Former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba arrived in New York on 21 March, on an invitation from Columbia University to deliver the keynote presentation during their conference on Nepal scheduled for the following day. He represented Nepal’s last elected government in 2002 before being fired by King Gyanendra for being “incompetent.” The King made him the Prime Minister again in 2004, before arresting him on charges of corruption on 1 Feb. 05 through a corruption commission court the King had setup. After a year of being arrested by the court, he was freed this February when the Supreme Court invalidated RCCC.

On the morning of 22 March, while Mrs. Arzu Rana-Deuba, who was also one of the panelists at the event, revised her husband’s presentation for later that evening in their Pennsylvania Hotel room, the former Prime Minister took time off to speak to Nepali Aawaz Editor Kashish.

The 7-party alliance (SPA) has been talking about a decisive movement in the first two weeks of April. What exactly do you mean by a ‘decisive andolan’?

By decisive we mean peaceful and en mass. We are planning for a high participation of people to restore their democracy.

How do you plan to get the people to participate?

We’ve already started campaigning in different places, asking them to join us for their own benefit. We are hoping they will understand the importance of their participation.

What lacked in the 12-point agreement between the SPA and the Maoists?

The agreement lacked a lot of things but I won’t get started on that for now, its something I will talk about with my colleagues in the alliance. However, many things already in the agreement are also still not being followed by the Maoists and it is imperative that this does not continue. I find it [2nd agreement] all still more or less the same.

Continued on Page 18 »

Kashish Das Shrestha

“How can they say democracy failed?”

On March 7th, the National Immigration Coalition, a coalition of 40 faith, labor, business and community based organizations from Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C., organized a demonstration outside the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. to protest anti-immigration legislation.

6-a-side cricket

The second DHL BDM Cup Invitational Six-a-side Cricket tournament is scheduled for April 7-10 at the Tribhuan University Ground. According to the organisers, about 240 cricketers from various banks, corporate houses, insurance companies and embassies will participate in the sporting event.
हिन्दुहरूको नहाल दाख रामलवनी तथा कानादा धकादरीको पालन अवसरमा न्यूयोर्कमा पहलीटिक नेपाली मन्दिर रस्तापत्ता गरी बस्तयाँको प्रतिमा प्रतिस्थापन पूजा सकारोह तथा साध्विक पूजा सङ्गारौल आयोजना गरेको हुन्दा उक्त दौवै धार्मिक अनुष्ठान ध्वं समारोहहरू बस्तिको सकुलप्राप्ति ध्वं सकिय धारमाधितका लागि सादर अधिरोह गरिदैछ।

कार्यक्रम:
प्रतिस्थापन पूजा:
विषेश दिन, 24 वैशाख, 2067, अप्रेल 05, 2008- रामलवनीको दिन, देखि 8:00 बजे साध्विक पूजा:
आईटम, 25 वैशाख, 2067, अप्रेल 06, 2008- कानादा धकादरीको दिन, दिउर्सो 12:00 बजे

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Days in Nepali History

22 March, 1981
Nepal’s election commission announces that the first elections in 22 years would be held on May 9. The opposition parties declare that they would boycott it. The elections were for 112 seats in the National Assembly, an advisory body whose members were previously appointed by regional councils. King Birendra would then choose his Cabinet members from the members of the National Assembly. (See page for a full time line titled Nepal’s Monarchy’s struggle for autocracy and Nepal’s struggle for Democracy)

28 March 1984
Nepal’s Ministry of Tourism announced that an avalanche on Mount Everest has killed one Sherpa and injured four others, all of whom were part of an advance party for an Indian expedition. The Sherpa was the 61st person to die on Mount Everest since it was opened for climbing in the early 1950’s.

29 March, 2002
Nepalnews says, “The ruling Nepali Congress along with the main opposition CPN (UML) Friday said that both the parties were seriously concerned about the ‘objectionable’ statement of the Army Chief made on Wednesday and would not remain silent until the Prime Minister gives clarifications on the issue.

“Chief of the Army Staff Prajvalya Shumsher Rana had said that the political parties should be accountable for the deplorable state of the nation and it was quite unreasonable for them to blame the RNA for whatever went wrong in the past twelve years.

“Rana was addressing the graduation ceremony of the Royal Nepal Army (RNA) officials at the RNA command and staff college at Shivapuri.

“The major political parties have agreed to seek clarification from Prime Minister Deuba on the issue. They also seem to be in the mood to disrupt the House of Representatives meeting if the Prime Minister fails to furnish a convincing clarification as to why the Army Chief had criticized the political parties.

“The political parties claim that Deuba who also holds the post of Defence Minister should be responsible for such ‘objectionable’ criticism coming from the Army Chief.”

In Quotes

“Like King Gyanendra of Nepal.”

- A clue for the word ‘Nepali’ in The New York Times magazine’s crossword puzzle, 19 March ‘06.

“Democracy had never failed but the moment the King took over, all of Nepal has begun to fail.”

- Former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, during an exclusive interview with Nepali Aawaz, on what he thought of the King’s accusations about the “failure” of democracy in Nepal.

“Should it concern me? Is that public sentiment?... My government has advised me that these protests might be only pressure tactics [by political opponents]... Does the law allow them to say things like this?”

- King Gyanendra in an interview with Time magazine (26 Jan. 2004), when asked what he thinks of the student protests demanding a “republic”. “The movement for a Republic has since transformed into a full fledged call for ‘Ganatanrik Loktantra’ (Republican democracy). It is currently one of the key demands being made not just by student unions but also by the Maoists, the civil society and several parties and leaders involved in the movement to restore democracy in Nepal. A “Republican democracy,” implies a multi-party democracy in the absence of/ with no role for a Monarchy.

“The nation would face more trouble in the absence of the King.”

- Taranath Ranabhat, Speaker of the dissolved House of Representatives, while discussing the constitution of Nepal at a national consultation on ‘Draft Law to end Un触touchability’ organised by Lawyers’ National Campaign Against Untouchability.

“What has been publicized as the second understanding is nothing but the Maoist agenda. The parliamentary parties committed a blunder... the government will never reach an agreement with terrorist groups.”

- Home Minister Kamal Thapa, expressing the government’s stand on the Maoists and the 12-point agreement between the communist rebel group and the 7-party alliance. The government had most recently refused to reciprocate the extended 4-month unilateral ceasefire (Sept. 05- Jan 06) declared by the Maoists.

“It is not just the content of the constitution that matters but with what process it was made. That is what gives it legitimacy...it should belong to the people.”

- Advocate Dinesh Tripathi, on the need to draft a new constitution through a public referendum, at the Nepal Conference held at Columbia University, New York, 22 March.

“Unfortunately America still believes there is a military solution.”

- Murari Raj Sharma, Former Ambassador to the Permanent mission to the UN, casually talking about America’s recent history of military aid to Nepal, at the Nepal Conference held at Columbia University, New York, 22 March.

