

The Nepal Digest

The First Nepali e-Magazine

Year 15, Volume VI, Issue 1, Published On Wednesday June 30, 2004 (Ashadh 16 2061 B.S.), New York, USA

About The Nepal Digest

The Nepal Digest (TND) is a publication of TND Foundation, global not-for-profit information and resource center (registered in New York, USA) committed to promoting issues concerning Nepal. All members of TheNepalDigest.org will get copy of [The Nepal Digest \(TND\)](http://TheNepalDigest.org). Membership is free of charge and is open to all.

The Nepal Digest is the first Nepali electronic e-magazine in the Internet. The Nepal Digest hopes to create a free and democratic electronic platform -- free of all political views, free of cultural biasness, against prejudices and unjustness of all kinds.

IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial

Who said what?

Letter to Editor

News

Immigration Q&A

Interview

M Singh/S Gongal

Politics

Dr. Surendra Devkota

Raman Raj Mishra

Kalyan D Bhattarai

Dr. Prem Sharma

Social

Kamala Sarup

Roshan Sherchan

Business

Bashu Dev Phulara

Women Issues

Puspa Dhakal

Diaspora

Various Activities (4 Updates)

ANA 2004

Arun Sharma

TND – 10 Years Ago

Pramod Pandey

Literature

Hem Raj Bastola

Sudip Koirala

Maoist Website

TND Research

You can submit your articles, views and news at its website

<http://theNepalDigest.org/submit.htm> or via email contact@theNepalDigest.org. The TND team appreciates your support.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE contributions can be mailed payable to:

TND Foundation

P.O. Box 8206

White Plains, NY 10602

The Nepal Digest Team

Editor/Coordinator:

Ujjwal Bhattarai: contact@theNepalDigest.org

Members:

Sunita Dhungana: IT@theNepalDigest.org

Pramod Pandey: ppandey@theNepalDigest.org

Deependra Malla: deependra@theNepalDigest.org

Advisors:

Pramod Mishra: pramod@theNepalDigest.org

Rajpal Singh: rjsingh@theNepalDigest.org

Editorial: "Lost in Lust"

- By *Ujjwal Bhattarai*

Dear Readers:

I find following verse from the Ashtavakra Gita, very applicable to Nepalese political leaders and their lust for power. Their weaknesses have become the biggest misfortune of Nepalese people.

The man who is wise
Knows himself in all things
And all things in himself.

Yet how strange!
He still says, "This is mine."

Determined to be free,
He abides in the oneness
Beyond all things.

Yet how strange!
Indulging in passion, he weakens,
And lust overwhelms him.

-Ashtavakra Gita 3:5-6

From "The Heart of Awareness: A Translation of the Ashtavakra Gita," by Thomas Byrom, 1990.

Indeed, Nepalese people have lost their hope in their leader's lust of "power". How unfortunate!

Ujjwal Bhattarai

Editor/Co-ordinator

The Nepal Digest (TND)

contact@theNepalDigest.org

Who said what?

"Rs 228,039,113,441. That is exactly how much Nepal owes foreign creditors, which comes to Rs 10,000 for every man, woman and child in this country."

- **Navin Singh Khadka** on Issue 202 of Nepali Times

.....

"How do you tell a communist? Well, it's someone who reads Marx and Lenin. And how do you tell an anti-communist? It's someone who understands Marx and Lenin."

- **Ronald Reagan**, 40th US President, who recently passed away

Letter to Editor: "Nepal: Zone of Horror"

- By *Bishnu Simkhada*

Nepal a Zone of Peace is Turning to a Zone of Horror

Late King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev wanted to see Nepal as "Zone of Peace" however now after his death, this country is turning to "Zone of Horror". I wonder whether peace has gone with beloved king. I always ask to myself, will there be peace again in our country? Will there be a day when Nepalese be able to breath in peaceful air? Few years ago, I used to think Nepal is a country in heaven. So peaceful environment, natural beauty everywhere from nature to peoples' mind. But, now I can't imagine the situation. I scare when I read news, because always there is news of crime and

violence. Since years eyes are eager to read the news of peace and security not only in my country in the whole world.

What is happening to Nepalese mind and they are fighting to each other? All are fighting for power but what kind of power they want and to whom they want to implement? I am sorry to say this but I do feel that we don't have even a single clear hearted leader in our country. All are fighting not for public but for the sake of themselves. All are cold-blooded. No one in the country, who are so called leaders, have devotion for the people and nation, all have preoccupied mind. I doubt for the existence of anyone who really is worried about national peace and public security. If anyone existed, they would come forward for table talk and there would not be such casualties every day, there would not be such a violence among Nepalese.

Everyday we have to read the news as there are such and such numbers of casualties form Army, moist and general public. What a shame? Either they be army, general public or Maoist they are Nepalese, people of same country.

Meaning of country is home and its people means family. There should be unity, cooperation, love and devotion in a family to have prosperous future. If there is not, everyone in the house will suffer, everyone wants to escape form the house as far as possible. I don't want to see such situation in Nepal, but condition is not improving, no way, just wait and see the future.

Wish peace be spread to every Nepalese heart and violence be stopped from the very moment.

God may bless us.

(Author is currently in Cardiff, UK and can be reached at <bdhading@hotmail.com>)

.....

News: "Innocent Purna in FBI detention"

- *TND Research*

Purna Raj Bajracharya from Kathmandu, Nepal was held in FBI high security detention unit called Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn for more than 2 years. He fault being overstaying his visa and videotaping FBI building in New York City and as a result of which he had to spent two years in notorious prison with almost three months in a 6-by-9-foot cell kept lighted 24 hours a day. FBI later determined him to be innocent and was deported to Nepal.

Finally, there is a story in New York Times about this by By NINA BERNSTEIN. Part of the story is given below. To read the complete article, please go to New York Times of June 30th or directly click on the link:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/30/nyregion/30deport.final.html?hp>
[Free registration is required.]

--- from NY Times, Published: June 30, 2004 ----

In F.B.I., Innocent Detainee Found Unlikely Ally

By NINA BERNSTEIN

NY Times: Published: June 30, 2004

He was a Buddhist from Nepal planning to return there after five years of odd jobs at places like a Queens pizzeria and a Manhattan flower shop. He was taping New York street scenes to take back to his wife and sons in Katmandu. And he had no clue that the tall building that had drifted into his viewfinder happened to include an office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Yet by the time Mr. Wynne filed his F.B.I. report a few days later, the Nepalese man, who spoke almost no English, had been placed in solitary confinement at a federal detention center in Brooklyn just because of his videotaping. He was swallowed up in the government's new maximum security system of secret detention and secret hearings, and his only friend was the same F.B.I. agent who had helped decide to put him there.

Except for the videotape — "a tourist kind of thing," in Mr. Wynne's estimation — no shred of suspicion attached to the man, Purna Raj Bajracharya, 47, who came from Nepal in 1996. His one offense — staying to work on a long-expired tourist visa — was an immigration violation punishable by deportation, not jail. But he wound up spending three months in solitary confinement before he was

sent back to Katmandu in January 2002, and to release him from his shackles, even Mr. Wynne needed help.

...

Read more at <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/30/nyregion/30deport.final.html?hp>

.....

Immigration Questions and Answers

- By **Ramesh K. Shrestha, Attorney-At-Law**

(Ramesh K. Shrestha is a practicing attorney in New York City. His office is located at 377 Broadway, Suite 801, New York, NY 10013. Tel: (212) 625-3394, Fax: (212) 431-4460, Email: Rshresthalaw@aol.com. His practice concentrates on Immigrant and Nonimmigrant Visas, Business Immigration, Extraordinary Ability, National Interest Waivers, Labor Certification/Permanent Residency, Detention/Bond, Removal/Deportation Defense before Immigration Courts/Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice.)

He will answer TND reader's immigration related questions. Questions can be asked by visiting our submit page or simply by emailing at contact@thenepaldigest.org. TND sincerely thanks and appreciates Mr. Shrestha's contribution. - Editor)

Bidya Shakya from USA asked:

Question:

I have recently found a job and the company has agreed to sponsor for H1 as well. However do I have to go back to Nepal to convert H4 visa to H1 Visa? Thank you.

Answer:

You can change your H-4 status to an H-1B by filing an I-129H petition with the USCIS right here in the United States. You are not required to return to Nepal only for this urpose.

Ramesh K. Shrestha, Attorney-At-Law

(Disclaimer Notice: Legal answer provided must not be construed as a legal advice rather it is an answer general in nature. One must seek legal advice from an immigration attorney for his or her particular legal matter.)

.....

Interview: "Help Nepal Network-US: Mabi Singh and Shailesh Gongal"

Presented here are excerpts of the interview with Shailesh Gongal, Chair and Dr. Mabi Singh, President of Help Nepal Network, USA.

Mr. Singh is an Asst. Professor at the Dept. of General Dentistry, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Boston. He worked for several years in remote parts of Nepal and is well acquainted with the problems and needs of the people in the health sector. Mr. Gongal is a civil engineer turned city planner, a MIT graduate, and the moderator of popular monthly discussion program "Chhalphal Discussion Series" in Boston. Both of them recently spoke with TND about establishing the Help Nepal Network chapter in the US (HeNN-USA).

For further information, contact Dr. Singh at 508-655-0944 or Mr. Gongal at 781-646-6843. HeNN's official website can also be visited at <http://helpNepal.net>.

.....

TND: How did you get into Help Nepal Network?

Mabi Singh: It was basically Rabindra Mishra of London whose honesty, vision and allegiance towards the cohort of destitute of Nepal, inspired me to get involved with the Help Nepal projects.

Shailesh Gongal: Through persuasion of our friends in HeNN-UK. They would call me up at odd hours and disturb my sleep, but it was flattering at the same time that they trusted me to work on such a noble venture. But more than that, I was drawn by the work that HeNN had done in the last four years. I was also drawn by the credible people that formed the core of the organizations like Rabindra Mishra, Pranab Gyawali, and Madhusudan Kayastha. Personally, it was an opportunity to expand my network beyond Boston and US.

