

The Nepal Digest

The First Nepali e-Magazine

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About The Nepal Digest

The Nepal Digest (TND) is a publication of TND Foundation, a 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.

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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.

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Editorial

By Ujjwal Bhattarai

Dear Readers:

This is the 7th issue of rejuvenated The Nepal Digest. In these 4 months, I have received several emails from TND subscribers complaining that they did not receive TND email and as a result they had not been able to read the new issue. So I thought, I would address this problem along with few others with all of you today.

Issue 1: Lost TND-emails

A. Since TND has rejuvenated to be web-based, those old-fashioned emails are not compulsory to read new issues of TND. Emailing is only an approach to remind that new issue has been published.

B. The best way to read TND is to visit <http://theNepalDigest.org> and bookmark it. Then you can visit the page at your convenience.

C. Please note that TND email might have been dumped in your junk mail. Make sure editor@theNepalDigest.org is in your safe list.

Issue 2: TND in PDF format (Volunteer wanted!)

TND's readers from Nepal have expressed their concern that reading TND on web is expensive for them as they have to be online while they read TND. One solution could be creating TND in PDF. Then they can download PDF and read it offline. This is indeed a good idea except that current TND team is too tight timewise. If there is someone who is willing to volunteer few hours every month to convert TND issues to PDF, please contact us at contact@thenepaldigest.org.

Issue 3: Economics of TND

TND is a not-for-profit organization. It runs on your support. Hundreds of hours have been devoted by TND team to make it come alive after a long hiatus. TND is yours. We want to keep it alive for a long time. Hence, we are planning to make TND an economically self-sustaining e-Magazine so that it can cover its running expenses such as web hosting, emailing, postbox etc without being financial burden on few.

So we plan to seek support from businesses and individuals alike. Businesses can support us by placing their banners on TND website which has more than 2,800 subscribers and 30,000 to 50,000 hits every issue. Similarly, we also pledge to our individual readers to support TND by sending financial contribution to us. If you have any questions or suggestions, please [email](mailto:contact@theNepalDigest.org) us at contact@theNepalDigest.org. We always appreciate your help. [Help TND](#).

Year 14 Volume V Issue 1 of The Nepal Digest is on your desktop, laptop (no PDA yet). Happy Buddha Jayanti and Memorial Day weekend!

Ujjwal Bhattarai
Editor/Coordinator
The Nepal Digest

Food For Thought: Peace

"Avoid popularity if you would have peace."
- Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865, Sixteenth President of the USA)

"There is no way to peace. Peace is the way."
- A. J. Muste

Immigration Q&A: By Ramesh Shrestha (3 questions in this issue)

(Ramesh K. Shrestha is a practicing attorney in New York City. 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)

Question 1: From Pramod, Hongkong

Dear, Ramesh ji.

Namaskar. I would like to ask about greencard of US. How and where to apply? Please can you tell briefly. Thanks.

Pramod Ji:

There are many ways to obtain resident status in the United States. You need to file your petitions with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) here in the United States or at a US consulate office of your nationality or residence depending on the type of your petition. Your question is too general. I recommend you to consult with an Immigration Attorney who can evaluate your eligibility for a resident status. Good luck.

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Question 2: From Manisha, United States

Dear Ramesh ji:

Namaste.

I came here as F-1 student legally and lived here legally for 5 years. My visa is still valid, but I am going to college at the moment and I have accepted employment. I got married to my husband who is USA citizen. Do you think my case is going to be prolonged if I go for my green card or do I have chance of getting deported? Thanks.

Manisha Ji:

It appears that you have been maintaining your status. As an F-1 student you can accept employment on campus. You are married to a US Citizen, thus, you are eligible for adjustment of status as a spouse of a US citizen. Your employment at the campus during your F-1 period will not have an adverse impact on your application to adjust status. It is not clear whether you and your husband already filed visa petitions or you are just thinking of it. Deportation situation is too attenuated at this time unless you are out of status and you are exposed to the BCIS. I don't think you need to worry that much about getting deported. Even if in a worst scenario, I do not think that will happen. It is my recommendation that you file your visa petition as early as possible if you have not done so.

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Question 3: From Shyam Lama, Kathmandu, Nepal

Hi,

I was wondering if INS takes more than two years to issue a green card (in a marriage case) do we automatically get eligible for a non conditional green card? Please reply

Shyam Ji:

At the time of granting the immigrant visa if the marriage is more than two years old, he or she will obtain a non-conditional resident status. Even if an immigrant visa is issued, indicating he or she is a conditional resident, at the consulate office, but if he or she enters the United States after the second anniversary of the marriage, that individual would enter U.S. as an LPR (legal permanent resident) not a conditional resident.

Ramesh K. Shrestha, Esq.

(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.)

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Role Model: Nisha Sharma

(Between the time I choose this piece of news for TND and actually published it, (May 16 - May 23), Nisha's fame has grown multifold. Now she has at least a dozen 'copycats' as CNN reports. - Editor)

"Dowry demand lands groom in jail"

A bride who got the police to arrest her bridegroom has become something of a celebrity in India. Nisha Sharma, 21, called the police after her father was asked for more dowry money just minutes before her wedding ceremony.

The custom of dowry is outlawed in India although it is still widely practised. Her plucky decision has won widespread media coverage and she says she has received offers of marriage from men who support her courage. Ms Sharma's call to the police took place after her brother warned her that a scuffle had broken out between the two families.

He told her that the groom had assaulted her father and asked for some \$25,000 in cash as dowry. The groom has since been arrested and the police are looking for other members of the family who are missing. The giving and accepting of dowry is a punishable offence in India and can lead to imprisonment.

Nisha Sharma's action has got her widespread media attention, with the front-pages of most national dailies featuring her story. A radio show in Delhi, carrying a long interview with her, has presented her as a role model for other young women in distress.

Her house in a sprawling Delhi suburb is buzzing with visitors - a great many from the media but also women activists, neighbours and other well wishers who want to congratulate her. Inside her house, she sits on the floor surrounded by people patiently queuing up to speak to her in person.

Despite the attention, she says she is proud of what she has done. "It has robbed me of my voice - all this constant re-telling of my story - but I am loving every second of it because I do believe it is something young girls and women in general need to know about," she tells the BBC.

Her mother and aunt who sit close by protectively nod in agreement. Nisha says she has received several letters from prospective suitors who say they would be honoured to marry her because she has been so brave.

She is also reported to have been approached by one political party which wants her to stand as its representative in state elections. But she brushes off both offers lightly. She says she is happy to have got out of an ugly situation and that all she can think of at the moment is completing her graduation.

Original News:

(http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/3027683.stm)

Also read follow-up from CNN:

<http://www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/asiapcf/south/05/23/india.dowry/index.html>

Chhalphal Discussion Series

Paying due respect to the art of Guff, Chhalphal Discussion Series was initiated in May 2002 by Nepali professionals and students in Boston to bring to fore not only the issues related to Nepal, but also to understand and acknowledge amazing amount and quality of work being done by Nepalese and friends of Nepal the world over. It was designed to be an informal forum for openly exchanging ideas from left, right and center on any issues under the sun. There is no limit to what the topics can be although topics relevant to Nepal are encouraged. Anyone with expertise on anything can present anything of their choosing, provided they have something to say. We invite people from all walks of life, all political philosophy and ideologies, mainstream or not - students, teachers, social workers, visitors, NGO workers, GO workers, capitalists, republicans, democrats, Maoists, Leninists, Socratics, athletes, restaurant workers, construction workers, would be carpenters, scientists, artists, writers, actors, directors, musicians, mountaineers, porters, ant catchers, fly swatters and any profession in between and beyond.

