Over 20 local Nepali community leaders got together at the initiative of the Adhikaar co-founder and leader Luna Ranjit at the newly launched Nepali Mandir in Woodside, Queens, to discuss issues faced by the Nepali immigrants.

There are nuts and bolts issues like translation, workplace details, paperwork, finding jobs for the newcomers, and there are rights issues like those faced by exploited workers, and the tens of thousands who have jobs, pay taxes, but are not allowed to vote. It was felt like this was the right time to jump onto the national Hispanic bandwagon on the legalization issue. A civil rights movement is going on.

Several participants pledged to join the rally the following day at Union Square on the same topic. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, among others, were to be in attendance.

Video clips from the event can be viewed at the DFN blog: http://demrepubnepal.blogspot.com

Diaspora

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बसन्ती पुन बनिन् हङकङकी अर्की रुपसी

Devraj Rai

फेशन, ग्ल्यामरकालागि चर्चित हङकङमा रहेका नेपाली युवतीहरु बीच सम्पन्न भएको 'मिस ट्यालेण्ट हण्ट २००६' मेगा मोडल प्रतियोगितामा ९ जना प्रतिस्पर्धीहरुलाई पाछाडि पार्दै पोखरा घर भएकी बैंक कर्मचारी तथा पार्ट टाइम टिचर १९ वर्षिया बसन्ती पुनले आफूलाई सर्वोत्कृट रुपसी प्रमाणित गर्न सफल भइन् ।

डि्रम्ज अनलिमिटेड हङकङको आयोजनमा मे ७ तारीखका दिन क्यारिटास कम्युनिटी सेण्टर प्रिन्स एडवार्ड हङकङमा सम्पन्न भएको 'ट्यालेण्ट हण्ट' सुन्दरी प्रतियोगितामा पोखरा घर भएकी अर्की सुन्दरी सब्रिना श्रेष्ठ फष्ट र नरअप र काठमाण्डौ नेपाल घर भएकी एलिना घलेले सेकेण्ड रनरअपको उपाधि हात पार्न सफल भएका थिए । पहिलो स्थान ओगट्न सफल बसन्ती पुनले मिस पर्सनालिटीको उपाधि समेत पाएकी थिइन् । सब्रिना श्रेष्ठले मिस 'फोटो जेनिक', सेकेण्ड रनरअप एलिना घलेले 'बेष्ट ड्रेस'को उपाधिमा आफ्नो पकड जमाउन सफल भएका थिए । जमुना गुरुङ(पोखरा) लाई मिस क्याटवाल्क, तुल्सा गुरुङ (काठमाण्डौ) लाई 'बेष्ट फिगर' र क्रिष्टिना गुरुङ(धादिङ) लाई 'मिस ट्यालेण्ट' उपाधि प्राप्त भएको थियो ।

हङकङका विभिन्न विद्यालयहरुमा अध्यानरत नेपाली समुदायका महिलाहरुले सहभागिता जनाएको सो प्रतियोगिताको उत्कृष्ट पाँचौ स्थानमा विजयी तीन जना सुन्दरी सहित जमुना गुरुङ र तुलसा गुरुङले पनि आफ्नो स्थान सुरक्षित गर्न सफल भएका थिए । एलिसा मगर (दमक), जेनिफर राई (काठमाण्डौ), दीपा पुन (पोखरा), क्रिष्टिना गुरुङ (धादिङ) र प्रमिता राई (काठमाण्डौ)ले भने पहिलो चरण पारगर्न सकेनन् ।

उत्कृष्ट पाँचौ स्थानमासम्म आइपुग्न सफल प्रतियोगिहरुलाई एक प्रश्न सोधिएको थियो । जसको उत्कृष्ट जवाफको आधारमा आफूलाई अब्बल सावित गर्दै विजयीहरुले आ-आफ्नो स्थान ओगट्न सफल भएका थिए । नेपाली तथा दक्षिण एशियाली पुरुष मोडलहरुले समेत विभिन्न पहिरणहरु प्रदर्शन गरेको सो प्रतियोगितामा स-साना बाल बालिकहरुले विभिन्न जातजातिहरुका भेषभुषाहरु प्रदर्शन गरेका थिए ।

लक्ष्मी थापा (राई), मिस हङकङ नेपाल २००० ममिता गुरुङ, चर्चित मोडल तारा लिम्बूको आयोजनामा सम्पन्न ट्यालेण्ट हण्टको दोश्रो संस्करणमा ममिता र तारा स्वयंले कोरियोग्राफर को भुमिका निर्वाह गरेका थिए । कार्यक्रममा हङकङको नेपाली समुदायमा उत्कृष्ट काम गरे बापत अमोद राईलाई 'वर्ष युवा पुरस्कार' बाट सम्मानित गरिएको थियो । तान्लुक्वा, सानु थापा, सृष्टि सुनुवार, श्याम सुन्दर थापा, राजीव राई लगायतका ब्यक्तिहरुले उक्त कार्यक्रममा आफ्नो सिप खर्चिएका थिए ।

गत वर्षबाट शुरु भएको ट्यालेण्ट हण्ट प्रतियोगितामा मिस ट्यालेण्ट हण्ट दिप्ती थापा, फष्ट रनरअप अनिषा लिम्बू र सेकेण्ड रनरअप अञ्जना राई एवं गतवर्ष विभिन्न टाइटल अवार्ड विजेताहरुले आफूले पाएको टाइटलहरु नव विजेताहरुलाई हस्ताण्तरण गरेका थिए ।

Diaspora

Talk program on Nepali media in New York

On 23 April, Nepali Aawaz organized its first event in New York, "Media under dictatorship: Fighting for press freedom and democracy in Nepal." The talk program was held in Nepali Mandir, in Queens and had invited to New York Kiran Nepal, Editor of Himalkhabar.com, Nepal's premier online news portal in Nepali language and special correspodent for Himal Khabarpatrika, Nepal's largest socio-political magazine, as the key note speaker. Dinesh Wagle, a reporter for Nepal's largest daily Kantirpur, and the founder of "Blog.com.np United We Blog!" also spoke at the event. Kiran Nepal and Dinesh Wagle were both in the US on the invitation of the State Department for an international leadership workshop and made time to participate in this talk program after their workshop had ended.

Kiran Nepal, Editor of HimalKhabar.com and Dinesh Wagle of Untied We Blog and Kantipur at a Nepali Aawaz event

As requested by the organizers, Kiran Nepal spoke about the history of Nepali journalism before the people's movement for democracy in 1990, during democracy in the 90s and after King Gyanendra's phased coup since October 2002 and the Federation of Nepali Journalist's peaceful protests for press freedom.

During the event, Nepal told the audience that before 1990 there were two types of journalism being practiced in Nepal, propaganda and op-eds. While propoganda- journalism supported the Monarchy and the panchayat system, the op-eds helped spread the word of the political parties fighting for democracy. He also noted that before democracy in Nepal, that is before 1990, journalism was not seen as a career of a business venture, which also meant there was no space for good journalists to make a living as a reporter. And while there were instances of investigative journalism even during the 80s, most of the veteran journalist of that era are known for their op-ed pieces. However, post 1990, journalism and media became a business and today journalism is a real career option for the youth in Nepal.

"The media has also made its mistakes though. One of them was irresponsibly overplaying the corruption of politicians. It painted a somewhat inaccurate image for the public," he said, while talking about some of the shortcomings of journalists during the 90s. "Glamorizing the Maoists was another mistake made by the media, just in the way the photos were chosen and the kinds of news that were printed. Instead of investigation reports, we saw more sensational news items in the initial period of the movement," he added, speaking about how the media dealt with the armed movement that has now taken over 14,000 lives in Nepal.

"I became a journalist in the 1990s so I never knew what censorship was until February 2005. And it did shake up the younger journalists of the last several years, no doubt," he recalled about the weeks following King Gyanendra's coup of 1 Feb. 2005, after which members of the Royal Nepal Army based themselves in many media houses, regularly editing reports and forcing changes.

The Government also pressured the private and corporate companies to either cut down or entirely cancel major advertisement contracts they have with publications such as Himal Khabarpatrika and Kantipur daily.

"Without freedom, civil liberty, democracy, we cannot work, We cannot go ahead with our professions. And if that happens we cannot make an income and support our family. So as a journalist, i have a vested interest in democracy. There isn't any other option for me to but take the streets and protest for democracy. FNJ's peaceful movement has been about not putting into difficulty the indipendence and freedom of journalists and media, not one that was politically aligned," he said about the journalists' movement for democracy in Nepal.

On 24 April 2006, after three weeks of protests in which millions of Nepalis took place and over than a dozen lost their life, King Gyanendra stepped down and restored Nepal's democracy and house of representatives.

The video from this event can be watched online at Samudaya.org's "Audio & Video" section.

New Year party in New York

L: Nepalis in Ridgewood Society celebrate Nepali New Year; R: The part at Dhaka Club was a grand success as well.

Diaspora

ANA- NYC 2006 and Nepali Aawaz partners; Mukti to headline concert

New York Nepal Youth Council, the organizers of the 24th annual ANA convention "ANA-NYC 2006." and this publication, Nepali Aawaz, thave officially entered a partnership in which the newspaper will be the official media for the ANA- NYC 2006. During the convention, Nepali Aawaz will be publishing an "ANA-NYC 2006 Special Edition."

ANA conventions are the largest Nepali conventions for the diaspora, with the number of attendees often averaging at 5,000. "This will be the biggest ANA convention ever," Suman Shah, the event's coordinator, told Nepali Aawaz. New York alone has one of the highest Nepali populations in North America, as does Boston and New Jersey. Other East cost cities such as Washington DC, Baltimore, Virginia and Pennsylvania are home to thousands of Nepalis. Since the event is being hosted in New Ark, New Jersey, and is organized by New York Nepal Youth Council, there is no doubt that the number of attendees will increase drastically. Recent host states include Denver (2004) and Texas (2005). Although the event was originally planned to be held in Long Island, NY, it had to be moved to New Ark, NJ due to logistical reasons.

