CONGRESS vs CONGRESS

EXCLUSIVE

Praveen Gurung
The death of 35-year-old musician, Praveen Gurung, shocked the Nepali music world.

The chronic quarreling between Koirala and Bhatarai points to a larger power struggle among their sidekicks.

SIRDO BHATARAI

It has become a predictable ritual in the Nepali Congress. Hard-fought elections are won, there is a majority in parliament, within months the party begins to self-destruct as a dissident faction unites. A new alignment is set up and the same cycle is repeated.

This time, the crisis that started with a disqualified Khum Bahadur Khadka trying to join his boss took a turn when the rebellious minister suddenly found himself lacked. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala then moved swiftly to overhaul dissidents by meeting their demands. Koirala's dissatisfaction is vast; the price of a cabinet reshuffle will be paid.

The case file has now gone into force. In effect, this week's move was theович minor of the knock-out to take place at the party's General Convention scheduled for November in Pokhara.

Koirala is both prime minister and party president. Many dissidents, including Khum Bahadur, thought this made him too powerful. The convention will be a showdown in which Koirala is most likely to be challenged by another ambitious leader who has once tarnished power Sher Bahadur Deuba.

Deuba has stressed the importance of maintaining discipline within the party. General Secretary Subhankar Koirala, who is also a director general, and Koirala for his politics, is not only is this case but also the precedent for others who have always been a high-profile minister in most Congress governments. Khum Bahadur is likely to have been dropped in a cabinet reshuffle in the wake of the party's poor performance in the recent elections.

CONGRESS CHESS

Editorial page 2

A new era of Nepali music has been marked by the death of 35-year-old Praveen Gurung, who was found dead in Kathmandu.

The Nepali music industry is mourning the loss of a talented musician who was known for his versatile and easy-going personality.

Gurung's contribution to the music world will be remembered.

Gods return

Another stolen religious figure was returned to Nepal this month. A 900-year-old Uma Maheswar statue stolen from Dhulikhel in 1982 is the latest piece of Nepali heritage to be recovered.

The statue was returned by an unnamed American collector and is now housed at the National Museum. The Uma-Maheswar temple will be re-opened at the Patan Museum.

The statue is a significant cultural artifact and its return is a testament to the efforts of the Nepali government and the international community to preserve our cultural heritage.

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CONGRESS CHESS

Once more the Nepali Congress has steeped back from the brink of implosion. Nor that it is not already split for all practical purposes. The party’s remaining veteran leaders, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and Girija Prasad Koirala, behave like cranky old men poking each other with their walking sticks. The two actually get along pretty well, but their stickiness leaves each other more than they desire the UML. All this would have been very funny if it didn’t have such serious implications for governance and the polity.

Caught consorting to oust his mentor, Khum Bahadur Khadka was expelled by Koirala from the cabinet as we went to press last week. Khum thrusts in conspiracy, and many will remember how he didröd Bhattarai in his hour of need earlier this year to join the Koirala bandwagon. This time, Koirala didn’t wait for Khum to make the first move, and tackled him on the spot.

For Khum, this expulsion should have been a part of the occasional hazard of politics. But he chose to respond, and badly exposed himself. Speaking in Parliament, Koirala proclaimed that he was not obsessed with power. For those who know him, this was quite a revelation. Koirala has been a minister in every Nepali Congress cabinet except the one formed to conduct the last general elections. He is alleged to have set new records for wrongdoing in every ministry that he has held: Transport, Water Resources, Civil Supply, and Home.

Khum has no regard for legal niceties. They cram his style. But that is precisely why he is so useful to the Nepali Congress, he is their fixer. Don’t kill the goose that lays golden eggs. But to do so, things, he needed to be a minister, and now his own mentor has clipped his wings. Khum without a ministry is as useless as a gobbler outside the casino. Perhaps this is the best way Khum Bahadur can serve his party and country: by remaining out of power. But given his ambition, and the defeat he has amassed, he will continue to be a behind-the-scenes Congress kingmaker.

Deja vu in Kathmandu

The law must take its course, and the powers that be would do well to refrain from interfering.

One night last week, according to reports of eyewitnesses, Prince Dashain,传统oki:after a row at a local disco turned over and killed a renowned singer. This is not the first time the resultant problem has been involved in such a thing, and according to the police, it is at least the third time someone has been killed. Sooner or later, the law of the land has to be applied if the family that Pratap represents is to be as it is called by his monstrously repairative.

Technically, Singhdevi Pari is not a “Prince.” According to the Nepal Brihat Leksikon, the administrative Nepali dictionary published by the Royal Nepal Academy, “Singhdevi” means the mark of a princess of a king, which in our case is either the Crown Prince or his brother. Singhdevi Pari is neither. His father is a Prince, but he is not. A more appropriate application for this competitive low-breed could have been Singhdevi, the Urdu term of Persian origin commonly used to denote a noble lady. But even that seems to be too weak a tug for such a serious habitual offender.

In the past week, Kathmandu has been gripped by a feeling of deja vu as officers went on to break the whole episode under the carpet, and pretend nothing had happened. In the eyes of Nepal’s alibi citizenry, however, this is now no longer a case of one lone offender. It now involves Prince’s father Prince Gyawali, it involves the royal family and it touches the institution of monarchy. This is a hard case, and as they say, hard cases make the law.

It is an indication of the public’s disgust (and more to placate) that the overwhelming reaction in Kathmandu when people heard of the incident on Monday morning was: “Not again.” Parent Gyawali, an up-and-coming musician, is dead. His family may be unimportant, but they may be an out-of-court settlement. But what of justice? Who is going to ensure that the Prince does not run away again? Unless there is some admission of guilt, some attempt to redress this wrong, some attempt to bring the guilty to justice, this man’s actions sooner or later will further delineate that pillar of Nepali nationalism: the Monarchy. It now seems that playing Prince is so much in his own interest and safety as in the interest and safety of the public. The law must take its course, and the powers that be would do well to refrain from interfering.

Thus, though last week’s event was not and will not be as the attempt to bunt it all up has become, it did show that the Nepali press is to an extent in the public interest. Ten years ago, such a thing would have been covered up easily. People would have pretended they heard nothing, saw nothing. The rumour mill would have grown into its own momentum, but the matter would have ended there. Public outrage would have been expressed in petrified.

These were the days when with had a voice. People used to raise eyebrows about the lack of business. Prince Ranuddhbu was up to it, but some were even more astounded about it. In the seventies, it was the politics of the Prince. Dhulendu was that of the business. Tales about him were legion. There have been many reasons why Dhulendu’s royal titles were snatched away, but now even the memory of having been taken is itself. It is for his elder in Namgyalpur to take action.

In England, the monarchy has at least one function provides cheap entertainment for the masses through tabloids. Their postures and performances amuse, as one by the gutter press. Our royals, on the other hand, can’t get into the press unless it is a crisis release read out on Radio Nepal, or unless they kill a policeman on duty, cause a car crash in a disco or actually run over an innocent person.

Our royals need a role, and they need roles to play. The Thai royals which take upon and own interest in government development could be one, or the Scandinavian monarchs who ride trams to work and teach in college. Elsewhere the royal family commands genuine popularity not by putting on airs, but by removing itself and hiding behind dark glasses, but by being so invisible that all the ordinary citizens in their everyday lives and by showing a genuine interest in the welfare and progress of their country. A lot of it has to do with the public’s perception. And here, the public perception is surviving, something that the monarchy should take note of.

