While most residents of Kathmandu sleep, a new sexual culture dawns through a sexual minority group that struggles to find its place in the city night after night. 

Kashish Das Shrestha

It’s a little past 11PM. Usually at this hour Thamel is be busy with tourists and locals crowding the streets, restaurants, bars and clubs. But not this year. The end of the Maoists’ unilateral ceasefire on 2 Jan., the government’s call for a week-long night curfew in the city from 16 Jan., followed by the week-long general strike called by the Maoists on 5 Feb. and their plans to attack the city in April have all convinced tourists to stay away from Kathmandu and locals to stay home more often than they would. “Even in December 2005, things weren’t so bad,” a restaurant owner tells us. But so far this year, everything seems to be high and dry.

Still, Tridevi marg–the main street that leads to Thamel–is more crowded and colorful than usual, even on a weeknight. The restaurants deeper inside Thamel, serving everything

Continued on page 4 »
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Day in Nepali history: **Mar 8, 2002**

**Proposal to amend constitution leads to differences between parties**

Differences have emerged between political parties regarding the proposed amendments to Nepal's 12-year-old constitution. Some of the proposed amendments by The Communist Party of Nepal- United Marxist Leninist include:

- The formation of a national government during national emergencies and the formation of a neutral caretaker government to oversee general elections to ensure its fairness.
- Giving the Prime Minister sweeping powers to dissolve parliament and call snap elections.
- Empowering the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority to curb official corruption, restricting the governmental size to 26 members, regular monitoring of offices of elected officials and a provision for public hearing of political appointees by a parliamentary committee.

Nepal Sadbavanya party, the fourth largest in parliament, has opposed some UML recommendations and the Congress Party has not declared an official party stand while former chief justice Pushwathanath Upadhaya charged president of the Nepali Congress Girja Prasad Koirala for by-passing the party and forging a secret agreement with UML general secretary Madav Nepal to amend the constitution.

"It has been 12 years since the multi-party system was established and the country has been functioning under this constitution. To find a way out of the present problem, one needs to review what we did and what we have failed to achieve over the years. Only then should the constitution be amended. I am not against constitutional amendment but any amendment made by keeping the Maoists outside the framework will not work," Daman Dhungana, one of the framers of the constitution, said regarding the issue.

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**March 08.2006**

**Content**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diaspora</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>चार बर्षा मुकुटको हृदयको रूपांगो</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>वर्षाको विनिमय नेपालको तलायन</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>आजको तनावको हामी</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>पूर्व प्रतिज्ञा क्षमाको निर्विवाद</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>चैत महीना प्रतिपूर्ति-पंढर</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>धार उन्नति घडी</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepali workers travel to the Gulf</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathmandu’s Metis</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>विश्वको भाषामा स्वदेशारो</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>पीनकर्ष</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights in Nepal</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>यद्यपि नेपाली आँदोलन</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006: Ready to Rock?</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>बस्तुमाउन फुटबल स्पर्धाको सार्वजनिकता</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horoscope</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**In Quotes**

"We would like to clarify that we don’t have any policy to attack any organization run by United Nations. We assure that we will treat those organizations with a friendly manner and we criticise ourselves for the mistaken deed."

- **Rajendra**, In-Charge of Mechi Bureau, CPN (Maoists), in a press statement explaining that the Maoists caused explosion at a World Food Program facility in Damak, Jhapa, on 1 March 05 was an accident. The Maoists have repeatedly called on the UN to mediate between them and the Nepali government.

"On Nepal, we agreed that the Maoists should abandon violence and that the King should reach out to the political parties to restore democratic institutions."

- **US President Bush**, on 2 March 06, talking about the stand on Nepal that Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and him shared during his recent trip to New Delhi.

"Journalists in Nepal have experienced arrests, violence and exclusion; this exploitation of the radio medium by the army and government is a further step in a campaign against a free and independent media."

- **Christopher Warren**, president of International Federation of Journalists, criticising the use of public broadcasting frequencies for army propaganda purposes at a time when authorities are trying to shut down independent radio news.

"We sent our men to disconnect the FM’s [power] line because it was disturbing us."

- **Ravi Shrestha**, District Police Chief Superintendent of Police (SP), explaining to journalists why police officers disconnected a power generator being used by Pokhara’s Annapurna FM for continued broadcast during a power outage on 7 March 05.

"This is a pre-planned attack on us."

- **Dipendra Shrestha**, Annapurna FM’s manager, after policemen disconnected the genetor they were using to continue broadcasting during a black out on 7 March 05. Last year, police officers in Kathmandu had broken into Kantipur and Sagarmatha FM’s offices and illegally seize broadcast equipments, forcing the stations to go temporarily off air.

"On the week when victims of the Myaglung fire were sent back empty handed in January 2003 because of ‘lack of budget’ a sum of Rs 130.5 million from a disaster relief budget line was transferred to another account and then sent to the palace. Rs 70.9 million from the ‘Integrated Development’ account was moved to Miscellaneous over a period of four days last month. In July 2002, Rs 20 million was transferred with unusual haste from a standard budget line to a contingency account within four days of the national budget being passed and then used to purchase of two bulletproof Jaguars."