This year, the Nepali blues pioneer Mukti Shakya, with his band Mukti and the Revival will be the headlining performers at the event. "We have already confirmed the performance," Suman Shah told us about one of the most anticipated events during the convention. "Its going to be a lot of fun."

There is also talks that PartyNepal.com will be hosting ANA-NYC 2006's party.

ANA- NYC will begin on 30 June (Friday) and end on 4 July (Tuesday). It is highly recommended that those wishing to come to convention book hotel room in advance at the venue hotel Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel, 128 Frontage Rd., New Ark, NJ 07114. The rooms will be available for $89 till 2 June only. The hotel's phone number is 1800-325-3535. Please make sure you give them the group code "Nepali" and group name "Association of Nepalis in the Americas" while making your reservation.

Look out for more details on ANA - NYC 2006 in the coming issues of Nepali Aawaz or log on to the website Ananyc.org

www.ananyc.org

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- **CONCERT**
  Well known Nepali band to rock your night out.
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Dear friends, families and well wishers,
On behalf of New York Nepalese Youth Club, NY (NYNYC), it's our great pleasure and honor, as a leading local organizer of the ANA convention 2006, to invite you to the 24th annual ANA Convention to be held in Newark, NJ from June 30th to July 4th (Friday to Tuesday) at Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel, 128 Frontage Rd, Newark, NJ 07114. Please follow the steps below in order to assure your convention reservation in advance.

- Book your Hotel Rooms early! Discounted rate of $89 only for early reservation!!
- *(fun and shows are late at night local New Yorkers are highly encouraged to book hotel)*
- Register early online!
- *(We offer you discounted rates: $5 off from each ticket price of Concert, Cultural Shows and DJ Night. Most of all: Free Parking!!) You just saved buncha money by switching to Online registration!!! :)*

Diaspora

Friends of Nepal- New Jersey

Friends of Nepal, New Jersey (FON-NJ) isa non-profit organization in thestate of New Jersey, USA. The organization is dedicated in the promotion of social and cultural heritage of Nepal and to explore educational opportunities in the United States for Nepali children. Through its many events, FON-NJ has also managed to promote Nepali performing arts and literature.

FON-NJ is committed to using 75% of their membership revenues to support scholarship programs for the underprivileged in Nepal, and currently 24 students in Patan, Rauthahat, Chandranighapur and Kathmandu are being supported by the program. In addition to that, FON-NJ has also supported in the past 32 widows and underprivileged women in Kathmandu and Jhapa through a program coordinated by the organization Mahila Adarsha Sewa Kendra, Kathmandu. Apart from these two projects, FON-NJ has also already held several free health clinic programs and a civi-leadership workshop in Nepal.

Apart from humanitarian acts, FON-NJ has also worked to promote Nepal's artistic heritage. Almost a decade ago Krishna Man Manandhar had gifted the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Arts a set of the Nepali "Panchey Baja." It was on 17 June 2003, during an official function, that these instruments were put on permanent display at the museum.

The organization's President is Ph.D Tulsi Maharjhan, with Pratima Nepal as the first Vice President and Shashi Shrestha as the second. Its board is also chaired by Rashmi Shrestha (General Secretary), Upendra Karna (Treasurer), Biswo Baral (Membership Chair), and Biksh Shrestha and Sunil Nepal (Community Liasons). Mary Dhakhwa is the organization's CUltural Program Coordinator and Dr. Raj Dhakhwa and Khagendra GC, Esq, serve as its Advisers.

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Talk program on Nepal in NY on 18 May

After weeks of vociferous, country-wide pro-democracy demonstrations daily life in Kathamandu and the rest of Nepal is gradually creeping back to normal after King Gyanendra agreed to restore the elected parliament, which he had suspended four years ago. The reinstatement of the dissolved House has for the time being not only averted what could have been a more violent showdown, but also renewed hope for the establishment of a secure, peaceful, inclusive and democratic Nepal.

The parties are now preparing for the unenviable challenge of maintaining peace, drafting a new constitution, co-opting the Maoist insurgents, and determining a role for the king, all of which will shape the future of Nepal. Join us to discuss Nepal's new political landscape, examine the prospects and challenges for continued peace and restoring democratic norms, explore the root causes of the decade-old Maoist insurgency and ways to address their concerns, among other urgent tasks.

Speakers:
Mahendra Lawoti
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Western Michigan University

Tamrat Samuel
Senior Political Affairs Officer, United Nations

Kanak Mani Dixit
Editor, Himal Southasian

Date and Time:
May 18th, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Location:
Asia Society and Museum, 725 Park Ave, New York

Cost:
$10 Members; $15 Nonmembers

Phone: 212-517-ASIA

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Entertainment

कतारमा सांगीतिक कार्यक्रम

मृतक कामदारका परिवारलाई सहयोग जुटाउन

Anushil Shrestha in Qatar

Above: Sangarsha Band performing in Doha, Qatar.
Left: Pop star Prakash Paudel also perfoms at the same event

Photos: Anushil Shrestha

कतारमा रोजगारका लागी आएर यहि मृत्यु भएका स्याङ्जाका तीन नेपाली युवाका परिवारहरुलाई आर्थीक सहयोग जुटाउन कतार स्थित स्याङ्जा सहयोग समाजले गत ५ तारिकमा दोहाको अमीर सिनेमा हलमा एक विवीध सांगीतिक कार्यक्रम सम्पन्न गरेको छ ।

संघर्ष लाईभ ईन कन्सर्ट नाम दिईएको कार्यक्रममा संघर्ष ब्याण्डका सन्तोष परियार, सन्तोष गुरुङ, सुदिप बशिष्ठ, सुरज र गणेशले लाईभ कन्सर्ट प्रस्तुत गरेका थिए। त्यस्तै नेपालका चर्चीत युवा गायक प्रकाश पौडेल, सन्ध्या ग्रुप, तमु बौद्ध सेवा समाजकका कलाकारहरुले गीत नृत्य प्रस्तुत गरेका थिए । झण्डै ४ घण्टा लामो कार्यक्रममा कतारमा नेपालीहरुको दुःद मृत्यको परिवेश समेटिएको नाटक “एक नेपालीको मृत्यु ” सन्ध्या ग्रुपले प्रस्तुत गरेको थियो । नाटकमा उत्तम, कुमार, राजकुमार, अमृत, रमेशआदीले अभिनय गरेका थिए । त्यस्तै अमृत थापाको नाटक “पागल प्रजातन्त्र ” र भीम घिमीरे र ज्ञानेन्द्र कोईरालाले “कतारको लुमा र पुलिस” नामक विकृती विरुद्धको हास्य प्रहसन प्रस्तुत गरेका थिए ।

प्रकाश दर्नालले प्रवाशमा बस्ने नेपालीमाथीको गीत गाएर सुरु भएको साँगीतिक कार्यक्रममा राज राई, प्रभात त्रिपाठी, ज्ञानेन्द्र स्वर्णकार बन्दिपुरे आदीले लोक तथा आधुनीक गीत गाएका थिए भने ओम भट्टराई, फुर्वा योञ्जन, सुन्दर सिँजाली, कृष्ण, सुरज आदीले नृत्य प्रस्तुत गरेका थिए । ओम, सुन्दरले नेपाली महिला पहिरनमा गरेको आकर्षक नृत्य दर्शकले मन पराएका थिए भने शेरु थापा, धनेश्वर र रामको हास्य नृत्य दर्शक हसाँउन सफल भएको थियो । कार्यक्रमको अर्को आकर्षक पक्ष रवि भट्ट र प्रज्ञा पन्तको रमाईलो शैलीको उदघोषण रहेको थियो । नेपालकी मोडल तथा रेडियो एड्कर प्रज्ञा र कतारका संञ्चारकर्मी भट्टले कार्यक्रमलाई अत्यन्तै मनोरञ्जनात्मक रुपमा संञ्चालन गरेका थिए ।

सो कार्यक्रमको उद्घाटन कतार स्थित नेपाली दुतावासका राजदुत श्यामानन्द सुमनले गर्नुभएको थियो । उदघाटनका क्रममा राजदुत सुमनले नेपालीहरुले आफ्नो ठाँउको लागी बिदेशमा रहेर धेरै सहयोग पुऱ्याउदै आएको बताउदै कतारमा मृत्यु भएका नेपाली कामदारका लागी कार्यक्रम नै गरेर सहयोग जुटाउने स्याङ्जा सहयोग समाजको कार्य उदाहरणीय भएको बताउनुभयो ।

स्याङजाबाट कतारमा काम गर्न आ(एका बल बहादुर गुरुङ र लक्ष्मी प्रसाद वास ताकेटीको गत फेब्रुअरीमा सुतेकै ठाउँमा मृत्यु भएको थियो भने धर्म बहादुर रायामाझीको सवारी दुर्घटनामा मृत्यु भएको थियो । समाजका अध्यक्ष राजेश दर्शन अर्यालले मृतकका स्याङ्जा स्थीत परिवारलाई आर्थीक सहयोग जुटाउन कार्यक्रमको आयोजना गरेको बताउनुभयो। उहाँले राजधानीलाई सहयोग रकम नेपालमा जिल्ला बिकास समीति कार्यलयबाट हस्तान्तरण गरिने जानकारी दिदै भन्नुभयो “अहिले सम्म कती रकम जुट्यो हिसाब हुदैछ तर कार्यक्रमबाट प्रयाप्त रकम संकलन नभए पनि हामी मृतकका परिवारलाई आर्थीक सहयोग पठाउछौं ।”

उदघाटन कार्यक्रममा प्रमुख अतिथी राजदुत सुमन, गैर आवासीय नेपाली समाज अन्तराष्ट्रिय समन्वय परिषदका उपाध्यक्ष सागर नेपाल, एनआरएन, कतारका अध्यक्ष बद्रीप्रसाद पाण्डे आदीले संयुक्त रुपमा संघर्ष ब्याण्डको नयाँ सांगीतिक एलवम “संघर्ष”को बिमोचन गर्नुभएको थियो । सो अवसरमा सागर नेपालले संघर्ष ब्याण्डको एलवम “संघर्ष”का बारेमा जानकारी दिनु भएको थियो । सन्ध्या ग्रुप अलमिस्नादका उपाध्यक्ष बीरेन्द्र याक्थुम्बाले आफ्नो समुहका बारेमा जानकारी दिएका थिए ।

Entertainment

1974 AD: On Air

The band gets ready to take their fusion jazz rock music on an international tour this summer.