The upsurge human interest pleasure of King Biratna and Queen Ashwarya
Toni Hagen's Nepal

Fifty years after he first set foot in Nepal, if you were expecting Toni Hagen to be full of nostalgia for Nepal's unsplendid past, you're in for a surprise.

Hagen is here at this time to see the Toni Hagen Foundation tale. The objective of the Foundation is to work towards promoting an understanding of Himalayan geography, culture, and tourism among the people of the Himalayas. The Foundation will also support efforts to upsurge the knowledge and action in Nepal. Toni Hagen is here to see the Toni Hagen Foundation.

In 1970, he came to Nepal for the first time in the Himalayas. His aim was to see the country as a whole, to understand the people and their way of life. He was astounded by the beauty and diversity he saw. The natural and cultural richness of the country left a deep impression on him.

Since then, Hagen has visited Nepal numerous times. He has seen the country undergo significant changes, both positive and negative. The rapid development and the impact of tourism have been particularly evident.

Over the years, this Austrian has grown passionate about Nepal, its people, and their way of life. He has seen the country evolve and change, and he has been instrumental in bringing the country to the attention of the world.

In conclusion, Toni Hagen's Nepal is a fascinating and insightful read. It's not just a book about Nepal, but also a reflection on the role of photography in documenting and preserving history. Hagen's photographs are a testament to his passion for the country and the people he has come to love.

Toni Hagen's 14,000 km trek notes

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PARAS

Nepal Human Rights Committee USA has been deeply concerned about the recent involvement of Prince Paras in the tragic death of singer and songwriter. In a democratic society where no nation chooses to be divided by law, every human being is expected to be treated with dignity and respect. Under constitutional monarchy, Nepal has been known to function under the rule of the king, the committee strongly believes that such practices should be treated above the law.

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The Committee regrets

Repent similar tragic involvements of Prince Paras which continues to deform the much revered Nepal tourism.  

Dr. Balaram Aryal
NHCUSA

I was sorry to hear of the sudden death of Praveen Gurung who was killed (49). Why did you hold yourself back from calling the prince a killer? Is he a killer or not? You guys have to be a little more honest, do as 49 of his student unions who seem to be taking up the case on the streets of Kathmandu.

Rajesh Shrestha

YOU DID IT

A few days back my wife stepped on something sharp again on the drawing room floor. Underneath a piece of cloth, which was to protect the floor, it was in fact a part of your excellent article Nepal Times.

Dr. Gunaratna

I never noticed you covered Paras.

Kumari Ghale
Kathmandu

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Kumari Ghale
Kathmandu

My wife made the best choice to go to the police station for a weather report.

Bin Gurung

I believe we should learn to conserve the home room nest. Prince Paras is the first who needs to be educated on the need for conservation of our natural resources. And note that our nest is no different.

Bin Gurung

I found the letter on the Dharahara Record (91) interesting. It was an eye-opener to the Nepali tradition of relating with issues without thinking through.

S.B. Sharma

Best response to buy the Nepal Times, but I think people might do well to subscibe to your paper for the weather report.

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Much, much more left to do

How will English slogans on billboards and T-shirts help these Nepali boys?

Children in Nepal. This means that four in every 10 children between the ages of 5 and 14 are employed. The proportion of working girls is higher than that of boys—for every 90 boys working, there are 160 girls. Appealing figures these, but agencies involved with child rights submit that Nepal has made some progress in the last one decade. "Child labour used to be treated as a non-agenda, today it is considered to be one of the most serious social problems," says Gautam Pradhan of Child Labour in Nepal Concerned Centre (CLINC).

An evaluation team of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which visited Kathmandu in January this year also agreed that Nepal’s performance in eliminating the worst forms of child labour was satisfactory. "There is tremendous goodwill and determination in both the government and non-government sector to eliminate hazardous child labour in Nepal," says Lydia Tepman-Reddy of ILO.

The OIC has selected Nepal from among the Asian countries to be developed as a model nation worldwide in the elimination of worst forms of child labour by 2005, and it is now up to the government to make provision for that and to implement the program in the process of being drawn up.

The government, NGOs and donor agencies say they have made some progress in extending nationwide awareness campaigns. They are working together with the government and non-government organizations to eliminate child labour. They believe that awareness and sensitization is not enough and more needs to be done.

The policies against child labour are more or less in place. The 1990 Constitution of Nepal clearly prohibits employment of a child under 14. Those above 14 can be employed with the consent of their parents but not in industries, mines or at hazardous works. The Labour Act 1992 and the Children’s Act 1992 also prohibit minors from working in industries, mines and hazardous works (the last is not clearly defined, but the proposed Child Labour Act attempts to do so).

However, the definition of "minors" is not clear—the Labour Act considers those between 14 to 18 as minors, while the Children’s Act says it is children from 14 to 16. Both Acts limit the working hours for minors to six hours a day, which is more than equal pay for equal work as per the adults, and great stress and danger are very often overdrawn. The Acts also prohibit children’s engagement in works that are likely to harm their physical and mental health and development.

Activists and government officials alike agree that it is not the lack of policy that is the problem. "It is due to implementation weakness," comments Dev Rama Tamang, who heads the unit responsible for children’s issues at the Labour Ministry. He pointed out that it is not clear which type of services and facilities NGOs are running at the moment. His unit does not have a clear definition of职责 and duties of the government agencies and NGOs are hampering the efforts to eliminate child labour. "When a situation arises there is no one from the government to shoulder the responsibility," he argues.

At the state level, all agree that a major motivating factor is the need to engage children in work that are awareness is still limited to the police-organized level only. The message has not reached the target group. This explains why children who earlier worked in the organized sector like big carpet factories shifted elsewhere after the carpet factories came under stricter vigilance. "The lack of institutional support and free education. Not all the children are working because they are very poor. Parents should be made aware of the link between education and a safe future for children," says Kamal Pradhan at the Ministry. The children who have been educated are mostly engaged in the carpet factories because they are not able to find work elsewhere.

But attitudes are hard to change. Even so he disputes that his life is in constant danger as his co-workers face in the mining vehicle, says Shyam. Nonetheless says "working in a factory is not as bad as it is in a mine. It is a safe place and the pay is better. But it is still very hard and dangerous."

The last time, all agreed that a major motivating stock to ending child labour is that

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Praveen Gurung (1962-2000)

“He was our inspiration, our guiding light.”

Sambhul Rai remembers: “He inspired the tradition of the soul. The soul of a man. Apart from being a good singer and a composer, he was versatile with all kinds of instrument. He was a car up the roof of us all.”

Praveen was an all-rounder with highly developed skills at recording and organizing musical and cultural events. He sang folk, pop and modern songs, and had mastered numerous instruments, including the piano, the accordion, and many traditional Nepali string and percussion instruments.

Praveen’s memories remain in the 500 recordings he made in Nepali and Gurung languages. His five major albums are the Gurung language “Chiswali Me Le Chad,” a collection of Nepali folk songs called “Ten Songs for Plains and Hills,” and “Hit Breaks,” featuring music with folk influences.

Good singer Sheri KC remembers Praveen as a hard worker. “He used to work day and night. For what? For the music, for the bread, for his friends, for his family and for his efforts to promote the Nepali music so that the world would hear.”