... Read details at <http://chhalphal.theNepalDigest.org> ... "

माओवादिले बुझ्नु पर्ने कुरा

कल्याणदेव भट्टराई

भूमिगत भएर लडाईं गर्न, जनयुद्ध सुचारु रूपले संचालन गर्न र गम्भिर रूपमा राज्यसत्ता लाई चुनौती दिन माओवादिले अत्यन्तै सफल भएको कुरा विगतका सात वर्षले पुष्टि गर्दछ। गृहयुद्धका सात वर्ष माओवादिले आफ्नो शक्ति संचय गर्न र गृहयुद्धको विभिन्न कलामा निपुणता भएको मात्र सिद्ध गरेनन् जनता संग मिलेर जन सर्भथन जुटाउन, गरिब, शोषित, अन्याय मा परेका जनतालाई साथ लिन, दलित, जातीय, महिला आदि ईत्यादि समुदाय माथि भएको भेदभाव को लाभ लिएर तिनीहरूको सर्भथन मात्र होईन सहभागिता समेत प्राप्त गर्न सफल भए। त्यसले माओवादि संग गृहयुद्धमा हुनुपर्ने क्षमता र निपुणता भएको देखाउँछ।

तर जुन सक्षमता र निपुणता माओवादिले जनयुद्धमा देखाए त्यतिकै सक्षमता र निपुणता माओवादिले शान्ति वार्तामा देखाउन सकेनन्। त्यति मात्र होईन अहिले माओवादिलाई दरवारले मात्र होईन ने.का र एमाले ले पनि ललाई, फकाई भुक्काउने र अल्मल्याउन सफल हुन थालेको आभाष आम जनता लाई हुन थालेको छ र यो शुभ संकेत होईन।

यस स्थितिमा माओवादिले अहिले बुझ्नु पर्ने कुरा के हो भने दरवार, ने. का र एमाले र रा.प्र.पा जसले मिलेर देशमा संकटकालको घोषणा गरे, जनताको अधिकार लाई कटौति गर्दै प्रजातन्त्रको नाम जपेर व्यवहारमा पाले पालो मिलेर देश लुटिरहेको थिए। तिनै जमात अहिले माओवादि लाई पनि हामी जस्तै हो, सत्तामा पुग्न र धन कमाउन नै राजनिती मा लागेको हो, स्वागत र रिबन काट्ने, विमोचन र उद्घाटन गर्ने काममा लालायित छन् भन्ने भ्रम फैलाउन लागेका छन्। न जानेर नै भएपनि माओवादिले त्यस्तो भ्रम फैलाउने मौका दिएको पुष्टि लोकेन्द्र बहादुर संग मिलेर जनताले भ्रष्टाचारी ठहर गरेका लाई दोसल्ला ओढाउने जस्ता कार्यले गर्दछ। त्यसको साथै एमाले माओवादि जस्तै प्रभावशालि छ, सबै जनाको कुरा मिले माओवादि संविधानसभा भन्दा तल जान सक्छ, लगायतका नकारात्मक headline हरु विभिन्न पत्रपत्रिका मा प्रकाशित भए बाट र पशुपतिसंशेर जस्ता सामन्ति को धरमा गएर ककुर सुमसुम्याएको फोटो संग आफ्नो उपस्थिती प्रमाणित गर्नाले माओवादिले आफ्नो कठिन परिश्रम बाट आर्जन गरेको, हजारौंको संख्यामा कार्यकर्तालाई बलिदान गरेर प्राप्त गरेको आन्दोलनकारी छविलाई बिगाँछ भनेर बुझ्नुपर्छ। यसरी माओवादिको छवि विग्रनु देश र प्रजातन्त्रको लागि राम्रो होईन।

आज आम जनताले देशलाई सहि बाटोमा लैजान सक्ने राजनैतिक शक्ति भनेर हेरेको माओवादि मात्र हो। विगतका १२ वर्षमा देशका कथित ठूला मानिएका राजनैतिक शक्तिहरूले सत्ताको लागि देखाएको धिनलाग्दो कृयाकलाप, देशको टुकुटीमा विभिन्न तरिकाले गरेको डकैति आदि ईत्यादि सबैलाई दृष्टिगत गरेर भन्ने हो भने आम जनताले देशलाई अग्रगामि रूपमा अगाडि लान सक्ने शक्तिको रूपमा लिएको, गरिवी, शोषण, अत्याचार जस्ता विकृतिको अन्त्य गर्न सक्ने, भ्रष्टाचारि र कमिसनखोर माथि कडा से कडा कारवाहि गर्न सक्ने शक्ति भनेको माओवादि मात्र हो भन्ने सोचाई राखेका छन्। जसले गर्दा माओवादि माथि ठूलो भरोसा र आशा गर्न थालेका छन्। यसबेला माओवादि माथि पनि शंका का रेखाहरू केरिन थाले भने, यिनीहरू पनि सत्ता कै राजनिती गरिरहेछन् भन्ने जनतालाई लाग्न थाल्यो भने नेपाली जनताको छातीमा ठूलो चोट लाग्नेछ र यो देशको प्रगति हुनसक्छ भन्ने जनविश्वास र आशा मा ठेस पुग्न जानेछ।

माओवादिले बुझ्नुपर्ने अर्को कुरा के पनि हो भने आज माओवादि स्वमले चाहे पनि नचाहे पनि दरवारको असोज १८ को कदमले माओवादिलाई प्रजातन्त्रको एक मात्र रक्षकको रूपमा स्थापित हुने मौका र अवसर दुवै प्रदान गरेको छ। दरवारको हरेक गलत, गैर संवैधानिक, गैर प्रजातान्त्रिक कदमको विरुद्ध आवाज उठाउने र जनताको सर्भथन र सहभागिता प्राप्त गर्न सक्ने एक मात्र राजनैतिक शक्ति पनि माओवादि मात्र भएको छ किन भने वितेका १२ वर्षको भ्रष्टाचार, कमिसनखोर, विश्वासघात र वेईमानि ले गर्दा ने.का र एमाले प्रति अब न त आम जनताको विश्वास छ न त कुनै आस्था नै छ। यसबेला माओवादिले पनि आफुलाई ने.का र एमालेकै पारामा लैजाने हो भने जनता निरास भएर देश विकास गर्न सक्ने शक्तिको रूपमा दरवार प्रति नै आँखा लगाउन बाध्य हुनेछन्। दरवार बाट नै यो देशको भलो हुन्छ होला भनेर आशा गर्नु पर्ने वाध्यतामा पुग्नेछन्। त्यसो भएमा अब दोष दरवारको होईन स्वम माओवादिकै हुनेछ। त्यसैले माओवादि अत्यन्तै चनाखो, होसियार हुनुपर्छ र दरवार, ने.का, एमाले, रा.प्र.पा जस्ता विगतमा सत्ता संचालन गरेर देश लुटेर विश्वासघात गर्ने जमातबाट गरिने विभिन्न पडयन्त्रबाट बच्नुपर्छ।

माओवादिले अर्को बुझ्नु पर्ने कुरा के हो भने ऊ आफ्नो आन्दोलनबाट स्थापित शक्ति हो र ऊ संग आन्दोलनको कउष्चप्त सँधै नै देखिनु पर्दछ। ७ वर्ष सम्म गरेको आन्दोलनबाट प्राप्त शक्ति, विश्वास, मनोबल र आस्था लाई

यि कमिसनखोर, भ्रष्टाचारी, सत्तालिप्सा राजनैतिक पार्टिसंग हातेमालो गर्ने नाममा कुनै हालतमा पनि कमजोर पार्नुहुँदैन । ने.का, राप्रपा, एमाले जस्ताको सहयोग प्राप्त गर्ने नाममा माओवादिले आफ्नो आन्दोलनबाट प्राप्त कउच्चपत्त लाई फितलो भएको, कमजोर भएको, या आवश्यकता भन्दा लचिलो भएको प्रदर्शन गर्न हुँदैन । माओवादिले एमाले संग पनि संभौता गर्ने, ने.का संग पनि संभौता गर्ने, राप्रपा संग पनि संभौता गर्ने, वाममोर्चा संग पनि संभौता गर्दै जाने हो भने देशको लागि राजा संग संभौता गर्न के बाँकि राख्ने ? यहाँनिर हामि सबैले बुझ्नु पर्ने कुरा के हो भने आजको अवस्थामा माओवादि कमजोर हुनु भनेको प्रजातन्त्र नै कमजोर हुनु हो ।

