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Editorial

Let's celebrate love

This month we are celebrating Valentine's Day. Like every year on this day, we express our love to those we love the most. February 14 always comes with a lot of hopes and aspirations to boost up our love life. For singles, it brings a lot of optimism and for those who already have a partner it turns into a day to intensify their relationship.

Valentine's Day is named after Saint Valentine, a Catholic priest who lived in Rome in the 3rd Century. There are many stories about St Valentine and over time these stories grew into the legend we know today.

At the time of Valentine's life, many Romans were converting to Christianity, but the Emperor Claudius II was a pagan and created strict laws about what Christians were allowed to do. Claudius believed that Roman soldiers should be completely devoted to Rome and therefore passed a law preventing them from marrying. St Valentine began to marry these soldiers in secret Christian ceremonies and this was the beginning of his reputation for believing in the importance of love.

Eventually Valentine was found out and jailed for his crimes against Claudius. While imprisoned, Valentine cared for his fellow prisoners and also his jailor's blind daughter. Legend has it that Valentine cured the girl's blindness and that his final act before being executed was to write her a love message signed 'from your Valentine'. Valentine was executed on 14 February in the year 270.

It wasn't until more than 200 years later that 14 February was proclaimed St Valentine's Day. By this time Rome had become Christian and the Catholic Church was determined to stamp out any remaining paganism. A pagan fertility ritual was held in February each year and the Pope abolished this festival and proclaimed 14 February Saint Valentine's Day, thus establishing this feast day on the Catholic Calendar of Saints.



Ramjee Poudel | Editor
Email: editor@nepalesevoice.com.au

Not long ago, the concept of Valentine's Day was very alien to the Nepalese people. But call it the advance in technology and influence from the western culture; even though people have little idea about the real reason for the celebration, they don't shy away from embracing into the spirit of the day.

In the earlier days, Valentine's Day was all about exchanges of cards and gifts and may be an expressive love letter, however, the concept of a gift and a card has changed to something more sophisticated these days.

These days Valentine's Day is more about lovers spending time together, going out of their way to express their love for each other, lunch and dinners in good hotels and restaurants, long drives, movies followed by an expensive gift. No doubt "Valentine's Day" has turned into a 'V-Day' and an integral part of Nepali culture.

In the earlier decade, the social structure was a bit different. Girls were shy and reluctant to be open about their relationship as oppose to now that city girls enjoy a lot of liberty. Therefore, it is pretty clear that V-Day is becoming a high budget day for Nepalese.

While the excitement of the V-Day seems to have totally grabbed the attention of Nepalese, not just the youth but the older generations are also slowly embracing the spirit of the day of love. Social network sites and mobile phones flooded with messages indicates that it's a big part of Nepali way of life and why not? it's all about sharing love. I wish you all Happy Valentine's Day. Let the love rule.

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How is month of love looking for you?

Horoscope February 2014



ARIES

You will do wonders in your work or business. Your seniors will prove to be a helpful hand this time. You need to stay really careful in personal matters as well as with partnerships. However, your financial situation seems to be getting better and some business tours are coming your way. The second half of the month will come with favours for you. This Valentine's month won't get wasted, as you will get time to spend some beautiful moments with your life partner.



TAURUS

The beginning of the month seems quite adventurous. It looks like a blend of sweet moments with the sour difficulties in life. You may have to go on some long distance journeys. You will become quite daring and more hard working. Ultimately, you will end up finishing everything properly. Second half of the month will be quite beneficial for work. You will also get rid of financial troubles. However, you may think about making an investment. If you see any tough time, serve your father or a fatherly figure.



GEMINI

Days coming in the first half of the month seem not so friendly with you. A lot of your hard work may not show colours. Computer system or vehicle may also show some technical trouble. If you are planning to do something new during this time then I would suggest you to give it a second thought. Any type of risk in case of children or education is not advisable. Apart from all this, it seems that this Valentine's month, you may also not be able to celebrate your love life properly. However, the second half of the month may rule out all the hindrances of your way. You will be successful in your work. Financial situation will also improve. You will also get chance of reading a special book.



CANCER

You need to stay quite alert throughout the month. If you have a business, please take each decision after giving a proper thought. Some troubles may come through your spouse or business partner. This may give you some stress. It seems that the time is bringing you some challenges. Hence, you need to take care of yourself properly. Also, avoid having sodas or junk food. Even the second half of the month is coming in coordination with the first one. So, in this time too, you need stay quite managed.



LEO

Beginning of the month seems to be bringing the blessings of heaven for you. You will get rid of old troubles. Your self-confidence will be amazing. You will be successful in defeating your opponents. You will get success in everything. Working conditions will also improve. Name & fame will also expand. But, you will have to avoid any argument or breach with your friends or relatives. You need to take some precautions in the second half of the month. Keep a control over yourself while shopping. Along with work, you also need to take care of the health of your family.



VIRGO

Although this entire month is wonderful for you, but you need to stay cautious of your speech because 3 afflicted planets are in your speech as well as wealth house i.e. second house. You also need to avoid making any unnecessary expenditure; though you will cherish your life beautifully due to your favourable planets. You may also go on a journey, suddenly. If you were facing a problem related to love life or children, it will come to an end in this duration. Second half of the month will usually keep all your troubles at bay. Situations at work or business will improve.



LIBRA

This month, you may have to work harder to fetch good results. Additionally, you will have to keep yourself in control. You may become agitated or violent because Saturn and Mars are coming together. You will have to take special care of your health during this time. You may think about selling your old car this time. Though things will get better in the second part of the month, yet caution is always required. Some tensions related to children or loved ones may prevail. Don't take any decision in haste and drive carefully.



SCORPIO

You will get many auspicious results in the first half of the month. However, you need to keep a good control over your expenditure this time. Your electronic assets may give you some trouble. Drive carefully and your feet need special attention because you may get them hurt. Don't do anything that may disturb your sleep. Any journey is also possible during this time. Second half of the month may seek more work from you. Your energy may lower down during this time.



SAGITTARIUS

Though you will try to complete everything quite cautiously, yet the beginning of the month might not fare well as per your expectations. Your speech may also become a little rough. It would be better if you can keep a balance while speaking. Although you will cherish a month backed up by good finances, but a good control over expenditure is required. Some financial issues may also creep in between. However, the second half of the month will be eliminating all the troubles of your life. You may get benefit out of a journey. You will also see improvement in financial matters. Health will also stay fine.



CAPRICORN

February looks like bringing excitement in your professional life. 3 planets at your tenth house may get you in contact with powerful people. Due to your better relations with big personalities, you may plan of doing something big. You may get honoured by the government or an organization. Even in the second half of the month, you need to stay cautious in the matters related to wealth and family. Health related issues may stay during this time too.



AQUARIUS

At the start of this month of cupid, I would suggest you stay alert in everything. Keep your crazy meter down during this time. Try to avoid journeys and traffic as much as possible. It would be better to avoid any heated argument at a spiritual place or with a spiritual person. Additionally, you also need to avoid useless journeys. Keep a check on your behaviour at work. Avoid unimportant expenditures. Your troubles may lower down to quite a good extent. Your name & fame will increase. You may have to go on a beneficial journey. But, in this time too, you will have to take proper care of your health as well as the health of your family.



PISCES

As this is the month to get cupid struck, you are going to be lucky! However, you need not experiment any adventurous situation in love life and avoid heated arguments. You may get some really nice benefits from the journeys. However, the second half of the month will be full of expenditure. In this time, you will also have to take good care of your health.

Embassy appeals for Nepalese living in Australia to upgrade their passports into MRP


Nepalese Embassy in Australia has appealed for Nepalese residing in Australia and the Oceania region to upgrade their handwritten passport to Machine readable passport (MRP). Issuing a statement the embassy has notified everyone to change their passport to MRP at the earliest. The statement also says the older version of the passports will no longer be valid after 24th of November 2015.

The government of Nepal has started issuing MRP since December 26, 2010, with the condition that the passports in circulation then would remain valid up to the date of expiry as indicated in the

passport.

In addition, Passport holders having their valid passport were requested to apply for a fresh Passport (MRP) six months before the expiry of the passport they were holding. In case of accidental damage/loss of the passport or use of all the pages meant for visa, one could apply for a new passport any time. More information can be obtained from info@necan.gov.np or passport@necan.gov.np

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सूचना

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New Era of NRNA Australia

Skill, Knowledge and Innovation Transformation



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Dr Jagadish Timsina



Dr Binod Shrestha

It's never been a right time like this to act for our motherland's development and prosperity.

Human resources migration is a normal phenomenon in search of knowledge, skill and opportunity all over the world of late. Developed countries not only attempt to keep their human resources in their own countries but also stress on the need of attracting highly qualified manpower from all over the world competing with top human resource hiring agencies. So,

the changing situation necessitates to oppose the old concept of brain drain and every countries need to use the knowledge and skills of their human resources in accordance with the needs no matter where they live physically.

Development of means of communication in 21st century shrinks the world into a global village whereby one polar of the world to the other feels closer

than its distance. So, in such context, an individual can contribute significantly to his or her country's development even without being physically present there.

Each and every migrated individual always keeps in touch with their country of origin in one way or the other. In most cases, sending periodical remittances are identified as part of the responsibility towards the motherland.

But the need of the hour is to transfer the education, skill, knowledge and the technology that we learn overseas back to our country. Thus we need to be proactive to channel the skill, knowledge and the innovation to by formulating a certain work plan. Experts and scientists know themselves better that how they can transfer their skills and knowledge. For this, strong will power, appropri-



NRN Australia taskforce is going to organize a workshop on skill, knowledge and technology transformation on 19 July, 2014. This workshop will provide you an opportunity to invest your skill and knowledge for the development of Nepal.

ate model and conducive environment of the home country are undeniable factors.

To implement such concept in wide range, an extensive policy is a must to coordinate among the experts of developed and developing countries, policy-makers, political leaders and diplomatic agencies. NRN ICC has been attempting in policy and political level. For instance, it is forging Open University and Science Foundation to this effect.

NRNA Australia has formed a taskforce comprising of the NRNs representatives of all the states to transfer skill, knowledge and technology. It aims at finding out what can be done in Nepal, how can even a small positive change be brought or moreover how can Nepal move towards the prosperity. Its major objective is to prepare a model in a bid to transfer skill and knowledge to Nepal holding discussion with Nepali experts living in Australia.

The taskforce is going to organize a workshop on skill, knowledge and technology transformation on 19 July, 2014. This workshop will provide you an opportunity to invest your skill and knowledge for the development of Nepal.

However, it is very difficult to contact all the experts living in Australia personally due to lack of address information. So NRNA Australia and this taskforce warmly requests you to present your vision on how to transform your skill, knowledge and technology for the development of Nepal at the workshop. Paper that deals with the practical aspects of transforming the skill and knowledge will be highly prioritized.