Photo: Anup Prakash

The music, the fans, the album sales and sold-out shows, awards and tours all make it clear that 1974 AD is by far one of Nepal's most successful rock bands. The fact that they have been together for 12 years and continue to explore and evolve as musicians only cements their place in Nepali music, as they slowly begin to reach out to an international audience.

Formed in 1994, the band has released seven full length albums; Time Out (1996), Samjhi Baschhu (1998), Satabdi (2001), Jungi Nishan (2002), Limited Edition (2002), Pinjada Ko Suga (2004) and their latest this spring, On Air. The present line up, a member or two have come and gone over the years, is Phiroj Shyangden (Guitar, Vocal), Adrian Pradhan (Drums, Vocal), Nirakar Yaktumba (bass), Manoj KC (Guitar, Keyboard), Sanjay Shrestha (Percussions) and Manose Singh (flute).

There is no lack of Nepali fans for this band. But the fact that they play fusion rock, and in recent years fusion jazz, has made it possible for them to find fans and audience even outside the Nepali population, as opposed to the general "rock" or "pop" sounds from Nepal. At home, 1974 AD has managed to earn a fairly sizable non-Nepali fan base, many of whom belong to the country's ex-pat/ diplomatic community. Moksh, a live music club founded by 74AD front-man Nirakar Yaktumba almost three years ago, is a regular jam spot for the band and other musicians in the city. The venue is located in Pulchowk and is only minutes away from Sanepa, both these areas remain a choice of residence for many international workers in Nepal probably because many of the UN's office are located here, along with other international organizations such as Germany's GTZ, and Japan International Cooperation Agency. And these international local residents often find their way to Moksh anytime a show is scheduled. The fact that 1974AD has also been featured in newspapers like Nepali Times, a weekly widely circulated in the diplomatic and international community in Kathmandu, and other English magazines and papers in the country has helped the band find foreign audiences at home. But of course, non of that would have made sense had the band's music not been what it is, a blend of everything from traditional ragas to rock and jazz fusions.

"One of the reasons we got our visa so easily was because the counselors and others working in the [US] embassy had seen us perform live and they knew about the band," bassist and front-man Nirakar says.

And the band's profile amongst foreign audiences in Nepal has only been getting stronger in the last two years, with their participation in the nation's annual jazz festival Jazzmandu and the growing popularity of Moksh itself.

This year, the band is headed out to Germany. The tour is being managed by a visitor from Germany who saw them perform live at Moksh. After that, 1974 AD will head out to Prague where they'll perform at several jazz clubs. The shows there will be managed by Peter, an established jazz saxophonist from Prague who performed with 1974 AD and a side jazz- project with 74 AD members called "McTwisters" for much of 2004 and early 2005 in Nepal. Then the band will be making its way to New York in late June, where they hope to perform not just for Nepali audiences but also in clubs and venues where they want to challenge themselves by performing in-front of the non-Nepali audience. Venues and dates in New York have not yet been confirmed.

During their first US tour in 2002, the band performed on local radio stations and clubs in states across the US where sometimes there were no Nepali audience in sight and yet they managed to rock the house every time, selling lots of merchandise like CDs and T-shirts throughout the tour. This will be their third US tour. In India too, they have performed in front of a mixed, if not dominantly Nepali, audiences. And for Nepalis, they have already performed in Hong Kong (2002, 2003), England (2003), Australia (2004) and Doha (2004).

As ironic as it may be, it is by taking individual sounds from different styles and mixing them up as one that 1974 AD has found its own individual sound. The Nepali music enthusiasts have approved of it for over a decade. And the band is eager to find out how well they will fare in-front of veteran international jazz and rock enthusiasts.

Look out for more details on 1974AD's third US tour in coming issues of Nepali Aawaz.

Society

कलाकारहरुको बिदेश मोह

Anushil Shrestha

देशको द्धन्द्धरत अवस्थामा रोजगारका लागी बिदेशीने क्रम दिनहु बढीरहेको छ नै नेपालमा राम्रो पहिचान बनाई सकेकाका ब्याक्तित्वहरु समेत बिदेशमै पलायन हुने क्रम बढ्दो छ । नेपाली कलाकारहरुको विदेश मोह पछिल्लो समयमा आएर झनै झांगीएको छ ।

एक दशक अघि नै नेपाली नाटक र फिल्ममा राम्रै ख्याती कमाएका सरोज खनाल आफ्ना परिवारसहीत एकाएक अमेरिका पलायन भएपछि यो क्रम बढेको हो । कला क्षेत्रमा व्यस्त हुँदा हुँदै पनि उनी अमेरिका पलायन भएका थिए । अहिले अमेरिका पलाएन भएका कलाकार मध्ये सबैभन्दा सम्पन्न मान्छिन् । बाल्टिमोर नजिकै उनले लोभलाग्दो घर र जीवनशैली देखेर उताबाट फर्केका कलाकारहरु गर्व गर्छन् । उनको जेठो छोरा त्यहीको आर्मीमा जागिरे समेत हुन् ।

सरोज खनालपछि अमेरिका जानेहरुमा राजाराम पौडेल, कृष्टी मैनाली, करिश्मा मानन्धर, सुधांशु जोशी, सुवर्ण क्षेत्री, शैलेश श्रेष्ठ, अन्जना सुब्बा (श्रेष्ठ), न्हुच्छेमान डंगोल, रवि लामीछाने, रोशनप्रताप राणा, चन्द्रप्रकाश शर्मा आदी छन् । नायिका करिश्मा मानन्धरको पछिल्लो होम प्रोडक्शनको फिल्म ‘बाबुसाहेब’ ले लगानी उठाउन नसकेपछि एकाएक विरक्तिएर करिश्मा अमेरिका गएकी थिईन् । त्यहा शुरुमा उनले ‘स्यान्डविच गर्ल’को काम गरिन् भने अहिले डिपार्टमेन्टल स्टोरमा काम गर्ने गर्छिन् । उतैको ग्रीनकर्ड समेत पाइसकेकी करिश्मा बेला बेलामा नेपाल आएर फिल्म खेल्न भने छाडेकी छैनन् । हालै मात्र पुन: नेपाल आएकी उनको नयाँ फिल्म ‘पापी मान्छे’ प्रर्दशन भईरहेको छ ।

सारङ्गा श्रेष्ठले चार वर्षअघि अमेरिका जाने अवसर पाएपछि आफूले सुटिङ गरिरहेको फिल्म ‘गोधुली’को एउटा गीतको सुटिङ समेत नसकिदै अमेरिका उडेकी थिईन् । नेपालमा फिल्मको घट्दो बजार र विदेशमा कलाकारको बढ्दो मोहले सारङ्गालाई अमेरिका पुऱ्याएको थियो । उनले डेढ वर्षअघि अमेरिकी नागरिकसँगै विहे गरेर उतै घरजम गसिकेकीछिन ।

सात महिना अघि अमेरिका पुगेकी नायिका पुजा चन्द बाल्टीमोरको एक ब्यापारिक केन्द्रमा काम गर्दै मोड्लिङ् तिर लाग्ने तयारीमा छिन । आठ वर्ष अघि पुगेका लोक गायक प्रेमराजा महतले अमेरिकामै गायनलाई समेत अघि बढाई रहेकाछन र रेष्टुरेण्टमा कामगर्दै रहेका महत हलिउडको एक फिल्ममा गाडी चालकको भुमीकामा अनुवन्ध भएकाछन । नेपालमा मुनलाईट्स रेकर्डस खोलेर साँगीतीक क्षेत्रमा लागेका चन्द्रप्रकाश शर्मा आफ्नो ब्यासाय घाटामा गएपछी अमेरिका जानु परेको बताउछन । अमेरिका पुगेर उतै मुनलाईट्स रेकर्ड स्थापना गर्दै नेपाली आवाज नामक नेपाली पत्रिकाको प्रकाशन समेत गर्दै आएका शर्मा भन्छन “दैनिक

Top: New York City has one of the largest Nepali settlements in America; Photo: Nepalil Aawaz. Above left: Actress Rupa Rana. Above right: Actress Pooja Chand.

Society

अठार घण्टा काम गरेर कुमालेको गधा जस्तै जोतिएर केही पैसा कमाए । नेपाली संगीतलाई विश्व बजारमा पुऱ्याउने सोचका साथ लागी परेको छु । बिदेशीए पनि नेपाललाई माया नै मारेको छैन ।"

'मालती मंगले' को पलायन कथा

गत बर्ष चर्चित गीति नाटक 'मालती मंगले' प्रदर्शनका लागि अमेरिका पुगेको कलाकार टोलीका ७ जना फर्किएनन । प्रज्ञा प्रतिष्ठानकै पूर्व कर्मचारी हेमन्त श्रेष्ठ अध्यक्ष रहेको अमेरिकाको 'एकेडेमी अफ नेपाली आर्ट एन्ड लिट्रेचर' र 'डाँफे इन्टरटेनमेन्ट' को आमन्त्रणमा गएको सो टोलीको नेता प्राज्ञ सरुभक्त श्रेष्ठले जानुपूर्व सबैलाई आफूहरू राष्ट्रको प्रतिनिधित्व गरेर जान लागकोले सबै इज्जतपूर्वक फर्कनु पर्ने पटक पटक भनेका थिए । उनी भन्छन्, "कलाकारहरुले त्यसबारे चिन्तै नलिनुस् । त्यो सब हाम्रा विरोधीहरुले चलाएको हल्ला हो । हामी फर्कन्छौं । धोका दिदैनौं भन्थे ।"

