Nepal wins the Asian Cricket Council U-19 Cup

The year 2001 marked cornerstone in the history of Nepali cricket scene. Sri Lankan coach Roy Dias stepped in to replace Pakistani Aftaab Balooch. And just after three months of his coachmanship, the helped Nepal win the first ever international tournament of such stature, the Youth Asia Cup.

The mentor of the player-boys has helped Nepal add several silverwares to its trophy gallery. And was added another glory to Nepal's international arena: the fifth ACC (Asian Cricket Council) U-19 Cup. Page 19

KCM's 3rd Annual Cultural Week

Kathmandu College of Management's (KCM) third annual Cultural Week started on 17 Nov. While part of the proceeds were donated to the underprivileged orphans of the Nepal Children Association (Bal Mandir), part of it went to the KCM student scholarship programme fund. "It's been an amazing experience," gushes Tanushree Vaidya, student volunteer from KCM. "We're learning a lot about managing events and programs." Page 19

Nepal Telecom's leaves Mobile users frustrated

Nepal Telecom (NT), Nepal's largest land line and mobile phone service provider, has consistently failed to fix the network problems in its mobile service, leaving users frustrated and angry. The only assurance from NT so far has been their word to "fix" the problem in a few days for weeks now! Page 5
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Letters

Dear Nepali Aawaz,

It was shocking to see images of the crown prince at the X-Treme Rock Show 2062. Sure, everyone gets to take time off and enjoy themselves, but when the country is falling apart, shouldn’t the crown prince have something better to do than ruin a concert experience for the audience and the artists by maintaining an empty football field? Isn’t it high time that the royalty think for the people and not just what suits them best? Rock on, indeed.

Suraj, California.

Hi,

I was just so excited to read about all the music festivals happening in Kathmandu. Sure, not all of them seem to be organised for the best reasons, but Jazzmandu definitely sounds great. Thanks for keeping us posted.

Bijaya Karki, London.

Sujata Sharma, Canada.

Hi Nepali Aawaz,

It was as interesting as shocking to read Weekends In The Lives of Nepali Students. I couldn’t have imagined what Nepali students do during those precious hours between Friday afternoon and Sunday night. Not that it was something I’d randomly think about, but once collected and published, it sure made for an interesting read.

Jyoti Basnet, Kathmandu.

Hello,

I really liked the lifestyle and entertainment sections, but how about more politics?

Raj.

Special Report: Maoist activity in Eastern and Western Nepal during the last few months • 10

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हडकडको भीमा रोकले महिला कामदा मारमा

यदेशमा रोजगारीका अवकाश दिए महिलाको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवसर बनेको दिनभए हडकडक। तर, बिगत केरी महोदयहरू हडकड अडाल्मगर बिवाहले दिना कारण भीमा रोकेको थियो। तर, भीमा भने बने न तर सरकार चाहो लिन न तर व्यक्तिगत नै। सबैमा मार महिलालाई।

कम्युनिस्ट पक्रमका लागि, पृथ्वीको विश्वास रहेको शब्द ज्ञानमा रोजगारको अवलोकन गर्ने लागियो भने महिलाले महिला।

नेपाली कम्युनि स्टार्ट टर्मिनल क्षेत्रबाट उत्पादन गर्ने लागियो भने महिलाले दुरुस्त निर्मिती र व्यापारी बीमा गर्ने लागियो भने महिलाले दुरुस्त निर्मिती र व्यापारी बीमा गर्ने लागियो भने महिलाले दुरुस्त निर्मिती र व्यापारी बीमा गर्ने लागियो।

लाई देखिने हडकडका नामले उद्धारण गर्ने लागियो भने महिलाले महिला।

रोजगारका अवकाश र रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारको अवसर रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित रोजगारीको अवकाश रोजगारको सुरक्षित ।
Nepal Telecom's leaves Mobile users frustrated

Nepal Telecom (NT), Nepal's largest land line and mobile phone service provider, has consistently failed to fix the network problems in its mobile service, leaving users frustrated and angry. The only assurance from NT so far has been their word to “fix” the problem in a few weeks for now!

The company had recently posted a public notice in the state run Rising Nepal saying it would be upgrading its second generation (2G) GSM network to 2.5G (GPRS) General Packet Radio Service and also replacing all 92 base transceiver stations (BTSs) in various parts of Kathmandu valley with new ones.

Pre-paid mobile phone services were shut down for 6 months after 1 Feb. 05. Ever since the service resumed, users have had a miserable time trying to use their mobile phones. What makes it even worse is the fact that engineers at Nepal Telecom don't know what the problem is. "We are not really sure what the problem is, so that makes fixing it a little more difficult," said one of the engineers to Nepali Aawaz after requesting anonymity.

