



Bhutanese Annual day in Adelaide

South Australian parliamentarian Zoe Bettison has expressed happiness over the progress Bhutanese, resettled in South Australia, are making so far.

She was addressing the annual gathering of Bhutanese who celebrated their fifth year of arrival in Adelaide from Nepal. The first Bhutanese family under resettlement program arrived Australia on May 12, 2008. Bhutanese in South Australia mark the day as annual settlement day every year with cultural and other activities.

This year, they celebrated the day not only with cultural activities but turning the event into special occasion to honour volunteers who contributed so much for the settlement of the newly arrived families. They include volunteers from both within the Bhutanese and wider communities. It was the special occasion to recognise their endeavour towards progress of the fellow community members.

According to Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia (BAASA) more than 90 Bhutanese volunteers were honoured for the help they extended to newly arrived migrants.

Over a dozen volunteers from non-Bhutanese communities, who extended support to Bhutanese in early days of their arrival, were also honoured. Similarly BAASA awarded appreciation certification to agencies and institutions, who supported the newly arrived Bhutanese immigrants.

City of Playford, City of Salisbury, City of Port Adelaide Enfield, Australian Refugee Association, Migrant Resources Centre of South Australia, Society of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service (STTARS), Lutheran Community Care, Anglicare SA, Northern Volunteers, Radio Adelaide, Multicultural Youth SA, Twelve25 Youth Enterprise

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BYG speech at the citizenship ceremony

Honourable Minister *Mark Butler*, Members of Parliament, Mayors, Uncle *Lewis O'Brien*, Department of Immigration and Citizenship officials, representatives from the Service Providers, all other distinguished guests and my elders, brothers and sisters from the Bhutanese community in Adelaide

It gives me immense pleasure as I speak on behalf of the Bhutanese community in Adelaide on this sacred occasion to express our gratitude for Australian government and the Australian people for giving us this identity. Today is a very special day for all the members of Bhutanese community not only those in SA; perhaps not even only in Australia.

I am Neeru Khapangi. 19 years ago, I was born in a refugee camp in Nepal to stateless parents. By birth, I was stateless, identity-less. Bhutan was a fairy-tale when heard it at aged five. A tender mind could rarely imagine what forced my parents leave the country and live as refugees.

For 15 years, I wondered for identity. I had listened to the stories from seniors about denial to job, and any other opportunities for personal progress. I leave it up to you to decide what life was with 200 grams of rice a day, without shelter, clothes, higher education and job. And without iden-

tity.

After 19 years struggle of search for identity, I am overtly happy today that my dream has been realised today.

I can speak my language but forgot to read and write. Being the second language, I am very poor in English and don't know Dzongkha, Bhutan's national language. That's the darker side of my linguistic identity. I grew up without wearing my cultural dresses. Chabandi cholo and fariya look antiques for me. As I learn to live in society heavily influenced by individualism and consumerism, I have begun to feel my rich culture, family and societal bonds, love, affection, respect and sense of brotherhood in collective living are gradually becoming fragile.

Australia has given me right to culture and language. But they have become secondary as I struggle here for livelihood. And I am fighting amidst these confusions to seek my social, linguistic, cultural and personal identity. I will continue to fight until I realise this.

This is not just the story of Neeru Khapangi but of whole new generation of Bhutanese community. Young and tender minds of Bhutanese Youth Group have come up with all these sentiments, aspirations, enthusiasm and commitments for search of our identity. Thank you Australia, you have given us legal identity. Bhutanese in Australia are indebted for this. This reinvigorates energy within us to com-

mit ourselves to the service of this nation. Australia, we will not forget your support

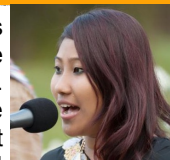
and faith given to us. I strongly believe no one should be compelled become a refugee in this world.

Today, Bhutanese Youth Group expresses gratitude to DIAC who coordinated this special event. MRC provided us physical spaces for our planning and helped us with other stationeries, LCC helped us with computers for our community members get ready for citizenship tests. We are very thankful to them. This is special occasion for us to express gratitude to all organisations, councils and agencies such as Salisbury and Playford Councils, Australian Refugee Association, Anglicare SA, Migrant Health Services, St Vincent De'Paul Society, Baptist Care and many others, who provided support to Bhutanese for settlement in the last five years.