(Dr Shrestha is the coordinator of NRNA Australia: Skill, Knowledge and Technology Transformation Taskforce)

Skill, Knowledge and Innovation Transfer Workshop 2014

■ Background

It has been well recognized that the scientists, academicians and professionals from Nepal living abroad can contribute their knowledge and skills to their mother country by developing and implementing collaborative training program and appropriate research and development projects. NRN-ICC has been working with the Government of Nepal on skills and knowledge transfer initiatives such as Open University and Science Foundation, etc. on policy as well as implementation level. NRN Australia has identified skills, knowledge and innovation transfer project as one of the prioritized projects which will complement with and build on the knowledge and skills transfer initiatives and activities of NRN-ICC. The scope of this project in Australia is to develop a ground up approach and mechanism that encourages and allows scientists, academicians and professionals from a range of disciplines to make significant contribution to Nepal's sustainable development. The proposed workshop will bring together such individuals and facilitate interactions and brainstorming among them in July this year in Sydney. A few selected key papers from different disciplines/ fields will be invited from senior, leading NRNA scientists, academicians and professionals in Australia and will be presented and discussed during the workshop. In addition, various innovative ideas that have potential for Nepal's development will also be presented, brainstormed and discussed. The workshop aims at selecting a few key projects for implementation in Nepal effective from later 2014.

■ Topic highlights

Full papers, concept notes and innovative ideas suitable to implement in Nepal are invited in the following broad areas.

1. Sustainable agricultural development practices for Nepal
2. Appropriate and suitable engineering infrastructures
3. Recent developments in medical sectors and their applications in Nepal
4. Current developments in information and communication technology and their applications in various development sectors in Nepal
5. Frontiers in higher education sector
6. Any other topics of interest
7. Any concept notes and ideas

■ Organising committee

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■ Enquiries

Contact one of the members of organising committee for enquiries. Please submit abstract to ski@nrn.org.au

■ Key deadlines

Abstracts submission	: 15 Feb 2014
Selection of abstracts	: 20 Feb 2014
Paper submission	: 15 April 2014
Paper review	: 1 May 2014
Workshop	: 19 July 2014
Report submission	: 15 Aug 2014

Note:

Program details will be provided after selecting the abstracts/papers.





Valentine's ♥ Messages



Raj Sharma ♥ Bharati Joshi

I was born to love you and this is the only thing I know. With you by my side, everyday is a valentine's day. Love you forever."



Jagadish ♥ Dibya Timisina

Happy Valentine's Day to all! Lovers, please take a break from your busy lives to celebrate your love and unity. For those who don't have a special someone, love is waiting around the corner."



Mahesh Bhandari ♥ Lila Nepali KC

We wish all community members and readers of Nepalese Voice a happy valentine's day. May you find and continue a never ending love on this day."



Mandab Raj Karki ♥ Subarna Shrestha

I might not have expressed my love to you everyday but on the occasion of Valentines day, I want to let you know how special you are to me. Thanks for all the love and care you have given me. Happy Valentine's day!"



Jog ♥ Nila Limbu

You make my heart feel as light and care-free as a butterfly floating through the air on a sweet spring day. I cherish the gift of love that we have been given, and the happiness you provide. Happy Valentine's Day!"



Sunod Shrestha ♥ Angie Mulmi

As busy as we get, we need to be reminded that we all strive for true love. Valentine's Day is a good day for me to stop and realize how wonderful you make me feel and how beautiful you have made my world. Love you heaps. Happy Valentine's Day"



Mr ♥ Mrs Ranjan Vaidya

Valentine's Day is an occasion where people renew their relationship vows. We tend to forget what it is to have the love and care of our partners and families. So let's appreciate and celebrate the love that we have. We wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day."



Anupam ♥ Nita

Whether Valentine's Day or not, you are always special. I can't imagine anyone else to spend rest of my life with. I cherish each moment that we spend together. I can't express in words how much I love you. Happy Valentine's Day."



Rishi ♥ Jaya Kandel

"We love you. Happy Valentine's Day 2014."



DATING & MATRIMONY

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- A 31 years old Nepali boy based in Kathmandu looking for a girl settled in Australia.
Email: mahendra_21@gmail.com or call Nepalese Voice
- A 25 years old Nepali boy from Melbourne is looking for a Nepali girl in her early 20s for a serious relationship. Call/Text: 0423737238

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Nepalese in Adelaide get inspired by Australia Day spirit

Nepalese residing in Adelaide celebrated Australia Day-2014 with great fervour. Nepalese adorned in typical national attire participated in Australia Day parade where the Nepalese flag stood proud in the middle of this south Australian capital. Hundreds of them marched along with Nepalese musical instruments being played. Apart from the other community members some prominent personalities such as Honourable Consul General of Nepal to South Australia Dipak Dhamala, NRN South Australia Co-ordinator Ramesh Joshi, President of Adelaide Nepalese Society Sarbada Ghimire participated to show their respect to the adopted country. Some Bhutanese community members also joined into the spirit of nationalism.

Australia Day parade that had begun from Victoria square concluded at Elder Park with rocking musical performances by the artistes from various countries.



ADAM GOODES named Australian of the Year 2014

Role model, youth advocate and foot-baller Adam Goodes has been named Australian of the Year 2014 at the Australian of the Year Awards held in Canberra. The Prime Minister, The Hon Tony Abbott MP, presented Adam with the Australian of the Year 2014 award in front of a large crowd gathered on the lawns outside Parliament House.

Western Australia's Fred Chaney AO was named Senior Australian of the Year 2014 for his commitment to reconciliation; NSW Paralympic champion Jacqueline Freney was awarded Young Australian of the Year 2014 and Australia's Local Hero 2014 is children's charity founder Tim Conolan of Victoria.

The Australian of the Year 2014, Adam Goodes, was honoured for his leadership and advocacy in the fight against racism both on the sporting field and within society - a stance which has won him the admiration and respect of people around Australia.

An Andamathanha man, Adam is a champion Australian Rules football player with the Sydney Swans. Adam holds an elite place in AFL history, winning two Brownlow Medals and two premierships. The 34 year old footballer is a four-time All-Australian, member of the Indigenous Team of the Century, and has represented Australia in the International Rules Series.

Adam is proud of his Indigenous heritage and is actively involved with



several Indigenous sport and community programs. He has spent time working with troubled youth, including those in youth detention centres. Together with his cousin and former teammate Michael O'Loughlin, Adam established the *Go Foundation* which empowers the next generation of Indigenous role models in all walks of life. Adam co-chairs the foundation, focused on promoting education, employment and healthy lifestyles.

In a separate interview Adam states what are the 11 ways to be a better man

- LOOK FOR THE POSITIVES
- LEAD BY EXAMPLE
- BE SUPPORTIVE
- ASK FOR HELP
- BE ACCESSIBLE
- FIND FORGIVENESS
- HAVE A ROLE MODEL
- 8. Cherish your mates
- LOOK TO LEARN
- HAVE A RELEASE
- DON'T BE A D**KHEAD



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Preparation for Nepal Festival gets underway in Melbourne

Preparation for Nepal festival 2014 is well underway, as NRNA Victoria has formed the main co-ordination committee in Melbourne. A meeting held at the Nepalese Consulate office decided on the steering committee as well as sub-committees to plan and execute the Nepal festival in November this year. Starting the program NRN Victoria's Rishi Kandel recollected the success of previous festivals in 2008 and 2010. However, he was repentant that it did not go ahead in 2012. "We are definitely doing it this year, I anticipate all of your support" he said.

The meeting has decided that the top body will consist of all fifteen members of NRNA Victoria State Coordination Council, representatives of other social and ethnic organisations and the individuals with different expertise. Out of organisational protocol, NRNA Victoria's coordinator Rishi Kandel will be foreseeing the Nepal festival organising committee. Similarly other names for some crucial tasks were agreed on, including Raju Shakya for program management, Keshav Kandel and Deepa Rai for Sponsorship and Sunod Shrestha for audio visual and media management subcommittees.

During the discussion, participants emphasized on making the festival as inclusive and collaborative as possible. Former NAV President and NRN ICC



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member Dr Raju Adhikari pointed out the importance of incorporating Government of Nepal and Nepalese Consulate office as those entities would bring so much significance to the event.

The program was attended by the community trailblazers like Mr. Jog Limbu, Dr. Jagadish Timsina and Mr. Ranjan Baidya.

Concluding the program, Hon Consul General of Nepal to Victoria, Mr Chandra Yonzon thanked everyone for their enthusiasm towards this event. He expressed satisfaction that the festival is now off the ground. He said "Consulate office has always been there when the community needed us and this year will be no different. I wish you all the best success with Nepal Festival 2014".

Sydney cruise party raises fund for street children



Nepalese Australian Youth Association (NAYA) has recently organized a cruise party in Sydney. The party was held on 18 January, Saturday. Gyanendra Regmi, the coordinator of NAYA informed that more than 400 Nepali living in Sydney attended the party. According to NAYA chairperson Komal Pathak, the party was organized to celebrate New Year 2014 with zest and zeal amid family and friends. The event also showcased a number of entertainment programs including Raffle, DJ and quiz for the children. Vice chairperson Prakash Kharel said the program aimed at raising fund to assist the streets children of Nepal. The program also raised fund for the bomb hit kid from Kathmandu in last CA election. Representatives from Non-Resident Nepali Association of Sydney and Australia-based Nepali entrepreneurs were also present at the party.

Harmony of six Nepalese families



In a country where we barely even get to know the name of our neighbour, these Nepali families from Sydney have crossed the decade of togetherness. Their friendship started with buying a house together in John Street of Granville that has reached the unique milestone of ten years recently.

To commemorate the day, they cut cakes and expressed commitments for their long lasting companionship. The families of Gowa Katuwl, Dhurba subedi, Balchandra Bhattari, NandaGurung, Ashok Hirachan and Kumar Shrestha have truly exemplified the meaning of unity and harmony.

'It is wonderful that six separate families are living like a single unit even in Australia,' said Gowa Katuwl. 'So we mark the day every year expressing and renewing our commitment to keep our friendship continued,' he added. Balchandra Bhattarai also said their unprecedented friendship has given a new message to all. He said more than hundred and fifty Nepali families have now moved to the neighbourhood after them.

Family Picnic in Canberra

Nepalese living in Australian capital Canberra have held a family picnic. Australia Nepal Friendship Society organized the family picnic on 21 December at Adventure Park in Camba. Different family members including children were also present at the picnic which featured a number sport programs, D D Kandel, informed the chairperson of the Society.

The picnic revelers enjoyed a Barbeque. A volleyball competition was also held among adults. Secretary Bibek Palikhe said the Society is organizing a gathering program at Dashain and Tihar including other public functions. The picnic revellers have also donated a sum of money for helping those who took part at the inter-states sports competition held from December 27 to 29 in Sydney.



Vic Gov launches the information tool to help protect migrants from common scams

This Australia Day, the Victorian Government celebrated multiculturalism with the launch of new resources to help protect consumers who speak English as a second language.

As part of a Victorian Coalition Government initiative, information on common scams has been translated into 23 languages to help migrants and others who may not have well-developed English skills.

