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Editorial

RIP Madiba

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who freed South Africa from the shackles of apartheid to multi-racial democracy and became an international icon of peace and reconciliation, passed away last week.

The whole world has joined South Africans to pay last tributes to Nelson Mandela who remains the most inspirational leader for his nation but his iconic dimensions transcend the South African borders, earning him the global reverence and respect.

Nelson Mandela spent most his life fighting for equality, justice and freedom in a nation where the reign of apartheid-era tormentors ruled with racial segregation, suppression and division. He had built a steely determination to fight against this injustice meted out on the basis of the colour of skin and bring about equality for all South Africans.

He launched and spearheaded a campaign under the banner of African National Congress (ANC) that sought to establish a system where every citizen could enjoy equal right regardless of colour and class. Mandela languished in jail for 27 years, spending the prime of his life behind bars for the lofty cause of the nation and the people. He was ready to face every hardship as his supreme duty of liberating the suppressed people demanded. Mandela said "I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."



Ramjee Poudel
Executive Editor

Mandela is revered the world over as a champion of social justice and human rights. Current World leaders have taken inspiration from him to lead their struggles for people's rights. After he was freed from jail in 1990, the post-apartheid election held in 1994 made Mandela the first democratically elected president of South Africa. The democratic transformation was hailed for its peaceful ways. A notable quality of Mandela was that he did not intend to impose black supremacy over the white rule. What he liked to ensure was equality to every citizen. His policy towards the whites was that of reconciliation and tolerance.

Leaders who tend to cling to power until they destroy the nation, have to learn from him. To the wider world he represented many things, not just an icon of freedom but also the most vivid example in modern times of the power of forgiveness and reconciliation. Despite his long incarceration, Mandela not only forgave the apartheid regime but convinced his black followers to be equally forgiving.

We pay our heartfelt tributes to this great leader.

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Bridging the gap

By Ramjee Poudel

Multicultural Victoria

The state of Victoria is home to one of the most culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse communities in the world. In the hundred years since the first National Census, the multicultural nature of Australian society has developed and grown significantly – especially the state of Victoria where the population is among the fastest-growing and most diverse in Australia.

At the 2011 Census, out of the total population of over five millions, 26.2% of Victorians were born overseas in more than 200 countries with an increase of 23.8% since previous census. The census also said 46.8% of Victorians were either born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas with an increase from 43.6% since 2006. Similarly 23.1% of Victorians spoke a language other than English at home and 67.7% of Victorians followed 135 faiths – compared to 68.7% following 130 faiths in 2006.

The diversity of such rich cultures has contributed significantly to Australia's socio-cultural and economic development. There are many outstanding individuals and organisations that enrich Victoria as a state through their diligence and hard work to promote the benefits of diversified society and to promote Victoria's reputation as a thriving cosmopolitan city. Furthermore, Victorian Government distributes variety of multicultural awards every year through Victorian Multicultural Commission to acknowledge these individual and organisations.

Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence-2013

This year, Victoria's reputation for embracing multiculturalism was celebrated at The Victorian Multicultural Commission's 2013 Multicultural Awards for Excellence. The awards originally established in 2002, are provided across ten categories, including Meritorious Service to the Community, Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria, Media, Local Government, Education, Police and Community Multicultural Advisory Committee Award and a Business category. Out of more than two hundred nominations, Victorian Government honoured 77 people and 23 organisations this year, amid the program held at Government House that was hosted by His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria.

Other dignitaries present were the Minister for Multicultural Affairs & Citizenship the Honourable Nicholas Kotsiras, Chairman of Victorian Multicultural Commission Mr Chin Tan, Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police Ken Lay and many VIP dignitaries and guests. Representing the Nepalese community the ceremony was attended by Mr. Bom Yonzon (President of NAV), Mr. Jog Limbu (senior adviser of NAV), Mrs. Nila Limbu, Mr. Raj Sharma President of Yeti FC and Mrs Bharati Joshi.

His Excellency the governor congratulated the recipients of the award in his opening remarks. The Governor added that this recognition reflects only the summary of the amount of great contributions made by the recipients to the community. Speaking on the occasion, Premier Napthine also commended the recipients and said that each of the recipients has illustrated selfless commitment in their field to create positive opportunities for their own community as well as delivering benefits to the broader Victorian community.

Premier Denis Napthine also presented the Premier's Award for Community Harmony and the Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria awards.

"These awards are an opportunity to recognise the individuals and organisations that contribute so much to multicultural Victoria," Dr Napthine said. "Our multiculturalism has greatly enriched every aspect of life in Victoria, and plays an important role in shaping our vibrant state."

"A successful brand of multiculturalism is not achieved by accident, but is rather the result of the vision and leadership of Victorians" he said.

Nepalese recipients

In a quick succession of the win of Mr. Sudhir Shakya last year, one more Nepali individual and two Nepali organisations have been honoured with this year's Victoria's Multicultural Award for Excellence: Meritorious Service Awards 2013 for their selfless service to the Community. This award is given to those who have done a voluntary service at governance level for more than ten years.

Mr Jog Limbu, Nepalese Association of Victoria and Yeti Football Club Inc have been awarded for their exemplary contribution towards promoting multiculturalism and for broadening Victorian community as a whole. They were recognised for their contributions for making a real impact in promoting community harmony from their respective fields.

Mr. Jog limbu:

Jog Dai - Victorian Nepalese community fondly refers to him as- he has literally been a parenting figure for Nepalese living in Australia. His guardianship has been integral to the community development, as it has grown exponentially over the years. Born in Panchthar District of Nepal, Mr Limbu came to Australia in year 2000 and has been active in the community since.

Jog Limbu is a senior Advisor and Member of the NAV. He has been actively participating and taking an active leadership role in NAV activities such as sports, culture, institutional development, charities, NAV Excellence Award, Welfare Fund Australia and providing assistance to fellow Nepalese in challenging times. Mr. Limbu is passionate about helping people and making a difference in the communi-



Nepalese Voice (NV) had a chat with the man after he was awarded with the prestigious award

NV: How do you describe the feeling?

I see this as an award for the whole Nepalese community. We have been there for each other when needed. And this award symbolises our unity. I am quite humbled by the recognition, however there are so many other personalities that has made a significant difference in the community and I want to share this with them.

NV: Your thoughts on drastically changing demography of our community?

As we all know, Nepalese community has grown in exceptional scale in the last decade. With that, also comes the challenge of maintaining unity and harmony. People like us have got to bridge that gap between newer and older migrants. Cultural events, sports and other activities can be used as tools to keep them connected.

NV: As an emerging community, do we lack collaboration with other communities when it comes to tackling with Social issues?

Yes to some extent. But Nepalese association of Victoria has done a lot in last few years to liaise with other communities in the matter of community concerns. I consider current President Mr. Bom Yonzon's tenure quite productive to this effect. We are now closely working with the local government bodies and Victorian Multicultural Commission.

NV: Last words?

I would like to thank my wife Nila Limbu for her support. She has always been there like a rock in every decision I have made in my life. She inspires me to do more for the community. Similarly I would like to thank NAV for recommendation. I'd also like to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow colleagues Mr. Bom Yonzon, Mr. Chandara Yonzon and Mr. Sudhir Shakya for nominating me for the award and the Nepalese community for the opportunity they gave me to serve our great community. I would also like to thank all past and present committee members I worked with over the years for their support and cooperation.





The Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV):

NAV was established in 1997 as a representative body for more than 12,000 Nepalese Victorians and to promote and preserve their diverse cultures, language and heritage. They established relationships with other communities, organised cultural events and are a contact point of residents and visitors. They also run a newsletter, community radio program, community benevolent fund, awards program and sports activities for young people.

Yeti Soccer Club Inc:

Yeti FC has been recognized by the Victorian Multicultural Commission for its Meritorious Service to the Community. Yeti FC was awarded Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence 2013 in community organization category, thus becoming the first Nepalese football club to receive such award in Australia.

The award was bestowed to recognize the club's outstanding voluntary commitment to the service of Victoria's multicultural community, its participation in diverse cultural initiatives and its endeavour towards improved community relations and programs since 2001.

Yeti FC was established by a few football enthusiasts in 2001 and has grown from strength to strength. Since its inception, Yeti FC has developed Nepalese football by complementing successful teams, with music and cultural events. This Brunswick based club is a 'home away from home' for many young Nepalese students and residents. Through sports, Yeti FC helps prevent involvement in drugs, alcohol and inappropriate behaviour, as well as, actively fundraise for those in need.



Community celebrates the recognition



Mr Chandra Yonzon the Hon. Consul General of Nepal for Victoria said this was a proud moment for Nepal and the entire Nepalese community that a Nepalese person in Melbourne was honoured with such a prestigious recognition by the Government of Victoria. This is a great achievement for NAV and the migrant Nepalese community as a whole.



Mr. Bom Yonzon, the incumbent President of Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV), who nominated Mr. Limbu for the award on behalf of the Nepalese community, said Mr Limbu deserved this award for his dedicated work to our community over a decade and he was pleased that his nomination was accepted. He added such recognition is a sign that we Nepalese are making positive contributions to our community and as well as the greater multicultural society in this country (Australia) and our efforts are being noticed by the government.



Mr. Ranjan Vaidya, former president of NAV expressed his pleasure saying that this was a great achievement for Mr Limbu and the community. He further added that NAV made significant contributions in advancing the Nepalese community during his presidency due to a great dedicated team he had including Mr Limbu as Senior Advisor. And it was good to see our community reach this far primarily due to the enormous effort made by the succeeding presidents and their team, he added.



Dr. Raju Adhikari, the founder President of NAV said that Mr Limbu had worked in various capacities and played a key role in sport, cultural and constitution committees and still continues to play an active role in the organisation. This award is a good recognition for his contributions to the Nepalese community and the organisation, he added.



Dr. Deepakraj Panta, the former president of NAV, I am delighted to hear that Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV), Mr Jog Limbu (Senior Advisor and Member) & Yeti Football Club (Yeti FC) has been honored with this year's Victoria's Multicultural Excellence Awards 2013 for Meritorious Service for outstanding voluntary contributions to Victoria's Nepalese community in Victoria. I am even happier that people and organizations I have been in close touch and worked with for many years have bagged it. The award has certainly strengthened our Nepalese Community in Victoria. It signifies the endless years & hours you all have spent doing volunteer service and reflect your true dedication to Nepalese Community. Congratulations, and thanks for all of your devotion and hard work. I wish all the best guys.

Photos for cover story (including cover page): Sabin Thapa

Widowhood no more a 'sin of omission', says Anjana

Ms. Anjana Regmi, Doctoral Candidate of UTS, organised an event 'Rethinking Empowerment of Widows in South East Asia Pacific (REW-SEAP)', on Friday, 22 November 2013 at University of Technology, Sydney. The event was organised to raise awareness towards protecting such 'stigmatized' group of women and to publicize the most hidden and veiled areas of violation of women's human rights, especially in the third world countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms Regmi drew attention to the lack of a reliable data and research on this sensitive issue, the

To mark 16 Days Campaign, an event focusing on single women's issues was supported by different stakeholders because of the fact that with 245 million widows around the world, the single women (widows) are still fighting for their basic human rights (Loomba Foundation). The customary practices and discriminatory legal provisions continue to deprive widows of their basic human rights and are a "living sati" in India and Nepal.

Group Nepal in so many developing countries, the lives of many widows, especially rural ones, are determined by discriminatory interpretation of religion, custom and tradition in spite of the enactment of modern laws that comply with international conventions such as CEDAW.

The event commenced with the opening performance by the team of Digital Key Production followed by traditional lighting of the lamp by Mr Mana KC (Spokesperson NRNA-ICC); Hon Deepak Khadka, Consulate General and Ms Sumitra Bista (Coordinator, Nari Nikunja Australia). The



absence of which obstructs planning and implementing effective actions to improve the living conditions of widows across the world. She also shared her experiences of her journey in the social red movement of Nepal through the presentation 'Reflection of my Journey'.

The program also leads up to 16 Days Campaign as a side event of 4th Australian Council for International Development, University Network Conference. The Centre for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) launches the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign each year. The 16 Days Campaign that began on November

25, the International Day Against Violence Against Women, will end on December 10, International Human Rights Day. These dates symbolically link violence against women and human rights, and emphasise that such violence is a human rights violation.

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basic human rights and are a "living sati" in India and Nepal. Widows are forced to face discriminatory laws and customary practices, resulting in the lack of inheritance, restrictions on diet, mobility, social networking and education. According to the Population and Housing Census 2011, out of total 498,606 single women (widows) 370,687 are below the age group of 10 years, which is 5.30 per cent of the total population of single women and remaining 75 per cent single women got married in between 10 to 19 years of age. These alarming data is an evidence of the urgency to address the issue. According to Women for Human Rights, Single Women's

Centre for Women's Global Leadership was the global organiser; the event was hosted by UTS: Cosmopolitan and Civil Societies and UTS: Institute for Sustainable Futures.

The program was chaired by Dr Bronwen Dalton - Chair of the event/ Director of Masters in Not-for-Profit and Community Management, who summarised the session with a note that it is essential to continue to educate the governments and international agencies on the issues of violence against women; and to work on evidence based research for the policy analysis and changes at a national and an international levels.

High expectations from few women in CA

As ten directly elected women members of the Constituent Assembly take parliamentary oath in December, they will have to remember that they have a responsibility of being torch bearer of the cause of political competition and inclusive politics in Nepal.

The ten MPs will have to do what 30 MPs did in the dissolved CA. Although they will be joined by other women MPs elected under the proportionate representation system, the number of female MPs in the newly elected House will not be as impressive as in the previous CA.