Cell phone users in Nepal have consistently faced unusual problems. Messages like “Mobile switched off” and “Mobile out of reach” seem to randomly respond when calling cell phones. "I can see who the caller is, but when I answer it, the caller can't hear me. It's pathetic," says Raman Adhikari, a frustrated mobile user.

Since the service started a few years ago, NT has distributed about 60,000 post-paid and about 200,000 pre-paid SIM cards. It earns about 2 billion rupees in revenue from mobile phone services annually. The rise in the number of mobile subscriber has also worsened the problem with NT's technology unable to cope with the traffic. When it cannot handle network glitches with only 250,000 subscribers, one cannot imagine what the service will be like once they sell one million mobile subscriptions like they have planned to soon after installing the 2.5GPRS.

Nepali Students Top Performers at CUNY

New York. As the fall semester was just starting in colleges across the US, three Nepali students studying at City University of New York, a board of community colleges spread through the five boroughs of New York, were recognised for their academics excellence. Mahendra Nagar's Matrica Joshi, a student of Computer Science who scored 3.97 GPA, Kathmandu's Sachin Shrestha, a Computer Networking student who scored 3.95 GPA, and Banepa's Shanti Om Bade, a student of Accounting who scored 3.86 GPA, were the three students honored by the college board. "I am pleased to have the opportunity to congratulate these outstanding professionals," said Paul Sharam, CUNY's interim executive director.

Nepali students across the US and in many parts of the world have excelled in their college courses and earned similar commendations. Many have also gone on to become successful professionals in their fields. There is a significant Nepali community in New York, and while a majority of them are working, many of them are also students in schools and colleges here.
Major Political Development in Nepal; King Gyanendra on leave

Kathmandu. In the biggest political development in Nepal since King Gyanendra's take over on 1 Feb. 05, Nepal's most influential political parties and the Maoists have reached a 12-point agreement “to restore democracy in Nepal.”

The U.S Embassy in Nepal had initially warned the seven party alliance about their plans to work with the armed Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), but last week American Ambassador James F Moriarty headed to New Delhi, India, where the seven party political parties had been holding meetings with Maoist supremos Dr. Pushpa Kamal Dhakal, alias Prachanda, and Dr. Bauram Bhattarai, alias, Lal Dhoj. Now, while the King is on a trip to Jhansinbesg for two weeks, the Seven Party alliance and the Maoists have formed a coalition “for democracy,” a first since the armed movement started in 1996. In Kathmandu, Ambassador Moriarty denied meeting the party and Maoist leaders in Delhi, calling it a “coincidence,” that they were in the city at the same time. But the US has been critical of the King ever since he dissolved the Parliament, reinstating the Monarchy as the ruler of Nepal and essentially suspending democracy. “The United States, which supports the restoration of democracy in Nepal and the prevention of a Maoist takeover, believes the best way to reach these goals is through unity of Nepal's legitimate political forces - the political parties and the monarchy. We urge both to re-establish an effective working relationship to lead Nepal out of its current crisis, and to work toward a democratic and peaceful future for the country and its people. We hope that the Maoists will enter into peace negotiations with the government in good faith, abandon their weapons, and come into the political mainstream. Until these steps are taken, the Maoists cannot be treated as a legitimate political party,” said a press statement released by the U.S Embassy in Nepal last week.

In a press release released over the weekend, the Maoist Chairman Prachanda said that they have reached a 12-point agreement with the mainstream political parties during various phases of talks. The Maoists have accepted to limit themselves to “competitive multiparty democracy” adhering to liberty, human rights, and the rule of law. Both the sides have committed to evaluate their past mistakes and pledged to not repeat them. The agreement paper also says that, in order for a free and fair election, the Maoists and the parties have reached an understanding to keep the Maoists' armed forces and the Royal Nepalese Army under UN or other trustworthy international supervision during the constituent assembly election. The Maoists have committed to allow leaders and cadres of other political parties and commoners, who were displaced during the armed struggle, to return home. The alliance and the Maoists have decided to boycott the upcoming municipal polls and also decided to work jointly to make the elections unsuccessful. Both the parties have appealed the national and international communities to help in their movement for the restoration of total democracy in Nepal. In the statement, they have called on civil society, professional organisations, sister organisations of the political parties, intellectuals and all the Nepali citizens to make the movement for a democratic Nepal a success. The agreement paper indicates that the Maoist rebels, whose armed struggle has cost over 12,000 lives since 1996, have discarded their earlier agenda of establishing a “Communist Republic of Nepal.”

