WHO’S IN CHARGE?

Maoists want to declare Nepal a republic. They battle an elected government that is not getting much help from an army of which the king is the supreme commander.

Nepalis who understand, love and take pride in their heritage. They are now saying that conserving the cultural landscape and heritage is essential, not because UNESCO says so, but because it is ours. (see pages 2, 4)

Pokhara tourism

The jewel in Nepal’s tourist crown is walking up from the summer slumber to welcome the new tourism season. Hotels, both big and small, are dusting rooms and cleaning shelves to accommodate new arrivals, the first few of whom have begun to deplane. This autumn Pokhara has a large choice to offer in terms of hospitality-ranging from five-star deluxe to specialty hotels and resorts that offer world-class comfort and an unmatched wilderness experience. Well, Pokhara’s bad roads are also a part of the adventure. (see page 9)

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Heritage today, Gone tomorrow

There will always be the scornful who will say that Nepal is too poor to be worried about maintaining some crumbling old temple. Why, when Nepali children don’t get enough to eat, should we spend money on the upkeep of termite-infested courtyards? This argument is disingenuous. To begin with, there is now strong evidence that Nepal is in fact not a poor country at all. Reports published in this paper and elsewhere point out that huge amounts of cash are being pumped into the informal economy by NGOs working abroad. Nepalis are buiding with cash: Rs 50 billion is floating around at any given time. The problem is that this money is not being invested productively to create jobs and generate new wealth. It is also concentrated in the hands of a very few: the gap between rich and poor in Nepal is one of the widest even in South Asia’s unequal society. So, if there is poverty here, it is of the kind. Of creativity, vision, and a commitment to development and the future.

Some of that creativity is now urgently needed to preserve Kathmandu Valley’s endangered heritage. We may pat ourselves on the back for having lifted off attempts to world heritage to our monuments from the List of World Heritage Sites. But the fact of the matter is that our heritage is under grave threat, and we have not shown the political will to preserve the rich cultural landscape of Kathmandu. It now seems that most of the conscientious people of the Valley are not waiting for the government or UNESCO to tell them how bad things are. They have started renovating and restoring by themselves. Both should support these efforts and find ways to replicate them.

We may not be shooting the messenger yet, but messengers are getting enough hints from the executive, legislative and judicial branches to keep quiet. Even for journalists, it seems, no news is bad news. Consider the recent spate of bad omens for the press:

The Public Accounts Committee of parliament summons the station manager of Radio Sagarmatha and wants a news source revealed.

Communications Ministry Jai Prakash Prasad Gupta jones about “anti-democratic reporting” and wants the press to behave itself.

Our learned judges guard their privileges with the threat of Contempt of Court against any back chewing of autonomy.

It appears that the three wings of the state are going up against the fourth estate. The media should just be a mouthpiece, amplifying their proclamations, toeing the line, buttering the boss, being the propaganda organ. Old habits die hard.

The tradition of a drunken going around asking others how they wish of his chief continues to this day even if the message is coming in through the tele or desk automation. In hierarchi- cal societies, the media—be they the old and newsmen or the modern reporter or commentator—is expected to sing hunches in praise of the powerful.

But in a democracy, the media become an essential mechanism for check and balance. It has to be allowed the freedom to be irresponsible. Democra- tically-elected governments may not like what the media say about them, but they must protect their right to say it. That is why thin-skinned politicians, or those who have a lot to hide, don’t last long.

Unlike the fourth estate, the three branches of government (parliament, executive and the courts) are funded by the tax-payers’ money. They are accountable to the people. And since the press represents the public on a day-to- day basis, the government should ideally be transparent towards it. The rulers are elected by the people to run the country for a limited period, and as the people need to know how they are performing, the rulers need to communicate with those who chose them through this conduit.

The independent press does not run on government grants, which is actually public money. It should run on its own resources, and is accountable to no one except its readers, listeners or viewers. If the media’s foot soldiers break laws while pursuing that objective, then prosecute them by all means. But any call by government officials for the media to pursue some “higher mission” rings hollow. Even the gutter-press and sewer- channels will not (they don’t have a readership).

The press does not need the communica- tion minister framing about what a newspaper should or shouldn’t publish. He is free to choose what he likes to read, or what he wants to write. In the same way, he should not be offended if other writers and readers exercise a similar freedom. The press is not accountable to him, it is answerable to the public directly. And it does so at regular intervals, at least more regularly than he answers his own constituency.