The issue of 33 percent participation of women in parliament in Nepal received a set-

back this time as political parties offered few women - candidates in the First Past the Post (FPTP): 71 in 64 constituencies. Only ten of them won the election. They include six Nepali Congress candidates: Sita Devi Yadav, Kiran Yadav, Sharada Poudel, Gyan Kumari Chhantyal, Parbati DC Chaudhary, and Sushila Chaudhary. Among the three winning on CPN UML ticket are: Manju Kumari Chaudhary, Nazma Khatun and Sita Giri Oli. Omsari Gharti is the only female candidate directly elected on UCPN-Maoist ticket.

The previous Constituent Assembly (2008-2012), despite its failure in various fronts including the completion of constitution writing, had heralded a new age of what

experts prefer to describe as inclusive politics in Nepal. It had 191 women - members in 601-member House; 30 of them directly elected and 161 picked up through election based on proportionate system.

There are various reasons why the number of women in the newly elected CA declined. One of them is: political parties' indifference in allowing women's leadership to grow at the constituency level. The other is: leading women's disinterest in facing electorate directly and preference for comfortable way of being MPs.

The directly elected women should be effortful in promoting women to face competitive politics in various districts and

election - constituencies. If this is not done this time, the talks of ensuring 33 percent participation of women in legislature will be simply confined to talk and seminar rooms. Those who enter CA through PR system should also make special efforts in encouraging women to be competitive in politics.

Women's rights activists expressed worry over non-continuity of 33 percent participation of women in CA this time at a recent seminar in Kathmandu. They underlined the need to have a legal framework that ensures 33 percent participation of women in legislature under the leadership of newly elected women in CA.

Victoria will expand its focus on opportunities with South Asia: Premier Napthine

Victorian Premier Denis Napthine has said that the state government aims for boost in Southeast Asian businesses. Mr Premier was speaking at the Multicultural media conference held in Melbourne on 24th of November, where he spoke at length about Victoria's diverse economy and future prospects. Referring to the Victorian Government delegation last June to Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, Mr Premier said "as the South Asian century is unfolding we are focusing on opportunities with countries such as India, China and other south east Asian countries."

Mr. Premier expressed satisfaction on Victoria's economic growth and presented a snapshot of Victoria's status in different financial aspects. He added the fact that 14,200 new jobs were created in Victoria last month which is higher than any other Australian states. The Premier Further said "Since I have come in to the office in 2010, 73,400 more Victorians are in jobs".

Citing Standard & Poor's report that confirmed triple A credit rating on financial management, the premier said the state has now the strongest finance in the nation and moved on a record \$6.1 billion infrastructure program to keep pace with the population growth as well as record funding for ambulance services, school education, transport and police force. In less than three years we have increased public transport, today there is a 1078 extra train services each and every week in Melbourne.



However, he called east west link a game changer that will be the counter piece of future infrastructure.

On the big picture is having a pipeline of the key infrastructure projects that will make a difference to Melbourne and Victoria. The first one is a regional rail project which is work being largely done in the west of Melbourne. The project involves 3500 people and 25 million a week. It provides a



new rail line from Geelong directly to Southern Cross station and at least upto Bendigo and Ballarat line. That has two benefits- improves reliability and

punctuality and increase the capacity for our regional services, but secondly it takes the V line trains off the metropolitan services so we can further increase our metro services on the Weribbee, Altona Williams-town Sandbury and Craigburn lines.

Upon being asked a question about the phone tapping scandal Premier Napthine reaffirmed that the relationship between



Victoria and Jakarta is only getting stronger. He also informed that the business council office in Jakarta will reopen soon.

Much to the liking of community media representatives, Premier Napthine said the government's commitment to the ethnic media has been renewed as five percent quota for multicultural media budget has been met last year. He said that number is much likely to increase in coming years.

Speaking on Victoria as the most diverse and multicultural state of the country, The Premier said that he was proud of state's multicultural diversity and gave an example of how he has embraced it by saying that one of his sister is married to Greek and another to Chinese. Before concluding the interaction session, Premier left good news for international students. From 2015 there will transport concessions for them and the details of which will be announced in 2014.

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NSW Premier's Awards for Public Service



NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell has congratulated the winners of the 2013 NSW Premier's Awards for Public Service at an awards ceremony in Sydney. Mr O'Farrell said the awards recognised the achievements of the public service and its partners in the private and non-government sector.

"It's a pleasure to showcase the initiatives, projects and strategies that have been

achieved by public sector employees, who have delivered effective customer services while creating value for the NSW community," he said.

"A key goal of the NSW public service is to deliver value to the public, and that's why I chose 'value

as the theme of this year's awards. "Among the winners is The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, which has been recognised for customer service delivery for a nurse-led screenings and referral program that's successfully connecting refugees and students to the health system.

"NSW Public Works has been recognised for helping build the economy with

its alternative sewerage plant design that reduces costs and environmental impacts.

"The winner of the Premier's Award for Individual Excellence and Achievement this year goes to the Head Teacher of Automotive at Wagga Wagga TAFE, Wayne Jenkins.

"Wayne's innovation and passion toward helping his students meet the needs of the auto industry has enabled TAFE to build close relationships with car manufacturers, expand its course offerings, and roll-out courses to campuses across NSW.

"Each of the winners has been recognised for going the extra step in their contributions to the public service to help improve the services being offered."

The Premier's Public Sector Award winners in each category are:

» **Delivering Quality Customer Services:** The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network

» **Revitalising Regional NSW:** TAFE Western Institute

» **Building Infrastructure:** Roads and Maritime Services

» **Building the Economy:** NSW Public Works

» **Strengthening the Environment and Communities:** Frank Baxter Juvenile Justice Centre

» **Improving Performance and Accountability:** HealthShare NSW

» **Premier's Partnership Award:** Sydney International Rowing Regatta

» **Premier's Award for Excellence in Public Service Delivery:** Royal Far West

» **Premier's Award for Individual Excellence and Achievement:** Wayne Jenkins, Head Teacher Automotive at Wagga Wagga Campus, TAFE NSW Riverina Institute

The fresh Nepali Mandate 2013

A few lessons that political parties should draw from the mandate of the people is that they should not engage in the game of power-politics or the arm-chair politics of changing or retaining or capturing government every now and then. People are already tired of the drama of squabbles among parties over appointments and power-sharing.



Nepali voters evinced a sense of courage, maturity and political wisdom as they elected a fresh Constituent Assembly (CA) on November 19, 2013 to finish the task of scripting the constitution for the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and to set up a representative parliament. By doing so, they have refurbished the foundation of the legitimate system of democratic governance in the country.

People exercised their right to vote bravely in uncomfortable circumstances marked by boycott the poll-call from Mohan Vaidya-led Maoist-33-party alliance, its ten day transport strike and frequent bomb explosions rocking various parts of the country. Over 78 percent turn-out in the election, besides being impressive and historic, is an expression of faith on electoral process.

More interesting is the mature verdict that voters delivered. They reshuffled the positions that the three big political parties – UCPN-Maoist, Nepali Congress (NC), and Communist Party of Nepal Unified Marxist-Leninist – had in the previous CA. The UCPN (M) got demoted to the third position while NC and CPN UML were promoted to the first and second position respectively.

Ruling

The judgment of the people indicates: penalty for UCPN (M) for failing to play properly its role of single largest party in the previous CA. The way people felt let down by the manner in which the party performed in its 25-month rule (first: during 18 August 2008-25 May 2009 under Prachanda - Premiership and second: during 29 August 2011- 14 March 2013 under Dr. Baburam Bhattarai - Premiership) may have given the people sufficient reason to push down the party's position.

Two specific moves that the party leaders undertook in May 2012 also made the people really frustrated and pushed them to reject leading role to UCPN (M). The first related

to Prachanda's double stand in relation to federalism. Switching over from the Jestha 2068 B.S.- Hattiban resort agreement providing for multi-identity and capacity based 11-province federalism, he started re-advocating federalism based on single ethnic identity towards Jestha 2069 (May 2012). Then he urged ethnicity-based organizations to launch movement for it. This made people really worried. The November 19-election slogan of UCPN(M) – federalism with identity, and constitution with federalism – further fueled their confusion. This made them take back the type of election - support they gave him in 2008.

The second refers to the then Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai's political inaction on May 27, 2012. People expected him to act as a responsible Head of Government of the country and avoid dissolution of CA. They felt helpless as he pushed the country into constitutional vacuum by not taking any meaningful last minute step to keep CA animated on that date. The experience did not allow voters to re-trust UCPN-M.

The choice of people demonstrates: opportunity for the two political parties (NC) and CPN UML to complete constitution-writing process. The parliamentary behaviour and tolerance that they demonstrated over the past two decades and their history of capability to produce a constitution within a year after the 1990-People's Movement -I may also have played a role in their earning of people's confidence this time.

The ruling of voters is clear and focused: produce a constitution in one year; complete peace process; end political uncertainty by providing a stable government; create an atmosphere suitable for undertaking economic development works to meet the aspirations of people. The two parties could do it if they work with political wisdom. They do have the capacity to mobilize other parties in CA for having two-third majority needed to adopt constitution.

Inherent in the people's prescription are some strong messages for political leaders. One is: introduce federalism without damaging the fabrics of Nepali unity and nationality while another is: drop the issue of federalizing the country on the basis of ethnic identity, language and regionalism for they are not practically relevant in present day Nepal.

Lesson

A few lessons that political parties should draw from the mandate of the people is that they should not engage in the game of power-politics or the arm-chair politics of changing or retaining or capturing government every now and then. People are already tired of the drama of squabbles among parties over appointments and power-sharing.

They should not make the legislature-activities of CA adversely affect the task of writing constitution in CA. Members should not allow the tendency to script constitution outside the periphery of CA floor. They

should not turn the consensus – way of taking decision into a way of evading decision for long.

What needs to be done as per the people's expectation is: offer a stable inclusive government and begin wholeheartedly the task of scribbling the constitution utilizing the experience of the CA-I. Members have to voice for all the marginalized, disadvantaged, the deprived and the unrepresented sections of country's population besides representing the grievances of various communities and regions. The political parties should take the responsibility of avoiding discriminations of all types in society and making citizens feel practically connected with the state.

Challenge

What needs to be avoided is the legacy of failure of the previous CA. All members should be aware of one or the other move that aims at not allowing fresh CA to concentrate on constitution and governance. Some

could engage CA in unnecessary politics and compel it to divert its time and resources on them for making it a failure ultimately.

Those who could not emerge winners have already started accusing the Election Commission of not being fair in election and allowing various types of rigging. The UCPN-M, which emerged third in the election, joined the move against CA poll 24 hours after vote-counting began. It did not allow its winners to celebrate victory for nearly a week. It has already made its entry into CA conditional.

"The majority clause of the constitution for forming government and taking decision should be replaced by consensus clause for our joining the CA," the UCPN -M demanded publicly on November 25. More excuses may follow in future to disrupt the CA.

The election process of November 19 CA poll has been described as free and fair by observers – national and international. Even the party which championed the boycott of CA election – CPN-M led by Vaidya – has expressed willingness to join new government and enter CA through appropriate constitutional mechanism. The gesture expressed publicly by C.P. Gajurel, Vice-President of CPN-M, on November 26 in Kathmandu is a recognition of the CA election and respect for people's mandate. It could be instrumental in bridging the political differences between the two political forces: pro-CA-poll parties and anti-CA-poll parties.

The new government and new CA leadership do not have a rosy path ahead. The challenges confronting them can, however, be met if they sincerely follow the pledge they made during the election and the messages



engraved in the Nepali CA mandate 2013



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5th Lumbini-Kapilavastu Day celebrated in Australia

5th Lumbini Kapilavastu Day was celebrated in Australia as part of global movement to clarify the misconception about the Buddha's birthplace and to promote Lumbini as great historic site in the world community. The program was held concurrently in the two biggest cities of Melbourne and Sydney.

As a Chief Guest of the program, Honourable Consul General of Nepal to New South wale, Deepak Khadka said "as Nepalese we revere the topic of Buddha and the Mt. Everest as it is associated with our identity." He said the Consulate office has always been supportive of this kind of program.

During the program in Melbourne, LK Movement Global Co-ordinator Mr. Ram Kumar Shrestha spoke about the achievement and the future activities. He said that the movement has come a long way in short span of time. "To have Google rectify the fact about Buddha's birth place exemplifies the enormity of the success of our movement, we have truly brought about the revolution in social media in relation to promoting Buddha and Lumbini" he said. Mr Shrestha also expressed satisfaction that he was given an opportunity to present Australia's ex-Prime Minister Julia Gillard with a Buddha statue. He also highlighted the fact that the Buddha's statue has been placed at International peace Palace, Hague, Netherland and he envisages to do that all over the world with message of peace and compassion.

NRNA Australia President Mr. Mahendra Oli reinforced his commitment towards the movement and emphasized on Buddha as the National luminary. Similarly NRN Victoria's Rishi Kandel touched upon Buddhism's relevance in today's modern scientific world. He said the theory that was thought of two thousand five hundred years ago by Lord Buddha seems more practical now than ever before.

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Nepalese Association of Victoria, President Bom Yonzon, Vice President Mahesh Bhandari also expressed their views as to how we can support the objectives of the movement and suggested that we need to encompass the world community in our activities.