गत बैशाखको अन्त्यमा अमेरिका पुगेर झन्डै ३ महीनाको अवधिमा वाशिंगटन डिसी, नर्थ क्यारलाइना, वाल्टिमोर, न्योयोर्क लगायतका शहरमा ८ शो नाटक देखाए । तर नाटककी शीर्षक भुमिका मालतीमा अभिनय गर्ने लक्ष्मी श्रेष्ठ लगायत कृष्णमुरारी ढुङ्गेल, श्याम खड्गी, कृष्णमान तुलाधर, सङ्गीता शर्मा, सरस्वती रणा र तारा सुवाल अमेरिकाबाट नफर्किएपछि झण्डै दुई दशक लामो ईतिहास बोकेको 'मालती मंगले' को पहिलो संस्करणको अवसान भएको छ । मंगलेको भुमिकामा २२ वर्षदेखि अभिनय गर्दै आएका अभिनेता हरिबहादुर थापा भन्छन्, "अमेरिकामा त्यहाँका नेपालीले देखाएको माया, सद्भावले भावी पिढीको लागि नया बाटो खुलेकोमा गर्वको महसुस भएको थियो । तर आधाभन्दा बढी कलाकारहरु उता रहनुले अब यो नाटक प्रज्ञाको ब्यानरबाट हुन असम्भव देख्छु म । साथै यसले गर्दा अबका दिनमा कलाकाहरुलाई अमेरिका जान पनि निकै गाह्रो पर्नेछ । "

यसरी कलाकार उतै हराएपछि अहिले अमेरिका जाने अन्य कलाकारलाई पनि भिसा पाउन झन् गाह्रो भएको छ । नफर्कनुको कारणबारे सरुभक्त भन्छन्, "उनीहरु व्यक्तिगत कारण देखाइ फर्कन मानेनन् । राष्ट्को प्रतिनिधित्व गरेर आई यसरी बस्दा इज्जत, प्रतिष्ठामा कलंक लाग्न सक्छ भनेपछि केही महिनापछि फर्किने जवाफ दिएका थिए, तर फर्केनन् ।"

नेराप्रप्रले 'मालती मंगले' अमेरिका जाँदा/आउँदा लाग्ने झन्डै पच्चीस लाख रकम खर्च गर्न नसक्ने भएपनि सहभागी सबै आफ्नै खर्च (प्रतिव्यक्ति डेढ लाख) मा अमेरिका पुगेका थिए । प्रदर्शनीको क्रममा रकम उठेपनि विभिन्न ठाउँको यात्राको क्रममा धेरै खर्च भएकाले आफूले ऋण काढेर अमेरिका जाँदा खर्चिएको रकम नउठेकोले त्यो उठाएर मात्र फर्किने तर्क पेश गर्दै केही कलाकारहरु अमेरिका बसेका थिए । नफर्किएपछि नेराप्रप्रले भदौमा ३५ दिने भित्र कलाकारहरुलाई कार्यालयमा हाजीर हुने सुचना प्रकाशित गऱ्यो । तर कोही पनि आएनन् । बरु सबैले राजिनामा दिएकोले उनीहरु नेराप्रप्रको जागिरबाट हटाइयो ।

Top: Saroj Khanal; Top Right:Bina Budhathoki; Above Left: Kristi Mainali; Above Right: Saranga Shrestha

Society

कलाकार विदेशमा गएर नफर्किएको मालती मंगलेको यो एउटा पछिल्लो उदाहरण मात्र हो । यसअघि पनि थुप्रै कलाकारहरु उता गएर फर्किएका छैनन् । नेपाल टेलिभिजनमा प्रशारण भइरहेको टेलिश्रृङ्खला 'परिचय'मा प्रमुख भुमिकामा अभिनय गरिरहेकी अभिनेत्री रुपा उपाध्याय एकाएक थाहै नदिई अमेरिका गईन् । २ महीनासम्म बाटो हेरेर नफर्किएपछि निर्देशकले उनको ठाउँमा अर्कै कलाकार राख्नु परेको थियो । यसैगरी होचापुड्काको हकहितका लागि खोलिएको 'उपकार नेपाल'की अध्यक्ष होची कदकी कलाकार कृष्ण गौतम पनि 'होचापुड्काहरुको विश्वव्यापी सम्मेलन'मा भाग लिन अमेरिका गएपछि फर्किएकी छैनन् ।

जापान, बेलायत जाने पनि कम छैनन

अमेरिका पछि कलाकारहरु बेलायत र जापानमा कामका लागि जाने गर्छन् । जापान पलायन हुनेहरुमा अभिनेत्री विना बुढाथोकी, गौरी मल्ल, रुपा राना, खेम शर्मा आदी हुन् । जापानमा नै रेस्टुरेन्टमा कल्चर प्रोग्राम चलाएर लामो समयको बसाईपछि अभिनेत्री रुपा राना अहिले पुन नेपालमा कला क्षेत्रमा सक्रिय हुन थालेकी छिन् । विदेश जाने चक्करमा खेम शर्माको ठूलै रकम एक जना दलालले खाइदिएको कुरा केही वर्षअघि निकै चर्चामा आएको थियो । अहिले उनी जापानमा नै काम गरिरहेका छन् ।

गत वर्ष नै जापान एशिया फाउन्डेशनको आमन्त्रणमा सुनील पोखरेल, अनुप बराल र अनुराधा बरालसँगै नाटक 'आनमया' को प्रदर्शनको क्रममा गएका सङ्गीतकारका रुपमा कलाकार राज थापा जापान गएका थिए । नाटक प्रदर्शनपछि अन्य सबै फर्किएपछि थापा भने अहिलेसम्म फर्किएनन् । सुत्रका अनुसार अहिले उनी जापानमा राम्रो कमाइ गरिरहेका छन् र उनले 'होटल कमल'मा समेत ठूलै शेयर खरिद गरेका छन् । 'आनमया'का निर्देशक अनुप बराल भन्छन्, "यहाँबाट पठाइएको नामबाट नै जापानको आयोजक संस्थाले राज थापालाई छानेर आमन्त्रण गरेको हो । कलाकार त्यसरी बस्दाखरी पछिका कार्यक्रममा अप्ठ्यारो पनि पर्न सक्ने भएकोले नबसी दिए हुन्थ्यो जस्तो लाग्छ । उनी बस्नु हाम्रो लागि पनि अप्ठेरो कुरा हो ।"

Left: Actress Saranga Shrestha gets married; Folk singer Prem Raja Mahat in Baltimore

चलचित्र मात्र नभई रङ्गमञ्चबाट समेत विदेशमा पलायन हुनेहरु पनि छन् । रङ्गमञ्चको अन्तराष्ट्रिय सञ्जाल संस्था 'इन्टरनेशनल थियटर इन्स्टिच्युट' (आइ.टि.आइ.) नेपाल शाखाका सदस्य मनिष श्रेष्ठ चार बर्ष अघिदेखि लन्डनमा छन् । सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमको एक टोली सहीत लन्डनमा गएपछि उनी उतै हराएका थिए । उनले हरेक बर्ष रङ्गकर्मीहरुलाई प्रदान गरिने 'त्रिवेणी पुरस्कार' को स्थापना समेत गरेका छन् ।

'आरोहण' का आधा दर्जन र 'किराँत राइ यायोख्खा' का आधा दर्जन कलाकार समिलित एक टोली गत बर्ष नै एउटा सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम लिएर दक्षिण कोरिया गएका थिए । कार्यक्रम देखाइसकेपछि 'यायोख्खा' का केही कलकारहरु नफर्किएपछि 'आरोहण' सहितको यो विवाद चर्चाको विषय बनेको थियो ।

एक समयका सक्रिय रङ्गकर्मी गोविन्दसिंह रावत अहिले सपरिवार सहित विगत ३ बर्षदेखि क्यानडामा छन् । सुत्रका अनुसार नेपालमा छँदा उनले सर्वनामको नक्कली लेटरप्याड र छाप प्रयोग गरी पैसा लिएर विदेशमा कार्यक्रमका लागि भनेर कलाकारको नाममा मान्छे पठाउने गर्दै आएको पोल खुल्न गएपछि सर्वनामले उनलाई संस्थाबाट निश्काशित गरेको थियो । पछि उनले सर्वनाममञ्च नामक संस्था खोलेका थिए ।

नेपालमा बढ्दो बेरोजगारी, विद्यमान द्वन्द्वका कारण दिनप्रतिदिन खस्किदो आर्थिक मन्दि, अस्तव्यस्त वातावरणले गर्दा चौतर्फि रुपमा परिरहेको प्रभावले गर्दा नेपालीहरु आर्थिकस्तर सुदृढ गर्नका लागि विदेश जाने क्रम बढेको छ । त्यसमा पनि युरोप र अमेरिकी मुलुकमा हुने कमाइले धेरैको मन लोभ्याएको छ । हुँदाखाँदाको जागिर हुनेहरु समेत पश्चिमी मुलुकबाट अवसर पाएको खण्डमा सोचविचारै नगरी हाम फाल्ने प्रवृत्तिसँगै कला क्षेत्र पनि अछुतो रहन सकेन । भनिन्छ कुनै पनि राष्ट्रका कलाकारहरु त्यो राष्ट्रका गहनाहरु हुन् । नेपाली कलाकारले पनि यो भनाइलाई धेरै पटक भन्दै आएका छन् । तर पछिल्ला समयमा नेपालका गहना भनिएकाहरु विदेशमा हराउने क्रम बढ्न थालेपछि यसले गहनाप्रतिकै अवधारणामा नै प्रश्नचिन्ह खडा गरेको छ । सरुभक्त भन्छन्, "नेपालीहरुको लाहुरिने परम्परा पहिलेदेखि कै हो । कलाकारहरू विदेशमा गएर केही सिकेर अनुभवी भएर यता आएर काम गर्नु राम्रो हो । तर फर्कदै नफर्किनु भने राम्रो होइन ।"

Photo: Rabin Giri

Society

दलालले झुक्याएर कतारमा नेपाली अलपत्र

Dotel, left, and Shakya, center, were abandoned in Doha, Qatar by their Nepali brokers