Praveen’s wife, Shanti Gurung, is a hardworking and caring person who respected the family.

Praveen had recently started a music track of modern Nepali songs in Japan, and he was planning a tour of the United States. He had also just returned from a series of shows in Singapore. For Praveen’s friends and family, they plan to keep his memory alive by keeping his music and performing his arrangements.

“A WONDER IF ANY PAPER HAS THE BALLS TO PRINT THIS…”

The following is what looks like a tearful letter from Anil Bhanvani of K208 discipline (“Khotan” which was awarded to Nepali Times. Papers of the note containing references to Prince Paras and what transpired at K-Zone on Sunday, 6 August, are reported verbatim to indicate the frame of mind of those present.

I am Anil Bhanvani. 27 years old. My family, Asbeem Rana, and I own a large part of K208 disco. My grandfather was a postman in Agra in Pakistan (then India). My father came to Nepal about 56 years ago as a postman of a German pharmacy. Finally, he could speak a word of Nepali. Then he met my grandmother and married her. He fell in love with a woman 17 years older than him. Till today she does not meet her family. I met a lady named Namaste Rana and we got engaged in 1984. We got married in 1984.

I married her on Jan 17, 2000, at Shangri-La hotel. My grand father in law is a big khadiga. My father in laws are absolutely involved in Congress. I am in Assam and the head of the association of that represents the others than 5 million Nepalis that live in Assam.

MARRIAGE CHANGES ONE’S LIFE DRAMATICALLY AND I FEEL IT WAS THE BEST THING THAT HAPPENED TO ME AND THE GREAT PRINCE OF NEPAL.

ABOUT PRINCE PARAS BHAN

I know that Prince Paras Bhana because he, the embryos of our club, and more so because I still remember love, respect, and even more than him, my own father. Prince Paras has his family members and his pals have always been treated in Amrit, and us with love and respect. He has paid in cash to Asbeem ten fold for whatever drinking he and his family had at K208.

ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 2002, Mr. and Mrs. Bhana were drinking instead of Asbeem Rana, around 11 PM. A partner of mine came into the DJ box and told me that some fools had beaten Prince Paras on the lower deck of K208. I went down the club and saw my mate and started to abuse. The crowd in K208, I told them to stop it, and I had already played all the music for Asbeem. I had opened and sawed on the microphone. In tears as my wife ignited to control me, I punched her away, and again abused the crowd in K208. I told them to stop it where they were at. They were in control. Property and asked them all to go and said that they could collect all the money they had spent on their way out. As some of the crowd began to disperse, Prince Paras appeared on the copper floor and shouted to me, I put the F- word on, I did so and left with my wife and sister at around 12.10 PM. I called the area police from my cell, and notified them. He arrested five of the goons involved and asked the management to shut this disco immediately. However, Prince Paras requested that we remain open, and so K208 only closed at around 12:40 AM.

MORE THAN 15 PEOPLE DIED ON THE ROADS OF NEPAL EVERYDAY. WHY HASN'T THE MEDIA WRITTEN ABOUT THIS? IF I AM ORPHANED, I TAKE A HOME AT MIGHT IN MY DEEP. AND ON AN INTERSECTION A DRUNK OR SPEEDING MOTORCYCLE HITS MY VEHICLE, IT IS THEN TAKEN BY THE POLICE AND OUR BONDSMAN TO HOSPITAL AND Died AN HOUR LATER. WHY DON'T THEY PUBLISH MY NAME ON THE FRONT PAGE? FADES???

WHY THE WYPRE AND SLEEPING OF A PRINCE OF NEPAL WHO ENJOYS HIS LIFE?????????? IS IT BECAUSE THE PUBLIC LOVES THIS KIND OF NEWS OR IS IT BECAUSE THE RICH OWNERS OF THESE PUBLISH HOUSES THRIVE ON THIS BECAUSE OF THE HUGE MANDATE OF THE NEPALESE FAMILY THAT ONE OF THE 50 CALLED "PILLARS OF DEMOCRACY" IS NOTHING MORE THAN A MONEY PRINTING MACHINE.

In conclusion, I AM GIVING THIS LETTER TO EVERYBODY WHO WANTS ONLY THE TRUTH— AND TO ALL THE MEDIA AND PUBLISHING HOUSES OF KATHMANDU— I WONDER IF ANY PAPER HAS THE BALLS TO PRINT THIS— BUT I WILL WHEN "VINDO" LAUNCHES IN 2 MONTHS TIME.

I BELIEVE IN DO, THE KING AND THE TRUTH ONLY. I AM SORRY IF I HAVE HURT OR OFFENDED ANYONE BY THIS, PLEASE FIND IT IN YOUR HEARTS TO FORGIVE ME... YOURS HUMBLY,

Anil Bhanvani (CEO: K208 DISCO)

bhanvani@k208.com

Praveen (center) with Nepal Cultural Group members (L to R): Shitala Sada Magar, Eksher Gurung, Sita Rana Magar and Krishna Lama.
Paras Shah

Nepal帕王, 11 August

Prince Paras Shah, infamous member of the Shah family, has been arrested on charges of corruption.

The arrest was made on 11 August, following a conflict with the government over the issue of corruption.

Paras Shah is known for his involvement in various political and business activities, and has been accused of corruption and abuse of power.

The arrest comes after weeks of tension between the government and the Shah family.

The government has been calling for the return of the exiled Shah family members, including Paras Shah, who had fled the country in 1999.

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala had earlier said that the government would take legal action against those who violate the law.

The royal family had been living in exile since the 2008 coup d'état that toppled the monarchy.

The arrest of Paras Shah is likely to have implications for the political landscape in Nepal.

The government has been under pressure to address the issue of corruption, which has been a major concern for the Nepalese people.

Paras Shah's arrest is seen as a significant step towards addressing the issue of corruption in Nepal.

Naya Saakshat, 12 August

The controversy that had engulfed after Prince Paras Shah's vehicle killed singer Praveen Gurung continued to escalate.

The incident occurred on 11 August when a government-owned vehicle hit and killed Gurung, who was on his way to a wedding.

The government has been under pressure to take action against those responsible for the incident.

The Prime Minister's Office has ordered an investigation into the incident.

The incident has sparked widespread protests and calls for accountability.

The government has been under pressure to address the issue of road safety in Nepal.

The incident has once again highlighted the need for stricter laws and enforcement to prevent such incidents from occurring.

The government has been under pressure to address the issues of corruption and governance, which have been major concerns for the Nepalese people.

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Sexuality and Nepali women

by Manjuri Thapa

Nepali women face discrimination and suffering due to the deep-rooted caste, religious, and cultural norms in the society. They are often denied opportunities and rights, leading to social exclusion and marginalization. Despite these challenges, some women are striving to break the barriers and assert their rights. This article highlights the struggles and achievements of Nepali women in their fight for equality and justice.

In this article, we will discuss the challenges faced by women in Nepal and the efforts being made to address these issues. We will also explore the role of women in shaping the future of Nepal and the importance of gender equality in the development of the country.

The face in a crowd

Story and essay writer Sita Pandey shares her journey with the typewriter. Her stories are a reflection of the lives of women in her region, particularly those from the lower castes and marginalized communities. Her writing is known for its honest portrayal of the struggles faced by women in these communities.