On the occasion, Australia based Nepali medias such as Nepali Sanchar Media, Nepali Patra Australia, Namaste Nepal news, Nepali Times Australia, MNTV, Aus Nepal news and AU Nepal were awarded with LK Movement Media Award-2013 for their contribution towards the movement. Saugat Ashak and Bigen Tuladhar, two media persons that broadcasted 24hrs nonstop radio program during 4th LK day last year were also facilitated with LK day special award. Fitting to the event, former NAV President and local singer Mr. Ranjan Baidhya gave a peaceful rendition to a classic "Jahan Chhan Buddha Ka Ankha". Aria Pokarel, Australia born Nepalese teenager won the hearts of the participants by sharing her connection with the country of Buddha and how she understands Buddhism.

The program was also attended by Sue Bolton from Moreland city council. Former Miss Nepal Australia Reecha Dhital and

Miss Nepal Australia-2012 Deepashree Shah hosted the program from Sydney and Melbourne respectively. Pramod K soni from Nepali Sanchar Radio led the welcome speech. Ramjee Poudel, the Editor of Nepalese Voice led a Vote of thanks emphasizing that it is as important to invest our energy and time into Buddha's teaching as it is to promote Lumbini as Buddha's birth place.



Christmas Special "Baal Chautari" at Darebin

The fortnightly assembly of Nepalese Kids "Baal Chautari" is hosting a Christmas special program at Darebin Inter cultural Centre on 14th of December. Apart from the regular song and dance session kids will perform Christmas carol to get into the spirit of upcoming festive season.

The president of Nepalese Association of Victoria Mr Bom Yonzon, who is also a Darebin resident said "some of the council official including Deputy Mayor Cr Gaetano Greco, Cr. Tim Singh Lawrence have accepted our invitation to the program." He added "A program like this helps our kids not just to stay connected to our heritage but also embrace multiculturalism."

NRNA-Australia strengthens partnerships with community organisations

NRNA Australia organized an interaction program with the various community organisations to strengthen unity and solidarity between one another. The program held in Sydney on Saturday, 30th of November at Auburn Soccer Club, Auburn, saw the representatives of more than 25 community organisations including NAA, NEA, NRC, Granville Nepalese Society, Chinari Nepal, Sabdamala, Magar Samaj, Tamu Samaj, Kirat Samaj, Kirat Yakthum Chumlung, Aadibasi Janajati Sangh, NEHURIPD, GNC, Terai Association, SAAN, Myagdi Sewa Samiti, NDF, Jhapali Samaj Australia, Nepali Kala Sahitya Pratisthan, St George Migrant Centre, INLS, actively participating in the program.

The program was chaired by NRNA Australia president, Mahendra Oli & hosted by Secretary, Bharat Pokharel. NSW consulate general Dipak Khadka and NRNA Office bearers were also present in the meeting.

The program mainly focused on the agenda of sharing knowledge, experience and challenges among the community organisations. The discussion delved into the common areas in which NRNA and rest of the community organisations can collaborate for the betterment of Nepalese community in Australia.

This initiative of NRNA is believed to have opened a new door for many community organisations to work together for a common goal. Many attendees during the meeting expressed their desire that

this kind of meeting be held in a regular basis.

According to a statement issued by NRNA Australia Spokesperson Dinesh Pokharel, a mailing group has been set in the loop for future discussions and updates.



Nepali girl wins Youth Award in WA

Sneha Mishra, a Nepali origin girl has won 'Youth Award' for her charity work, especially in youth empowerment programs in the Bunbury community of Western Australia. She was given an unexpected gift as she celebrated her 16th birthday last week – being named as the only public school student in WA to win an Australian Youth Excellence Award.

"It was wonderful news, especially on my birthday," Sneha said.

"My family are so proud." The teenager won the award for her work as a volunteer with youth in the community. The awards are given by Youth Link Australia, a national organisation that coordinates and promotes services and opportunities for youth in the community.

Sneha and her family, who are originally from Nepal, came to Australia in 2010 after her father (an engineer) applied for a job in Victoria.

They moved to Bunbury just over 18 months ago. During her time in Bunbury Sneha has worked with a number of community groups.

In particular, she has devoted time to youth mental health organisation headspace, for which she is a committee member for the area. "My family, in particular my grandparents, taught me about volunteering and giving something back," Sneha said.



"I hope to study medicine and one day go back to Nepal and help those in the rural areas who don't have access to medical facilities."

Year 10 coordinator Leanne Risdon said Sneha was a wonderful role model and academically among the top-five students of her year.

"Sneha is amazing. She is so humble and well liked in the community," Ms Risdon said.

"She is kind and caring and helps other students – a wonderful role model for everyone."

"She is an active citizen and I believe she is a future leader."

Nepal Art and Culture Exhibition in Australia



R.B. Diamond Jewellers Pty. Ltd. in association with Chinari Nepal and Solangture, is evincing the biggest Nepalese Art and Culture Exhibition in the cities of Melbourne and Sydney this month. The exhibition will showcase Nepal's long legacy of jewellery making, and its cultural significance associated with it.

Apart from displaying stunning array of jewelleries, the exhibition also features photography, handicraft, paintings and tattoo. The exhibition will run for four days each in both cities starting from 19th and 28th in Melbourne and Sydney respectively.

R. B. Diamond is Nepal's leading diamond business enterprise that has started its operation in Sydney recently.



Nepali doctor honoured by Int'l award from Australia



Nepali Doctor Gyanendra Malla has been honoured by an international award at a conference by International Emergency Medicine Group in Australia.

Prof. Malla, who is head of the emergency medicine department at BP Koirala Institute of Health Science (BPKIHS), was presented with the award during a meeting of doctors of emergency medicines from all over the world at Adelaide South Australia.

The Chairperson of Australian Emergency Medicine Group Prof. Dr. Anthony Cross presented the award to Malla and lauded his contribution in medical sector.

Dr. Malla was chosen for the award as BPKIHS has a world class emergency service with technological and medical management among the hospitals in Nepal. After being awarded by International Emergency Medicine Special Interest Group (IEMSIG) of Australian College for Emergency Medicine, Malla said, "I received this award as there has been a major change in the treatment of patients in the emergency room after I came back from Australia studying Emergency Medicine, I believe."

According to the rule in Australian Emergency Medicine, seriousness of the cases are prioritised while giving medical services to the patients rather than first-come-first-serve basis. Malla further said that receiving the award is an honour for all the medical doctors serving in the emergency service.

Cabbie returns \$110,000 gets Melbourne City Council Award

Taxi driver Lakhwinder Singh who returned AU\$110,000 in cash he found on the rear seat of his cab to its owners, has received a Melbourne City Council award for his honesty. Lakhwinder Singh Dhillon found the money after dropping off a group of people at Crown Casino in Melbourne last month. The Lord Mayor Robert Doyle presented Singh with a certificate of commendation.

After finding the cash, he drove to a police station but he soon received a call from the owners to return the money at the casino where he left them. Singh believed they were visitors from China staying at the casino.

"He is truly an inspirational Melbourne man – it was the act of an honest man of integrity," mayor Doyle said.

WHITE RIBBON DAY

With great pleasure Sant Nirankari Mission (SNM) and The Australasian Centre for Human Rights and Health (ACHRH) invite you to celebrate the White Ribbon Day

GUEST OF HONOUR: HON. TED BAILLIEU (Former Premier of Victoria)

Venue: SNM Congregation Hall - 1377 Stud Rd, Rowville
Day & Date: Saturday, 14 December 2013
Time: 12pm to 2pm

Program:
12:00 pm: SNM - Welcome and significance of celebrating White Ribbon Day at Nirankari Hall
12:45 pm: Dr Manjula O'Connor ACHRH - Key Issues affecting young people on spouse visas
1:00 pm: HON. TED BAILLIEU (Former Premier of Victoria)
1:15 pm: Lunch - Meet and Greet

Contacts: Mr Manjit Singh 0404 040 066
Dr Manjula O'Connor 0419 354 482
www.nirankari.org/melbourne

MAHA

YATRA 2014

New Year Treat for Australian-Nepalese Community



Solangture Pty. Ltd. is bringing the prodigious duo to Australia, this January. As an extra special start of the New Year, Nepalese Community will get to witness the legends in action. The organisers are aware that no Nepali living in Australia deserves to miss out on -the moment of the lifetime - to get up-close and personal with these veterans. So the program is going to be organised in all major cities of Australia including Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Canberra and Adelaide. MAHA Yatra will take off from Perth, making its way to the south-east to finally conclude in Sydney.

Mention Hari Bansha Acharya and Madan Krishna Shrestha (MAHA Jodi) and a big smile of recognition and respect is spread across our faces coupled with a sense of 'yeah, these veteran artists are amazing'. Having given a whole new dimension to the term 'entertainment', whether it's through cinema, television, theatre, drama, music, literature, poetry... you name it, they have excelled in every department and contributed immensely over the years. They have literally touched our lives in so many ways.

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program is going to be organised in all major cities of Australia including Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Canberra and Adelaide. MAHA Yatra will take off from Perth, making its way to the south-east to finally conclude in Sydney.

The Melbourne program, however, will be our main focus says, The Creative Director of Solangture, Mr Raju Shakya. He further added "For other cities, we have given the local organisers to take charge of the shows in their respective state. We don't want to leave any stone unturned in giving these legends a respect they deserve- the hall-capacity audience every time they are on stage. It's about making sure that everything we do, matches the profile of these artists." And rightfully Solangture has done just that in selecting a venue for the Melbourne program. Melbourne Convention Centre is where MAHA will give Victorian-Nepalese a night to cherish for rest of their lives. This

will be the first time that any Nepalese event will be held at such world class venue.

"Tickets will all be made available online with the allocated seats to make it convenient for our audience" Mr Shakya informed.

The Director of Solangture Mr Sudhir Shakya traverses to another aspect of MAHA Yatra. He clarifies "we are a business enterprise but the program like this means more than just making profit for us. This is about finding what the community is able to do if united. The amount of work we are putting into it, we are expecting a lifetime event." Another Director Mr Ranjan Baidhya nods

in agreement. He added "money making is secondary for us; our primary focus is to give our community a night to remember- a full entertaining show and that's what our organisation is about".

That said, this is undoubtedly the most ambitious Nepali event being held in Australia. The finance and the logistic involved are of massive scale, therefore to make it a successful event requires the contribution of everyone in the community.

"Community organisations, media, businesses, sports clubs, and the broader community members, all can do their bit to

MADAN KRISHNA SHRESTHA

Madan Krishna Shrestha was born in 19 April, 1950 in Kathmandu Nepal. His mother, Laxmi Devi Shrestha passed away when he was really young, propelling him to grow up quicker than his age. He received his primary education from the Montessori school, J.P. school and Padmadev School. He did his B.Com. at Mahendra Ratna Public College and attempted a B.A. at a private institute. Since he was very much involved in the field of art he could not make it through his graduation. He and his wife live in Dhobidhara, Nepal and he has a son and a daughter, both of whom reside in the United States.

Madan Krishna was into acting and singing for 10 years, before he met his partner Hari Bansha Acharya. Madan Krishna Shrestha had already become the noted comedian among Nepalese viewers and critics after his performance in Rastriya Gajatra Mahotsav almost three decades ago.



HARI BANSHA ACHARYA

Hari Bansha Acharya, the renowned artist from Nepal was born to Mr Homanjaya Acharya and Mrs Ganesh Kumari on 9th October 1958 in Gairidhara, Kathmandu. He got married to Meera Acharya in 2040 BS. He has two sons Trilok Acharya and Mohit Acharya. He lost his wife Meera Acharya on April 20, 2011 of heart disease. He then remarried to Ramila Pathak, a widow; setting an example of taking a second chance in life. Hari Bansha started his career by performing with Hari Prasad Rimal and Jitendra Mahat Avilashi in 2031 BS in Radio Nepal, the only radio station of the country back then. In 2032, Hari Bansha Acharya joined Rastriya Naach Ghar, the national theatre. He had participated in Gajatra Mahotsav in 2034 BS that upsurged his fame, eventually finding Madan Krishna Shrestha, that would form the legendary comedy duo of all time. Lately he is more in limelight for his self written autobiography-which set the record of the most popular books ever written by a Nepali.



Films:

Balidaan, Tan ta Sarai Bigris Ni Badri, Je vo ramrai vo, Sukha Dukha, Lobhi-Paapi, Rajamati, K Ghar K Dera, Filim etc.

TV programs:

Paralysis, Anshabandha, Bigyapan (Record breaking drama in Nepal), Sangeet, Bose Aandrai Bhundiko, Dashain (Produced for NTV), Chiranjivi (Produced for JICA), Raat (Produced for UNDP), Sur Besur (Produced for MaHa Sanchar) etc.



make MAHA Yatra a successful night, and this is the only way we can return our love and respect to these artists that have influenced our lives in such positive way", pledges Norgen Norboo from Solangture.

As an icing on the cake, Madan Krishna shrestha and Hari Bansha Acharya will be joined by other fellow artists and singers. First female comedian of Nepal Bashundhara Bhusal, comedian Kiran KC, Narendra Kansakaar, Shiva Hari Poudel and singer Kunti Moktan will join their entourage down under.

Top artistes, accomplished event managers, prestigious venue- Nepalese community is already euphoric about MAHA YATRA-2014. Let's celebrate excellence, talent and creativity with the living legends.

Together the duo is artistes par excellence. Better known for their practical comedy and down to earth attitude they have become the biggest names ever in Nepali households. With endless remarkable comedy series and immensely popular movies to be credited for, their struggle, career and their companionship as a whole amount to a life worth praise.



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Multicultural milestone in CAB industry

According to a recent statistic, Indian born cabbies have out-numbered the Australia born taxi drivers. This multicultural milestone will be the first time that Australian-born workers in a major occupation have been outnumbered by workers from a single overseas country.

