Who is a Nepali?

The Congress and UML came up with a progressive Citizenship Bill, but the main opposition got cold feet and smaller parties are warning up tears of an Indian influx.

Bhutan’s other crisis

The presence of ULFA militiamen in Bhutan is stirring trouble in the neighbouring Indian state of Assam and threatens to overshadow the plight of 100,000 Bhutanese refugees in Nepal. Recent Indian intelligence reports suggest that high-level Bhutanese foreign ministers are involved in helping ULFA leadership move in and out of Bhutan and also to pass on money and documents.

Guns ‘n aid

The Ministry of Finance has prepared the draft of Nepal’s new aid policy which lays out the country’s strategy for selecting and using foreign aid. So far, Nepal has a policy but what does it do?

As Nepal’s military imports grow to meet the Maoist crisis, many countries are also one by one supplying guns and ammunition to the Nepalese police and army. An eastern country whose falling aid package for Nepal is now equal to the guns and bullets it sells to Nepal.

BINOD BHATATARI

For years, Nehru in the twin plains with ethnic and linguistic affinity to south India has found it difficult to understand Nepali citizenship. But a law that finally states who is a Nepali is generating a chaotic backlash in Kathmandu. Cases are pouring in.

The law states that all persons born in Nepal on or before April 13, 1962, are Nepalese, and that any child born of a Nepalese father and a noncitizen mother is Nepalese. This has raised concerns that the citizenship law may be swept under the carpet.

Supporters say the bill will bring about a more balanced and democratic society for all Nepalese. But opponents warn that the law will divide the country.

The bill also sets up a mechanism for naturalization and provides for the granting of citizenship to persons who have lived in Nepal for a certain period of time.

The bill is expected to be passed by the end of this month. The government is planning to implement the bill as soon as possible.

Stinking politics

What is the bottom of the garbage crisis in Kathmandu? Nepal Times digs through the rubbish to come up with the stinking truth: politics. The mayor and the minister don’t see eye to eye, local politicians score points by doing the populist thing, storage problems abound. A desperate government ministry has tried to move the stinking garbage by the side of the road.

The government has set up a task force to look into the issue. The task force is expected to submit its report within a month.

50th anniversary of 1950 treaty

Was it coincidence, or planned? Prime Minister Deuba chose 31 July to embark on his trip to India. It was exactly 50 years ago on this day that the historic Indo-Nepal Peace and Friendship Treaty was signed. The treaty with a newly independent Indian was entered into by the late Rana prime minister, Mohan Shyamlal Koirala.

Renegotiating a treaty Nepal thinks is ‘unique’ is one of the points on Koirala’s agenda. The other three: border delimitation started 25 years ago and still ongoing, the more recent Laxmipur barrage and anything in between, Bhutanese refugees to the Special Additional Duty affecting Nepalese imports to India, and the large British-built Koshi river dam.

Before the visit, Koirala said he was keen on solving the 178-km open border. “It is impossible for Nepal to close the border,” he told The Times of India last week. “But if India wants the border fenced, we have no objection. It will also serve Nepal’s interest.”

Koirala will have to appease India’s increasing security demands—including a recent proposal to extradite of Nepalis or foreigners committing crimes in India for trial. This is a heavy bilateral baggage and it has begun to gnaw at Koirala’s resolve. His itinerary includes a dinner at the Indian prime minister’s residence.


And if there is a single nation that has any future, it is the Himalayan nation, which is one of the most integrated and peaceful nations in the world.

The move comes as Nepal has made strides in economic development and modernization.

The government is working closely with the United Nations and other international agencies to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for national integration and development.

The new law is expected to be implemented soon.
The enigma of distance

India and Nepal are close because they are close. India and Nepal are also distant because they are close.

The balance between dependence and independent is always a tricky one in any neighbourhood, but there is a second part to this particular paradigm. Separate nations need reasons for separation, and language and culture have been considered sufficient denouncers of identity and nationalism.

Of the nations of South Asia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Maldives are overwhelmingly Muslim, Sri Lanka and Bhutan are Buddhist-majorities. There is cultural and demographic overlap with India, but all five can claim an identity that is distinct in India's recollections. Nepal is not only predominantly Hindu, but a Hindu state. In fear of being sucked into a larger idealism is heightened by what is common between India and Nepal. The geographic trap turns fear into dread.

Access points are through India, for the North is blocked by the Himalayas. Most of the problems between India and Nepal belong to the world of imagined fears. There can be no other explanation for their enmity.

Mention Indians in Kathmandu and you tread on a contingency combination of need and sentiment. As you walk, one foot steps on a kernel of demand for the other. The second on an agonising sentiment that recalls wounds felt by Lord L. E. H. Balfour ambassadors. Of the latter breed, the foot, Sir C.P.N. Sinha, steps on Jawaharlal Nehru, who now carries mystical turns.

There was everything wrong about him. He was lashed gentry from Bihar, not the favourite region of the Nepalis, pampered his host country, and apparently decided that its foreign policy would be better served if left to him. Other essays have made different mistakes, the most notable one being that they expected party in behaviour, that is, they assumed a party.

Politics complicated an already difficult problem. The leaders of the Nepal Congress, who fought against the Rana and ushered in popular rule, worried about accepting premiership because of their long association with the democratic movement in India, and the great B.P. Koirala made it a point to sideline the great Jawaharlal Nehru when the latter stepped into embrace into a square.

Nehru famously asserted that aggression against Nepal would warrant more than just the number of airstrikes has increased in Nepal, encouraged by some overflow of Muslim from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar into the Nepal plains. But it is abundantly clear that the US is supportive of or that the Nepalese government is under the inescapable grip of instability.

Nepal, to return to our opening metaphor, is simply too close to India to be close to anyone else. Forget about India's interest in a moment, this is not in Nepal's interest. If General Musharraf became leader of Nepal, he would have no option but to balance India. Similarly, irrespective of which party is in power in Delhi, Nepal is too important for India to ignore or domesticate.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala insists that he is visiting India on a "goodwill" tour. One assumes that there is nothing in international relations called a "harmful" man. It is, although one cannot be sure.

Even the Kathmandu intelligentia, not the forefathers of India's well-wishers, has begun to see the disadvantages of a foreign. Which other country can be living in the investment, and technology, that fits in with Nepal's needs?

China's friendship is more political than economic, weighted by its need for Nepal's recognition of Tibet as a part of China. Pakistan's relationship with Nepal is a more complex, friendly, as a base from which to strike India. There is no depth in other equation.

Of course there will be graces when the neighbours talk, this Nepali will complain about the help that the Moro who have taken control of at least five districts get from Bangladesh instead of India. The Indian side will have its own list of woes and worries, not the least of them being the ISI and Pakistan. There is a difference between talks between civil society groups and a peace process between Prime Ministers. India and Nepal need a shared vision for the next fifty years, and the moment to address the contents of that vision has arrived. Prime Minister Vajpayee and Koirala must leave the past to the history, present to be historicised, future to the future. * <br

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**EDITORS**

**GUEST COLUMN**

led by M. J. AKBAR

**PARTNERS, NOT PATRONS**

In donor countries, the cynical definition of foreign aid is the flow of money from the poor in rich countries to the rich in poor countries. In the recipient countries, there is an impression that donors send their rich to live like colonists on the namesake of poverty.

Both views are exaggerations, as most generalisations are. And like all generalisations there is an element of truth in both. The challenge is to find out what is wrong and set it right.

Donors have their own priorities, and it may be a little hard to accept, but there is very little that recipients can do about it. Donors have not finally started to realise that now, after they have paid for the voices to be paid through their voices for utilities that supposedly came in the form of "soft loans" and bilateral grants. There is no attempt to attach technical assistance for project financing, and Nepal found out too late about them.

Having a policy in place, however, is quite different from getting it honestly implemented. Donors, long used to having their way, will need some convincing. Our own elite has benefited immensely from aid by passing the buck to donors whatever there was a blacklist. They will not be very happy about these meddlesome guidelines.

There is little doubt that substantial resource transfers from rich to poor countries are still needed to help alleviate poverty and save the global environment. But if it goes on like it has, the flow of easy aid money will increase dependence, erode self-help and foster corruption.

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**CITIZEN NEPAL**

Citizenship is a contentious issue in India-locked Nepal. You are bound to feel insecure when there are a billion people living south of an open border. The fear of being swallowed up is so latent in the Nepali psyche that opportunistic politicians of every hue consider it worth their while to whip up jingoism.

Machismo, the people from the plains, are at a particular disadvantage due to complex citizenship procedures. Ethnically closer to the people from across the border, they are not deemed to be citizens unless they have a certificate to that effect. It's Catch-22, they won't get a certificate because they are not considered citizens, and the entire burden of proof lies with them. For the State, they are stateless unless they prove that they are not stateless. But they can prove they are not stateless unless the State grants them the certificate stating that they have a state.

Under pressure from its own MPs, the Nepali Congress realised that it had to do something about it to face increasing electoral threats from the Sudhakar Party in the latter. They drafted a bill that greatly simplified the procedure of obtaining a citizenship certificate. It sailed through the Lower House because it sought to do what every political party has been doing from its election manifestos, but not doing anything about for the fear of antagonising extreme nationalists.

Opposition parties opposing the bill in parliament this seems too liberal to have liberal laws implemented strictly as strict laws implemented liberal. Citizenship should not be confused with nationality. Living in a multi-ethnic nation state. Doing so is bound to encourage expressions of nationalism.