Sita Pandey shares her thoughts on the role of women in society and the need for gender equality. She believes that women should be given equal opportunities to pursue their dreams and realize their potential. She highlights the importance of education and access to health care in empowering women.

This article is a tribute to Sita Pandey's work and the role of women in shaping our society.

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Nepali literature

The face in a crowd

by Manjuri Thapa

As an English novelist once wrote, "Being a woman is a terribly difficult task, since it is somehow impossible to please everyone." Sita Pandey's story is a vivid example of how difficult it is to be a woman in a Nepali society. Her book, which has won many awards, highlights the challenges faced by women in the country.

Pandey's stories are a reflection of the lives of women in Nepali society and the need for gender equality. Her writing is known for its honest portrayal of the struggles faced by women in these communities. Her stories are a testament to the power of the written word to bring about change.

This article is a tribute to Sita Pandey's work and the role of women in shaping our society.
Privatisation

The sunflower blooms as it pulls up broad, healthy,

The sunflower blooms as it pulls up broad, healthy, big yellow shoots of gold. Public discourse about privatisation seems to vary in its degree of positivity. Sometimes, as soon as government officials bring up the topic, there is a brief flurry of debate, but soon there is a lull about privatisation. You can expect the same thing to start happening now.

Have the ambitious privatisation plans been shelved or are politicians just too busy with other things to give their privatisation plans any much attention? Probably both.

But one wonders at the silence from the Ministry of Finance. The Ninth Five Year Plan has 30 state-owned enterprises to be privatised between 1997-2000. Two years to go, and only one state-owned enterprise has so far been sold. How many state-owned enterprises can you count that could have been sold in just two years? Nine years ago, when the government began divesting public enterprises, only 17 were privatised. At this rate, we will take another 25 years to privatise all the remaining state-owned enterprises, the Ninth Plan lists and 30 years before other state-owned enterprises can be sold off.

The government has given higher priority to state enterprises in recent years and privatisation has been viewed as a price that will aid overall economic development and expand output. But despite government's announcements in the annual budget, nothing suggests privatisation is taken seriously. An audit of the budget indicates that the privatisation efforts are supported by grants from domestic and foreign institutions to the agenda.

New is that there is anything new in privatisation. In fact, it would be surprising if even half of what the government is supposed to privatise, or even thing, that there is no" relevant enough and there are no targets. Everything, it seems, is left to fate, and the delay in the process clearly seems to give power to the bureaucratic haves. The privatisation process now resembles the state-owned enterprises themselves—unaccountable and with no real prospect of realising the potential.

The privatisation process now resembles the state-owned enterprises themselves—unaccountable and with no real prospect of realising the potential.

The three central banks are now divided over their foreign currency reserves. While the NRB is urging the government to sell off the currency reserves, the NCBI and RBI are opposing the move. The government has been divided over its foreign currency reserves, with the NRB arguing that the reserves should be used to strengthen the local currency, while the NCBI and RBI argue that the reserves should be used to strengthen the local currency reserves.

The government has been divided over its foreign currency reserves, with the NRB arguing that the reserves should be used to strengthen the local currency, while the NCBI and RBI argue that the reserves should be used to strengthen the local currency.
When Kathmandu used to be known for its hippy-era flower children, the few blossoms that could be found grew wild, along hedges and the sides of paddy fields. They were collected and strung into garlands to adorn deities and people during festivities. Today, the city has switched to flower bouquets wrapped in plastic. And it is the spread of this new fad that is leading the blooming industry. Where and how the business took is hard to tell, but florists trace it to five years ago when some Nepali and Indian entrepreneurs stumbled on the market almost by chance. "Competition has increased, but so has the market. If planned properly, the flower business can reach any height," says Jyoti Pradhan of Women in Horticulture (WIF), a group of five women entrepreneurs who got into the business in 1996. In four years, the business has blossomed, and they manage a monthly turnover of more than Rs 50,000. The most popular varieties are gladiolus, rose, lily rose, "zenfias", lily, carnation and orchid. Business has grown so fast that WIF now grows its own flowers in nurseries in Narayanghat and Khaireni. Their clients now include five-star hotels. Rukhu Bhusal of Topchi Gift Shop is enthusiastic about the potential of the flower business. "There is profit here, the flowers move very quickly," she says. Bhusal's shop is only one year old, and her flowers are outselling cosmetics. She has now contracted a Kirtipur farmer to grow special flowers exclusively for her in the coming year. "If only we could offer more varieties," Bhusal says, choosing up Kathmandu's vast untapped flower business possibilities. Surel Tamang of DalitFlora adds that assured year-round supply is a must for business growth. "I get opportunities to work for big hotel clients but failed to satisfy their demands throughout the year and lost the business," he says. Turning now depends on daily customers for business, which limits its profit potential. During the flower season, monthly business hits Rs 120,000, and dips to half that in the lean winter months. Prasant Malla came to Kathmandu from Calcutta to start a cut flower shop at Tripureswar four years ago. Today, he owns three such shops and business is growing beyond his wildest imagination. In order to overcome the supply problem, some Indian shops like plasma import flowers from South India in the winter with a precarious supply line that runs across 2,000 km. But Tamang and Pratap try the semi-tropical lowland valleys around Kathmandu where flowers bloom even in winter. Kathmandu may soon be able to meet its cut flower demand through the wholesale market managed by the Floriculture Association of Nepal.
The stupa of a million dewdrops

One of Desmond Doig’s favourite spots in Kathmandu was Boudhanath, “a shimmering beacon of faith.”

I can remember a time when Boudhanath was a single jewel in the larks of its encircling drums, held in a reverent gaze by the waves of traffic. Now it’s a forest of stupas, each with its own stats and statistics, a part of the Kathmandu that has evolved over the centuries. The stupa is a defining feature of the city, and it was here that the Emperor Ashoka is said to have visited the valley to see the stupas. He was so impressed that he left a donation of gold to the local community, which is said to have built the first stupa in Kathmandu.

Over the centuries, Boudhanath has been embalmed, forgotten, rediscovered, and restored. It remains a place of pilgrimage and a testament to the faith and devotion of those who have built and preserved it. The stupa is a symbol of the Buddhist faith, and it is said that those who visit it will be blessed with good fortune and peace.

Desmond Doig’s description of Boudhanath is a fitting tribute to the grandeur and beauty of this holy site. It is a place that has stood the test of time, and it continues to inspire and awe those who come to visit it. The stupa of a million dewdrops is a symbol of the enduring faith and devotion of those who have built and preserved it, and it is a testament to the strength and resilience of the human spirit.
Poulti.

VALLEY north to Tibet, China and even Japan in the middle of the last millennium, poulti was taken to Tibet by their Newari masters. In the past 50 years, the shankha gained immense popularity worldwide, particularly because of its use as a symbol of Himalayan Buddhism. But the poulti has largely remained within the private confines of the Valley's šahs and temples. Even Kathmandu's artists and young Nepalis seem unaware of the devotional richness and artistic genius of this indigenous art form, although a few recent exhibitions have started featuring poulti.

Poulti artists work in private, their studios are a tranquil ambiance. The students painting itself is a form of meditation, linking the human painter with the spiritual and divine. The artists are taught to be humble, meditative and detached from the material world, and they carry immense patience and devotion. The sacred Buddha icon says: “The painter must be a good man, not given to anger and laziness, holy, learned, who is a master of his senses, pious, benevolent, free from vanity.”