While Australian-born workers make up less than half of all workers in low-paying, manual professions like sewing machine operators and clothing trades workers, Australian is still the most common nationality among those employees. However the most popular country of birth of automobile drivers - made up of cabbies and chauffeurs - is set to become India in the next year.

The Australian taxi industry alongside the state regulatory bodies has now introduced greater standards of English language testing, improved the driving skill component in training courses and required drivers to hold a local drivers license for at least a year.

The rise in Indian taxi drivers - from around 2000 in 2006 to more than 6000 in 2011 - is partly attributed to Australia's success in attracting Indian students to its education system.

There's been a big push to sell education in Australia to the subcontinent which has produced a large number of subcontinent students looking to make a bit of money

The rise in Indian taxi drivers - from around 2000 in 2006 to more than 6000 in 2011 - is partly attributed to Australia's success in attracting Indian students to its education system.

on the side. As a result, an Indian-speaking taxi driver is more likely to have finished high school than an English-speaking one, according to ABS Census data.

Between 2006 and 2011, Australian-born automobile drivers - made up of taxi and chauffeur drivers - declined by around 1400, while Indian-born drivers increased by more than 4000 according to the ABS Census.

Sometime in the next year, Indian-born automobile drivers are scheduled to outnumber drivers who are Australian-born. The shift is significant. As a comparison, in 1966 there were a relatively high number of UK-born manufacturing workers in Australia. Yet Australian-born manufacturing workers still outnumbered Brits more than five-to-one.



According to ABS census 2011, top 10 jobs with highest proportion of overseas-born workers

- » Automobile Drivers
- » Sewing Machinists
- » Clothing Trades Workers
- » Generalist Medical Practitioners
- » Dental Practitioners
- » Software and Applications Programmers
- » Social Professionals
- » ICT Support and Test Engineers
- » Housekeepers
- » Chefs

The pattern around Indian taxi drivers is more pronounced in some areas of Australia than others. South Australia and Victoria are already home to more Indian-born cabbies.

Alongside automobile drivers and workers in the textile industry, housekeepers and chefs are also among the occupations with the highest proportions of overseas-born workers.

Yet not all migrants have found footholds only in low-paying industries.

Foreign-born workers also represent more than half of all GPs and dental practitioners.

Mahindra to launch 3 small passenger planes in 2-3 years



Major utility vehicle maker from India major Mahindra & Mahindra is now looking to take over the skies. The company, which acquired Australian companies Gipps Aero (aircraft maker) and Aerostaff (parts maker) in 2009, wants to change the aviation scene in India with its small aircraft.

Its 10-seater turboprop airplane is expected to be launched sometime in mid-2014, while the 5-seater CNM5 aircraft (jointly developed with NAL) is currently

undergoing certification tests and is likely to be launched in 2015. The company is also modernising an existing 18-seater aircraft, which is likely to be ready within three years.

The group currently sells only one aircraft - the Gipps Aero single engine 8-seater GA8 Airvan - 200 units have already been sold worldwide, but there are already 5, 10 and 18-seater aircraft under various stages of developments, and these will be rolled out over the next 2-3 years.

ADB to provide Rs 2.9 billion for hydropower

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) agreed to provide a grant assistance of US dollars 21 million to the Government of Nepal for the development of hydropower sector.

The Ministry of Finance in a press release issued last week said the assistance would be used for the implementation of the Project Preparatory Facility for hydropower projects. An agreement to this end was signed amidst a programme at the Ministry of Finance recently.

The objective of the Project is to support the 10-year roadmap for hydropower development with an aim of generating an additional 10,000 megawatt of hydropower.

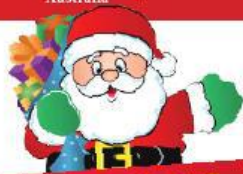
Large reservoir type hydropower projects are said to be helpful to achieve the above mentioned objectives. The proposed project preparatory facility aims at developing large reservoir storage hydropower projects.

The grant assistance will also be used for environmental examinations, environmental impact assessments and social impact assessments of Sunkoshi 2 (1110 mw), Sunkoshi 3 (536 mw) and update of feasibility study with detail engineering studies of the Dudh Koshi (300 mw) hydropower projects which are expected to be helpful in addressing the problem of energy crisis in the country.

The total cost of the Project is estimated at US dollar 26.25 million and the Nepal Government has to contribute 20 per cent of the total cost mostly in the form of taxes, duties, office accommodations.

The project is expected to end by June 30, 2019. Joint Secretary at the Finance Ministry Madhu Kumar Marasini and ADB Country Director Kenichi Yokoyama signed the agreement from their respective sides.





MERRY CHRISTMAS

The making of cribs, the preparation of sweets, the baking of cake, the chocolate icing underneath. The Christmas carols sung out loud, brings happiness and bliss all the year round. Santa Claus is on his way, it's going to be a bright happy day, so pass on the happiness to every person you meet, brighten up their day and touch their lives beneath. Merry Christmas! - Nepalese Voice Team

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



Hon. Nicholas Kotsiras MP
Minister for Multicultural
Affairs and Citizenship
Minister for Energy and
Resources

On behalf of the Victorian Government, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest wishes to the entire Victorian community for the coming festive season.

As 2013 draws to a close, this is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with loved ones, to reflect on the year that has passed and to rest and refresh in preparation for the New Year.

We are fortunate to live in a diverse society where we are free to celebrate the festive period in our own ways, while sharing a common desire for peace, health and happiness.

In this spirit, I wish all Victorians, your families and your communities peace and joy over the Christmas and New Year holidays. Merry Christmas and safe, prosperous and healthy New Year!

RANDOM PICKS



STAR STRUCK

Manjil Pradhan with dancing with the stars winner-2013 Cosentino



PASSION

Meghraj, known as Blue Mimosa for his photography, holding several cameras during a function

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Justin Bieber gets clean-up request after painting Australian hotel wall

Teen sensation Justin Bieber has been asked to clean up his mess by the mayor of the Gold Coast in Australia after the Canadian pop star spray painted the wall of a hotel during his "Believe" tour. The local council has ordered the QT Hotel to paint over the graffiti but the hotel defended the pop star's actions.

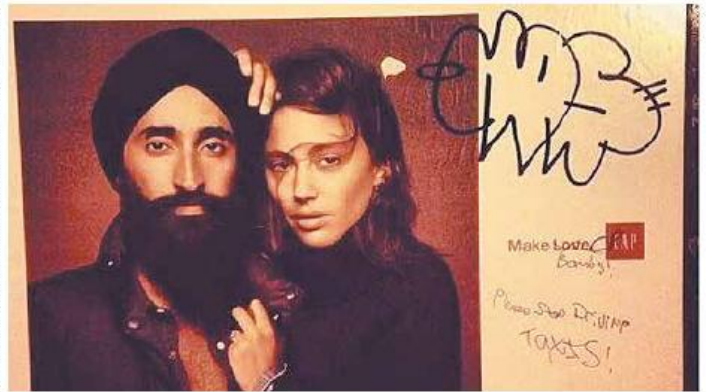


The abstract graffiti was painted in the tennis court area of the QT Hotel on the Gold Coast, 80 km (50 miles) southeast of Brisbane, and posted on Bieber's Instagram page, where it has attracted more than 545,000 "likes".

The images are of a one-eyed blob with teeth in bright pink, various monsters in splashes of colour, Pac-Man ghosts and a take on Spongebob Squarepants with crosses as eyes.

The mayor's office sent a "graffiti removal kit" to Bieber at the hotel but the singer had already left for Sydney for his concerts.

The local council has ordered the QT Hotel to paint over the graffiti but the hotel defended the pop star's actions.



GAP wins praise after responding on racist graffiti

Fashion brand GAP has won praise for responding to one of its ads defaced with racist comments by promoting images of the original ad featuring a Sikh model.

Photographer Robert Gerhardt saw the defaced billboard in the Bronx, New York, which features Sikh designer and actor Waris Ahluwalia.

Next to his picture someone changed the tagline from "make love" to "make bombs" and scribbled "please stop driving taxis."

Gerhardt shared the defaced picture on his Facebook page which was seen by Arsalan Iftikhar, a senior editor at Islamic

Monthly, who in turn shared it on Twitter.

Within a few hours Gap contacted him directly to find out more about the incident.

"In addition to Gap's rocket-fast attempt to find out more details about the situation," he wrote in a Daily Beast column, "I have to say that the best part about the company's response to this social media campaign is that it currently has the Sikh model as their current Twitter background photo below."

The Sikh community responded to Gap's gesture with a thank you letter expressing gratitude for raising the profile of Sikhs in ways the community couldn't have accomplished with its limited resources."



Irina Shayk



Christiano Ronaldo's girlfriend in Bollywood

With all the 'goris' making their way to Bollywood, it does not come as a surprise that football star Cristiano Ronaldo's girlfriend Irina Shayk wants to act in a Bollywood movie.

Rumour has it the German model, who was in Mumbai for a fashion show, met and spoke to some people from the industry. This has led to a buzz that she might be keen on Bollywood. She has apparently stated that she likes Bollywood and has seen the Anil Kapoor-starrer Slumdog Millionaire a couple of times.

The sexy model is not new to the world of cinema. She has acted in a Hollywood film, Hercules with Dwayne Johnson, and is one of the top international models. She has featured on several prestigious magazines too.

Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival 2014 launched

The 2014 Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival (VAMFF) program, website and marketing campaign has been officially launched by Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Peter Ryan. Running from 17-23 March 2014, the Festival will showcase the best in Australian fashion through parades, shows and exhibitions, along with a diverse cultural program of activities.

The VAMFF Business Seminar is expected to remain a highlight of the 2014 festival and the cornerstone business event, attracting up to 1,000 delegates.

Speaking at the launch, Mr Ryan said the Melbourne Fashion Festival was Australia's largest retail and consumer fashion event and the key platform to launch Au-

tumn/Winter collections available in-store.

"It also delivers a range of business events for the fashion and retail sectors and plays a big part in promoting Melbourne as Australia's fashion, design and retail capital," Mr Ryan said.

"Virgin's brand, style and attitude are a great fit with Melbourne and this iconic event. This partnership will boost the Festival's retail tourism marketing strategy and encourage visitors to 'fly in, stay and shop'."

"The 2013 festival was the most successful to date, attracting almost 380,000 attendees to 149 programmed events and achieving more than \$63 million in media coverage. I look forward to similar outcomes this year," Mr Ryan said.



Mongolian Hearts touring Australia

Popular Nepali Band Mongolian Hearts is touring Australia with the opening concert in Sydney on 22nd December. Shows have also been lined up for Tasmania on 28th and Adelaide on 30th. Band's front vocalist Raju Lama will entertain his fans in Australia with his popular numbers like "Shayad timro baatoma mero paila nahola", Badal Pariko Desh Bata, Gajalu Tika and other chartbusters. The band established in 1994 has consistently given hit albums for two decades.



'Loafer'

A tale of unemployed Nepali youth



The unemployed youth has always been a subject of interest in cinema. For a country like Nepal, characterised by its oft-discussed dearth of opportunity, unemployment is a grudgingly accepted reality. There aren't enough prospects available here to ensure those with the right skills and abilities are guaranteed good jobs and this, understandably, creates many other societal problems. Dissuasion, disappointments and a defeated sense of apathy are just the tip of the iceberg.

The predicament of the unemployed creates plenty of opportunity for theatre—drama, tragedy and even comedy. Loafer, a

Nepalifilm has just hit theatres which takes a comic approach towards telling the story of our out-of- or never-had- a-job youth.

A loan word from derived from the English language, 'loafer' has gained easy acceptance in the Nepali lexicon. The 1973 Bollywood film surely had a lot to do with this, but Nepalis have by now made the word their own. Directed by Aditya Bikram Lamsal, who is making his debut in Nepali cinema, the film stars popular actors Aryan Sigdel, Dayahang Rai, Sushil Raj Pandey, Kamal Mani Nepal, Anupam Sharma and Sagar Lamsal Chhettri, as well as debutant Rajani KC.

Hollywood actor Kruz in Nepal

Hollywood actor Alex Kruz, known for movies like Red Cloud: Deliverance, Long Until Gone and Assassin: The Origin of Curtis Duvalle and Tom in America is currently in Nepal for a noble cause. He is there to assist the orphans, poor children and visually-impaired people.



The actor/ philanthropist has already handed over educational materials, playthings and clothes to the Goldhunga-based centre for the visually-impaired people and the Jorpati-based Buddhist Child Home in Kathmandu.

On top of his own earnings Kruz collects the required fund for the philanthropic cause. He has helped the children in risk and those suffering from fatal diseases in Ukraine and South America. Kruz has also supported the injured and the stranded people after the 9/11 attack in the Twin Tower in America.

Though he started his acting career in 2006, Kruz is into social services since the last two decades. Kruz, who holds a Master's degree in Anthropology hails from New Jersey, US.

During his visit to help Nepal, the US actor is enjoying the natural beauty of the country. He said he was mesmerised by the beautiful mountains seen from the streets of the Lake City. He plans to enjoy paragliding and a short trek in the Annapurna trekking route during his stay in Pokhara.

Nepathya touring Nepal-wide

Popular folk rock band Nepathya is ready yet again for a nationwide tour for peace advocating education through music. As the society still faces violence in politics while children continue to become its victims, the band continues to be the voice of the voiceless children. The upcoming tour will be their seventh nationwide tour since 2002.

A press release issued by nepa-laya on November 17, 'Shantiko Lagi Sikchya' (Education for Peace Tour — 2013) will embark from Ratnanagar (Chitwan) on December 6 and end at Patan Durbar Square, Kathmandu on December 29.