Anushil Shrestha in Qatar

रोजगारका लागी कतार आएका नेपालको मोरङ, बिराटनगरका परशुराम डोटेल, शुसील शाक्य र वीपीन कार्की अहिले अलपत्र बनेकाछन्,।

काठमाण्डौको शुभम ओभरसीजका नामबाट गंगा बहादुर बस्नेतले प्रति ब्याक्ति ६० हजार लिएर पठाएका मोरङका यी तीन जना दुई महिनादेखि कतारमा अलपत्र परेका हुन् । उनीहरुलाई खान र बस्न समेत कठिन भएको छ ।

कतारमा भीसादिने कम्पनीले नै काम नदि(एपछि बस्नतेले सम्पर्क राख्नु भनेर बताएको बुद्धि बञ्जाडे कतारबाट नेपाल फर्किसकेकाछन् । बञ्जाडेका साथी जनार्दन उप्रेतीले भने अलपत्र परेका दुई जनालाई नेपाली दुतावासमा गएर दुईजनालाई फर्कने टिकट उपलब्ध गराईदिने कागज गरेका थिए । “कागज गरेको निकै समय भईसक्दा पनि फर्कन पाईएको छैन्, यहाँ खान बस्नकै समस्या छ ।” परशुराम डोटेलले भने “क(हिले दुतावासमा ४/५ रियल दिन्छन त कहिले बाटोमा अलपत्र देखेर नेपाली दाजुभाईले सहयोग गरिरहेकाछन् ।” आफुहरुको बिजोग भएपनि घर मा भने चिन्ता गर्छन भनेर आफुहरुको अवस्था नबताएको उनीहरु बताउछन ।

उनीहरुलाई जन नायक वीपी कोईराला मेमोरियल ट्रष्ट काठमाण्डौको प्रशासन प्रमुख बताउने गंगा बहादुर बस्नेतले कतारको एक कम्पनीको भीसा दिएर नगद लिई पठाएका थिए । बस्नेतले भने अनुसार कतारमा रहेका बुद्धि बञ्जाडेले एयरपोर्टमा आफुहरुलाई लिन आए(पनि भीसामा उल्लेखीत कम्पनीमा काम नपाएको पीडीतहरुले बताए । सो कम्पनीले आफु कहाँ काम नभएको बताए पछि अलपत्र परेका तीनै जना कतारको सडकमा नेपाली संघ-संस्थाहरुलाई गुहार्दै हिडीरहेकाछन् । बस्नेतले नेपालबाट पठा(एका चार जना मध्ये शुसील शाक्यका आफन्त पर्ने युवक भने मीति सकिएको भीसा दिईएकोले कतार एयरपोर्टबाटै फर्कनु परेको थियो ।

जनार्दन उप्रेतीसंग कागज गरेको बारे बुझ् न्दा आफु बुद्धिको साथी भएकाले फसेको बत(ाउदै दुईजनालाई नेपाल फर्काउन कोशीस गरिर हेको बताए । नेपालका दलाल गंगा बहादुर बस नेतले केहि वर्ष अघि देखिनै कतारमा राम्रो काम लगाईदिन्छु भनेर प्रलोभन देखाउदै आएको पीडित शुसील शाक्य बताउछन् । बिराटनगर मा नेपाल बैंकका जागिरेबाट अवकाश लिदा पा(एको एकमुष्ट रकम मध्ये तिन लाख जती बिदेश आउने तयारी गर्दा गर्दै सकिएको उनलेबताए । उनले आक्रोश ब्यक्त गर्दै भने “नेपाल मात्र पुगौ न त्यो गंगा बस्नेतलाई के गर्नुपर्छ जानेका छौ ।” कतारमा दलालका फन्दामा परेर आई यसरी बिजोग हुने नेपाली दाजुभाईहरु धेरै र हेको कतारका सञ्चारकर्मी तथा समाजसेवी र वि भट्ट बताउछन् । स्थानीय राजधानी नेपाली पत्रिकाका संवाददाता भट्ट नेपालबाटै यता आउनु अघि बुझेर नआदा नेपालीहरुले दुःख पाउने गरेको बताउछन् । उनी भन्छन “ठगीएर कतार आईपुगेपछि अलपत्र परेकाहरुले नेपालमा लिएको ऋण तिर्न सकुन भनेर उनीहरुलाई काम समेत खोजिदीने गरेका छौ । ” भट्टले यसरी अलपत्र परेका नेपालीहरुलाई खान पैसा दिएर र उनीहरुलाई काम लगाउन तथा घर फर्काउने काममा टिकट उपलब्ध गराउन समेत सहयोग गर्दै आएकाछन् ।

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Society

PartyNepal.com turns three

Thousands converge in Thamel, downtown Kathmandu, to dance in Party Nepal's annual Project Peace dance festival; photo: Anup Prakash

In the last three years, Kathmandu's party culture has almost become synonymous with one name, PartyNepal.com, an events management company and an online events forum most popular for its photo albums. "2006: Party without politics," the company's slogan had said earlier this year. But with the people's movement for democracy in Nepal peaking last month, the only party that happened was the one after King Gyanendra bowed down to the citizen's demands and the only parties being talked about were the agitating Seven Party Alliance and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist). PartyNepal's highly anticipated 3rd Anniversary party scheduled for April, consequently, was cancelled. The small company, now one of Nepal's biggest names in events management, was started by three party lovers Bhushan (marketing), Mandil (webamster) and Robin (management). Nepali Aawaz caught up with Mandil to talk about PN's last three years and their international plans for 2006 and finding a sustainable business model for parties!

PN didn't get a chance to host its third anniversary party last month. Any plans to host it sometime soon, or should people just wait for the fourth Anniversary celebrations?

Our first party was organized on the 13th of April, 2003, the eve of Nepali New Year 2060. We are already 3 weeks off the date, so we've decided not to host an anniversary party this year. I feel bad that we missed it because it is a very significant day for us, but things don't work out all the time, and we simply have to accept it as something beyond our control. Besides, there will be many more anniversaries to come over the years, and our fourth will surely be twice as fun.

PN's line for 2006 was Party without Politics. This year Nepal has been all about politics and not much else. How anxious was PN for political stability to return to Nepal so that you could go about doing your events?

The wait wasn't just to go about doing our events. For me personally, I wanted things to get back to normal as quickly as possible so that everybody could get back to their everyday lives, even if there were no events or parties coming up. Life's not always about parties and that wasn't our priority at a time when the country was going through such a turbulent political situation. However, now that it's a thing of the past, I am glad that the three weeks of 'all politics without parties' in Nepal is over, and we can get back to doing what we do best.

What has been the most drastic change PN has experienced since its start three years ago?

For starters, the questions that we are asked by the media has definitely become much more difficult. [laugher]. When we started, there were a few people who supported us and believed that we could make this work. Over time, that number has grown substantially and we now have a very strong brand identity. Compared to three years back, the competition has become much stiffer as a lot of people are getting into this field professionally, which wasn't really the case then.

How many parites has PN organized so far? And how many events in all?

In total, we have organized 57 parties, 16 Concerts, 3 Salsa Workshops and 2 Movie Premiers, thats 78 events so far.

But PN doesn't really do its own events does it, it always organzies events for other products and companies. Why not do your own party?

Most partiess that we organize is a collaboration between PN and our sponsor(s). We do not believe in covering up all our costs and making profits out of the people who come to our parties by putting up ridiculously high bar/cover prices, and that is the reason why a lot of people turn up at our parties, and they return to our next one. To mantain this balance, we need to bring in the sponsors who provide us [financial] assistance, and in return we brand the party with their product.

PN is going international this year. Tell us a little about that.

Earlier this year in January, we organized the 'New Delhi Meltdown' in New Delhi, India. It was an amazing experience for us and PN got a lot of exposure as well. The Indian media gave us very good coverage, and the party was very similar to like the ones we are used to organizing at home. We have been corresponding with with Nepali communities in Hongkong, Australia and USA in regards to organizing a PN party for Nepali communities there. If things work out according to plan, PN will be traveling to cities in those countries places this year.

Time to show leadership

Nanda Shrestha / Samudaya.org

Dear *Netaji*,
Let me start with a quote from Maya Angelou, a voice of reason and reconciliation, peace and wisdom:

Lift your faces, you have a piercing need
For this bright morning dawning for you.
History, despite its wrenching pain,
Cannot be unlived, but if faced
With courage, need not be lived again.
(From "On the Pulse of Morning" [1993])

"History need not be lived again." Yet we are reliving it, *Netajis*, because of your lack of leadership and courage. Just look around as you stand behind that high podium that you claim to be your pulpit. Everything looks eerie as Nepal finds itself, once again, trapped in the vortex of the same historic karmic chakra that has gripped it in the past. The same old fiddle and the same old tune. The demands of the people and the outcomes of their cries (e.g., public protests) are the same and so is their pain, except that its intensity is now much larger than in 1990, perhaps in the same proportion as the increase in the country's population, from 18.5 million in 1991 to almost 28 million in 2006. Such is the tautological reality. History is repeating, and it is merciless to those who fail to learn its lessons as we have failed time and again.

The Question of Leadership: No point to sit here and sob over the opportunity we missed to change the course of Nepali history. What we face now is what the Netajis have settled for and what the people have elected to accept, at least for now. So where do we go from here in our attempt to find a way out of this historical cul-de-sac and not live this history again?

These are difficult times in a land, once graced by Janak's wisdom and Sidhartha's sacrifices but now mired in the sati's shrap. Furthermore, it finds itself increasingly caught in the parallel universe of restless awareness and endless anxieties, rising expectations and sinking opportunities. Simply put, Nepal has arrived at a critical juncture where we can either continue to go down the same old path and suffer as most Nepalis have or try to change the course of history in order to uplift the Nepali humanity. But the latter is no easy road. It demands individual and collective sacrifices and selflessness. And it requires genuine leadership, a precious commodity sorely missing from Nepali politics. That's right – leadership! Can we find it?