Consumer Affairs Victoria has made the scam awareness information available in Amharic, Arabic, Burmese, Chin Haka, Chinese (traditional), Croatian, Dari (Persian), Dinka, Farsi (Persian), Greek, Hindi, Italian, Karen, Korean, Macedonian, Maltese, Nuer, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Turkish and Vietnamese.

The translated information will help people identify and protect themselves from three of the most common scam types – lottery, rebate and romance scams.

Lottery scams dupe Australians out of thousands of dollars each year, with

The translated information will help people identify and protect themselves from three of the most common scam types – lottery, rebate and romance scams.



scammers sending genuine-looking letters, emails, text messages or social media posts telling consumers they've won a prize – but to collect it, they must first pay a fee or provide their bank account details. Rebate scammers impersonate

a government official or a representative from a bank or other well-known organisation.

Romance scams target people on legitimate dating websites. Once an interest is established, they move all contact to personal email, phone calls or instant messaging, asking for money. Once money has been sent by wire or funds transfer, it is virtually impossible to retrieve.

Visit consumer.vic.gov.au/languages for translated information and tips about protecting yourself from scams.

Consumers can also view other translated resources about their rights and responsibilities, such as Consumer Affairs Victoria's *My consumer rights* videos, by visiting consumer.vic.gov.au/resources-and-education/other-languages

Media and Communications Training for CALD community leaders

The Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship is holding its 4th Media and Communications Training. Back by popular demand, the Training has been run three times since 2008/09 and over that time has successfully trained more than 120 leaders from a diverse array of faith, cultural and new and emerging communities.

The 2014 Training will develop and advance the communication and media skills of senior and up-and-coming leaders from Victoria's different faith, cultural and new and emerging communities, and is designed specifically to teach participants to effectively engage with and use the media to communicate their community's interests, concerns and social initiatives to a wider audience; and strategically employ the media to raise the profile of their respective communities and build connections with the Australian public.

The 2014 Training will be available to approximately 60-80 senior and up-and-coming community leaders, and will run in intermediate and advanced streams:

Round 1 of the Training will be delivered between 18 March and 29 April 2014. Round 2 of the Training will be delivered in the second half of 2014, between August and October. All courses will take place at the Multicultural Hub at 506 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

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AKFC to celebrate Valentine in Adelaide

Adelaide Khukuri Football Club (AKFC) is to organize a special program on 14 February on the occasion of Valentine Day. The event will be held at Goodwood Community Centre, Adelaide. The major attractions of the programs are AVIGHNA, HIMALI NEPALI, Melbourne based DJ PUN including other musical performances, organizer said. The participants can also enjoy Nepali traditional delicacies including drinks and beverages. The event will kick off at 6pm onwards till the midnight. A couple will be also awarded as the best couple in the event.

Communities mourn on the death of Swastik Migration Director Vikram Porus

Swostik Migration Director Vikram Porus has reportedly been killed in a road mishap. Three persons including his father SI Dilbag Singh were killed in a road accident on national highway-1 in Panipat district in India on 29th of January.

According to news portal Singh station, SI Dilbag Singh's car collided with a canter near Samalkha due to dense fog. His wife Krishna has sustained multiple injuries and is in a critical condition."

Police said that Dilbag and others were going to Delhi to drop his friend's daughter Geeta at Indra Gandhi International Airport.

The deceased cop was honoured recently at the Republic Day function held here.

Meanwhile, a condolence meeting was held by his closed friends and families to pay homage to Vikram Porus on Sunday 2nd February at the Thornbury Theatre, Northcote. Vikram was not just an emerging entrepreneur but also a great human being. He maintained very close relationship with Nepalese Community in Australia. RIP Vikram.



A little ALOT's movie screening for girl education

A movie screening charity event is to be organized in Sydney in an attempt to raise fund to assist girl's education in Nepal. Supriya Shakya and Sudeep Shakya came up with the noble idea of 'A Little ALOT' which is going to screen a film in a bid to raise fund for helping girl education in Nepal. Shakya duo who were brought up in Australia from the very early age came up with the idea believing that a small contribution can have a big impact on the life of ordinary and disadvantaged people.

The charity event is going to screen a film named Girl Rising. The fund will go in support to Room to Read's Girl Education Program in Nepal. According to the organizer, the film is screened on 1st February (Saturday) from 5 pm to 7 pm at Civic Theatre, Hurstville.



Fusion Tech holds third assembly in Sydney

Fusion Tech, an organization of Nepali Engineers living in Australia has held its third general congregation recently in Sydney. The general meeting was held on 11 January in Yesfield Park in Sydney. As many as forty-five Nepali engineers living in Australia are organized in the Fusion Tech. The Fusion Tech has been investing in real states in Australia as well as providing loans to Nepalese without interest, and imparting consulting services to Nepalese in the name of Fusion Engineering Service. The meeting was held under the chair of incumbent President of Fusion Tech Arun Kumar Shrestha. Subash Sapkota, one of the directors of the organization, presented annual financial report at the meeting. The general conclave has also elected seven-member board of directors under the chairmanship of Subash Sapkota for one year tenure. The board of directors also includes Arun Kumar Shrestha, Anil Kumar Shrestha, Arjun Pokharel, Dr. Kiran Thapa, Chiz Kumar Shrestha and Bhusan Pradhan. Newly elected chairman Sapkota said the Fusion Tech will enhance its contribution to Nepali community providing more support through Fusion Engineering Service. He also pledged to extend its investment in other construction fields alongside its investment in real state.



Cruise party in Perth to promote football

Aus Nepal Events is to organize a cruise party in Perth on the occasion of Valentine Day. The cruise party is scheduled on 15th February, the day after the valentine day which will kick off from Bell Tower of Perth.

According to organizer, the party aims at promoting Nepali football in Western Australia. The amount collected from the party will be donated to Nepalese Youth Football Club Western Australia, the organizer said. Stating that the event is not just for profit but also to community welfare, Aus Nepal has urged all Nepalese living in Perth to join the party. The cruise will depart from 6pm on Saturday, 15th February.



Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria to hold special program on Int'l Women's Day

Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria is going to organize a special program on the occasion of the International Women's Day on 8 March. The program will be under the theme of 'empowering women through enhancing health and wellbeing'. Nepalese Association of Victoria is proudly supporting the event.

Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria has been active in Victoria organizing various programs especially focusing on women and their issues. The women's association has been using different means in a bid to unite and empower Nepalese women residing in different parts of the state.

According to the organizer, the program will be held on 8 March, Saturday. The organizer has urged everyone interested to take part in the program. More details can be found from DBSV facebook page or email at didibahinisamajvictoria@gmail.com

Fund raising campaign in Australia to save life of Nepali serving capital punishment in UAE

In a bid to save the life of a Nepali migrant worker Anish Khaling Rai who is serving a jail term with a death sentence in UAE, Nepalese living in Australia have started raising fund. A court of Abu Dhabi has sentenced death penalty to Rai charging for murdering his colleague. Rai, who arrived UAE two years ago, has been serving jail term from six months. He is the permanent resident of Sankhu-wasabha district, Masyapokhari. He has a wife and daughter back home. Nepali embassy in UAE said the family of the victim has demanded two hundred thousand Dirham (Rs 56 Lakh). According to Ram Siptukha Rai who is active in the campaign, his life can be saved if the blood money could be posted as soon as possible. Nepalese around the world have started a campaign to raise fund to save Rai's life, he said.

Australian Nepali can also deposit money on the bank account of Pradeep Kumar Rai as Common Wealth Bank, CCB: 062235 Account 10513226



JSS President Dinesh Pokharel donating plasma

Jhupali Samaj Australia's blood donation program in Sydney

Jhupali Samaj Australia has organised the blood donation program at Australian Red Cross Blood Donor Centre, Town Hall on 22nd of January. According to the President of JSS, Mr Dinesh Pokharel, the centre was booked for a day so it would hold around thirty donors. Since more than expected donors turned up, they are planning the next blood donation in the future. Apart from uniting the Nepalese hailed from Jhupali District currently living in Australia, the event was part of JSS's philanthropic work.

Terathum committee formed in Sydney

People of Terathum district who are currently living in Australia have formed a nine-member executive committee under the coordination of Punya Sedhai. The meeting held on 12 January at Yesfield Park of Sydney has formed the executive body in an attempt to organize the non-resident Nepali living in Australia who hailed from Terathum.

Milan Gadtaula has been nominated as Sub-coordinator, Ganendra Sitaula as Secretary and Sashi Subba as Treasurer. Similarly, Lina Dhungana, Dipesh Limbu, Raju Limbu, Sindhu Shrestha Santoshi Limbu have been nominated as members.

Coordinator Sedhai said the aim of forming the committee is to make a platform in a bid to provide support to the village back home in various sectors such as health, education and developmental tasks. The newly formed committee also aimed to cooperate other such organizations for the same purpose. The committee also nominated its four member advisory board. Chitra Limbu, Bishnu Limbu, Santosh Sitaula and Radhika Pokherel are in the advisory board.



Nepalese observe Maghe Sankranti in Sydney

Magar Society Australia observed Maghe Sangranti, the national festival of Magar community in Sydney with zest and zeal as previous years. According to the Magar Society Australia, the festival was observed organizing sports program Marrickville Steel Park on 25 January. Festival revelers clad in different cultural attires including cultural programs augmented the celebration. Magar community also performed homage to their forefathers on the occasion as their traditional rites. Revelers also enjoyed various entertainment programs including a volleyball competition for males, Dohari songs, Raffle and a number of traditional food stalls. Huge number of Nepalis living in Australia thronged the festival venue with zest and zeal in festive mood. In the function, Rajendra Thapa Magar, chairperson of Magar Society Australia asked the participants to support Anish Khaling Rai, who has been serving a jail term with death sentence in UAE. The society raised Australian dollar 752.25 from the festival goers which would be sent to UAE to pay as a blood money to save the life of Anish.



Help Nepal Australia elects new Executive Committee

Help Nepal Network Australia has elected its new executive body. The committee's meeting held in Sydney on 11 January elected the executive body. The meeting nominated Harsha Gautam as national coordinator.

The General assembly of the committee held last December dismissed the existing coordination committee and entrusted its Sydney chapter to take the further responsibility. The meeting also nominated Shree Panta as Sub-coordinator for national coordination committee. Likewise, Dila Kharel as General Secretary, Nisrabha Saji as Treasurer, Dr Govinda Poudel as Public Relation Officer and Laxmi Adhikari as Project Coordinator.

The Network which has been working for developing education, health and including others sectors, also nominated Dr Raju Adhikari, Indra Ban (OAM), Jog Limbu, Dr Krishna Hamal, Dr Hom Murti Panta, Dr. Samsher Thapa and Dipak Bista as advisors for its Australia chapter. Salina Shrestha has been nominated as Coordinator and Gopi Subedi as Treasurer. Likewise, Tara Shrestha has been nominated as an advisor.

Similarly, Rishi Acharya, Dr Nilam Pradhanga, Mukti Rokka, Laxman Sharma, Prem Prasad Bhusal, Bishnu Prasad Sapkota and Pradeep Chapagain have been selected as members of the chapter. Earlier last year, the network raised Rs 10 million funds from various states of Australia for helping various sectors of Nepal.