The parties and the Maoists in their separate statements, have, however, not mentioned when and where they reached agreement. The signatories include: Nepali Congress President Girija Prasad Koirala, CPN-UML General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal, acting president of the Nepali Congress- Democratic, Gopal Man Shrestha, and Janamorcha Nepal's president Amik Serchan, vice-president of Nepal Sadbhawana Party (Anandidevi), Bharat Birnai Yadav, Nepal Majdoor Kishan Party's member Prem Suwal, and Samyukta Bam Morcha's Krishna Das Shrestha.

The statement however does not state if the movement is planned to dethrone King Gyanendra, an agenda that has picked up steam amongst student unions and civil societies in the last few months. Nepali Congress (NC) president Girija Prasad Koirala has denied that the alliance has entered into a working unity with the rebels. He said, “What we have entered into is an understanding, not a working alliance. It will pave way for both the parties to move ahead.” However, CPN-UML general secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal called it a breakthrough, saying, “this is a significant achievement for achieving peace which even the king has failed to do.” He insisted that the Maoists have pledged to join the mainstream. Shedding light on how the alliance and the rebels expect to take the nation out of autocracy and regression, Nepal said, “The King must now withdraw all regressive steps undertaken in the past. Election to constituent assembly is the only way out.”

There has been no official reaction from the government of Nepal, formed by the King after 1 Feb.
12-Point Understanding between the Parties and Maoists

Government officials react:

This alliance is "unnatural." The government is very seriously studying the agreement between the parties and Maoists and the opposition alliance and will shortly formulate its stance on the development. If that alliance turned into an aggressive, selfish interest or an unnatural alliance, it will be unfortunate for the country. This (understanding) has been reached at the instance of various parties. The royal government will not be an obstacle towards any efforts aimed at restoring peace in the country. Peace can't be restored in the country through the defeat of the foreigners. The country must move forward as per the roadmap charted by the country's constitution. "If the (major) parties—who drafted this constitution—decide to discard it, what can be done?" - Minister for Information and Communication Tankha Dhakal

The agreement is an "unholy alliance" to disintegrate the country. It is also an attempt to hoodwink the people to join their agitation. The understanding was reached in "haste" without consulting other 130 political parties and the government. The King would have no problem to go for Constituent Assembly election if "all political parties" demanded so. The government may take legal action against the seven-party alliance leaders once it establishes evidence that they were hob-nobbing with the Maoists.

- Saumili Shumshere Rana, Member of Raj Parishad Standing Committee

Political figures react:

The agreement between the parties and the Maoists was a "triumph for democracy." The commitment to multi-party democracy shown by the Maoists is very optimistic.

- Senior political analyst Prof. Lok Raj Baral

The agreement between the parties and the Maoists could be a turning point in resolving the conflict. It is a positive breakthrough and the road is now open for ending the ongoing political impasse. Much will depend on how the state responds....Since Maoists have pledged their support to democracy, the country will face dire consequences if they continue their armed struggle for the same cause.

- Political analyst Krishna Khanal

The Maoists, who have been fighting for a communist republic, have shown willingness for restoring peace and democracy. This flexibility shown by them must be welcomed. Now the ball is in the King's court. He should respond for peaceful and amicable negotiations. The King in his various speeches had been defending that he needed executive power to fight the insurgency; the King's stance has been weakened now by the parties-Maoists alliance.

- Kundan Ayan, General Secretary of human rights organization INSEC

India Reacts:

A statement issued by the foreign ministry of India in New Delhi said they had for long been stressing the need for a dialogue for peace in Nepal. The statement has also reiterated that there is no military solution to the problem and that the King must talk to the parties and the Maoists should give up violence.
Feel the music of Nepal: live on stage in New York.

Look out for more details in Nepali Aawaz!
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Special Report: Maoist activity in Eastern and Western Nepal during the last few months

Anushil Shrestha in Eastern Nepal and Rameshwor Bohara in Western Nepal

Young members of the Maoist militia in Eastern Nepal.

Everyday items used to produce explosive by the Maoists is seized by the security forces.

Informants for the Maoists arrested by security forces in Eastern Nepal.
Special Task Force of the People's Liberation Army (Maoist)'s 18th Battalion after a morning drill in the hills of Eastern Nepal

KASHISH DAS SHRESTHA
NOVEMBER 23-DECEMBER 06 2005

Features

Shivendra

Special Task Force of the People's Liberation Army (Maoist)'s 18th Battalion after a morning drill in the hills of Eastern Nepal

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Features

Shivendra
FEATURES

Top: A Maoist soldier poses for a photo in the jungles of Western Nepal.
Above: Security forces on patrol to find Maoists.

Yuddha Pariksha

Yuddha Pariksha kasto cha raha tae gai chhi saurya-poornima aaj samtaamaste ma aati reho.