राजनैतिक पार्टिहरु संग सहमतिमा आउनु पर्छ तर त्यो सहमति शान्तिको लागि हुनुपर्छ, त्यो देशको लागि हुनुपर्छ, देशको चौतर्फी विकास गर्नको लागि हुनुपर्छ । गरिब, शोषण, अत्याचार, बेहमानि जस्ता विकृतीको अन्त्य गर्नको लागि हुनुपर्छ, भ्रष्टाचार र कमिसनखोर लाई जेल पुर्याउनुको लागि हुनुपर्छ । जातिय, भाषिक, लैङ्गिक भेदभावको अन्त्य गर्नुको लागि हुनुपर्छ, प्रजातन्त्रको सुदृढिकरणको लागि हुनुपर्छ, २०४६ सालको उपलब्धिको रक्षाको लागि हुनुपर्छ ।

यहाँनिर माओवादिले बुझ्नुपर्ने अर्को कुरा के पनि हो भने एमाले, ने.का, राप्रपा जस्ता संगको संभौताले यि उल्लेखित कुरा माओवादिले प्राप्त गर्न सकदैनन्, यिनीहरुको संभौताले त फेरि यिनीहरुलाई सत्तामा पुर्याउने, संकटकाल लागु गरेर जनताको अधिकारमा कटौति गर्ने, संसदलाडू अवरुद्ध गरेर पनि भत्ता हसुरिरहने, पजेरो खरिद गर्न औषधि उपचार खर्च लिने, विभिन्न बाहानामा देशको सम्पत्ति सिध्याउने, रातको ११ बजे दुतावासको निर्देशनमा महाकालि सन्धि लाई अनुमोदन गर्ने जस्ता कार्यमा माओवादिले समर्थन जनाएको ठहरिने छ । त्यसैले माओवादिले आफ्नो आन्दोलनको कउच्चपत्त लाई कायम गर्न पनि सत्तालिप्सा राजनैतिक पार्टिहरु को चाल र षडयन्त्रबाट आफु लाई बचाएर लैजान सक्नु पर्छ ।

हो अहिले माओवादिलाई मुश्किल परेको छ एकातिर राजा संग वार्ता गर्न र आफ्नो माग पुरा गराउन सबै राजनैतिक पार्टि सहितको एकता आवश्यक परेको छ भने अर्को तर्फ जनताले धृणा गर्न थालेका सत्तालिप्सा राजनैतिक पार्टिहरुबाट आफुलाई अलग राख्नु पनि परेको छ । यो म राम्रो संग बुझ्दछु र माओवादि अल्मलिनु पर्ने कारण पनि जान्दछु । तर पनि होस् पुर्याउनु पर्ने बेला यहि हो । सत्तामा पुगिसकेका राजनैतिक पार्टिहरु आफ्नो माथिल्लो हैसियतबाट धेरै तल गिरीसके पनि माओवादि भर्खर माथि पुगेको छ, र त्यसबाट तल खस्ने खालको काम कुनै हालतमा पनि गर्नुहुँदैन ।

माओवादिले बुझ्नुपर्ने अर्को कुरा के पनि हो भने अहिले माओवादिले जे जस्तो संभौता राजनैतिक पार्टिसंग गरे पनि माओवादिले खोजेको कुनै पनि कुरा राजनैतिक पार्टिबाट पाउन सकिदैन किनभने ति स्वम अहिले दरवारले लिएको कार्यकारिणी अधिकारको कारण धार्इते भएका छन्, सत्ताबाट बाहिर देश लुट्न नपाएको व्यथाले पिडित भएका छन् र भोलि फेरि सत्तामा पुगेर देश लुट्न माओवादि लाई पनि आफु जस्तै हो भनेर जनता माझ जाने मौका को खोजिमा छन् र त्यस्तो मौका ति सत्तालिप्सा राजनैतिक पार्टिहरुले पाए भने माओवादिको ७ वर्षको आन्दोलनको उपलब्धि व्यर्थमा खेर जान्छ । यि सत्तामा पुगेकाले चाहेको भए देशले खोजेको र जनताले चाहेको केहि न केहि त बितेका १२ वर्षमा पक्का पनि गर्न तर त्यसो गरेनन् र त्यसको विपरित सत्ता लाई सम्पत्ति आर्जन गर्ने, परिवारलाई मात्र पोस्ने, कार्यकर्ताको नाममा आफु खाने, सरकारी संस्थानहरु कमिसनको चक्करमा डुबाउन को निम्ति मात्र प्रयोग गरे । यसबाट यिनीहरुको नियत स्पष्ट हुँदैन र ?

देशमा संकटकाल लागु गर्ने, सैनिकलाई ब्यारेकबाट बाहिर बोलाउने, पजेरो संस्कारको शुरुवात गर्ने, विरामी नभएकालाई विरामी भन्दै विदेश पठाउने, १२ सिट मात्र जित्ने राप्रपा लाई नेता मान्ने, काण्डै काण्ड मच्चाएर शाहि नेपाल वायुसेवा निगम देखि दर्जनौं संस्थान डुबाउने यिनै जमात होईनन् र ? महाकालि सन्धिबाट खरबौं फाईदा हुन्छ भन्ने यिनै होईनन् र ? निहत्था जनता माथि गोलि बर्साउने, धरमा बसेकि महिला देखि स्कुलको विधार्थी सम्मलाई गोलि ठाक्ने जमात यिनै होईनन् र ? यिनीहरु संग संभौता गरेर माओवादिले के प्राप्त गर्ने होला ? आफ्नो कुकृत्यको लागि जनता संग क्षमा न मागे सम्म यस्ता सत्तालिप्सा लाई माओवादिले आवश्यकता भन्दा बढि महत्व दिएमा माओवादिको छवि बिग्रने छ ।

राप्रपा संग त माओवादिले वार्ता गर्न पर्ने त्यो पनि धर धरमा गएर कुनै आवश्यकता नै थिएन र छैन पनि, ३२ वर्ष सम्म पंचायति शासन गरेर देशलाई लुट्ने, प्रजातन्त्रवादिलाई अराष्ट्रिय तत्व भन्ने, वि.पी लाई फाँसि दिनुपर्छ भन्ने र राजालाई एक मात्र नेता मान्ने यिनै जमात होईनन् र ? यस्ता संग संभौता गरेर माओवादिले के पाउने आशा गरेको होला ? देश लुट्ने र राजनितीको नाममा षडयन्त्र गर्ने बाहेक राप्रपाले अरु के सिकाउन सक्छ ?

त्यति मात्र होईन माओवादिले बुझ्नुपर्ने अर्को कुरा के पनि हो भने अहिले माओवादिको शक्ति मात्र होईन जनआधार पनि अन्य राजनैतिक शक्ति भन्दा धेरै बढि छ त्यसैले माओवादिको मागमा सहमति जनाएर यिनीहरुले साथ दिन अगाडि आए भने ठिक छ अन्यथा आफ्नो धोषित गोलमेच सम्मेलन, माओवादिको नेतृत्वमा अन्तरिम

सरकार र संविधानसभा भन्दा तल भरेर सत्तामा पुगेका राजनैतिक पार्टी संग संभौता गर्नु भनेको आफ्नो छवि बिगार्नु हो । यसरी लचिलो हुने नाममा आफ्नो सबै मागलाई त्याग्नै जाने हो भने ७ वर्षको आन्दोलन र हजारौं कार्यकर्ता को बलिदान बाट देशले के प्राप्त गरेको ठहर हुन्छ ?