BYG is also grateful to Ratan Gazmere, who guided us for this special event. Without him, this occasion would not have been possible. BYG appreciation also goes to *Ms. Dil Kumari Karki* for her involvement in organising the cultural item on display today and cultural performers.

We are also thankful to elders of Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia who guided us and encouraged us for many social and community activities.

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Sydney

विगतका वर्ष भैँ यसपालि पनि ब्याकटाउन सिटी काउन्सिलले २५ मेका दिन ब्याकटाउन महोत्सवमा भुटानीको उल्लेखनीय उपस्थिति रहेको देखिन्थ्यो । “यसपालि परेडमा भाग लियौ र प्रदर्शनीमा हाम्रा सांस्कृतिक सामग्री प्रदर्शन गर्छौं, आउने वर्षहरुमा अझ व्यवस्थित तरिकाले महोत्सवमा हाम्रो सहभागिता रहने छ ” Association of Bhutanese in Australia (ABA) Sydney का अध्यक्ष डा. ओम ढुङ्गेलले बताउनु भयो ।

विविध भाषिक, सांस्कृतिक तथा धार्मिक पृष्ठभूमि बोकेका समूहको सहभागिता रहेको उक्त महोत्सवमा परेड कार्यक्रम गरी नगरको केही भागमा परिक्रमा गरिएको थियो ।

भिन्न सांस्कृतिक पृष्ठभूमि बोकेका समूहलाई हातेमालो गर्दै र एकअर्का बीचको संस्कृतिलाई सम्मान र जगेर्ना गर्दै लैजानुपर्ने सन्देश दिन नै वषेनी महोत्सवको आयोजना गरिन्छ । कार्यक्रममा सांस्कृतिक भेषभूषा, खानाका परिकार तथा अन्य दैनिक उपभोग्य वस्तुको प्रदर्शनी र बेचबिखनको व्यवस्था पनि गरिएको थियो ।

Hobart

Bhutanese Community Association of South Tasmania (BCAST) organized Inter Community One-Day Soccer Tournament on May 2. This tournament aims was to strengthen friendship and interaction between the communities in Hobart.

A total of 4 teams (Hobart BCAST A & B, Launceston Bhutanese, Hobart Congolese) took part in the event. Launceston Bhutanese won the trophies in additional time after the tie in the stipulated time. Hobart Congolese became the runner.

The event was sponsored through Tasmania Community Fund and supported by MRC, Multicultural Council of Tasmania and Local MPs.

BCAST in collaboration with MRC also organized info session for Bhutanese on techniques of keeping warm and reduce power bill in winter. The event, held on May 25, was facilitated by Sustainability Living and was attended by 30 community members. MRC had organized info sessions on cultural transitions and healthy living for Bhutanese in earlier weeks.

Melbourne

Parsuram Sharma-Luitel, a Bhutanese community leader in Victoria, has called on Prime Minister Julia Gillard and handed over presents on behalf of the Bhutanese community.

He presented multicultural DVD and photo album, Bhutanese national flag and Bhutanese handicraft Bangchung to PM Gillard

On the occasion, Luitel also conveyed thanks from Bhutanese community to Gillard and the Australian Government for resettling the exiled Bhutanese, and reported on the progress they made in the last five years.

Gillard in response, said, that her government has made some nation-building long-term policies announcements, which would help migrants to be inclusive in the Australian society.

Organizers of the morning breakfast Mohammad Masood and Farrukh Hussain, President of South Asian Community Link Group (SACLG) - Australasia Inc, had invited selected community leaders from multicultural backgrounds. Around 80 people attended the function.

Other guests included State Member of Parliaments and former ministers, elected councillors from the municipality of Wyndham, Hume, and Whittlesea, multi-faith leaders, People of Australia Ambassadors.



VacancyAnnoucement

The Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia (BAASA) provides a broad range of support services to the Bhutanese community in South Australia. BAASA is seeking to employ two part-time Project Officers – Youth Project to work with young people from Bhutanese community providing direct and practical guide to them for positive living and involve them in creative social activities in addition to advocacy and referral (in relation to addressing their problems). This position also includes relevant networking with the mainstream service providers and work closely with Angilcare SA to involve Bhutanese youths in various activities run by Anglicare SA.