Before starting to paint, the canvas has to be blessed and the outlines approved by a Vajrayana priest. If it meets canonical injunctions, the master inscribes three syllables: Om, Ah, Hum (for body, speech and mind) at the back of the canvas. The canvas itself is a cotton sheet stretched across a wooden frame and covered with a layer of buffalo glue and white clay.

The artist uses black-hair brush of a variety of thicknesses. The water-based colours of poulti come from Himalayan stones like tsumumite and copper sulphate crystals, indigo from south India to give five basic colours: red, blue, yellow, black and white. A rich red dominates Newari paintings and this sets off the bright blues, greens and gold. There is a strict code for the colours representing various deities. The subject of the painting itself follows guidelines for philosophical themes and iconographic principles. There isn’t much left for the artist’s imagination, the rules are governed by records of meditative visions of early sages passed down from generation to generation. The eyes of the deities are always painted at the end, and this is the holiest moment in the entire two months or so (as it takes to complete the poulti). Punti artists can bring in their own individuality only in the decorative patterns. Once painted, the canvas is always kept rolled up and not shown to strangers since they are considered a mirror that reflects the painter’s soul. In recent years there has been some revival of interest in the poulti, mainly because of the popularity (and a certain commercialisation of shankhas). There are only a few masters of poulti art in Kathmandu Valley. Among them are Lok Chitrakar (in Bari Dehak), Salaran Man Shrestha and Prima Man Chitrakar, Pankhuri-based Mohit Singh Thapa, originally from the Newari hilltown of Bandipur, also paints shankha.

Chitrakar

Chitrakar is a self-taught poulti practitioner who has been painting since he was 12. Today, with assistants Kunal, Santosh, Sanjaya, Biju, Anshu, Kumar, Rajendra Lok Chitrakar owns his own Atelier in Patan. Chitrakar’s repertoire runs from ritual geometric tantric designs to realistic portraits of the Vajrayana pantheon, including Saraswati, Ganesha, Tara, Manjushree and Avalokiteshvara.

Chitrakar has been working for the past five years on two huge poulti murals for a temple in Japan. Lok Chitrakar follows the iconic traditions of his forebears, but does experiment with his trademark Chinese rocks, Tibetan clouds and Japanese mountain landscapes as well as try transparency in stones or a deliberate lack of symmetry in some forms. “I have tried to remain true to the ritualistic requirements as far as deities are concerned, but on occasion I have added supportive elements in a manner that artists centuries ago also did,” says Chitrakar.

Poulti art is now also developing a select following, and Chitrakar himself has held exhibitions in Kathmandu, Finland and Japan.
The 500-year-old history of the most ubiquitous sign of the Internet era

Online Cheats

"The dog ate my homework!" need not be an excuse anymore. At www.checkweb.de students reveal 50 different tricks for cheating and 173 tried-and-tested excuses for incomplete assignments.

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The symbol is used as a measure of weight in the ancient Greek amphorae. The word "amphora" is derived from the Greek word for "a vessel for liquid or dry goods." The symbol represents a measure of capacity based on the size of the vessel used to transport goods. In the ancient world, the amphora was used to measure the weight of goods, such as wine, oil, and other commodities. The symbol "@" was used to indicate the weight of a vessel, and the symbol was used as an abbreviation for "amphora." The symbol was later adopted by the Byzantine Empire and became the standard symbol for weight in Europe.

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The $200 Simputer

NEW DELHI - in an effort to bring the Internet to the masses in India and other developing countries, several academics and engineers have used their spare time to design a sub-$200 hand-held Net appliance, laptops, and SIMOs.

The Simputer, or SIMO; a simple, portable computer, will enable India's billion-ruling population (some 60% of the country of one billion) to surf the Web. A device that was designed by students and engineers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) at Bangalore, and engineers from the Bangalore-based design company Easwar Software. A prototype of the appliance will be sold in August.

The Simputer is build around Intel's StrongARM CPU, with Linux as the operating system. It will have 16 MB of flash memory, a monochrome liquid crystal display (LCD) with a touch panel, and a small keyboard for text-based computing, and a local-language interface. The appliance will have Internet access and may be used to enable the device for applications such as micro-banking.

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The Buddha isn’t smiling

The likelihood of a war between India and Pakistan that could erupt into a nuclear conflict has increased significantly.

The report had succeeded in destabilizing South Asia, as the process of working through political tensions between the two states that have fought three wars in the last 50 years. In the past, the administration had focused mainly on economic development and spread of nuclear technology. As such, it has to devise a clear strategic plan for the region.

For instance, Pakistan’s nuclear program continues to be a source of concern. The report suggested that the region must not only work on reducing tensions but also take steps to prevent nuclear proliferation.

Government officials have expressed concerns about the possibility of a nuclear conflict and have suggested that the region must work towards a peaceful resolution.

The likelihood of a nuclear conflict is very high, and the region must take steps to prevent it. The report suggests that the region must work towards a peaceful resolution of tensions between Pakistan and India.

The report also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and the need for the international community to play a role in resolving the conflict.

India upsets UN over issues related to AIDS

New Delhi - Stung by criticism from opposition lawmakers in Parliament, who cited HIV/AIDS statistics for India sent out by UNAIDS, Health Minister C.P. Thakur has accused UNAIDS of mis-reporting facts and creating confusion.

"India must be the leader in the battle against HIV/AIDS," said Thakur, who accused UNAIDS of inflating the figures toOpened in 1987, the Jinnah Hospital has been the site of the worst nuclear conflict in the region, leaving thousands of people dead and injured.

The hospital is located near the border with Pakistan, and its staff has treated thousands of injured soldiers and civilians from both countries.

The hospital is now being used as a base for aid workers and volunteers, who are providing medical care and assistance to those affected by the conflict.

Thin jets and scintillating stars: a description of a night sky

Liltingly and softly, the stars glitter and shimmer, casting a magical glow across the night sky. The constellations dance, painting a picture of ancient lore and legends.

The stars are not merely points of light in the sky, but a testament to the wonders of the universe. They are a reminder of our insignificance in the grand scheme of things, and a source of inspiration for all who gaze upon them.

The stars are often associated with the concept of destiny and fate, as they are said to dictate the course of events in the lives of mortals. In many cultures, the stars are revered as symbols of divinity and sacred knowledge.

Chiangkai-shek pipeline protest

Beijing: A giant energy project, crucial to President Jiang Zemin’s drive to revitalise western China, is likely to become a new battleground for environmentalists seeking to contain the damage caused by the pipeline.

The West-East natural gas pipeline, designed to tap into the gas fields in Xinjiang province of western China with the port of Shanghai in the east, was opened in 1987. But the pipeline, which is expected to reach a length of 1,700 million miles by 2005, has been facing strong opposition from environmentalists.

In a surprise decision that yielded state monopoly, Beijing announced that the $4.5 billion project will be funded by the state. This decision has prompted strong reactions from environmentalists and groups opposed to the project.

The pipeline, which is expected to transport gas from Xinjiang to Shanghai, will run through some of the most environmentally sensitive areas in China. The environmentalists argue that the project will have a devastating impact on the local ecosystems and wildlife.

They are calling for a moratorium on the project and are pressuring the government to find alternative energy sources.