TND: How do you plan to run the Network?

Mabi Singh: Though individuals can make significant differences and impacts, Help Nepal US intends to function on the sentiments of "WE" instead of me. We, have now a team of inspired, competent and motivated individuals without any political and individual agendas and continually seeking for more.

Shailesh Gongal: With a lot of support from the Nepali Community in the US and our Help Nepal Network friends around the world. People like you [Ujjwal Bhattarai] can help spread the word through media, word of mouth and showing your support. You have already contributed by publishing Rabindraj's article in your last issue and taking on this interview. Our team that we just established is very committed and all have a proven track record in their respective fields - they are not just "guffadis." Plus, we are working slowly but steadily to establish other regional chapters in the US. I again thank you [Ujjwal Bhattarai] and Abhaya Shrestha for taking the lead on this for the New York Chapter. Hopefully, we'll soon have HeNN-chapters all over the US. We will build on the credibility of the entire HeNN-global community.

TND: What are your short and long-term hopes/aspirations for HeNN-USA?

Mabi Singh: Our short-term plan is to raise funds for the Mugu Health Post Project, which has been named as "Help Nepal Health Post" by the local residents. We have been partially successful as Jack Starmer of "America Nepal Health Foundation" donated \$1000 towards the buying the necessary equipments. And more Nepalese have assured us support in the future. We will undertake larger projects that would benefit larger segments along with the other Help Network members.

Shailesh Gongal: Our immediate goal is to establish Help Nepal Network in the USA and make it credible. For this, in the short-term, we are about to introduce HeNN to the Nepali Diaspora in the US in a number of ways. We have already through San Pradhan's initiative provided a very prominent link to HeNN in sajha.com. Then we will launch HeNN in Boston by having a fund raising event. As our first event, we are showing Numafung, Nabin Subba's movie in Boston and New York. This will be followed in a couple of months by a barbecue or similar event. And we will also start an ongoing membership drive.

In the long-term, our goal is find innovative ways to continue and expand the membership drive to involve as many Nepalese as possible. That's why the - "One dollar a month" slogan. This way HeNN becomes accessible to all Nepalese in the USA. By being all-inclusive, this will be a truly Nepali endeavor in that sense.

Our ultimate goal (which falls into both short-term and long-term) is to support projects that meet Help Nepal Network's criteria. For instance, one of them is the Health Post in Mugu, which recently became operational.

TND: Given that you talk so passionately about HeNN-USA and envision it as a major source of funds, have you given some thought as to whether HeNN-USA should have an identity separate from other HeNN chapters such as HeNN-UK or HeNN-Australia?

Shailesh Gongal: People sometimes raise this issue, but I think it is sheer nonsense. First of all, we are just starting out, and yes, we are all enthusiastic about HeNN-USA being established here, but our goals and objectives are the same as any other HeNN chapter. The prefix HeNN is important, but suffixes that identify different countries such as -USA, -UK or -Japan are merely practical necessities to work within that country. If we become too identity conscious, we'll lose sight of our goals and waste time and energy over non-issues.

TND: What significant impacts could the project have?

Mabi Singh: Every contribution from the hard earned pennies of the Nepalese will make a difference in these projects.

Shailesh Gongal: First of all, I do not see this as a one time project. This is a lifetime venture. The strength of HeNN is that it has identified the two most critical problems of Nepal - health and education, and has begun to take action on it. HeNN will unite Nepalese around the world for this cause and inspire them to consciously contribute no matter where they are - and thus a true network for helping Nepal.

HeNN could have a major impact in the long run. Who knows, it could be an alternative to foreign aid, as we know it today. And it will be more effective because the contribution will be largely from Nepalese and friends of Nepal who will care about where the money goes and what the money does.

TND: What are some of the major problems of the project?

Mabi Singh: Help Nepal has been involved with lots of short-term projects. Mugu Health Post is quite an ambitious one with respect to the resources that Help Nepal currently has. But, the Network has been very fortunate to possess such a dedicated team for the management of the projects and the donor's contributions. However, in future, running a clinic with four beds in one of the remote parts of Nepal may demand more of human resources and physical infrastructures. Giving it continuity with the growing demands and needs of local population may be a problem.

Shailesh Gongal: I don't foresee any major problems as long as we work transparently. If problems come from outside, we'll deal with them as necessary.

TND: How do you plan to maintain HeNN-USA's good accountability (for the funds) and ensure that monies are not misused?

Mabi Singh: Some of the contributors may have doubts about the accountability. First of all the organization is contend by the volunteers and none of the network members are professional "NGO type", who make their living with the raised funds, rather they devote their times, efforts and sacrifice pleasures of their personal life to take this institution to a different level. We keep account of the each and every penny donated and inform the donors regularly where their hard earned money has been spent. We do not intend to accumulate "cash" in Help Nepal's account and we guarantee the transparency. Contributors who have seen or understood the mechanism of actions have no problem with the accountability as evident by the past-completed projects.

Shailesh Gongal: I agree with Mabi dai.

TND: How do you plan to motivate larger Nepalese mass, NRNs to support projects like these back home? What should be done to involve all parts of our community?

Mabi Singh: Nepalese, without any doubt are generous by nature and we never thought of having any one to persuade to make contributions for the responsibility they possess towards their country. To make it more successful and representative of the whole of the US, we need to spread words around, demonstrate the impacts made with (whatever) contributions they made. We will be more open, accommodate (not politically though) and welcome to more to join and pursue the goal(s) of HeNN Network.

Shailesh Gongal: We are reaching out to everyone. Through Internet, emails and phone. I talk to everyone I meet about this. If anyone writes to us with questions about how to start HeNN in other countries or communities, we immediately respond or refer to those who can guide them. HeNN UK is especially good at guiding people to help open HeNN chapters. We have received queries from France, China, India, Ireland and so many other countries, it's just amazing. Everyone is ready to join us.

TND: Have you received any support from NRN organizations or plan in that direction?

Shailesh Gongal: Are TND and Sajha not NRN organizations? As we grow, we are sure more organizations will come forward to support us. We will definitely approach any credible NRN organizations as we proceed. Remember that the key word is "Network."

TND: They say "people" are the key in any such projects? What kind of atmosphere are you around in the meetings? What kind of "people" make HeNN-USA team?

Mabi Singh: As I said before, we have competent, selfless and aspiring Nepalese from different walks of life in our team. Working for the Network demands incredible amount of time, energy, aspirations, enthusiasm and sometime leaving families behind. We are fortunate to have people with those qualities. As for the meetings, the environment is usually quiet sans heated debates as the work machineries have been pretty well oiled and there are clear guidelines and agendas.

Shailesh Gongal: Same as Mabi dai. One thing I'd like to stress is that we ask that people who join us do not have or bring their political or partisan agenda within this organization.

TND: What can HeNN-USA's supporters expect from donating in terms of personal satisfaction, etc?

Mabi Singh: As they say "satisfaction stops the progress", we should not offer this feeling of "satisfaction" with the donations they make for the challenges and needs are great. Their responsibilities do not end with the support they have rendered; rather takes to further destinations. We can't deny the gratitude for their donations also. In fact, we commend their love and feeling of responsibility towards Nepal and grateful with them to make the organization as the medium.

Shailesh Gongal: I cannot say it better than Mabi dai did. However, we will provide regular updates of HeNN's activities through email and e-newsletters so that donors or supporters as you call them can actually see what impacts their contributions are having.

TND: HeNN's theme "Stop complaining, and start helping Nepal" is self-explanatory however can you illustrate a little more on this.

Mabi Singh: We have seen huge promises made by the people and they have failed to deliver. We have heard large sums of money poured by the foreign agencies and made little progress. Now, this is the idea of Nepalese helping the needy Nepalese. We can't always blame someone else for the things that should have happened but unfortunately, did NOT happen. The network has enough evidences now, to prove that working together (of course without complaining) can make differences. Our efforts are just a small step towards achieving the goals of the network, but we will be trying harder to make leaps.

Shailesh Gongal: Generally speaking, if we put two or more Nepali gentlemen (including me though I would not call me a gentleman) together with a bottle of wine or beer, we can almost guarantee that at some point they will start complaining about the situation of the country, how corrupt everyone is and how dumb the politicians are and why no one seems to do anything about it. After a couple of more drinks, the discussion gets more philosophical and they may ask themselves "but what have we done for our country?" - the honest answer may vary from, "nothing to someday I may do something if everything works out." Frankly speaking, given the state of the country, most Nepalese including you and me cannot claim to have done enough for Nepal. That's why Gopal Yonzon's song is so humbling.

Therefore what we are saying is - you don't have to wait for everything to work out. You do not wait for everything to work out when you buy six-packs or if you are at a bar, a drink can cost you \$4-5 easily. Take that money you spend on that extra bottle of beer that makes you ask this question and give it to Help Nepal Network every month. Every dollar counts.

.....
Politics: A fight of vultures in Nepal
- By Surendra R Devkota

I am not an ornithologist, so don't know much about the psychology of the vultures. Based on my countryside childhood experiences, partially I still remember a social behavior of vultures such as their fight over the dead bodies. Ecologically, carcasses of dead animals are the main sources of food for these creatures. As a vulture either spots or smells the dead animal, it lands on around the dead body. Meanwhile also informs its friends which will join in due course of time. A flock of vultures may comprise more than five depending up on their density in the nearby vicinity. Once vultures park on the dead animals, they won't simply fly away by grabbing a piece of the dead part. They will stay on the area until the last piece of carcasses exists, and will gobble up as much as one can with a due consideration of unknown future days of empty tummy. If you try to drive away these creatures from the scene, they won't fly easily. They might turn to you depending on your size.

I remember this vulture fight, which typically resembles to the ongoing political drama in Nepal over the dead body of "the 1990 constitution". I feel pity to those who still believe that the 1990 constitution is alive. Not to my surprise, the other day I also read one vulture statement of reviving that constitution. I have no clue how a dead animal will walk if you supply oxygen, since vultures had already taken most of the vital organs. Further other predators like hyenas are also preying on the same body. The relation between hyenas and vultures are motley; the former can hunt the latter but not the other way. Isn't it like an old vulture who partially managed to grab some pieces of carcasses

before the young flocks started a merciless fight over the dead animal and may wish that the dead animal could walk? Well, this is a salient feature of the vulture politics.