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Grammy Winner and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee blues legend Buddy Guy invited John Mayer for a surprise jam session on 18 Nov. at BMCC Tribecca Performing Arts Center, New York. Mayer, who now performs in a blues trio, has surprised many as a good blues musician.
For Music and Artistic Freedom:
HITS FM 91.2 ready to host the 9th annual music awards

With “For Music, Not Guns” as the slogan for last year’s event, HITS FM 91.2 is getting ready to do it all over again “For Music and Artistic Freedom,” and the promise to make it bigger and better than ever before. The station will host the Close-Up 9th Hits FM Music Awards 2062 on 20 Jan. 2006 at the Birendra International Convention Center which has been home to the awards since the first one.

HITS FM has always worked towards promoting Nepali music and artists, and the award ceremony was developed to “acknowledge, and pay tribute to excellence in the field of Nepali music,” explain the organisers. The size of the show has also grown over the years, not just in production but also in the genres and categories it accommodates. The first HITS FM Music Awards only had 7 categories, now there are 19 including the Life Time Achievement Awards.

The biggest nominees of the year is the pop-rock groop The Uglyz with 6 nominations including for the Best New Artist, Record of The Year and Best Song in Foreign Language. A full list of the categories and nominees is available at www.hitsfm.com.np

Strings Attached:
Young bands get together for an unplugged session

An acoustic gig has been scheduled for this Saturday, 26th November at Hardic Fitness Club in Pulchowk. Featuring five bands from the rock scene, the concert will start at two in the afternoon and will continue till six in the evening. Interestingly, most of the musicians are involved with at least two projects each, leaving them to play with two different bands at the same event. Since shows of the acoustic kind are organized very rarely, the turnout is bound to be big. Naïve, Phoenix, Zany Zealot, Plebian and Paperboat are the bands scheduled to perform.

KCM’s 3rd Annual Cultural Week
From George Bernand Shaw to Robin and Abhaya’s rock!

Kathmandu College of Management’s (KCM) third annual Cultural Week started on 17 Nov. While part of the proceeds were donated to the underprivileged orphans of the Nepal Children Association (Bal Mandir), part of it went to the KCM student scholarship programme fund. “It’s been an amazing experience,” gushes Tanushree Vaidya, student volunteer from KCM. “We’re learning a lot about managing events and programs.”

Day one: “The Great Catherine”
Venue: Royal Nepal Academy

The George Bernand Shaw play was directed by KCM Faculty member Sajag Rana. Based on the Russian Empress, Catherine the Second, it is set in a Russian palace in the 18th century. While Aditya Piya, as the Captain, and Richa Thapa, as the Empress, were quite impressive at bringing the hilarious dialogues to life, it was Prabin Shrestha’s exceptional portrayal of Prince Patent that ultimately stole the show.

Day two: Inter College Music Competition
Venue: KCM

Cultural Week’s second event witnessed performances by bands from eight colleges including Little Angels’ College of Management, Campion College, St. Xavier’s College and Nepal Engineering College. Even though the lack of skills and practice was quite apparent in most cases, a few managed to stand out. Pawan Gurung of Kathmandu University bagged the Best Vocalist award, placing KU first in the ranks. The title of Best Guitarist was given to Prabhuja and Best Drummer to Anand Bajracharya, both from Xavier’s, which was awarded second place including a cash prize of Rs 3000. And Sanjeev Thapa from Himalayan White House College was chosen the Best Bassist in the competition, allowing the college to edge into third place with a score of 86.

Day three- Music and Food Festival
Venue: Jawalakhel Football Ground

The three winning bands from the previous day started off the show, followed by progressive rock band, Atomic Bush, who had made headlines during the Rock Heads Competition last month. Playing original compositions with intricate melodies and virtuous solos, Bush put up quite an inspiring show. Soon after that, Robin and the New Revolution came on, doing their hits, all gleefully received by the crowd. 1974 A.D made an equally compelling statement with their music, giving funk and jazz a shot in their instrumentals. Despite the problems with the sound system and the consequent interruptions, Abhaya and the Steam Injuns managed to put together a powerful performance. The hip-hop group Nepsydaz was probably the only blunder of the day, making quite a few errors in their songs and failing to get the kind of applause the other performers received. The concert included stalls for food and games around the venue.
Mega music events, particularly like this one for Jazz, are quite rare in Nepal. In a place where the majority is exposed to a lot of rock and pop, Jazzmandu was certainly a treat for the music tastebuds. But the idea of spreading the sounds of jazz has been, from the first annual event, limited because of the expensive tickets usually ranging from Rs.600 to Rs.1500.