- **Kunda Dixit**, quoting figures from sister publication Himal Khabarpatrika’s latest cover story, while discussing the state’s pillaging of national treasury in his weekly paper Nepali Times’ editorial on 3 March.

"Nothing can be certain without judging the nature of the call because there are conspiracies at work."

- **Nara Hari Acharya**, Nepali Congress leader, in a recent interview published by eKantipur.com, responding when asked if the political crisis in Nepal could end should King Gyanendra call the political parties for dialogue and form an all party government.

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New York Bureau Editor: Kashish Dai Shrestha. Correspondents and Regional Representatives: Bhaskar Rai (MN), Eta Shrestha (MN), Neeha Shrestha (NC), Sakar Bhushal (TX), Santosh Basnet (CA); Nepal Bureau Nepal Desk Editor: Dr Pradeep Bhattarai; Senior Correspondent: Anushil Shrestha (KTM); Editorial Staff: Subal Bhandari (KTM); Photo Contributor: Anup Prakash (KTM); Bhushan Shilpakar (KTM); Marketing: Jaison Chalise (KTM), Krishna Raj Sharma Belbase (KTM); Distribution: Satal Media (Western Nepal), Birat Media (Eastern Nepal); New York Corporate Office Publisher & Distributor: Moonlight Records Corporation; Executive Director: Chandra Prakash Sharma; External Relations & Marketing Manager: Gambio Sherpa. Contact Information: Phone: 718.730.3417 / 718.271.3066; General Information: info@nepaliaawaz.com; Comments/Feedback: letters@nepaliaawaz.com; Advertising: market@nepaliaawaz.com; Event listing: events@nepaliaawaz.com; Mail: Nepali Awaz 51-31 39AV CC42, Long Island City, NY 11104. Nepali Awaz: An International fortnightly is published by Moonlight Records Corporation, NY, USA. Nepali Awaz and Moonlight Records Corporation are both registered trademarks.
Lhapso puja held in New Jersey

5 March, 06. On the occasion of Loshar, the new year celebrations of the Sherpa community, the Lhapso Lhawaa Committee organized an ethnic cultural program in New Jersey. During the event, community members performed several Lhapso pujas and Shehrpu group dance. This Loshar marks the beginning of the “year of the dog.”

Deuba coming to New York

Former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba is scheduled to make a keynote presentation at the upcoming conference “Nepal – the Himalayan Hotspot. From Shangri-la To...?” being organised by The School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, NY, on 22 March. This half-day conference will focus on topics related to the problems and possible solutions to Nepal’s political crisis and economy. Other speakers at the event will include Murari Raj Sharma, former Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Nepal to the United Nations and Dinesh Tripathi, Advocate at Nepal’s Supreme Court, Tripathi Law House, Kathmandu, Nepal. The event will be will be held at Room 1501 at the School of International and Public Affairs (420 West 118th St., 15th Floor, New York, NY 10023) from 2 PM to 6:30 PM.

Sher Bahadur Deuba, who was sentenced to two years in prison in July 2005 for corruption charges by the Royal Commission for Corruption Control, was released earlier this year immediately after the Supreme Court ordered the Commission to disband in February. He was Nepal’s Prime Minister from 1995 to 1997, 2001 to 2002, and again from June 2, 2004 until February 1, 2005.

New York's Nepali indigenous group funds treatment in Nepal

When Phulman Tamang could not afford to get the required medical attention for his heart treatment, Global Federation of Indigenous People of Nepal, New York, (GFIPN) decided to help him out. In the last few weeks, members of the organization in New York were busy raising funds from various groups and organizations as well as individuals. The Tamang Society of New York also contributed a significant amount for the cause from their Lochhar celebrations. Phulman, who is scheduled to get his treatment from the Shahid Gangalal Hospital in Kathmandu, has already been given Rs. 100,000 (approx. $1,400) out of the Rs.150,000 that he required for the treatment. GFIPN hopes to be able to give the remaining Rs. 50,000 ($700) sometime this month.

Students raise funds for Dalits

26 Feb. 06. Nepali students from Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota, along with Support International, a Minnesota State University Moorhead organization, hosted the “Nepali Night: Culture, Cuisine and Silent Art Auction.” The idea behind “Nepali Night” was to provide a glimpse of Nepali culture to the Fargo-Moorhead community, and apart from performances and the auction, the event also featured sales of handicrafts and henna tattooing. Art work that were auctioned at the program were contributions of Nepalis and artists from the area, while the handicrafts were donated almost exclusively by the Nepali student community.

Fargo and Moorhead are separated only by a river and have a combined population of about 150,000 people. The goal, to collect $3000, say the organisers, was met successfully. Preparations for the event had started in September last year and apart from ticket sales, donations and sponsors, the students raised a total of $1950 from the art auction and $3400 from the Silent Art Auction.