The stinking smell of carcasses has been widely mixed in air and people have closed their doors in order to avoid the foul smell. Since the smell infiltrated into indoor environment, now people are compelled to over throw that dead body. Any arrogance behavior of any households may close their door forever.

It is right time to clean up the constitutional clutter of the Nepali polity that accumulated over past fifty years by five different types of constitution. Two generations: our parents, and ourselves struggled; and new generation is also tussling for the constitution. How long this drama should continue! Can't we design people based constitution for the betterment of Nepal? I believe in our community / social strength, resource endowment, and economic development potential. Had we formulated a constitution that exclusively empowered to the people, we wouldn't have seen vultures. That's a fact. A constitution developed on the basis of motley relation is like a play of vultures and hyenas. We do not need a deceptive constitution like the latest dead one through which a king appoints, transfers, and promotes the district judges! Holy cow, vultures did not hesitate to say that it is a superb constitution in the world! In fact, people had nothing in real sense except to vote for breeding of the vultures.

I believe that a constitution is not the Vedas that we can't revise it. I wish the new constitution to be designed by the people will be a progressive one that explicitly should address the rights to people for socioeconomic development. If there are any true followers of the democratic socialism in the Nepali Congress (though I doubt) - founded by the BP Koirala, my sincere advice to them would be strongly advocate for a constitution that exclusively grants social, economical, and ecological rights to people, so that noble ideals would be materialized vis-à-vis persistence poverty in Nepal could be minimized. I assume nobody wants to see the fight of another trait of vultures or hyenas in the name of new constitution in our backyard.



Politics: "An Incompetent Generation"

- By Raman Raj Misra

The perceptions, beliefs and activities of one generation (aged 45 and above) have produced the state in which we are today. The present day Nepal, with its unprecedented turmoil and agony is the product of this generation. Under none of the previous political systems we had adopted was this country ever associated with the dire term of becoming a "Failed State", as under this post-1990 multi-party democracy.

So let us pray to God, not to enable us to produce a better breed of progenies than ourselves. If perchance, we do procreate a better breed, our future generations will have the intelligence to discern the stupidity of this generation. So please God make our future generations just as stupid as we are.

Let them play the "blame game", pointing fingers at each other for the mess they will collectively produce...just like we are doing. Not to land ourselves in a mess of our own making would have been the sign of wisdom. Trying to extricate ourselves from such trouble would be intelligent. But we have to play this "blame game" simply because we do not have the requisite brain or intelligence and the capacity to do otherwise.

This "blame game" has given us such pleasure as to obviate the need to think and find redress from our collective sufferings. But "thinking" has ceased to become the function of our imitative mind since 1950. Since then, our brains have been directed and driven by opinions and events emanating in foreign countries, especially India. At best we can do is regurgitate imported ideas, unsuccessfully seek to imitate alien forms and follow the corrupt, myopic and incompetent charlatans as our great leaders.

Just like us, let our future generations promote and follow the most incompetent, corrupt, and myopic among them as their leaders. And then stupidly wonder, why things have gone wrong... just like we are doing now. Let them be a bunch of hypocrites, justifying their misdeeds and censoring those of others. Let them be bereft of any morality to distinguish right from wrong. Such that they can, just like us, be able to say the wrong committed by one's party is right, but even the right done by those they oppose is wrong.

Let them try to imitate foreign concepts, without being able to assess the need, and feasibility of such concepts in this country. Let them undertake action without any evaluations at the instigation of geopolitically or ideologically motivated foreigners. So like us, let our children also follow the advice of

those foreigners, who do not have to suffer the consequences of their advice. And let them meekly suffer and accept the unjustified censure of self-righteous foreigners for being unable to implement such unfeasible advice given by them, in the first place.

In spite of the fact that imitation, by definition, will never be like the original, let our children keep trying to imitate even the unfeasible political forms and procedures. Like our generation, let our children never realise that they will have to use their own brain to go about making their own feasible political system in tune with realities of Nepal. So let our children also be blessed with schizoid satisfaction and exhilarating delusion of being progressively modern while making Nepal into a failed State, by destroying viable institutions and infrastructures.

Like our generation, let our children be oblivious of the fact that history, culture, geopolitics, and most important the capacities of people in different countries have contributed in shaping political systems in their respective countries. And therefore no two countries in the world have identical or even similar political systems. If our children are not as stupid as we are they will unnecessarily be forced to think, study and consider the realities of Nepal, and to make viable political system based on reality. Rather let our children follow our footsteps and be complacently happy in wasting more than half a century trying unsuccessfully to imitate foreign systems. And also let them never realise that any attempts to imitate systems usually have deleterious effect, like those we have experienced.

Since 1947, this generation imported a concept of a Constitution and has made five Constitutions in fifty years. Even after more than half a century and five Constitutions, we are still wrangling among ourselves trying to figure out what in fact constitutes an appropriate Constitution, and how we should go about making one. Let our future generations spend yet another century, in such "Constitutional wrangling", so our stupidity and incapacity will not be exposed.

Since 1950, we imported a notion that a government should last for a period of five years. Don't ask: "why five, why not three or even eight?" Our imitative and colonised brain cannot provide any objective reason based on reality of this country. And please don't ask why, after accepting this notion (of a government having to be of five years duration), we have not been able to retain a single government for such a period since 1950. Asking such question would only expose our mental incapacity to discern the hiatus between our actual reality and our imported notions. Let us remain oblivious and ignorant of such gaps, as there are many more such gaps between our imported notions and our behaviour. So like us, let our children also remain as blissfully stupid as we have been.

Like us, let our children be enthused by the desirability of revolutionary changes, especially on the instigation and support of foreigners, like we had done many times since 1950. And then having achieved what this geopolitics had made us achieve, let our children also bemoan and advertise their stupidity by declaring: "But who was to know that things would get worse !" And when events begin to take their natural course in tune with reality, let our children also despondently declare: "But this is not what we expected to happen!". As if reality has to conform to one's impractical and stupidly entertained notions !!!

May our children never know from where their real trouble and threats emanates and let them like us, never be able to use their own thoughts and initiatives to overcome such trouble and threats. Let them follow only just what they may be taught by their foreign masters and never even think to do what they have never been told to do. So let them never attempt to consider the indigenous problems, let them never consider the utility and viability of indigenous institutions, and never make them seek or accept indigenous solutions. Like us, let our children never realise their own incapacity.... And like our generation, let our children also delude themselves into thinking that they are undertaking "progressive" endeavours while progressively making this country, a failed State !!!

So please God, let our children become morons, like us. Let them never be able to know where the real problem lies. And let them not to be able to assess the feasibility of imported concepts and ideologies. Give them the brains, which cannot distinguish the glaring hiatus between their words and their deeds. Like us, let our future generations promote and continue to follow the most corrupt quislings as leaders. Let our children never know that such leaders of the political parties should first and foremost be ousted to have a viable country and beneficial polity. If our future generations are ever to be intelligent, they will choose better leaders and make a better country. And we will be stigmatised as the most stupid and incompetent generation in the history of Nepal. So God, please have mercy on us.

(Also published on The Kathmandu Post: 10 June, 2004, pg. 5. Source duely acknowledged. -Ed.)



Politics: "Where are they heading?"

- *By Kalyan dev Bhattarai*

To-day the Country is heading towards the failure state and this is all due to the power lust of the so called leaders of the different political parties of the country who are showing different types of street drama in the street. I have few queries for the political leaders of the country which I am putting forward for discussion and hope they have the minimum morality and national responsibility to response these queries.

Query No.#1:

On Ashoj 18th King took undemocratic and unconstitutional step and removed the elected Prime Minister with the charge of inefficiency and appointed his own puppet prime minister. We the intellectuals of the country protested this undemocratic action of the King with Black flag in the Ratna Park. However except the Jana Morcha leaders no other party leaders supported us in our protest and to day the same political leaders who have indirectly supported the King's action saying the King's step as unexpected with the hope that they will be made next Prime Minister, are on the street claiming the king's step as regressive. The logic put forward for this regressive action is that the king took the unconstitutional steps on 18th Ashoj. I am not able to understand if the action taken by king is regressive because it is unconstitutional (here I agree) is not the demand of the political parties namely the multiparty government and restoration of the parliament is more regressive as the both demands are against the constitution. Can the constitution be explained in two different ways one for king and other for the political parties?

Query no# 2:

At present the political parties are showing their anger on the suggestion of the king that the next Prime minister must be with clean background. I am not able to understand why this demand of the king should be consider as negative. I fully support this demand of the king as the present day pathetic condition of the country is only due to the corruption.

The hue and cry of the political parties suggest that they do not have a single person of integrity in their respective parties and would like to select some corrupt dacoits in the next ministry also so that they could loot the nations as they have done in last 13 years. If they themselves consider that there is not a single person of integrity with clean image in their respective political parties and all leaders are corrupt and looters then well I have no comments or else what stops them to select man of integrity for the next ministry?

Query no #3:

After completion of the 5 years period of last general election also, most of the leaders are claiming themselves as people's representative. I consider this claim not only as unauthorized, and illegitimate but also the indication of theirs autocratic attitude and undemocratic culture. The hypocrite leaders must understand that the election that takes place once a 5 year is not just the drama to select few parliamentarians; rather it is an unwritten agreement between the public and the candidate clearly spelling that on the basis of the election manifesto, the voters has selected the elected candidate to under take the duties and fulfill the task he (candidate) has promised to the voters through his manifesto. This unwritten agreement is valid for the prescribed time limit of 5 years only and extension of even a single day more is illegitimate.