I hear a loud katuwal call from a silent hill top where a few dim kerosene lamps are still flickering, simultaneously as a sign of hope and impending demise. Piercing through the darkness of night, the call echoes across every hill and every valley like a late night Monsoon thunder ready to unleash massive clouds. The katuwale asks: Is there any leader around who can rise above self-interests and identity-based party politics to lead the masses to the promised land where they can enjoy freedom and justice and live a viable life? Being a true netaji, the voice reverberates, is more than a matter of leading a few bands of blind followers with a narrow vision and turf mentality. No need to show up if this is all you do, says the katuwale.

The question of leadership is not new though. Sounding a hopeful note, columnist C.K. Lal recently remarked, "The road to peace has been paved. It's a delicate road and the big question now is of an able leadership to steer the country forward". While we can only be hopeful at this point that the road to peace has been paved, there is little dispute over Lal's point about leadership. Able and, of course, willing leadership, indeed!

"There are, all around us, signs of social, cultural, and moral disintegration," wrote Barrington Moore (1987, p. 124) in his book, Authority and Inequality under Capitalism and Socialism. "They exist in both capitalist and socialist camps… There is no reason to expect social, cultural, and moral decay to be self-limiting and self-reversing. Death and collapse may be an equally likely outcome." This is a depressing portrait, one that is as applicable to Nepal as any other society. What it suggests is that history is not only self-repeating, it is a self-fulfilling prophecy. Moore then concluded with a somber tone: "If humanity is to work its way out of its current plight – and I am far from sure that it can – there will have to be leaders at all levels who can turn their backs on political glamour and work hard for feasible goals rather than glamorous ones. All this is quite unexciting and in fact totally uninspiring. For that very reason it may be exactly what we need." How true!

My dear Netajis, are you paying attention to this poignant message, a message of fear and hope at once. Its prescription is shared/collective politics and viable socioeconomic policy. Small is beautiful and small is sustainable. This is the demand of our times and national reality. Netajis, do you have the necessary foresight and fortitude to sacrifice your self-interests and party interests, bury all the vested interests to work solely for the interests of the nation and its citizens? No more taking us for granted! That would be a grave error. This may be your last chance to redeem yourselves. Shape up and work together for the people who freed you from the king's clutches and put you back in power before you feel the bajra of their wrath falling on your heads, one by one, plunging the nation into total chaos and anarchy. If that happens, a scenario not that unlikely at all in view of the general masses' endless anxieties and restless awareness, you won't even be a sideshow.

Let me repeat. The moral of Moor's message is that in the vacuum of necessary leadership, no political system – whether capitalism, socialism, or something else – can offer solutions to human miseries. So waging a war over the question of what the "correct" path is to fulfill national goals is merely a mock exercise and waste of resources. There is no one correct path, nor is there any path that is necessarily incorrect. As Deng Xiopeng once said, it does not matter whether a cat is black or white as long as it catches mice. Netajis, it is your leadership that counts not your tired and timid political ideology. This is a new day and you must practice the politics of hope, not of fear and factions.

And this same message applies to the people as well, to all of us: avoid the emotional temptation of political identity that only drives you to separate yourselves from the rest. As you harden your sense of blind fellowship with your party leaders, purely based on your political identity, you end up drawing exclusive battle lines rather than finding an inclusive common ground to collectively strive for the common good, a greater cause of the country.

If we are to tackle these unfolding tragedies forthrightly, Netajis, it is time for all of you to demonstrate your leadership rooted in moral decency, social justice and fairness, political inclusiveness and democracy, and selflessness. Economically, this leadership must be defined by a sustainable development agenda (not the western variety though). You must assume leadership as your calling, first and foremost. No more self-degenerating political bickering, please, and no grandiose and glamorous economic blueprints which, the past 50 years of our experience remind us, are neither feasible nor desirable for Nepal's national needs and resource base. So, to repeat, what is most critical is the question of leadership.

But where is this leadership going to come from? Frankly, I do not know. Given that the history of Nepali politics is filled with entrenched factional fights, it is hard to imagine anyone rising to assume the mantle of collective leadership and for others to accept it. Therefore, I simply lay out a rough framework within the existing tripolar configuration of the political landscape (see the following diagram). This will not only show the key sources of potential leadership, but also what each of the poles and political leaders must do in order to align themselves with the core of this configuration: the people, potentially the ultimate force of unity (or disunity). If they all align with the people at large and their well-being rather than with their respective party followers and party platforms, then they are likely to show collective leadership to carry out a shared national vision.

The King: The king is still one of the poles and is likely to remain powerful behind the scene although his role is vastly reduced. It is highly unlikely that true leadership can emanate from this pole, especially in view of the fact that the vast majority of the people no longer trust the king. The critical issue is how to keep it in complete check to ensure that it can no longer distort and defile the popular leadership. The king, along with his royal entourage, must be held accountable to the same law that binds every citizen. He must not be allowed to operate above the law as is the case up to now.

Non-Maoist Political Parties: Back in power, the non-Maoist parties constitute the "mainstream" entity, but with a tenuous hold, especially in light of the simmering political volatility and public scrutiny. With power comes the burden of heavy responsibility as they have to not only nurture the latest revival of democracy but deliver on their promises, both made by them and expected by the people whose blood and sweat handed them their new power. Since the memory of their checkered past is still fresh in the minds of the masses, there is little margin of error. The masses are watching them with

Politics

their gazing eyes. Any missteps on the part of these parties are highly likely to pave the path for the Maobadis to grab power, the very scenario that they have tried to prevent, often at the expense of public interests. So they have the most to lose – or most to gain – depending on how they conduct public affairs during this round. The people are tired of pointless platitudes and meaningless manifestos; they want to see tangible results.

The Maoists: With their grassroots support well grounded and battle-hardy cadres ready to fight, the Maoists are sitting pretty, holding the biggest trump card in the country's political jockeying and jostling. Theirs is an enviable position as they enjoy the luxury of 1) being political "outsiders" fighting for a popular cause and 2) operating outside the mainstream without being encumbered by the responsibility of national governance and the necessity of having to "prove" to the people in the public arena. In short, the Maobadis can mobilize or move back at will.

Yet they must recognize that they can't go on as they have for years, leaving the country suspended in a state of political paralysis while economic erosion renders it barren. Even people's revolutions have their limits in terms of time as well as space. For the Maobadis, the trump card will wear out and the support base will fade as the time passes. After all, the environment in which their war rages on is no Vietnam where Uncle Ho and his revolutionary cadres were "blessed" by the presence of a visible external imperial enemy that justified virtually any act of violence and enormous sacrifices in the name of national liberation. A revolution against a common external enemy has a lot longer sustaining power than waging a war to remove an internal despot.

A decade of the Maoist war is certainly a milestone, but it may also prove to be the limit of time and, hence, a defining (or decisive) moment for the Maobadis. My point is that they are now faced with three basic choices: 1) to launch a decisive war to achieve their ultimate goal with full knowledge that total victory remains distant while violence becomes rampant and perhaps random; 2) to remain engaged in a protracted war trying to demoralize the enemy, a path that is bound to shatter both public trust and national economy, or 3) to create, as they recently seem to have, an optimal climate to participate in the political processes to serve their "noble" cause. Short of total victory or constructive engagement in the political processes, they, too, have a lot to lose and little to gain.

Flickers of Hope: Although it is too early to gauge whether the Natajis from all sides have fully heard the katuwal call to forthrightly meet the demands of time and our national reality, the recent development in the political landscape, i.e., the emerging dialogues between the Maoist and non-Maoist forces (and sources of popular leadership) certainly signal a new roadmap – and, hopefully, the times of hope. What I see now is that those flickering kerosene lamps on that hill top where the katuwale stands are beginning to glow a little brighter. They are our flickers of hope in the midst of what is still a scene of despair. Let's all catch those flickers and keep them glowing so that we need not live our tortured history again.

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Politics

सलाम छ । साहसी नेपाली जनतालाई.......।

Dili Raj Paudel, Baltimore

पराधीन भई मरेर बाच्नु भन्दा स्बाधिनत(ाको निम्ति हाँसेर मर्ने नेपालआमाका साहासी सपुतहरु यस पटक पनि आन्दोलनको रणभुमिमा मानवीय न्याय र स्वतन्त्रता अनि सार्वभौमसत्ता र सँबैधानिक सर्वोच्चताको रक्षार्थ आफ्नो जीबन मरणको सबाललाई वास्तासम्म नगरी आन्दोलनलाई गन्तब्यमा पु-याउन सफल भएका परिप्रेक्ष्यमा सर्वप्रथमत . निरँकुशताको अन्त्य र पूर्णाप्रजातन्त्रको स्थापना गर्ने महान लक्ष्य र निरँकुशताको गोली र बारुदलाई मानबीय मुक्ति आन्दोलनको सामु रत्तिभर नहट्ने अदम्य साहसलाई बिदेशबाट नै किन नहोस सेग्रमी अभिवादन टक्रयाउनु आफ्नो कर्तब्य सम्भन्छु ।

शायद इतिहासकै सर्वाधिक सकंटको मोडबाट देश गुज्रीरहेको वेला अनि नेपाली जनत(ाका नैसर्गिक हक र अधिकार पर्ति निरंकुशताले धावा बोलीरहेको सर्न्दवमा हरेक देशभक्त नागरिकहरुका लागी एक बिशेष चुनौती को समयमा आफुलाई राष्ट्को चाकिल्ला भित्रसमाहित गर्न नसकेतापनि साहासी नेपाली जनताले आफु र आफ्नो राष्ट्को निम्ति लडिरहेको गौरवमय कन्ति र नेपाली जनताको अजेय शक्तिको शान(दार बिजयप्रति हार्दिक शुभकामना समेत व्यक्त गर्न सार्न्दभिक सम्भन्छु ।