Taking Birat Chowk (Morang) in their notes on November 8, one of the oldest



band will entertain and educate Damak (Jhapa) on November 10. On alternate days, Nepathya will then croon their songs to Lalbandi (Sarlahi), Taulihawa (Kapilbastu), Gularia (Bardia), Lamahi (Dang), Abu

Khairani (Tanahu), Beni (Myagdi) and Gagan Gaunda (Kaski). Nepathya had toured the nation on several occasions for peace and the people for a ray of hope, which they have been doing for almost a decade now. And the band is "excited to travel to 10 new places and concluding it in the Valley". After performing in Kathmandu Durbar Square and Bhaktapur Durbar Square in the past, finishing it off at Patan Durbar Square on December 29 will be an opportunity for Nepathya which they are "looking forward to".

The concert is being managed by nepa-laya in collaboration with local organisations of the respective places.

Female rappers are causing a stir in Nepal

As an unusual phenomenon for a country dogged by gender inequality, female rapper are causing a stir in Nepal. Raw Barz, a freestyle hip-hop movement hosted the country's first female rap battle. The event, spearheaded by Nepalese rap icon Yama Buddha, allows fledgling rappers to build a career in Nepal's music industry. Until now, it's been dominated by men, with the likes of Laure and Sacar becoming a phenomenon in Nepalese youth as well as releasing their own music videos. But young women are also stealing their thunder for the first time. The most popular among the few female rappers are Tsamyun, Pari and Rhythms Up, who trade jokes in a

mixture of English and Nepalese to the roars of the male-dominated crowd. The event's official blog carries a synopsis of a «heated female rap battle» between Tsamyun and Rhythms Up: "Tsamyun disses her opponent for her looks" and Rhythms Up "chooses to humiliate her opponent with nerdy jokes and sarcasm".

In contrast to these confident street poets, statistics tell a different

story about women's lives in Nepal. UN figures suggest gender-based violence and child marriage are still pervasive. Human Rights Watch's World Report 2012: Nepal says trafficking, domestic violence, dowry-related violence, rape and sexual assault continue to plague the country gender-based violence.



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Nepalese teen's 'WHITE OBSESSION'

Sarita Pathak (Name Changed) came to Australia with her parents when she was six. When she started to go to school here, she was bullied so badly for her accent and colour. She is now a teen ager but those unpleasant memories have not left her. Her only wish is that she had white skin so she would look like any other Australian teenagers.

So at the age of 12 she began using risky skin lightening treatments in a bid to become lighter and fit in, something she now wishes she never did. Now aged 18 she wishes she could go back in time and tell that silly young girl not to be so stupid.

She now says if someone wants to change their appearance, there's obviously a reason for it and for her it was low self esteem and bullying. Her message for anyone wanting to change their race is clear.

"We always want something we can't have, so just be comfortable in the skin you're in."

It's the culture in our part of the world to consider fairer the better, ironic of the western world spending billions in tanning product. In South Asia, pale skin is considered as social markers of aristocratic lineage and class allegiance. Dark skin is associated with lower class and poverty. 'White' skin

has a colonial notion of power and superiority. But that is not the case in modern day western world.

Examining the notion of beauty in Australia, there is no yardstick to measure one's beauty based on their colour. Brown and black are as desirable here. A person's beauty lies within. Don't risk your money and health on to cosmetics that could potentially damage your skin. If someone judges you from your colour of the skin, it's their lack of awareness to be blamed. That will not make you any less of a person.

Buying a house? Know More about 'Main Entrance Vaastu'

The entrance of the house brings in the main energy. Read on to find out more about the vaastu of the main entrance.

The main entrance of the house is one of the most important areas. The main entrance is the mouth of a house which brings in main energy and here are certain rules about the dos and don'ts regarding the door.

Avoid a property which has a door facing South West as it is the entry of the devil energy and brings in struggles and misfortunes. If the wealth energy as per advanced Feng Shui of that house is good, the occupant may prosper during initial 3-4 years. But then may face a down fall. If your house already has a door facing South West, fix 2 Hanumanji's tiles (with the Gada in his left hand) outside the door & see the difference. Certain gems like Yellow Sapphire, Earth Crystals, Lead with the Expert's advice can also further reduce the severity of this defect. But it is always better to avoid such properties.

The door facing South East is said to be a door which brings in illness, anger and court matters. Two stickers of Gayatri Mantra should be fixed on both the sides of the door from outside. Use of gems like Coral, Yellow Sapphire etc. and copper with a proper advice will further reduce the defects of this door. South facing door brings in sharp energy which disturbs positive energy

field of the house. Door here means a highly active social life. Sometimes it may bring in arguments or disagreements. Again fixing two above mentioned Hanumanji's tiles outside the door will help. It can further be protected by using lead, cat's eye etc. But this door if it is in fourth Pada is very good for an occupant.

West facing door is also not bad for the youngsters as it has an active energy & energy of enjoyment. That is why in Japan, Geisha houses are always facing west.

North West facing door is not so bad. It can bring in health, wealth and prosperity if supported by other Vaastu rules. Only thing that the main male member of the house may remain out of the house for a longer time if the door faces west and a female if the door faces North.

Normally doors facing East, North and North East are said to be good doors. But again there are many other things like Cuts, Extensions, Under Ground Water Tanks, Feng Shui (Flying Stars Chart) of the house which decide the wealth and health of the occupant.

So know more about the Vaastu before buying a house so you don't regret later.



South facing door brings in sharp energy which disturbs positive energy field of the house. Door here means a highly active social life. Sometimes it may bring in arguments or disagreements. Again fixing two above mentioned Hanumanji's tiles outside the door will help. It can further be protected by using lead, cat's eye etc. But this door if it is in fourth Pada is very good for an occupant.

OBESEITY

(Excess Body Weight)

» Why is it a concern?



By Dr Chandra Pokharel
Specialist General Practitioner
in Melbourne

Introduction:

This article intends to provide some of the important aspects of overweight and obesity, its implications to our health and wellbeing and important practical steps that can be taken from very early age to avoid greatest risk factor for chronic disease burden such as diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, heart disease, chronic kidney disease, arthritis, and poor quality of life, just to mention few.

After US, Australia has the highest prevalence of overweight/obesity in the developed world; something we should be least proud of. Currently 60% Australian belong to this category and it is expected to rise to 80% by 2025. On the other hand prevalence of overweight and obesity is roughly 15-20% in third world countries. Alarming, about 25% of Australian children and adolescents are either overweight or obese. This means we are getting fatter and healthier! a sobering fact.

In economic terms the estimated direct and indirect cost to manage overweight/obesity and its related complications for Australian society is predicted to be \$100 billion in 2013.

What constitutes overweight/obesity?

Overweight/obesity is assessed by body mass index (BMI) which is calculated by using a formula where your weight in kilograms is divided by height in meter squared (weight in Kg/height in meter x height in meter). According to WHO criteria, BMI <25 is normal, 25-30 is overweight, >30-40 is obese and >40 is grossly obese. However obesity also has another factor that needs to be considered. This factor is waist circumference (our belly size). In men WC <94cm is normal whereas <88cm in women is normal. Larger the WC higher the risk of health problems! Waist Circumference calculations are based on western data and it may not be fully representative to our Nepalese population.

Causes of overweight/obesity:

A range of factors can cause overweight and obesity. Factors in early childhood and

adolescence are particularly important. It is known that breast feeding babies are less likely to be overweight or obese later on in their life. High proportion of overweight/obese children and adolescence grow to be obese in adults!

Other factors known to increase the risk of obesity include:

1. Food consumption related - eating excess calories, high content fatty food, processed food (they are high in salt and sugar) and wrong food, poor timing and large portion of the food. Remember processed foods are packed with high calories and have poor nutritional values.
2. Inactivity - sedentary lifestyles - computers, games, increasing time spent indoors, televisions, usage of cars etc.



Some of the steps that can be taken in consultation with our doctor and dietitian are:

1. Avoid overfeeding and feeding high calorie, processed food to your children such as takeaways and fish and chips. Breast feed your new born as much as possible.
2. Engage our kids in activities such as sports, parks and outdoor activities instead of letting them watch TV or play games.
3. As parents play sports with your children and develop common interests to engage them.
4. As adults go for regular walks, play sports, go to gym, participate in community sports, keep engaged with your friends and relatives and develop common interests and implement changes in your lifestyle. Remember group work is sustainable and provides you enjoyment and reinforcement from each other. It also helps you to think positively and change your mindset.
5. Develop regular habits of engaging into outdoor activities, such as camping, bike riding, hiking etc.
6. Establish a personalized plan in consultation with your doctor to tackle overweight/obesity. This can also provide you with the opportunity to assess your overall health and any underlying problems that can be picked early and managed early. Prevention is better than cure!
7. Formulate a dietary plan. My advice to you is to have 5 small healthy meals a day. Start your breakfast at 7 am, have some fruit at 10:30 am, small lunch at 1 pm, another piece of fruit at 4 pm and dinner at 6:30 pm. Details plan can be worked out with your dietitian or your doctor to suit your needs. Please remember to consume lot of fruits, salads, vegetables and foods that are slowly digested (low GI). Avoid having takeaways, processed foods, high calorie foods such as some of cereals, drinks such as soft drinks, cordials, juices etc. Avoid excess alcohol consumption and drink plenty of water. The foods you should also be avoiding are cakes, biscuits, ice creams, chocolates, sweets etc. This is only a general guideline.
8. There are other extreme measures such as medications and surgical options to manage obesity which is outside the scope of this article.



» Do not leave until late and think that it can be fixed later. Prevention is better than cure and achieving health goal is much harder if not intervened early. Intervention starts from pregnancy and continues in our life.

in what way it affects us? From previous explanation, it is obvious that obesity can cause profound health problems. Therefore, it is in our interest to do something about it if we want to enjoy our life. After all we are only born once!

Conclusion – things to remember:

- Overweight and obesity are preventable conditions.
- It has profound impact in your health and wellbeing.
- Early intervention can be greatly beneficial to avoid complications.
- This remains the greatest risk factor for chronic medical or health problems and remains the most important challenge for our society.
- Overweight/obesity has enormous economic burden in our society and is rising exponentially.
- Do not leave until late and think that it can be fixed later. Prevention is better than cure and achieving health goal is much harder if not intervened early. Intervention starts from pregnancy and continues in our life.
- Good healthy lifestyles including regular but structured activities, good healthy and timely eating habits and portion control are important steps to improve your health and avoid overweight/obesity.
- Seek help from professionals if you need further advice.

3. Socioeconomic status – people with lower level of education and lower incomes are more likely to be overweight and obese.
4. Genetic factors – passed onto you from your parents and grandparents.
5. Defect in metabolism and other environmental factors.

Complications or health problems associated with obesity:

As I have mentioned before obesity is the commonest and greatest cause of chronic diseases or health problems. At the same token it is preventable. With avoidance of overweight/obesity lot of health problems can be avoidable if we understand its implications and what to do about it?

Let me list some of the very important chronic health problems obesity can bring.

1. Cardiovascular problems – related to heart and blood channels such as angina, heart attack, high blood pressure and stroke.
2. Musculoskeletal – osteo-arthritis, chronic lower back pain, soft tissues, tendon and muscle pain, foot pain and problems and problems with mobility such as balance and falls.
3. Endocrine or hormone related problems – diabetes, gout, thyroid problems and polycystic ovaries affecting fertility in women.
4. Digestive system related problems – fatty liver that can lead to liver failure, gall bladder stone, reflux disease, pancreatitis (inflammation of pancreas – can be life-threatening), increased risk of bowel, gall bladder and pancreatic cancer.
5. Kidney failure, kidney stones, kidney cancer, prostatic cancer in men, sexual problems and urinary problems are some of the health issues associated with obesity.
6. Respiratory problems such as aggravation of asthma, sleep apnea (risk factor for heart attack and stroke), and other respiratory problems.
7. Reproductive/fertility related – such as period problems, increased pregnancy losses, fertility problems, cancer of the breast, uterus and endometrium are also high with obesity.
8. More importantly obesity can cause stress, depression, lack of self-esteem, poor quality of life and mobility.

What can be done to prevent obesity? Or perhaps manage and reduce obesity?

Crucial factor about management of obesity is the understanding and change in our mindset as to why we have to do it and



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39 Nepalese receive scholarship to Australia for 2014

Education Secretary Narayan Gopal Malego and Australia's Ambassador to Nepal, Glenn White presented Australia Awards to Nepali recipients amid a function that the Australian Embassy had organised in Kathmandu recently.

Thirty-nine Nepalis have received Australia Awards Scholarships to pursue postgraduate studies in Australia in 2014. The recipients also attended a daylong orientation on studying and living in Australia. Within the group, 16 are women and 19 are government employees. Australia is one of the largest providers of scholarships in Nepal.

These scholars will pursue studies in Australia's priority sectors in Nepal, which include health, education, governance, livelihoods, water and sanitation and forestry. Some awardees will study courses in public



health, public policy, special radical surgical techniques, occupational therapy, development economics and development studies.

Four of the recipients have received Australia Awards on water management which falls under Australia's regional scholarships for Nepal, India, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Speaking at the programme,

Ambassador White said, "I am very pleased with the calibre of awardees this year." He said Australia can provide this opportunity to 39 Nepalis to experience Australia's excellent universities."

He said that Australia has seven universities ranked in the global top 100, which will provide another opportunity to strengthen

the links between the people of our two countries, as well as give them the skills and knowledge to achieve great things for Nepal. The Australian government currently invests over Rs 21.4 billion annually in scholarships through the Australia Awards globally to provide opportunities to the best and brightest in partner countries to study in Australia.