I wonder on what basis the present day leaders are claiming that they are leaders of Nepalese people and foolishly claim that they represent the peoples of the country. Such foolish statement and expression suggest that the so called leader do not know the basic understanding of the democratic norms Yes they may be the leaders of respective parties but until next election none of them can claim as people's representative. If they can claim to be our representative on the basis of the votes we have given them 5 years before then why not the pro-panchas can claim that they should rule the country simply because Panchyat system got more vote on 2036 referendum. I wonder if the present day corrupt leaders can claim to be our representative why not the well known Nani Maya Dahal can claim for Prime Minister as once upon a time she was elected by the majority of the Katmandu peoples.

Query No #4:

At present the political leaders are giving speeches that the king has no right to demand clean image Prime minister what ever punishment the leaders should get they should get from the people. I totally

disagree with such statement because such statement will create anarchism in the country. The leaders should know that such demand of punishment from public directly will lead to anarchism in the country and the people may come after the corrupt leaders with stone and stick. In 1990 revolution we fought for the rule of law in the country and the rule of law demands punishment not by public but by law.

Today to fulfill their petty interest of grabbing power the leaders are demanding direct punishment from the people ignoring the rule of law and tomorrow if the people really started to punish them for their corruption, breach of trust, anti democratic activities what will be the fate of those corrupt leaders? The leaders must understand that it is not the duty of people to punish the politicians; rather it is the law of the country that punishes all citizen of the country irrespective whether he is a leader or ordinary citizen.

If the leaders themselves want the direct punishment from the people and would like to be lynched I have no comments but in a civilized and democratic society that is not the proper way of justice. All punishment must be come through the law and the leaders also should accept this basic requirement of law to maintain democratic and civilized culture of the country. Let us hope the leaders know what they are talking and understand the meaning of getting punishment from people directly.

Query No #5:

At present the five political parties are demanding the power and the post of prime Minister and ministers through the agitation, and I wonder why they should be in government.

They are claiming the power because they are agitating? Or they are burning the tire or they are showing their force in the street. This way of demanding power is not a democratic process of going to power rather such means are the symptom of demanding power through mob.. To-morrow if the forces demanding king's direct rule also come on the street and employs similar method of demanding power will the present day leader be ready to give all powers to King?. If not they should also under take the democratic way to reach in the power, which is well spelled in the constitution.

I do not expect to get response from the political parties as such culture is yet to develop in the country. However I hope the intellectual people of the country whose only duty is to speak truth will think seriously on my queries and will response to this. In this context the political parties may claim that at present the situation of the country is so bad that to solve the problem according the constitution will not be possible and the political solution is the only available solution. Agreed the present day situation of the country is so complex that it demands the political solution. But what I am not able to understand is, if the country's situation is so bad that it demands political solution then why not to act in such a way that the main political problem of the country is also solved.

Every body knows that the present day's main problem is the Maoist' demand of constitutional assembly, and to bring peace in the country and restart the democratic process like election and development activities the Maoist must come to the main stream of the politics. This is not possible until we are ready for constituent assembly. If that is the political reality of the country why not to agree for Constituent assembly and solve the problem of the country by taking one single appropriate political step rather than bringing back the same corrupt power hungry political leaders back to power and aggravating the political crisis of the country. When you are ready to sidelined the constitution and take political step why not to take such step which will solve the country's political problem for all and will lead the country to the path of development.



Politics: "Let It Be Complete This Time"

- By Dr. Prem Sharma

Since the attempt of unification of the kingdom (1769) the task of making Nepalese people sovereign has remained an incomplete deed. Though the tripartite agreement of Delhi (1950) defused the anti-Rana movement, the conflict in Nepalese politics never ceased as the old regime bugs still reigned in some form or other.

The avowed constitution assembly was overshadowed by the power struggle within Nepali congress and various governments led by different personalities proved inefficacious. The first elected government, formed after general election of 1960, was ousted by a single extra constitutional move by the king. After the democratic movement of 1990 the same legacy was repeated still leaving the task of making Nepalese people sovereign unfinished, inadequate at best. The country has been

swinging between the active monarchy and democracy ever since failing to reconcile, unlike as envisioned by some intellectual giants of Nepal.

The present political turmoil cannot be solved by the mechanism and the road map that is forwarded by the political forces. The proposals don't appear to be sound enough to address the grave situation of the day. The so-called restoration of ousted government, revival of the house, the government of the five agitation parties and the so-called election may be futile if all the political forces are not included and all problems are not adequately addressed. Any political solution that is not based on the changed reality of the political strength is less likely to bear any fruit; instead it can backfire drawing us deeper in this conflict. The constitution is in comma, the faith of the people is eroded and under dilemma.

The government under this constitution of the Singh Durbar has been slipped out. The control room is somewhere at the door of the people or elsewhere. The government under the constitution has been dead long before. The council of state and the tenure of speaker and deputy speaker have no more validation. The establishment did a lot of antics in the name of people. Definitely the ones who came to power with the popular election couldn't do justice to their duties and obligation. Rest everyone knows.

Therefore, it's time we realize the mistakes and rectify them by allowing breakthrough in the impasse. It can be accomplished by sitting together and conversing the ideas into a common agenda that covers and addresses the ground realities of different forces of our country. The representation of the voices and grievances of people be aggregated and finally charted out a new course of action. Let the people fairly judge and pen out the charter of political destiny.

How to reestablish the peace usurped by the insurgency seems to be the interest of the common people, more than anything else. Year after year the situation has been getting bad to worse. Lack of popular government has brought everything to standstill, including the development efforts. Ultimately the state is without popular government at the center as well as at the local level. The development sectors, employment opportunities, and working environment of any section of the people have been thwarted by the insurgency.

Most elite people, youth and local political activists have left their home and are roaming at the capital and district headquarters. Without considering these volatile issues, can an election resolve them in a fiasco? A responsible statesman must have a clear vision towards it. Other burning issues of the nation such as Bhutanese refugee, border regulation, encroached dam constructions from our neighborhood etc have been shadowed.

Academic institutions have been spoiled and public service delivery has remained scant. Most donors working in remote or rural areas have suspended their development activities. Due to adverse situation, rather insecurity, nobody is ready to carry on public task. Killing innocent people, abduction, extortion, frequent blockade and strike or Bandh have become usual events. Most elite people, youth and local political activists have left their home and are roaming in the capital and district headquarters. Without considering these volatile issues, handing over and handling the power by a section of the people or political forces may invite imminent disaster. Who is guilty and who is innocent is almost detected. There is no more illusion.

The gravity and capability of each power center has been measured over the past few years. Opportunities had been given by the people to be ruled to all claimers. Majority, minority, coalition, individuals, government of ruling and opposition parties were formed and to their best, no attempt was left to maneuver the insurgency and fight against the poverty but in vain. Neither the insurgent won a battle of golden dream as they claim. Eventually, who won the golden chair is the evil spirit that killed thousands of Nepalese sons. Should we go fighting such a war in which nobody will be winner and all Nepali will be the losers? Is it not a curse? Does not a divine soul and ear turn its brain towards a course?

Thus, let us sit together in a revolving chair and perform a wide range of brain storming for the sake of nation and Nepali people. In the mane of people let us sacrifice the egos and instinct of selfness. All the architects of the state are advised to sit together and have a consensus for holding a referendum or constitution assembly. Let the Nepali citizen decide the fate of future course. There shouldn't be any fear, in the part of parties, individuals or other institutions to be tested with the sovereign people's will. Let the incomplete be complete this time.



Social: "Peace, Good Governance and Development for Poverty Eradication"

- *By Kamala Sarup*

In Nepal, conflict continue to endanger the lives of the Nepali population and hinder the economic recovery. Most villagers are not able to transport their produce to major cities. Civil strife and violent conflict have become commonplace in Nepal. By addressing the root-causes of violent conflict and supporting local and national capacities for peace, development can help mitigate against violent conflict. Even Nepal is committed to addressing the challenges of development and Nepal is also committed to empower local bodies, women, indigenous people, and dalits to participate in the mainstream of development. An immediate critical issue is the insurgency is a major threat to all sustainable development activities being planned in the country. Today, development activities have been adversely affected in most of the Village Development Committees as they have been unable to utilize development fund allocated by the government. Because of the escalating violence that 33 VDCs out of 44 in the district, so far, have not taken the budget from the District Development Committee. The incidence of poverty has remained high in Nepal.

One of the active social worker and successful Non-Resident Nepali (NRN) of North America, Mr. Purushottam Subedi spoke to Nepal Digest at Washington DC on the subject. He said "First of all, peace has to be established to make any development work successful in Nepal. Second, a stable government is needed which can create employment opportunities for poor and alike The economic recovery of Nepal will depend on improved security because it is based upon assumptions of the restoration of law and order. Addressing the underlying causes of the insurgency widespread rural poverty and the failure to spread the benefits of development more widely is critical for Nepal's development. Economic growth is a powerful engine of poverty reduction. The most characteristic fact is the total lack of a transport system in the greater part of the country. According to my recollection of situation about 16 years ago, only the Terai belt and the Kathmandu valley had a few roads that could be used by cars. The whole of the midlands were covered by trails. These were too bad for use even by the small mountain ponies. Bridges were non existent. It is heartening to learn that situation is still the same in Nepal. It seems to be becoming worst because of on-going conflict".

Along with few other NRNs in North America, Mr. Subedi started Nepali Diaspora for Peace, Reconciliation and Development campaign and was successful in collecting more than 1500 individual signatures and endorsement from more than 30 community organizations. Currently, Mr. Subedi serves as President of International Nepali Literary Society (INLS) Headquarter in Washington DC as well as board member of more than half a dozens other community organizations such as Nepali American Public Affairs Council(NAPAC), NY; Association of Nepalese in the Americas (ANA), DC; Nepalese Student Association (NSA), GMU; Hindu-Vidhya Peeth Support Group-USA (HVPSG-USA), USA; The Nepal USA Educational and Community Network, NY; Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA), Nepal; International Nepali Literature Academy (INLA), Nepal; Nepali Youth Organization (NYO), Washington D.C.. He has been volunteering for Sagarmatha Television (STV), America Nepal Society (ANS) and Society of Ex-Budhanilkantha Students-North America (SEBS-NA) in various capacities as well.