“We’re lucky that Nepal doesn’t have oil.”

- Sam Zarif, Research Director Human Rights Watch (Asia dept.), joking about the America’s interest, or the lack of it, in Nepal’s crisis, at the Nepal Conference held at Columbia University, New York, 22 March.

“It is unconstitutional, illegal and autocratic on the part of the government to put Nepal under preventive detention on fictitious charges.”

- A press statement issued by the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) on 25 March, for putting party general secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal under preventive detention for three months on “fictitious charges” on Thursday. Nepal had been under house arrest since 20 Jan this year and on 22 March the Armed Police Force had raided his house and seized all communication equipments, namely phone and fax machines.

“The two will be answerable to 12,000 martyrs who have died for the reason. Their families will curse them. History will not forgive them.”

- Comrade Athak, Maoist incharge for Banke and Bardiya districts, talking to Samudaya.org about Maoists Rabindra and Anukul’s recent public statements about their disagreement with the party leadership and threats to begin a counter-revolution within the communist rebel group.

Looking for lost Nepali Passport

Name: Pas Dawa Sherpa
Nepali Passport no: 129 8891
Passport lost on 18 Feb. in the 7 Train, going to Manhattan from Queens. If anyone has received please call: 612 598 3804.

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Nepalis in Belgium protest against American imperialism

Diaspora

On 19 March, Nepalese People’s Progressive Forum, a Belgium-based Nepali organisation, staged a protest rally against American imperialism. The event was organised to mark the 3rd year anniversary of America’s controversial and misguided attack on Iraq. The group called for the Americans to “go back home” immediately. Only last week the Americans launched one of their largest air-strike missions in Iraq. Such missions in the past have led to heavy civilian casualties. Many Nepalis also took the opportunity to protest against the “dictatorship” in Nepal under King Gyanendra.

Protest planned in Japan

On 6 April, Nepalis residing in Japan will hold a protest program in front of the Royal Nepalese Embassy, National Diet Building and the Foreign Ministry, Tokyo.

“King Gyanendra, your government does not represent us,” “restore peace and democracy,” “immediately release prisoner of conscience,” and “stop muzzling press freedom,” amongst others, are only a few of the opinions the organizers and participants hope to express during the event.

6 April is a significant day because the people’s movement was reaching its climax as then Prime Minister to negotiate with leaders of the pro-democracy movement after overwhelming masses of people relentlessly protested on the streets of Kathmandu. (See page for more details)

A high priest’s “vision” brings Houston’s Nepali and Indian community together to build the pagoda styled Pashupatinath temple in Texas.

Nepal’s Pashupatinath temple is one of the most important Hindu sites in the world. Its significance is made clear every year during the annual Shiva Ratri festival when tens of thousands of Hindus from different countries flock to the site that houses the famous “Shiva Linga.” But this year the Pashupatinath temple in Kathmandu wasn’t the only temple he already has many temples and followers devoted to him across the globe. His “vision” was of the Pashupatinath temple built in the pagoda style architecture. It was in 2003, after completion of the construction of Shri Krishna Pranami Mandir, that he started on planning the construction of Shri Pashupatinath Mandir.

By late 2005, the plans had already begun to pick up momentum, with a construction committee made up of Nepali and Indian volunteers holding regular meetings. The site for the construction was the 8 acres of land in Richmond, TX, that belongs to the Maharjii’s Radha Krishna Organization, also where the Shri Krishna Pranami Temple is also located.

The construction of the temple was made in Bhaktapur, Nepal. The $18k required for construction was largely collected from donations.

Volunteers agree that the temple isn’t quite centrally located, it is in the outskirts of Houston. But for religious faith, that probably won’t make much of a difference.
While most Nepalis who open up a restaurant often serve Nepali (including Tibetan) and Indian food, the "Yamakaze: Japanese Sushi and Noodles Bar" in Sunnyside, Queens, must be the first such restaurant to be run and operated by Nepalis here in the US. For a change, there is nothing about the Yamakaze, not its woody Japanese styled decor or the world music playing in the speakers, that shouts "Nepali" to you, unlike most other restaurants run by Nepalis in New York. The small carved wood peacock window on the wall is perhaps the only hint. But once you've settled down on your table and pick up the menu, the newly introduced Tibetan food section will perhaps be a give away.

While Chinese, Thai and even Vietnamese cuisines have been largely popular amongst Nepalis here in New York, Japanese food, an even more so Sushi, is not apart from a few exceptions. That could also be, however, because it has never been as accessible as it is now to the large population of Nepalis that work and live in Queens: sushi, momos, Japanese noodles and thukpa all served under the same roof.

"The chefs, my partners in the restaurant, have been working in Japanese restaurants for 10 year in New York," Tsepak Dorjee the owner and manager of Yamakaze tells us. So does it make a difference for his clients to know that the Japanese chef is a Nepali? "There is a certain initial psychological thing I suppose, but the quality of food we serve here is no different from any Japanese restaurant in the city. Plus, we have a lot of returning customers," he explains smiling. While one chef runs the Sushi and noodles bar, two other chefs work the Tibetan kitchen inside.

Opened only in June last year, the restaurant has already received some good reviews, including being listed in the "Best of NY" edition of New York's alternate weekly The Village Voice. But why have the owners chosen Sunnyside, Queens, as opposed to perhaps Jackson Heights? "Sunnyside is growing, there are a lot of youngsters in the area," Dorjee explained. "This [venue] seemed perfect too, the size as well as the price."

Nepali Aawaz was invited for a quick food-taste-test at the Yamakaze and it can be safely said that the chef’s nationality is no compromise to the taste of the Sushi he serves. Our suggestion: Kothey's from the Tibetan kitchen (Veg. option available) and sushi from the bar. And if its your first time trying out the Japanese delicatessen, go easy on the wasabi (the green stuff). The owners suggest Nepalis trying Sushi for the first time to taste the Sunnyside Sushi, which looks and tastes more like a pagoda than anything else. Our suggestion: try the Philadelphia sushi, the more familiar cheese fillings could help you adjust to the less familiar raw fish it is wrapped with.
Protest against Prince Paras in Paris

Prince Paras, currently on a European tour, heads the King Mahendra Trust for Conservation of Nature, Nepal’s largest conservation agency. After giving away a Rhinoceros to a zoo in Vienna, the Prince will be arriving in Paris, France on 26 March. The move has already drawn heavy criticism from the civil society (see page 11 for full story). The Nepali diaspora in France isn’t happy either. Accusing the Prince of exchanging Rhino for weapons to continue the conservation of Nature, Nepal’s largest conservation agency in Nepal and several others including the Best Book International Nepali Literary Award in Washington DC.

The main concern of Bhandari’s study lie in the areas of Nepali and English literatures. He has a special interest in diasporic literatures, which is what he has been working seriously on over the last couple of years. Bhandari is currently in USA to present literary paper in George Mason University at the invitation of International Nepali Literary Society Washington DC.