In a press statement, the Australian Embassy said Australia Awards are prestigious international scholarships and fellowships funded by the Australian Government which not only develop skills and knowledge but also build enduring people-to-people links between Australia, regional neighbours and the broader international community.

It said the scholarships aim to contribute to the long-term objectives of developing countries to promote growth and stability. It further said the scholarships equip recipients with the skills and knowledge to drive change and contribute to the economic and social development of their own countries. According to the statement, around 440 Nepalis have been supported through the awards.

Many of these scholars are now members of the Association of Nepali Alumni from Australia and hold important positions in the government, private sector and civil society.

Asia outperforming Australia in teenage education

A major global ranking released recently, which evaluated knowledge and skills of 15-year-olds, has showed Australian teenagers reading and maths skills have fallen so far in a decade that nearly half lack basic maths skills and a third are practically illiterate.

Asian countries like China, Japan and Korea have outperformed the rest of the world in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s latest PISA survey in which over half a million 15-year-olds in 65 countries took tests in the three subjects.

The dumbing down of a generation of Australian teenagers is exposed in the latest global report card on 15-year-olds'



academic performance. Migrant children trumped Australian-born kids while girls dragged down the national performance in maths, the 2012 Programme for International

Student Assessment (PISA) report, revealed the survey. Australia's maths performance dropped the equivalent of half a year of schooling between 2003 and 2012. And rowdy classrooms and bullying are more common in Australia than overseas, the report says.

The results have come as a shocker for the UK with British students faring poorest in mathematics — coming 26th in the league table. In English reading, they ranked 23rd and 18 in science. Shanghai (China) and Singapore were top in mathematics. Students in Shanghai scored the equivalent of nearly three years of schooling above most OECD countries.

\$14 million for a book



The first book written in what is today the United States of America fetched \$14.2 million in New York recently, becoming the world's most expensive printed book sold at auction. The translation of Biblical psalms "The Bay Psalm Book" was printed by Puritan settlers in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1640 and sold at a one-lot auction in just minutes by Sotheby's.

Bidding opened at \$6 million and closed swiftly at a hammer price of \$12.5 million, rising to \$14.165 million once the buyer's premium was incorporated.

The book, with its browning pages and gilt edges, was displayed in a glass case behind the auctioneer to a relatively small crowd which attended the less than five-minute auction in person.

The settlers, who came to America to seek religious freedom, had set about making their own preferred translation from the Hebrew original of the Old Testament book after arriving from Europe.

Sotheby's named the buyer as David Rubenstein, the billionaire American financier and philanthropist. He was in Australia and his bid was conducted by telephone.

The world's most expensive manuscript, the handwritten Codex Leicester, 72 pages of largely scientific writings by Leonardo da Vinci, was bought by Bill Gates in 1994 for \$30.8 million.

CHAKRAVYUH

The New Journey of a Serial Killer

The Judgement Day of the infamous serial killer Charles Sobhraj. Curious to know what was happening on the day at the country's highest court? Indeed, the evening was approaching for The Serpent on July 30, 2010. Later on that day, the court would sentence The Serpent to life in prison for the murder of Bronzich, giving a huge respite to Nepal Police and the judiciary.

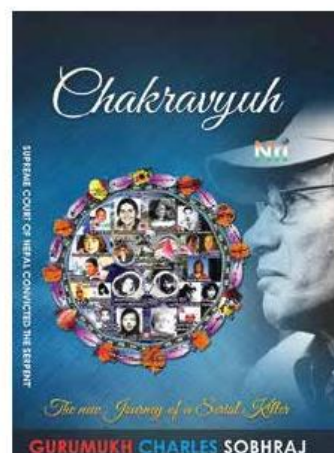
Chakravuyh, a work of Bishwa Lal Shrestha, details the struggle of a former police official-turned-lawyer to bring the criminal to justice for the crimes he committed in Nepal and tarnished the image of this sleepy Shangri-La, known as a haven for tourists from around the world. The book offers insight into the mindset of one of the most infamous criminals of our times whose exploits include a daring escape from the high-security Tihar jail in New Delhi. It

also exposes the lack of security cooperation between the police forces of Nepal and India back then.

This aside, the book is maintains the thrill as one expects a book on Sobhraj to be. It appears to be a rough translation of the Nepali text. The readers may get lost in a jungle of words like: Nobody has taken initiatives to educate the people about the bad effects of the out of control situation in the country about uncontrolled selling and use of alcohol.

Portions like these can turn off the readers, though there are nuggets like: May be the restless and wandering souls and spirit of the deceased persons had forced him to come to Nepal once again to get into a 'Divine Trap'.

With a little bit of rewriting, proofreading and repackaging, Chakravuyh can be a far more engaging read than it is now.



Prajwal Kafle wins top physics award from Sydney University

A Nepali scientist, who was previously involved in a research that showed that the Milky Way (Earth's home galaxy) is on a 'diet' and is a lot slimmer than we previously thought, has been awarded "Postgraduate Excellence in Physics 2013" by NSW-Australia Institute of Physics for his doctoral thesis.

Prajwal Kafle, a PhD candidate at the Sydney Institute for Astronomy (SIFA), School of Physics was presented the award for his PhD thesis titled, "The Light and Dark Side of the Milky Way Galaxy", which was earlier nominated as the best PhD Thesis by The University of Sydney.

This is equivalent (because unlike undergraduate PhD is never marked hence it is ranked qualitatively) to the university gold medal.

"The formation and evolution of galaxies is one of the major puzzles of astrophysics. To unravel the mysteries our approach is anchored to observations of our own Milky Way galaxy as it provides a link to the distant universe. Our galaxy is surrounded by a tenuous envelope of stars called the stellar halo," wrote Kafle explaining his Thesis. "These stars are found to have velocities that cannot be solely accounted for by the luminous component of our galaxy, indicating the presence of the mysterious 'dark matter'. This dark matter dominates the evolution of structure in the Universe. So far there is no direct detection of dark matter, however, its nature such as shape and mass can be inferred from its gravitational influence on the stars motion."

He further said a variety of methods, each with its own assumptions and inherent



limitations, has been used to determine the mass.

"An accurate measurement of the mass has important repercussions in many sectors in Galactic Astrophysics. Kafle's research describes how he measured the Milky Way's total mass to be about a trillion times the mass of the Sun," Kafle said.

Kafle had earlier led a team of University of Sydney astronomers to show that the Milky Way is a lot slimmer than we previously thought and that like all galaxies, the mass of The Milky Way Galaxy dominated by an immense "dark halo" that can only be studied through detecting its huge gravitational pull, and our location, deep in the disk of the Milky Way.

Despite the lucrative job offer from various parts of the world, Mr. Kafle wishes to return home and further his research.

Australia researchers make leukaemia treatment breakthrough

Australian scientists say they have breakthrough in ground-breaking technique for treating aggressive forms of leukaemia.

Researchers at Melbourne-based Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre have found a double-barrelled approach which would hopefully lead to long-term survival of those suffering from the blood cancer, according to a media report. A mutant enzyme called JAK2 drives and feeds a virulent form of the disease that has proved resistant to therapy.

These are things that are very difficult to treat because of how quickly they spread but, in addition, they cannot be treated by the common chemotherapy, however, the dual-pronged attack has already proved



successful in completely curing this form of leukaemia in mice.

Researchers hope the treatment will be available to patients within a year.

Five things to know about your mobile screen



The screen defines your smartphone. This is why its size and the quality of image it reproduces determine, to a large extent, your overall experience of using a smartphone. No wonder mobile phone makers are investing a fortune in screen technologies. But what makes one screen better than the other? Here are 5 mainstream technologies behind smartphone displays.

LCD

LCD, or Liquid Crystal Display, is the most common flat panel display. It uses a combination of layers of liquid crystals and a backlight to produce an image. This type of display renders excellent colours on the screen but falls short of the competitors when it comes to contrast ratio.

FT

TFT or Thin Film Transistor is used to improve readability of LCD panels and has fewer number of electrodes per pixel. Transistors are embedded within the panel itself, reducing crosstalk between pixels and improving image stability. Used mainly in entry-level handsets with colour screens, TFT displays boast of better image quality than LCDs.

PS

PS, or In Plane Switching, is an evolution of the LCD, invented by Hitachi and LG to improve on colours and viewing angles of TFT displays. This type of panel outdoes TFTs by offering better viewing angles and colour rendering, thus allowing users to view the images on the screens at acute angles without any loss of quality. Introduced by Apple, this type of LCD panels uses pixels smaller than the human retina can perceive. The pixel density of Retina displays is such that the human eye is unable to distinguish between individual pixels, contributing to a more enjoyable viewing experience.

Retina

Introduced by Apple, this type of LCD panels uses pixels smaller than the human retina can perceive. The pixel density of Retina displays is such that the human eye is unable to distinguish between individual pixels, contributing to a more enjoyable viewing experience.

This type of display technology is found in iPhone 4S/5C/5S, iPad Air, second-generation iPad Mini, fifth generation iPod touch and 13- and 15-inch

Triple Zero App Launched in Victoria

The Victorian Government has launched a new mobile app 'Emergency+' that will help people calling triple zero (000) identify their exact location when calling from mobile phones. The app is a federal initiative that connects users to triple zero and utilises smartphone GPS technology to give the user their exact location by longitude and latitude.

Launching the new app Minister for Police and Emergency Services Kim Wells said "This is an important innovation that will enable people in trouble or difficulty to provide their precise location information to triple zero operators." "People calling triple zero may be in unfamiliar surroundings with only limited understanding of their location details. They can also be under great stress as a result of their emergency, making it difficult for triple zero operators to get the information they need to dispatch emergency services."

"The location of a caller is the first most important piece of information the triple zero operator needs. This app has the potential to gather that information quickly and accurately."

It was developed by the national Triple Zero Awareness Working Group that



includes emergency services agencies from the Commonwealth, states and territories. According to Victoria's triple zero operator ESTA, 56 per cent of incoming calls to triple zero were made from mobile phones.

"This is a great innovation but one that we hope doesn't need to be utilised often," Mr Wells said.

The app includes a button for triple zero as well as one that takes users to the dedicated SES line 132 500. These numbers are common throughout Australia.

There is a third button on the app for the Police Assistance Line (131 444) which is for non-emergency matters. Victoria Police do not yet provide this service but a project is underway to investigate the best way to connect Victorians to Police for non-emergency matters.

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Unmet aspirations: on thirty years of SAARC

By Shambhu Ram Simkhada (Former UN Representative)



Afghanistan



Bangladesh



Bhutan



India



Maldives



Nepal



Pakistan



Sri Lanka

South Asians celebrated the 29th Charter Day of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

As SAARC approaches its 30th year, it is perhaps the right time to look back at what it has done in its three decades of existence. This is important to evaluate what it can (or cannot) do for the people of this region in the next decade and beyond.

"Desirous of promoting peace, stability, amity and progress in the region" the seven countries of South Asia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka came together in Dhaka and signed the Charter to establish SAARC on December 8, 1985. In 2007, Afghanistan became its eighth member.

From a modest start, cooperation has multiplied and diversified to encompass areas as diverse as poverty alleviation, trade, finance, culture, environment, social devel-

opment, security, science and technology, and tourism. Eight Agreements including one on establishing the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) and six Conventions have been signed.

Both critics and well wishers believe that without serious reflection and significant transformation SAARC runs the risk of being limited to a forum for exchanging diplomatic niceties and dealing with peripheral matters, but unwilling or unable to address the real issues confronting South Asia today, let alone prepare the region for a new age.

Moreover, the SAARC Social Charter and the Charter of Democracy are steps towards creating a palatable common political and social order. The South Asian University can spur greater intellectual interaction and innovative thinking essential for greater regional consciousness, common identity and cooperation.

The Summit of the Heads of State or Governments is the apex SAARC organ. In 29 years, 17 Summits have been held. The Council of Ministers is the principal policy making body which meets twice between the summits. The Standing Committee is made up of the Foreign Secretaries under which a number of Technical Committees and Action Committees

are created and meet as required.

The Memorandum of Understanding on the Nepal-based Secretariat says "The role of the Secretariat shall be to coordinate and monitor the implementation of SAARC activities and to service the meetings of the Association, and initiate of proposals for regional cooperation, preparation of projects for regional cooperation and identification of sources of funding".

Represented by Buddha, Gandhi, Tagore and Taj Mahal South Asians have had a glorious past. By population it is the largest regional grouping and with reforms in the values base, governance and harmonized national interests, South Asia has the potential to grow fast and catch up with many other peaceful and prosperous regions. But amidst a great past and future potential, South Asia lags far behind in the critical matrix of poverty-prosperity, peace-violence, corrup-

tion-governance and state capability-fragility. The regional trading regime is weak. Connectivity and movement in the region is cumbersome; the Berlin wall has fallen but in South Asia old walls remain and new ones are being built. As one of the nuclear armed regions, South Asian security environment remains fragile. Identity and consciousness based on minimum values-consensus is a distant agenda. In the international arena, South Asia presents a fractured picture.

One former Secretary General of the organization admits "SAARC has hardly progressed beyond signs and symbols" and "the people of South Asia are yet to feel the tangible benefits of cooperation."

Vulnerable to internal politics, bilateral conflicts and extra-regional influences, the founders were careful to protect SAARC in its initial years. SAARC has survived its infancy and adolescence and now entered a stage of maturity. Is it perhaps time to reflect on its transformation, enabling it to take on more significant issues that impede substantive regional cooperation?

Both critics and well wishers believe that without serious reflection and significant transformation SAARC runs the risk of being

limited to a forum for exchanging diplomatic niceties and dealing with peripheral matters, but unwilling or unable to address the real issues confronting South Asia today, let alone prepare the region for a new age.