The press is not a trial every time it publishes, broadcasts or telecasts something, it does not have to wait for an election to face its electorate.

Even in more mature democracies, politicians regularly accuse the media of being irresponsible. Our politicians are not different. They are just more insecure. The media must protect its independence. That is its most precious resource. It must assert its right to seek the truth, even if it is subversive. Truth is invariably subversive. It is only those who want to hide in dark corners and do things secretly who benefit from a controlled press.

In the 1980s, the London Times columnist Bernard Levin challenged a government call for the press to be responsible. He wrote: “The press has no duty to be responsible at all, and it will be an ill day for freedom if it should ever acquire one—we are and must remain vagabonds and outlaws, for only by being remain- ing shall we be able to keep the faith by which we live, which is the pursuit of knowl- edge that others would like to pursue, and making of comments that others would prefer unnamed.”

If the Public Accounts Committee wants Pratik Bhushal of Radio Sagarmatha to reveal his sources, why don’t they first make a law to that effect? The Honourable Jai Prakash, who happen to be an ex-journalist himself, would do well to reflect on whether or not he was once responsible. The very idea of responsibility resides in freedom as it is imposed from outside. Responsibility is some- thing that come from within, and members of the press are no less responsible just because they do not agree with one interpretation of “national interest”.

There is some truth in the allegation that a section of the Nepali press (of the extremist fringe in particular, and other Trojan Horses in general) is not adhering to its own code of conduct. But that is too specific a greed to pour scorn over the entire media, as Honourable Jai Prakash has been doing lately at every opportunity. Honourable Minister, are you black sheep in politics, and do all sections of the government honour their commitments to the constitution? Or is it the press, particularly the mainstream media, comparatively a better performer? You decide. I have my own biases.

The press has come a favourite whipping boy of all sections of power. The Nepal press must take that as a compliment. It means at least some of us in the profession are doing some- thing right. Watchfulness aren’t supposed to be cute and cuddly, they are sup-posed to snarl.
A mercenary for democracy

FUNDAMENTALLY FLAWED
I believe that you missed (#10) a very significant "investment opportunity" for the Nepalese government atraction: Tax Deduction at Source (TDS). In most countries taxes are paid on profits with very sophisticated policing techniques. The Ministry of Finance is extremely slow at refunding overpayment of taxes, if such a process even exists. Recent inquiries at the ministry indicates that the whole process of recording and tracking TDS payments is fundamentally flawed.

RC Kathmandu

I agree that Nepal’s policies are unfriendly to investors (#10). Nepal must travel extra miles to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to rejuvenate its moribund economy. We must stop rectifying the liberalisation phases and get down to some serious task of correcting our labour laws, and provide active incentives to potential investors. These phases are a waste of time when its donors’ needs a change. The old-style UNDP ran an impressive and proved that he has just not been declining over the past version of the UNDP. "The Seattle aftershocks which has driven the developed countries back to us made them more cautious and anxious to find alternative paths. "Globalisation is inevitable; the question is on what terms," he says. "We have to make sure that poor people are included in the process."
KATHMANDU CAN BE SAVED

After the wholesale destruction of Kathmandu Valley's cultural landscape and architectural character in the past 20 years, there is now an emerging trend to restore and preserve what is left.

Sweety Shrestha, Bishnu Bista, and Chhewang Niyam have said that UNESCO had been described as Kathmandu's unique 'living heritage site' unqualified in the world. But on the list of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites that were included in 1979, UNESCO's Sin of World Heritage Sites in Kathmandu Valley that were downgraded to 'Endangered' Heritage Sites, or even listed. But Nepal's delegation from the Department of Archaeology has managed to keep Nepal off the list by promoting a series of conservation criteria. A meeting of the committee in 1992 requested Nepal to list 53 recommendations for the year 2004, but a year later arrived at a 'sane conclusion' over the persisting problems of demolition or alteration of historic buildings within the Kathmandu Valley.

A six-member team from the World Heritage Centre is in Kathmandu this week to see how far Nepal has got with its 55 recommendations, and to find out once and for all whether there is political commitment to the highest level of heritage conservation. "This is a very serious effort to get an objective assessment of the situation," said Edward Stedman, team member and author of a 1977 Kathmandu Valley heritage conservation masterplan, told us. The mission is to make recommendations to the independent World Heritage Committee which will meet later in the year to decide on whether Kathmandu Valley will remain on the World Heritage List.