NAV working committee dissolved-will work as interim till the next election

Nepalese Association of Victoria's 2011 working committee has termed out. However, the existing team will work as an interim, transitioning the organisation through to the next election. The decision was made at the meeting chaired by NAV President Mr. Bom Yonzon, held at Coburg Library last month.

With the cessation of the existing committee, the meeting has decided to form an election commission consisting of five members led by Mr Jog Limbu. This committee will endeavour to carry out an election by 15th of March this year.

On the occasion, NAV President Bom Yonzon unveiled the yearly calendar of the organisation and the highlight of which was the Australia wide sports tournament scheduled to be held in Melbourne in December 2014. Mr Jog Limbu has been nominated unanimously as a coordinator of the scheduled tournament.



NAV'S innovative step to keep community healthy

Nepalese Association of Victoria has taken an innovative step to ensure the well-being of Nepalese living in Victoria. NAV has announced that the organisation is conducting 'Health and Well-being Workshop' in June this year.

In a meeting held at Coburg library, NAV's President Mr. Bom Yonzon revealed that the organisation will use the expertise within the community to deliberate the health education seminar. Dr. Chandra Pokharel from Northcote Clinic has agreed to drive the program, Mr Yonzon said.

As oppose to NAV's yearly calendar which is usually filled with clichéd sports and cultural program, this step is believed to make a difference in the community in real sense.

Maha Yatra - Australia concludes with the message of ethnic harmony and caste discrimination

Maha Yatra-Australia became a fortnightly festival for Australian Nepalese Community. The legendary duo Hari Bansha Acharya, Madan Krishna Shrestha and their entourage started their first show from Perth, which set the record for being the first Nepali event in WA to pull such number of crowd.

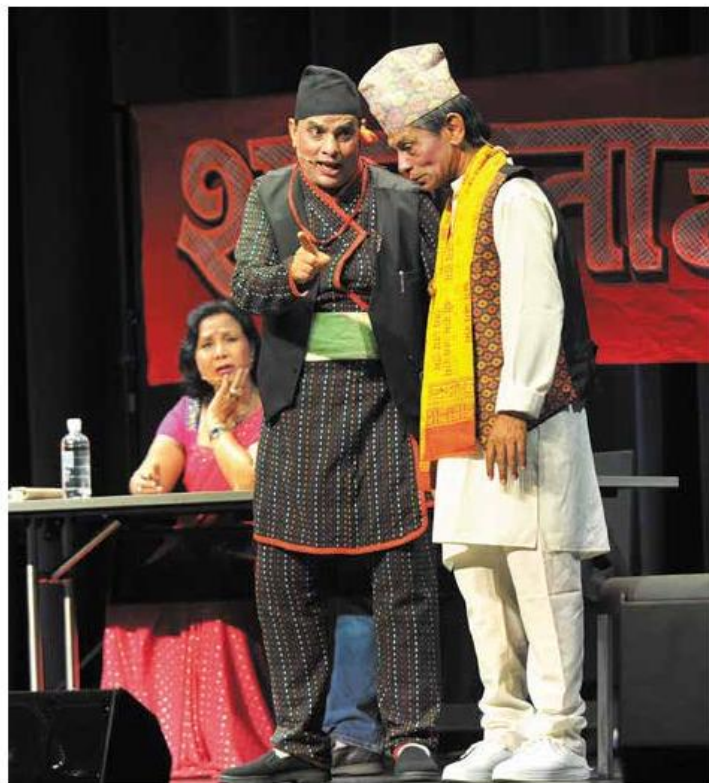
After a cosy and intimate show in Canberra, Maha Yatra reached Melbourne where almost two thousand Victorian Nepalese had the most hilarious four hours at Melbourne convention and exhibition centre as they witnessed the gigs of a lifetime by the legendry Haribansha Acharya and Madan Krishna Shrestha. It was the greatest comic relief for all the participants from their daily lives with the 'Maha' acting out political and social issues on stage. And even issues of everyday life are all reflected through a colourful performance with fistfuls of humour thrown in.

Maha's new gig 'Newar Bahadur Bahun Bahadur' and 'Ma Don ko Photo Studio' were well received as it mocked the caste based discrimination and the underworld don culture of Nepal.

Popular singer Kunti Moktan opened the evening by her newly recorded song followed by some of her immortal numbers and the comic maestros Kiran KC, Shivahari Poudel, Basundhara Bhusal and Mohit Acharya didn't disappoint a bit either. Their mockery and neck deep sarcastic humour about the real life situations had the audiences' jump off their seats time and a time again.

The troop then flew up to Gold Coast, Brisbane and Sydney to conclude the greatest Nepali event in Australia.

The laughter riot full of humour, wit and mockery has left everlasting memories on us. Thank you Maha Yatra-2014, it was indeed a journey that the community will cherish for a long time to come



Photos: Solangture



Toronto Nepali film festival in March

The fifth edition of Toronto Nepali Film Festival (TNFF) will be organized on 21st and 22nd of March in Toronto, Canada.

The festival this year received 81 submissions from Nepal, Canada, France, Australia, the United States, Germany, Uganda, Spain and the United Kingdom. Of the selected 11 films, six are documentaries, three feature films, one short fiction and one short animation.

TNFF will be screening the selected films – *Nabhaniyeko Katha* (The Untold Story) by Loonibha Tuladhar; *The Sound of One Leg Dancing* by Dila Dilman; *Nepal's Slave Girls* by Subina Shrestha; *Sakhi* by Mohan Rai and Santosh Regmi; *This is My Life* by Amber Bemak; *In Nepal, Exiled Each Month* by Allison Shelly; *Awakening – the Forbidden Temple* by Deepak Limbu; *Saas Fere Jasto Lagcha* (Breathing Am I ...?) by Santosh Bhat-tarai; *Indreni Khojda Jaada* (Chasing



Rainbows) by Sahara Sharma; *Soongava*, Dance of the Orchids by Subarna Thapa, and *Bal Krishna Sama*, Untold Story by Dinesh Palpal.

As the press release states, the films range across different subjects like dreams, courage, struggles, friendships and accomplishments, and give a true representation of the diversity in Nepal.

Nepali cuisine will be available at the festival and there will also be performances by local artists.



Hollywood hunks Gyllenhaal and Brolin in Nepal to shoot film

Hollywood actors Jake Gyllenhaal and Josh Brolin arrived in Nepal to shoot a new film based on the Everest bestseller *Into Thin Air*, a government official said.

Brolin and Gyllenhaal, who are staying at a five-star hotel in Kathmandu, will play the lead roles in the film, named *Everest*, which will focus on an ill-fated attempt to scale the world's tallest mountain in 1996. Iceland's Baltasar Kormakur is directing the film, which tells the story of how eight climbers lost their lives when a rogue storm struck the mountain.

British newspaper *The Guardian* reported that Gyllenhaal would play Scott Fisher, a US expedition leader who

died in the disaster while Brolin will play Beck Weathers, an American doctor who survived the storm.

US mountaineering journalist Jon Krakauer, who accompanied the Everest climbers on their ascent, wrote about the tragedy in his 1997 bestseller.

Hundreds of climbers scale the peak every spring, while thousands more go trekking from Lukla, the nearest airport, to Everest base camp.

Last year, a brawl between three European climbers and Nepalese guides on Everest hit global headlines, raising concerns that the mountain had become too crowded in recent years with climbers eager to set new records.

This year's IIFA award to be presented in Florida

The 15th International Indian Film Academy Awards, the Oscars of Bollywood's yearly \$7.8 billion industry, will be presented in the United States for the first time this year.

Bollywood's biggest stars are expected to attend the weekend event in Tampa Bay, Florida, from April 24-26 when the top prizes will be handed out. Actor Shahrukh Khan will headline the show.

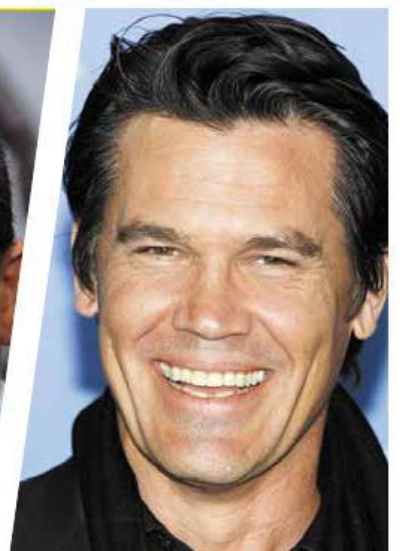
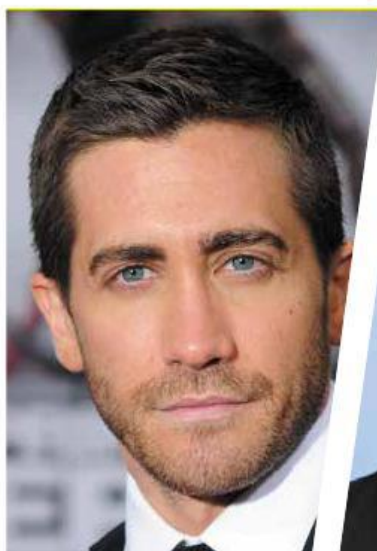
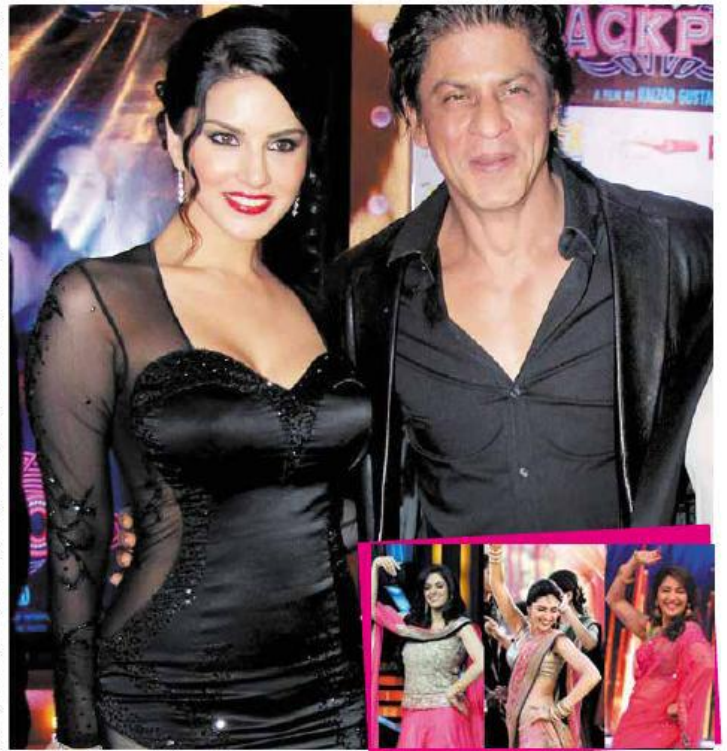
Previous IIFA awards have been held in Canada, Singapore, Dubai and Britain. Nominees for the 15th edition of IIFA will

be announced closer to the event.