अर्को कुरा माओवादिले बुझ्नुपर्ने के पनि हो भने माओवादिको बोली, व्यवहार, अभिव्यक्ति र कृयाकलापले यिनीहरू पनि एमाले र ने.का जस्तै हुनु भन्ने देखिनु हुँदैन । माओवाद र अन्य राजनैतिक पार्टी बिच ठुलो अन्तर देखिनुपर्छ । अन्यथा जुन जोगि आए पनि कानै चिरेको भने भैँ जनताको नजरमा ने.का, एमाले र माओवाद बिच कुनै फरक रहने छैन र त्यसो भएमा माओवादिले आफ्नो हजारौं को संख्यामा शहिद भएका हरुको बलिदानको मूल्य कसरि चूकाउने ? आजको अवस्थामा माओवादिको छविमा पनि दाग लाग्यो भने, यि पनि अन्य पार्टी सरह हुनु भन्ने भ्रम जनतामा पर्यो भने प्रजातन्त्रको लागि ठुलो दुभाग्य हुनेछ किनभने अहिले दरवारको प्रतिगामी कदमको विरोध गर्नको लागि जनताको समर्थन प्राप्त गर्न सक्ने राजनैतिक शक्ति भनेको माओवाद मात्र भएको छ ।

हो मुखले विरोध र आन्दोलनको धम्क त ने.का र एमाले ले मात्र होईन राप्रपा ले पनि दिने गर्छन तर जबसम्म त्यो धम्कमा जनताको साथ र समर्थन हुँदैन त्यस्ता मौखिक धम्कले दरवारको रौं पनि हल्लिदैन । यतिसम्म त माओवादिले पक्कै पनि बुझेको हुनुपर्छ ।

माओवादिले बुझ्नुपर्ने अर्को कुरा के पनि हो भने माओवादिले आफुलाई कम्युनिष्ट पार्टीको प्रतिनिधित्व गर्ने ठाने पनि, चाहेर या नचाहेर भएपनि प्रत्यक्ष या अप्रत्यक्ष रुपमा प्रजातन्त्रको रक्षकको भुमिका निर्वाह गरेको छ । किनभने माओवादिको उदय नभएको भए दरवारको असोज १८ को कदमले अहिले सम्म पूर्णता प्राप्त गरिसकेको हुनेथियो । दरवारको असोज १८ को कदमले पूर्णता नपाएको दरवार, ने.का र एमाले संग डराएर होईन माओवादि शक्ति सशक्त भएर आएका कारणले हो । ने.का र एमाले लाई त सम्पत्ति जाँचबुझ आयोग र अख्तियार को माध्ययम बाट ठिक गर्न सकिन्छ । तिनीहरूका नेतालाई एकएक गरेर सजिलै जेलमा जाकन सकिन्छ । त्यो कुरा दरवारले जानेको र जनताले बुझेको यथार्थता हो । त्यसैले अहिले माओवादि को छविमा दाग लाग्नु या उक्त शक्ति कमजोर हुनु प्रजातन्त्र, देश र जनताको लागि ठुलो खतरा हो ।

माओवादिले बुझ्नु पर्यो एमालेले संवैधानिक राजतन्त्र मासेपछि संविधान सभा के का लागि भन्दै आयोगबाट संविधानमा सुधार मात्र गर्न प्रस्ताव अगाडि सारेको माओवादिलाई पनि आफु सरह भएको प्रमाणित गर्न हो, जनताको नजरबाट गिराएर यि पनि सत्ताकै लागि राजनितीमा लागेका हुन भन्ने देखाउनको लागि हो । किनभने अब बन्ने संविधान कमिसनखोर, सत्तालिप्सा राजनैतिक पार्टीका प्रतिनिधीले बनाउने होईन सार्वभौम जनताले आफ्नो प्रतिनिधी छनौट गरेर बनाउने हो र त्यो मागबाट माओवादि तल भर्नु भनेको आफ्ना शहिदहरूको अपमान गर्नु हो भनेर बुझ्नु पर्दछ ।

माओवादिले मुलरुपमा बुझ्नुपर्ने कुरा के हो भने २०४६ सालको उपलब्धि को रक्षा र प्रतिगमन विरुद्धको लडाईँ को नाममा बितेका १२ वर्षमा सत्तामा पुगेका राजनैतिक पार्टीहरू र तिनीहरूका नेताहरूले गरेको ब्रह्मलुट, अत्याचार, शोषण लाई कुनै पनि हालतमा क्षमा प्रदान गर्नु हुँदैन । २०४६ सालको आन्दोलन पछि बनेको सरकारहरूमा भ्रष्टाचारको काण्डमा फसेकाहरू लाई पनि लाभको पदमा पुर्याउँदै भनै भ्रष्टाचार गर्ने मौका दिएको र तिनै जमातको सिको गरेर स्वम पार्टीका नेताहरू भनौदाले पनि भ्रष्टाचार गरेकाले नै अहिले तिनीहरू जनताको नजरमा गिरेका हुन् । यदि माओवादिले पनि यिनै भ्रष्टाचारिहरू को समर्थन पाउने आशामा २०४६ साल पछिको सरकारले मल्लिक प्रतिवेदन लाई वेवास्ता गरेभैँ सम्पत्ति जाँचबुझ आयोग को प्रतिवेदनलाई वेवास्ता गरेमा या त्यसले दोषि ठहर गरेकालाई लाभ को पदमा पुर्याएमा भोलि माओवादिको स्थिती पनि आज ने.का र एमाले को जस्तै हुनेछ ।

र अन्त्यमा माओवादिले बुझ्नुपर्ने के हो भने यो बेला माओवादिको लागि अत्यन्तै चनाखो हुनुपर्ने बेला हो । अन्यथा हिजो गरेको गल्लिले गर्दा ने.का र एमाले ले आज यो परिणाम भोग्नु परेभैँ आज गरेको गल्लिले भोलि माओवादि पनि पछुताउनु नपर्ला भन्न सकिन्न । किनभने वार्ता विफल भएमा माओवादिले आफ्नो सैनिकको माध्ययम बाट राज्यसत्ता माथि पहिले भैँ आक्रमण गर्न त सक्ला, हिजो जस्तै डर र त्रास पनि पैदा गर्नसक्ला तर आज आम जनताले दिएको जस्तो विश्वास, आस्था र भरोसा पाउन सक्दैन किनभने बन्दुकले राज्य सत्ता प्राप्त गर्न सकिन्छ तर जनताको समर्थन र सहयोग प्राप्त गर्न सकिदैन । यो यथार्थता सोभियत संघ लगायत अन्य साम्यवादि देशहरूमा भएको तिनको पतन ले नै प्रमाणित गर्दैन र ?आशा गरौं माओवादिले यि कुराहरू बुझेर देशको रक्षा गर्दै देशमा चिरशान्ति को स्थापना गर्नेछन् र अग्रगामि प्रजातान्त्रिक सुधार गरेर नेपाल आमाको अस्मिता लाई सदा उच्च राख्नेछन् ।



Politics: "Who's next?"

By Siddhartha Thapa Gordonstoun School, Great Britain

In Nepal like other countries elections take place in difficult circumstances, in which one party rules the country and will not tolerate the opposition; and the election result is always in danger of being overturned if it does not suit the ruling bodies. Therefore elections alone do not make a democracy. Political toleration, multi-party competition, a free press, a constitutional commitment to abide by the results, and of course the ability to vote for the representatives to fill offices that actually have some power, are all basic requirements of a true representative democracy.

The situation in Nepal has gone from bad to worse the gap between the Palace and the people has widened significantly. The leaders of the different political parties shamelessly spoke against the King without disrespect in the recent 'Joint Movement Gathering'. Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand's speech was significant; the context of the speech invited confrontation with the political parties, but at the same time gave hints about his resignation. His resignation is inevitable; it is just a matter of time. The present government has failed miserably creating a political vacuum. Even the Government-Maoist talks is in dilemma, to be honest it's a joke. "Enough of talking, it is now time to do" Tony Blair 1997. Do what? Fill in the vacuum created.

It is time for Mr.Chand to resign without further delay and hesitation. He should try to save his image after the failure of his government. The King's plan seems to have all failed and he is looking for an alternative, as anyone would do. It will not be long before the King acts; everything is possible in the wilderness. Politics has no relations with morals; it is the art of the impossible.