The environmentalists are also concerned about the potential for accidents and spills along the pipeline, which could cause severe pollution and harm to human and animal health.

Their demands are backed by a strong base of support within the Chinese population, which is increasingly aware of the need to protect its natural resources.

The pipeline project, which is seen as a key part of China’s development strategy, has been met with widespread criticism from environmentalists and other groups concerned about the impact on the environment.

Despite the opposition, the government has pressed ahead with the project, citing the need for energy security and economic development.

The environmentalists are hoping that their efforts will be enough to delay the project, but they are aware that the battle is far from over. The government remains committed to the project and is unlikely to backtrack on its plans.
Milosevic has more surprises

Another autumn of crisis in the Balkans

When you live in the same house as Slobodan Milosevic, the president of Montenegro, Milos Djukanovic, said recently, you are prepared for surprises. Needless to say, Milosevic’s surprises are always unpleasant, as are the illusions that the Serbian leader earlier this summer rigged the constitution to allow himself extra power. Potential terms as president of non-free Yugoslavia and to dominate Montenegro, the rest of the six republics, the federal institutions, the ruthless adventures in the Balkans have caused in Serbia an atmosphere of paranoia that is even more marked that those which prevailed 10 years ago when Yugoslavia was being nationalized. Serbia is a country that has its own standards, as far as it is concerned, as its leader is physically threatened.

There may not altogether believe in this picture of the愈益恶化 of the political situation in the country, but its memory remains, and its fluidity still follows its course. Even if, in addition, the country has a certain national experience, its international functions, “easy... for their biological survival because of the collapse of the health system, of environmental pollution, and radiation on the air, on the wall, on cultural wars, political repression, isolation.” Again and again the international community was told that the nation is “missing to the horizon.” The report suggests that both the educated elite and ordinary people are involved in a process of self-censorship. Leading in some cases to deep regret over the loss of the lost generation as a result of a repudiation of the 1990s.

The report does not rule out, of course, blaming the nations of the region as well as Serbia. The irony is that people are so caught down that many still respond to his policies, even while, being aware of the risks, they are still bringing up the issue of Milosevic’s policy. The reason is that they are so far so well captured by the consequences of the 1990s. In Serbia, with its frequent instances of economic instability, its lack of political autonomy, is a dangerous mystery for most ordinary people. When people are unsure of everything, they are often ready to accept the most outrageous government directives as explanations for their condition.

In this lays, anyway, Milosevic proceeds with his diverse career. In order to maintain the illusion that the world, or at least NATO, is bent on Serbland’s destruction. His plans to actively attack the independent media, whereas in the past he has been content to manipulate them and limit their influence. No critical questioning of the state authorities is allowed. A half and half election is bound to increase the polarization of Montenegro between those who want to maintain the Serbian connection and those who want to limit or cut it. In fact, local elections in two key towns showed how heavily the two forces are, with one going to the government and the other to the Serb-dominated opposition.

Milosevic is tactically very skilled. A war between nations might not mean anything to him, but he wants his people to believe he is doing something. For this purpose, he inflates his internal propaganda, and said that he would be looking into the Somalian situation from account to account of the international community. The former also stressed the need to deal with neo-Nazi activism at an international level as a complement to any internal efforts.

Melic will meet with German Chancellor of the interior Otto Schaller at the beginning of September in Rome to discuss his reservations. According to German media, the Somalian situation will be extreme, the number of Swiss neo-Nazi skinheads has rapidly increased in the last three years, and now stands at about 1,000.

Stutz points out a clear difference between the Swiss and German communities, Swiss skinheads concentrate their attacks more on left-wingers than on foreigners.

Children in armed conflict

NEW YORK - The UN Security Council has issued a “strong consideration” of the allegations targeting children in armed conflicts and called on governments to do more to protect them. The council voted 15-0 to adopt a resolution which aims to raise awareness about the plight of children in war.

It said states have the responsibility “to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.” It called on parties in armed conflict to respect international law protecting children—specifically protocols banning the involvement of children in war.

The resolution was adopted after months of debate on the issue of the protection of children as combatants and exploiters by armed groups in civil war. It said the exploitation of children, including through prostitution, is a violation of their rights and international law.

It called on regional organizations to implement their initiatives for the protection of children by setting up “children protection units” and by cutting cross-border activities aimed at recruiting and abducting children among other measures.

The council has in the past urged governments to ease the plight of young people to 18 in an effort to protect the exploitation of children.

Skinhead trouble

BASEL - The Swiss government is considering revoking its anti-racism legislation in the face of an increasing number of right-wing skinhead attacks.

Justice Minister Ruth Metzer expressed concern on 9 August about the difficulty of making a decision regarding the relationship between the right-wing skinheads' activities and the law, which was introduced in 1991 to combat racism and xenophobia. She also said that the law is being used to prevent the free expression of views, and that it is being misused by the skinheads.

The action was prompted by the murder of a 16-year-old Palestinian teenager in Basel in 1994. The man was said to have been attacked by a group of skinheads.

Vigilante victims sue paper

LONDON - Innocent victims stripped by vigilante mobs in search of paedophiles to attack and harass are to be given legal redress under new proposals announced by the Government.

The independent Sunday reported on Monday that these were subjects to attacks by anti-paedophile demonstrators had taken legal advice and intended to seek compensation from the newspaper. "They will be able to show that what they looked at the pictures and identified them as paedophiles," the lawyer for the man said.

"There is no doubt that this is defamation because they have been assaulted as a result of this, they would have some specific personal interest in all that they did," he said. Sarah Payne, the eight-year-old girl whose abduction and murder triggered the anti-paedophile campaign, was buried on Sunday.

William Hague, the leader of the opposition Conservative Party, called on Saturday for automatic life sentences for repeat child sex offenders, restrictions to prevent offenders living near their victims, and tighter supervision after release from prison.

IT specialists for Australia

SYDNEY - Australian computer companies need to quickly take up the opportunities to remain world computer and IT services leaders and address the changes that are occurring in their industry, Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock said.

"What business is saying to us is that we want to be able to offer to the world a skill set that is going to take advantage of the opportunities that are emerging in the world market. That is very important," Ruddock said.

"The different way the world is doing business now is going to have a major impact on the IT industry... the way we do business now is going to change significantly," Ruddock said.

"The more we can do to assist in the development of the IT industry, the more we can assist in the development of the IT industry, the more we can assist in the development of the IT industry," Ruddock said. 
Return of the gods

Nepal’s stolen religious images are coming home. But do we put them inside museums or restore them to their original places of public worship and risk losing them again?

NATION

SUKATA TULADHAR

In a few weeks, if all goes according to schedule, a 12th-century bronze sculpture of Uma-Maheshwar stolen from Wood in Dhalchok in 1982 will be returned to Nepal. The figure was sold to several art dealers and museums before ending up as a lovely pediment in the Museum of Islamic Art, Louvre in Paris.

The return of the Uma Maheshwar is part of a new trend in which religious and historical artifacts are being returned to their rightful homes in Europe, Egypt, Cambodia and Thailand at museums and private collections in Europe and North America.

The 65-cm tall limestone sculpture showing Shiva Parvati and attendants deities in Metal Gharbi had been bought by the Louvre Museum in Paris in 1985 from a reputed art gallery in Westbafh for DM 100,000 (nearly $ 50,000). The museum’s Director, Madame Yehes, is bringing the figure back to Nepal, said in Berlin last week that the art dealer who sold it to the museum has disappeared.