There is no denying that the turn out was great, more than half of which must have been foreigners and Expats, but a greater number, particularly the young music loving Nepali audience, could have come if the ticket rates had been more affordable. "That's why there were the free shows," says Navin Chhetri, one of the organizers. Some might say the prices were reasonable bearing in mind that most of the bands were from abroad and putting together something like this was the night before but still, besides being an unusual kind of amusement, it was quite an opportunity for the young to uncover the thrill of Jazz. Another free show was held that very same day. The Upstairs Jam at the Upstairs Bar in Lazimpot shot off at around 8 in the evening and went on till almost midnight. The place was crammed up with eager and pleased audiences.

"I'd never heard fusion like this ever before," says Jason Kennings, a tourist here for the holidays. "It would be good if you could take such music abroad and promote it because it really is amazing," he added, after the Patan museum show on 9 Nov.

The Jazzmandu Peace Parade on 12 Nov. was also one of the more interesting parts of the event. A sunny afternoon of a jumpin' parade down the streets of Lazimpat from Upstairs to Shangri-La with vintage bikes and cars, Jazz Musicians, Folk Dancers, Lakhe Dancers, Maruni Dancers and Marriage bands- everybody trying to put across the communiqué of "Music for Peace." That night was also the Jazzmandu Finale: Jazzmandu All-Star Fever at Summit Hotel.

Despite grievances about the ticket prices, Jazzmandu has helped bring Jazz into the mainstream, both in Nepali music and media. Plus, it's not often that a diverse collection of outstanding musicians get together like this in Kathmandu. It's latest addition, the Jazz For The Next Generation band contest, is also one young bands should aspire to participate in and win next year.
Samsara
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presents
"the night of nostalgia"

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$25.00
Krishna Man Shrestha Honored by Seattle's Mayor and Governor

Some people are just born to do it. Krishna Man Shrestha, who was recently honored by the Mayor and the Governor of Seattle, is one of them. By the time he turned 12, Shrestha had not only decided to be a part of the cultural entertainment society, but had in fact already entered it. Four years later he travelled to Kolkotta, India, by invitation of Kamal Prasad Ghimire. There he performed in the various cultural shows during India's Independence day celebrations.

In the 1950s, several traditional shows by groups such as Lalupate, Himal Chuli, Amikko Art Gallery used to be organised specifically for tourists. Shrestha soon found himself involved in these shows and by the time he had turned 19, the Royal Academy had graded him as a Grade A artist, where he was later promoted to Assistant Art Director. During his career, he performed with cultural troupes all across the globe, including Switzerland, the former USSR, Netherlands amongst others.

Krishna Man Shrestha's role as the Gopi in the popular culture show Malati Mangaley is one of the things that keeps him occupied at the moment.

Feedback or suggestions?
write to:
letters@nepaliaawaz.com

Lucky Sherpa
(1981 - 2005)

"Our deepest condolences to the friends and family of Lucky Sherpa. We will love and miss her, always."
~ Gambu Sherpa & Family~
Winner Takes It All

In the fortnight that was, Nepali sports saw many victories and validates in regional level. Here is a quick look at some of the main events.

SPORS

White House crowned champion

Himalayan White House College won the seventh Wekeka Talenta 2005 Inter-college Boys’ Basketball Tournament held at the Kathmandu Do Bosco College Court, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu. Defending champion Prime College was defeated by White House, winning 64 – 61 in the finals. If Tenzing Dorje had been successful in scoring his three-pointer attempt in the dying seconds of the match, Prime would have tied the score and taken the match into extra time with probably producing other result.

DAV School won the girls category outstanding Prime with three points. Nima Sherpa, the captain of White House, was declared the best player of the event while White Field’s Nabin Maharjan received the award of Best Scorer for his 114 points. In girls’ category, winner DAV’s Shiva Kaucha got the best player award and Laxmi Maharjan of Prime declared Best Scorer for netting 123 points.

Lincoln wins title

After the seven days of Home and Away Basketball League Tournament, Lincoln School won the title with a thumping 72 – 44 win over Gyanodaya at home. Organized by Lincoln School and the Community and Social Service Volunteers (CSSV), the winning team remained unbeaten throughout the leagues. Shrish P Willet started the match with the first score against Gyanodaya. However, Gyanodaya was also well prepared as it gave a tough competition to Lincoln in the first quarter with 9 points against 12. With maximum free shots utilized and not missing any score, Lincoln came out as winners with 12-9, 17-8, 19-10 and 24-17. Gyanodaya failed to keep its promises of the first quarter. Lincoln’s Adrian Fisler took 26 points with 5 assists and 15 rebounds. Shrish P Willet contributed 19 points. Bikash Shersh Chartered Gyanodaya with 24 points alone. Rato Bangla’s Om Shrestha was declared best player.