The King himself faces a big challenge. Our King cannot avoid double standards; he stresses his commitment towards multi party democracy and constitutional monarchy and at the other hand directs the government in its day to day business. It is clear that Royal Prerogative has not been passed to the council of ministers, and the king himself holds executive power. 'A conservative government is an organised hypocrisy', Benjamin Dessert. Formulas of the past century cannot be used in the present context. So why grant audience to journalists and commit himself to something Hess not.

When you are a person with very little brain, you think of things, you find sometimes that a thing which seemed very things inside you is very different when it gets out into the green and has other people looking at it. Mr. Chand should act more cautiously and should have the political instincts too hold the post of the Prime Minister, being Mr.Clean and Mr. Good doesn't help at all. Trust between the parties and the palace is very important and some elements in the government are very active in widening the gap between the people and their king. Politics is about and when there are differentials in power. The role of these elements would be null if the parties were brought into the government. Trust between the palace and parties can release the country from most if not all the problems. Minorities are almost always in the right. The Maoist will be defeated if the King and parties work together and share authority.

Political parties have shared decades of interest and understanding with kings, though; ups and downs have been the feature. But even when you look back at history during the 1950 revolution it was the King and the parties who worked together to over throw the Ranas. Relation between the palace and the parties was at its highest particularly during the mid 90's. King Gyanendra is new to the scene and has the 1st June as his biggest disadvantage, though it is not true at all. He has become King under unusual and difficult circumstances; therefore, he hasn't managed to win the confidence of the people so far. This little confidence and trust will be destroyed further more after the Parties agitation gains momentum. The King should act soon and form an-all party government. It does sound like a fairy tale but if he wishes to become the poeples king, he must sack the incompetent incumbent government and take the parties into confidence with the ability to share authority, views and agendas. It will do a world of good for the palace and the parties and most importantly for NEPAL.

In these traumatic times it is important for the King to act strictly as a constitutional monarch and by doing so he will have to make critical decisions that hold the fate of our country. Even by being a constitutional monarch, the king still holds the most important post as an umpire, a symbol of national pride and sign of national unity. He will have to choose the whiter or not the parties need to be taken into confidence. If so, who will lead the next government? He would need to find a way to dismiss the present government and find a common platform with the parties. King Gyanendra should have political toleration and the ability to share power and at last avoid double standards and come into terms with contemporary issues and politics.

So, who will become the next Prime Minister? At present there are two candidates or two possibilities, Surya Bahadur Thapa or Madhav Kumar Nepal.

Will the democratic forces accept a communist leader... how will the diplomatic nations react to it, does he have good relations with our neighbours and more importantly with India. Is he capable? He's never held the job before. If the Maoist's are included in the government, India has threatened to seal its border and America will impose sanctions. So, how will a liberal communist be accepted? But given the benefit of the doubt, he might be up for it after being the opposition leader and the leader for the communist party for the last five years.

Mr. Thapa first became Prime Minister at the age of 35. He's served as the Prime Minister more than anyone else has after the Rana Prime Ministers. Held the referendum in the famous Chhattis Sal. First elected Prime Minister under the reformed Panchayat System after the Referendum. He's known for his crisis management skill and has been an indispensable figure in Nepali politics. Played a pivotal role after the restoration of democracy and was the chairman of RPP for 12 years. Re-elected PM in 1997. Enjoys more than comfortable relations with India and is very respectable amongst leaders from other parties and also enjoys a good relation with the palace though has been disrupted with the likes of some prominent courtiers.

The situation is in a Quo-Vadis.....

Lets hope for the best, everything is possible in the wilderness.

NEPAL BACKGROUNDER: CEASEFIRE – SOFT LANDING OR STRATEGIC PAUSE?

By ICG (*International Crisis Group*) Asia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Driven by growing pressure on the battlefield, increasing international isolation and a sense that the time is ripe for political gains, the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) has engaged in a ceasefire with government forces since 29 January 2003. A 22-point "code of conduct" has been reached that will serve essentially as the military ground rules while peace negotiations proceed, although unfortunately each side has already accused the other of persistent violations and no strong, independent verification process is in place.

The potential for successful negotiations is higher than during a similar ceasefire that collapsed in 2001, but significant potential spoilers remain. Negotiations have been directly between the Maoists and representatives hand-picked by King Gyanendra. Mainstream political parties have not been given a seat at the table and continue to object that Prime Minister Lokendra Chand's government is unconstitutional and illegitimate. The parties, the Maoists and the palace remain locked in a three-way struggle for public support and strategic position, each hoping to use the other in its bid to control the state. The potential for miscalculation is considerable, and hardline elements in each camp appear willing to risk confrontation – even new violence – if they feel their needs are not being met.

In many ways, the crisis represents a failure to cement broader reforms or sounder institutional arrangements after the democratic uprising of 1990. The constitution drafted then was flawed and left the monarchy with considerable, but ill-defined powers. Since 1990, parties have engaged in systematic corruption and continue to be dominated by elite, older, often non-responsive leaderships. Failure to reform the police or army or account for their earlier human rights abuses and corruption, also furthered a general climate of impunity, and a heavy-handed and often lawless response by the security services gave the Maoists recruiting momentum in the hill country. The Maoists, while often portraying themselves solely as defenders of the common people, engaged in targeted political violence, widespread extortion, bomb attacks and assassinations before the ceasefire.

Issues such as the monarchy's role, control of the army, demobilisation opportunities for Maoist fighters, restoration of democracy, formation of a possible constituent assembly and establishment of an interim government will be central to negotiations. While it will be tempting for the royalist government to restrict these to the palace and Maoists, that approach would place Nepal's battered democracy in greater jeopardy, and perhaps even push the Maoists and the political parties together. Efforts by the palace simply to "go-slow" and hope the pressure to restore democracy will dissipate would likely prove counterproductive.

India remains deeply concerned about the potential for either a failed or Maoist state on its northern border. A destabilised state directly between China and India would have serious international ramifications. These concerns, as well as increasing U.S. military assistance to Nepal, may have

helped push New Delhi to take a harder line with the Maoists and urge a negotiated solution. While U.S. policy has been largely monotone – directing substantial military aid to the government and rather simplistically viewing the conflict largely as an extension of the global war on terrorism – this also likely contributed to Maoist willingness to talk.

However, the forces driving the conflict – including the failure to curb the abuses of political leaders, the monarchy and security services alike – are complex. A misreading will only make tackling Nepal's fundamental needs more difficult while leaving the conditions for renewed conflict in place.

This initial report lays out the background of the conflict and analyses the positions of the various actors, both domestic and international. Subsequent ICG reporting will address specific issues in greater detail and offer policy recommendations.

Kathmandu/Brussels, 10 April 2003

For Full Report in PDF

http://www.intl-crisis-group.org/projects/asia/afghanistan_southasia/reports/A400943_10042003.pdf

Technology: First Online Nepali Typing Software

By G. Pokherel

This is the first online Nepali typing software primarily based on GyaNeX® : Saral Nepali Unicode KeyBoard . English and other font based Texts (e.g. Preeti TTF) can also be embedded inside the Unicode Nepali texts. The texts typed in the TEXTAREA BOX will be automatically translated to HTML CODES ready for copy-paste. Simple 5 Steps GETTING STARTED MANUAL is listed at the bottom of this GyaNeX UniWare® . [Click on the link](#) for details or go to

<http://www.thenepaldigest.org/saral/>

Social Issue: "Insidious American Corporate Interests"

By Bonny Finberg, New York

Someone e-mailed me that they obtained information on Nepali tv news reported the intention to liberalise the nepali economy and to attract foreign investment. They said the information was "insufficiently substantive" I have noticed that it's the seemingly "insufficiently substantive" information that becomes disseminated only when it's much too late (if it isn't already). American corporate interests are insidious. (I enclose the dictionary's multiple definitions below, as it explodes the word most aptly. I apologize for the unattractive metaphor.)