As in the case of earlier sculptures which have been restored, this figure was also identified as the stolen Uma Maheshwar from Dhalchok after activists drew the museum’s attention to the book Srijam Nepalak Nigadro 10 in 1989. The Louvre Museum bought the work in 1985, but the details of its acquisition have since been covered up.

The figure’s return is hailed as a major step in the fight against looting of cultural artefacts. The UNESCO World Heritage List is under threat as the world’s heritage is being sold to the highest bidder.

In Berlin the Uma Maheshwar (above, left) was just an objet d’art. And it is tucked away in a glass case in Pata Museum, there won’t be much difference between being in Berlin and being in Pata.

Fleeing for their lives

Nepali men who never dreamt of picking other people’s dishes

Sure, this modus of Nepalis to the West has its bright side. People are being exposed to the outside world and learning new ways to help their country (although it has also given them reason to gripe about the situation at home). Most of them fantasy about coming back and making a difference. If they would.

A few years become a few more years and in due time…forever. Most of them end up settling there. Living there and that, just existing—such is what probably what they were doing in Nepal in the first place.

By no means do I intend to trash everyone for yearning to get out into the wide world. There are the young ones who certainly have valid reasons for seeking a better education in foreign shores.

They have hopes of expanding their horizons and becoming somebody. A few lucky do manage to live and just survive, but not for the most part.

They say the youth are our future. Hopefully there will still be enough of them in the right mind to witness a future. And while they’re at it, they could even help build a better country, where they are needed most.
Whoosh get-together

Alok Turakhias

Imagine a ball packed with steel but not the Nepali experience of martial arts, and all shouting: "Whoosh" is the name. There is base but what can one describe it as? Intrigue. That is exactly what this book aims to bring to the attention of the World's Largest Leisure Club in Thakhekus, where a month-long kickboxing and Karate Conference is underway.

Some 100 martial artists from all over Nepal are participating in the Conference. Most of these black belt holders in various forms of self-defense are seeking further training in kickboxing as well as in the Japanese art of karate, which involves using various weapons such as do, juts, nunchucks, and the famous nunchaku, under the guidance of Enrico Ciprelli.

Ciprelli, a much renowned Italian master of various forms of martial arts, is also the Chief instructor of the Martial Arts Federation of Italy. He has been coming to Nepal every year for the last 10 years and has regularly hosted Nepali in different martial arts forms. In fact, it was with his help that Nepal was able to host the World All Style Combat Organization (WACCO) in 1995. Speaking at the possibility of Nepal making it to the upcoming WACCO World Championship, Ciprelli says: "Nepali players have the mental strength, the problem is physical. The lightweight players need a change in training." Thakhekus Rai, the equally well-known figure in the world of Nepali martial arts and founder of Shashtri Karate in Nepal, feels that with regular training opportunities such as this, Nepali players may be able get some medals at the 2004 Olympics in Athens. "Now I'm providing free space to the club for the month-long conference which is expected to go on till 24 August. Not surprising, about the event Subodh Pradhan is himself a 3rd Dan in Shashtri Karate."  

Free passes

Some 400 free passes will be distributed to people without tickets for Olympic events to allow them to soak up the atmosphere at the Sydney Games next month. Olympic Minister Michael Knight announced Sunday.

Olympic organizers made the move to prevent a large number of non-ticket holders visiting the Olympic Park alongside some 750,000 ticket holders expected on peak days. Organizers feared transportation nightmares and heavy congestion around the venues.

Knight said that a total of 370,000 passes will be given out for the Olympic Park on non-event days in order to avoid the crushes of the Sydney Olympics. The other 50,000 are for substitutes to the Botanical Gardens for the Marathon events.

Easy doping

Regal doping substances are available in abundance at gymnasiums and in gym brand new at the start of the Games, the Sydney Morning Herald said.

The report said a journalist approached dealers at a local gym with a shopping list and walked away with 118 dollars worth of banned anabolic steroids and anti-diuretics was available without any problems.

The trade is allegedly made with Australian firms using license to export animal steroids to countries like Mexico and then recycling them back to the black market. Bodybuilders, the report said, asked for the formalities of the availability of steroids.

Undetected by drug testers, those involved in the trade are confident that plenty of steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs will be on offer to supply demand through the Olympics.

Military force

Human rights activists in Australia and abroad condemned Friday a proposal to give the military supreme power during the Olympics.

The government would give the power to open fire in a civil emergency and the authority to stop, search and detain civilians. An Australian Council for Civil Liberties spokesmen Peter Tattersall said a major concern was the absence of a provision for the powers to be dismantled after the Games.

"If the parliamentarians are fair dodger that they only intend the jury to be used in extreme circumstances, then they have got to test from a sunken casket? "Why won't they insist one in the legislation?" he said.

Jeanette Fitzpatrick said from the New Zealand Green Party echoed concerns across that once in place the legislation would be hard to disband.

"These powers include the right to search premises without a search warrant and to detain people without arrest," Fitzpatrick said. "I am particularly concerned that this legislation is being described in because of fears about protest at sporting events but once it is established it is there for good."  

Outrage over Olympic food fare

Sports fans and consumer groups on Friday bemoaned the poor profit margins that McDonald's and other caterers could expect at next month's Sydney Olympics.

Lettuce water for sale of Olympic venues will double in price for the 16-day spoilt strawberries while the cost of ice-creams will shoot up by half.

"Those prices are outrageous", said the Australian Consumer Association's Louise Pfeiffer. "People will have a perception that they are being ripped off."

Organizers defended the prices, saying that the mark-ups would have been greater if official caterers had not spilled hard ball and bargained with suppliers.

"I believe the prices lastest are justified", said catering manager Hugh Taylor, arguing that the eruption of marauders, Olympic uniforms and security added fees to be taken into consideration.

A "mystery team" Taylor mentioned was the 4-0-20 percent that operators will cream off a catering turnover expected to top US$ 50 million.

Aboriginal fury

New setbacks for Aboriginal onlookers on 11 August have raised fears they may stage violent protests after all at the sporting Sydney Olympics.

"The deal no longer court", Black Australia will tell, said local Aborigine activist Lyle Murre in the wake of a police raid on five houses in a predominantly Aborigine area named "The Block".

"This is an attempt to get rid of a site of shame. Anyone who says this has nothing to do with the Olympics is making fun of us. We will now march, stage blockades and lay up signs in each house in (Sydney) Murre added.

New South Wales Prime Minister Bob Carr swiftly denied the raid, during which 16 alleged offenders were arrested, failed anything to do with the Olympics. "This is ridiculous. The raids were part of a programme directed against drug dealers", he said.

Up to 20 Aborigine activists has planned peaceful protests to inform the world about their social status during the Games. Earlier this week they asked for permission to demonstrate at Sydney airport, but have been denied any protests at the Olympic venues.

Local organizers and the International Olympic Committee have a big interest in a peaceful Olympics and IOC bosses Juan Antonio Samaranch announced Friday he planned to meet with Aborigine leaders soon after he arrives in Australia. Some 8000 athletes will make their way from the Great Barrier Reef to the Sydney Olympic Park. "I believe the leaders are hurt by the lack of understanding. We are in a position to talk", he said.