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**THE ENIGMA OF DISTANCE**

India and Nepal are close because they are close, India and Nepal are also distant because they are close.
**LETTERS**

**NOVEL KISHORE**

I never visited Nobel and his family in Berlin. I don’t want to be a parasite, I avoid friends’ residences and offices while I am in their courtesies of residence.

But many common Nepali friends of Nobel and mine did, bringing upon their return of the great fun they had at the Nobel residence. Nepalis are great freeholders and take advantage out of people, especially if it’s a high place in foreign lands.

I just wonder where our mutual friends who repeatedly enjoyed the Nobel hospitality or themselves to the extent that they silent to defend Nobel Kishore, his wife and children! Is there any way to repay their kindness? Don’t they have any

**BEING FAIR**

Congratulations on your second issue enjoyed in particular your editorial on Nepali relations as well as your coverage of the Kamala issue. What I liked less was Monica Chander’s coverage of Sunita ‘Sunita’ strived to be ‘fair’ as opposed to ‘objectivity’. I wondered what sort of message these ‘fair’ as opposed to ‘objectivity’. I wondered what sort of message these artists like this put across. Are we all to want to become ‘fair’ and ‘objectivity’ from now on, knowing that those in whose name we are trying to be fair in not leading lives of comfort and leisure, tend to be darker-skinned. Shosh Upadhyay Katmandu.

**ONTA**

As someone who annotates credit-toting in general, I was embarrassed to read the option under the photo in “Emergency relief for free kenegage” (K2). As one of the most of the Kamala, I dharma site. I invited and entered several speakers. I did not make any speech myself. Dill N. Chaudhary, member of the Kamala Mutual Aid Society, had set up a dharana to manage the dharma in Kathmandu a few days before the kamagimageUrl arrived in the capital.

It was in only in this way that we were able to contribute to the kamagimage’s search for freedom. My own participation came as a member of the Citizens’ Forum.

Pratapchandra Mani Chauhan

**MORE TIMES**

As you said that you received so many newspapers to choose from, a few must stand out and I hope you can fit them in ‘Nepali Times’ (K2). But it isn’t too much ‘Nepali Times’’ (K2). But it isn’t too much

You said you would protect your interest in Dood. Please test our present daily consult lawyers makes what

Independence really means to us Nepal.

Sayed A.B. Malla Katmandu.

I am glad to read you your newly launched newspaper. I hope you take a part in a way in Nepali journalism and carry the spirit of Nepali people into the 21st century.

Dil Bahadur Barot

London.

Congratulations to Himalagia for your new venture, Nepali Times. I hope you will not only take pride of Nepali politics. Others we also like to hear good news about Nepal. Produce not too many internet readers, and give us full independence.

Surendra R. Devkota

New York.
As the latest air crash proves, CFT (Controlled Flight into Terrain) has now emerged as the deadliest acronym in Nepali aviation.

It is during the monsoons, when clouds hide the mountains, that those flights are particularly treacherous.

"While being flown in by Nepali, rookie pilots are warned not to go into clouds because they have made it in them," a pilot said.

Pilots need to be extremely cautious, especially when they are above the assigned altitude for the current sector or when deviating to avoid weather. As the record shows, there is almost no chance of surviving a CFT, and in most of the accidents everyone on board has been killed.

"During the monsoons, you better know exactly where you are and how high you are allowed to be," said one veteran Nepali pilot who stood in line with DC-8s in the 1960s.

"There is no room for error when flying as the Himalayas is an unforgiving terrain."

It is when pilots are operating properly on new routes, or when they do not follow guidelines for course/heading and altitude that there is danger of slamming into a mountain. Or, in some cases, a contributing factor is that overloaded planes are not able to maintain proper climb rates.

Pilots are extra careful at Nepali's non-instrument airports like Lukla, Phaplu or Dolpa, which is like flying on an aircraft carrying a sleeping bag. Ironically, very few crashes have occurred at those airports, and when there are mishaps, there haven't been fatalities.

The aircraft in cruise or while descending to land that planes have most often flown into mountains. The Niran Air crash that killed 15 lives in 1989 was a CFT.

**CRASHES OF DOMESTIC FLIGHTS ATTRIBUTED TO CFT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Flight</th>
<th>Aircraft Type</th>
<th>Altitude</th>
<th>Result</th>
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<td>Pawan Air</td>
<td>Twin Otter</td>
<td>High altitude</td>
<td>29 dead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1999</td>
<td>Skylight Airways</td>
<td>Twin Otter</td>
<td>High mountain</td>
<td>10 dead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1999</td>
<td>Niran Air</td>
<td>HS 748</td>
<td>Himalayan terrain</td>
<td>15 dead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1998</td>
<td>Pawan Air</td>
<td>Twin Otter</td>
<td>High altitude</td>
<td>1 dead</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Haran Air</td>
<td>Twin Otter</td>
<td>High altitude</td>
<td>18 dead</td>
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<td>Airbush 220</td>
<td>Himalayan terrain</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1998</td>
<td>Pawan Air</td>
<td>Twin Otter</td>
<td>High mountain</td>
<td>15 dead</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**St. Xavier's at 50**

St. Xavier's School in Kathmandu, started by American Jesuits with the motto, "Live for God. Lead for Nepal," celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. But half a century and nearly 3,000 graduates later, it is becoming apparent that Xavierians have not shown a great enthusiasm for leading Nepali, nor are they as a group particularly religious.

Except for one Xavierian who fought and lost a seat in the 1991 parliamentary elections, there is virtually no one from St. Xavier's who has entered the tumultuous world of Nepali politics.

Fr. Lawrence Meryan, the current principal of St. Xavier's, is a candidate for the 1991 parliamentary elections. He says the school's system of education equips its students to be men of character who live for others.

And there is no place in politics for such a man.

Fair enough. But if the school's graduates are indeed so upright, then the Nepali politics and judiciary could certainly use more of them.

Achala Gajure is one of the very few Xavierians who has dipped his toes into the waters of Nepali politics as a leftist student leader during the Panchayat years.

He says, "St. Xavier's was a perfect rosary garden. We only saw the real world when we came out of school. And that was perhaps one of the reasons why we couldn't do as well in politics."

One Xavierian who became a powerful behind-the-scenes figure during the Panchayat is

King Birendra's private secretary, Chiran Thapa. He says St. Xavier's graduates were groomed to be professional doctors, engineers, journalists.

"And for 20 years, we had a different kind of politics. I have no doubt that with democracy, we will see Xavierians entering the fray," Fr. Casper J. Miller, former principal of St. Xavier's, says.

"For God's sake, you know how your conscience. This is precisely what Nepali needs political Xavierians who follow their conscience."

But if the school hasn't turned out political leaders, a list of illustrious names reads like a who's who of modern Nepal in other fields.

St. Antony Brokotala, Nepal's foremost bone specialist; Prabhakar S.J.B. Rana, Managing Director of the Shrestha Group; Urmila Joshi, research analyst in particle physics at Fermi Labs in Chicago; Pranav S.J.B. Rana, Chief of Army Staff; Bishal Dutta Koirala, founder of the Nepali Press Institute, Shyam Bahadur KC, the editor of the Kathmandu Post, the list can go on.

St. Xavier's today has changed much so that the founding fathers would barely recognize it. The boarding school at Godawari has been turned into a school for local children, the day school in Jawalakhel has gone co-educational. There are branches in Chapagaun, and the staff is now made up mostly of Nepali teachers and Indian Jesuits.

During the early 1950s the Nepali elite was pushing to put St. Xavier's in Patan in search of better education. All that travelling became unnecessary after King Tribhuvan requested the Patna Jesuit society to open a school in Nepal.

They agreed and Fr. Caspar Miller, the first of the Jesuits to come to St. Xavier's at play in the field of the school.

St. Xavier's School English School in Kathmandu, and the school has a student body of 900. With 38 new pupils enrolled in Grade One.  

**St. Xavier's at 50**

A NATION TIMES ANALYSIS

Another plane, another heartache, a quest on a steep mountainside. Another news bulletin that begins. "There were no survivors when a Nepali flight disappeared into a mountain..."

It follows a well-pleached trail: the grief, the task of picking up the remains, the terrible wait for grieving relatives at the post-mournful ward of the hospital, the condolences, the flowers in the week's papers with pictures of the youthful crew in uniform. A tragic investigation. The report of the Civil Aviation Authority year later that batters "fearless aviators."

How long can this go on? There is no doubt that something is seriously amiss about flying in Nepal. That was evident after the double tragedy in the monsoon of 1992 when two ATRs, 320s crashed into the mountains while preparing to land in Kathmandu with two months at each end. A total of 270 people were killed.

The planes went either seriously off course or below the assigned altitude. A radar was installed after the crashes. Yet it didn't prevent the crash of a cargo jet in last year. The reason, according to the investigation report, was that there was no one on the radar controller when the plane took off because of a change of shift was waiting place.

Nepal's domestic aviation is now suffering four accidents every year. Nearly all of them are technically called "controlled flight into terrain" (CFT), which means that a perfectly good plane suddenly descends into a mountainous area during poor visibility.

Nepal is one of the most mountainous countries on earth, and flying here is regarded as challenging at the best of times. Among most domestic air routes, the terrain ranges from 1,000 to 2,000 meters within a horizontal distance of merely 20 km.

"A Royal Nepal Travel Centre during a trip randomized at Dhulikhel airport concludes travelling mountainous."

A PROVINCIAL ANALYSIS...
Navigating in Nepal

Due to remotisation, many aviation systems of Nepal's domestic airlines are underdeveloped, or don't have back-up systems in case the main equipment fails. Minimum Equipment List (MEL) rules are quite useless. In a situation where an operational cockpit weather radar sometimes becomes a luxury, adding a highly sophisticated piece of equipment like an Enhanced Ground Proximity Warning System (EGPWS) may be lethal. There are also questions about whether this expensive piece of gear would be feasible, because pilots may tend to ignore it after a while because of false alarms.