Sekla, who first came to Kathmandu in 1963 to begin an inventory of heritage sites, says "I have noticed the changes in the Valley in perspective, many of them are unavoidable, and it is sad. But I have also been walking around this week, and I see definite signs of local communities more serious about heritage preservation than they were five years ago."

Sankharunji Raj Tiwari is a Professor of Architecture at Tribhuvan University and has been working to restore not just the monuments but also the "ambient envelope of the Valley. He says: "There is no doubt that public awareness about using brickwork, restoring traditional facades, wood carvings, on windows is growing. But he says a lot more needs to be done to rescue and implement housing and zoning regulations."

"A historic Nepal ''is a splendid and inspiring place to be, to discover in the future. Historical and cultural heritage tourism are promising areas for development and growth." In Patan's Memoria Gall is an up-market tea shop that was turned into a Ralph Lauren superstore with his new home. The inside has refinedrience beams, large spacious rooms and tall ceilings but the outside is the traditional Newari facade with brick, decorative stone cornice and a decorative cornice cornice.

"It is slightly more expensive to build but this is the least we can say to preserve our heritage," says his neighbour and Queen's cousin, Homol Shrestha. "The tea house needs more and other financial incentives for traditional construction, but heritage sites would encourage others to follow Ralph's example. To the classic example of successful conservation need to be spread in other parts of Kathmandu Valley, if it is to remain as rich cultural landscape."

Ed./m.d.
Thrill of the chase

It was obvious that none of the Nepali athletes were going to win medals in Sydney. But they were steely eyed and enthusiastic: it was about being there for your country, your colleagues and your family.

M y parents bought their first colour television in 1968 to watch the Olympics in Mexico City. Since then, the Olympics have come and gone many times. I usually don’t enjoy watching sports on television, but every four years, I seem to lapse, and indulge in various thrills and agonies. Perhaps it runs in the family. A rare moment of joy in my home. I check each day to see how many medals Canada has won. A small thrill goes through me each time a new bronze or even silver is announced. Never mind that they’ve been won through improbable performances like synchronized swimming, or rhythmic gymnastics.

Of course even my mild nationalism took a job in 1988 in the Seoul Olympic games when the hopeless Ben Johnson got caught taking anabolic steroids after he’d filled us with joy for his starring victory in the 100 m. finale. I was in France at the time, and the newspaper headlines on a local tabled, before the dinner toast, read “Big Boom” in 72 point type.

Then the next day, the same paper announced “Le Scandal” in equally large print, and Ben was exposed as a cheat. I defended him sort of, and wrote to sports colleagues, and was carping about “after all he’s not really Canadian, he was born in Jamaica”. But my colleagues thrill-seeking took years to recover. Now I regard the Olympics as an exercise in boycotting, and sit by the television and read the reports. That’s what I did last weekend.

My neighbour was watching them on TV and I was with her. She got quite excited when the South African team won a silver medal. “What a thrill,” she said. Later, she mentioned how much she had enjoyed the thrill of the chase. It was wonderful. But I couldn’t help thinking of the runners in that race. I couldn’t help wondering how they were feeling now. They were making headlines in newspapers around the world. I was thinking of the thrill of the chase, but I was feeling a little of the track on my own.

The thrill of the chase is a thrill for everyone. It’s a feeling of excitement, of achievement. It’s a feeling of doing something that no one else has done before. It’s a feeling of being part of something special. It’s a feeling of being on top of the world.

Indian border police

Three Indian states bordering Nepal-West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh—are set to up a special police force to check smuggling of arms and ammunition and narcotics along the Indo-Nepal border, reported The Times of India newspaper.

The Indian finance ministry has already agreed to the proposal and is likely to be forwarded for cabinet approval early next month. The idea is to set up 53 police stations—one every 10 to 15 kilometres—and seven check posts in eight Indian districts bordering Nepal. The border force will consist of 1,000 personnel, including armed policemen and intelligence officials.

Lawsuit against government

Three environmental groups filed a petition last week asking the Supreme Court to direct the government not to implement the agreement reached between Nepal and India regarding the import of Indian vehicles.