Subedi further said "Nepal has great hydroelectric potential whose development can be justified only if a high proportion of the power generation is transmitted to its power-starved neighbors. Nepal should also try to promote the exports of certain agricultural items by expanding their production base. Tourism could be Nepal's leading export with an enormous scope for further development. Similarly, Nepal should also aggressively promote the exports of handicrafts in addition to preserving expanding its two largest merchandise exports, carpets and garments. Nepal should also try to revive some of its traditional exports such as jute products, which have greatly declined in importance in recent years". Professionally, Mr. Subedi works as Technical Director in the Information Technology Division of DDL-OMNI Engineering LLC in Fairfax, Virginia. He has more than 12 years of experience working for communication industry in the private sector and Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Energy (DoE), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Department of Human and Health Services (DHHS) in the US Federal Government.

Taking a conflict sensitive approach to development programming may also increase the effectiveness of development assistance. One of the critical obstacles to Nepal's ability to implement development strategies is the lack of adequate financial and human resources. These resources are needed for transfer of knowledge and technology, training, social mobilization, and infrastructure development. These are also needed for capacity building and institutional strengthening in government, civil society, as well as in the private sector.

We have some questions: Development policies over the past decades in Nepal have emphasized poverty alleviation, but why still rural poverty has remained intractable and the number of people living under the absolute poverty line continues to expand?. Why government still cannot contribute to the national effort to eradicate poverty by concentrating Decentralized Governance and Participatory Development, Employment and Income Generation, and Environmental Conservation and Protection?. Why in the process of distribution of resources from center to village, only a small amount of resources reach at the lower level?

Political uncertainties, weak institutional capacity, weak public resource management, and high rates of population growth have fuelled its perpetuation. Poverty remains widespread in Nepal and is the country's primary challenge to sustainable development. Private sector has been reluctant to invest due to a combination of weak market institutions and a politically unstable environment.

Purusottam Subedi said "Development requires a partnership between market and state with an appropriate division of responsibilities. Government should understand how they can stimulate further growth in labor productivity. The efficiency and integrity of tax collection must be improved. Hospitals and schools must be established immediately. Without such infrastructure development, the development and functioning of the private sector will not be possible. The provision of cheap and reliable efficient transportation, adequate power, water management and sanitation, to the entirety of the land-area of a nation, is the absolute precondition for successful economic growth of the private sector as a whole".

Even WTO provides better and wider market access, but can we comply with the rules, regulations and a number of agreements related to tariff, textiles, non-tariff barriers, agricultural subsidies, trade in services and trade-related intellectual property rights ?. Why government cannot ensure social and economic inclusion of the poor, marginalized groups, and less developed regions? Lack of good governance is one of the major problems.

Even Dr. Devendra Raj Pandey is a former Finance Minister of Nepal states that "Nepal is endowed with rich natural and cultural diversity. Economic growth has long been emphasized as the core element of Nepal's development strategy. Despite substantial efforts to build development infrastructure to stimulate economic growth, the country is still engulfed in a vicious cycle of poverty, underdevelopment and environmental degradation. Nepal is one of the least developed countries where 38 percent of the population is below the poverty line. The Nepalese economy is dualistic with a relatively modern non-agricultural sector and a largely subsistence-based agricultural sector. The pre-dominant traditional sector is characterized by a subsistence agrarian regime, high under employment (47 percent of the total population) and low agricultural productivity. About 86 percent of the population lives in rural areas with many people deprived of the minimum urban amenities necessary to fulfil their basic needs.

On the other hand, urban management is becoming more complex and some urban poor are also deprived of basic amenities. The government faces a major challenge to provide an appropriate level of infrastructure to these remote and scattered settlements to support development and reduce poverty. Over 80 percent of the economically active population depends on agriculture for subsistence, which contributes to some 39 percent of its GDP (2000). Although the country has made significant strides in education, health and other social services, particularly within the last decade, the level of human development in Nepal remains among the lowest in the world.

Development is about policies, as is, increasingly, international aid. Democracy in a developing country with ever-sharpening social polarization is also, to a significant extent, about articulating policies for development. International aid, on the other hand, is driven by forces that generally find political competition in the host country inhospitable for the policies that it considers sound. This is so even as the donors, mostly representing what may broadly be called "western democracies," profess to see democracy strengthened in the countries they support financially. In Nepal, one of the poorest countries of the world, development policymaking is thus governed by two contradictory processes the democratic process and the imperatives of foreign aid. The first requires development policies to be mandated by the people of Nepal; this is what the constitution of the land says. The latter is governed by the demands of the aid system as it operates domestically and internationally. These two processes are in conflict, causing many other contradictions and incongruities to emerge in the host country and aggravating progress in development management. In short, policies and programs are not implemented in a sustained manner, resources are not used effectively and efficiently, and corruption spreads".

Former Finance Minister, Mahesh Acharya said, "We have learnt important lessons from our joint engagement in the development process -- that sustainability should be the key element of investment strategy, that institutional capacity-building is crucial, that putting recipients in driver's seat is primarily important, that need based focused assistance yields results, that transparency on both donor and recipient side is equally important in fostering healthy environment for development." He said, "We believe these are the areas where we need to pay extra attention in the coming days in order to derive expected benefits from development efforts."

Dr. Shankar Sharma, a member of the National Planning Commission said, "We want full utilization of foreign aid with an objective to reduce the level of poverty." Chief Secretary Tirtha Man Shaky, the country's seniormost bureaucrat said "There is an urgent need for governance in our offices. In a relatively new atmosphere, Nepalese civil servants have been working hard amid low salaries and benefit." Finance Secretary Bimal Prasad Koirala said "Nepal invited foreign aid as an instrument of financing development activities from the mid-1950s when it launched the first five-year development plan (1956-1961).

Purusottam Subedi said "Good governance can play an important role in mobilizing people for setting local development priorities, planning, coordinating and ensuring effective implementation of development activities in line with popular aspirations. Social mobilization, by bringing women and men together in self-governing institutions, enhances participation for more effective local exercise of authority and responsibility. Political instability in Nepal has focussed the attention of politicians on short-term maneuvering rather than putting their efforts on formulating long- term development vision and attaining them. On the other hand Nepal has had to postpone many projects because of geo-strategic compulsions".

"An employment strategy for Nepal must necessarily aim at rural development for greater labour absorption, particularly in the hills and mountains where dependence on agriculture is predominant. With prolonged political unrest and violent Maoist insurgency for the last eight years, Nepal's economy is heading towards a grave crisis. It is true, better infrastructure is a precondition for broad-based growth in Nepal. Without better road maintenance and a more comprehensive priority feeder road network to provide access to education, health care and modern agricultural inputs and markets, economic development of poor rural areas will continue to be greatly constrained". He said.

The Tenth Plan (2002-2007) has taken the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) as its major input document and emphasizes reduction of poverty as its overriding goal. Eradication of poverty and hunger is also one of eight major Millennium Development Goals but how can we forget the Mahendranagar-Banke portion of the East-West Highway was delayed for more than year because of regional security sensitivities. The Kankai multi-purpose project was delayed, while the B.P. Rajmarg linking Dhulikhel with Bardibas started after a 35-year suspension. The United States suspended its aid to the education sector. Despite continual efforts, Nepal has been unable to develop any major hydroelectric project and irrigation project over the last five decades largely because of political or security factors out of its control.

Subedi said "Governments should establish guidelines for credit allocation. More rural financial institutions are needed to be mobilized. Special funds should be designated for loans, sometimes at subsidized interest rates, to small and medium enterprises, including cooperatives, family businesses, and private and public firms. Problems of corruption and nepotism can be overcome by making the mechanisms for allocation transparent and open to Nepalese citizens".

Moreover, we are facing with enormous challenges in the areas of literacy and basic health. The HIV/AIDS epidemic has compounded these challenges and is reversing decades of progress in improving the quality of life in Nepal. Nepal should take necessary steps to reduce transactions costs. Nepal also needs to find a way of accessing the market of its sub-continental neighbors other than India. Successful regional cooperation will require Nepal to take substantial investment in trade infrastructure facilities to link up with similar facilities created in neighboring countries. Nepal must diversify the range of its exports and expand their output by appropriate investment.

In addition, some VDCs are unable even to spend the budget allocated them during the past years. Availability and use of resources, production and consumption function closely inter-links urban and rural sector and focusing on one agenda neglecting the other will not ensure the sustainable local development.

(Author can be reached at ksarup@yahoo.com)



Business: "PIRACY! PIRACY!! AND AGAIN PIRACY!!!"

- By *Bashu Dev Phulara*

The sooner, the better. If the growing Copyright-piracy is not checked timely, it could lead Nepal to be blacklisted by the WTO. Over the past thirty-six years, Nepal had hardly ever tried to catch up with the Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), particularly the Copyrights which could have a far-reaching impact on national and international trade. Despite a long running Copyright law in the country, it could not succeed in controlling the thriving piracy. Just a year back, Nepal convincingly substituted the old Copyright law with a new one to curb this growing menace. Now, Nepal should continue to take a hard stand against piracy.

Outcome

The previous year 2003, truly to say, proved to be a historic year for the IPRs sector in Nepal. Even after the new statute, the respective stakeholders have received nothing rather than zero in their hands. Due to burgeoning piracy, the genuine entrepreneurs have yet to receive their fair share of benefits from the new-order and beyond. The entrepreneurs who were looking forward to good days and titanic prospects after the enactment of new law are still furious and irate due to non-compliance of the law.

Though the new law could be seen as a part of global format that is being practiced world wide, which, among others, provides stern pecuniary sanctions including prison term against the violation of Copyright, Kathmanduites, however, see hardly any changes regarding the traditional approach for the compliance of Copyright. On the contrary, the pirates have increased momentarily over time. The fortune hunters of Copyrights in Nepal are none other than the so-called fake stakeholders. Despite a new landscape, Copyright violations are: still rampant and the sanctions are almost nil, save some exceptions.