And prepare South Asians must as they stand at a crossroad of time and space, poised for peaceful and positive transformation but also with many inherent risks.

These challenges can be resolved only within a new paradigm that harmonizes national, cultural, communal, institutional and individual interests with regional and global frameworks. South Asians must embark on building new highways of hope and healing connecting all nations and peoples. For this some old walls have to be demolished, and new buildings or bridges built. Such new political-economic-security community building begins by restructuring the state and society through upward evolution (harmonization of policies within South Asia, Asia and globally) and downward devolution (sub-national to trans-national levels of state-society structures and institutions).

These vertical and horizontal adjustments will strengthen, not weaken the South Asian nation-states by making them more tolerant, inclusive, dynamic and responsive institutions of governance in an increasingly complex world. This new project of politics, economics, society-building and foreign and security policy making starts with a new intra- and inter-state contract where everyone respects the rights of others as well as employ science, technology, natural resources and political power for the happiness of all.

For such a new paradigm, more than anything else, South Asia needs a new mindset, a new consciousness that can generate ideas and build institutions to best cater to the needs and aspirations of all South Asians. With this new thinking South Asia of tomorrow could transcend its limited boundaries while strengthening individual, local, national, regional and global interests.

South Asia has remained stuck in terms of practical interest harmonization in politics, economics, security and many other areas, primarily because there is no normative foundation on the nature of society, state and region. SAARC is the best venue to start the conversation.

But if the hesitation on the part of those responsible for taking the SAARC process forward continues, more and more South Asians may see the logic in the question Dhruva Jaishankar, an Indian scholar, poses in his recent Foreign Policy article "...beyond one rather ineffectual international organization and a handful of sporting events, does 'South Asia' even exist?"

- This article was published on Myrepublica.com



One former Secretary General of the organization admits "SAARC has hardly progressed beyond signs and symbols" and "the people of South Asia are yet to feel the tangible benefits of cooperation." Vulnerable to internal politics, bilateral conflicts and extra-regional influences, the founders were careful to protect SAARC in its initial years. SAARC has survived its infancy and adolescence and now entered a stage of maturity. Is it perhaps time to reflect on its transformation, enabling it to take on more significant issues that impede substantive regional cooperation?

Nepal returned a gift of Steve Jobs back to his wife



Dr. Larry Brilliant in Kathmandu, Nepal, using the computer Steve Jobs donated to his organization, Seva, in the late 1970s.

An elegant Beaux-Arts ballroom in San Francisco's financial district in a recent night, Laurene Powell Jobs received a computer with an unusually rich history. Around 1980, Ms. Powell Jobs's husband, Steven P. Jobs, donated the computer to a non-profit organization, the Seva Foundation of Nepal to help the group manage data from its efforts to restore sight in the developing world.

The non-profit was now giving the computer — an Apple II that spent the last 33 years in Kathmandu, Nepal, most of it packed away in a hospital basement there — back to Ms. Powell Jobs and her children from her marriage to Mr. Jobs. The Apple II would be little more than an artefact in the history of a non-profit organisation if it was not also a rare symbol of the charity of Mr. Jobs, a man celebrated for his vision

and leadership in the technology industry but who was routinely criticized before his death for his lack of giving. Some other billionaire technology innovators have given away huge chunks of their wealth — most notably Mr. Jobs's long-time rival, Bill Gates. But Mr. Jobs shied away from philanthropy, at least of the public variety. Although his wife has long been an active benefactor of various causes, Mr. Jobs was portrayed as somewhat disdainful of philanthropic endeavours by his authorized biographer, Walter Isaacson.

Ms. Powell Jobs accepted the computer with her son, Reed, at a ceremony commemorating the organization's 35th anniversary. Seva says it has helped restore sight to 3.5 million people in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Tibet, India and other countries since it was founded.

Archaeologists confirm early date of Buddha's life

Archaeologists working in Nepal have uncovered evidence of a structure at the birthplace of the Buddha dating back to the sixth century B.C. and this is the first archaeological material linking the life of the Buddha to a specific century.

Excavations within the Sacred Garden of Lumbini, a UNESCO World Heritage site identified as the Buddha's birthplace, led to the remains of a previously unknown timber structure under a series of brick temples.

Laid out on the same design as those above it, the timber structure contains an open space in the centre that links to the nativity story of the Buddha himself.

Buddhist tradition records that Queen Maya Devi, the Buddha's mother, gave birth to him while holding on to the branch of a tree in the Lumbini Garden, midway between the kingdoms of her husband and parents.

Brick temples built later also were arranged around the central space, which was unroofed.

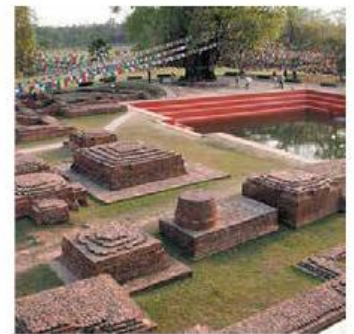
To determine the dates of the timber shrine and a previously unknown early brick structure above it, fragments of charcoal and grains of sand were tested using a combination of radiocarbon and optically stimulated luminescence techniques.

Geo-archaeological research has confirmed the presence of ancient tree roots within the temple's central void.

The archaeological investigation was funded by the Japanese government in partnership with Nepal under a UNESCO project aimed at strengthening the conservation and management of Lumbini.

The research was also supported by Durham and Stirling Universities in Britain and the National Geographic Society's

To determine the dates of the timber shrine and a previously unknown early brick structure above it, fragments of charcoal and grains of sand were tested using a combination of radiocarbon and optically stimulated luminescence techniques.



Global Exploration Fund.

Lumbini is one of the key sites associated with the life of the Buddha. The others include Bodhi Gaya in India where he attained enlightenment, and Sarnath, also in India where he first preached.

Lost and overgrown in the jungles of Nepal in the medieval period, ancient Lumbini was rediscovered in 1896 and identified as the birthplace of the Buddha on account of a third century B.C. sandstone pillar.

Indian, Nepalese hospitals tie up for cancer treatment



A leading Nepalese hospital has tied up with an Indian super speciality hospital to offer better treatment to cancer patients here in a first-of-its-kind cooperation between the two countries, it was announced Monday.

Baidya and Banskota (B&B) Hospital of Nepal has signed an agreement with India's BL Kapoor (BLK) Super Speciality Hospital to launch the B&B-BLK Cancer Centre here. Announcing this, officials of the two hospitals said super specialists from the BLK Cancer Centre based in Delhi shall provide their expertise to the Kathmandu centre and will also train Nepalese doctors and nurses.

The BLK hospital is among the oldest and most respected Indian hospitals with a

global outreach. The hospital has a modern healthcare facility with 700-bed capacity.

The hospital has Asia's first CyberKnife VSI - a full body robotic radio surgery system for painless and precise treatment of hitherto inoperable tumours. The B&B-BLK Cancer Centre will provide both medical and surgical treatment to patients, including outpatient department consultation, chemotherapy, treatment planning and surgical procedures depending upon patient's profile.

The centre will begin its operations last month with the head of oncology department and senior consultants of BLK visiting the wards.

Leonardo DiCaprio donates \$3 million to save Nepal's tigers

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio through his foundation has donated USD 3 million to World Wildlife Fund to support Nepal's attempt to protect and nurture tigers in the country.

"Time is running out for the world's remaining 3,200 tigers, largely the result of habitat destruction and escalating illegal poaching," WWF board member DiCaprio said in a statement.

"WWF, the government of Nepal and local communities are on the front lines of this battle, and I am hopeful this grant will help them exceed the goal of doubling the number of these noble creatures in the wild," he further said.

The donation will be used to help



achieve the goal to double the number of wild tigers by 2022, the next Chinese year of the tiger. With the money, park rangers at the 9,000-square-mile Terai Arc Landscape of Nepal will be able to "strengthen anti-poaching patrols, protect core areas for tiger breeding, restore critical corridors for their dispersal and expansion and continuously monitor tiger populations."

"Protecting a top predator like the tiger helps keep forests and grasslands intact, and ensures that other species like rhinos and elephants can thrive," said Justin Winters, executive director of the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, in a statement.

In May, DiCaprio raised USD 38.8 million through donations and an art auction at Christie's in New York.



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Towards ECONOMY-FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

Will Nepali economy re-witness a friendly atmosphere for *Gari Khana Deu* (allow us to work and earn living)? Will investors feel safe, like in early 1990s, to pour in capital in productive enterprises in the country? Will the trend of stoppage (Banda) give way to a culture of no disruption to economic activities in 2014?

Such questions are being raised today in Nepal as the newly elected Constituent Assembly heads for preparatory works to begin its parliamentary business towards mid-December. Wage-earners, labourers, investors and all those who want to work and earn living are looking forward to the economic policy that the new government will adopt as it assumes office in the near future.

Office bearers of top bodies of business/ industrial community such as Federation of Nepali Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI), Confederation of Nepali Industries (CNI) and Nepal Chambers of Commerce have publicly voiced, in an optimistic note, for economy-friendly atmosphere under fresh leadership of new CA.

Nepali economy has been a victim of political uncertainty and series of obstacles linked with it for the past decade and a half. The conflict time chaos and the subsequent post-conflict volatility derailed the economy in a shocking manner. As a result the country is witnessing serious problems of poverty, unemployment, power-shortage and un-productivity.

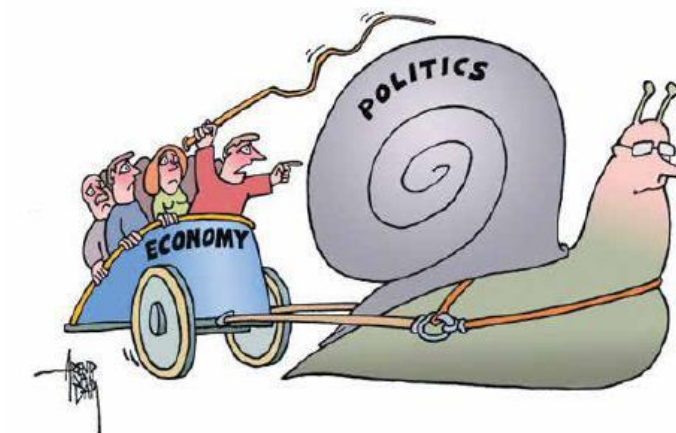
Rosy schemes

Political parties this time included economic plans and programmes in their manifestoes in an unprecedented way. The schemes mentioned in their commitment-paper look very ambitious and populist. They appear to have been drafted just to impress voters. Leaders, however, claim that they are achievable.

The Nepali Congress emphasized increase in employment as the main economic goal. The CPN UML chose the village oriented economy as the most important target. The UCPN-M stressed the need to end load-shedding in three years. Major parties aimed at economic development, village development, employment creation, end of power shortage, modernization of agriculture, unemployment benefit, and local development.

Various political parties have expressed commitment, in words, not to disturb the economy through strikes. Over the past few years and until recently, political parties utilized the instrument of strike to protest against the government and to press for their grievances. The serious issue of loss – about Rs. 2 billion per day – caused by strike remains un-responded by those who organize strikes. Entrepreneurs have renewed their call that organizations which call strike should compensate the loss caused by the strike.

The new Constituent Assembly should first work out a scheme of political solution which holds the key to prepare atmosphere



for economic agenda. Entrepreneurs emphasize the need to pursue liberal economic policy which backs investment-friendly approach.

Backdrop

Nepali economy today aims at transforming the country into a developing country by 2022 A.D. (2080 B.S.) from Least Developed Country. In an effort towards achieving the target, the on-going Three Year Plan (2013-16) aims at economic growth rate of 6%. The growth rate in the fiscal 2012-13 stood at 3.5% only.

The vulnerable, poor economic situation is something that most government documents, donors' projects and private sector investors refer to very often. Important documents such as the government budget for the fiscal year 2012-13, the ongoing Three Year Plan (TYP 2010-11-2012-13), and the latest government scheme – Immediate Governance and Economic Action Plan-2012 have also mentioned it as a backdrop of the economy. Economic discourse is routinely prefaced by the poor economic status of the country.

The private sector particularly the business sector has been playing a great role in the economy over the past 22 years. Various legislations introduced after 1990-free market provisions have secured the interest of the business sector, say officials of Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Industries. But they are critical of the government's trust in the private sector.

Latest scenario

The country witnessed its first full annual budget in time, after two years, on July 15, 2013 raising hope for stability in economic situation. The way Foreign Direct Investment

Economists, however, doubt about it pointing at the continuing political instability and the prevailing low growth rate of 3.5% in the fiscal 2012-13.

The overall anatomy of the country's economy could be viewed through the budget for the fiscal 2013-14. The country is at present pursuing an annual budget of Rs.517.24 billion. It seeks to attain economic growth rate of 5.5%. The government plans to tame inflation at 8%. It plans to raise Rs. 43.7 billion foreign loan and Rs. 44 billion from internal loans.

Import plays a dominant role (87.6%) in foreign trade of Nepal while export-role is limited to 12.4%. Import went up by 22.1% and cost the country Rs. 360.56 billion in the fiscal 2012-13. Nepal – export could not

Political parties this time included economic plans and programmes in their manifestoes in an unprecedented way. The schemes mentioned in their commitment-paper look very ambitious and populist. They appear to have been drafted just to impress voters. Leaders, however, claim that they are achievable.

(FDI) commitment rose to Rs. 10.70 billion from Rs. 5.63 billion in 2012-13 review period is also a green signal for optimism.

bring in revenue to support even a fraction of the cost of import during the period.