India, the second-most populous nation, is the world's biggest film producer.

About 23 million people watch a Bollywood film each day, according to Timmins. The Tampa event could generate \$30 million, he added, and it is good for tourism from India.

In addition to the United States, Bollywood films are popular in Britain and the Middle East and have growing audiences in China, Russia and Germany.



Celebrating Women's Power and Status

"A desire to resist oppression is implanted in the nature of man." (Tacitus)



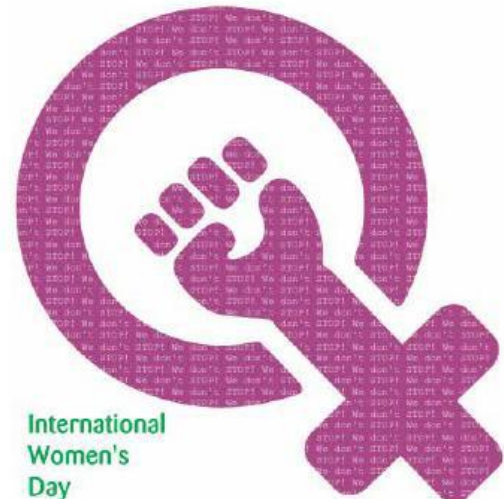
Dr Sabitra Kaphle
Melbourne, Australia

International Women's Day has been observed since in the early 1900's to get a momentum of ending women's oppression and inequality existed in the society. In western societies, there was a critical debate occurring amongst women to gain the power and to end the historical oppression. Women around the world celebrate a day (8th of March) together in different ways. For the women of the world, the Day is an occasion to review how far they have come in their struggle for equality, peace and development. You might think that women's equality benefits mostly women, but it is important to note that every one-percentile growth in female secondary schooling results in a 0.3 percent growth in the economy. Yet girls are often kept from receiving education in the poorest countries like Nepal that would best benefit from the economic growth. In the context of Nepal, until we work together to secure the rights and full potential of women, lasting solutions to our serious social, economic and political problems are unlikely to be found.

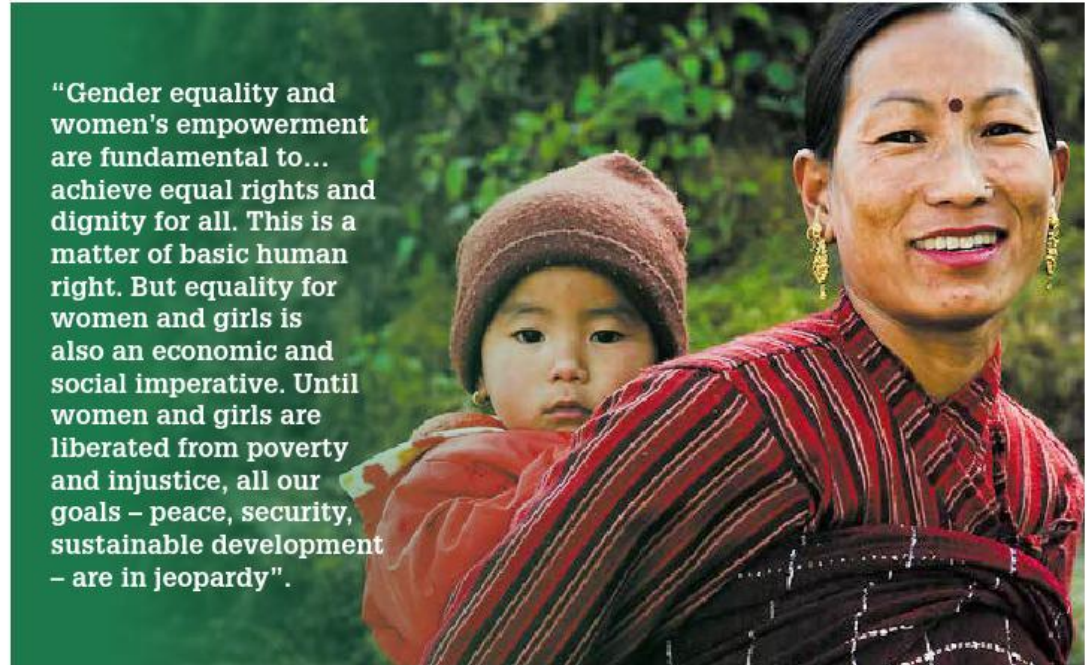
Indeed, the change over time has witnessed a significant change and attitudinal shift in both women's and society's thoughts about women's equality and emancipation. Although, many from a younger and advantaged generation of women feel higher level of equality in their everyday life experiences, the higher proportion of Nepal's female population still experiencing the complexity of patriarchy, which places them in inferior position, make them powerless within their social boundaries. With more women in the parliament, greater equality in legislative rights, and an increased critical mass of women's visibility

marching in the street, one could think that women have gained true equality. The unfortunate fact in our community is that women are still not respected for their status which is limiting women to stand alone and speak for themselves, women are still not being valued as the contributor to society and still women are seen to be served for the benefit of men, according to the way they want and think better.

I believe that women are the best advocate for women, thus women must lead and set the agenda of ensuring gender equity with a holistic vision of the universality and indivisibility of human rights for all and others in the society must realize that they are narrowing the agenda and inhibiting true social change when they do not believe on power that women held and keep women out of



"Gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental to... achieve equal rights and dignity for all. This is a matter of basic human right. But equality for women and girls is also an economic and social imperative. Until women and girls are liberated from poverty and injustice, all our goals – peace, security, sustainable development – are in jeopardy".



leadership positions or decision making process. It is important for society to join with women in promoting and protecting women's human rights as part of the larger agenda of social change or community development. The understanding that social, economic, environmental, political, and cultural injustices are human rights violations is important, so we can ensure that we are not perpetuating or violating human

rights through our set social and cultural norms of women.

The United Nation's Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated that, "Gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental to... achieve equal rights and dignity for all. This is a matter of basic human right. But equality for women and girls is also an economic and social imperative. Until women and girls are liberated from poverty and injustice, all our goals – peace, secu-

rety, sustainable development – are in jeopardy." So this means, we all have a role to play and contribution to make to ensure that liberation and to celebrate the achievements through emancipating the power of women within our society. Simply saying, it does not need to be a special day to celebrate the contribution that women make for society, but it is to acknowledge that women around the world deserve a special status and attention.

Why you shouldn't put your address on your resume

Standard resume templates usually include a place for your address at the top; however, filling that area out can actually work against you and decrease your job opportunities.

When recruiters know exactly where you live, they take into consideration your commute time:

You might not have thought about it, but in-house recruiters know that people with long commutes have more stress and often eventually quit "because of the commute." If you quit, they don't look good and they have to replace you. That's more work, with no more money, for them, says a survey.

When you put your address on your resume, they do the math. If your commute would be longer than what's tolerable long-term, your resume often finds its way into the "maybe" or "no" pile.

So instead of including your home address, just put the city of your employer(s) in the experience section. That trick should work better for you.



5 English words that changed their meaning over the years

➤ ARTIFICIAL

Previous meaning: Of or belonging to art

While it's now quite an insulting remark, calling someone artificial used to be a compliment!

➤ CHARISMA

Previous meaning: A divinely power

Today it signifies a person's appeal and charm, but the word charisma used to be associated with supernatural elements such as restoring sight to the blind, and performing other miracles.

➤ INMATE

Previous meaning: A person who dwells with others in the same house.

These days, if you called your roomie an "inmate", they wouldn't be thrilled.

➤ DAPPER

Previous meaning: Heavy-set

Not exactly a compliment in the olden days

➤ TERRIFIC

Previous meaning: Terrifying

Nowadays, few would say: "I just saw a terrific accident on the highway"

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Miss Humanity Australia On the Runway for Cambodia



Miss Humanity Australia is an innovative and holistic pageant for entrants advocating humanitarian causes. Utilising the pageant platform, Miss Humanity Australia provides opportunities for the delegates to have a voice and advocate their cause. To be a positive role model and encourage others to actively participate in charitable endeavours.

Glen Eira resident, Zoë Condliffe, a 23-year-old social entrepreneur is the personification of the values and principles of Miss Humanity Australia. Zoe was the 2011 winner of Anthill Magazine's 30under30 competition for young entrepreneurs and was named one of The Age Melbourne Magazine's Top 100 most influential, inspirational, provocative and creative people. Zoë developed a Cambodia program for Mayibuye, a non-profit organisation aimed at using the performing arts to keep poverty-stricken youth off the streets and away from drugs and crime.

Throughout 2012, she ran arts and life skills programs with the young people in the rural province of Takeo as a self-funded volunteer. She taught dance, art, life skills and various other classes to 600 young people. She worked tirelessly with the local community to build partnerships, plan classes and coordinate all the logistics and funding for the program.

Mayibuye Cambodia now has a large support base and ethical and sustainable



funding partnerships. The organisation recently raised over \$15,000 in one month to build a community centre in partnership with Swinburne University. The space will allow for community ownership and investment in the arts. Zoë is championing a fundraising dinner on Saturday 15 February at the Murrumbidgee Pavilion and the night will feature a banquet Cambodian dinner, performances and a raffle. The night will also feature special guest, Australian Author, Alice Pung; Parliamentary Secretary for Education Inga Pulich, a performance from So You Think You Can Dance's Demi Sorono and singer/songwriter Rina Benedictos as MC.

Zoë recently participated in a photo shoot and was dressed in some of the most beautiful garments from India and Pakistan. Styled by Saima Qureshi, owner of 'My Wardrobe' and founder 'South Asian Brides of Australia' fashion shows. Zoe had the opportunity to embrace her love for multiculturalism and worked with established photographer Darrell Caruana and make-up artist, Peta-Gai McLaughlin (both who have worked with the likes of Miss Universe Australia 2013, Miss Supranational Australia 2013) and the Pride Medal of Australia FairGo 2010 Recipient, Gary Lee.

"When you see a change you can make in the world, you have the responsibility to make it. When you notice a gap you can fill, how can you not? I love being creative and innovative, and I can't

imagine going along with someone else's plan I didn't believe in, so I make my own plans" she emphasises.

DETAILS OF THE FUNDRAISING DINNER:

Saturday 15 February 2014
6.30pm – late
Murrumbidgee Pavilion
28 Gerald St Murrumbidgee

Table for 10: \$500 (\$50 per head)
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*Tickets include banquet dinner.
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more information:**
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Partner visa under serious scrutiny

Many visa applications cancelled

DIBP is acting quickly to cancel dubious partner visas with already over 1000 partner visas cancelled, including permanent visas, over the last 3 years.

According to 'Migration site', it has been estimated that over 30 per cent of marriages in Australia involve migrant spouses. And the numbers are increasing as visa regulations in other classes get stricter. This has led to greater scrutiny of both applicants and visa holders by DIBP.

Monash University migration lecturer, Dr Bob Birrell has reportedly said that the huge backlog of cases was putting enormous pressure on migration officials.

"They are literally swamped with

the client load, it's very difficult to seriously evaluate whether the relationship is genuine and continuing," he said in an interview with the Herald Sun.