The positions are part time (half-a-day per week) with interest to do few more hours as volunteer.

The person we are seeking will have proven knowledge related to youth issues, counselling techniques, related laws and case-work skills. The applications must be submitted by 23 June 2013. Short listed candidates will be notified for interviews. Written applications addressing the selection criteria (pleaser refer to the last section of the job description) together with 2 referees need to reach

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Buddha Jayanti marked in Adelaide and Hobart

The Bhutanese Ethnic School and Seniors' Program jointly held cultural programmes marking the 2557th birth anniversary of Lord Gautam Buddha in Adelaide of South Australia, Saturday.

The celebrations started with a Buddha mantra chanting and ritual performance, lightening of 108 candles by lama, Bhutanese seniors and guests followed by different cultural dances. Dances, songs, drama, and poem recitation were part of the celebration coordinated by Narad Dahal, Puja Gurung and other volunteers.

Bikash Dhamala presented a brief introduction of Lord Buddha, his teachings and, inspired everybody in the hall through well researched inspirational quotes. The Bhutanese Glowing Youth Club (BGYC) served audience with

momo as a part of fund raising culture.

program of the school. Prakash Dhamala, principle of the school, moderated the programme attended by over 300 Bhutanese.

Speaking at the program Ms Mary Ceravolo, who coordinates Seniors Program, thanked the organiser for conducting such program and encouraged the Bhutanese to preserve and promote their

Founded in April 17, 2012, the Bhutanese Ethnic School in Adelaide has been running Nepali language classes every Saturday for over 70 students under 18 years of age. The school is registered at Ethnic School Board of South Australia.

Bhutanese in South Tasmania also marked Buddha Jayanti on May 25.



Bhutan Updates

अप्रिल २३ मा भुटानको माथिल्लो सदन नेसनल काउन्सिलको चुनाव सम्पन्न भयो । ६७ जना उम्मेदवार बाट जनताले २० जना सांसद छानेका छन् । राजाले पुरानै पाँच जनालाई सो सदनमा नियुक्त गरेका छन् ।

पहिलेको सदनमा रहेका मध्ये १५ जना पुन लडेकामा ६ जना मात्र जिते । नव निर्वाचिन सांसदहरु २६ देखि ४९ वर्ष सम्मका छन् । ८ जनाले स्नातक गरेका छन् भने ११ जनाले स्नातकोत्तर अनि १ जनाले विद्यावारिधि । ट्रासिगाङका सोनाम किंगाले सबै भन्दा बढी मत पाए भने गासाका सांगे खाण्डुले सबै भन्दा कम । नेपाली भाषा बोल्ने २ जना विजयी भए । ४५ प्रतिशत मत खसेको थियो ।

नेसनल काउन्सिलको चुनाव सकिए पछि तल्लो सदन नेसनल एसेम्ब्ली चुनावको गर्मा गर्मी सुरु भएको छ । चुनाव आयोगले घोषणा गरे अनुसार रुपमा नेसनल एसेम्ब्ली चुनावी प्रकृया अप्रिल २९ मा सुरु भएर जुलाई १३ मा सकिने छ ।

चुनावमा भाग लिनका लागि पार्टीहरुलाई मे ५ सम्मको समय दिइएको थियो । सो दिन सम्ममा पाँच पार्टीले दिएको निवेदनका

आधारमा चार पार्टीले मात्र चुनावमा भाग लिन पाउने भएका छन् ।

पहिलो चरणको चुनावको लागि चुवानी प्रकृया मे २९ तातिक सकिने छ भने मे ३१ तारिक मतदान हुनेछ । यसमा जनताले उम्मेदवारलाई हैन पार्टीलाई भोट हाल्ने छन् । देश भरिको मन संख्या गणना गरि सके पछि सबै भन्दा बढी मत ल्याउने २ वटा पार्टी विजयी हुने छन र दोस्रो चरणको निर्वाचन हुने छ ।