Gaurav wins U-14 title

Gaurav Shah registered a straight set 6-3, 6-2 win over Amul Regmi to win the U-14 junior boys’ title of the ongoing Autumn Open Tennis Tournament at the Tennis Complex of Satdobato. Salon Pande won the U-14 junior girls’ title of the first Autumn Open Tennis Tournament defeating Saluni Lama 6-1, 6-3. Preeti Rijal raced into the final of the women’s singles beating Divy Dwarka 6-0, 6-0. In the Doubles, Kaptan Karsolia and Krishna Karsolia marched into the final and will take on Utsav Rajal and Sanu Lama for the title. The Karlosius stunned Shree Ram Magar and Kumar Adhikari with a hard-fought 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 win while Rijal and Lama easily defeated Suwanna Dhakwa and Krishna Ghae 6-2, 6-2. In +45 veterans’ singles, Manoj Rana, Karma Gurung, Deepak Shrestha and Kamal Thapa made it to the semifinals. Rana comfortably beat Sangram Lama 6-0, 6-2 while Gurung ousted Chyangba Dhamel 6-1, 6-1. Deepak Shrestha emerged 6-0, 6-3 winner over Prithvi Thakali and veteran politician Kamal Thapa outplayed Umesh Pandey without conceding a game. Football legend and national coach Shyam Thapa showcased his tennis brilliance while beating Sailendra Ghae 6-2, 6-1 and Gyanendra Tamrakar was equally brilliant in defeating Deepak Gurung 6-1, 6-1 to enter the semifinals of the veterans’ singles +50. Injured Ishwor Rai left the match halfway as Bidur Bista moved into the semifinals of the same category.

Soaltee Super Sixes

The seventh edition of the annual corporate cricketing event, the Soaltee Super Sixes 2005, will be held from November 24 to 27 as informed by organizer Soaltee Crown Plaza. As usual, 16 corporate houses will vie for the trophy that Indian Embassy has won for the last three years. This time defending champion Indian Embassy is pooled along with The Himalayan Times, Nepal Investment Bank and Nabil Bank in Group A. Similarly, Kantipur Publications, runners-up in 1999 and 2003 has been pitched with Kumar Bank, JIFC and Shopatek Power Company. Hosts Soaltee, Golchha Organization, Himalayan Bank and NIC Bank are placed in Group C while Group D consists of last year’s finalist Standard Chartered, Surya Nepal, Dabur Nepal and debutant United Finance. The event will be held at the TU Cricket Group with the technical support from CAN.

Nepal qualifies for U-17 Asia Cup

The U-18 Asia Cup preliminary round was held at Dashrath Stadium, Nepal played with Kyrgyzstan Nand Uzbekistan. The winner gets to qualify for Asia Cup U-18 Qualifying to be held in Singapore next year. The first game was held between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan in which the Uzbekis won an easy victory. The second game saw Kazakhstan to travel inside the Nepal and Kyrgyzstan. Nepal won with a narrow victory. The third and final match between Nepal and Uzbekistan was critical and Nepal had to win the game. They did thwart the Uzbek dream to participate in next year’s Asia Cup U-18 Qualifying Football. Goalkeepers of the both sides had a great hand on the result. Nepal goalie Rupak Shrestha saved four goal-bound attacks while Uzbek custodian Suhrobjon Sultanov’s howler allowed Nepal to take 1-0 lead and Chetan Ghimire wrapped-up the match 2-0 with an injury-time goal. The Uzbekis were eluded from poetic justice after controlling the whole match with sporadic moves and brilliant football. Nepal, on the other hand, was focused on blocking the Uzbek forwards and look for counter-attacks. The crucial first goal came in a dramatic way as Uzbek goalie Sultanov allowed a clearance from Captain Bobijon Domlajonov to travel inside his own net while gathering. Coach Raju Shakya admitted that the Umbeks were superior to Nepal. “They dominated the match but it’s our boys’ fighting instinct that made us victorious today,” he said later. “The team that scores emerge winner in football.” This is the first ever win of Nepal over Uzbekistan and second time to be qualified for the qualification of U-17 level. Uzbekistan had defeated Nepal 12-0 four years ago in the same age-category competition.

A week later, the U-17 Nepali team left for Sikkim, India to play at an invitational “All India Chief Minister Gold Cup” football tournament. They lost to South District Academy by 3-1.

AFC Youth Championships first leg

The 18 member U-19 football team of Kyrgyzstan has arrived in Nepal to play against Nepal in the first leg match of the AFC Youth Championships at the Dasharath Stadium on November 22. Nepal team will then immediately travel to Kyrgyzstan to play the return leg which will lock horns on 28th November to see second round of the tournament. As Bhutan withdraw from the AFC U-19 (Group F) qualifying round, Nepal has to play home and away league system with Kyrgyzstan to qualify for final round, according to All Nepal Football Association. The tournament was originally scheduled for Kyrgyzstan.