Pashupatinath temple inaugurated in Texas

After spending months in planning and building it, members of the Shree Radha Krishna Organization and Nepalese Association of Houston in Houston, TX, finally inaugurated with pride the newly constructed Shree Pashupatinath Mandir on 26 Feb. 06. The event, held on the day of Maha Shiva Ratri, was graced by H.H Acharya Shri 108 Tahal Kishorji Maharaj. Under his guidance, Pujharhi Pravin Pandya also performed a 108 Maha Rudra Yagna and 1008 Bel Patra Abhishek.

Nepalis from across the US, UK and other parts of the world arrived in Houston for this religious function and the people involved in building it are certain this temple will continue to draw hindus during major festivals in the future too.

The Shiva linga for this temple was brought all the way from Bhaktapur. It is a replica of the original linga housed in Kathmandu’s Pashupatinath temple. The temple, built entirely by volunteers, is also the first of its kind where hindu gods Radha, Krishna and Lord Shiva co-reside in the same premise.

Loshar in Seattle

Popular comedian and Chief guest Samad Sherpa along with pop singer Bijaya Lama took part in the Loshar celebration held in Seattle by the Northwest Sherpa Association, Sherpa Kyidug. A similar celebration is also scheduled for 11 March.
कार्य वर्षमा मुलुकको ढुक्टी दुर्योग

चार राजाको प्रथम पिनाकको बारे छोटो समयमा जताभावी

"Continued from page 1"

"कार्य वर्षमा मुलुकको ढुक्टी दुर्योग"

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"Continued from page 1"

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"Continued from page 1"

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"Continued from page 1"

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"Continued from page 1"

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हत्याको विरोधमा नेपालगन्झ
तनावग्रस्त

Rameshwor Bohra

नेपालगन्झ, २५ फागुन।
अजात समूहले एक परिवारको पत्नी वा मात्रको हत्या गरेका विद्यवाचको घडी गर्ने लाग्ने नेपालगन्झको समूही व्यापारी, व्यवसायी र स्थानीय बासिस्य आन्दोलनमा उत्साहित बने, यो प्रमुख लोकसम्पन्न आफ्नै अन्त्ये नेपालगन्झको व्यापारी, व्यवसायी र स्थानीय बासिस्य आन्दोलनमा उत्साहित बने।

राहुल ग्रेमा यो हत्याको विरोधमा नेपालगन्झको समूही व्यापारी, व्यवसायी र स्थानीय बासिस्य आन्दोलनमा उत्साहित बने हुनु ।

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"अाजको पुस्तलाई हामीले को गृहायू भनेर कुरा बुझानु पर्दछ"

Anushil Shrestha

"प्रयत्न गरेका, योजना बनाउने र कार्यन्यन्त्रण जाने काम खरिएको छैन, यो दुर्भाग्य पूर्ण कुरा छ"

फोटो: Kashish D as shrestha

फोटो संस्कार: samudaya.org

Nepali Aawaz | Falgun 25 2062

Politics
नैतिकताको अनियम परेको शाही सर्कारलाई साबित गर्दैन व्यक्तिगत विवाहित ् बढी केही पिन होइन।

यसैले, राजनीतिक अनियम विवाहित ् बढी केही पिन होइन।
नेपालका लागि चैत महिना प्रसव-पीडाको महिना सावित हुने

Dr. Pradeep Bhattarai

नेपालका ब्राहमणी प्रेम एवं विद्यालय नेपालका ब्राह्मणी प्रेम एवं विद्यालय

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धान उग्नी घट्टो, किसानहरूको ओठ-मुख सुक्यो

अनुशिल श्रेष्ट्हा

• मुस्लिम वित्तका का हर्ष वहाँले तामाखाली विवाहहरू 20 तपाईंको झापा जरुर धैर्य वस्तुका भएको नभएको भएको हुँ।
• सलिनपुर ५, नेपालमा होम वहाँले नेपालले नेपालको अघि विवाहको झापा जरुर धैर्य वस्तुका भएको नभएको भएको हुँ।
• कानस बनाज, बनिमाम ६, मोरको वस्तुका धैर्यीको अघि दुई विवाह झापा जरुर धैर्य वस्तुका भएको नभएको भएको हुँ।

यो वर्ष तलब तथा सागारीय महानकाल गर्यो यहाँ मै नेपाल मुख्य विषयको अघि अकार्य बाहर २५५५ थान २५५५ थान नाम धारा उपलब्ध भएको हुँ।

मनसुली विवाहको नृत्यात गर्न यी वर्ष विवाहको उपलब्ध विवाहको वित्तका मात्रको अघि तीर्थ विशेष विशेष विवाहको उपलब्ध २५५५ थात।

यो वर्ष मनसुली पाउने तपाईं चेन्द्रीलाई ध्यान उक्त आफ्नो घरटूकी तरिकाको अघि वस्तु क्रममा उत्तर दिनेछ।