The US Military Industrial Complex has always had global interests of global proportions. It has presently aggressed against one of the weakest of the three countries of it's so called "axis of evil" first. Note how it goes after Iraq rather than N. Korea with the excuse of WMD's, when the latter has boldly announced it's possession and intent to use them if threatened, when the former, with 500,000 children dead because of US sanctions and bombs has not been proven to have any or made any threats to use them. I'm not naive enough to ignore the fact that Sadaam Hussein is as much a terrorist as the Bush administration is. But does the presence of the Bush administration in the US warrant another country to invade and bomb our cities to rid the world of his "evil empire?" Apparently there is a group who believes it does.

The current events in Iraq were a long time in the making. So, I would not downplay any "insubstantiated" information about US corporate interests in Nepal. It distresses me more than the present corrupt Nepal government as US interests can only help to fortify whatever destructive and anti-humane forces already exist in Nepal. The corruption and greed of the Nepali government will be further compounded by the money and military power of a world power with its sights on empire, one that has no respect or knowledge of the value and fragility of culture, even its own.

insidious

1 a : awaiting a chance to entrap : TREACHEROUS b : harmful but enticing : SEDUCTIVE <insidious drugs>

2 a : having a gradual and cumulative effect : SUBTLE <the insidious pressures of modern life> b : of a disease : developing so gradually as to be well established before becoming apparent

International Issue: Bhutan Refugee Problem - Internationalisation is working

By Dr. S. Chandrasekharan

“Without India’s direct involvement there will be no guarantee of peace and human rights for the refugees.

So it will be worthless to return to Bhutan even after such understanding. We have not heard anything from the Indian side”- Tek Nath Rijal- in an interview to Nepali Post- 15 Feb. 2003.

It looks that India will finally have to react to the refugee problem which it had refused to see so far. Rights go with responsibility, but the Indian side has been maintaining that it is a bilateral problem between Nepal and Bhutan and it has nothing to do. But the Refugee question has now gone beyond the bilateral mode and the efforts of the refugees to internationalise the issue appears to be working. India cannot continue to be an onlooker any longer!

The Refugees mount pressure: First was the relay fast undertaken first by the refugees of Kudenabari camp followed by the refugees of other camps. There were hurried efforts by the Nepal Government to get the talks with Bhutan moving with a visit of the foreign minister of Nepal to Thimpu. A non governmental pressure group led by former foreign minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyay was in Geneva for lobbying. Prior to the meeting a group of diplomats of donor countries including the US visited the refugee camps and all that the refugees asked was that they should be repatriated with “dignity and honour.”

The major donor countries for the round table on Bhutan met in Geneva between Feb. 18 and Feb. 20 and the meet focused on the plight of the Bhutanese refugees and the status of the Lhotsampas(Bhutanese of Nepali origin) inside Bhutan. On behalf of the refugees, Rakesh Chhetri, Executive Director of Centre for Protection of minorities and discrimination in Bhutan (CEMARD) made a written appeal to the heads of donor countries, UN Secretary General, Representatives of World Bank, ADB, UNHCR and heads of aid agencies.

The appeal touched on the abuse of human rights and ethnic cleansing undertaken by Bhutan and the right of refugees to return to one’s homeland, a right protected by various international laws. The appeal mentioned the inordinate delay in the verification of the refugees and a point forcefully made was that even after ten years of talks at the ministerial level (Joint Ministerial Level Committee), the issue stands where it began.

At the end of the appeal, specific actionable points were made and these included

1. Pressurise Bhutan to submit a clear road map for speedy repatriation and resettlement within one year.
2. Stop immediately resettlement in the land left by the refugees.
3. Speed up the verification.
4. Include organisations like UNHCR in the ministerial and the joint verification teams.

A copy of the appeal is given as an appendix at the end of this update.

Bhutan’s antics: Bhutan on its part tried to make out that it is only “too eager to take back” the refugees. Consider the following cynical statements made by Bhutan in the donor meeting.

“ The ongoing resettlement process is temporary to arrest the decaying of cardamom and oranges, the main source of income of southern Bhutan.”

“ We have no ill intention towards refugees and we are determined to take them back.” If these statements were true, why has Bhutan taken one year and three months just to consider the case of 12000 refugees of Kudenabari camp and categorise them when verification has already been completed? They were still not ready with the categorisation in the JMLC meeting that followed and wanted time till the next meeting in May. Why should they inflict punishment on the poor northerners just to look after the oranges and cardamom grown by the refugees who have since been driven out? Is it not obvious that if there was any determination- it was to ensure as much delay as possible so that the refugees out of sheer fatigue give up all hopes of returning?

A delegation of the refugee community visited Kathmandu on March 13 and met the officials of the diplomatic missions of Japan, Germany and the USA. They presented a position paper on the repatriation process and urged that the verification process should be re started immediately and repatriation process completed within six months.

Follow up steps and the Joint Ministerial Meeting (13th): Spurred by the attention given by the international community, both Nepal and Bhutan took up the follow up steps of categorising the

ensure that human rights are protected during the cease-fire, including the statement that "both sides will respect the fundamental rights of the people". Amnesty International said it hoped this to mean all rights as set out in all the international human rights treaties that Nepal has ratified and urged both parties to make this explicit in the above-mentioned joint declaration. It also welcomed provisions for the gradual release of prisoners; the prohibition on "searches, arrests and kidnappings" and guarantees for the free movement of people, food, medicine and other essential supplies, and the return of all internally displaced people to their homes.

However, the CoC is silent on other long-standing human rights concerns reported in the context of the "people's war" over the last seven years. Amnesty International believes additional clauses must be incorporated into the CoC calling for: an immediate halt to the use of landmines; an end to the recruitment of children and the return of those children recruited to date to their families and communities; the investigations of the whereabouts of the more than 200 people reported to have "disappeared" after they were arrested by the security forces; and the establishment of an initial truth process to account for the killings of civilians and other unlawful killings by both sides.

The nature of the monitoring mechanism provided for in the CoC

Both parties should give high priority to the establishment of an independent and effective monitoring body to monitor compliance with the provisions of the CoC at the earliest opportunity . The relevant provision in the CoC is ambiguous. It merely says that "a monitoring team will be formed with the consent of both parties." Amnesty International urged both parties to clarify the exact composition, mandate and powers of the monitoring mechanism -- both at the national and district level.

Apparently, the government has proposed that monitoring should be carried out by representatives of both parties with the assistance of local human rights organizations and representatives of civil society. Amnesty International is concerned by the limited capacity of local organizations to take on a role as monitors and the possible threats to any such local monitors' security. The organization therefore urged both parties to invite international monitors. It believes their presence would strengthen the cease-fire and would increase the effectiveness of the monitoring mechanism provided for under the CoC.

Amnesty International has been campaigning in the context of the current session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which started in Geneva, Switzerland, this week for the deployment in Nepal of international human rights monitors (with a mandate to monitor and report on respect for human rights in an open and transparent manner and to undertake advocacy and capacity building with key institutions such as the judiciary).

The organization has also been urging for several years for the strengthening of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) which has a mandate to monitor the human rights situation in Nepal. Since the appointment of the NHRC members in mid-2000, Amnesty International has been concerned about the lack of cooperation extended to them by the government, civil service and security forces and the lack of response by the Maoists to the NHRC's repeated calls to end human rights abuses. Amnesty International urges the Government and the CPN (Maoist) to make a public commitment for full cooperation with the NHRC - as an unequivocal indication of their commitment to uphold the human rights provisions in the CoC. In addition, the Government must increase the financial contributions to the NHRC to enable it to carry out its mandate. The organization also urges that offices of the NHRC be established at the district, or at least at the regional level, with priority given to those areas where human rights abuses have most often been reported.