ANFA nominated

All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) has been nominated in the AFC Association of the Year category at the AFC Awards Gala 2005. The other two nominees in the section include Japan FA and Qatar FA. The winner will be announced at the AFC Awards Gala 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on November 30. Other awards include Diamond of the year with only one nominee, Kabaw-uchi Saburo of Japan, Fair Play, Match Official of the Year, Youth PoY, Futsal Team of the Year, Club Team of the Year, Women’s National Team of the Year, Men’s National Team of the Year, Women’s Player of the Year and Men’s Player of the Year.

Nepal to co-host AFC Challenge Cup

According to AFC last week, Nepal will be co-hosting the inaugural Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Challenge Cup along with Bangladesh next year. The event is scheduled for March 25 – April 9, 2006 and will feature 16 “emerging” countries of Asia. The countries are divided into four groups. League matches of Group A and B will be played in Nepal while the league matches of Groups C and D will be hosted by Bangladesh. And here is a look at the groups.

Group A: India, Chinese Taipei, Philippines, Afghanistan

Group B: Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Brunei

Group C: Palestine, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Guam

Group D: Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Macau

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ACC U-19 Cup
Nepal wins the Asian Cricket Council U-19 Cup

The year 2001 marked cornerstone in the history of Nepali cricket scene. Sri Lankan coach Roy Dias stepped in to replace Pakistani Aftaab Balooch. And just after three months of his coachmanship, the helped Nepal win the first ever international tournament of such stature, the Youth Asia Cup. The mentor of the player-boys has helped Nepal add several silverwares to its trophy gallery. And has added another glory to Nepal's international arena: the fifth ACC (Asian Cricket Council) U-19 Cup.

Crown Prince Paras inaugurated the biggest ever international sporting event in the Nepal with 15 nations participating at the TU Cricket Ground, Kirtipur. The inauguration ceremony displayed colorful cultural dances and was beamed live by Nepal Television. The semifinals and the final were also live-aired in NTV.

Nepal saw Malaysia in the finals. Going into the match, Nepal was firm favorite and had the support of home and crowd. Malaysia was one of the favorites right from the start of the tournament as it boasted several experienced cricketers.

Three members of the team were part of the Malaysian senior team that visited Nepal last month to play a three-day match of Inter – Continental Cup. Nepal bowed out Malaysia for 83 runs in 25.5 overs - thanks to Bantu Bataju's five wickets. Nepal completed the victory in 25.2 overs losing only three wickets. This marks Nepal's consecutive final wins over Malaysia in the past two editions of the tournament. In Kathmandu Youth Asia Cup 2001, Nepal registered a seven-wicket win while it was a 30-run win in Karachi 2003.

After this victory, Nepal has qualified for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Under-19 Youth World Cup 2006 scheduled for February 5 – 19 next year. Nepal is the last country to confirm its participation at the event. Nepal now joins England, Zimbabwe and Ireland in Group D of the 16-nation event. According to a provisional schedule for the event, Nepal plays England on Feb 6 at Sinhalese Sports Club Ground; Zimbabwe on Feb 7 at Colombo Cricket Club Ground and Ireland on Feb 9 at Nondescripts Cricket Club Ground. The top two teams from each of the four groups qualify to super league quarterfinals scheduled for Feb 11 while the last two teams go to plate championship quarterfinals scheduled for Feb 14. The event will conclude with the Feb 19 final.

This is third successive time that Nepal has been drawn with England in the preliminary round. Though Nepal has never defeated England, England’s loss to the third team of the group has always prevented Nepal’s progress to second round. In 2001, Nepal beat Pakistan but England lost to Pakistan and the two Test nations entered next round. In 2003, Nepal beat South Africa and England handed win to South Africa to prevent Nepal from advancing.

Group A for the event consists of defending champion Pakistan, New Zealand, Bangladesh and Uganda while Group B comprises of West Indies, South Africa, Australia and USA, India, Sri Lanka, Scotland and Namibia are in Group C.

Cricket Association of Nepal, team sponsors Wai Wai, 21st Century and Mood Drops Man Power Company later honoured the Under-19 cricketers and officials who won the ACC U-19 Cup cricket tournament for the third successive time. Sharad Vesawkar, who scored 152 runs in four innings at an average of 152 and strike rate of 60.31, was declared the batsman of the series, while left arm pace bowler Amrit Bhattarai, whose figure in the series was 42-12-120-13, was named the bowler of the series. Both the players got Bajaj CT 100 motorcycle each — one sponsored by 21st Century and the other from CAN.