�ारा बाट नगरी धारा महानकालका यहाँ हाम्रो धारा पुस्तक धारा महानकालका यहाँ मै नेपाल मुख्य विषयको अघि अकार्य बाहर २५५५ थान।

नेपाली आवाज फालूङ काॅन्ट्रक्ट तपाईंको अघि यहाँ मै नेपाल मुख्य विषयको अघि अकार्य बाहर २५५५ थान।

उपलब्ध घट्टो, भार बढ्दो मोरको, अस्तर जब्त, तुल्लियुल नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापाको नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य झापा धारा मुख्य नृत्य
**Nepali workers travel to the Gulf**

**Kashish Das Shrestha**

Remittance from hundreds of thousands of Nepalis working in the Gulf region is one of the key contributors to keeping Nepal’s struggling economy afloat.

In the Gulf region, where more than 400,000 Nepalis work daily, a Nepali earns an average of Rs. 1,20,000 per year ($1,690). Through the years, these workers have become one of the biggest contributors to Nepal’s economy. The trend generally shows that most of them use their first year’s earning to pay back the loans they take to come and work in the Gulf region. Then, in the second year, they send home their earnings.

In this photo feature, we capture several groups of Nepalis traveling to the Gulf for work with representatives of their respective manpower agencies.

bahrain's strong ever-growing economy creates several job opportunities for nepalis

by 2005 the amount had leaped to a staggering average of Rs. 48 Billion per year (approx. $676 million) in remittances from Nepal working the Gulf region alone. It is estimated that the total value of remittances from Nepal working abroad, the Gulf region and other parts of the world, is as high as Rs. 100 billion (approx. $1.5 billion).

By early 2000s, the profile of Nepalis working in the Gulf had started to grow. Although it remained predominantly basic laborers, young educated Nepal also found jobs there as qualified professionals.

In this photo feature, we capture several groups of Nepalis traveling to the Gulf for work with representatives of their respective manpower agencies. The age group ranged from adolescents to middle aged men.
By 6:30 AM, Nepali migrant workers queue up at the Gulf Air counters at Tribhuvan International Airport, Nepal; and later to board the plane.

Nepali migrant workers peak curiously out the windows of the airplane in flight; eager to leave the plane once it’s landed.
Society

Sexual Revolution: Kathmandu’s Metis

« Continued from page 1

Kashish Das Shrestha

Standing up; the Blue Diamond Society:

It was after Blue Diamond Society was formed in 2001 that metis became more visible on the streets of Kathmandu, particularly after sunset. And news related to this minority group became more visible in the media. Police brutality against members of this community made it to news headline more frequently, and eventually a meeting between police authorities and metis in 2003 led to the Inspector General of Police issuing a letter showing concern at the level of violence against the minority group.

Violence against metis at the hands of police officers, however, continued. In 2004, during a legal case regarding homosexual activities in Nepal, it was declared through the Supreme Court that “there is no legal provision to ban or punish homosexual activity,” in Nepal.

Dancing on the streets:

In the late 90s through early 2000s, areas like Ratna Park and Kantipath were regular hotspots for prostitution. Metis too had started offering sexual services for a fee. For much of 2003 and 2004, metis hung around in the shadows of the over-head bridge near Rani Pokhari and Woodland hotel in Jamal and quieter alleys of the adjacent neighborhood Jyatha. They entertained clients in Club Dynasty and fooled around with curious and lonely police officers and taxi drivers in the darker corners of the streets. But when a police van rolled by, they ran away uncomfortably in their high heels and tight mini skirts and dresses. During the day, many of them worked in sexual health awareness campaigns through BDS.

Queens of the night:

It has almost been a year now that most of the metis that were out and about in Jamal have moved a few blocks up to Tridevimargh. “The police gave us too much trouble there [Jamal],” says Rani. A regular at this night scene, she is tall by Nepali standards, bold and loud and talks with a slight accent. Her traditionally large gold necklace competes with the foundation make up on her face for attention. “I am actually from Sikkim but I have been dancing in India since I was 14,” she adds. “There, all this is very normal you know.”

Earlier in the evening a drunk middle aged man had approached Rani and offered to take her to Nagarkot, a near by hill top famous for watching the sunrise. “I’ll never go with the likes of you,” Rani responded with a foul expression. “Do you even have any money? Okay, give me 5 lakhs and I’ll go with you,” she had demanded mockingly.

“Hey, you think I don’t have money? Here, take, I’ll give you 1 lakh right now,” the man had said fingering through his wallet and growing aggressive.

“I don’t need money from the likes of you, do you know who I am?” Rani had replied aggressively. Gauri had stepped in between to calm them both. She had gently asked the man to leave.
while promptly snapping at Rani to simmer down. A younger man had then come rushing towards the scene and said “sir, let’s go,” before ushering the drunk man into a car across the street.

“Oh, this is normal for us,” Rani explains smiling. “Sometimes we get worse, these drunk idiots who don’t know what they’re doing. And the juveniles. I just can’t stand them,” she grumbles, restlessly looking around.