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Survey: Nepal Day Parade in the US

If a Nepali parade was to be held in the US, which day or month do you think is the most appropriate? Please keep in mind that your suggestion is as neutral as possible, so that it is not a particular religious, political event etc.

Our Suggestion:
1) Official establishment of Nepal-America diplomatic relationship in late April. Reason: Since this is a parade of Nepali culture in the US, the date seems appropriate. The weather is also usually good since its not winter and its just before summer begins. Since this is an outdoor event, the weather is very important.

Why not Nepali New Year?
Because within the Nepali community itself, there are many ethnic communities that celebrate the New Year’s Day according to their own calendars.

Send us your suggested date to info@nepaliaawaz.com

Practicing Nepali culture in Baltimore

Adhering to these sentiments, Mr. Deepak Ghimire and Mrs. Kabita Ghimire, who moved from Tanahu jilla, Nepal to Baltimore, USA, four years ago, performed their 13-year-old son Aditya Ghimire’s traditional “Bratabandha” ritual on 26 February. A large bhoj followed the event for which the Ghimires had invited members of the Nepali community not only from the D.C, Virginia area but also New York. It is in fact quite rare that these traditional rituals are performed in such accuracy here in the US.

Former Prime Minister of Nepal Shekha Bahadur Ochs delivered the key note presentation at “Nepal: The Himalayan Hospot, From Shangri-la to...”, an event organised by School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, New York, on 22 March. Other speakers at the event included journalist and author Deepak Thapa, who is also currently affiliated with the Center for International Affairs at the University. Advocate Dietish Tripathi, Alak K. Bohara, professor at the Department of Economics, University of New Mexico, Surendra Devkota, Professor at the School for International Training and World Learning, Brattleboro, Vermont, and Mrs. Arzu Rana- Deuba, amongst others. Photo: Kashish Das Shrestha
“No human is illegal”: The fight against anti-immigration legislation

Rajani / Samudaya.org

On December 2005, the House of Representatives passed the Border Protection, Antiterrorism and Illegal Immigration Reform Act (H.R. 4437), sponsored by Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr. (R-Wis.) and Peter T. King (R-N.Y.). Supported by Republicans, this bill is opposed by many who consider it one of the most anti-immigrant bills in recent memory, with provisions that would criminalize approximately 11 million undocumented workers. In addition, it would also criminalize those who assist or work with undocumented workers including social workers, teachers, medical personnel, union workers, clergy and family members. The bill also calls for the construction of 700 miles of fencing along the Mexican border. Opponents point out that the bill focuses on enforcement, providing no path to legalization. Since local and state police would be deputized to arrest anyone they think may be without documents, opponents of the bill worry about increased racial profiling.

On March 7th, the National Immigration Coalition, a coalition of 40 faith, labor, business and community based organizations from Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C., organized a demonstration outside the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. to protest anti-immigration legislation. The rally coincided with the Senate Judiciary Committee’s session to consider the “comprise bill” proposed by Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) which, while providing for “earned legalization”, still includes provisions from H.R. 4437 for criminalizing 11 million undocumented immigrants as well as those who assist them by classifying them as human traffickers. Moreover, the bill also proposes a temporary “guestworker” program. This would temporarily legalize the status of undocumented workers for three years; after this period, workers would be able to apply for a further three year extension after which they would be required to return to their home countries. This program has drawn criticism from both sides. Those advocating tighter immigration controls consider it wrong to award legal status to those who have entered the country illegally. Pro-immigration groups do not think this program provides an adequate path to gaining permanent citizenship. Other issues also come up—for example, this type of program would give all the power to employers, creating more opportunities for abuse of workers.

Proponents of this kind of harsh legislation believe that it works in the interest of protecting the United States from terrorists by strengthening the country’s borders, over which an estimated 1 million immigrants illegally pass. Another concern of anti-immigration groups is the job security of American citizens. It is claimed that the American worker is losing out because companies prefer to use cheap immigrant labour; this “insourcing” exacerbates the economic plight of workers already affected by other practices such as outsourcing. The anti-immigrant sentiments of some of these groups are unambiguous. The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), for example, encourages citizens to report suspicions of “illegal immigration” and lists the phone numbers of local immigration offices across the country on their website. Others like The Minuteman Project—the so-called neighbourhood watchdog group that voluntarily patrols the borders for “suspicious” crossings—refer to undocumented immigrants as “mobs of ILLEGAL aliens who endlessly stream across U.S. border”, among other colourful characterizations. Some of these groups, together with radio talk show hosts are launching a lobbying effort “Save the American Worker Week” on March 20th to try and influence the Senate vote on these issues.

On March 10th, the Adhikaar, a group working for immigration rights among other issues, attended the rally in Washington D.C. She answered some of our questions regarding the immigration issue and its significance for Nepalis living in the United States.

How many Nepali immigrants are there in the United States and what is the distribution throughout the country? Is there some place where this information can be found?

LR: Unfortunately, there is no reliable data about the numbers or distribution. I’ve asked the consulate here, but the person I spoke with there did not know. The last census conducted in 2000 lists 11,715 people of Nepali origin. But, the unofficial estimate is around 100,000 Nepalis living in the United States, with around 30,000 in the greater New York area.

How many Nepalis would be affected by these types of anti-immigration legislation and what demographics?

LR: Again, no reliable data exists. In some parts, the numbers are higher. In the New York area, more than 50 percent are estimated to be undocumented—people who have overstayed their visas, mostly tourist visas, but some students as well. Also, in terms of socio-economic status, there are more working class, newer immigrants in the New York area. But the proposed legislation is going to affect us all in one way or another.

What groups other than Adhikaar are working for immigration rights? Also, please tell us something about Adhikaar.

LR: I do not know of any other Nepali groups working on immigration rights issues. There are some Nepali individuals. One person I know is Rajani Adhikary, who works at the Restaurants Opportunities Center of New York. I have heard that there is another organization in the LA area, but I do not yet have the contact information.

Adhikaar started last year to address the needs of Nepali communities everywhere, but our focus is in the United States right now. It is a women-led organization—all board members are women. We made a conscious decision to make it so, because almost all the Nepali organizations we know are male-dominated, and have male leaders. Most are almost exclusively male. Programmatically, we focus on immigration, health, and women’s rights. But right now, most of our work is on immigration rights. As I mentioned before, there is very little reliable information about who’s here, what’s their status, and what they are doing. So, right now Adhikaar is also conducting a survey of Nepalis in the NY/NJ area. It’s a slow process because we are not known yet, and people are reluctant to give out information.

Tell us about the rally in D.C. Did a lot of Nepalis attend? I am not finding that much information about immigration issues pertaining to Nepalis specifically; are there any important issues that might not be immediately obvious?