A whole other dimension to air safety is ground navigation radio. Most Nepali airports do not have even the simplest beacons. Although nav-aid experts now have control systems to give weather information. Even important way-points like Janakpur and Biratnagar which lie on major international air ways out of Kathmandu don't have functioning navigation aids.

The non-directional beacons (NDB) at Banepa and Janakpur which have not worked for the past three years, and have also hampered domestic flights to the two airports in bad weather.

Nepal, there is an almost blind attitude about accidents. It is mostly blamed on dark rain. Where air safety planners should be looking at ways to minimise COTV risk.

There is talk that the government is considering making it mandatory that airlines install the Enhanced General Proximity Warning System (EGPWS), a sophisticated piece of equipment that gives a pilots a

Eco-tourism policy

The country's 18 protected areas are soon going to be managed using area-specific tourism policies. Tourism experts have already drafted individual policies for the Bardia National Park and the Keolanchogiga Conservation Area which will deal mostly with tourism management and development.

Besides, Nepal's first fossil park in Chitwan has been set up by 1972, none of the national parks and conservation areas established since have been guided by an appropriate plan.

According to an official at the Wildlife and National Park Management Department, the new policies will grant executive authority to park warden and encourage community-based tourism to provide alternative employment to people living around the protected areas.

The guidelines are likely to be welcomed by conservationists who have long been decrying the uncontrolled exploitation of national parks by tourism entrepreneurs. "The short sightedness of the park authorities in pushing the conservation area to degradation and breaking the community's confidence," says a tourist expert.

Records show that half of the 50,000 or so tourists coming to Nepal visit one or the other conservation area. In the country. The new policies are expected to stop overexploitation of the accessible parks and conservation areas and help explore the tourism potential of the others so far neglected by the tourism industry.

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Dictatorship of the majority

Shyamprakash粗 30 July
The Nepali Congress and its government do not discuss anything in the parliament, do not accept changes in any bill suggested by the opposition, do not listen to the opinions, advice, criticisms or comments, and do not care for the welfare for the country. This was revealed when the Nepali Citizenship Act (Sixth Revision) was passed by the supremacy of the majority on 26 July. Proof that the bill is not in the interest of the country is the fact that it had been returned by the Upper House. Citizenship law has been passed by the House of Representatives unanimously in 1971. The Upper House has retained it on the grounds that the majority thinks it can be revised. To revise a mistake is a small thing; it would have been wise to correct it. Human feelings can occur anywhere. Sometimes, one does not see their faults, but others can point them out.

Sikkimising Nepal

Kamlay (bended labourer) family at the concerned. The signs together spell the Nepali word for “Freedoms” - Khol Pashupatinath 31 July 2000

Women should not be given property. If property rights for daughters is established, they will turn against men.

—Taranath Renabah, Speaker of the House of Representatives ruling on UML MP Kamesh Panl's demand that the Property Rights Bill under considerations in the House be passed in this session itself. Quoted in Radio Nepal, 30 July

Sikkimising Nepal

Justice to 25 July
Despite opposition from the Nepali people, the Nepali Congress used its majority to pass the anti-constitutional Citizenship Reform Bill in Parliament on 26 July. This bill reunites Nepal into a Sikkim-like state, which the Nepali people see as a step towards the restoration of the old state or the making of another Feud. On 13 July, the parliament passed the bill without opposition. Two days later, the Minister for Citizenship responded to the bill and sent it back to the House of Representation. If such an anti-constitutional bill is to be passed in the constitution of the kingdoms, it will be the end of the Nepali freedom. The Nepali people demand that the constitution of the kingdoms be changed to include the rights of the minorities. The bill is a sign of the Nepali Congress' attempt to Sikkimise Nepal.

Monetary Business

Gangsakha, 30 July
The farmers of Raute and Nawalbari districts are growing rich by driving away their own enemies, the monkeys, to the Bandhan forest in the northern end of Khadak Valley. The farmers are suffering huge losses due to the ravaging monkeys which destroy crops and damage harvest. The “Chase the Monkey” campaign is to be coordinated by the Board of Social Reform Collaborative and is being sought from the Bandhan Municipality, village development committees and local people.
Rubbish politics

"Unless politics is taken out of garbage, and garbage is taken out of politics Kathmandu's waste problem will never be solved."

NEPAL TIMES

The disputed claims on the Indian border bunds tell one truth: someone is lying

Bunds, dams and lies

The disputed claims on the Indian border bunds tell one truth: someone is lying

Nepal's flood control embankments and off-bunds are often closer to the border, within 500-800 m and 6500 ft from two border pillars. India's right afflux bund is located well within Indian territory, and the alignment of the afflux bund is more than Laanya Perimeter (see box) at every point. (The barrage and the embankment are not immemorial, although there are eight Nepal villages located between the embankment and the Rapti River.) Nepal: The embankments obstruct natural drainage from high ground towards the lower reaches. India: This is the case of a local drain at Sainauli, but says a "free drain" is under construction. Nepal: The Narmadabarwa Barrage, of which the bunds are part, has been built within 5 km of the border. India: It is 8 km away and that the submergence it causes is within Indian territory. Nepal: The barrage has obstructed the flow of the Rapti River to 200 meters at the border, leading to black-flow India. The barrage is a structure for storing non-monsoon flow and not a storage reservoir. Since the barrage is not yet operational, the question of submergence does not arise. Nepal: These points were raised at the Standing Committee on Irrigation Problems (SCP), but they were ignored by India. India: A few villages in the Khotang District have been flooded by floods in Nepal. Nepal: India flooded the town of Bhojpur, and the river has not yet reached any of the villages. There has been no response from India to this for so far, although the Nepalese embankments on the Mahakali (Bhagirathi) in India are being built to protect Nepal villages which happen to be on the other side of the river. The Indian Embassy's position was not mentioned in the Nepean Times. If there is any one example of where geophysical and empirical hydrology exist, it is in the Indian Embassies press statement on Laanya Perimeter. Nepal Times has got the following explanation for Laanya Perimeter. The Perimeter is the 2697 Q. It is based on a constant coefficient design equation to approximately define cross-sections of critical stream at downstream section. Nepal developed this method on Indian canals in the Punjab during the course of which a field data was collected by narrow range (200) sediment transport area, exclusion of bird material transport, and sediment size. It is not applicable to all stages of flow for, and also neglects the importance of the natural function of chenier banks in placement of sediment. The parameter which controls the flow in this case is the cross-sectional area and velocity of discharge. If there is a decrease in the cross-sectional area, then the flow velocity will decrease, and if there is an increase in the cross-sectional area, then the flow velocity will increase. In this case, the flow velocity will decrease, and if there is an increase in the cross-sectional area, then the flow velocity will increase.
Calculta strike ends

The Indus-Nepal Traders and Traders Association (INTTA) has ended its 15-day strike which had held up Nepal-bound imports at Calcutta port. The strikers were protesting against rates which cargo clearing agents—taking advantage of stock imports—had managed to bargain down. A strike by the same groups about six months ago, had disrupted Nepal-bound imports for three weeks, when the INTTA and Nepal Cargo Clearing Agents Association had agreed on a 25 percent increase in cargo transport rates.

Exports continue to rise

Nepal-Rasch Bank says exports grew by 4.4 percent in the first ten months of Fiscal year 1999/2000 to Rs. 47.1 billion, up from Rs. 43.9 billion in the corresponding period last year. Imports grew by 27.3 percent to Rs. 78.8 billion (51.24 billion). The total trade deficit reached Rs. 46.1 billion. The deficit with India grew by 5.8 percent to Rs. 15.7 billion while that with other trading partners grew by 16.5 percent to reach Rs. 30.3 billion. The central bank said that export earnings could match 23.5% of imports. The total foreign reserve in mid-November (11 months) was Rs 91.76 billion, which was enough to sustain imports for 10 and a half months.

The figures for ten months (up to mid-May) show that readymade garments did the best in the overseas export category (Rs 11.6 billion) by surpassing the 10-month total of last year (Rs 9.57 billion). Vanaspati ghee—hydrogenated vegetable oil—still tops the list to India even though there was a 25.8 percent decline compared to the 10-month total of 1998/99 (Rs 2.37 billion). Woolen carpet exports remained at about the same level as at Rs 8.1 billion.

Return of Dragon Air

Cathay Pacific subsidiary Dragon Air is negotiating to resume flights to Nepal in September, industry sources said. The Hong Kong-based airline used to have twice-weekly flights via Dhaka until it canceled in 1989 when a low fare tariff dispute with the government. The airline will fly the Auckland-Singapore-Beijing route via Hong Kong. The limited flights will mean the airline will bring a further 430 people a week to Nepal flying direct from Europe.

More Taragon shares

Taragon Royalty Regency Limited (TRHL) plans to issue more shares to cover cost overruns. The Rising Nepal reported. Accordingly, shares worth Rs 185 million are to be offered only to existing shareholders. The cost overrun is attributed to expansion of hotel size—from 271 to 300 rooms and investment in interior design. It is learned. The paper said, quoting Director, Surendra Pali Lall Shrestha.

The hotel had sold preference shares worth Rs 80 million and ordinary shares of Rs 120 million last year. The promoters are said to have understood Rs 135 million worth of shares for the new issue. TRHL's promoters are the Taragon Development Board, the Shimul Group owner of Yaka and Yelt Hotel, and the ITC group, which has interests in banking, insurance and infrastructure projects. The Asian Development Bank has equity participation in the Rs 2.84 billion project, which is signalling a "soft opening" for time the autumn tourist season that starts in September.