Over the last three years, DIBP's increased vigilance on partner visa holders and applicants have led to high-level of refusals and cancellations. Over 1000 permanent and temporary partner visas have been cancelled on grounds of bogus claims, bad character and incorrect information.

According to the Herald Sun report the number of partner visas issued annually has doubled since the early 1990s, with some 50,000 processed in 2012-13. A further 58,000 applications were in the pipeline as of June 30 last year.



More than 100 visas were cancelled in the six months to December 31, 2013, 228 were cancelled in 2012-13 and 713 between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2012.

Almost 12,000 spouse and partner visas were issued for Victoria last year, including more than 2000 to Indian-born people, 1245 for Chinese and about 1000 for UK-born applicants.

More than 100 visas were cancelled in the six months to December 31, 2013, 228 were cancelled in 2012-13

and 713 between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2012.

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison has been reported saying that the figures showed the Abbott Government had to be vigilant to stop people abusing the program.



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Australian Alumni Excellence Awards 2014

Australian Alumni Excellence Awards 2014 were jointly presented by Chief Secretary of Government of Nepal, Mr Leela Mani Paudyal, and Australia's Ambassador to Nepal, HE Glenn White, in Kathmandu ON 20TH OF January. Australia Awards Endeavour Scholarships

This year fellowships were provided to seven students from Nepal, including six pursuing PhD studies and one Endeavour Executive Fellowship. Australia Awards Endeavour Scholarships are internationally competitive and allow recipients to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia. The program aims to develop ongoing educational, research and professional links between individuals, organisations and countries.

The scholarships increase the productivity of Australians and Nepalese through international study, research and professional development experience. They



"Nepal and Australia have been enjoying excellent bilateral relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1960. Australia has been providing international scholarships and fellowships offering ample opportunities to Nepali students/government employees for higher study in Australia. Australian Alumni Association plays an important role to strengthen people to people contact between Nepal and Australia."

also reinforce Australia's reputation as a high quality provider of education and training and a leader in research and innovation.

Nepal's Chief Secretary, Mr Paudyal, said:

"Nepal and Australia have been enjoying excellent bilateral relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1960. Australia has been providing international scholarships and fellowships offering ample opportunities to Nepali students/government employees for higher study in Australia. Australian Alumni Association plays an important role to strengthen people to people contact between Nepal and Australia."

The Australian Alumni Excellence Awards were presented to six alumni members who made outstanding contributions in their chosen fields and enhanced Australia-Nepal relations. They received awards in the following five categories: business leadership, outstanding young alumni, community service, Australia Awards Endeavour Alumni Award, and Australia Awards Alumni Award. Australia's Ambassador,

HE Glenn White commented:

"Australia is proud to have such a strong and established network of distinguished Alumni in the 'Association of Nepalese Alumni from Australia.' I was very pleased to be able to recognise several of the particularly high achievers amongst this group and celebrate their successes in Nepal following their time studying in Australia."

Information on Australia Awards Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships, administered by the Australian Government's Department of Education, is available at

The Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade also offers Australia Awards Scholarships. Applications for study in 2015 open on 1 February 2014 and are open to all eligible Nepalese wanting to pursue post-graduate studies in Australia. More information is available at <http://www.australiaawardsouthasia.org/>

Australia's development assistance program to Nepal was NPR 2.9 billion (AUD\$33.4 million) in 2012-13 with a focus on health, education and livelihoods for the poor.



Australia Awards

An Australia Awards Scholarship is your opportunity to help drive the development of Nepal and build strong links with Australia.

These prestigious scholarships have been offered by the Australian Government for over 50 years as a fundamental part of the Australian aid program. As an Australia Awards scholar, you can gain an internationally recognised post-graduate degree from an Australian university and have the chance to pursue a career that makes a difference.

"Receiving an Australia Award was one of the best things to happen to me. The scholarship enabled me to pursue higher education and gain friends in different parts of the world. The program was rigorous and challenging but there was lots of support. I now have more experience, skill and confidence," said Norel Aryal Kharel, Lecturer, Central Department of Sociology, Tribhuvan University

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- Through study and practical experience, you will gain the skills and knowledge to drive economic and social development in Nepal.
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- When you return home, your membership in the Australia Awards alumni will provide you with a global network of like-minded professionals and an ongoing connection to Australia.

Australia Awards Scholarships will be offered to individuals with the greatest potential to drive development in a range of sectors including Health, Education, Livelihoods/ Poverty Alleviation, Governance and Water Resource Management. Australia Awards Scholarships will also be open to applicants from the Government of Nepal in the field of International Relations.

People from all walks of life are invited to apply. The application process is open and competitive, providing equal opportunity to everyone regardless of gender, ethnicity, caste or disability.

So if you want the opportunity to build a better future for yourself and your nation, apply for an Australia Award today.

Applications open: 1 February 2014
Applications close: 30 April 2014

For more information please visit:
www.australiaawards.gov.au
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Australia Awards Office
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Mahansingh, Kathmandu - Nepal
T: (+977) 1 4002014
E: inquiries@australiaawardsnepal.org



The Voice to My Pride

By Shruti Dahal LLB.

When it was time for me to enter this life, an emergency c-section had to be performed because my umbilical cord was wrapped around my neck. I guess I've always liked a dramatic entrance. As I took my first breath, I let out a fierce cry. From then on, my parents have always said, "You came into this world with your voice heard; our wish is that you live your life this way." So now, I share my Nepalese voice with you.

My name is Shruti Dahal. My story starts with my parents.

My Baba is Maheshwar Prasad Dahal, the fourth son out of seven brothers and two sisters. His laugh is funnier than most of his jokes, he is humble, loving

then spent a year in Nepal with family before we migrated to Australia in 1996. When I started Year 2 here, everyone thought I was a boy as my Ma had decided to give me a boy cut. For a week, I cried to my Baba complaining that everyone spoke funny English that I couldn't understand. It was all so foreign, but, as time went by, the foreign became the familiar. It became my home, our home.

We lived amongst the cane farms and pristine beaches of North Queensland. On the one hand, I caught yabbies at the creek, went ute surfing at friends' farms, and was addicted to the ocean. On the other, I performed at multi cultural festivals, visited other schools to speak about

terrain just to go to the nearest school, relying on the hospitality of strangers along the way. I would listen and watch them intently, as they told their stories with pride.

better I knew my parents. The more I knew my parents, the better I understood my own identity.

I am Australian and my heritage is and always will be Nepalese. My story

This pride became instilled in me. When I first visited Nepal at the age of 18, I was so incredibly proud. For, its mountains, its valleys, its rivers and its people were present in my parents' stories. I met with my massive extended family, then I met with my extended-extended family! Ma would say "chhorri, yo timro baba ko bhauju ko aamo ko, didi ko KaKa." I would look back at my Ma confused, and reply "Namaste". After being isolated in Australia, I was proud to discover my entire family, no matter how confusing the connection was. The more I connected with my family, the better I knew my parents. The more I knew my parents, the better I understood my own identity.

and pure. He epitomizes the character of the Father I want for my children.

My Ma, Mala Dahal (Poudyal), is the youngest daughter out of nine children. She is hilarious, cheeky, the brightest light, the best cook, and oh so pure. She is the mother I want to become.

They were pen pals. They wrote for two years and made the decision to get married. A love marriage. For all 25 years of my life, I have been enveloped in their perpetual love. I see their friendship, their mutual respect, their partnership. I see everything I want.

The first six years of my childhood, we lived in Tata Colony in Dhanbad. I

my heritage, and knew all the words to Kuch Kuch Hota Hai.

My friends would come over and laugh at my Baba's laugh, attempt to eat my Ma's cooking with their hands and ask us of all the rude words in Nepali. We always spoke in Nepali at home, simply because that was our language. My parents shared with me, stories of their past, of family, the good old days in Nepal and India. How they would have to go out into the night when nature called, with a lantern in one hand, while always being on the lookout for elephants. How my Baba, would walk with his brothers for days, through the mountainous



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is of migration, starting from humble beginnings, of self discovery, of perseverance, originating from a vision that my parents relentlessly sought out for their children. I will be forever grateful that my Baba and Ma have proudly shared every step of their journey with me. For, without their story, mine would be incomplete.

Shruti Dahal is currently completing her legal placement at RSG Lawyers, 3 Victoria Street, Coburg (03)9350 4440, after which she will be appointed as a Solicitor.

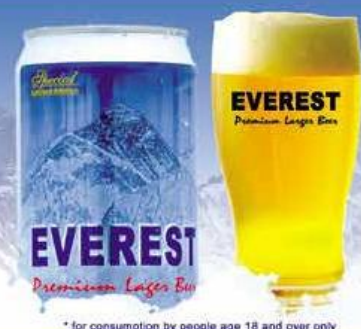
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NRNA presents detailed work-plan for two years term

Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) has presented a detailed work-plan for the next two years to institutionalize the organisation and make it financially sustainable. Moreover, it has also fixed a timeline for the implementation of the same.

The 40th meeting of the NRNA's International Coordination Council held in Kathmandu last month endorsed such plan for the first time in the history of the organisation established with the purpose of uniting and binding the Nepali Diaspora under one umbrella.

During the meeting, NRNA President Shesh Ghale, a Nepali-Australian millionaire, presented a report prepared by a NRNA committee formed to make a thorough review of various task-force active inside NRNA and determine the organisation's future strategy.

Talking about the report, NRNA spokesperson Mana KC said that some NRNA task-force have been given continuity by transforming them into permanent committees while additional committees have been formed to initiate new NRN projects.

Meanwhile, the meeting has also decided to collect Rs 100 million from



Building Construction Taskforce Shesh Ghale is looking for an appropriate land, it was informed.

Similarly, the meeting also appointed 16 persons from various countries involved in different sectors as NRNA advisors.

Dr Hem Raj Sharma (Europe), Major Dambar Ghale (Europe), Dil Kumar Gurung (Europe), Ratna Jha (USA), Deepak Khadka (Australia, Oceania), Narendra Bhat (Middle-East), Tenzi Sherpa (Nepal), Suraj Vaidya (Nepal), Biswakanta Mainali (Nepal), Lok Bhakta Rana (Nepal), Kul Chandra Gautam (Nepal), Ram Kharel (USA), Dr Dev Kaji Dangol (Middle-East), Sashi Poudel (Europe), Shri Napit (Oceania) and Yuva Raj Gurung (Europe) have been chosen as NRNA advisors while Krishna Giri of Australia has been appointed assistant coordinator.

various sources to build a NRNA building in Kathmandu. For this, NRNA President and coordinator of NRNA

NRNA Australia to run elderly home in south east Nepal

Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) of Australia is all set to run an elderly home in Biratnagar, Morang the south east district of Nepal. The NRNA Australia and Biratnagar Sub-Metropolis have reached an agreement to build an elderly home in ward number 11 of Biratnagar municipality. NRNA Australia and Biratnagar Sub-Metropolis have reached an agreement deal to establish, manage and operate the Pathibhara Elderly Home.