The petitioners charge that the agreement announced in the joint communiqué at the end of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala’s visit last month not only violates the Nepal Mass Emission Standards 2006 (1999) but also the fundamental right of the citizens to breathe clean air as guaranteed by the Constitution of Nepal 1990.

The petition requires vehicle importers to submit a Type Approval (TA) and Conformity of Production (COP) certificate certified by a government-recognized authority. But the joint statement not only omitted the mention of COP certificate but also allows vehicle importers on the basis self-certification by the manufacturers.

Aid to Pushpash

The Indian government is to provide Rs 30.70 million to Pushpashahi Area Development Trust (PDT) to build a dam at Tigainga in Solukhumbu.

The proposed reservoir will accommodate over 74 million cubic feet of water for the benefit of 367,000 people. The project is expected to be completed within a year or so, and the dam will help provide water for irrigation, drinking, and other purposes.

FM radio questioned by PAC

The Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament has questioned the Madhavendra Giri-led Radio Nepal for misusing funds and for not following proper financial procedures.

The PAC has raised concerns about the mismanagement of funds, lack of transparency, and the failure to follow proper financial procedures. The committee has also recommended that the government should provide adequate financial resources to the radio station.

SAARC lawyers meet

The eighth meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was held in Nepal in January 1991. The meeting was attended by representatives from all seven SAARC countries.

The summit was convened to discuss issues related to regional cooperation, including economic integration, social and cultural issues, and regional security.

Correction

An article in The Times of India mentioned that the Nepali National Bank plans to issue a new currency note of Rs 50. However, an official from the bank has clarified that the statement was incorrect.

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I am doing my job
Subash Chand Koirala, O.N.M.) and Mr. Koirala, Public Account Committee in Nepal Parliament, 29 September

Is there any problem between the Public Accounts Committee and the Finance Committee? I don't know what type of problem you are talking about. There is no problem between us. We are working within the parameters given to us, and we are within limits. Therefore, this will not lead to any confusion.

The home secretary and water resources secretary have said that the PAC is interfering in the work of the executive and is trying to create a shadow government. Is this true?

Officially they have not told me anything. All I have come to know is through the papers and press. The PAC is going to do its work properly, with dedication and conviction. And it is likely to people saying that there is an alternative government is formed, then be it so.

Is it also true that the Civil Aviation Ministry has accused the PAC of overstepping its jurisdiction?

Minister Chaudhary appeared before the committee and said that whatever he had been reported as saying was not reported in the proper context. Therefore I have nothing to add. Secondly, I want to make it clear that the PAC is doing its work, within established parameters and will not tolerate any unprovoking statements from ministers, ministers or any other functionaries. We will do everything that is advantageous to the nation.

There are differences among the ministers and MPs concerning the jurisdiction of certain committees. Is that true?

There are those things that the press and the public have to understand. Voices are being raised from the wrong places. We have to understand that if the committees work properly, the parliament and the nation will benefit and become strong. This means that the voice of the people is being heard. Only those who do not want the public to benefit are raising these concerns. We agree there are problems in the committees and we are raising them as and when we see it if necessary. Just because there is some disagreement between the committees does not mean that they are not working properly. That is the view of the people who do not want to see the committees become effective. Take, for example, the funds for police welfare. Some people do not want certain issues related to this fund to come out in the open and therefore they all say all sorts of things. They say that the committee is not working cohesively and so, and none of that is true.

It is said that both the Finance Committee and the PAC are looking into banks in which the government has some stake. Besides the PAC, I do not know of any other committee handling this issue. The PAC is looking into the issue of banks quite seriously and we are carrying out on-site inspections also. The decision concerning the Multi Devil branch can be taken as an example of our decision-making. We have to study documents prepared by many national and international organisations, we have put in place all that we want to; we want to achieve a good position on which we believe we will want. We have asked for documents from Nippon Bank, Rashtriya Banijya Bank, Agricultural Development Bank and the Nepal Industrial Development Corporation. We have gathered some documents and there has been a sub-committee under MP Haidayat Tripathy, which will submit a report within two months. We have formed sub-committees for different banks and institutions and they sit in the committee. We have found that in some cases the principal in question was just 2.25 million rupees and now the interest alone has reached 50-60 million.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Those who think our technology is inferior and publish books abroad spending millions have begun to say that the parliamentary system is not suitable for Nepal...they are digging their own grave."