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One of the newest restaurant in town 'Ethnic India' is inspired by the Indian street foods and its tastes and tales of ancient Raja-Maharajas at the same time. Just opened in Hoppers Crossing, Western Suburb of Melbourne, It is set out to serve 'full service dine in' and 'take away' with the best flavours and aroma of authentic Indian herbs and spices. Like its namesake, Ethnic India encompasses a wide variety of regional cuisines native to India and Sub-continent.

Street foods like Gol gappa, Pau bhaji, Tikki chaat, Tilla kulfi, Faluda kulfi, Fresh jalabi, Kaser katli (first time in Australia), Kaddi chawal, Rajma chawal, Chola batura to fresh juice and Paratha deals are readily available in the restaurant. Not just that, North and South Indian cuisine, Soups, salads and appetizers start off the feast, with both veg and non vegetarian dishes are on the offerings too. Compliment your meal with elegant wines or champagne, cocktails or malts. For a delicious non-alcoholic treat be sure to try the heavenly Mango Lassi. And leave room for dessert.

Indian beers to Australian wines it's all available at 'Ethnic India'.

The exquisite menu is complemented by its elegant settings that are handcrafted from India. The chairs are carved from wood by skilled artisans and topped by cushioned seats and backs for elegance and comfort. The cutleries, trays, glasses and plates will all make you feel like a royal.

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Second Futsal Tournament- Next leg of Charity for Nepcity



Yeti FC has won the second futsal tournament held at Whitten Oval, Melbourne today. Sports for Unity and Charity- true to the slogan- Nepcity Ballers organised the tournament to unify community youths through sports as well as to make contribution to the various charity organisations. Alongside the sporting events, the tournament raised fund for 'Ageing Nepal', an NGO working for the welfare of Nepalese elderly. The event was an extension

of Nepcity's first tournament that carried a theme of "Haamro Kosish, Euta prayas" which collected some money to be donated to Satya Sai Ram Orphanage.

Twelve teams had participated in the second futsal tournament where UFC secured the second position, and their player Ujjawal was the highest scorer and Kundan Karki from Yeti Blue was named the best player of the tournament.

NRC's Interstate Sports Tournament to be held

Nepalese Recreational Club is organising Australia-wide sports tournament starting from 27th of December. The tournament will be held in four sports categories namely Golf, Tennis, Badminton and Table Tennis. According to the president of NRC Mr Bishnu Hamal, Badminton and Table Tennis will be held at Sydney Olympic Park. Similarly, Golf and Tennis will be played at North Ryde. The total of 116 participants and five hundred spectators are expected to attend the event.

The tournament will conclude on 29th with the prize distribution ceremony at Petersham Town Hall.

A team of 28 players and 25 supporters are flying down from Victoria for the tournament which is being led by NAV and supported by the Eastern Warriors Sport Club and Himalayan Sport Club. BUDDHA travel & tours and TWGG have generously sponsored the Victorian squad.

Nepal in Group A for Qualifiers to 2015 World Cup



Nepal is drawn in Group A alongside UAE, Scotland, Canada and Hong Kong for the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2014, to be held in New Zealand from 13 January to 1 February 2014.

Ten sides will battle out across the North and South Islands of New Zealand for the remaining two places in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015, due to be played in Australia and New Zealand from 14 February to 29 March 2015.

Over three weeks, 150 players from ICC's top Associate and Affiliate Members will take part in 34 matches – all with free admission for fans. Seeking to join Ireland and Afghanistan, who have already secured two of ICC Cricket World Cup 2015's four qualifying places, are: Canada, Hong Kong, Kenya, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Scotland, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Uganda.

Sachin is goodwill envoy for South Asia

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar has become Unicef Ambassador for South Asia where he will support the UN organisation's efforts to promote hygiene and sanitation. During his tenure, he will be travelling to different parts of South Asia, including Nepal, calling for personal cleanliness and sanitation.

"Post-cricket, the second innings of my life (as Unicef goodwill ambassador) will be equally important and means a lot to me,"



Tendulkar said at a signing ceremony.

"Hello to all my friends and children from Nepal. I would like to spread the message of hygiene and sanitation and why it's important to wash hands with soap," he told the Nepali Media on the sidelines of the ceremony. He also hailed the recent success of Nepal's cricket team.

"I congratulate the Nepal cricket team for qualifying for the T20 World Cup. Big, big congratulations to Nepal for the great achievement. I look forward to visiting Nepal and helping the children there," he said.

South Asia is the region with the highest number of people without toilets, with 681 million people practising open defecation. Nepal started a sanitation movement in 2009 resulting in more than 1,000 VDCs and nine districts becoming free of open defecation. Every year, more than half a million South Asian children under the age of five die of diarrhoea, caused by unsafe drinking water, lack of sanitation and poor hygiene, according to Unicef. "My mother made sure I washed my hands with soap every time I came home," Tendulkar said, emphasising on the role of mothers in keeping their children from harm's way.

MIT Cup-2014 date announced



Yeti football club has announced the proposed date for their mega football event MIT Cup-2014. Through their official facebook page, Yeti has announced the date for 8th and 9th of March next year.

After the grand success of 3rd A Side MIT CUP Interstate Football Tournament last year, this year's tournament is expected to be even bigger and better.

Machhapuchhre FC from Sydney had won last year's MIT Cup.

Nepal's Warm-up and First Round Fixture

Date	Match	Venue
Warm-up fixtures		
January 10, Friday	Nepal vs Namibia	Burwood Park, Christchurch
January 11, Saturday	Nepal vs Kenya	St Andrew's College, Christchurch
Main event		
January 13	Nepal vs UAE	Rangiora Oval, Christchurch
January 16	Nepal vs Scotland	Queenstown Events Centre, Queenstown
January 19	Nepal vs Hong Kong	Rangiora Oval, Christchurch, South Island
January 21	Nepal vs Canada	Hagley Oval, Christchurch

Nepal's Cricket Journey to the World Cup

By Rajeeb Regmee

The last over blitz by Sharad Vesawkar against Kenya heralded a new beginning in the cricketing history of Nepal. In fact, more than 6, 6, 2, 4 it was a statement. It was a display of both immense confidence and character in the present Nepali cricketing team, which was lacking during earlier times. No doubt, it laid the foundation for the final match against Hong Kong and the result is that Nepal is playing in T20 WC 2014. The very fact that the team dealt wonderfully under pressure oozing with confidence is validated by no other than Brian Lara in his Twitter comment. This means Nepali cricket deserves respect now.

Ever since the arrival of the new coach Prabodu Dassanayake, the face of cricket in Nepal has changed in a most recognizable way. Winning tournaments, climbing up in the divisional ranks, beating other non-test playing nations regularly mean Nepali cricket team has grown in stature.

Credit has to be given to the previous coach Roy Dias who came, saw and gave Nepali cricket team that competitive feeling, which hitherto had a laid back style. And then the appointment of Prabodu Dassanayake, it has really been a godsend to the country. The immediate impact from his arrival was seen by the change in the style of playing and the team craving for bigger achievements. His intentions were clear from the very beginning, one of them being the T20 WC2014 qualification. It resulted in a dramatic shift in the team psyche and very soon the team began to win every single match. From playing in the ICC divisional championship III and winning it, it was a fairy tale ride for Nepal.

Prabodu Dassanayake has been a fantastic coach who was quickly able to pinpoint the core areas for the team's success. He realized that more than the talent and skill, the team was lacking in

One of the most interesting comments that I heard during the match against Hong Kong was from former cricketers like Waqar Younis and Nick Knight. After seeing a huge crowd of Nepali fans in Abbu Dhabi stadium, they were quite surprised to state that Nepal is only country where there are more than 20,000 spectators coming for a cricket match and the number is the largest amongst the entire non-test playing countries.

ability to convert them into results. He knew the answer. It was the exposure. He then took the actions by helping the players to get international exposure as much as possible in a limited time.

If we look at the sports in general in Nepal, we have football and cricket which outscore any other sports. For a while, let's analyze the realistic possibility of the extent of moving forward in these sports be it in the regional or global arena. If we look at football, the first target for Nepal would be to become the SAARC champion. For that, we need to beat teams like India and Afghanistan, which are supposed to be the top teams in the region. Can Nepal do it? Looking at the recent matches we have played against them, it does not seem impossible. The gap is not that big. Then if we are the consistent powerhouse of the region, then our next goal will be the Asian champion. Can we do it? Is there a chance of beating countries like South Korea, Japan, etc?

Now let's take cricket. Like being the Asian champion in football, it will be impossible to com-

pete with Australia, India and other test playing nations. But what about the second tier of countries, which are the non-test playing nations? Well, here Nepal has a huge chance of being the best among them. Unlike in football, this target is very realistic. The gap is not much wide as in football as we have seen during the qualifying games in UAE and also I am sure that the Nepali cricket team and the coach agree on that. We just need improvements and this is very achievable. Nepal must make a plan, strategize it and put achievable targets so that it too starts getting recognition from the world sports fraternity. If we look at the world of cricket right now, it is no secret that BCCI and India dominate the sports with its financial power. Because of the greater proximity and reach, why should Nepal not try to attract the attention from the big powers and take advantage if it brings good to Nepali sports? If ECB and English players can help neighbouring

countries like Ireland and Scotland, why don't we seek the same from India? If ZeeTV tried to bring Nepal to the cricketing limelight in the late 1990s by building infrastructure and telecasting live cricket telecasts, there is nothing wrong in looking for other potentials too.

Finally, one of the most interesting comments that I heard during the match against Hong Kong was from former cricketers like Waqar Younis and Nick Knight. After seeing a huge crowd of Nepali fans in Abbu Dhabi stadium, they were quite surprised to state that Nepal is only country where there are more than 20,000 spectators coming for a cricket match and the number is the largest amongst the entire non-test playing countries. If I can see the potential and Waqar and Nick Knight have similar views, I don't think ICC is not smart enough to put the money where the mouth is.



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BAD BOYS *attract women*

It doesn't take much looking to dog out examples of cases where bad boys found themselves hooked up with girls who seemed way above their league.

Pamela Lee Anderson was once involved in a physically abusive relationship with ex-Motley Crue drummer Tommy Lee. The singer with the nightingale-like voice, the late Whitney Houston too had a rough time with the ill-tempered rapper Bobby Brown. Yes, the boys are bad, yet the public continues to remember and even love them. It makes you wonder: what really is it about bad boys that the world loves? Is it because their bad temper is not borne out of malice but is simply superficial? Is it sympathy for the underdog?

Individuals like these are emotional. They are ruled by their feelings. And no, they are not manipulative in the bad sense of the term. In fact, when they're in a normal mood, they're really loveable and give themselves totally to their partner. One of the reasons that make them react badly to a certain situation is that they expect as much as they give. However, it's a problem that needs to be attended, because when this behaviour is triggered, their judgment gets completely clouded.

And what exactly is it that 'triggers' this behaviour? Being emotional, any external stimulus reaches the emotional part of the brain, or the right brain, first. Feelings

overtake rationality and for a few seconds they lose control. It's called 'impulse control disorder'. They act out immediately on what they're feeling. It lasts for a short time. But it's important to remember that it's a personality problem and not a mental problem." But is it one incident like this which makes a relationship go awry? "No, it becomes a habit over a period of time. Sometimes the partner of the person unknowingly or knowingly set off the triggers that result in the bad behaviour of their partner. Nonetheless, in a good mood, they are good company, kind and shower lots of affection.

Some say, it's nice to see somebody break the rules and break the mould. These guys aren't bad by nature; they have good qualities. Salman Khan for instance has done a lot of good, a lot of social work. I suppose bad boys have certain loveable qualities about them. Maybe it compensates in a way. If your good side is equally good, it makes for an interesting package. There's a certain thrill of unpredictability and excitement. And the public continues to ignore the private dirty laundry and love the image.

The public fulfill their need for excitement and stimulation thru these popular 'heroes', who they see as larger-than-life, even if they're not. And so, whatever they do is taken with a pinch, nay and a fistful of salt. Different parameters for what is right and

Yes, the boys are bad, yet the public continues to remember and even love them. It makes you wonder: what really is it about bad boys that the world loves? Is it because their bad temper is not borne out of malice but is simply superficial? Is it sympathy for the underdog?

wrong are ascribed for celebrities. There is a sympathetic 'so what if he slips up once in a while' attitude?"

Some say, bad boys wear down a relationship, fans in general tend to feel sympa-

thetic towards someone who's always picked on. So be it sympathy for the underdog, the thrill of reading about the travails of having a larger-than-life hero, or the fact that bad boys live life in the fast, albeit a lonely lane.



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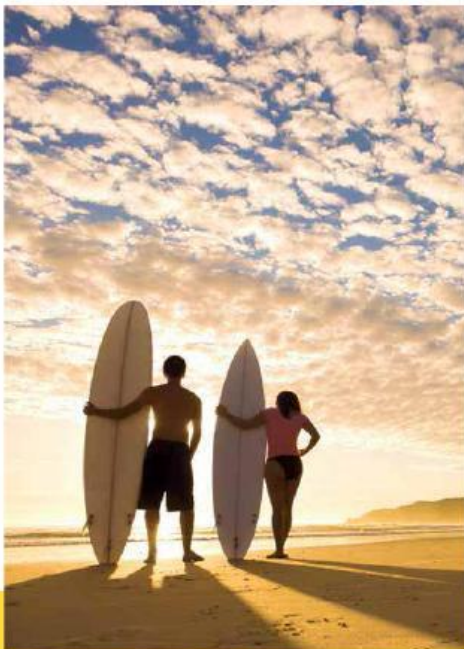
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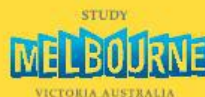
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