There were 40,000 people at the D.C. rally. As far as I know, only two Nepalis attended—me and Rajani Adhikary. But I didn’t go around looking for Nepalis, so I can’t say for sure. Also the rally was organized by mostly Hispanic groups, and there were few Asians of any descent. Both of us went as a part of the Immigrant Communities in Action, a multi-ethnic coalition of immigrant organizations in New York.

The current proposed legislations make things tougher for all immigrants, documented or not. For Nepalis, it is probably of importance that even those who are on F-1 and cannot take a full load (of coursework) or those who are on H1B who lose their jobs but cannot find another immediately can also be deported. The senate judiciary committee is still debating—they’re in recess the week of March 20th, so none of this is official law yet. But the way things are going, it is very likely that many anti-immigrant provisions will pass.

Why don’t we hear talk about immigration issues among Nepalis? How much of a taboo is it to talk about one’s “illegal” status?

My take on why we don’t talk about immigration issues is that most of us are first generation immigrants, and still think that we are here temporarily. Most of us talk about going back to Nepal soon/in the near future/some day, even though many of us are starting families here and will probably never go back to live in Nepal. The political and economic situation in Nepal also makes it tougher for people to go back. Since we feel that we are here temporarily, we are less willing to get involved with local issues. I’ve had this conversation with many Nepalis—even those who have green cards or citizenships—their reaction is “why bother” or “it’s not our country” or “I’m not a citizen, so I don’t have any right to speak”—I also think it’s a matter of time. Once we have a critical mass and/or once we have second generation of Nepalis in large enough number, we too will get involved. We work here and pay taxes, we spend our most productive years here. We should also be talking about our rights here. As for people talking about their status, most people I have spoken to have freely talked about their immigration status.

Further information:

Immigrant Communities in Action is organizing “An Urgent Immigrant Community Dialogue with Elected Officials” on Saturday, March 25th, from 1pm to 4pm at P.S. 212 at 34-25 82nd Street, Jackson Heights, Queens. Call DRUM at (718) 205-3036 or email momamdrumnation.org for details.
Nepali Monarchy’s struggle for autocracy and Nepal’s struggle for Democracy

Kashish Das Shrestha

The struggle between Nepal’s Palace and people over how and by whom Nepal is ruled is not limited to the political events post- 1 Feb. 05 coup by King Gyanendra, or even post- October 2002 when the last elected Prime Minister was in office. While his grandfather and father systematically dismantled what forms of “democracy” existed in their time, King Gyanendra has violated perhaps every possible aspect of democratic norms since he seized absolute power a little over a year ago.

In April 1990, the People’s Movement of Nepal successfully reached its climax and installed a full fledged multi-party democracy in the country. In 1995 the Maoist movement began to spread its wings. In 2002, the last of the democratically elected government was dismantled when King Gyanendra fired then Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba for not being able to hold elections. Nepal has not had an elected government since, one would not be possible without first resolving the Maoist issue politically, which is what the 7-party alliance is currently trying to do.

As we near April 2006, having lost in 12 short years the democracy hundreds of thousands of Nepalishad struggled to earn for generations of Nepalis, the country is bracing itself for a showdown between the palace and the opposition parties again. The 7-party alliance, after reviewing and renewing their 12 point understanding with the Maoists only last weekend, has vowed for a decisive movement in weeks to come. Has the recurring struggle for democracy reached its climax now, only time will tell. But as long as we - parties, palace, security forces and the people of Nepal- don’t learn from the mistakes made in the past, and if the parties, the Maoists and the people don’t rise to the occasion, it could greatly jeopardize Nepal’s democratic future, again.

Timeline: Palace vs. People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Anti-Rana forces based in India form alliance with monarch.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>King Tribhuwan dies, King Mahendra ascends throne.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Multi-party constitution adopted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>King Mahendra seizes control and suspends parliament, constitution and party politics after Nepali Congress Party (NCP) wins elections with B. P. Koirala as premier.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>New constitution provides for non-party system of councils known as “panchayat” under which king exercises sole power. First elections to Rastrya Panchayat held in 1963.</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>King Mahendra dies, succeeded by Birendra.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Constitutional referendum follows agitation for reform. Small majority favours keeping existing panchayat system. King agrees to allow direct elections to national assembly - but on a non-party basis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>NCP begins civil disobedience campaign for restoration of multi-party system.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>New elections boycotted by NCP.</td>
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### Nation

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Pro-democracy agitation coordinated by NCP and leftist groups. Street protests suppressed by security forces resulting in deaths and mass arrests. King Birendra eventually bows to pressure and agrees to new democratic constitution. (Details under People’s Movement for Democracy, Spring 1990)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Koirala’s government defeated in no-confidence motion. New elections lead to formation of Communist government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Communist government dissolved. Radical leftist group, the Nepal Communist Party (Maoist) begins insurrection in rural areas aimed at abolishing monarch and establishing people’s republic.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>(July) Deuba announces peace with rebels, truce begins. (November) Maoists say peace talks have failed, truce is no longer justified. Launch coordinated attacks on army and police posts. State of emergency declared after more than 100 people are killed in four days of violence. King Gyanendra orders army to crush the Maoist rebels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>(May) Parliament dissolved, fresh elections called amid political confrontation over extending the state of emergency. Deuba expelled by his Nepali Congress party, heads interim government, revives emergency. (October) Deuba asks king to put off elections by a year because of Maoist violence. King Gyanendra dismisses Deuba and indefinitely puts off elections set for November. Lokendra Bahadur Chand appointed to head government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>May/June: Lokendra Bahadur Chand resigns as prime minister. King appoints his own nominee Surya Bahadur Thapa as new premier. Political stalemate between parties and palace grows; clashes between students/activists and police begin regularly as the “Movement against Regression” by the 5-party alliance gains momentum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>(March/April) Thousands of protesters converge in Kathmandu for weeks, police use stern force to crack down on protests and protesters. (May) Royalist Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa resigns following weeks of street protests by opposition groups. (June) King Gyanendra reappoints Sher Bahadur Deuba as prime minister.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1 February 2005: King Gyanendra dismisses Prime Minister Deuba and his government, declares a state of emergency and assumes direct power, citing the need to defeat Maoist rebels. Armed security forces base themselves in media houses and try to censor the press. New ordinances curtailing independence of NGOs, INGOs, Media introduced. Citizens, members of civil society, political and human rights activists arrested indiscriminately for no legal reason. Unchecked authority handed to the security forces, which inevitably leads to massive human rights violations including rape and murder.</td>
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</table>

November 2005: Maoist rebels and main opposition parties agree on a programme intended to restore democracy.

1 February 2006: Political stalemate between the King and the 7-party alliance continues. King continues to consolidate power while being increasingly alienated by the international community, holds make-shift municipal elections on 8 February with only 20% voter turnout and celebrates “Democracy Day” on 19 February. The same day the 7-party alliance also vows to intensify their fight to restore democracy.
As demonstrators began a general strike, King Birendra dissolved his five-day-old Council of Ministers early today and appointed Lokendra Bahadur Chand the new Prime Minister to negotiate with leaders of the pro-democracy movement that is challenging his Government.