Communications Minister Jaya Prakash Prasad Gupta's remarks on the issue in Kirtipur, 23 September

Power purchase hurting NEA

Dhankuta, 24 September

The PAC has expressed concern between the Nepal Electricity Authority and independent power producers is forcing NEA to increase power purchase. According to a source at NEA, after buying electricity from Khimti (520MW), it has stopped generation at its own Manangpul project (66MW). The source said that the NEA’s 360MW project, the Brune Kosi, will begin generation later this year and the NEA will begin supply to the central grid next year, under all the clause that NEA has to purchase electricity.

The NEA may be forced to shut down some of its own plants and because of the same clause of the PPA will be forced to stop buying power from the 12MW Brune Kosi project which is available at almost half the cost (Rs 2.50 per unit) supplied by Khimti. The NEA failed to assess the demand and supply before agreeing to buy electricity from Khimti. Brune Kosi is a joint venture project so that explains why it has agreed to buy electricity from them. Per the agreement with Brune, electricity will be supplied at half the generation rates, NEA would earn an additional Rs 10 per unit.

Instead NEA in 15 July, decided to increase the power tariff by 10 percent which would make electricity generated by diesel plants cheaper than hydroelectric.

Cabinet reshuffle after Dasain

Saptari, Bhairahawa, 22 September

The prime minister’s announcement over the promised cabinet reshuffle has led to a new round of protests and inflating. Dissatisfied party members wrote a protest letter to the PM and tomorrow the PM and Krishna Prasad Bhattawar plan to meet again for a new round of talks.

This round is likely to bring pressure to bear on the cabinet members and the Central Working Committee of the party. The disgruntled party members are muttering of another sit-down after the meeting to see if the changes would be made only after Dasain. Krishna Prasad Bhattawar is said to have seen the protest letter and is likely to meet with the PM over alleged irregularities in the distribution of party membership before its convention next year. The deadline for making corrections in the latter for the convention was earlier October.

The Congress party office says the list could not be made available. They believe it to be for the safety of all concerned. Similarly, the government has also asked for the list for safety reasons.

Quick in quarry

Saptari, Bhairahawa, 22 September

The Chairman of Nepal Medical Council, Dr Bhup Raj Joshi, who has been accused of helping a quack, Rakesh Bhujel, to receive a licentiate (S.K. Rana), Practice in Nepal is to extend an international seminar that will help to end the ways to prove quackery from the medical profession.

The seminar is being organized by the General Medical Council of Britain and Joshi’s trip is being paid for by the Ministry of Health. The meeting is said to be one that would lead to the formation of a World Medical Council. The session is said to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1996, and Dr Joshi and the registrar of NMC, Dr Babu Ram Manandhar have been selected for the seminar.

Dr Joshi stated charged of theft but the patient who gave the patient to the NMC was morally responsible for all that has happened. The NMC says that Dr Joshi had also been working without registration during his appointment by Rana when the patient operated for a minor injury had died.

Indian encroachment

A recent book, Nepal by Sinema, by Buddhi Narayan Shrestha, says India has encroached upon a total of 1.7 million hectares (1.7 million acres) of Nepal territory spread over 36 locations in 21 districts of Nepal. It says 764,000 hectares have been encroached in Darbhanga district, in the Kathmandu Valley. In the same region, 32,000 hectares in Ilam district alone. Some of the details on the disputed border is:

Darbhanga, Kalapani, Limpur and Satakot areas in Surkhet encroached is 74,000 hectares.

Kanchchapur District, Abbott to 222 hectares and Kailali 100 hectares.

The survey was ordered for the construction of the allia bridge. At Baitighar Mandi 2,937 hectares when the Sarda Canal was being built. Encroachment has taken place at Ramkot, Janakpur, Bhabamati, Kalikot, Kalimati, Nawa, Nepalbhandari, National Park.


Bardia. Areas in Using, Maniya, Bherahe, in Surkhet has been encroached. Roughly 60 km along border pali, 45% to 95% have been encroached by farmers from both sides.

Banks. Indians have built houses in no-man’s-land and the border is clearly marked near Surkhet village. The Congress government has developed committees face speeding and irrigation because of Indian encroachment.