A Man’s world:

No body is keeping count, but if anyone had, then the number of men who have had sexual experiences with a meti in the last few years in Kathmandu would amount to a staggering figure by now. “Married, working, fathers, rich, poor, they all come,” Rani explains. “They are not gays you know, but they want to try it,” she continues. “But sometimes they are gays but haven’t told their families or are already married and have become fathers.”

One only has to spend 5 minutes sipping tea by the road here to see how it all goes down. Metis get picked up in everything from luxury sedans and jeeps to motorcycles and taxis by single passengers to groups of men. They also get teased and harassed by men walking on streets or sometimes cocky guys driving by in a car who pretend to want to pick them up. In one part of the dark street lit mostly by headlights other. A bunch of them will just sit by the road and watch people go by while a few grumble about something or the other. A bunch of them will just sit by the road and watch people go by while many will tease back guys and flirt with taxi drivers on night shifts.

Rani and her friends later reveal that a vast majority of their clients are police officers and soldiers. “They are the ones who use the most and they are ones who harass us the most also,” she complains. “But in Thamel, the police haven’t harassed us as much.” Still, when a police van drives by, everyone instinctively gets a bit panicicky.

Working class and the job hazard:

Like “you are a journalist, we are this,” Rani says. Like most members of BDS, she and her friends too work to raise awareness about sexual health during the day, but at night they are full time prostitutes. “We need love and we need money,” she says. “But we are also under a lot of risk,” Rani tells us.

On many occasions, metis have been “hired” by fake clients who take them to isolated parts of the city and rob or rape them, or do both. “We don’t usually take groups because it’s not safe. But if its someone we think is nice, then we take them to our room and show them good hospitality,” Rani explains.

“And we always take the money before we perform any sexual acts. Or else they might leave without giving us money.”

Rani and her friends usually charge Rs.1000 (approx. $14 per night) but as Rani says, “if they give us Rs.1500, then we could spend Rs.500 or more in just pampering them with food and drinks. We never ask them to leave, they are welcome to stay the whole night and go to work from our room if they wish to.”

The woman within:

Rani didn’t just wake up one day and thought it would be real pretty to dress up as a woman for the rest of her life. Nor did any of her friends. But all of them did, from a very young age, feel an attraction towards men and eventually realised that they are more comfortable dressing up, walking, talking like women.

“I was a teenage girl talking confessing about her first high school boyfriend, the women talk about their lifestyle and how thier parents found out about it. “People in my village didn’t know for a long time, but they do know now,” Gauri tell us with a sense of childish embarrassment because it took such a long time to declare this to her family and friends even though she is a full grown adult. “My parents didn’t know about me till last week but my brother had come to Kathmandu and he found photos of me and took it home and showed my parents,” Bimala declares, laughingly nervously. “So now they know and that’s a relief though.”

Sexual revolution:

At no time in Nepal’s history have men had homosexual experiences in the large scale as they do today, or have in the last three years in Kathmandu. The fact that metis are regularly picked up every night is a clear indication of the fact. Though homosexuality is not new in Nepal the level of openness about it in our society and culture today is unforeseen. Many are disgusted by it, others find it no more different than a circus. Some complain that it shouldn’t be happening in public. And some complain about their “fishing” policy, a policy that basically conspiris to lure men into their community. Others think its just plain wrong while the rest are indifferent. At a time when most fundamental rights of expression have been banned by the government, it is ironic that one about sexuality is growing from a predominantly lower class group. Homosexuality is natural and how one choses to dress up is their personal choice. Because its unmonitored prostitution, generally there would be huge health risk factors involved. But metis are well aware of sexual health and practice only safe sex. So there really is no “bottom line” on this phenomenon. One has to realise and remember that this is not the final stage of meti or homosexual culture in Nepal and nor is it the first. It is, if anything, an undeclared and a-political social revolution that in its own way seeks equal rights and end to discrimination in a country now struggling to fighting for democracy.

The difference; meti and gay:

Homosexuality has never been so visible in Kathmandu, and its ripples have helped many come out of the closet in other parts of the country as well. But so far, it is the metis who have been the most visible and not the gay men. The difference is simple; all metis are gays, but all gays are not meti. While being a meti means having homosexual orientation and a woman’s appearance, being a gay would only imply to one’s homosexual orientation. Another key difference is that the metis publicly declare they like “fish,” i.e lure straight men. The gay community is not known for this. While neither are openly accepted by the society, metis seem to be predominantly of lower social and economical class and outside of Kathmandu, they are seen in towns like Butwal and Dharan. The gay men of Kathmandu’s elite and upper class demography refrain from cross dressing, at least in public. Most gay men still marry women out of social pressure, or fail to identify themselves as being gay for a long time because the idea that being gay is normal is never discussed or is frowned upon when talked about. And because for many in Kathmandu the metis on the streets are their first experience of being in the presence of homosexuals, they might mistake being gay with being a meti.