The Nepalese Army and police opened fire Friday on a procession of 200,000 pro-democracy demonstrators. Hospital officials said that at least nine people were killed and several hundred wounded as crowds tried to surge past police cordons toward the royal palace.

The opposition rebuffed an offer by Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand to start a political dialogue today as troop carriers trundled through the capital a day after security forces opened fire on pro-democracy demonstrators.

Bowing to unrelenting pressure from a pro-democracy movement, King Birendra of Nepal announced tonight that he was lifting a 29-year ban on political activity, opening the possibility of multiparty rule in this Himalayan land.

Hundreds of thousands of Nepalese, their faces smeared with vermillion powder, waved the red flags of the Nepalese Congress Party and the Communist Party today as they flooded the streets of this city and others in an explosion of joy at the end of a nearly three-decade ban on political activity.

Leaders of the opposition movement denounced representatives of the non-party system today for seeking to remain in power as "an interim government."

In an effort to end a four-day political stalemate, King Birendra invited the leader of Nepal's opposition to join him in direct talks today, apparently on the formation of a new transitional government.

King Birendra met today with the principal Nepalese opposition leader and reportedly approved the formation of a new government that could be led by the opposition.

King Birendra dissolved Nepal's national assembly today and accepted the resignation of his Prime Minister after a weekend of increasingly angry protests here over the pace of democratic change.

King Birendra of Nepal today invited the national opposition, including the country's Communist leaders, to form the first multiparty government in 30 years as this Hindu kingdom continued its passionate rush toward democracy.

The World Bank and several nations that give aid to Nepal warned aides to King Birendra last month that financial help for this impoverished kingdom could be jeopardized if the King failed to respond to the democracy movement that has since started to take power, officials here say.

Nepal’s experiment with multiparty democratic government formally began today on an enthusiastic and emotional note.

The King of Nepal has been warned by the country’s leading political party that if he does not turn over substantial powers to the interim Government, the party will call crowds back into the streets to force the issue.

May 12 In a move that caught the newly installed Government by surprise, the King of Nepal named a panel today to rewrite the country’s Constitution without consulting his Prime Minister.

Jun 13 Acting on the recommendation of Nepal’s new Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and his center-left Cabinet, King Birendra decreed a blanket amnesty today for all people who have been jailed or are awaiting trial on charges of encouraging the religious conversion of Nepalese.

Sep 11 King Birendra was officially presented today with the draft of a new national constitution that would preserve his status as chief of state but establish a multiparty democracy, separation of powers and human rights as hallmarks of the political system.

Nov 11 Seven months after pro-democracy forces toppled Nepal’s absolute monarchy and began a difficult process of change, King Birendra has put his official seal on a new Constitution that enshrines multiparty democracy and human rights as hallmarks of the political system. It took effect Friday morning after a five-minute ceremony at the palace attended by the King and senior officials of the interim Government.
संरक्षण क्षेत्रमा निजी व्यवस्थापनको निर्णय
प्रकृति संरक्षणमा दर्शारको एकधिकार

«Continued from Page 1

Locals at the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve; Photo: Rabin Giri
The 93 km stretch of road being built in Rolpa, Nepal’s Maoist heartland, might be a Maoist undertaking but the workers are all general citizens. Thousands of villagers from different villages have been arriving here regularly to work on the ”Martyr’s road.” The road, which starts in Rolpa’s Nuwagaun, has almost reached Ghartigaun. Last year, amidst a grand ceremony, the first 11 km of the road from Nuwagaun to Tilla had been inaugurated. The road, which the Maoists plan to make ready in 3 years, has been completed about 49% since work on it started a year ago.

Although the Maoists declare that those working on the road are volunteers, they have repeatedly forced people to work in the past. The method is such that every village has to pledge one person per household to work on the road. Should a family or household defy the order, they are subject to a fine of Rs. 9,000 to the People’s Government. On an average, during one such session children as young as 10- years old through men and women as senior as 70-years old in numbers of 900- 1,600. They work for 8 hours per day with 5 minute breaks per hour. Although the general feeling about this obligation is unhappiness, most workers try to make the most of it by joking and doing what it takes to get through the day. The Maoist cadres present at the site are usually dressed neatly in their casuals or uniforms while the villagers build the ”Martyr’s Road.”
"Mėline 30 var ydigt grynë gynë patin antë vontëntë rëchërësëdu"  

Photo: Anushil Shrestha

Entertainment
Pop Express

Pop star Nirnaya da’ Naughty Soul Kid in a movie

Guess what Nirnaya da’ Naughty Soul Kid is busy doing these days? He is composing an original score for a Nepali big budget movie in Studio 2000. Nep-Hop popularizer NSK will be doing the title track for the movie which will be directed by Kollywood actor Dilip Rayamajhi. The movie, “Breakfail”, will be actor Rayamajhi’s directorial debut and feature him along side Nikhil Upreti, one of the busiest actors in the industry. And if you are wondering whether NSK will make an appearance or not on the silver screen, then the answer might be yes. NSK is said to have a cameo appearance. Cal in the movie (maybe he’ll drive up in his golden-yellow car and wave that trademark “peace out” sign?). NSK was one of the several pop artists in the recently finished 5-stop Shikhar Pop Express group tour in Kathmandu and he is now set to bring da house down at the Mero Mobile Concert in Pokhara this weekend. Last year, his debut solo album “Frenz”, They were both produced in America. Nepali airwaves in the first week of April.

Harish Mathema in studio

Pop icon Harish Mathema, who recently finished a US tour alongside Sanjeep Pradhan, Sarasma Amatya and a few other pop singers last year, is back in Nepal and busy in the studios. The singer is currently working on his as yet untitled album. It will be his 6th full length album in a career that spans 22 years. A solo concert in Kathmandu is also scheduled to coincide with the album launch. And soon after, the singer has planned to go on an international tour.

Andazification’s debut in Nepal

SAV music label will be distributing the debut album “JPT” by Andajification, a pop-rock Nepali trio based in San Francisco, California. Amongst others in SAV’s catalog of upcoming albums that are waiting to hit the store shelves, SAV is banking on “JPT” to bring in the goods. The album and music video were both produced in America. Nepali Aawaz was the first to introduce them in the Nepali media (see Issue #1, Oct.05). For those who did not know, JPT stands for “Je Payo Tehi”. SAV also recently released pop star Sudip Giri’s second album “Frenz,” They are also preparing to release their annual compilation album Budget 2006, which was discontinued last year.