मढी मत ल्याउने २ वटा पार्टीले पहिलो चरणको मत परिणाम आएको

१० दिन भित्र देशका ४७ वटै चुनाव क्षेत्रको निश्चित उम्मेदवारको नामावली चुनाव आयोगमा बुझाउनु पर्नेछ । अनि दोस्रो चरणको चुनावी अभियान जुन १२ तारिक सुरु हुने छ । अभियान जुलाई ११ मा सकिने छ र १३ का दिन देशभर मतदान हुनेछ । मत परिणाम जुलाई १४ मा सुनाइने छ ।

यसरी नयाँ चुनावको मिति सार्वजनिक गरे पछि पुराको सरकार विघटन भएको छ । राजाले प्रधान न्यायधीश सोनाम तोबगेको नेतृत्वमा चुनावी सरकार गठन गरेका छन् । चुनावी सरकारमा ओम प्रधान, कार्मा उरा, पेमा थिन्ले, नेतेन जाङमो, छेवाङ रिन्जिन र थिन्ले दोर्जी छन् ।

डुक फुन्सुम छोकपा, डुक न्यामुप छोकपा, डुक चिर्वाङ छोकपा र पिपल्स डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी चुनावी मैदानमा उत्रिएका छन् । डुक न्यामुप छोकपाले चुनावी अभियान थिम्पु बाट सुरु गर्नु भने हरुले पुनाखा बाट सुरु गरे । पुनाखा पुरानो राजधानी हो । पुनाखाबाट चुनावी अभियान गर्नुको अर्थ राजसंस्था प्रति आस्था प्रकट गर्नु पनि हो । पार्टीका शीर्ष नेताहरु जिल्ला जिल्ला भ्रमणमा छन् । उम्मेदवारहरु गाउँ गाउँमा जनता संग भोट मागिरहेका छन् ।

निर्वाचित सांसदहरु

बुमथाङ: निमा (२२६४ मत)

छुका: पेमा तेन्जिन (६९९५ मत)

दागाना: सोनाम दोर्जी (८२२५ मत)

गासा: साङ्गे खान्डु (६०३ मत)

हा: छिरिङ दोर्जी (१८६६ मत)

लुन्से: तेम्पा दोर्जी (३१९३ मत)

मोङ्गर: सोनाम वाङ्छुक (४८२१ मत)

पारो: काका छिरिङ (२४२२ मत)

पेमा गासेल: जिग्मे रिन्जिन (५१८४ मत)

पुनाखा: रिन्जिन दोर्जी (३४४९ मत)

साम्द्रुप जोङ्खर: जिग्मे वाङ्छुक (५२१३ मत)

साम्ब्री: साङ्गे खान्डु (९९०७ मत)

सर्भाङ: धन बहादुर मगर (४१३१ मत)

थिम्पु: निमा ग्याल्सेन (२२५० मत)

ट्रासीगाङ: सोनाम किङ्गा (११२१९ मत)

ट्रासियाङ्से: टासी फुन्सो (३२२६ मत)

टोङ्सा: थार्चेन (२०८३ मत)

चिराङ: कमल बहादुर गुरुङ (२३८१ मत)

वाङ्दु: टासी दोर्जी (५८४८ मत)

सेमगाङ: पेमा ड्राक्पा (२४१३ मत)

Interstate soccer

Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia (BBASA) is organizing Second Bhutanese National Soccer Championship – Adelaide 2013 this July.

The event will be held from 4-7 July in Burton stadium owned by Football Federation.

This is the only event of the Bhutanese community held at national level in Australia. The first championship was organized by Brisbane in July 2012.

The team from Adelaide dragon won the tournament and agreed to host the second tournament in Adelaide.

The tournament will bring nine teams from five states. The possible teams are from Hobart, Launceston, Sydney, Albury, Melbourne, Cairns, Brisbane and Adelaide.

Community members, private companies and government agencies have extended their hands to organize the event.

BAASA Grants

BAASA has received a grant from Department of Communities and Social Inclusion to run programs for young people.

A total of \$12,000 is received YouthConnect grants to run activities addressing the gambling and drinking habits among young people. The activities will be run in coordination with Anglicare SA.