Grimod's Gazette

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<td>2 - 8 AUGUST 2000 NEPALI TIMES</td>
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ECONOMIC SENSE

Save shares from the tax axe

If you are one of those peasants who thinks that the Nepali economy is a big black hole, rate heart in the optimism of the share markets. In the land of the holy bull, Nandi, the stock market is firmly a bull’s best friend at the moment.

"How else do you explain that shares for a hotel that is yet to start operations commands such a high price that investors are finding a risky item? The logic of giving an opportunity so existing shareholders to buy yet more shares that Nepal will trade shares command more like loto tickets than as investments. The market is strangely for forms in the issue of shares by another new hotel in Kathmandu shows that in Nepal you can sell ice to an indistinguishable snowman. Your future financial market may be in its states but as long as your offer paper covers it, your issue sells like hot potatoes. The upper share market has made some of us forget that the gradual slump in the markets over five full years has earned millions from share values.

In the absence of opportunities for investment, Nepalis are left with no other choice than diversifying, jewellery or buying the paper properties of new companies. The absence of diligence and certification of the offer papers provide opportunities for many companies to cost the public. How else can offer documents get approved without even providing stocks of financial progress of the company? And the tax return market was launched in 1994, and the Nepal Bank brought in regulations regarding liquidity in the market. Then a few gap share issues in the primary market dealt a blow that kept it regging for many years. Now, just as we are being蜂ed to help, the market has come up with novel ideas to keep Nepal’s capital market down.

The proposed new Income Tax Act seems to assure that the market is starting enough to be treated with a tax on shares and stock mixing and stock trading. Taxes are proposed on capital gains made on the sale of shares as well as on dividend income. The fact that somebody can be made to pay tax on shares inherited in one’s family, wonder what kind of people are making policy. The absence of tax on capital gains and dividend income was a major incentive for foreign investors. It was this difference that neighbouring countries that attracted the local investment so far to Nepal. The tax法 seems to want to return to the ground: anything good that comes happening to the economy.

Why is there so much fuss to collect tax? Rs 7 billion a year?

Why so much energy to realize money that is worth less than 10 paise in Dubai? Million billion get paid under the table. Companies and business people are at mercy of "tax-phirna" and the cost to the economy is more than what is collected. It may be time to ponder abolishing a holing. The gains from transparent business and disclosure by companies would be worth more than the revenues that are collected now. The capital market, on one, would have a boost in the short run and also provide long-term stability.

Readers can post their views and driven issues at arthiajeto@icr.org

INTERNATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR NEPALI TIMES

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Aquatic Theme

"Aquaculture" boiled water is produced in accordance to international quality standards. Not much in modern state of art plant maintained boiling hot by proper conditions.

Please check with our standards.

Aquatic (Nepal) Private Limited,
P.O. Box: 3032, Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone: 10048, 350041, 432306

"Aqua Fruity" boiled water is produced in accordance to international quality standards. Not much in modern state of art plant maintained boiling hot by proper conditions.

Please check with our standards.

Aquatic (Nepal) Private Limited,
P.O. Box: 3032, Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone: 10048, 350041, 432306
Nepal's water wealth doesn't just mean hydro-electricity any more, it is also bottled drinking water.

Not just bottled consumer packs, today even the 20-gallon water packs have become a common sight at every local office, cantonment and hotel kitchen.

manager of Trika-Pi claims it is the widest selling brand. There are which bottlers, water that has been fed to the people in their drinking water.

Bottling water sounds simple: find a source, bottle the water and sell it. But it is more complicated than that: the source needs to be analysed for purity, a sterile bottling plant has to be set up, the workers need regular health check-ups, removal of nasal and oral infections and regular hygiene training.

An average investor assumes existence of a source of drinking water needs to put in much as Rs 600 million, but the net market today has less than companies which began with investments as low as Rs 50 million.

In an industry that closely guards its sales figures, it is hard to compute performance. Sanjay Dugar, Managing Director of Aqua Miners Ltd Nepal, says: "We are a large player in the market, but a respected one. We go quality."

Sanil Malla, national sales

Times
AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE
IN HAPDCOPY

Nepal's water wealth doesn't just mean hydro-electricity any more, it is also bottled drinking water. Available worldwide.

Aqua 100 1liter Rs 15
1.5 liter Rs 18
720ml Rs 10
Bubly
Bear 1liter Rs 15
LA 100 1liter Rs 12
Ml Peak 1 liter Rs 15
Thirst P 1.5 liter Rs 15
Today 1liter Rs 15
Yes 1.5liter Rs 18

The ketchup
The world loves.
Now in Nepal.
No preservatives.

For further trade inquiries contact:
E-mail: biokindness@nepal.com
Page: 0772 205 671, 980 207 8390

heinz
1824

tomato
tomato
ketchup

The world loves.
Now in Nepal.
No preservatives.

For further trade inquiries contact:
E-mail: biokindness@nepal.com
Page: 0772 205 671, 980 207 8390
ANDREAS HEMMING

Is dear, parent crazy, but still love is. When teenagers go shopping, they aren’t happy with just one brand. It has to be this make of jeans or that make of shoes. When it comes to choosing shoes, only Nike will do, while if it’s a jacket they wear, it has to be a Tommy Hilfiger.

Concerned parents tend to react with perplexity: has the youth of today grown so inconsiderate? Are they so brainwashed by slick advertising campaigns? One thing is certain: nowadays children and adolescents in the developed world have a lot of spending power. According to a recent study carried out by the Institute for Youth Research (IYF) in Munich, approximately two-thirds of all teenagers regularly receive an average of about 130 dollars per month from their parents.

Add to that another 60 dollars worth of cash birthday gifts from various relatives and the same amount again as Christmas, and it is no wonder that in 1999, this age group spent a total annual “income” of 2.4 billion dollars, an increase of five percent over 1998.

Older adolescents boost this figure considerably through part-time work. The IYF claims that the 15 to 24-year-old group earns a total of 68 billion dollars a year.

The advertising and retail industries long ago identified adolescents as a lucrative target group. They do not focus on teenagers alone—junior school pupils also have an increasingly important say in what their parents buy when they are shopping. “Children are increasingly fatter and are allowed to spend money on their own as an earlier age,” says Ingo Bartholic from the market research institute Infratest & Youths in Munich.

“When they are buying very expensive items, the mother will accompany the child to the shop but she isn’t buy anything the child doesn’t want.”

Clothes are the root of many a family argument. “With trends changing so quickly, parents tend not to be very understanding when it comes to satisfying their children’s whim and fancy,” explains Bartholic.

Anyone who grew up in the Seventies and was used to wearing a pair of Levi’s for several years on end cannot understand why teenagers feel they have to bring out something new every five months.

On the other hand, Bartholic cannot understand why parents are often increased by teenagers’ whims when it comes to picking out a pair of trainers. “It is completely normal for children to be so brand-oriented,” he says.

Maristone Rolf says: “Growing up is all about defining one’s own identity.”

The process inevitably involves comparing and copying others. “To feel belonging in a certain group, you need distinguishing features,” she explains, and that is where trendy brand names come into play.

Says one Muñoz-Schürig, a psychologist at the Institute for Youth Research, who believes it is quite normal for children to want to distinguish themselves from both younger children and adults.

“It would explain some teenagers’ predilection for fashionable items such as M- brand ‘Corona’. The teenagers in the family drink Killimanjaro while the father prefers a traditional lager. Also typical is adolescents’ tendency to want to ‘break the rules’, as researches into youth behavioral patterns describe the sudden desire, for example, to have themselves pierced. This also serves to shock the teenager’s parents.

As they find it more and more difficult to distinguish themselves from adults, adolescents often adopt extreme tastes. Impractical platform shoes or unnecessarily wide flares are among the relatively harmless manifestations. Of equally great importance is the need for involvement with one’s contemporaries. “That starts with ‘Tendenz’, says von Muñoz-Schürig. “Any child who hasn’t seen an TV what his friends have seen will feel left out of the conversation and will quickly assume the role of an outsider.”

The older the children, the more important is attached to what their friends and other children think of them, particularly of their clothes. The wrong jacket can become a source of considerable embarrassment.

Adolescence fashion is not decided by the key industry and advertising agencies alone. “Some brand names used to be known only on the music or dancebands scene,” says Bartholic, “and now they have become popular without much of a marketing campaign.”

And fashion does not necessarily have to be expensive, as witnessed by the success of the Swedish clothes chain, H&M. When parents can no longer afford to indulge their children’s fashionable whims, it is important they assert themselves and ask their children if they think their desired purchase is really absolutely necessary, advises Maristone Rolf.

TOMMY HILFIGER

GAP

Refrigerators.
Two young Nepali artists come of age with breath-taking exploration of identity and space.

The theme is art and the project of that dark Truth. The Bhairon mask represents an internal experience. The symbol of the divine protector becomes a metaphor for the projected inner self which can either be false, evil, good, wise or a beholder of the truth. This experiment reverses the traditional symbol, the deliberate use of red mask, commissary with the black (to symbolise the artist’s self), represents the true self reflected by the ‘mouthless’ mirror.

An interesting exhibit of Sujan’s red brick gallery space is explored through the use of colour to mark canals and directions and the placement of stones on the panels that form parts of the ‘whole’. The artist also experiments with the technique of the ‘crescent’ and ‘crescent’ is the use of photographs and the use of contemporary materials.