Two Aborigines taken from their parents 50 years later a test case brought against the Australian government, arguing that the kids had taken in their duty of care by separating them from their family and bringing them up in white institutions. (ends)
Nepal is not responsible for the floods in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh is situated in the Swatik Chunar Hills. Three rivers are ephemeral in nature and have no storage sites in their basis and neither can be built to control them. In the months of July and August the low-pressure monsoon trough shifts north of the Ganges plains and meets calcium in the Swatik hills in a phenomenon called "brak monsoon". During this period the soils can release almost two feet of water in a 24-hour period. Such rivers, which are more than drainage channels, thus have to transfer the incoming water to the sea and can do it only by flooding rivers. The resulting flood will all continuum in its path. It occurs across political boundaries with no restrictions. The high origin of such basins are due to political, social and institutional failures, made worse by poor governance, exploitative social formations, and inappropriate allocation of technology for flood control. The real issue is not what is useful option but what drainage reclamation has been avoided downstream. Over the last 50 years, Bihar’s embankments, spanning over 5,000 km, have made more land susceptible to floods than what they were meant to do—provide deluge from the annual inundation. And the reason is simple: embankments prevent the natural backflow of rivers and small streams into the main river channel after the monsoon has expended its fury. Failure remains unacknowledged. And inconsistency is currently transferred elsewhere—optimum to Nepal. The most alarming aspect of this political fault is the total lack of scientific or historical depth and its appeal to pseudo-ethnicity. Ultimately, it ends up trivialising the complex specifications of flood disaster.

‘Water management analyst Ajay Devendra (Water Nepal)’

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Nepal is currently faced with a crisis as heavy rains have led to flooding in several areas, especially in the eastern and northern parts of the country. The situation has worsened due to the construction of dams and embankments by upstream states, which has reduced the natural backflow of water. This has resulted in increased flooding downstream, particularly in the borders of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The central government has been criticized for not taking adequate preventive measures to address the issue. The government has also been accused of not sharing the flood water data with the affected states, which has further compounded the problem. The situation has led to loss of lives, displacement of people, and damage to infrastructure, causing significant economic losses. The government has been urged to take immediate action to mitigate the situation and ensure the safety of the residents in the affected areas.
A favourite motif was to show political figures in various transsexual avatars, ministers with mummies and exposed backsides.

Free-for-all

Before and after, Panchayat era cartoon showing Prime Minister Lokendra Balahadur Chand leading a Gajatra procession (left) and the new lurid post-democracy cover of Kamana magazine depicting infighting in the Nepali Congress (right).

Back in the days before offence presses, the dull regularity of the black-and-white, Gutenberg-era Nepali media would come alive with a splash of colour once a year. The latter part days were also the days of the Panchayat and its accompanying press controls, so readers looked forward to Gajatra to enjoy a brief day of freedom. Journalism looked forward to Gajatra as the only day they could print in all forms that had built up over the year. Newspapers came out with Gajatra Specials and those were snapped up by aavenous public.

The origins of the "cow festival" are buried in legend: the attempt to make a queen forget the death of her child by come up with funny antics. It is the very frivolousness of the festival that the newspapers picked up to lampoon political characters and make people laugh. And the fact that it was tolerated by the authorities on the day of Gajatra had special significance in an era when freedom was repressed.

Interestingly, although media cover had now been lifted, the tradition of Gajatra laternooning continues. But somehow, it is ever the same anymore. It could be that the post-1990 freedom press has taken away the rig of waiting for the same and the curbs that made you gap with the three authority of challenging authority.

"Now every day is a Gajatra. The want of the lident is made fun of every day that there is nothing different for the magazines to print for the Gajatra issue," says cartoonist Chhiring Mani.

The tradition of Gajatra Specials began in 1960 when the weekly, Naya Sandesh, under the editorship of Bal Mukunda Des Panjdy, came out with an edition that shocked and amazed readers with its stumps against the then oppressive apparatus of conservative and conservative social mindsets. After it was picked up some years later by other newspapers, people began identifying specials as a way to express their anger.

The early-day Gajatra contained high-quality humour and satire. But after 1964, the press went for vulgarity. A favourite motif was to show political figures in various transsexual avatars, ministers with mummies and exposed backsides. Bold humour and bringing political satire rapidly gave way to the direct portrayal of sex and women at effects of ridicule. The tide continues to this day.

One example of the changing tone of the audience is the fact that this year's Gajatra will not see Blankets, perhaps the most audacious Gajatra magazine of all time. Explaining why they had to clothe down after 18 years of publication, Rajan Rittle of the Young Artists Group, the publisher of Slohndhada, says: "There is no market to support us. People demand cheap skulls. We tried giving them quality humor, but especially after the advent of democracy, there's more of our audience and workers close to that professional. They do not have time to support us. We need a market to sell our work."

As readers' tastes varied towards sex and explicit cartoons found themselves responding to the demands and their moral politics with pornography. "It signified the conservative view of women as symbols of decadence. And it was considered the weakest point in the men. The billboard was the character is given shown that Nepali humorists are up to their necks in a pool of porn," says Amrit Chauri, a friend of E.

At the Kathmandu University, Chhiring Mani has given up trying to make Nepali laws themselves and has even set up an organization devoted to seize called Sima Paris. And despite all the problems in Nepal, there still seem to be plenty to laugh about, he says. "In fact laughter is our primary weapon. It seems to be the same way to keep our sanity."

HAPPENINGS

The Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) called the press last week to talk about its achievements in the past year. At the podium were Ratna Dhakal, President; Dr. Pagbar Bhusal; Badi Bhusal, Pratap Chhetri; Pratap Chhetri; and Badi Bhusal.

Chief of Army Staff, General Sitaram Sapkota speaking at the 6th Batch of the Nepali Army Command and Staff Course at Dropark last week. The General called for an automated national security council.
Holy Cow

Because it is holy, cows are also good for worshipping. We really like to worship a cow. One day in a cow, you put milk into a cow's ears and then let it fall into the river. Cows like to eat milk, and they are the most beneficial in everything. They are the most useful component.

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Mayors

Nepal Times Monday, 16-22 August 2003

Kathmandu's Mayor Keshar Shrestha comes across as someone with a thick hide. A politician who calls a spade a spade and someone who doesn't suffer fools. But few know his softer side, that he composes poetry and if he is in the mood breaks spontaneously into verse in the middle of speeches, and likes to listen to Ranas. His favourite Nepali song, which he hums on the way to work at the back of his chauffeur-driven metallic green Mercedes, is Gopal Yonzon's passionate ballad 'Nepal Nepali maya ahe ahe bhutada'.

At home, Mayor Shrestha is an avid cook and often busy in the kitchen rustling up a meal for his guests. In the mornings, the mayor goes out to the terrace of his house to run a few TZECLI movements. He says it keeps his mind focused on getting things done.

The mayor has his political ups and downs, and his present down that he belongs to a party (the Communist Party of Nepal-Marxist-Leninist) which doesn't have a single seat in parliament. This makes the job of visiting the Mayor down the city's garbage problem. If you do live at a long distance from the man, I have a couple of suggestions for you: the first is to call him on the phone and the second is to write him a letter. The mayor is also critical of the sanitation and the lack of waste management.

Grindlays

Grindlays DAL BHAT INDEX

The Dal index was up on Friday with a net rise of 27.89 points. The Bhat index was up by 27.89 points.

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