At the felicitation programme — that started two hours late because of Education and Sports minister Radha Krishna Mainali’s busy schedules — CAN also gave away Rs 15,000 each to the 14 players and three officials, while the team sponsors Wai Wai rewarded Rs 100,000 to the team. Moon Drops Manpower rewarded man of the final Bantu Bataju with Rs 25,001. Bantu had taken 5 – 29 off eight overs in Nepal’s crushing seven-wicket victory. Skipper Kanishka Chaugain, Bantu Bataju and vice captain Paras Khadka were honoured with a 14” LG colour television each for their individual feat during the tournament. Chaugain was the highest run scorer in an inning with unbeaten 78 runs against Kuwait in semi-final, while Bantu was the highest wicket-taker in an innings, 5-29 against Malaysia in final, and Paras took six catches in the series to become the player with highest number of catches. CAN also gave out the letters of appreciation to the sponsors and the individuals who helped the association in making the event a grand success.
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Second-Annual Hope Event Sets $40,000 as Fundraising Goal for Education in Nepal

New York – On December 3, 2005, the second-annual Hope fundraiser to benefit the people of the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal will take place at NYU Law School’s Vanderbilt Hall from 7:00 until 11:00 pm in Tischman Auditorium.

Hope for Education will feature a keynote address from Mr. Gopal Khanna, former Chief Financial Officer for the Peace Corps and later the White House. The event is being hosted with the support of the Living Earth Institute (LEI), the Rotary Club of Plainsboro, the NYU South Asian Law Students Association, the America-Nepal Friendship Society, the Ridgewood Nepalese Society, and The Nepal Digest Foundation.

In addition to a documentary film about three schools in the eastern hills of Nepal and a generous helping of Nepali cuisine, attendees will be treated to a Pakistani gazal, a special song by Gaurav and Falguni “Falu” Shah, Nepali Sherpa, Magar, and Gurung folk dances.

“I consider it an honor and a privilege to participate in this outstanding effort,” said Mr. Khanna, who is currently serving as the Chief Information Officer for the State of Minnesota. “I am eager to meet the Peace Corps volunteers who have done – and continue to do – so much to help Nepal.”

The Hope series was created by NYU Law student and former Peace Corps volunteer Rajeev Goyal, and inspired by Harka Lama, the principal of the Namje secondary school and a venerated figure in his community. “Mr. Lama is the true force behind this effort,” said Mr. Goyal. “He has devoted his life to helping the children of Nepal.”

The day’s fundraising events will begin with a crawl-a-thon in Washington Square Park hosted by L.G. Khambache Sherpa – who crawled the entire length of Manhattan earlier this year to raise money for victims of last December’s tsunami—and will feature special guest Lhakpa Gelu Sherpa, who has scaled Mount Everest twelve times. “The event fits well with Sherpa Mission’s goal to promote global unity and harmony by reaching out to help those in other cultures and societies,” said Sherpa. “I hope people will be inspired by this good and selfless act.”

This year’s fundraiser aims to collect $40,000 to continue improvements in water and sanitation, install solar power panels, build playgrounds and provide science equipment to schools in the village of Bhedetar in Dhankuta. A portion of the proceeds also will go toward the Living Earth Institute’s education initiatives in Nepal.

“We are extremely pleased to be a part of the Hope series, which is key to our mission of empowering local communities to protect their environments through the sustainable use of water,” said LEI President Pam Elardo. This year’s event will benefit the education initiative made possible by the access to clean water gained as a result of last year’s Hope for Water fundraiser.”

Hope for Education builds on the success of last year’s Hope for Water event, which raised over $14,000 to build water pipelines, toilets, taps, and tanks for villagers in Dhankuta and Janakpur districts. Thanks to Rajeev’s efforts in “Hope for Water,” today 100,000 liters of water are pumped into the community each day. To date, the villagers have earned over $2,000 from selling water to the government.

“It’s amazing how much we can do for a village in just one night,” said Mr. Goyal. “Hope for Education is going to be absolutely magical. I’m hoping people really make an effort to come.”

Heartily congratulations to Gambu Sherpa and Pasang Lhamu Sherpa on the occasion of Happy Belated Nwaran of their son

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Left, top to bottom: A mandala for the newar new year celebrated last week; Every dog has its day, quite literally in the Hindu festival of Tihar during which a day has been set aside to celebrate or worship dogs like this one in Dharan; Sukarma performs at this year’s Jazzmandu; Thapathali gets Xtremely crowded as people try to get into the stadium for the X-treme Rock Show.

Right, top to bottom: Tihar market in Ason; Human Rights activist addressing Nepalis in New York on 6 Nov. ANUP PRAKASH KASHISH DAS SHRESTHA

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Top: Nep-hop group Nepsysdz on stage at KCM’s Cultural Week. Right: A man feeds pigeons at Patan Durbar Square (top) while a boy sets up shop (below) in the morning.