Another exhibit of Sujan’s interesting works, titled “Which one shall I wear”, had a man lying on a glass table propped up by four beds, the mask of nine colours atop the glass representing the natures (the nine avatars of the mask, according to classical Indian tradition). A friend of the artist said, “He is like a fool” when he looked into the “Room with a View”, an exhibit that takes you back to the past of childhood through a recurring memory—a paper boat—and even invites you to look inward through the fractured images of yourself in the mirrors and through the mask that turns back at you.

In varied themes, drawing from history, myth and contemporary life, give the exhibition an added dimension. The first exhibit, titled “Fish, Pyramid and Sex,” is an aquarium-topped brick pyramid with the sound of the sea in the background, combining early Christian theme (the fish associated with both Christ and bio-history) with the pyramid as a symbol yearning to reach God. Another exhibit, titled “Are you the betrayer: The Last Supper,” has 11 “Named” reuler made of different materials, with Christ represented by an empty gold frame covered with stones. The exhibit is complete when the viewer places his face in the empty frame (making him the last disciple). The question then follows: “Is he the betrayer?”

Sujan, on the other hand, says, “It is not the end product that matters, but the process, the process in which I develop a relationship with the surface, material and the subject.”

The exhibition is filled with the creative energies. Pain and in front of the mask and the string rope with beans, and placed on each panel.
Imagine no computer

Perhaps our computer-heavy culture actually does more harm to our work than good.

NEROPE MILLS

He will probably be called backward and old-fashioned but Lachung, but Mingma Oza, the mayor of Lhasa in Tibet, doesn’t care. In a bold and highly unpopular move, the head of the town’s municipal offices has just imposed a one-day-a-week ban on the use of computer equipment at work.

In our hi-tech modern world, mobile and email are like self-indulgent torture. To most of us, seeing our computer screen as work means feeling disconnected from the smooth running of the office. But perhaps Oza is right. Perhaps our computer-heavy culture actually does more harm to our work than good.

After asking a handful of people to join them a daily computer diary at work, it is seeming to work just fine with Oza. A database software user who spends most of his days glued to a screen relayed part of his day:

9:30am—Eating lunch with a strong coffee before running up and checking emails in anticipation of some funny forwards to amuse me through my first half-hour.

9:30am—Headphones go on. MP3 player is activated so I can listen to music while working at peace through a report document in Word.

11:30am—Causal surf of the internet to find details of last-minute bargain flights for my summer break.

2:30pm—Email attachments from friends start arriving. I have my work cut out playing with them and ensuring they are forwarded to appropriate departments. Gems include a “How rauyly are you in boll” joke, the obligatory David Beckham joke and a string of cartoons about different nationalities’ willies.

And so on. This wasn’t how it was supposed to be. When computers were introduced into our working lives, they were seen as the key to a hyper-productive workplace. But the promised benefits of increased IT investment have failed to materialize. Theories abound as to why what economies call the “productivity paradox” exists, but most users will admit that alongside computerized privileges come distractions.

Perhaps the unbridled enthusiasm of being stuck in front of a monitor all day begin to take their toll. These days, many computer games come equipped with a “boss screen” that pops up to deter probing zero. Such in-built paranoia is there for a reason.

India’s internet matchmakers

Suresh R. — How does a Hindu living in Delhi find a bride belonging to Kumaon in the eastern state of Bihar whose surname or house may be of no point to a common male ancestor? At least educated and well-off Indian lonely hearts are now getting a helping hand from the Internet in finding a life partner.

“There are so many parameters that it can take years to find a partner,” says entrepreneur Rohit Tandon, who runs the matchmaking website Jeevansathi.com with his brother Amit.

The site is one of the many cyberspace ventures for finding suitors in India. The others include Matrimonialijob.com and Indiastarematch.com.

Jeevansathi, which was founded six months ago, has registered 20,000 singles, two-thirds of whom are men. The website records 20,000 hits every day. “There are so many barriers to finding a perfect match,” says Rohit proudly of his website. Jeevansathi’s service is free but there is a plan to charge a fee for displaying photographs or the automated provision of information. The profit reportedly came from advertising.

“Marriages are made in heaven. Partners are found in Matrimonial,” is the claim of the website’s name. Advertising to seek a bride or groom is quite common. In cities 90 per cent of the couples find each other through newspaper ad, says Rohit Tandon.

Matrimonial websites mirror a changing scenario. “In newspapers, 90 per cent of the ads are by the parents,” says Rohit Tandon. “And strangers for India in its caste and religious division, one-fourth of the users of Jeevansath are ready to marry a follower of a different religion. For about three-quarters of the customers caste does not matter.

The websites also offer information about party services, beauticians, photographers and marriage consultants and even prime detectives to get the fall background of the future

Acronyms Acru: A new international estimate that American business lose around $100 billion per year to PC gaming.

Likewise, electronic mail has proved a mixed blessing in the workplace. As well as the time-consuming replies to friends and colleagues, experts admit that email exchanges at work are rarely as productive as face-to-face conversations. Interacting via computer involves a completely different set of social rules since people are more focused and honest when they are not talking face-to-face. On the plus side, it can foster the hierarchy and improve communication between different levels in an organization. But there is evidence that people don’t engage properly because computers take away a lot of the characteristics you need for a job to be satisfying.

This feeling can bring problems of its own, claims Sanat. Technical editor of Computer Weekly magazine, describes the experience of being busy doing nothing in front of his PC.

“People tend to be very sensitive when sitting in front of a computer, so it’s easy to find yourself just sitting there wanting something to happen,” he says.

“If you deal a lot with emails, you might be unduly

Assisting one, but actually doing nothing but wondering your thumbs until it arrives.”

Robert Kling, professor of information science at Indiana University and author of Computerisation and Computers, has been debating the productivity paradox for some time. “There has been a dependence promotion of computerisation as almost guaranteeing huge productivity gains at work,” he says. “But the economic evidence doesn’t bear that out.”

Kling adds, “Computer work can be very seductive, which isn’t necessarily a good thing. It becomes a substitute for more active work because people tend to think they can get a lot done online or with spreadsheets or formal typed reports. It has the allure of making work seem easy when it actually may be managing less in touch with the realities of their own workplaces.”

His advice echoes Oza’s unpopular course of action. “Turn computers off for a few hours and work in other ways.”

(The Guardian)
ULFA eclipses Bhutanese refugee crisis

The activities of Assamese rebels inside Bhutanese territory threaten to push the plight of the 100,000 Bhutanese refugees in Nepal into further limbo.

A NEPAL TIMES INVESTIGATION

There is mounting concern in India, especially in its eastern state of Assam, over the activities of rebel groups operating from Bhutanese territory and the understand support they allegedly receive from high officials in Thimphu.

For the first time since the expulsion of more than 100,000 people of Nepali origin from Bhutan began over 20 years ago, the Indian government is demanding an end to the rebel activities in Bhutan that it believes are being supported by Thimphu.

According to information leaked by Indian intelligence, a senior Indian government official has informed Thimphu that India is officially taking steps to curb the rebellion.

The Indian government is convinced that the rebel groups are being supported by the Bhutanese government, and that Thimphu is harboring rebel leaders.

In response, the Indian government has informed Thimphu that it will no longer tolerate rebellion in Bhutan and that it will take appropriate action.

The Indian government has also informed Thimphu that it will not recognize any rebel group that operates in Bhutan.

Thimphu, in turn, has assured India that it will take appropriate action against the rebels.

However, the situation remains tense and there is a risk of further escalation.

VACANCY NOTICE

Committed to self-reliant development through the fostering of support for rural women's organizations

Tena, a national NGO, invites applications from visionary, qualified, and committed Nepali women for its leadership position as Coordinator.

The Coordinator will be responsible for providing direction and strength to Tena's ongoing work in the areas of fund-raising, grant-writing, and human rights advocacy.

Applicants are expected to have a strong commitment to the issues of women's rights and gender equality.

Minimum qualifications required:

- Education: University graduate or above
- Ability for organizational financial management
- Excellent communication & public relations skills (both nationally and internationally)
- Experience in organizing development projects
- Experience in leadership roles in non-governmental organizations
- Proficiency in spoken/broken Nepali and English and proficiency in computer skills

Applications are due by 30 September 2002. Tena is committed to recruiting women from underrepresented groups.

Child domestication for Indian officials

New Delhi - The Indian government has barred its senior bureaucrats from employing children below the age of 14 years as domestic servants.

The decision comes as part of a broader effort to combat child labor and promote the welfare of children.

The Indian government has also announced that it will provide financial assistance to families that cannot afford to hire domestic help.

The decision follows a recent report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) that estimated there were 20 million child laborers in India in 1994.

According to UNICEF, 90 percent of child laborers work in rural areas and are employed in agriculture, construction, and domestic work.

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The decision comes as part of a broader effort to combat child labor and promote the welfare of children.

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The decision follows a recent report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) that estimated there were 20 million child laborers in India in 1994.

According to UNICEF, 90 percent of child laborers work in rural areas and are employed in agriculture, construction, and domestic work.

The Indian government has also announced that it will provide financial assistance to families that cannot afford to hire domestic help.
A coalition for universal values

By HARIYAN

Leadership through better performance.

More LDCs

New York - The world's least developed countries (LDCs) are increasing in number despite 20 years of international efforts to break them out of aid-dependence and debt.

Of today's 48 LDCs, 33 are in Africa, nine in Asia, one in the Caribbean and five in the Pacific Region. Botswana is the only country to ever be removed from the list. India said, and according to the UN, Senegal, Congo and Ghana meet criteria to be added to the list this year among serious dependence on their economies.

The number of LDCs has been rising dramatically at a rate of approximately one per year—since the international community in 1971 recognised the existence of this category of countries.