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Books Highlighted: UNV and Volunteerism in Nepal

"1974-2002: Counting Three Decades - A Retrospective Strategy Paper at UN Volunteers in Nepal"

By Bhuvan B. Silwal

If we want to know the historical background of UN Volunteers in Nepal? What were the strategies that guided its operations? What were the major areas that it focused on, to channel its resources? It has been hard to-date to find answers to these questions. This review attempts to capture both contributions from UN Volunteers and UNV project interventions, within the given context of HMG's Five-Year Plans, UNV Strategies, UNDP Country Cooperation Frameworks and the UN Millennium Development Goals. It also reflects upon empirical facts from project interventions made to address the crucial issues of the time. Additionally, it shares with the reader a brief account of the development of volunteerism in this kingdom, and issues for future study. Though it is not a complete account, this study is expected to provide a baseline of information for future interventions and development of the country-based programme. Foreword from Mr. Henning Karcher, UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal

ISBN No: 99933-784-0-2

Pages: 132

Book 2: Volunteerism in Nepal

Who is a Volunteer? What does Volunteerism mean? How does it differ from Volunteering? And how has the spirit of Volunteerism changed over the years: These are some of the curiosities that animate the debate in this volume's contributions. It also suggests measures and strategies, a number of them coming from seasoned individuals with field experience to enhance the overall quality of volunteering output which now has snowballed into a global movement. At a time when volunteerism is in transition, the appearance of this volume, the first of its kind in Nepal, has four additional purposes: Coordination of the efforts underway; documentation at the national level; dissemination of information; and nurturing the mission as also revitalizing the movement. Feature Articles- 9nos. Article Themes: Concept of Volunteerism; Volunteering Practices in Nepal; Experiences of NDS and NDVS; Revitalizing the Movement of Volunteerism etc.

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Price: Rs. 300 (Individual), Rs. 500 (Organisation), US \$10 (foreign country)

Tourism: Sean Searner's Mt. Everest Expedition

By Heather O'Neal

Back to Base Camp - Sent July 23

Dear Adventurers,

I am finally sending the stories of the second half of my biggest adventure in the Himalayas, six messages each four or less pages. These are the words from my journal that I religiously kept as the facilitator/tour director of Sean Searner's Mt. Everest Expedition. This might keep you COOL on these HOT summer days! The long delay in sending this was due to reentry culture shock and several projects accumulating at once. Perhaps I was waiting for the planets to align just right. :)

Mt. Everest Expedition Adventure Journal Part II

As you may recall, my last Adventure Journal ended back in April before Sean summited Mt. Everest. My two and a half month trip began in March. First I trekked with Sean and his brother, Seth, to Everest base camp. Then I returned to Kathmandu to pick up Robin Potthoff at the airport. She was

our Base Camp Support Team. She and I then trekked back to base camp to be with Seth during Sean's seven day journey to the summit of Mt. Everest and back. Part 2 of my Adventure Journal begins when Robin arrived in Kathmandu. Enjoy!

Adventure Journal Part 2: (1 of 6) BACK TO BASE CAMP

May 1, 2002

For many years it was a dream of Robin's to come to Nepal. This trip was her 55th birthday present to herself. The world circumstances did not detour her from flying half way around the planet to cheer on Sean Swarner as he attempted to become the first cancer survivor to climb the world's tallest peak. Robin was the official Base Camp Support Team. Mountain Madness, a big commercial company formerly owned by Scott Fisher, only had two people on its support team. I didn't feel so bad. Robin was great!

We stayed in lodges as we trekked toward Everest. We entered Sagarmatha (Everest) National Park and headed up the MOUNTAIN to Namche Bazaar, the biggest village on the trail at 11,355 feet. We spent the standard two days in Namche in order to acclimatize and were feeling good. On our rest day we hiked up to Kumjung to see the Yeti (abominable snowman) scalp -- always a thrill -- maybe it really once belonged to a gorilla.

In Kumjung we bumped into Chris Tate, a photographer for National Geographic. I had met him in Kathmandu with Sean and Seth a month ago. We talked a while, and he told us about working for National Geographic and having to get the logo on people's jackets, T-shirts and hats in every shot -- forget the scenery. Then he mentioned, if the climbers did not summit, Peter Hillary especially, National Geographic wouldn't have a movie. The pressure was on Pete Athens, their western climbing guide. Would he risk lives just to make a movie? We hoped not. Would National Geographic ask him to? For a multi million dollar movie . . . maybe.

The weather hadn't been good. Pemba, my business partner, said when he came down to Lukla to meet us at the airport, there was snow for one full day of his hike. The snow was up to his knees at base camp, he said. He couldn't find the trail -- very unusual for a Sherpa.

The morning we left Namche was Saturday, May 4 so we visited the Bazaar. The locals were busy selling and buying everything under the sun, soap, clothes, meat, oranges, wool, pots, blankets. Then we headed to Tengboche. It was a very beautiful day. There were no clouds so we had good views of Everest for most of the journey. I tried to imagine Sean standing at the top, but a big plume of snow steadily blew from the summit all day.

In Tengboche, we visited the monastery and watched the monks chanting and meditating during the Buddhist ceremony. It was very crowded, and soon a 75(!) year old Canadian trekker came in. He was part of a group we had met in Namche. I gave him my seat on the carpet. It was cold in there especially in socks on the hardwood floor.

The next morning we headed to Debuche where we met a couple from Ireland who was on their way back to Kathmandu. They had met Sean in Pheriche the night before. Sean was now spending his rest days, four days away from base camp, down at lower altitudes before his final summit push. We were excited to learn Sean was doing well. Apparently the Irish woman was very sick the night before. She said she was impressed because Sean and his friend Randy offered to carry her down the mountain even in the middle of the night if necessary. She felt better that next morning, and at Debuche when we met her she was fine.

With a black marker someone had written a poem in Japanese on one of the walls in the dining room in the lodge in Debuche. An American man who spoke Japanese translated it:

Man has made a mess of his world.
Here we are among 10,000 rocks.
The world has come to the Himalayas.
We come here to escape the mess we have made.
Here among rocks and mountains we live in peace,
All nations together.
After hiking these mountains,
We must take the serenity home,
And with hope,
Man's world won't be such a mess.

The next morning we trekked to Dingboche. The lodge there was owned by Jimmy Carter's Sherpa who guided him when he trekked to Everest Base Camp in the 1980s. Robin and I kept losing things. First I lost Robin's small lock as I didn't close it properly. Oops. Then I lost my watch in Monjo. Then

Robin left her headlamp in one of the lodges where I left my favorite purple socks. Robin's favorite trekking socks were then stolen off the roof of the trekkers lodge in Namche where they were drying. Oh well.

A few days later, by 10:30 AM we were at the lodge in Gorak Shep (17,350 feet). We decided to spend one acclimatization night here before going on to base camp (17,600 feet). While sitting in the sun-room of the lodge eating soup and popcorn, Pemba appeared with Sean! Sean looked great. His skin was full of sun, having been at base camp and beyond for so many days. I was so happy to see him and to see that he was healthy and eager to climb Mt. Everest. He said he was ready to summit and very ready to go home after that.

We talked about Peter Legate, a climber from England who was also attempting to climb Everest this year. I had met him in Chukkung with Sean and Seth on the way up. Peter died on April 30 near camp 3. He was reaching to clip into the rope when his foot slipped. Unprotected, he fell 300 feet to the bottom of a crevasse. His body was found and his back pack was recovered, however, his body was not in good condition. The Sherpas left him where he fell. It was sad. The event cast a gray shadow over base camp for several days.

Sean also talked about how he was the first to sleep at camp 3 this year. It was so windy everyone else turned around and went back to camp 2. He was very proud; besides he is missing half a lung! He is amazing. Part of his lung was surgically removed when his second cancer, an Askin's tumor, was discovered. On the way to base camp the next morning, Robin and I stopped at various rocks and gazed up at Everest for a long while. It was a sunny day, but a few clouds obstructed the view. Then occasionally the clouds would frame Everest, and I'd have to take another picture. We were at base camp by lunch time.