The authors in Nepal who write books and articles in different disciplines have beleaguering complaints against the publishers who seldom satisfy the authors about the number of the books they actually print. Kathmanduites take the computer software for granted once they buy a computer set. A CD of Hindi film newly released from Bombay can be obtained in Kathmandu within 24 hours at an unbelievable low price.

According to the various market surveys conducted by various organizations, the rate of copyright piracy is still going to increase manifold. The hundreds of thousands of respective entrepreneurs have been blistered their hands due to the flourishing piracy that is going on within the country. It is not only authors of books or entrepreneurs of movies, people in almost every discipline are cheated patently or latently due to such trend of piracy.

More interestingly, the music market is the most hit. As Nepalese music, market is growing, piracy is also booming with it. According to an estimate, the music industry is now surviving with 40 to 50 percent piracy. By this, the government is losing revenue to the tune of at least Rs 20 million every year. There are both organized as well as unorganized music pirates in Nepal. They have structured coteries too, which pirate the cassettes and CDs. The manifestation of CDs to MP3's has made the works of pirates even easier.

Compliance of Copyright may not be absolute. This is not complied hundred percentages even in the most industrialized countries like USA. Copyright for personal or educational usage may not be stopped even by imposing stern sanctions. Nevertheless, piracy at the commercial level must be stopped, if the purpose of the government to create conducive environment for new trade regime to materialize. Besides, there are two major reasons for the non-compliance of Copyright in Nepal.

First, many regard that the compliance of Copyright is not mandatory. There is a need to enlighten people about the scope and importance of Copyright. Second, in the mean time, the government has not strictly imposed the rules and polices regarding Copyright. Without proper implementation, it is almost impossible to make the modus-operandi of the sanction for non-compliance. Therefore, the compliance is heavily lacking here in Nepal.

The scope of Copyright has been substantially increased with the rapid development in the information and communication technologies. Further, Copyright has been developed as one of the important legal entities for the protection and promotion of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) since the world economy itself is switching to be knowledge based economy. In this aspect, Copyright has to adopt and adjust new technology in every step.

Gone are the days when nation states would boast about the industries producing food and other commodities. Now a successful nation boasts of information technology or knowledge based industry or let's say, service industry. This is, in fact, a global shift in terms of production, distribution and as well as use of resources. That is why, the developed countries are ever conscious about the compliance of Copyright in the third world country like Nepal. They have been frequently putting forth this issue as a major requirement to the member countries before and after joining WTO.

The basic requirement for the compliance of Copyright is the Trade Related Aspect of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), which should be compulsory, complied with by Nepal by 2007. Even as the newly enacted act is compatible to WTO TRIPs agreement, it is yet to cover such issues like plagiarism and unfair use without crediting the source. A comprehensive law needs to regulate issues like Right, Contract, Copyright and Entitlement. Someone, may compromise his/her right by a special contract. However, such practice can never ever minimize the scope of Copyright.

Steps

Nepal has to take some more necessary steps to overcome the problems of piracy. Any company and individual found guilty should not be spared from the heavy penalties. On the other hand, it has to comply with the TRIPs regime within the deadline promised. Otherwise, you could hardly believe it; the non-compliance of TRIPs may trigger retaliatory actions from the developed countries. Could Nepal sustain if developed countries like the United States of America (USA) decrease garment export quota in retaliation of non-compliance of IPRs in Nepal? Let's not imagine such a situation would occur somewhere in future. This is, therefore, very accurate time to work for compliance of Copyright, if we have to make our economy viable in the 21st century.

(The author can be contacted via email at bphulara@hotmail.com -Ed.)

.....

Women Issues: "Gender Equality"

- By Puspa Dhakal

What benefits do men and boys in our society see flowing from gender equality?

A greater gender equality will help the South Asian society educate its entire population and in turn help eradicate the extreme poverty that exists.

The gender inequality in our society starts from the moment a child is born. Unwarranted taboos and restrictions are placed on young children preventing them from receiving proper education and positive upbringing.

The most of South Asian population lives in hundreds and thousands small villages. The development and education fails to reach them. People live under extreme poverty and caste based discriminations. The social taboos and irrational traditional beliefs add to the poor conditions. It is not appropriate to send a girl child to school. Only boys are able to attend school, taboos keep young girls at home doing the chores around the house. Women reach adulthood with virtually no education at all. In most cases, they are married off at young age by their families with no property ownership at all.

Men because of their birth right receive education, are granted social status, receive property ownership, leadership and decision-making powers. While women, lacking the entire above are trapped in this vicious cycle.

Gender equality will do wonders for our society. Simply being able to receive an education, status, property ownership and leadership will help reduce and eventually eliminate the grave conditions that exist.

Both men and women will benefit from gender equality and advancement of women. Educated, advanced and working women will add to a family's income, productivity, increasing nations' monetary and professional value, help reduce poverty, and eliminate those social taboos and caste based discriminations.

Women can find support for gender equality in cities and well educated families. People from this group have broad understanding and knowledge of issues faced by women. They are supportive of efforts by women to educate themselves or for their advancement in all levels of the society. But unfortunately, this group is very small.

Most men who don't support the idea of gender equality base their opinions on irrational thought processes and arguments or social and cultural perspectives that limit women's role, status and advancement.

The best support comes from governmental and non-governmental organizations working in these countries and societies promoting women's literacy, equality, uplifting and improvement of overall conditions. Organizations that involve community, people and target participants will make the biggest difference. Population on the whole needs be educated with the benefits of promoting equality between men and women. Governments need policies and enforcements or adapt the United Nations policies on gender equality.

.....

Social: "Running Away from a Burning House"

It was 25 September 2003 when we entered in to the premises of the Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu, Nepal. The security staff stopped our taxi and didn't allow my mum, wife and sister to accompany me up to the terminal so they had to get off on the road and see me off.

Sadly, I checked in alone at the Gulf Air desk but thought to myself that when the whole country is in crisis and in the state of alert, this problem is nothing when compared. With all the security checks and formalities completed, our Gulf Air aircraft took off. All of sudden, I felt sad realising that for a whole year I would be away from my family and country whose health is degrading every other day. I looked through the window and saw below the capital city twinkling in evening night in very distance. I thought of myself as a man running away from one's burning house when I could do something or maybe nothing. I pulled myself back to reality - in to the realm of pragmatism and kept myself occupied with other fellows on board - all of them were Nepalese and on their way to a safe heaven where they could expect something for their livelihoods. It was quite a depressing moment to see all these fellow citizens seeking a kind of refugees in other countries.

On arrival on Edinburgh, Capital City of Scotland, I took a breath in different air and enjoyed the surrounding that was totally different than my own. The first few days were quite hectic and confusing but with the help of university staff, friends and flatmates, I gradually settled in. Every moment is a learning moment -this is what I have felt ever since I arrived here. My friend, Siddhartha Bajracharya doing a PhD in the same university, took me to market place and taught how to do effective shopping, how to use different sophisticated kitchen utensils properly, how to cross the road safely and how to wash clothes in washing machines (very few people could afford such a luxury in Nepal) as well as many others new things (and old things but in a new way).

When we had our first class, I realised that once again I was back to formal education after of years of years. Mr Guy Hilton, Course Director of Ecology and Resource Management (ERM) welcomed us and handed out course schedules and then announced that we would soon have a three day Highland field trip around Edinburgh. It was really a good opportunity to know each other in the beginning of the course.

The Highlands of Edinburgh are naturally like own country Nepal but they are very different culturally. We had a nice sightseeing time with a briefing by Guy Hilton during the whole trip and saw snow at only 600m (in Nepal we have snow only at approximately 25,000m). We saw lots of Highland cattle and sheep on the grazing land/farm. The Red and Roe deer in the pine forest reminded me of back home - my tiny village in lower mustang. Being in the company of many new friends from Chile, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Canada, India, Philippines, Finland, Sierra Leone (and you name it !!), made the trip quite enjoyable and fun. They too are from the different countries leaving their friends and family behind and having similar experiences/feelings to me ? it was a great solace when I thought from that angle.

In Nethy House, where we stayed for thee days, we had a Scottish dancing night with bagpipe music and were served with typical Scottish food Haggis. Haggis has become very popular after Great Scottish poet Robert Burns created a poem entitled ?Address to Haggish?. With the help of owner of Nethy House, we attempted to Scottish dance and later danced like a crazy.

This Highland trip was a life time experience for me. And after the Highland trip, back in the hostel in West Mains Road one friend of mine advised me to buy a Tiffin box for lunch - since he said that course schedule is too tight to come to room for lunch. I followed him like a kindergarten kid. After 30 years, once again I am attending a classroom with a bottle of water and lunch Tiffin like my

neighbour's son in back home. Now I begun to understand why they say 'school' (we call school only up to the grade ten in Nepal) for a campus here. After all these years, I am again a school-goer, trying to forget what's happening in back home and being gradually get tuned in with the new life of Edinburgh. I know this a turning point of my life and in turning point one should be careful and undisturbed.

(Author is currently at Graduate school at University of Edinburgh, Scotland and can be reached at his email Sherchan_roshan@hotmail.com. -Ed.)

.....

ANA: 22nd Annual Convention - Status Report

- By Arun Sharma

Welcome to Arizona- Home to the ANA Convention 2004

Our Mission - To develop positive experience of camaraderie, to build the spirit of volunteering, reinforcing our identities, to net work and to channel our resources to social, charitable as well as philanthropic missions benefiting community members in North America as well defined projects and missions in Nepal.

GENERAL INFORMATION: ANA Convention 2004 (July 2nd to July 4th) site is: Double Tree Resorts at 5401 N Scottsdale Rd in Paradise Valley.

Please contact Mrs. Amrit Tuladhar for art, poetry, entertainment, cultural programs and opening ceremony information, support, ideas and volunteering at (480) 575-1051 and Mrs. Sunanda Sharma for various sessions and registration related ideas and questions at (480) 706-4020.

It is an exciting and new experience for the Nepali community of Arizona to be able to host the Convention in our hometown of Phoenix. You are part of largest gathering of Nepali Diaspora in North America, with stimulating intellectual & entertaining programs to suit the palate of all young and elders alike, a joyous occasion of making new friends and renewing the old ones. It continues to provide forums for positive experience of camaraderie enriching the lives of the members at large.