Although LDCs constituted about 10 percent of the world's population in 1997, their share in the world's input was only 6 percent and in world exports 0.4 percent. These represent declines of more than 40 percent since 1960 and are a testimony to the increasing marginalisation of LDCs. (IPS)

Greens attack Global Compact

New York - Human rights and green groups denounced the joint project by the United Nations and the private sector in which a group of multinational firms pledged to respect human rights, labour rights and environmental standards.

The agreement—an-called Global Compact and signed last week at the UN headquarters in New York—incorporated corporations that had violated these principles and was seen as cementing the standards of the UN, the coalition of non-profit groups charged.

The international grouping—formed by organisations from Uruguay, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Brazil, India and the United States—said the collaboration is "threatening the mission and integrity of the United Nations."

Project participants like Nike, Shell, BP Amoco, Rio Tinto Pic and Novartis had in the past shown a lack of respect for human rights, labour standards and the environment, they claimed.

The non-profit coalition includes the Third World Institute in Switzerland, the Transnational Institute and Greenpeace International in the Netherlands and several institutes in the United States dealing with globalisation and policy studies (IPS).

Gypsies want nation status

Prague - The main body representing Europe's 12 million Gypsies wants the Roma (Gypsies) people to be considered as a separate, territorial nation, and says it will back this up with its own "founding" parliament and embassies in various countries.

It is the first time that the International Union Romani has made such a demand for international recognition since it was founded in London this decade ago.

The organisation's fifth world congress concluded in Prague last week with the presentation of a wide-ranging plan aimed at creating better living conditions for Europe's fastest-growing minority and increasing the Roma's power to lobby governments which affect them.

In 1993 the International Union Romani was granted the status of non-governmental organisation of the United Nations Special Committee on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of National Minorities, but the congress document is its most significant political statement so far.

Seán Hazelett, one of the conference organisers said the time was long overdue to address one of the main Roma problems of the last 20 years—non-recognition of its nationhood by the international system and granting states to existing ones.

US to miss greenhouse gas target

Washington - The United States is unable to meet the legally binding greenhouse gas reduction target it accepted at the Kyoto climate conference in 1998. Unless Europe gives way and allows the US unlimited rights to trade internationally in so-called "carbon credits," it will not fulfill its "large fraction of its obligations," US under-secretary for global affairs, Frank Loy, said.

Countries can offset domestic carbon emissions by planting forests, buying credits from countries which have fallen below their own limits, or by helping to build clean power stations in polluting countries. But only one of these can start the ball rolling in any way out of its domestic obligations.

The booming US economy of the 1990s had pushed up carbon dioxide emissions by 12 percent on 1990 levels. To achieve the reduction of 7 percent on 1990 levels by 2012, as promised at Kyoto, it would have to get emissions 30 percent below the projected level.

"We have not a snowball's chance of doing this unless we use the full complement of carbon offset mechanisms like carbon market credits," Loy said.

The earth does not care where the carbon dioxide comes from. If we get more carbon cuts for each dollar in Kenya or China than the earth benefits more.

"There is only a certain amount of money available for climate change and we have to make the most of it," Tony Juniper of Friends of the Earth said. "The US is doing sticks with arithmetic rather than deal with some of the fundamental problems of unprofige of fossil fuel." (Guardian)
After five decades, Nepal is finally asking what it is we want from aid

BIDRO BHATTARAI

Baggish can't be choosers, in the way Nepal has looked at foreign aid for the past 50 years. And that was the way aid had been given to the very early US, Soviet, Chinese or Indian aid programs as handouts. Things may at last be changing so that Nepal can see foreign assistance more as a partnership, and less as charity. The government kept an important promise made last year at the first ever meeting with staff of a new Foreign Aid Policy. It was released three days before the end of the fiscal year, essentially close to the government's self-imposed deadline. It doesn't make any earth-shattering revelations. And for a country that is almost completely dependent on aid, it doesn't overly criticize aid or call for more aid. Nor does it go for the jugular by attacking aid utilisation and effectiveness. The Ministry of Finance (MOF) seems more concerned about regulating and controlling aid flows than ensuring its efficient use.

Like all reports that are published in a hurry, the content is general and full of holes. But at least Nepal now has a “Policy”. The recommendations include:

- Local auditing of donor-funded activities
- Transparency in fund transfers through INGOs
- All approvals as finance, government of aid transfers
- Donor-funded official activities to be reflected in budget
- Ministry of Finance to be focal point for all donor contact

As a country where donors and diplomats have become used to not necessarily datrequently asking for aid, the document may not mean much in the short term. It followed faithfully, MOF officials say it is impossible to succeed without monitoring and evaluating the efficiency of foreign aid.

Nepal's release of aid on a schedule-leveled: 60 percent of this year's budget depends on foreign grants and loans. The 12th five-year plan (2010-2015) allocated 10 percent of GDP to the sector. Nearly 45 percent of the money Nepal gets as aid is used for projects up to US$ 40 million annually.

The problem with aid is well known in its donor-driven, fragmented, projects are bubble-baked and decentralised, projects are funded and de-allocated. At least it is now dependent and at worst much of it never gets to target beneficiaries. Why, otherwise, after US$ 4 billion worth of aid in the past 50 years would Nepal be as poor as it is now?

The country's donor-led democratization has led to the growth of a new sector in an area that has always been plagued by low-quality health care, inadequate housing, and food insecurity. The government is trying to regulate aid flows to NGOs. But, it could also mean visualization of genuine grass-roots development groups. The Foreign Aid Policy at least articulates a sort of a "mission statement" for what aid should achieve in Nepal: self-sustained high economic growth and self-reliance to mobilise resources needed in finance development.

The intent to carry out our work is also what they should be enhanced transparency, accountability and accountability and accountabilities, donors need to be as much as facilitators and less as듬. The policy is to define priorities, although the one in development needs more like a wish list than a realistic investment.

The document also recognises a well-known problem in the foreign aid business that this goal, the "capacity building," in the MOE's words. "Extensive dependence on foreign aid... and the change of the recipients in turn... is what the NEA has... to total institutional capacity." The Ministry of Finance is one entity that should understand how to use foreign aid to the maximum advantage.

A typical NEA aid officer is not paid 80 percent of the budget to pay foreign consultants, 10 percent for projects vehicles (main consultant's Jeep) and only the remaining 10 percent for actual operational activities.

"We want to retain and use as much of the money as possible for the intended purposes," says a Nepali aid official. "This is not happening now, and worse, the technical assistance projects tend to be non-performing."

An emerging liberalization policy funded by the US government in the early years is still ongoing. In the beginning, the project did provide valuable advice on how to set up Nepal's nascent stock market, and how to privatize state enterprises. Even Finance Ministry officials are not sure what the project is doing, or even who sees it.

Such "AIDs" can be found in every government ministry. Vehicles with blue plates in ministry parking lots not only how many donors may be working to build our capacity. Today, technical experts are even attached to NGOs.

"We now have to prepare terms of reference for consultants, report writing, even to tell how to make our "AIDs," an MOE official said. The question is: do we really need them?" Nepal may not be able to respect "AID's" outright since it is high on the donor agenda. "AIDs" can be very high, as in the case of one NGO, where almost 35 percent.

"We have not been consistent. We have different ideas as we never had a policy before," says

Financial Minister Mahesh Adhikari.

The government discussed the draft with donors on 25 July. Only the World Bank came prepared for the meeting with written comments. Others commented on specific areas, but seemed less prepared, according to sources.

Overall, the Bank praised the government's effort but did have some "frank and sincere" comments. It said making a results-based expenditure framework would help bring all public aid inside the budget envelope, which could encourage donors to move away from the general practice of financing new investments and not recurrent costs.

"Our main concern was about the missing link in the policy for getting from policy to action," it said in its Draft Updraft to the Regular Aid Specialist on the World Bank.

Not all "AIDs" are bad, said one donor pointing to the GTZ-funded Dakshina urban development. But another GTZ-funded EA for solid waste management has not gone well.

Several donors raise questions about priorities, pointing that the policy was infrastructure-driven and ignored the social sectors, such as female education.

The government took in policy to various political parties and expatriates and NGOs. Most participants didn't look like they had read or were interested in the draft policy, they just listed critically as the speeches started.

Among the first day comments, Radhith Thonglak, the FinMin's head economist, pointed out that the document should be "shorter and more focused."

One of only two women at the discussion, Anu Rana Thapa, was more forthcoming. She questioned what some donors were not respond to questions about contributions to different projects for listing in the government budget. "We need to make donors pay the TA costs through their administrative costs," she said. "They cannot factor them in the money that comes as aid."

Guns 'n aid

The government's draft aid policy does not even attempt to explore the emerging relationship between trade and the aid is now at war.

When British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook visited Nepal early this year, his main concern was the impact on aid flows. Although he did not mention British aid or other bilateral agreements directly, he did point out that "development is a two-way street." The British were highlighting the need for countries to pay for their own aid, whether through the aid itself or the cost of its implementation and delivery.

"We need to take that seriously because countries often and are not able to pay for more for purchases from donor countries than what they get in aid," Cook said. "Aid is not cheap. Nepal has committed to about US$ 6 million last year, and will pay further. But last year Nepal purchased guns and ammunition from Austria with US$ 50 million, which makes the net presence of aid and trade come to about zero."

This year Nepal has more money to buy guns with — the Rs 1.8 billion budget for the proposed Armed Police Force. Why and where does it go?