Dang. Dudhwa area has been encroached since the British Raj. India has been occupying this land for over 70 years. Kapilvastu. No-man’s land does not belong to Nepal. The Maoist government has expanded their territory along the Tista river banks.

Rupandehi. An Indian border pillar post has been built on no-man’s land in Sallizing, about 20 km encroached near the Marrabara area and another 21,950 hectares encroached near Suniti Narayani.

Chitwan. Jungle near the Balmiki Adhikari, location near Mulchoka and Taratal. In Thrgh of Pata the border pillar points are placed 500 meters north of the border, between 48°45’47” and 48°45’48” which is classified as ‘mining’ there is encroachment in Lumbini, Parsa and Sitals and near Rautahat.

Razihal. Gaur. Bordered by a dry river near the border area near Janakpur, has been occupied by Indians.

And lastly, a border pillar post has been availed at Bherahe, and Handauli has been occupied and culivated by Indians for the last 20 years. Similarly, the border pillars of Tribhuvanpur and Shrabha Mithi.

Saptari, 50 hectares in Lalitpur, and 65 hectares in Kodaiya are encroached upon.

Sunsari. Areas along the Kosovo finishing market in Kodaiya, and finishing market in Sligurthup, Shekampur and Hutithagat is occupied by Indians.
Himalayan ice reveals climate warming

Drilling through ice on the Tibetan plateau 70 km north of Kathmandu has brought up fresh evidence of global warming: the last decade was the hottest for the past 1,000 years.

Ice cores drilled through a glacier more than four miles high in the Himalayan mountains have yielded a highly detailed record of the last 1,000 years of earth’s climate in the high Tibetan Plateau, according to the National Science Foundation in the United States. Based on an analysis of the ice, both the last decade and the last 50 years were the warmest in 1,000 years. The core also showed a clear record of at least eight major droughts caused by a failure of the South Asian Monsoon, the worst of these a climatologically severe seven-year dry spell that cost the lives of more than 600,000 people. The new findings, published in this week’s issue of the journal Science, outline data recovered from three cores drilled through the Drancup Glacier, a two-kilometer-wide ice field that meanders a few miles on the flank of Shisha Pangma (Gangteysham), the 8,013-metre (26,293-foot) peak just north of the Nepali-Tibet border.

The international team, including Americans, Chinese, Peruvian, Russian and Nepali scientists, retrieved the cores during a 10-week, 1997 expedition to the region. “This is the highest climate record ever retrieved,” explained Thompson, professor of atmospheric sciences at Ohio State University and leader of the expedition, and it clearly shows a serious warming during the late 20th century, one that was, at least in part, driven by human activity. This is a very compelling story.”

For the last 25 years, he and his colleagues have drilled cores from glaciers and ice caps in some of the most remote parts of the planet to uncover records of ancient climate. Most current predictions of global climate change suggest that early signs of warming will be seen at high altitudes where these ice cores exist. So far, Thompson’s work has borne this out. “This is a great achievement, but we’ve accomplished under extremely adverse and hazardous conditions,” says Hemant Arora, director of NSRL’s earth sciences division. “These investigations of the earth’s past climate face little doubts that the earth is warming and that all characteristics of our climate can change rapidly. This is something that needs to be taken quite seriously by all the peoples of the world.”

Researchers at Ohio State University’s Byrd Polar Research Centre and the Chinese Nanahua Institute of Glaciology and Cryocology divided the three cores and were able to identify annual layers for the last 557 years. Samples from these layers were analyzed for dust concentrations, chemical composition and oxygen—and helped inter-estimate ratios. The isotope ratios let scientists extrapolate the air Temperatures present when the ice was formed. Dust concentrations give an indication of the soil erosion near the glacier, and other chemical analysis of the ice core provides clues about volcanic activity, fossil fuel burning and deforestation.

“We now have a record from 25,000 feet in the atmosphere (showing how it changes in a weather balloon), one that has been preserved perfectly. That shows the last 500 years were warmer than any other period in the last 1,000 years,” Thompson added. The red suite came with the monsoon records the core retrieved. The South Asian monsoon is a major climate event that cycles annually across the southern Himalayan region, the Far East and moves as far as Africa. Changes in the monsoon cycle can bring catastrophic flooding or droughts. The core data showed that in 1798, the cycle changed, the rains lessened and drought took hold in the region, a condition that continued for seven years until 1798 when the monsoon returned. That event was massive,” Thompson said. “It killed more than 600,000 people in one region of India alone. And that was at a time when global populations were much less than they are today.” (Estimates place the world population in 1800 at 800 million.)