Status:

We have come a long ways and we have less than 2 weeks to go! We are almost nearing completion! Our Life Members have been with us with unwavering support, commitment, opening their hearts, pockets (financial contributions) and their homes for our preparations. The ANA 2004org, which is our organization's name and also our website looks phenomenal!(thanks to Web/IT/ Upload team members! Thanks to our members for your energy, intellect, belief in the mission and the support on our endeavor. This is our first in Phoenix and, it could not be done without your help and support.

We hope you will come and join our wonderful entertainment program, stimulating Session on Conflict resolution issues in Nepal Forum, Non Resident Nepali session's Opportunities and Challenges, Young Adult Forum for those from 18 to 30 years old generation, Women's contemporary issues, Medical Forum, Art Show and Nepali Poetry session.

Once again we are thankful for your help, commitment, energy, and enthusiasm. We appreciate your dedication and the act of volunteering. Every year volunteers go through the challenges of too much work load on a few brave shoulders.

There is so much to enjoy here with Poetry, Art, Music & Cultural Program, along with thought provoking intellectual discussions. We are excited to host NRN Forum and welcome all the members from all over the Globe.

We strengthen our friendship and roots here, yet maintain our ties to home. We dedicate ourselves to volunteerism, philanthropic, charitable contribution on many projects connecting us to our roots. Our new commitment to the NRN reinforces we are living in a part of Global Community, technologically driven world with rapidly disappearing borders. Our Special thanks to our friends from many different countries who are participating as NRN Family for providing a new horizon and direction in volunteerism and international cooperation.

Snapshots of the Forums:

- + Nepali Associations Friday July 2nd, 1.30-3.30 PM
- INLS Friday July 2nd, 8.00-10.00 PM
- + Nepal Forum Saturday July 3rd, 1.30-3.30 PM
- + Medical Saturday July 3rd, 3.30- 5.00 PM
- + Non Resident Nepalis (NRN) July 4th Sunday , 9.00 AM-12.00 noon
- + Young Adult Forum July 3rd, July 4th 3.30-5.30 PM
- + Women's Forum Sunday July 4th, 1.30-3.00 PM
- + Culture/ Faces of Nepal etc. Sunday July 4th, 3.00-4.00 PM

CONVENTION VENUE - SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

Double Tree facilities, located in the heart of Scottsdale. has a 1000 seat auditorium, a 300 seat banquet hall and a 99 stadium seating screening room. For most current information please visit www.ana2004.org

ONE DAY RETREAT IN SEDONA, AZ

Come and join us for one day retreat in Sedona, AZ on July 5th. Sedona's red rock's color and the sedimentary rocks with million of years of geological history will simply amaze you. This natural sceneries are simple feast to your eyes. It is flabbergasting to experience this natural beauty. Call 1-800- 333-3333 to reserve room at Radisson Inn, Sedona, at the ANA rate of \$69.00 which is 45% saving. We are working on to arrange a Nepali dinner around \$11.00-12.00 per person in Sedona for that evening.

STRENGTH IN UNITY- is our motto for 2004 Convention.

The local Team is working hard to make this a wonderful experience for you. Please register early and save money! The journey to perfection is ongoing, though never complete. Thank you again for your support!

(Author is a member of ANA 2004 organizing committee.-Ed.)



Diaspora: Various Activites (4 updates)

+ Senior Nepali Journalists - Nepali community Interaction in NYC

On June 20th of 2004, Nepalese living in New York City and vicinity had an opportunity to directly interact with senior journalists from Nepal in an interactive program organized by NDYC-USA (Nepalese Democratic Youth Council).

Among the present journalists were Mr. Yub Raj Ghimire (Editor of Samaya), Mr.Narayan Wagle(Editor, Kantipur), Mr.Tara Nath Dahal (President of Nepalese Journlist Association), 4. Mr.Shiva Gaule (Vice President of President of Nepalese Journlist Association), and Mr.Kishore Shrestha (Editor in Jana Astha weekly). Nepalese Journalist group, which was visiting the US under the invitation of the US government, informed the audience of present situation of Nepal and tried to answer various questions raised from the floor. Presence and insight of Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam was much admired by the audience.

+ INLS Houston chapter Mission

Recently, INLS Houston chapter was formed under the Presidentship of Mr. Madhukar G. Amatya.

As an internationally established organization dedicated in promoting, preserving and creating awareness of Nepali languages and literature through out the world, its mission is to uphold our excellent reputation and consistently exceed the expectation of Nepalis and friends of Nepal by providing significant encouragement for, and facilitating the process of learning, reading, writing, publishing, distributing cost efficient, high quality Nepalese literary works.

It consists of 11 member Board of Directors and an advisor.

+ INLS Seattle Chapter

INLS has formed INLS Seattle Washington Chapter on June 23rd, 2004 with Chapter President as Jyotsana Rana and Chapter's Founding Principal Advisor, Mr. Umesh Koirala. They also have found a 17 member executive committee with 3 advisors.

+ INLS Pakistan Chapter was also recently found.

+ NOA convention - June 2004

NOA concluded the Third Convention on May 30, 2004. It was attended by cross section of the Newah community here in the US. Guests and participants from Nepal and from different parts of the US attended this convention held in Metropolitan Washington.



Reflections from a decade back: "What can we learn from our neighbors?"

("Reflections from a decade back" is a regular feature of rejuvenated TND. Pramod Pandey compiles this section from materials published approximately 10 years ago. - Ed)

Compiled by: Pramod Pandey
Originally from: Padam Sharma

Date: 24 Jul 1994

Source:

Subject: Glimpses from our Neighbors ...I. Darjeeling By Padam Sharma

For every two Nepalis inside Nepal, there is at least one in India of which probably 75% live in Darjeeling, Sikkim and Bhutan. Under varying adversity of immigrant subsistence, they have made significant social, political and economic progress (except for Bhutan) in their respective geographical niches. Besides general socio-economic cross-boarder interdependence, most of the households in bordering districts of Nepal (east-west-south) have their blood relatives in adjoining districts of India. Our Nepali neighbors in India have one advantage over us. They have gained more experience of democracy (however participatory the Indian model may be). I will try to narrate my perspectives on our neighbors in the hills because the socio-political culture of Nepalis in India has a direct bearing on Nepal, Nepali culture, resource management, and of course, the tricky issues of citizenship, ethno-centric struggles, and the problems of refugees.

KALIMPONG in Darjeeling: Frustration with self-rule!

Most of you know Darjeeling which is a city as well as an administrative district in West Bengal state of India. Within Darjeeling district, at about 4000 ft above MSL, Kalimpong is a city of about 50,000 people as well as the eastern sub-division adjoining Bhutan. Kalimpong, can be reached from Nepal via Siliguri, the next big town in Terai (plains) of India.

Usually, the trip involves taking a taxi from Kakarvitta (east end of the East-West highway in Jhapa) to Siliguri and a bus or a jeep from Siliguri to Kalimpong. A direct bus service from Panitanki to Kalimpong is often available. The bus route passes through Siliguri which is a strategically located, very busy and growing bottle-neck city with its transport industry supplying goods to Sikkim, Bhutan, Assam, and Nepal. All that tea from north-eastern India passes through Siliguri. Contrary to Nepal, the mountainous roads from Siliguri to Kalimpong, Darjeeling and Gangtok are very well maintained.

The reason I am describing Kalimpong instead of Darjeeling is two fold. First, I grew up there and most of my relatives are still there. Hence, I have a special personal attachment with Kalimpong. Second, and the most important, reason is that Kalimpong offers a microcosm of rural Nepali setting (with its constraints and successes) which could be a model of rural development for hills of Nepal.

While Darjeeling is a favorite tourist destination with tea gardens, private schools and colleges, Kalimpong is agrarian with its rice terraces, a few private schools and Indian military installations. Darjeeling is famous for its tea; Kalimpong is less famous for its flower industry. While Darjeeling is culturally hip, Kalimpong is simple.

Darjeeling has a showbiz personality; Kalimpong has character.

The population of Kalimpong is about 90% Nepali with the rest comprising of Nepali speaking very friendly Biharis, Marwaris, Tibetans, Chinese, and the ever-stiff Bengali bureaucrats. In its golden days, Kalimpong was prosperous with its strategic location in the wool-trade route between India and Tibet. With Chinese take over of Tibet in 1959, the wool trade collapsed and Kalimpong lost its glitter. The serenity of the music of the caravan of donkeys transporting goods between Kalimpong and Tibet was then replaced by the noise of the convoy of gas-guzzling, green fatigued, Shaktiman monsters (Indian Army transport vehicles).

Historically, I was told that Kalimpong subdivision belonged to Sikkim while Darjeeling (originally part of Sikkim) subdivision was conquered by the expansionist Gorkha army. From Sikkim, and Nepal, the British consolidated the present boundaries of Darjeeling district and linked it with West Bengal for their need of a summer capital.

During Indian independence, again I was told that, Damber Singh Gurung the founding leader of the Gorkha League which represented the interests of Nepalis in Darjeeling district went to Kathmandu to offer a possible linkage of Darjeeling with Nepal. The then Rana regime, scared of India and the elites in Darjeeling, gave a cold shoulder to Mr. Gurung.

With passage of time and growth of post-independence political culture, the Gorkha League disintegrated and Darjeeling district was represented in the Indian Parliament sometimes by Congress and other times by Communists. One MP of special note was Mr. Ratan Lal Brahman (Maila Baje) of CPM (Communist Party - Marxist) who caused a stir in the Indian Parliament by insisting on speaking and taking oath in Nepali. Whatever party they belonged to, Nepalis in Darjeeling were united to have Nepali language enlisted as one of the main languages in the Indian Constitution. It was a common and symbolic goal of struggle for cultural identity.

Politically and economically, the people of Darjeeling district were always short-changed by the state government in Calcutta and the central government in Delhi. Due to lack of clout in state and the center, they did not get proportional appropriations for district development programs.