In a society talking about sexual health is still a taboo even in middle and upper class families in Kathmandu, the idea of discussing the difference between a meti and a gay is, at the very least, distant.

Homosexuality and the pop culture:

So far, homosexuality and the metis in particular have remained nothing more than news items and features in the mainstream Nepali media. There is no denying that these news reports have helped people at least acknowledge of this minority group but unlike neighboring India, the subject has also never been featured or perhaps never even addressed in popular culture. This is probably so because no body quite knows how to present the subject, for example, in a feature film. It was a breakthrough in 2005 when a music video for the rock song “Hidney Manchey Ladcha,” by the band Shadows featured a meti as one of the protagonists. The character lip synched on the chorus line ‘hidney manchey ladcha’ while cornered against a wall. The video was directed by Pooja Gurung and the song was about how those who attempt to walk will not succeed before falling a few times. The song gained popularity and the video received regular airplay on music shows in Nepal’s TV channels.
विदेशको कमाई स्वदेशमा: बन्दुक पढी यस्यास

Anushil Shrestha

दुई वर्ष अघि मात्र ब्रिटिश सेनालाई रिहाइ क्षमा भएका दमको टिकाराम पिकाधिको मर्ममा तहिले दिरक, बुनाई जान पाउने असामिल भए। उनलाई ब्रिटिश नेपालमा रहेको फक्त पढी अन सामाजिक बिशिष्ट जनको तिर निर्देश दिद जान उनलाई मन लम्बन। अहिले देशमा केही गर्न पडुँ त्यस टिकारामलाई यस्यासमा तर निर्देश नमा हाल। निर्देश अउँछन भनने र दिद अपनी भाषा भएको निर्देश भएको हो।

भाषालाई समस्या भएको नाइ माथि भएर पढी उदाहरण गरेर पढी मान्य जनको जर्मी भएर पर्न सर्दी भएको निर्देश भएको हो। अहिलाई निर्देश दिद र निर्देश भएको हो।

दहाको विदेशको कमाई स्वदेशमा बन्दुक पढी यस्यास

विदेशको कमाई स्वदेशमा बन्दुक पढी यस्यासलाई छाइडै टिकारामको वकाल लक्षण नेपालमा सहन भएको सैनिक भएको हो। दहाको विदेशको कमाई स्वदेशमा बन्दुक पढी यस्यासलाई छाइडै टिकारामको वकाल लक्षण नेपालमा सहन भएको सैनिक भएको हो।

नभुपुर्शे विदेशको कमाई स्वदेशमा बन्दुक पढी यस्यासलाई छाइडै टिकारामको वकाल लक्षण नेपालमा सहन भएको सैनिक भएको हो।
Retired Gurkha officers invest in business opportunities at home in Eastern Nepal

Nepali Aawaz | Falgun 25.2062
Human Rights in Nepal and the Role of International Community

Dinesh Tripathi

Talk programs was organized on “human rights situation in Nepal and role of international community” in Baltimore, USA By International Student Association. Advocate Dinesh Tripathi was invited as a guest speaker to speak on occasion. He delivered his talk on well-attended meeting. He spoke on occasion—There is growing human rights and humanitarian crisis in Nepal. Human rights situation is getting bad to worse. Rule of law is totally non-existent in Nepal. There is total non-compliances of rule International human rights law and international humanitarian law in Nepal. In our brief exercise of parliamentary history of we ratified all the major international human rights instruments but now those norms are fully disregarded and disrespected by state institution. King has left no stone unturned to perpetuate his direct, personal and military backed rule. King made a systematic attack on constitution. He nakedly violated the very spirit and letter of constitution and fully acted against the vision and command of constitution. He declared himself a chairman of the council of minister and assumes or grab executive power. It is an attack on the very heart and soul of constitution. Systematic attack is also going on against media. Right to protest and dissent is fully denied which is the hallmark of any democratic society. There was a midnight attack on FM radios. In Nepal FM radios are the cheapest and quickest source of information in illiterate and rural society. Large number of journalist is facing harassments and detention from state institution and security force. Recently black ordinance was introduced to curb media freedom, ordinance which supercede the constitution. Although constitution was not formally withdrawn but series of executive order and ordinance were issued to undermine and supercede the constitution. Freedom of assembly is prohibited. Political parties are not allowing to carryout their legitimate activitiesguaranteedunderconstitution and international human rights law. Security forces are working with full impunity. They are allowing to arrest and kill people. Nepal is the country of largest number of disappearance. Death, disappearance and torture have become routine life of the country. State agencies are exercising enormous power virtually with no accountability. There is total breakdown of rule of law in Nepal. Although Maoist is also not worked as a responsible political force and they have also committed a lot of atrocities and crime against people and violating the international humanitarian law. But they had shown some flexibility and declared ceasefire. It was a positive step from their side and started to recognize changing needs of time. But king and his army did not reciprocate the declaration. The behavior and attitude of the king shows that king want to empower the army rather than people and he does not want negotiated settlement and now it has also become clear that peace is not his real agenda. His real and hidden agenda is only to perpetuate and consolidate his autocratic power base. King is the biggest roadblock for peace and democracy. Now it has become crystal clear that king and democracy cannot go together. There is no meeting ground between king’s military roadmap and democratic aspiration of Nepali people.