नेपाली धर्तीमा प्रजातन्त्रको स्थापना,पूर्नस्थापना र पूर्ण प्रजातन्त्रको स्थापना गर्न सम्म इतिहासका विविध कालखण्ड देखि लिएर आजसम्म पनि नेपाली जनताले निरंकुशताका विरुद्ध लडदै र भिड्दै आफ्नै रगत र पसिनाले निर्मण गरेको गौरबमय इतिहासलाई इतिहाँसको पानामा स्वर्णीम अक्षरले लेख्नु त छदैछ साथ साथै रष्ट्यि स्वधिनता र सार्बभौम अखण्डताको संकट र त्यसको संरक्षणमा देशभक्त नेपाली जनता आफ्ना व्याक्तिगत स्वार्थलाई त्यागेर राष्ट्यि सकंट मोचनको निम्ति जनआन्दोलनको अग्नीकुण्डमा हाँसी हाँसी हामफालिरहेको सर्न्दभमा नेपाली जनताको देशभक्तिप्रति नतमस्तक र राष्ट्यि स्र्वाथको निम्ति मूत्युबरण गर्ने सम्म पछि नपर्ने अदम्य सहासप्रति कृत -कृत हुँदै बिदेशमा रहेरपनि देशमा भइरहेको न्यायपूर्ण प्रजातान्त्रिक आन्दोलन र त्यसको अर्न्तराष्ट्यि सहयोग सर्मथन जुटाउन भरमग्दुर प्रयास नभ(एको होइन । बर्तमान एक्कासौ शताब्दिमा पनि मुलुकमा आठारौं शताब्दिको जस्तो निरंकुश शासन हुने नेपाल र नेपाली जनताको लागी दुभाग्य त हुदै हो त्यो भन्दा बढी प्रजातान्त्रिक विश्वराजनीतिक मञ्चलाई समेत एउटा चुनौती र सरोकारताको बिषय हो । त्यतिमात्र होइन वारंवर निरंकुशता बिरुद्धको आन्दोलनले दिक्क भइसकेका नेपाली जनताको यसै साहासिक आन्दोलनलाई अन्तिम र निर्णायक बनाउनु पर्दछ, त्यसैले वर्तमान आन्दोलन भनेको निरंकुशताको अन्त्य पहिलो अनिबार्यता र पुर्ण प्रजातन्त्रको स्थापना त्यसको अपरिहार्यता हो भन्दै बिश्व राजनीतिक मञ्चमै बिशेष सरोकार राख्ने अमेरिकी राष्ट्पति भबन देखि लिएर संसद भबनसम्म नारा, जुलुश र सभा गर्दै नेपालको तत्कालिन राजनितिको वस्तुगत विश्लेषण र पूर्ण प्रजातन्त्रको स्थापनार्थ निरंकुशताको अन्त्य एकमात्र अनिबार्य शर्त हो भन्दै अन्तरष्ट्यि राजनैतिक संघ सस्थाहरुसँग छलफल र अर्न्तकिया गर्दै जनआन्दोलनको सर्मधनमा अर्न्तराष्ट्यि ऐक्यवद्धता जुटाउने तथा घाईतेहरुलाई तत्काल औषधीपचारको निम्ति नगद सहयोग उपलब्ध गराउने कार्यहरु आन्दोलनको सफलताको रुपमा मान्न सकिन्छ ।

समग्रमा जनआन्दोलनको सफलताको पछाडी न्याय र स्बतन्त्रताका पक्षधर नेपाली जनताको अतुलनिय योगदानलाई किमार्थ कम आंकलन गर्न सकिदैन,बरु गाँउ टोल र शहर हुदै राष्ढ्ब्यापी रुपमा फैलिएको न्यायपूर्ण आन्दोलनका लहरहरु द्रुतगतीमा अर्न्तराष्ट्यि राजनीतिक क्षेत्रसम्म पुग्न सफल हुनुलाई विशष प्रजातान्त्रिक राजनीतिक मञ्चमा नेपाली जनत(ाले निरंकुशताको खिलाफमा अर्को एक थप सिंढी चढेर पून आफ्नो प्रजातान्त्रिक ऐक्यवद्धता जारी गरेको सहजै अनुभुती गर्न सकिन्छ । नेपाली जनताको यहि ऐक्यबद्धतालाई मध्यनजर राख्दै अन्तरष्ट्यि क्षेत्रबाट जनआन्दोलनको सर्मधनमा प्रत्यक्ष वा परोक्ष रुपमा सहयोग र सर्मधन गर्नुबाट के पुष्टि हुन्छ भने वर्तमान समय भनेको प्रजातन्त्र र मानबअधिकारको यूग हो अथवा बिश्वब्यायीकरणको युग हो र बिश्वको कुनैपनि कुनामा घटेको प्रजातन्त्र र मानअधिकारको हननको घटनामा कसरी बिश्वजनमत एक हुन्छ अनि निरंकुशताको पराजय कति छिटो ढगंले हुन्छ भन्ने कुराको ज्जलन्त उदाहरणको रुपमा वर्तमान जनआन्दोलन र त्यसको सफलतालाई लिन सकिन्छ । तर्सथ शान्त्रिय मान्यताअनुसार पनि बर्तमान आन्दोलन र त्यसको सफलता भनेको मुठिभरका ब्यक्तिहरुको सल्लाहमा गोली बारुदको इशारमा चल्ने निरंकुशताको विरुद्धमा आमनेपाली जनताको समग्र बिचारहरुको प्रतिनिधित्व गर्ने वहुदलवादको विजय हो ।

स्मरणीय छ राजनैतिक स्वतन्त्रता, आर्थिक समानता र समाजिक एकता जस्ता वहुलवादी समाज एबं समग्रमा एक सार्वभौम सम्पन्नता र संवैधानिक सर्वोचता भएको सवल राष्ट्को कामना गर्दै नेपाली जनताले आजभन्दा भण्डै १२ वर्ष अघि गरेको ऐतिहासिक जनआन्दोलन, त्यसको सफ्लता र प्रजातन्त्रको पूर्नस्थापना पश्चात मुलुकमा न्यूनतम प्रजातान्त्रिक मुल्य र मान्यताको बिकास भएतापनि समग्र देशलाइ प्रजातान्त्रिक पद्धती सगी ढंगले सञ्चालन गर्नुपर्ने राजनैतिक दलहरुमा देखिएको राजनैतिक संकृयतामा भने प्रजातान्त्रिक शासनकालको सर्वाधिक दूभाग्यपूर्ण पक्ष रहन पूग्यो । मूलत राज्यशक्तिका प्रमुख स्रोत नेपाली जनतालाई राज्य शक्ति सञ्चालनको राजनैतिक मूल प्रवाहमा सहभागी नगराइनु र समानुपातिक प्रतिनिधित्वको नाँउमा राज्यसत्ता केवल सम्भ्रान्त वर्ग मै सिमित रहेकोले राजनीतिक परिबर्तनको तुलनामा साम(ाजिक र आर्थिक अवस्थामा परिबर्तन हुन सकेन ।त्यतिमात्र होइन दशकौं पुरानो निर्दलिय राज्य संरचन अर्न्तगत प्रजातान्त्रिक संसदीय प्रणलीको प्रणलीको अभ्यास गरिनु आफैमा अर्न्तविरोधपूर्ण थियो भने त्यो भन्दा बढि राजनैतिक दलहरु वी(चमा आपसी राजनैतिक सहअस्तित्व स्विकार्न सम्म नसक्ने संकृय राजनैतिक सस्कार संसदीय शासनकालको अर्के दु :खद पक्ष रहन पुग्यो । बहुमतको नाँउमा टाउको गन्ने र सत्ता नै शक्ति हो भनने संकृण राजनैतिक सस्कारकै कारण संसदीय राजनीतिमा बिस्फोटन भई विद्रोही पक्ष जन यूद्धको नँउमा शसत्र माध्यमद्धारा वम र वारुदको धुवाँमा कुहिरोको काग भै अलमलिन पुग्यो भने संसदीय पक्ष सत्ता र शक्ति निम्ति संवाद र सहमती जस्ता प्रजातान्त्रिक मान्यत(ाका सारतत्वलाई दुरुपयोग गर्दै निरंकुशता सगं असफल सहमती गर्ने पुग्ये । जसको कारण दुध पिएर बिष वमन गर्ने निरंकुशताको सञ्जालमा फस्न पुग्यो । अर्थात आम नेपाली जनताको सक्रिय सहभतगिता विना राजनैतिक दलहरुद्धारा चालिएका कुनैपनि कदमहरु गन्तव्यमा पुग्न असफल रहे । अन्तत्वगोत्वा नेपाली जनता नै नेपाली राजनीतिको यस्तो कोशेढुङगा सावित रहे जसले एकातर्फ राजनीतिक दलहरु वीचमा रहेको संवाद हिनतालाई अन्त्य गरी न्यूनतम रुपमा निरंकुशताको अत्त्यको लागी आपसी सहमती गर्दै संयूक्त जनआन्दोलनको निम्ति आव्हान र दवाव दिने मात्र हाोइन निरंकुशताको अन्त्य र पूर्ण प्रजातन्त्रको स्थापना एकमात्र गन्तव्य भन्ने किरान समेत गर्दै त्यसलाई सफल समेत वनाएरै छाडे । तर्सथ यस पटकको जनआन्दोलनको कममा नेपाली जनताको सहभागितालाई कुनैपनि राजनीतिक दलहरुको आव्हानमा हुने (सहभ(ागितात्मक) सहभागिता भन्दा वढि नेपाली जनताको अन्तस्करणकोदेखिनै स्वतस्फूर्त स्पमा निरंकुशताको अन्त्य र पूर्ण प्रजातन्त्रको स्थापना गर्नमा निर्णयत्मब सहभागिता रहेको पाईन्छ ।