One of the major activities of the event will be a theatre show by members of the Bhutanese Youth Group.

BAASA has also received grant from the Salisbury Council for Yuba Sansar radio program. The grant amounting \$980 will be used towards meeting the cost of content generation. Yuba Sansar has appealed the community members to contribute for paying the radio access fees of \$61 per week.

BAASA and STARS have been running programs on raising awareness on civil rights and responsibilities among Bhutanese community members. As part of the program, community members attended workshop sessions on civil rights and responsibilities as citizen, legal rights, discriminations and justice system among other issues.

Community members also visited South Australian parliament and Magistrate Court to learn about political system and court procedures.

Citizenship ceremony

A total of 184 Bhutanese in South Australia received Australian citizenship amidst a special function held on June 16 in Woodville, coinciding with SA refugee week.

The event is believed to be the biggest event of this kind ever held in the state. The event was held under the banner of Department of Immi-

gration and Citizenship and actively coordinated by Bhutanese Youth Group. Ratan Gazmere, a senior leader of the Bhutanese community, mentored BYG throughout the processes.

BYG was directly involved in collecting data from the community, informing the community members to get involved in the ceremony, organize citizenship test preparation for those with low level of English and inviting guests.

VIPs from national and state levels including ministers were invited as guests of the function. Representatives from organizations and agencies involved in supporting the Bhutanese community in the last five years of settlement were also invited to the special ceremony.

The speech delivered by BYG representative at the ceremony is reproduced on page 2.

Ganga and Devika Adhikari busy with Sausage sizzles event at Prospect Bunnings, as part of BAASA fund raising for soccer tournament





Annual day

Contd from page 1

Centre, St. Vincent De Paul Society, Multicultural Communities Council SA, Baptist Care and Migrant Health Services are some of the agencies extending support to Bhutanese immigrants since 2008.

Addressing the gathering Mayor of the City of Salisbury Gillian Aldridge said, "Within a short time, you have learnt the importance of forming close bonds with one another, as well as with your new countrymen and women."

She added, "You have overcome your fears and apprehensions by sharing the challenges and opportunities faced when settling into a new

country, and you have done this by becoming part of our community. She appreciated the culture of volunteering in the community.

Mayor of City of Playford Glens Docherty said, "While becoming an Australian citizen is a wonderful thing, we also appreciate the need and desire to retain your sense of identity and your continuation of your cultural practices and values and I note the contribution that the Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia is making in this regard. He added, "I appreciate how important the Association is and the pivotal role that it plays for you as the sole organisation representing the

Bhutanese community in South Australia."

Addressing the function, chairperson of BAASA Suren Ghaley said, "We are very much indebted to your (agencies and organisations) support and solidarity in making us feel home in this new land, making us feel that we are with our friends and families." The event was streamed live through five social networks: Facebook, Twitter, SoundCloud, Google+ and Youtube. The live streaming was done by Laxmi Adhikari, Pashipati Adhikari, Ram Ghimirey and Bishal Adhikari.

The event was financially support by Playford Council.

BYG speech..... from page 2

As a BAASA auspice team, BYG was and will remain committed to service of the community.

May we now request *Eugenia Tsoulis*, the CEO of Migrant Resource Centre and *Nayano Taylor-Neumann*, Manager of Lutheran Com-

munity Care to come to the stage. And Dom Kafley, who have made selfless efforts for helping our seniors to prepare for citizenship test.

Thank you

(The Nepali version of the speech was presented by Bibas Ghimirey.)

Information from DIAC

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship is aware of rumours circulating in the Bhutanese community that are based on a misunderstanding of Australia's Bhutanese resettlement program. The rumours encourage Bhutanese living in Bhutan to sell their property, move to Nepal and register with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the opportunity to be resettled in Australia. The rumours are wrong and the department warns people not to act on them.

The Bhutanese resettled by Australia are refugees who have been living in camps in Nepal for some twenty years. Only those who face persecution in Bhutan and have nowhere else to go are accepted for resettlement.

Bhutanese who are not refugees and wish to migrate to Australia should apply for a visa in the Family or Skill Stream of the Migration Program. Information about applying for visas is available on the department's website at www.immi.gov.au/immigration/.

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