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Sydney 2000

Not a chance

Asian Athletics Championship

Some hope

Having missed out the last two meets due to internal wrangling within the Nepali Amateur Athletic Federation (NAAF), Nepali athletes are hoping to compete in the Asian Athletics Championship to be held in Jakarta from 25 August. Four athletes will be competing in sprint, middle-distance and relay events at the 15th Asian Athletics Championship.

The NAAF has already selected Ram Krishna Chaudhary (100m), Sia Ram Choudhary (100m and 200m), and Binu Shrestha (3000m) while late in the last minute, Rajendra Bhadrai, Ramesh Singh Dhami and Purna Bhakta Rana Magar for the 1500m and 5000m events.

With Ram Krishna Chaudhary and Sia Ram Choudhary establishing new national records in the Open Athletics Championships, the NAAF officials are hopeful of a decent Nepali performance in Jakarta. "We are definitely going to do better than this time," says athletics coach Ramesh Rana.

Ram Krishna Chaudhary boasted his own record of 10.71sec at a time of 16.55sec while Sia Ram managed a 15.21sec. Ram Krishna hopes to finish within 10.20sec in Jakarta. Earlier we used to run on the track and adjusting in synthetic tracks in international competitions used to be difficult but as we have been running on a synthetic track for almost a year now, it will be easier," says Sia Ram.

The Asian Athletics Championship holds a special place for Nepali athletes as it was in this meet that Nepal won its first-ever international medal. That was back in 1973 when Jhru Bhakta K.C. won the bronze in the men's marathon. K.C. repeated the feat in 1977 when the Gurkha nine were held in Seoul. That was the last time Nepal scored at this championship. The task was made all the more difficult since Nepal plans to bid for the 2052 championship, Mentha, a good performance by Nepali athletes would help Nepal according to NAAF president Ram Pratap Rana, the Asian Athletics Federation has already nominated Nepal as one of the bidders.

"We're earlier tried to bid for either the Asian Athletics Championship or the Asian Marathon Championship. But now, we're only bidding for Athletics Championship as it is the bigger. We have already reached an understanding with Hong Kong, one of the other hidden, that they will support us for the athletics while we would reciprocate by backing their bid for marathon," says Rana.

If Nepal gets to host the championship, it will be the first ever Asian Athletics tournament to be held in the country.

Mokal Homajin

Grotesque idea

Sydney - The Olympic Games should not be a contest to see which nation can win the most medals but a celebration of personal achievement, an Australian church leader said Friday.

Father Peter Norden, vice of the 60,000 Australian participating in the month's relay, said the tallying medals only served to highlight the gap between the rich and the poor.

"The Olympics has become dominated by a small group of wealthy Western nations. We've lost the plot by substituting the recognition of individual excellence and achievement with the suggestion that some nations are superior to others because they won more medals," Father Norden said. He added that he had offered himself as a husband to promote the "grotesque idea of national superiority," (BFA)

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The jewel of a snake god

If one believes that fervent prayers must surely be answered, then the prayers of all Kathmandu must prevail.

The red god, Māchhendrānath, is Padma Pani Buddhakumāra or Lokeswara, protector and teacher of the gods themselves.

According to the lore, the chūtrie of the red god Māchhendrānath completes his tumbbling journey through the city of Patan. Rain should fall on this last day of the festival so Māchhendrānath is, among many other things, the beautiful god of rain.

There are, many, particularly among the farmers of the Kathmandu valley, who believe that if rain fails to dampen the occasion, then a year of drought and hardship may rend them. Many are the foreign observers who are convinced in writing to say that no one going to the Bhoto Jassa, as the last day of the Māchhendrānath festival is known, should fail to carry an umbrella, however bright the morning sky may be. (This, the Māchhendrānath chariot supplied over and the Bhoto Jassa had to be postponed. Many believe some big deity will bless Nepal. See 2 Nepal Times.)

The sacred god was brought from Asan by the lord of a black bee in a golden water vessel. He took up residence in a village called Bungamati where his five-foot scarlet image, traditionally painted by a single family of Patan artists is kept until it is carried in a yearly festival and enshrined in a great wooden chariot as it is drawn through the streets of Patan once a year. The most wonderful relic of the chariot, with its gilded work so which several offerings are made, especially the snake god, Karthik, who helped to construct the Māchhendrānath Asan. The four massive wooden wheels of the chariot are believed to be involved with the spirits of the terrible Bhairas who guarded the red god against the attacks of demons on his journey to Kathmandu.

The tail spirit of this chariot is a stunning construction of bamboo massively bound with cane; a terror so much larger than the chariot on which it rests that it appears to defy the laws of balance and gravity. Numerous ropes help to keep it erect.

Decorated with fancy and flowers, and hung with banners of cloth and gilded metal, it is crowned with a bouquet of national flags.

The chūtrie of Māchhendrānath is vividly described as the sun's greatest daughter of Māchhendrānath who is herself with numerous feet, isbekin, and is associated with the sun. She is called Chukurai Devi and is associated with the Māchhendrānath legend in an ancient text.

He has no part in the extracurricular story of Māchhendrānath's epic journey from Asan. Indeed, I had a project from the temple of Māchhendrānath that his beloved Chukurai Dev is more similar to Māchhendrānath despite the popular belief that he is the child of the red god.

This story is therefore more important when the son of the first chariot of the festival, called Asan, is associated with the sun. Many have camped out the entire night, beginning their devotions at first light and fasting between their spells of worship. The god on the chariot is bright with thousands of water lamps. And now, modern, tooth, cream tendered and pearly shiny men sissing bright colored garlands like ribbons, bakul, haldi, and the myriad painted through the crowds offering many auspicious names. Continuous fires of devotees center out the chariot, offer sheets of food, and feed the gnawing mouths of the snake god.

In the afternoon, the Patan Karori is brought in procession to view the chariot and shortly afterwards, the King and Queen arrive, numerous of the royal family, and minister, come to pay homage. This is the momentous event that has been waiting for because it signals the start of the festival. A crowd of people has been waiting for this signal to rise. The signal is not to be missed by anyone present. The chariot is moved forward and achieved the temple. He cursed the son of the snake god and everything that was to come is cursed, without fail. All hope of having the evening has been submerged in the crowd once the snake is seen again, the crowd is smashed by the power of the festival. The marriage that the original groom is to be an intimate master and the crowd now exposed to view is a crap.

The excitement and unasked emotion that grips the sight of the majestic warrior is this, in a crowd, appears to disregard the story. This is a moment of intense magic that more cannot contain itself. Garments or sea, the bhakur becomes a blessing on the faithful for yet another year, and I doubt how all the powerful legends of timeless change will ever denounce from this ancient ceremony.

There is one more moment of special significance. An opium-smoked vessel is dropped on the top of the chariot. If it falls face down, then the people of Kathmandu valley can expect a year of plenty and happiness. But should the pot stumble with such mangled values as to lie on its side, then drought and disease may follow.

In one believes that fervent prayers must surely be answered, then the prayers of all Kathmandu must prevail. I saw them offered and they were impressive.

(Excerpted with permission from Its the Kingdom of Gods. HarperCollins, 1999)

The art of Villages is... by KAILASH (1999)

CULTURE

SAYING FAITH

BY DESMOND DONG

Mohan Koirala making associations

The current Vice-Chancellor of the Royal Nepal Academy Mohan Koirala is applauded by fans who find his poems playful and inventive and portrayed by critics who find his writing abstract and unwilling to reach out to its audience.

Crafting together common social narratives, fragmented dialogues, literary quotes and his own keen observations, Koirala produces poems which issue meaning out of a roar of words, and at their very best, sparkles with associations.

Without a doubt, his poems speak not to the masses, but the elevated intellect who is comfortable with ambiguity and even obscurity in language. Indeed, Koirala's poems refuse to tell the reader what to think, asking them instead to seek their own meanings from his offering of shards and fragments.

The following poem is a particularly vivid example of Koirala's ability to mix language with language, and one which is slightly less obscure than some of his other. With its witty commentary on contradictory Nepali moods, it also supports his oft-said claim, in a recent interview, to be primarily a social writer.

OUR VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS

A house with curtains on the windows without curtains

With an indoor toilet and cemented walls too

With its toilet. Better not to have leaves must be carried over from someone else’s wall

A house with its own walls or only overhead beams of its own

On the house of someone

Who teaches vessels of drinking water only from someone else’s house

This is how a village house is like

Sit around for hours staying home all day and with pride about how can I go anywhere for a car these days

After riding a bus a person who needs lots of space can’t

Fratricide the crowd otherwise

Who walks on the street crossing his son who isn’t well

Or when taking his wife to the cinema is compelled to reach her in a taxi

Who sits around complaining it’s late when the bus breaks down on the road life is pushed and repaired

The type who can’t make his way around Rana-kushi or

Who must reach Sri Pashupatinath temple from time to time

Must frequent the goddess Kali at each festival

Is eager to reach Lord Narayan

 Doesn’t trust that the motorbike will start whether or not it has petrol

Till his wife slides her hand from the back seat and pushes his waste

When having to search request for plum candy and other such products

A man who can’t do anything without a motorbike

No matter whether his plate is yellow white red or black

A father of children who refuses to walk to school if the bus doesn’t come

Faith it a creed that deems that the households will thrive if a young sons and grandchildren

Walk, sleeping in foreign lands, in courtyards upper floors

House rooms, otherwise it’s rotten

Days passed talk, in fun, eating while mouthfuls, in search

Come in turn over, move away I turn them over

When red earth stones and the best quilt roll when shopping

When acquiring the feel of riding in a taxi

You sell alcohol the whole neighborhood’s defined only at

Banteu does mine—this is why he’s kept his caste

Though deciding that wisdom is greater than

blind faith considers blind faith to be

Wisdom

There is a belief in our village settlements

There is a belief in our house

("Our Village Settlements" appear in Koirala’s 1999 collection Hitujo Vakhum)

2 - AUGUST 2000 NEPAL TIMES 17
Patan fee fiasco

Instead of helping, Patan fees are hurting tourism.