आजको नेपालको राजनीतिक अवीथा भनेको निरंकुशतको अन्त्य मात्र भएको र प्रजातान्त्रिक नव नेपालको निर्मण गर्ने संकमणको अवस्था भन्दा बढि केही होइन । २०४६ को संविधान निर्माणका कममा देखिएका सवैखाले त्रुटीहरुलाई अन्त्य गर्न र साँचो अर्थमा जनताको संविधान जनताद्धारा नै निर्मण गर्न विगतका तिता अनुभवहरुलाई समिक्षा र आत्मसात गर्दै संविधानसभा मार्फत नयाँ संविधानको निर्माण गर्ने प्रकियात्मक र संरचनात्मक कार्यमा नेपाली जनताको प्रत्यक्ष सहभागिताा अनिवार्य शर्त हो । आफ्नो भाग्य आफै निर्माण गर्नुपर्दछ भन्ने महान विचार वोकि नव नेपालको निर्माणमा जुरमुराएका नेपाली जनताले आफनो संविधानको निर्माण आफै गरी नेपालको संवैधानिक इतिहासमै नयाँ आयम गर्ने छन । साथ साथै संविधान देशको मुल कानून हो र नेपाली जनतानै राष्ट्का सर्वोचय शक्ति हुन भन्ने कुरालाई प्रष्छाउन विगत देखी बर्तमान सम्म देशको संविधान दरवारबाट प्रदान गर्ने परंपरा तोड्दै प्रजातान्त्रिक मुल्य र मान्यताको जन्मजात शत्रुको रुपमा रहेको निरंकुश राजत(न्त्रलाई संविधानका सम्पूर्ण हक र अधिकारबाट विमुख पार्ने मात्र होइन सेरेमोनियल भई वस्न पाउने वास र गास प्रदान गर्ने भाग्य विधाता समेत नेपाली जनता नै हुन भन्ने नयाँ राजनैतिक परंपराको निर्माण समेत गर्ने छन् ।

यसरी संविधानको निर्माणको प्रकिया राज्य संरचनाको पूर्ण निर्माण सगै राजनीतिको मुल प्रवाहमा समाहित नेपाली जनताले नव नेपालको निर्माणको भाग्उरेखा कोरिरहँदा नेपाली राज(नीतिको अतितलाइ मध्य नजर राख्ने नै छन । नेपाली राजनीतिमा देखिने अतिबाद र अवसरवा(दबाट नेपाली जनता विल्कुल अनविज्ञ छैनन् । शक्ति र सत्ताको घमण्डमा राजनीतिक दलहरु कसरी अधोपतकतर्फ लाग्छन भने कुरा विगत १२ वर्षले देखाई सकेको परिप्रेक्ष्यमा त्यसको नियन्त्रमा र सन्तुलन गर्ने माहन अभिभारा पनि नेपाली जनताले नै वहन गर्नुपर्ने भएकाले राज्य सञ्चालनका हरेक जिम्मेवार अङगहरुमा नेपाली जनताको सकिय सहभागिता र नियन्त्रण दुबै हुनु उत्तिकै जरुरी किन छ भने यसै राज्य सत्ताको दुरुपयोग गर्दै हरेक राजनीतिक दलहरु विशेषत : सत्तासिन दलहरु पथभ्रष्ट हुने गर्दछन्। संवैधानिक मर्म राष्ट्यि स्वार्थ र जनभावना विपरित जाने कुनैपनि राजनैतिक दलहरुलाई नेपाली जनताले चाहेको वेला अंकुश लगाउन सक्ने अवस्था भएन भने पून : अतितका तिा घटनाहरु नदोहोरिएलान भनी कसरी मान्न सकिन्छ र ?

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Sports

Mankato team on winning streak in Minnesota

Aashish Khatri & Bishal Upadhyay

The Nepali Team of Minnesota State University, Mankato has been on a winning streak this year. Among Six participating teams, the Mankato team was triumphant in Nebraska during a local basketball championship held on 15 and 16 March. Back home in Minnesota, the ANMN New Year 2063 Basketball Tournament, organized by Association of Nepalis in Minnesota, Minneapolis on April 15th was the next stop for the Mankato Killateam. ANMN hosts its annual Nepali New Year celebrations to bring the Nepali community in the area together and started their annual basketball tournamet at the celebrations last year. There, the Mankato team prevailed by defeating three out of the five equally competitive teams and bagged the champion's trophy. The final game was between the Mankato Killateam and the team from neighboring St. Cloud State University, St Cloud.

The Nepali team in Minnesota State University, Mankato on the lead to maintain their winning tour also seized the Cricket Tournament trophy held from 14 to 16 April. Apart from Nepal, teams Pakistan, India, TeamPak, NDSU and Cosmos had participated in the tournament. The Nepali team started with a disappointing loss against NDSU in their very first match of the tournament but the players were determined to make a comeback. In their next game they faced off team Pakistan and came out victorious, earning themselves a spot in the semifinals. The match against TeamPak, one of the strongest team in the tournament, was a vital one and the victory over them was the turning point for team Nepal.

Winning the semifinal against TeamPak, the Nepalese team was again to face Pakistan, the defending champions from 2005. The final ended in an extremely interesting fashion; defending the target of 91 Nepalese team packed Pakistan team in 9.4 overs of a ten over game.

The tournaments and the following victories have also brought together the Nepali community in Mankato, Minnesota.

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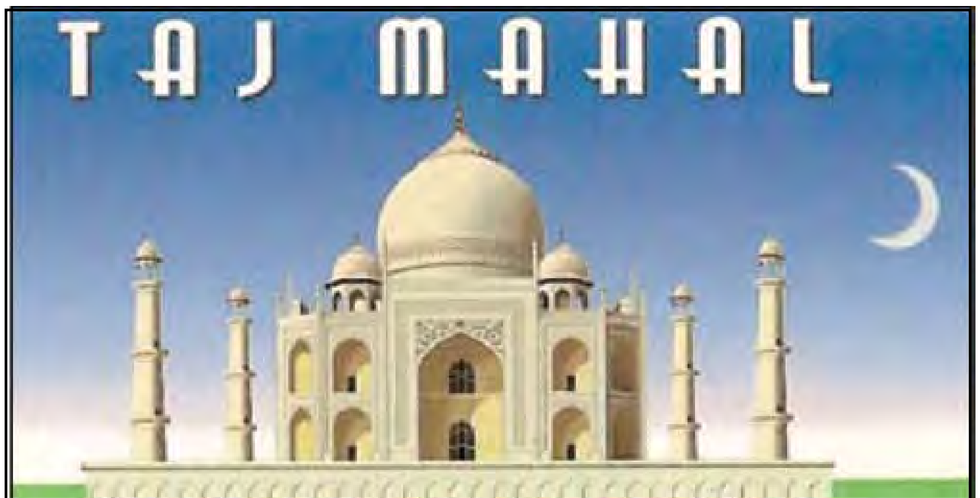

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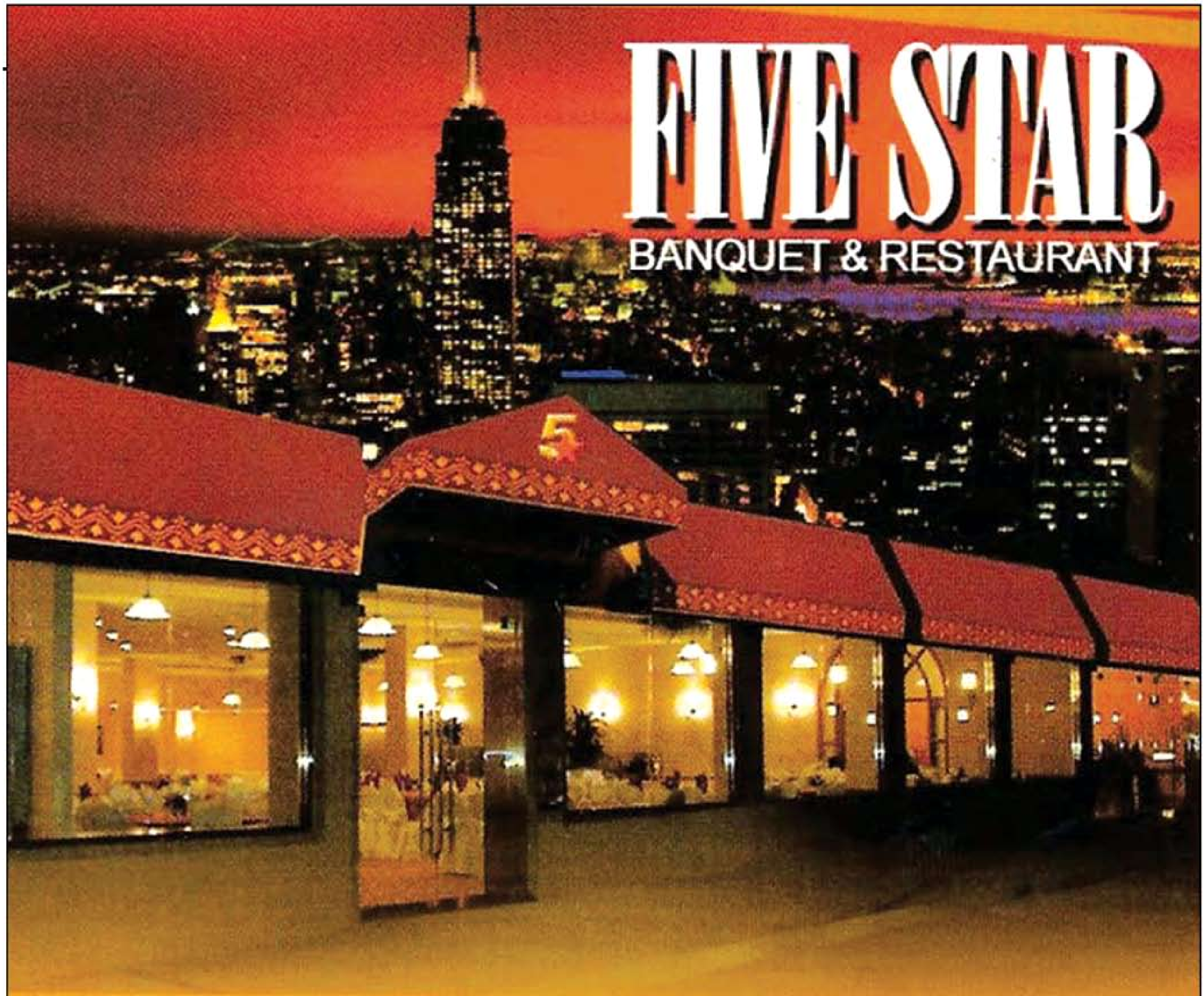

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