NRNA Australia President Mahendra Oli and Chief and Executive Office at Sub-Metropolis have signed the deal on 10 January.

The building will be incepted at the land provided by the Sub-Metropolis. According to the agreement, electricity and water supply will be provided by the Sub-Metropolis whereas NRNA Australia will take all responsibilities of establishing the building and operating the elderly home. Modern recreational centre, library, garden and cow husbandry farm will also be established in the elderly home including ambulance service.

NRNA Australia has been assisting in various charity works in Nepal for




long. The elderly home will be managed and operated forming a management committee in cooperation with NRNA Australia and local agencies.

New appointments in NRNA ICC


Mr Niraj Shrestha, DR Raju Adhikari, MS Deepa Rai and Mr Ganesh KC have been appointed as ICC co-opted members from OCEANIA Region for 2013-15 term. Similarly, Mr Deepak Khadka and Mr Shree Napit have been appointed as ICC Advisors.

Mr Bishnu Hamal, Regional Co-ordinator, Oceania region has congratulated the new members. He has said that he is confident that the new panel of members will achieve organisational mission and goals.



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Susmita expresses gratitude to Victorian Nepali community from Mt. Aconcagua

Two time Everest climber Susmita Maskey was in Australia last August. She had stopped over in Australia to climb Mt. Kosciuszko as part of her seven summit project. The Australian Nepali community not only gave her a great hospitality but also made an attempt to raise fund for her next venture that was to climb Mt. Aconcagua in North America. Susmita has now successfully climbed the mountain and wants to share the happiness with the community that helped her get there.

Susmita shares her expedition experiences:

I am glad to inform you that I succeeded the Aconcagua expedition in Argentina which is highest mountain in South America and the highest one outside Asia. I along with my climbing partner did unguided climb. We brought our tents and foods and did the whole expedition by ourselves. We started our trek on 5th of January to base camp and made it to the summit on 13th. It was indeed a quick expedition as we finished the summit and were out of the mountain by 15th January which is within 11 days.

People normally take 2 to 3 weeks to finish the climb. The climb was not too tough but with wind it and the terrain dominated by scree, it was challenging. Also, we two were making ferry of all the logistics to different camps, pitching tents, melting ice and cooking meals. By the end of the expedition, I was really tired as I carried almost 12-16 Kgs every day. However, this has been very learning experience for me and has added up to my confidence. This expedition

This expedition wouldn't have been possible without your support, moral and financial. I have successfully finished five out of seven summits and the credit goes to you all. The fund provided by Shesh dai and NAV was very thoughtfully spent on tickets, climbing permit, food, accommodation, some climbing gears and other logistics. I'll send you the detail of the expenses soon. In the meantime, please enjoy the pictures from the summit and different camps.

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I'm currently in Canada to learn some ski and practice ice climbing and meet my family here. This would be part of preparation for my next climb which is Mt Denali (McKinley) the highest in North America, in Alaska, USA.

I'll be heading for this mountain on third week of May. I am looking for potential fundraising events and possibilities right now. I'll be holding a decent press conference before this sixth summit venture. I'll be displaying the pictures from all different expeditions and give all possible media exposure to my sponsors and supporters.



Once again, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of you for believing in me and supporting me with needed



funds for the expedition. I'll keep you all posted on my upcoming ventures and progresses.

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Australia's growing rift with its regional alliances



By Rishi Acharya

Australia's diplomatic rift with Asia Pacific countries has deepened lately. Australia's approach on spying, asylum seeker and human trafficking issues, regional aid and unequal treaties have unsettled its regional alliances. In fact, Australia has done very little, apart from some donations, to actively promote a deeper mutual relationship with its Asia-Pacific partners in order to gain more meaningful bilateral relationships.

The recent spying scandal between Indonesia and Australia has once again



In an attempt to reconciliation, Abbott government sent foreign Minister Julie Bishop to Jakarta to smooth ties after the espionage row, expressing "regret" and agreeing to a bilateral code of conduct to restore trust. Jakarta wanted Australia to apologize over the matter, terming it an attack on Indonesia's sovereignty. In response, Prime Minister Tony Abbott justified Australia's action in phone

on Manus Island, in Papua New Guinea, as part of Australia's "Pacific Solution" to solve the boat issues. Refugee claimants seeking asylum in Australia were sent to Manus Island, and Australia paid for the costs of their detention, providing Papua New Guinea with economic aid. However, The Pacific Solution was dismantled by the Rudd Government and partially restored under the Gillard Gov-

business interests in Timor. Australia's now grabbing the rich oil and gas fields in the Timor Sea between the two countries, that Timorese describe as "daylight robbery", where as a fair border would lead to a tripling of East Timor's income from oil and gas.

East Timor is now demanding that the maritime and seabed borders be set half way between the two countries but Australia is using obscure geographical arguments that the border should take into account its continental shelf which stretches to within 40 km of East Timor. Australia takes \$1.4 million a day from oil and gas fields under dispute, more than making up for the cost to Australia of the 1999 intervention or even more of a capitalist intervention.

Seeking nullification of its 2006 treaty with Australia dividing undersea oil and gas reserves, East Timor has approached the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Netherlands.

Australia's national security intelligence service (ASIO) is a root cause

ASIO was established in 1949 as Australia's national security intelligence service. ASIO operates under the



substantiated that Australia has 'trust issues' with closest neighbors. Documents obtained by the ABC and Guardian Australia, based on the material leaked by the former contractor at the US National Security Agency, showed Australian intelligence attempted to listen in to Indonesian President Mr Yudhoyono and half a dozen of his government official's telephone conversations on at least one occasion and tracked activity on his mobile phone for 15 days in August 2009. The documents show that Australian intelligence actively sought a long-term strategy to continue to monitor the president's mobile phone activity. After which the bilateral relationships between two countries have hit the lowest point. Seemingly upset Indonesia suspended its cooperation towards Australia to combat people-smuggling due to a diplomatic row over phone-tapping.

tapping scandal as government doing its duty to protect its citizens.

The fallout between Australia and Indonesia not only going to affect the boat issues but also the fight against terrorism in Oceania, regional development, natural resources, environment and economic issues are certain to get jeopardized.

Australia's closest neighbour and former dependent territory Papua New Guinea also has some diplomatic tensions created off late between the two. The otherwise cordial relationship was strained when PNG Prime Minister Michael Somare was strip searched in Brisbane airport, culminating him being barred from entering Australia.

In 2001, then PM John Howard sought PNG's cooperation to put mandatory detention of refugees arriving by boat. A detention centre was built

in response to increased boat arrivals and reported deaths at sea.

Australian government has again proposed to revive Manus Island detention centre and resettlement arrangements despite *Human activist defining it as diplomatic slight with colonial overtones that would have number of social barriers. More importantly Australia has disobeyed UN convention by putting women and children into detention in PNG.*

East Timor is another pacific country that feels taken advantage of by its stronger neighbour. In 1999 John Howard sent Australian troops to East Timor, allegedly to protect the masses from the murderous Indonesian-backed militia. Howard took advantage of Indonesia's international isolation on the issue to send troops, stabilise the situation, and then open the economy for Australian

direction of the Director-General of Security who is responsible to the Attorney-General. ASIO's role is to identify and investigate threats to security to protect Australia. ASIO's functions are set out in the the *Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979* (the ASIO Act). It also includes the carrying out of Australia's responsibilities to any foreign country in relation to threats to security with a particular focus on politically motivated violence. However, in recent times some of ASIO's activities are seen as controversial and opaque, contributing to worsen the relationship of Australia and its regional alliances including Indonesia, PNG, East Timor and several Island Countries.

To strike the regional balance Australia should respect their sovereignty and extend the hand of friendship to each of them.

Chefs lead the way in getting Australian PR

There has been a revelation that under Australia's skilled migration program, cooks received more visas than any other group last year.

Similarly hairdressers also made the top five.

According to news.com.au, more than 8000 cooks got permanent visas in 2012-13, followed by 5700 accountants, 2160 software engineers, 1550 IT business analysts and 1500 hairdressers.

Skilled migration is dominated by Indians and Chinese, who comprised about half of the 129,000 places approved last year.

Monash University migration expert Bob Birrell said the spike in visas for cooks and hairdressers was caused by allowing former foreign students who were living here to apply for permanent residency.

Dr Birrell said that these people were caught out by changes to the skilled migration rules but the Immigration Department had unwisely told them they

could continue to apply for residency.

"Now that demand for migration is tapering off a bit they are obliged to deal with these applicants," he said.

"They are filling up their quota with these warehoused applicants, that's why we're getting so many cooks."

Dr Birrell said it was ridiculous to say that Australia had a highly skilled migration program. "The program has a life of its own and it's continuing at very high levels notwithstanding the sharp downturn in the need for skilled migrants," he said.

According to the department's 2012-13 Migration Program Report, the skilled migration system focused on migrants to help fill critical skill needs, particularly in regional areas.

This included almost 50,000 places nominated by employers and state or territory governments, and 44,000 in the skilled independent category.

There were more than 114,000 applicants waiting to be processed for skilled migration as of June 30 last year.



According to news.com.au, more than 8000 cooks got permanent visas in 2012-13, followed by 5700 accountants, 2160 software engineers, 1550 IT business analysts and 1500 hairdressers.



Thousands of International Students fear visa cancellation- Many Nepalese likely to get affected

Thousands of International students currently studying in Australia fear their visa cancellation due to failing to comply with Australian immigration's rules on Stream line Visa arrangements. Recently, many international students have received an email from Immigration Department saying they have breached condition 8516 attached to their student visa because they have switched from a SVP course to a non-SVP course. The immigration Department has given them 14 days to respond. If no satisfactory answer is received within 14 days, their student visas can be subject to cancellation. The situation is very urgent because most international students are now on vacation and may not even be aware that they have received such an email, let alone respond within 14 days.

Condition 8516 requires international students, while holding their student visas, continue to meet the original criteria, under which their student visa



Condition 8516 requires international students, while holding their student visas, continue to meet the original criteria, under which their student visa was granted.

was granted. Originally the condition 8516 was designed to stop international students from changing education sectors without reapplying for a new student visa. Streamlined Visa Processing ("SVP") arrangement was introduced in March 2012 in order to reduce the visa requirement evidencing burden for those international students who are enrolled in an eligible higher education provider, typically universities. Recently many international students

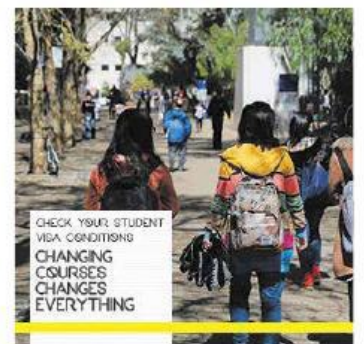
have come to Australia under SVP arrangement and then changed to a non-SVP course or to a lower ranking diploma course. Immigration Department are very concerned about that.