SUATA TULADHAR

Blackspear stared in, Patan played captain. Since January 1, 2000, tourists visiting Patan have been charged an entry fee of Rs. 200. Rs. 25 for SAARC nationals. The prevailing collection [of] Tourist Entrance Fee goes to Tourism Development and Heritage Conservation Funds of Lalitpur-Sub-Metropolitan City.

Nice try, but it has not gone down well with tourists and shop owners who depend on them. Andy Mahalanis of Andy’s Art Gallery in the heart of the city says, “Earlier treasury would look around the place for a day and come back some other time to buy the things they like but now since they have to pay again the new time they arrive, hardly anybody comes back.”

Since most of them do not know about the fee, they are ambushed when guards at Patan entry poise suddenly across them with demands to pay up or risk being held. If the tourist refuses to pay or can’t be convinced by someone who doesn’t understand English, the notice to leave is given. Says Govind Mahalanis, owner of a stationery store at Patan Bazaar, “Almost 60 percent of the tourists trying to enter the city from the back gate without visiting because of the harassment they face at the ticket stations. Tourism gets easily offended by the way the guards pursue on them. I have even seen the guards literally pull tourists by the hand to show them the board.”

No one at the entry point and the counter at Charide Square has undergone training of any kind. One guard said he was trained for a week only to “adhere and march.”

Hatama Kikuchi, a Japanese tourist visiting Patan since 1984, says, “Changing the money for entrance is okay, as long as people know about it. Even in Japan we have places which charge foreigners money but they already know about it from the guidebooks.

Since the entry fee was introduced, tourist guidebooks do not mention it, and neither have most of the travel agencies updated their brochures. It’s become quite a problem for us to explain things to when we bring our clients to Patan and we have to ask them to pay additional Rs. 200. Some say that they are being cheated because nothing of that sort had been mentioned in the guidebooks”, says G.L. Mahalanis, a tourist guide.

Shabab Shakya Shrestha, the Office Secretary of the Municipality says that there has been a lack of publicity. “The Tourism Association of Nepal objected to it when we started, but our preparations were under way (90 days) was too short for us to inform everyone.”

The city’s entry ticket includes visits to seven access points. However, in Patan Museum and the Golden Temple the ticket is used for entry only for upper and lower halls. There are no other fees. Very often tourists turn two ways, and both Patan Museum and the Golden Temple have seen a drop in tourists.

Officials at the Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City office believe that 25 percent of the tourists visiting Patan pass without registering as they cross the road without checking out of which there are many. There is also some leakage, a local guide, who did not want to be named, said, “When I was taking my clients for a tour around Patan Durbar Square, one of the guides offered me a little extra. I had eight foreign tourists with me but he asked me to ask extra, and I gave 20 rupees. It’s 200 percent profit.”

Till 12 July, the city has collected 7.1 million from 49,726 tourists visiting Patan. The money is to be spent on a Geneas-supported Urban Development, through Localk Eken (ULDE) project for Patan’s preservation, maintenance and restoration. ULDE is to provide 40 percent of the budget, while the municipality has to match it and the rest will be raised locally.

“No fee has been spent even a single penny from the Patan Museum,” says Shabab Shakya of the Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City. In addition to this project, we are also aiming to spend the collected money on a new program to be introduced some times later this year.”

For the handels the fees have become an obstacle. “We have to keep our goods to something to show them for free,” and fees.

Caste aside caste

In Hindu tradition, a jar (or a person who has ceased to be a householder) does not enter a temple. There is a popular saying in Hindi: jiva na pujato sadhu kiti. (Don’t ask an ascetic what his caste is.)

Jails. Jai Shankar Jogi asks the audience to go to

HAPPENINGS

Cast aside caste

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Jails. Jai Shankar Jogi asks the audience to go to

Caste aside caste

In Hindu tradition, a jar (or a person who has ceased to be a householder) does not enter a temple. There is a popular saying in Hindi: jiva na pujato sadhu kiti. (Don’t ask an ascetic what his caste is.)

Jails. Jai Shankar Jogi asks the audience to go to
The town that time passed by

Himalay on the drive from Kathmandu to Pokhara, and first hand off the highway lies Bandipur, the hilltop Newar trading town that time has passed by. And it is more the worse for it. Unlike other towns that decayed and withered, Bandipur shines and seems as isolation proudly.

The town is now promoting itself as a relaxed hill station, famous for its tranquility, its picturesque views and as a retreat and educational centre.

Your week

CAKES is on sale

Make room to bring in new changes in your life. Take the initiative and say yes to new chances. Recharge your skills to cope with sudden changes.

LEMA is on sale

Don't allow conditions, to take over your back and bring you down. I need to be united, and not divided. Put your condition in the main and not expecting your self.

SOPORS is on sale

Make your life for a new understanding of situation matters. Situations in the area could be very challenging, and you will need to understand the places where are ultimately benefit from what you're happening.

SNORTS is on sale

Make you're life for a new understanding of situation matters. Situations in the area could be very challenging, and you will need to understand the places where are ultimately benefit from what you're happening.

CANCERS is on sale

Try to get rid of things happening around. You will be likely to get bad influence from others' friends. Check your money flow. This week avoid meeting with cancerous too soon.

CANCERS is on sale

You are likely to be plunged into a completely new situation at work. But you should adapt yourself to new changes. This has a great deal of power so you may have variously felt.

SNORTS is on sale

Take the things of now and transform your experiences. The immense knowledge you have gained for long needs to be used. Embrace the new job in your experiences. Now your mind can reach to a possible mind.

SNORTS is on sale

More changes are likely to occur in your behavior and you have a lot of freedom. There is a possibility of family changes that might push your emotional bonds. The pushing personally will help you adjust.

YOUR WEATHER

A gap in monsoon circulation is seen over the Gagan Chalak, which will bring a relief dry spell to the central Himalaya during the week Aug 6-15. The break of the present monsoon pulse moving slowly eastwards across Kathmandu Valley will bring heavy rain on Wednesday and Thursday. Clouds will begin to disperse over the weekend, but temperatures will continue.

Kathmandu

Week

Sat

Sun

Mon

Tue

28-15

29-10

30-15

31-21

31-21

DESK EDITOR

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A Nepali air space

landlocked, Nepal can’t lay claim to any sea. (Unless, of course, we occupy one of the islands in the Ganges delta since it is technically Nepali soil, and that will make 200 km of the Bay of Bengal ours.)

It was sitting on the landing, but had not been returned. We should do the same. It would not have grown if we had not been there to help it. That is the spirit of Himalaya.

Buddha and Sita were born, this is the land from where Amioko taught the Chinese how to build pagodas. No one should underestimate us. We are prepared to bear any hardship, and will leave no stone unturned to safeguard our right to dump trash wherever we want within Nepal’s sovereign territory.

The question now arises, how far can our territory be? Prime Minister Girija has promised to get Kalapani back for us, and hopefully we will also get back bits of submerged Terai. But what about our air space? How can no one be worried about air space? Littoral nations can claim up to 200 km of ocean as their economic zone. But being

Nepali air space

A Nepali air space

landlocked, Nepal can’t lay claim to any sea. (Unless, of course, we occupy one of the islands in the Ganges delta since it is technically Nepali soil, and that will make 200 km of the Bay of Bengal ours.)

But how far above Nepal does Nepal go? How many feet above Mt Everest is it still Nepal? Where does Nepal end and outer space begin? This point needs clarification, and we should be prepared to go to the International Court of Justice at The Hague to establish our sovereign right over outer space.

Luckily, the special ramp that was brought in for Indian Airlines to land passengers at Kathmandu airport answers this question. In hand-to-hand combat with the Indians on security procedures, our battle-hardened negotiators fought for every inch of Nepali air space. Finally, they agreed that the ramp should be 40 inches above the tarmac. So, it is now official: Nepali air space is 40 inches above ground level. And we would guard those 40 inches tooth and nail if only we had an air force.

Eletsportatto all over Nepal, this expands our national territory by at least 540 cubic miles. Rejoice, Nepal has just got bigger! ⚽️

ARZU

NEPALI SOCIETY

There is a concern in Nepal that makes Arzu really concerned. It is the low status of women in Nepal society. This is the root of Nepal’s poverty, and the reason why the country remains poor. Arzu has one agenda: the gender agenda.

A mother, activist, and the wife of former prime minister Sher Bahadur Deb, Arzu juggles all three aspects of her life with flair. After returning to Nepal from the United States 10 years ago after finishing her doctorate in public health, Arzu has been lobbying intensely for women’s rights, health, education and social equality.

"Nepal is not a poor country, it’s our image that is poor. We haven’t really put our minds to improving society," she says.

Arzu is the moving force behind Sathil, a group that addresses the problem of domestic violence against women in Nepal. Sathil supports women who are battered by husbands, fathers, or brothers-in-law. Sathil also provides counselling for women who have suffered domestic abuse and rape.

Another aspect of Nepal’s underdevelopment that really troubles Arzu is the country’s very high maternal mortality rate. She helps run the Safe Motherhood Network that works in 11 districts where the rate of maternal mortality is highest.

Arzu also leads Samastra, the Institute for Social and Gender Equality which tries to ensure that women are not an afterthought in the development process. With her full activism life, Arzu has little time for personal matters. She says, "Life is being if you just live for yourself." 🌟

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