That afternoon Sean, Seth, Robin and I met the Hungarian team. These five men were climbing Everest without oxygen. They were very nice and were happy to hear an American speaking Hungarian. I rarely get to practice. Later we went over to the Twinkie tent, Seth's name for the yellow tent in the shape of a Twinkie at Patagonia Brother's camp near ours. Their team was still at lower altitudes resting before the summit push so we borrowed their tent to watch a movie. Seth had a stack of DVD's. We watched Fight Club that night, a great diversion from the rocky ice quarry. With popcorn, cashews, candy, cheese puffs and somewhat comfortable seats, it was a nice way to relax. Seth's laptop was powered by a motorcycle battery that had been charged via solar power all day.

The big white table in the Twinkie tent was surrounded by 10 of the world's top climbers. I felt honored and amazed to be there among them. I scanned the room, the climbers, the Sherpas, Sean. On the surface they were watching the movie, but inside they must have been visualizing the summit. Who would make it? About 50% of all Everest climbers turn around without reaching the top and every year a few die. These people were a different breed, and the Sherpas were even more amazing as they would soon be blazing the trail and setting the ropes. The people surrounding me were more impressive than with the movie. Soon the popcorn stopped being passed around and stayed on the big white table between Robin and I. Soon we finished it. Yum!

Back at our camp we added more layers to the layers we already wore. Now it was snowing and COLD. Just before dinner, Martine, a French woman living in Dubai, came to our dining tent for a visit. She was the first woman climber I had met at base camp, so I shook her hand. She was one of only ten women who would climb this year with about 100 men. She was nervous about leaving base camp the next morning. Sean still wasn't sure when he would leave. His climbing Sherpas were discussing the plan. He wasn't nervous yet anyway.

Just after dinner, Gombu, Sean's climbing guide, came to announce that he too would leave the next morning. Sean immediately was busy fussing with his gear in his tent. Then he was back in the dining tent, then back in his tent, wearing his climbing boots, packing his down summit suit. The weather report was looking good for May 15 and 16. Sean had to leave the next morning, May 11, to be lined up for the summit and good weather.

Sincerely,
Heather O'Neal
Of Global Interest LLC Adventure Travel
Ann Arbor, Michigan
(734) 369-3107
www.ofglobalinterest.com

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Literature: Poem: "monsoon night"

By "Mrs. T"

soft falling rain
and the song of cicadas
my silent room bewilders me
alone like a ghost in my bed
i cant reach out to touch you

soft falling rain
thoughts crowd me with abandon
when will we be together again?
whorls of desire spin in my head
is monsoon a celebration of tears?

soft falling rain
in the darkness i can weep alone
tomorrow..i will wear my "mona lisa" smile
why should i wear my heart on my sleeve?
my emptiness is your space.

Poem "Computer Chips" By Puspa M. Joshi, OH

कम्प्यूटर चीप्स र मेरो भलादमी बन्ने रहर

-पूष्प मान जाशी

(वहाईओ स्टेट यूनिभर्सिटी कोलम्बस, वहाईओ)

दई शब्द बोल्न पाएको हूँदैन
आफ्नो तारीफ गर्न थाल्ने
मेरो बानी त छुँदैन
त्यस्मा पनि मौका पाइने वित्तिकै
अरुलाई होच्याई होच्याई कूरा गर्ने
मेरो बानी पनि छुँदैन
खैर त्यसो भएता पनि
मेरो भलादमी बन्ने रहर पनि कायमै छ

अचेल, बिसने रोग लाग्दा
मेरो भलादमी बन्ने रहरमा
ठूलो आघात पूर्याएको छ

मेरो बिसने रोग पनि अचम्मको छ
आफूले अरुलाई गरेको मद्दत
सानो तिनो भए पनि पटकै नबिसने
तर अरुले आफूलाई गरेको गूणहरु भने
ठूला ठूला भए पनि चटकै बिसने

कथम् कदाचित आविष्कारकहरुले,
आंखा कमजोर हुनेहरुको लागि
कन्टैक्ट लेन्स निकालेभै
सम्भना शक्ति कम भएर जानेको लागि

टाउकोमा घुसाई राख्न हुने,
कम्प्यूटर चीप्स आविष्कार गर्यो भने
म त एउटा जरुर पनि किन्नेछुँ

तर बजारमा किन्नूको सट्टा
एक स्पेशल अर्डर दिनेछुँ
अनि अर्डर दिँदा
आफूले अरुलाई गरेको मद्दत भन्दा
अरुले आफूलाई गरेको गूणहरु बढी संभने
कम्प्यूटर चीप्सको लागि उल्लेख गर्नेछुँ

त्यति मात्र कहां हो र
अभ्र चारजना भेला हुँदा मैले बिसने
आफ्नो बढुवाई गर्न तमिसने वित्तिकै
वीप् वीप् गर्ने एउटा सानो वीपर पनि
सो कम्प्यूटरमा जडान गर्न लाउने छुँ

अनि त के चाहियो?
आफ्नो बृद्धि र खूबीले नभ्याए पनि
कम्प्यूटर चीप्सको भरमा
जोशी त भलादमी नै रहेछ भनि
सबैलाई भन्न लाउनेछुँ

Original Humor:

Original Humor: "A Letter of Recommendation for Ram"

By "Misunderstood Poet"

May 2, 2003

To:

Members of Admissions Committee
University of Hypocrisy
White House, USA.

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to recommend Ram--the head of my country and a popular businessman--to your prestigious institution. I have known Ram for about a year now as my king. During this short span of time, Ram has proved himself as a very religious, "inept", and power-hungry procrastinator. I am not sure if these are some of the characteristics you look for in your applicants, but given the present political turmoil in Nepal and his ineptness--which he is striving to conceal--in dealing with his citizens, it will be in the best interest of Nepal and Nepalese if you kept him indulged in your Masters of Black-market Activities (MBA) program for another three or four years (he has already completed the Bachelor of Black-market Activities).

Ram--in much contrast to what his serious face might convey--has a passion for humor. The problem, though, is that lately he has not been able to distinguish between what is serious and what is not. Not surprisingly, he is on a popularity campaign even at a time when 20 million people are awaiting his action after the catastrophic Maoist war came to a ceasefire. He thinks national politics is not to be taken seriously and can be gotten rid of through offering of prayers and religious ceremonies. In a nutshell, he is a real businessman; 8000 is too small a number to be worried about!

He is also an insomniac, which I believe puts him in advantage over other applicants to your institution. He can stay late into the night to finish his papers and get good grades. He inherited this nocturnal behavior from his ancestors. His brother in 2046 B.S. declared the restoration of multi-party democracy at midnight. Following the trend, this gentleman of double standards also declared his son the Crown Prince of the country when people were busy celebrating Dashain, a Hindu festival. Moral of the story: this gentleman can study on Friday evenings when the rest of the university is busy partying! Don't tell me that it is a bad thing.

Ram is also the national role-model in procrastination. He has been doing everything possible to delay the talks between the Maoists and the government. Strategy 1: he visited India. Strategy 2: he is visiting places inside the country. I firmly believe that procrastination is a good thing. Everyone--especially the Nepalese--should learn how to procrastinate: Maoists should postpone all attacks, students should postpone all aggressions and protests, and the journalists should postpone using judgment and modifying facts!

As you know, your institution has been helping us perpetuate the ongoing war (We love war! We are from Mars!) by providing weapons and money. Although your help most probably came from a will to get rid of those poor commies and not from a sincere wish to restore peace and tranquility in Nepal, we respect what you did (meaning "[we] are with [you]"--we do not want to be labeled terrorists!) and beg you once again for help.

Ram will be a worthy asset for your institution. I strongly recommend him to your institution. He is a Hindu--which, if you did not know already, is not the same as Islam. And I am not a communist, so you can believe in all I have said above.

Regards,

Misunderstood Poet

Country of Corrupts, Commies and Comedians

PS: Ram is known to have evaded taxes that he is supposed to pay for the large amount of property he owns. So he might also be able to help you with your tax cuts!

PPS: Wherever you keep Ram once he is admitted to your institution, make sure that his room has a big mirror so that he learns to see himself on the mirror before charging anyone of incompetence. I must confess, this is one--and the only--weakness Ram has.

PPPS: Actual name of the candidate has been withheld to protect his privacy.