There is strong need to intensify peoples movement in Nepal. There is no alternative of mass movement. But strong international support is also the need of hour. This is the era of global wave of human rights and democracy. Human rights and democracy is no longer the matter of domestic issue. Under the present and changing notion of international law human rights has no border and it is trans-border and trans-national issue. It is the universal aspiration of people not only privileged or rich and industrialized countries but each country and each people. Nepal’s human rights crisis is in urgent label. International community must address it urgently and effectively. Only soft and cosmetic approach is not going to solve the problem. Nepal needs effective international action. Democratic world should cut off all kind of engagement with royal military regime of Nepal. Aid should not be given to the military regime because it has no legitimacy and accountability. So democratic world should work with people and community rather than government. So all the aid should channel through NGO rather than government in Nepal. People are themselves able in Nepal to take care of things. Likewise targeted sanction should be done against Royal military government and it’s officials. International criminal court must be allowed to take jurisdiction in Nepal. Since war crime and crime against humanity is taking place in Nepal and national judicial system is fail to address growing culture of impunity in Nepal. In addition to that authority of national judicial institutions is seriously undermined in Nepal because government in Nepal largely violates order of the court. There must be a zero tolerance for crime against humanity and torture. Torture, killing and rape should not be tolerated and allowed in any circumstances. So in order to end impunity and make the perpetrator accountable for their action international criminal court must be allowed to conduct trial. International civil society should also come forward and also play a positive role to restore human rights, peace and democracy in Nepal. In this era of global civil society reach and influence of civil society is enormous. International media can also play a positive role. But there is very little media attention is shown toward Nepal. As an individual everybody in this room can make a difference you can write a letter to your senator and congressman and urge them to speak strongly about Nepal. Since US is one of the oldest democracy in the world so I hope your representative would be bound to listen you and they respond and respect your feeling. Likewise you can also write a letter to the editor in the local media and you can draw the attention.

President of International Student Association Mary Poulin introduce the guest speaker and express full support and solidarity for democratic and human rights struggle of Nepal. Vice president of organization Olena Vashchenko presented a slide show about Nepal on the occasion.
नेपाल आवाज | मार्च 08, 2006

इन्टरटेन्शनल

Dr. Pradeep Bhattarai

नयाक लेखींसँग आइ लीको मध्यमाः क्यालाई नयाक लेफी, म्युनिख हेर्नौ हेर्नौ

एकट्ट लाम्बी समगर लाई मात्र। नयाक लेफी २००२ मा उनका चुचनक खक्की दुर्घटना हुन्। दुर्घटना संगैतिक आँक्नका पाइदा खान तथा स्थानकुटिल रवितार्क बन्ने तथा उनको हक्का स्थानकुटिल विधानसभा स्वरूप तर्क दिइन। समाप्त झै र एउटा पत्रपत्रकारी सहायताले उनको हक्का अन्तर्गत नयाकलाई खान। अह तीही नयाकलाई २००२ मा दोरतै पूरा अन्तर्गत दुर्घटना पनि उनी समाजमा राहू भन्ने मंथले जस्तै,नयाकलाई खान। नयाकलाई खान हाँ, ती प्रमाणमा प्राप्त भएको है।

अन्तर्गत अभाई पाइन पनि चाँच, नयालाई खान-चाँच-यांँह नै यसलाई खामा विशेषण हो। समाप्त झै र एउटा भविष्यको पाइमा दुर्घटना राख्नु हेतो। अभाईको नयाकलाई खान उनी यसलाई प्राप्त भएको है।

ीयोगधर्मी चिन्तामणि चालन्द र प्रेमी तथा तथा श्रद्धा संस्कारका पाइमा दुर्घटना राख्नु हेतो। आफ्नो खान नयाकलाई खान जुन उनी यसलाई प्राप्त भएको है।

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2006: Ready to rock?

Kashish Das Shrestha

After an overwhelming series of pop, remix and rap hits during the last 3 years, 2006 looks promising for the reemergence of rock music in Nepal.

The race for the catchiest song, the sleakest music video packaging and the hippest hip-hopper has been just mad during the last three years of Nepali pop music. Sure, that era did help some fine young talents of various genres emerge. And some rock bands and songs gained prominence too. However, one can't help but find it a bit surreal (and very disappointing) when the most popular song in the country is a hashed up mediocre remix track, one of the biggest bands of the last two years is a boy groups that fits the image of established as well as emerging, re-ensambled as well as long forgotten rock bands will be releasing their albums this year.

Nepal's rock giants Robin And The New Revolution and 1974AD are already busy working on their upcoming albums, both due out before the summer. “This is going to be something very different because it has been done differently, all the members have put it something in each song, the moods are different” Nirakar, 74AD’s bassist, told us. “Its going to be a fun album to listen to, the lyrics and the music is just all over the place. It certainly has been fun making it.” Fans did get a taste of the new album at this year’s Hits FM Music Awards held in February where 74AD performed one of their new singles.