Catch-22’s new plans

City rockers Catch-22 is returning with a full length album “Plan B”. And this time, Taal Music is producing it. According to frontman Prallen, Plan A always failed on them. So, they had to come up with a Plan B. The band lineup is new, except for bassist Shyam Maharjan and Prallen of course. The band had released a demo and an album earlier. At one time, they were also quite popular in the city and regularly played at the Rum Doodle for almost 2 years. They quit when the equipment caught fire one evening.

“Plan B” will feature eight songs and probably an English number too. The band has been known for their distinct sound and Prallen’s inimitable voice. Three singles have already been released from the album. Music video for Chiplo Baato is underway, directed by Taal’s founder and the band’s producer Aslam Khan. The video is scheduled to hit the Nepali airwaves in the first week of April.

Two music videos on the line

Asif Shah is currently working on pop sensation Sugam Pokharel’s upcoming music video for the single “Saathi”. This will be the third music video for Sugam’s latest and third album “Sutra” released in 2005. Music video for its first single “Mannko Dailo” was directed by Pooja Gurung and had become a hit. The upcoming video will star Asif alongside his childhood friend Suraj Singh Thakuri of Kantipur Television.

Suraj Singh Thakuri, who himself is a music video director, on the other hand is directing Sudip Giri’s single “Sannani” from his latest album “Frenz,” released earlier this year. “Sannani” features guitar licks from Nepathya’s Hari and has received good reviews by Kathmandu’s FM stations.

Raju Lama’s birthday bash

Mongolian Heart’s frontman and pop heart throb Raju Lama celebrated his 28th Birthday with his family, friends and colleagues at Dalima Restaurant in Thamel on 17 March. Pop stars Nima Rumba, Kranti Ale, music video director Suraj Shah and Prashan Syangden, Prahat Rimal and Sumit of Kantipur FM and Cybernepal’s Kasaju brothers were present amongst others. The cake was cut at 10:05 PM, the time of his birth.

Fans of Mongolian Hearts should also be happy to know that the band is all set to release Mongolian Hearts Vol 4. Everything, including cover designs, has already been finished and the album is set to hit the stores within a month. Raju Lama fans should also look for his solo performances at Germany and Australia tentatively scheduled for this May.

Aananda Karki’s latest

Adhunik legend Anand Karki has started archiving his music personally. His 10th and most recent album “Aananda” was does, however, find him in a more pop music arena. Ananda Karki has also performed a jingle for Indian cell-phone giants Air-Tel.
दल र माओवादीविच दोस्तो सहमति - सात दलले आम हइन्टल गर्न

काताङ्कोै। सात राष्ट्रिय दल र माओवादीविच पुरुष को सहमति भएको हो । सामाजिक उच्च भएको नजीला सात राष्ट्रिय दलको परिवर्तन र माओवादीविच परिवर्तनको लागि उपल्लको सहमति भएको हो । यसले २० वटै सामाजिक दलको बोक्स को परिवर्तन र माओवादीविच परिवर्तनको लागि उपल्लको सहमति भएको हो । यसले २० वटै सामाजिक दलको बोक्स को परिवर्तन र माओवादीविच परिवर्तनको लागि उपल्लको सहमति भएको हो ।

शाही सेनाको एफएकमा तयारी

दश चरण नारायणसाहबको सामनामा उन्होने खुल्ला हात हेको सेना शाही सेनाको सेनाहरू र सेनाको काम एफएकमा पालन गर्ने गरेछ। जस्तै कृतिका र ललितका कृतिका केर र ललितका कृतिका केर देखि एक नयाँ नाम निकाल दिएको छ। सरकार सेनाको प्रशासन र सेनाको कार्यक्रमको तयारी एक व्यक्ति प्रमुखको प्रयोग गरी यसको लागि एक प्रतिष्ठित लोकप्रिय नाम छ। सरकारको प्रमुखको नामले यसको लागि एक प्रतिष्ठित लोकप्रिय नाम छ।

सरकारलाई अभिलक्षिण गरिएको छ। त्यसैले यसले सेनाको काम कृतिका र ललितका केर देखि एक नयाँ नाम निकाल दिएको छ। सरकारलाई अभिलक्षिण गरिएको छ। त्यसैले यसले सेनाको काम कृतिका र ललितका केर देखि एक नयाँ नाम निकाल दिएको छ। त्यसैले यसले सेनाको काम कृतिका र ललितका केर देखि एक नयाँ नाम निकाल दिएको छ।
नागरिक समाजका चार नेता अघू थुनबामा

Anushil Shrestha

नागरिक समाजका चार नेता अघू थुनबामा ५ माघ २०६२ मा संघ सन्तान र शिक्षा समितिका भवनमा शासन र राष्ट्रीय प्रदेश
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“How can they say democracy failed?”

| Continued from Page 1 |

I really don’t believe the King is ever going to say that, or mean it. I think that he wants to continue having absolute power over the nation-an autocratic rule with no kind of democracy whatsoever!

The thing is, this is about democracy, its about reinstating the parliament. The younger generation is calling for a Republican state, and that’s fine too. But as far as I know, most of my colleagues from my generation are not really stone hard about removing the King entirely, we are alright as long as he remains strictly ceremonial. But he is not ready, the King himself does not want to give up power.

Why should the King and party compromise?

The reason the King and the parties should compromise is because there is a raging crisis in Nepal, the political deadlock, the Maoist violence. So if the king agrees to remain ceremonial and give back democracy, the SPA would form a government and formally establish a dialogue with the Maoists in a way that would ensure lasting peace. And a lasting peace is a good thing, you know. This would also ensure no bloodshed. With peace, there is room for development in so many aspects of the country’s economy and society, even develop the politics of Nepal.

Why shouldn’t the King and party compromise?

SAF is trying to reestablish democracy in Nepal. If the King wants to go along with this, that’s fine. If he doesn’t, then we will force him to. Then we will hold negotiations with the Maoists and bring stability back to Nepal.

So you are saying the party and the Maoists have a larger role in what happens in Nepal, since the only role that the King has is to either give back the power to the people or hold on to it.

Well the King has a large role too but the parties and the Maoists have to come to a clear understanding about stopping the violence. Why continue the killing? How many more people need die?

What kind of role do you see fit for the Monarchy in Nepal’s democratic future?

Like I mentioned earlier, I don’t mind a ceremonial king with no political power. If he is smart enough to make this choice now he may still have a chance. But there is a strong call coming from the younger generation and many factions for an end of this monarchy, and if they chose to do so, that is fine by me too.

What role do you see for today’s youth in the political movement?

They have a big role. The youth should be more involved and more dedicated towards achieving democracy because the responsibility of rebuilding the country is going to fall on their shoulders.

What are your thoughts towards the constitutional assembly and democratic republic?

There really is no other solution that a Constituent Assembly because the monarchy has repeatedly cheated the people about democracy. We have to walk that line now. As for Ganatantra, the SAF has not yet moved towards that direction. But yes, Loktantra is definitely what we want.

What do you think must be done in order to ensure the SPA does not fall apart?