People were educated but unemployed. Whenever there was a vacancy in the next door post-office, bank, or other government agency, the appointees came directly from Calcutta.

The frustrations were also fueled by the emergence of Sikkim (more on Sikkim later) as a separate state with about 5 times less population than Darjeeling and getting about 10 times more appropriations from the Central government. Consequently, Darjeeling struggled with the Marxist government of West Bengal for independent Gorkhaland and asked for direct administrative linkage with New Delhi. With increase in militancy among the agitators and its violent suppression by the Indian paramilitary forces, the Gorkhaland movement did not sustain and a compromise was reached for a semi-independent Hill District Council still under the supervision of the state government.

With the new format, the hill districts received some autonomy in paper but the appropriations did not increase. All the youths who gave their energy (some of their friends gave their life) during the Gorkhaland struggle did not get any rewards. They got more frustrated and agitated. As a result, Subash Ghising, the architect of the Gorkhaland movement lost his leadership cool. The Ghising leadership and its entourage now thrives on threats of intimidation to the general public by his cadre of political thugs. Recently, with his intimidation tactics, Ghising foiled the Panchayat elections (a decentralized rural development authority) in Darjeeling for fear that he will further lose his clout.

It is interesting to note that by asking for self rule, ordinary citizens in the villages of Darjeeling district lost their opportunity for decentralized self-government. In summary, Nepalis in Darjeeling district are more desperate and depressed than ever before. Consequently, more and more educated people are looking for jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities in Sikkim and Nepal.

Let me come back to the potential of Kalimpong as a model for rural development in Nepal. Similar to middle hill settings of Dhankuta or Ilam towns in eastern hills of Nepal, Kalimpong produces rice, maize, millets on bench and gently sloping terraces. Besides the traditional agricultural crops, farmers in Kalimpong (depending on proximity to the town) produce fruits, vegetables and milk. The agro-ecosystem is self-sustainable with no apparent pressures on adjoining forest areas.

Except at road construction sites, there are no visible signs of landslides. All local streams and adjoining areas of downstream river and old landslides are covered with trees and bamboo. All the steep slopes and walls of sloping maize terraces are covered by fodder trees or grasses.

A multi-purpose grass locally called 'amliso' (whose floral tassel is collected and dried for kucho (indoor sweep), the green leaves are fed to animals, and stalks are used for fencing, stakes and fuel) has significantly increased in acreage over the last three decades.

The most significant stabilizing factor and driving force for the rural economy of Kalimpong is its efficient market system. Farmers from far and near villages bring their produce on their backs twice a week during the bazaar. The market allows the farmers to take a risk of self-retail or selling the produce to middle-merchants. Nobody returns home with unsold products. Farmers can sell a produce as small as a left-over piece of pumpkin to as large an item as the holy cow. The market

culture allows an orthodox Bahun to sell his unproductive cow (alive of course) to the Muslim butcher without feeling guilty about doing so.

The main success story of Kalimpong is its flower industry. According to my floriculture book (that I read in 1969), India exports about \$5 million dollars worth of flowers abroad from Kalimpong alone. The business is sustainable and booming due to rapid emergence of affluent bourgeois in Indian metropolitan cities. The main species exported through a network of privately owned nurseries are gladiolus, orchids, and indoor cacti. The market infrastructure is so efficient that a cut-flower of gladiolus harvested early morning in Kalimpong is sold at Connaught Place in New Delhi in the afternoon. The silk-worm cultivation is another agro-industry that has taken its root in Kalimpong.

Let me site an enlightening encounter I had with a high-school dropout friend of mine. As most of the high-school dropouts do, he joined the Indian army, sustained an injury during duty and was discharged. He came home and took over the cultivation of about 0.5 acre of dry-land agriculture (corn-millet-pulse mixture during summer) with about two terraces of rice paddy from his father. It was not enough for his growing family's subsistence. He got a job in a local hospital, and in his spare time, he gradually converted his land into a vegetable-fruit-flower-animal system. Instead of rice, corn and millets, he started growing early varieties of vegetables to beat the market. He contacted flower nurseries in Kalimpong and got a contract for growing gladiolus bulbs and cut flowers to their specifications.

In two-three years, he had enough money to buy a highly productive (15 kg/day) jersey cow. Now he sells milk, makes compost, and has completely stopped using chemical fertilizers in his vegetable and flower garden. He quit his job and now manages the farm with a few regular hired hands. When I visited him, he had cabbage in his garden which were too late for harvest. He said, "I don't send cabbage to the market when every body else does. They sell at less than Rs. 1 per kg. I feed it to the cow and make compost with the left over leaves; it is more profitable than buying the feed."

Obviously, he is a success story and there are not many of those. On our further discussion, he was almost philosophical, " The key to breaking the cycle of poverty in the hills is learning how not to plant rice and maize or millet as an annual ritual". Is not this the gist of simple sustainable rural development solutions that the Harvard-Stanford-Cornell pundits are failing to advocate despite billions of dollars spent in rural development projects in Nepal. Perhaps, the message is not getting through due to the westernized paradigms and the language barrier of multi-variate socio-economic models.

In summary, Kalimpong offers a unique learning place of rural production and marketing infrastructure run by the Nepalis that can be adapted in Nepal. It also offers a demonstration of productive watershed management system for optimum sustenance of the ecosystem. Nepal can look for answers to its production and environmental problems not in the west or the far-east but in its own neighborhood.



Literature: Poem >> "Watching the Society"

- By Hem Raj Bastola

Moon rise through the veil of smoke
Sun seems even clinging dust
Where is our freedom of right
When with every boom and bang
Guns and cannons rains upon settlement.

Which unseen force of grief is this
That now bring me in tears of my nation
Either I tell them patriots who are fighting
For bloodshed ransacking settlement
Or tell I them traitors the beast
Who snatch away the luck of Nepal
Never ending peace and love imprisoned

Between pointing barrels sandwiched
Brothers in art of killing each other
Where did gunpowder bring peace in history
That failure why now imposing again
Being hostile with temporary gun in hand
As society would never be needed to live in
In basic ground of humanity and peace
Oh! Fighters try once to check that eye
Which is blinded to see your own society

With all these feelings in heart
Thinking the memory of time go back
If these tears could soon be over
These now are falling watching the society.

(Author lives in Pokhara, Nepal and can be reached at windy_voice@yahoo.com - Ed.)

Literature >> Humor: "Hajur lai Katti ko tal-tal lagcha?"

हजुरलाई कत्तिको तलतल लाग्छ ?

- सुदीप कोइराला

खलिल जिब्रानले भनेजस्तै, जुनबेला तलतल हुन्छ त्यो स्थितिबाहेक जीवन वास्तवमै अन्धकार छ !

हो पनि, दुइचार दिन यता देखि मलाई तलतलै लाग्छ ! घडि हेर्न पनि जान पा' छैन ! न्यूरोडतिर गएर नाङ्गो पाखुरामा दरालिन पनि मन मान्दैन ! बुझ्ने सकिदैन, त्यस्तो तलतल लाग्ने मान्छे, निक्कै दिन भो नून खा कुखुरो भन्दा केहि फरक छैन !

यसो चुरोट तानौं न त भनेर तलतल लाग्छ ! रेडियो त्यसै-त्यसै उफ्रेर बबण्डर मच्चाईदीन्छ ! धुम्रपान स्वास्थ्य लागी हानिकारक छ भनेर कराउँछ ! सल्काको चुरोट पनि क्यान्सर र दम सम्भेर उ पर कान्लामा पुग्ने गरि मिल्काउनुपर्छ !

तलतल बिनाको अन्धकार जीवन देखि हैरान-हैरान भएर भयालाँ बसीरा'थीं ! भोलि देखि ठूलो आन्दोल हुने रे भन्ने हल्ला सुनें ! जे होस् आन्दोलनाँ आ'का पट्टीहरुको कैँडो हेर्ने तलतलले अन्तिममा आएर तलतल्याएरै छोड्यो !

बल्ल मेरो जीवन तलतलमय भयो मनभित्र अनेक कुरा खेल्न थाल्यो ! गर्दा गर्दै नारा पनि लाग्यो ! कतै जिन्दावाद ! कतै मुर्दावाद ! घन्किन थाल्यो !

आफू परियो साहित्यकार ! त्याँमाथि कवि ! पागल भैहाले'नि ! आन्दोलनको त्यस्तो महिमामय दृष्य देखेपछि को पागल हुँदैन ?! त्यहिबेलाँ फ्रायडको सिद्धान्त पनि मेरो दीमागाँ आएर बास बस्दयो ! आन्दोलन साहित्यमय भएर मेरो वरिपरी घुम्न थाल्यो ! डा. डीपी भण्डारी त्याँ भा' भए के हुन्थ्यो जस्तो लाग्यो !

को नेता'नि था' छैन ! को कार्यकर्ता'नि था छैन ! कसको आँखा को माथि पन्या हो मैला जान्या छैन ! यस्तो स्थितीमा पनि मैले 'आइ लभ यू' चै भन्या छैन !

देख्दै लोभलाग्दो आन्दोलन ! पछाडिपट्टीको बडेमाको घडिमा नौ बजेर पन्ध्र मिनेट गा'थ्यो ! अगाडिको जिउडाल पनि राम्रै हो ! तलतल बिनाको जिन्दगी साँच्चै नै अन्धकारमय हो ! तै तलतल लागीहाल्यो ! राम्रै भो !

हजुरहरुलाई कत्तिको तलतल लाग्छ ? नलागे जचाउन जानोस् ! अन्धकारमा नबाँचोस् !

Did you know?: "Maoist Website"

The official website of the CPN-Maoist is (<http://www.cpnm.org>). A "WhoIs" search, which reveals the registrant, admin, and dates of registered websites reveals that the Maosit site was registered from Brussels, Belsium and currently is hosted in Ontario, Canada. Both the registrant and the admin is listed as Nutan Sharma, who could be reached at newNepal2004@yahoo.com.

Currently the site displays a famous quote "Political power grows out of the barral of a gun " by Mao and "The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles." by Karl Marx.