Robin, previously with Robin N Looza, is also working on a new album with The New Revolution. Their first album, Keta/Keti, as Robin and The New Revolution was released in 2004 and did well on the charts as well as sales. This will be his second full length album with the New Revolution. “You can’t not talk about the situation of the country,” Robin told us while talking about some of the songs in the upcoming album. “One of the singles is all about the violence of the last few years that has left more that 12,000 Nepalis dead.”

Robin has a reputation for casually, but consciously, touching politics during live shows as well as in his song-writing.

Along with 74AD and Robin, several other rock bands are also reportedly working on new albums or have recently released one. Nepathya’s latest, “Ghatana,” featuring a 20-something-minutes long song is also one of the more interesting rock albums to come out in a long time and is downright socio-political. Exit, who already won an award for Best Song in Foreign Language at 2005’s Hits FM Music Awards, are also said to be nearing the completion of their highly anticipated debut album. Lochan Rizal and Looza are also working on an album and the band hopes to have to ready sometime this year. The sound should be interesting as Lochan is an Ethnomusiology student with a rock edge and Looza has its roots in blues-rock, though they were fusing it with some electronica in 2004/5. The Swarg Project, an alternative rock duo, will be releasing their debut album “Silanyas” while the band Catch 22 (yes, they’re still around) will be making a come back with a full length album titled Plan B sometime this year. And this list is just preliminary, more bands are expected to be riding the “new album” bandwagon this year.

At the same time the underground hard rock/ metal scene, largely driven by the portal ktmracks.com, has been staggering along for a couple of years now, creating small uproars in the city at steady intervals with their concerts that draws an average of 300 people per show. But it is with a heavy heart we announce to you the punk scene that was once thriving (well, it its own niche way) is now hanging on its last breath with only a band or two still keeping at it. It’s last big scream came from Inside 2 Stoopid Traingles. They released a full length album titled “Insert Album Title Here” in 2005 and one of its singles, “Jackie Chan,” managed to steal a nomination at this year’s Hits FM Music Awards for the Best Song In Foreign Language.

Its also not just the rock acts putting out this year. A trend of pop artists using rock musicians to produce/ arrange their songs is fast picking up in the industry. This, inevitably, gives the pop artists an edgier sound with a lot of rock music elements. 2004’s pop sensation Sudip Giri’s latest album “Frenz” is a fine example where guitar prodigies Hari (Napathya) and Iman Shah (Exit) have helped out with the sound. 1974AD’s lead guitarist Manoj K.C has also been keeping busy arranging music for many emerging as well as established pop singers. He was responsible for all the music on pop singer Sabin Rai’s latest album Sataha-2 (2005), of which the punchy rock track Timro Saath was the first single and video.

The arrival of rock albums also means concerts to support them, then possible at least. Political unrest in the country has made it difficult to plan major concerts and tours in Nepal for several years now, unless it coincides with traditional holidays. In any case, concerts aside, 2006 might just bring the change that thousands of music enthusiasts been aching for in Nepal’s mainstream music scene. And from the looks of it the change will be heavy, like a rock.
Football Club defeats Morang-11 in the tournament’s highest scoring game, Dharan Football Club proceeded to the semi finals after brutally defeating the Tharmal Sporting Club. Dharan’s Captain Milan Shrestha scored 4 goals while his team mate Shekhar Limbu scored 2 and Sagar Ghimire and Rishi Rai both scored a goal each. Final score: 8-0.

Round up: Winners of the televised singing contests Nepali Tara and Nepal Star open the tournament with a performance. Organising team Dharan Football Club defeats Morang-11 in the opening game. Final score: 1-0

Indian Eastern Railway Kolkata defeated Dharan Academy U17 after the Academy’s Heman Gurung shot a suicide goal. Final score: 2-0

Jawlakel Youth Club defeats Sahara Club Pokhara and proceeds to the quarter finals. Dipesh Thapa scored the goal for the Youth Club. Final score: 1-0

ANFA U17 team defeats Namche Club in the 4th game. Bharat Khawash scored two goals for the ANFA team. Final score: 2-0

In the first games of the quarter finals, Night Chess Club defeated Eastern Railway. Chess Club’s Bikash Subba and Sunil Subedi scored a goal each. Final score: 8-0.

Jawalakhel Youth Club defeats Eastern Railway. Chess Club’s Bikash Subba and Sunil Subedi scored a goal each. Final score: 2-0

Subba and Sunil Subedi scored a goal each in the quarter final. Final score: 2-0

Dharan Football Club proceeds to the semi finals after brutally defeating the Tharmal Sporting Club. Dharan’s Captain Milan Shrestha scored 4 goals while his team mate Shekhar Limbu scored 2 and Sagar Ghimire and Rishi Rai both scored a goal each. Final score: 8-0.
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