This SPA alliance will not break in any case. If anything, it will grow stronger.

The current government has declared that democracy has failed.

Democracy had never failed but the moment the King took over, all of Nepal has begun to fail. Yes, there have just been changes in the government, but a frequent change in the government does not mean failure of democracy, it happens in other countries, too such as, India and Europe.

How can one say democracy failed?

Citizens have so much awareness about their rights now, there is such a massive realization of the need for social equality; women, Dalits, janjatis are all now fighting for equality. These realizations have been made because of and during democracy. But the thing is, we cannot perform miracles and it shouldn’t be expected either. So democracy never failed, but now that the king has taken over all of Nepal has almost failed.

Do you think people actively helped nurture democracy during its 12 years?

The people run the system by voting, that is their most important role. But in Nepal there have always been a huge number of people under poverty, and many that are unemployed, there was discrimination against the untouchables and so on. You cannot expect such conditions to end easily so there was a lot of frustration too on the people’s side. But the people did do their part.

What role do you see for today’s youth in the political movement?

They have a big role. The youth should be more involved and more dedicated towards achieving democracy because the responsibility of rebuilding the country is going to fall on their shoulders.

What is your concept of a new Nepal?

A beautiful Nepal; one that offers ample employment opportunities and a well designed health care plan for its citizens. A new Nepal would offer education and equal opportunity to everyone in the country, there would be no discrimination, only works of development.

Kashish Das Shrestha

The propositions to dissolve the parliament came at a time when you were Prime Minister, during an elected government’s rule.

The King did not let me hold elections at that time. The parties also postponed the elections saying that the time was not right, they believed it would be better to hold talks with the Maoists first. So the elections were postponed in good faith, really. But the King ousted me in an unconstitutional manner. There were also internal problems between the parties and myself because I was agreeing to extended the state of emergency while the parties were against doing so. So yes, that was creating difficulties within the government too, at the time. But coming back to your question, the proposition was made because an election would have naturally constitute another parliament. Its just that the King never gave me time to hold the planned elections.

Soon after you were released from the invalidated RCCC court there were talks that Nepali Congress and Nepali Congress (Democratic), which you head, might unite.

Let’s just say that nobody has taken any further step towards it yet. And its not an easy thing to do either.

What will happen if King Gyanendra now asks the SPA leaders to form a coalition government?

Finally, the King is asking the SPA leaders to form a coalition government. But the King has taken over all of Nepal has begin to fail. Yes, there have just been changes in the government, but a frequent change in the government does not mean failure of democracy, it happens in other countries, too such as, India and Europe.

Kashish Das Shrestha

Left to Right: Mrs. and Mr. Deuba at a hotel in New York. Photo: Kashish Das Shrestha

Nepali Aawaz | March 24, 2008
बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप

Ananda Koirala

लेखकले राखी यस्तो गोल्डकप उपाध्य बिनापत्र नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजने गरेको गोल्डकप दिनमा तिनीहरूले राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बु�ामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको तथापि लेखकले बताएको "बुतामुत्सा गोल्डकप" र उनलाई नेपाली एफएसएससी लगभग सत्रकक आयोजनेको गोल्डकप दिनमा राखी गरेको नेपाली एफएसएससी लग�
Sports

Sports Update

NAA releases calendar
Nepal Athletics Association (NAA) Monday unveiled the calendar for the upcoming 2006/7. In all, 15 events will be held in various part of the country including the participation in the Asian Games being held in Qatar and SA Games being held in Sri Lanka. The 36th edition of the National Athletics Championship has been scheduled for the first week of March, 2007 in Pokhara. The statement released by the NAA said that if anyone wants to hold tournament other than the ones in the calendar, they have to inform NAA in due time. “NAA is ready to assist in such events provided they are informed timely,” the release added.

Crawling introduced as a sport
L G Khambacka Sherpa, a cab driver in New York city, has introduced a new sports, Crawling, in Nepal. Rather than a sport, it is more of a physical fitness game, said Sherpa at a press meet. The game requires a person to crawl like an animal using palms, knees and feet with various styles — crawling, stalking, galloping and leaping. “As it is in primary stage, it could take time to develop into a game,” the founder of the game, Sherpa said. He successfully demonstrated the ‘new game’ in New York for charity by covering a distance of 13 miles in a week from Broadway Bridge to Ground Zero to help raise fund for the victims of Tsunami and to honor the police officials and firefighters who dies on September 11 at World Trade Center. A special outfit for the crawlers is already being designed. “Once there is a dress for it, it would be easier to promote the game as it would add more flavor to the sports.”

U-19 cricketers, Olympians felicitated
Nagarjun Rotary Club (NRC) awarded U-19 cricketers, two Olympians and an athletics coach at a felicitation programme here. Crown Prince Paras, who is also the patron of National Sports Council, presented the awards. Skipper Kanishka Chaugain, Basanta Regmi and Mahesh Chhetri — members of the Nepali U-19 cricket team that won the Plate Championship in the ICC Under-19 World Cup in Sri Lanka last month — were awarded with a Pulsar motorcycles each while other 11 members got Rs 10,000 each. Coach Roy Luke Dias and assistant coach Shankar Rana were also felicitated on the occasion. The three cricketers were outstanding with their performances getting places in the ICC’s top 10 rankings. Skipper Chaugain was seventh in the most run-getters’ list with 234 runs including two half centuries, while Regmi was eighth in the highest wicket-takers’ list with 12 scalps at an average of 16.25 and Chhetri was fourth in wicket-keeping with 12 dismissals — nine stumpings and three catches.

The NRC also presented Rs 25,000 each to the two Olympians — Tribhuvan Army Club athlete Rajendra Bhandari and swimmer Alice Shrestha — who broke national records in the Athens Olympics last year. Bhandari had set the new record of 14.04.89 in 5,000m race, while Shrestha had broken the 100m breast stroke record. Athletics coach Puspa Raj Ojha also received a cash prize of Rs 5,000. NSC general secretary Kishor B Singh was also present on the occasion.

PakistanI Ambassador’s Cup golf tournament
Gautam Sayami won the Pakistani Ambassador’s Cup golf tournament on count back after he was tied at 33 points with Lt Gen Chitra Bahadur Gurung. Crown Prince Paras, who also played over the 18 holes, gave away prizes to the winners. Played at 7/8 handicap format at Royal Nepal Golf Course, CB Bhandari won the best gross award. Other winners were Maj NK Rai (above-60), Maj P Limbu (above-70), Kalpana Limbu (ladies), Niraj Rana (longest drive), Deep Bahadur Basnet (most birdies). Sapkota wins Himalayan Bank Cup Sabin Sapkota registered an one-stroke victory over Deepak Neupane at the Himalayan Bank Cup Open Golf Tournament with a total of seven-over 295 here at Gokarna Forest Golf Resort and Spa. Sapkota, who had a three-stroke lead over Deepak Acharya after the third round, carded five-over 77 and earned Rs 51,000. Deepak Neupane had even-par 72 but was not enough to catch Sapkota, who went to top with a round of three-under 69 on Wednesday. Neupane finished with a total of eight-over 296 and received Rs 27,500, while Acharya and Deepak Thapa Magar came joint third at 11-over 299 and bagged Rs 15,500 each. Chuda Bahadur Bhandari, who was second after the first round with 70, came overall fifth and was the best among amateurs. Acharya and Deepak Acharya had joint third at 11-over 299 and bagged Rs 15,500 each. Chuda Bahadur Bhandari, who was second after the first round with 70, came overall fifth and was the best among amateurs.

