

Nepalese Sherpa climbs K-2 twice in one season

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ISLAMABAD – Nepalese Serap Jangbu Sherpa earned (31) the distinction of scaling the K-2 summit twice in a year, a feat which places him far ahead of fellow climbers who have made a number of attempts on the 'mountaineers mountain' but still remains elusive to many.

Serap Jangbu Sherpa is a committed soul and very down to earth, he has been on the 8000ers for six times and has four 8000ers to his name. He climbed Shishapangma twice (both Central and Main Peak) and K-2 twice from the Abruzzi Ridge, Kangchenjunga 1999 and Lhotse 2001.

It was work added with the terrain that was known to him when he climbed K-2 with Um Hong Gil in 2000 on July 31 which also marked the end of Um's Himalayan Crown quest.

"I used oxygen above 8,000 metres on both the occasions as I was making the route in bad snow conditions and personally if it had been only to me I would have climbed K-2 with out using oxygen," said Serap who along with his 23-year-old first cousin Passang Tsiri Sherpa made the summit on July 22 at 2:40 pm in which nine climber from two expeditions made the summit.

Serap selfless deeds also include giving his oxygen bottle twice to a climber above 8,000

metres.

Answering a query Serap said, "The Sherpas have a general complaint and the issue has been raised many a time that they are the 'climbers with out glory' doing all the work and not getting the credit.

"I am treated well said Serap who along with Passang took a breather at 2:20 pm (some 10/20 metres below the summit) in



Serap Jangbu Sherpa

which the Spanish climber Jose Carlos Pauner crossed them but the three made the top at the same time at 2:40 pm followed by the Koreans and other members of the Peter Guggemos K-2 expedition.

Twenty-three-year-old Passang has five 8000ers to his name and is coming very strong at the

alpine front as he climbed the five 8000ers in an incredible span of 14 months.

Passang said, "I used oxygen on Everest and K-2."

"I have climbed Everest in May, 2000, Cho Oyu in September 2000 and Shishapangma in October 2000.

He scaled Lhotse in April 2001 and K-2 on July 22, 2001."

Abdul Qadir, a guide with the Korean expedition said, "There were two teams for the summit attack and six Pakistani High Altitude Porters formed the second summit squad but weather on July 22 evening made the second summit bid in possible."

The six Pakistani HAP included Rozi Ali, Muhammad Ali, Muhammad Hussain, Nisar Ali, Hussain Ali and Paco Ali.

All Pakistani HAP reached over 8,000 metres (Camp 4) except Paco Ali who returned earlier from Camp 1, due to fatigue.

Serap also mentioned seeing the Korean Park Young Do taking the fall, he said, "I had seen it for the first time and I was scared, he was a little away from us and we were all coming down from the summit and he slipped with his head in front (a possible fault in taking a step while using crampons) at 8,200 metres approximately and we couldn't do a thing."

The two Sherpas are leaving for Kathmandu on Saturday (today).