Immigration Department have suggested the following three options for students who want to leave a SVP provider <http://migrationblog.immi.gov.au/2014/01/14/changing-courses-changes-everything/#comments>:

Transfer to another streamlined

institution: Remain in her current SVP course and apply for a new student visa (after completing six months of her principal course) with a letter of offer or confirmation of enrolment from the new provider

Depart Australia, request the voluntary cancellation of her student visa and then apply for a new student visa with a letter of offer or confirmation of enrolment from the new education provider.





AECC unites 'THE UNITY'

Popular Nepali hip hop group 'The Unity' is uniting in Sydney for a musical show in April. Band members Sudin Pokhrel aka DA 69, Aidray and Asif Shah are flying in to entertain their fans in Sydney for the show titled 'Naya Barsako Sangaalo with The Unity'. The band has given numerous chart busters over the years but their hip hop number 'she is da bomb' still rules in Nepali music followers.

The show is organised by Hora Hoina Hoina events and sponsored by Australian Education and Career Consultants (AECC).

'Ritu' screening in Australian Gold Class Cinema

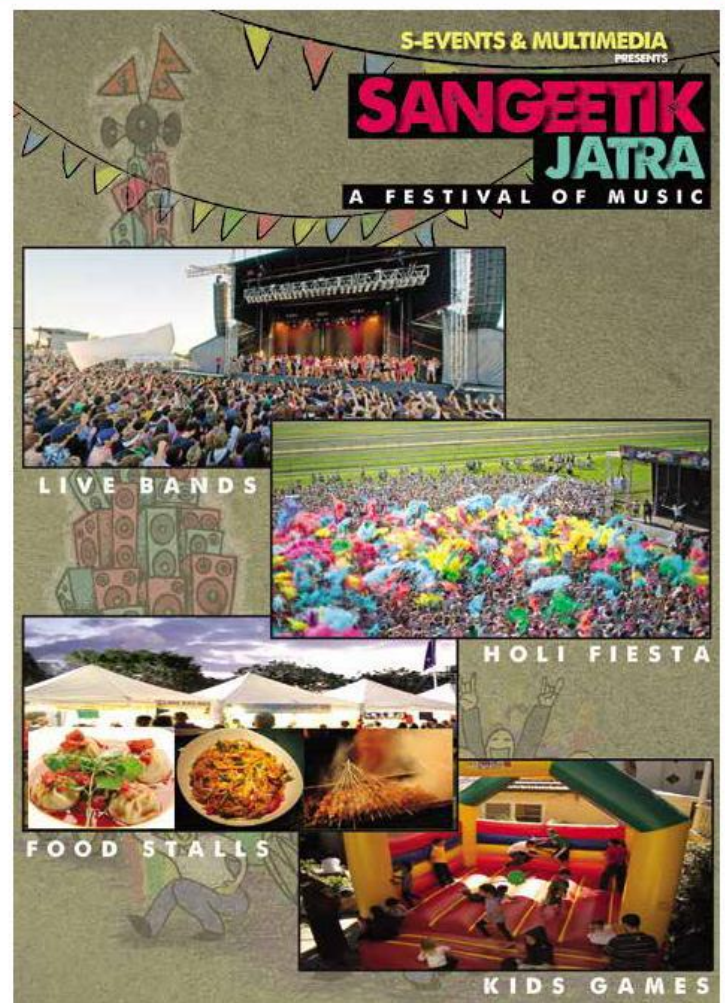
Nepali cinema 'Ritu' is to be screened in multiplex Event's Cinemas Gold Class in March. Two special premieres have been planned in Sydney followed by general screening all states across Australia. A special screening will be held for the artistes and technicians in 7th of March.

With its release, the movie also sets a record of being the first Nepali movie to be screened in Australian gold class cinema.

The movie carries a theme of impermanence of time and how it affects the human relationships. Ritu features mostly Sydney based Nepali artistes and technicians including the director Manoj Adikari, Mana Khatri and Nepali Bulson. Raj Ballav Koirala, Malina Joshi and Reema Bishwokarma are in the lead roles.

Tickets can be bought from:

www.hamrosydney.com.au | www.ticketsnmore.com.au | www.merokino.com



Sangeetik Jatra to rock Melbourne in March

After bringing bollywood's top musical figures like Udit Narayan and Lucky Ali in town last year, S-Events and Multimedia is organising another rocking event Sangeetik Jatra in March. The event will coincide with hindu's one of the most significant festival of Holi. This time around S-Events is planning to present

local musical talents and some prominent artistes from Nepal all on one stage.

According to Sunod Shrestha from S-Events, the program will mainly focus on the local artistes but by the popular demand some big musical names are being brought from Nepal. He said "we are aiming to give our community something that they have never experienced before. This will be the first time in the history of our community events where the wide range of musical genres will be performed on one stage. Sangeetik Jatra is a musical procession that will have Nepali folk, modern, rock and even the reggae be performed within the show."

Tamang Society Victoria to organize a picnic on Sonam Lochhar

On the special occasion of Sonam Lochhar 2850, Tamang Society of Victoria is all set to organize a picnic program- Lochhar Picnic 2850, in Victoria.

According to the organizer, the picnic includes BBQ, traditional food, kids face painting, games, entertainment and many more.

The picnic is set to be held on 16 February, Sunday at Coburg Lake Re-

serve, Conburg, Victoria. Picnic kicks off at sharp 11am that will go on till 4pm, the organizer said.

For more details, aspirants can contact Sajan Tamang on 0431 561 113, Monisha Yonjon on 0433 543 417, Rom Lama on 0413 386 393 or Chit K. Lama on 0402675035.

Nepalese Recreational Club elects executive committee in Sydney



Nepalese Recreational Club (NRC) has held its annual General Assembly on 1 February, Saturday, in Sydney electing its new executive committee for two years. Expressing a deep gratitude to the players and volunteers of recently held Inter States-Tournament, the assembly elected a new executive committee for 2014 to 2016 under the presidency of Jabin Shrestha. The committee also comprises

of Anjana Oli and Mohan Neupane as Vice president, Sanita Maskey Pradhan as General Secretary, Sanju Roka as Secretary and Janak Pandey as Treasurer.

Sugandha Wagley has been elected as Vice treasurer and Sponsor Coordinator. The assembly also appointed Umesh Panta as Public

Relation Officer, Bhupendra Chudal as Cultural Coordinator, Kishor Acharya as Sub-Coordinator.

Similarly, the meeting also nominated various sport coordinators as Hemanta Bhatta for Badminton, Subarna Sharma as Sub-coordinator of Badminton, Gyandutta Pokherel as Coordinator of Golf and Dilli Koirala as Sub coordinator of Golf. Likewise, Dilip Bharati as Coordinator of Tennis, Prabin Man Singh as Sub coordinator of Tennis, Kuldeep Pradhan as Coordinator of Table Tennis and Rabin Rayamajhi as IT Coordinator. The assembly also elected nine members for the executive committee as Anju Shrestha, Sabhi Hamal, Rajan Khatri, Anjana Singh Shrestha, Himanka Subedi, Bushnu Limbu, Pukarman Pradhan, Ashok Oli and Birendra Kumar Shrestha. Addressing the program, newly-elected NRC president Jabin Shrestha said the NRC will keep on organizing various sports competition and other programs in a bid to hand over art and culture to the successive generations. Huge numbers of Nepalis living in Australia, sport lovers including others were present at the program.

Dachhiri Sherpa: The only Nepali athlete to compete in Winter Olympics



Dachhiri Sherpa is the only Nepali athlete set to compete in the upcoming 22nd Winter Olympics, scheduled to be held in Sochi, Russia, from February 7-23.

This is not the first time though that Sherpa is competing in the Winter Olympics, as he had also participated in the 2010 edition held in Vancouver, Canada.

Sherpa, who is currently preparing for the mega event in France, will represent Nepal in the 15-km open cross-country ski race, Nepal Olympic Committee (NOC) said recently.

According to NOC General Secretary Jeevan Ram Shrestha, who is also President of Nepal Ski Association, Sherpa was selected for the Winter Olympics on the basis of points he had accumulated last year in various international ski tournaments recognized by the World Ski Association.

Nepali Cricket team back to square one after NZ tour

When Nepal cricket team left for New Zealand to participate in ICC World Cup 2015 Qualifiers, there was a lot of enthusiasm among fans and the cricketers. But as the team returns home, the jubilation level has gone down, following a string of losses in the tournament.

The Nepali team not only failed to qualify for the Super Six round of the tournament, but also faced defeats in five consecutive matches. Nepal was ranked ninth before the tournament began, and finished in the same position by the time its campaign ended.

Nepal faltered in all departments of the game, despite having earned the reputation of a fighting unit in the recent tournaments it played.

The setback is also attributed to lengthy preparations for the World Cup Qualifiers. Nepal began its preparations for the campaign after the World T20 Qualifiers. They participated in the Journey to World Cup tournament, right after landing in Nepal. After that, they left for a 10-day training session in Sri Lanka, where they played against Sri Lankan clubs. They left for New Zealand two weeks before the qualifiers.

Another former captain Pawan Agrawal says exhaustion and injuries to the players could be due to lengthy schedule of the players.

Nepali players have hardly had rest for a week in the last seven months. The four-day holiday the team got was during the festival of Dashain.

Had Nepal qualified for the Super Six round, it could have earned a spot in intercontinental and four-day international championships of ICC. Finishing in the top four would have earned it an ODI status.

Since ICC is hinting toward restructuring global cricket, the future of Nepali cricket is uncertain. Nepal has now come back to World Cricket League Division 3, following a brief stay

in Division 2 (The qualifiers were also regarded as Division 2 championship as it could not be held before the World Cup Qualifiers).

Nepal was no longer considered an underdog as it was enjoying an upper hand against other members -- UAE, Hong Kong and Canada -- of the group, while Scotland was considered as its biggest obstacle.

Nepal had not lost its previous two matches against the UAE and had remained undefeated against Hong Kong since 2000 in the 50-over format. As Canada, having prior World Cup experience, was sliding downward recently, Scotland was the only team that posed a threat to Nepal's ambition. The result has proved that other teams were ready to face Nepal with rigorous preparations.



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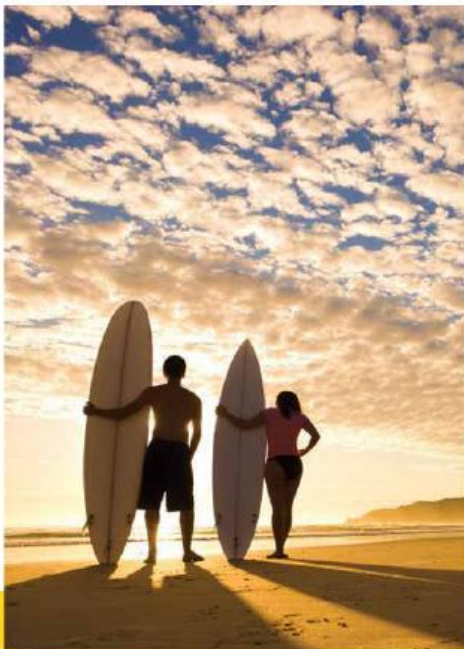
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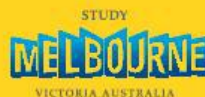
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