The winners of the four-day pro tournament held from March 13-16 were also awarded. Sabin Sapkota was winner with seven-over 295 and earned Rs 51,000. Deepak Neupane, at 296, was second and received Rs 27,500, whereas Deepak Acharya and Deepak Thapa Magar joint third with 299. They got Rs 15,500 each. Among amateurs, CB Bhandari had finished first with 301, followed by Surya Prasad Sharma (306).

Cricketers leave for Namibia
National Sports Council (NSC) member secretary Kishor Bahadur Singh bade farewell to the 15-member cricket team, which will play the ICC Inter-Continental Cup play-off match against Namibia. Nepal needs to win the four-day match to qualify as the eighth team while a draw would ensure Namibia’s berth. Nepal is slated to play on March 23-26. Coach Roy Luke Dias and Manager Sri Nivas Rana also accompanied the team. Dias expressed less trust over his senior members of the squad. “I am more hopeful with the younger breeds”, he said.

Squad: Binod Das (captain), Shakti Gauhan (vice captain), Paresh Lohani, Dhirendra Chand, Kanishka Chaugain, Raj Kumar Pradhan, Sharad Vesawkar, Gunendra Malla, Amir Akhtar, Manoj Katuwal, Raju Basnyat, Mehood Alam, Basanta Regmi.

Adidas ties with United Youth Club
ROOTS Fashion Pvt Ltd, the distributor of Adidas products in Nepal, handed over football gears worth Rs 175,000 to United Youth Club, which is playing in the ongoing Martyrs’ Memorial ‘B’ Division League. Rajiv Shrestha, director of ROOTS, gave away the kits to Krishna Bhakta Manandhar, president of UYC, and skipper Prem Kumar Subba. The club, which was established in 1971, entered the ‘A’ division in 1989 and stayed in the premier division for nine years, before falling for relegation.

Yamaha G5 for best five
All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) awarded five personalities with a G-5 motorcycle and a cash prize of Rs 100,000 each after the charity match between Nepali national squad and African United Club here at Dasharath Stadium. Yamaha India Limited, in association with ANFA, had also awarded five best individuals in the ‘A’ Division League Football this year with a G-5 motorcycle each. Last year, too, six best persons in the League were presented with Yamaha Lites each. This time, it was off-the-field heroes for their selfless contribution towards the development of football in the country. Home Minister Kamal Thapa gave away the awards to Dilip Rai, president of Sunsari Football Association, former national players and coaches Ashok KC and Raju Shakyah, Balesh Shrestha of MPC and former FIFA referee Sri Ram Ranjitkar.

Sunsari FA president Dilip Rai is regarded as a role model in the Eastern Region footballin his decade-long contribution. Ashok KC ad Raju Shakyah served the national team first as national player and then as wellknown coaches at the present. Former national team skipper and FIFA referee Sri Ram Ranjitkar is best known for the theoretical and practical knowledge in refereeing, Kalesh Shrestha is known for his strong defence and is currently playing from Mahendra Police Club. ANFA had announced the names at a press meet at its secretariat in
ANFA names AFC Challenge Cup squad

All Nepal Football Association announced the 20-member national squad for the AFC Challenge Cup Football Tournament to be held in Bangladesh from April 1-16. The team includes seven players from Nabil Bangladesh from April 1-16. The team announced the 20-member national squad for the AFC Challenge Cup and league champions.

Surendra Bahadur Tamang, Pradip Bijay Gurung, Anjan KC, Rajesh Shahi, Three Star Club (Lok Bandhu Gurung, includes seven players from Nabil

Meanwhile, the national team and the African United played a 1-1 draw

ANFA vice-president Lalit Krishna Shrestha will lead the team with Dhrendra Pradhahn been given the responsibility of manager. Shyam Thapa is the chief coach while Maheshwor Mulmi and Dhurba KC are the assistant coaches. The team will leave for Kolkota on Wednesday where it will play practice matches with local clubs before flying on April 1. The team will leave for Kolkota on Wednesday where it will play practice matches with local clubs before flying on April 1.

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Manag Marsyangdi Club (Bikash Malla, Nabin Neupane, Baranta Thapa, Sagar Thapa and Tashi Tsiring), two from Tribhuvan Army Club (Ram Kumar Biswas and Raju Tamang) and one from New Road Team (goalkeeper Surendra Shrestha). Yugal Kishore Rai, Sanjeev Budhathoki and Mansan Rajbhandari — who were in the camp — were the three players ousted. Pralay Rajbhandari, Janak Singh and Rakesh Shrestha left the training earlier due to injuries. Suman Subedi, Ram Kumar Biswas and Surendra Shrestha have made it the national squad for the first time.

*Continued from Page 12*

Satdobato a week earlier

Nepal will play Malaysia on March 31. Nepal will take on Bhutan in its opening match on April 1.

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Events
25 March / Langhali (Magar) Association U.S.A. is celebrating first annual gathering in the New York City. Every one is invited. All Magar friends are requested to participate in this event since this is our first event in the U.S.A in order to conserve our Magar heritage.
Venue: Dhaka Club, New York City. Tickets: $30.00. Contact: Rajesh Thapa; 917-750 6906/rajinthapas@yahoo.com or Dal Bdr. Budhathoki; 947-806-2272.


10 April / GBNC presents Samday Sherpa and company, Boston, Mass. US. Join us as we ring in the 2063 New Year with a night of performances by Nepali celebrities. Line up for the night includes performances by Bijaya Lama, Raja Ram Poudel, Dendi Sherpa amongst others. 7 p.m. Venue: Good Time Emporium, 30 Assembly Square Dr., Somerville, MA 02145. Ticket: $25 per individual (dinner included- $5 will go towards the ANA Boston Sports team)

15 April / Nepali New Year Celebration in Sydney, Australia. A traditional nepali dinner will be provided with soft drinks, beer and wine will be sold at the bar. 6:00pm-12:00am. Venue: Cottage Street (Off Victoria & William Streets), Werrington. Tickets: Singles $20, Couples $30 and Families $40. Tickets will be sold in advance for catering purposes please contact (02)47338963 or 0412163317.

To list your events on Nepali Aawaz, events@nepaliaawaz.com or 718. 271. 3066
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