If such a similar event occurred today, the social and economic disruption would be horrendous," he said. Current world population is just over 6 billion people. The ice core records showed other various monsoon failures and growing droughts in 1870-77, and around 1950, 1350, 1280 and 1230, though none was as devastating as in 1798 event.

Thompson’s paper offered no indications of what might have triggered the monsoon failures. The data, however, do seem to point to the impact human activities have had on changing climate in the region. Core samples covering the last century would reveal increased dust trapped in the ice and a doubling of chlorofluorocarbon compounds, suggesting an increase in both burning and deforestation in the region. "There is no question in my mind," he said, “that the warming is in part, not totally, driven by human activity. I think the evidence for that is so clear—it’s not only from this site but also from sites in other countries. "Millenials in Africa," Thompson said an expedition to the ice fields fetch the highest mountain in Africa earlier this year. At least "5 percent of the ice there has disappeared since 1982." "I think," he said, “global warming is a fact that we need to address. Our village economy used to rely mainly on the home duties, and the selling of liquor. Some worked as labourers. Today, with access to money from our own collective savings, we have started various activities like raising Improved breeds of pigs and chickens, others have started growing vegetables and selling them in the market. Our village is not really known for its learned people. In fact, literacy is rare among us. However, we do not have a single SLC graduate. But now after our literacy campaigns, it is a small group of literate people who now read and write at least at a bit. We’ll have to pass on this legacy to the next generation. We know, I always used to wonder and worry whether this village of ours would ever take a turn for the better. There was so much to do to improve things, but it seemed like we were paralyzed, we didn’t know where to begin. Now, we have begun to realize that things can change for the better. I am quite optimistic. I see signs of self-reliance which in turn has given our people more self-esteem. There was a time when we used to dread visitors to our village; imagine what they would think seeing all the litter and the poverty. We used to worry that they wouldn’t come. Now we look forward to welcoming visitors, we want them to help us do what we have for ourselves. You see?”

Rawati Hamal is the manager of the Kathal Devi Women’s Community Organisation in a village ward 6 Salatal VDC, Tanahun. This piece was translated from the original Nepali for Nepali Times.

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**Village Voice**

by Rewati Hamal

It takes seven to eight hours to reach our village from the district headquarters in Nuwakot. There are 24 households living in the Nepal settlement of Bhalukot ward number 8. Our is a predominantly Nepali village with some Bahun and Chehril families. The village is remote and not much contact compared to others in the district. To reach the nearest health post we have to cover for an hour and a half. The nearest market in Lobesa Deurali is ten-and-half hours’ walk away.

The economic state of our village is also quite dismal. No one from our village is in government service and the number of people serving in the Indian Army and working as employees in Birbhipur is also limited. Very few people own what or Eggs. The main source of income for us is raising pigs, working as labourers and selling tears.

It mid-January, Chandra Bahadur Chhetri came to our village and told us about the benefits of getting together in a to improve our lives. He told us about developing an organisation, but to make savings and convinced us that if we helped ourselves, we could not avoid help from outside. We brainstormed about what to do next. There were four days later we formed the Kathal Devi Women’s Community Organisation with members from all the 24 households in our village.

Well, what can I say? Things have really changed since we started the Village Development Programme. We meet every week and we save Rs 5. We have rules to fix latrines and attend. We even slapped a Rs 50 fine on two men from the village who used to get drunk.

Kathal Devi Women’s Community Organisation is open for anyone who wants to continue living in the village.
ECONOMIC SENSE
BY ARTHA REED

The right amount at the right place at the right moment.

If you feel sufficiently inclined towards the Caicos officials on landing at Kamatamari, take a deep breath, pop your blood pressure pill and have the Daisan pocket money ready.

Now that Daisan is around the comer, many Nepalis are flying home for holidays. If you know anyone who is coming to see them in one week, or more now to warn them out carry not more than one set of dhoti, only one parab:boolean (whatever that is) and no more than two sets of junk. Chips. If they do they will be liable for prosecution under the draconian new "PersonalBaggage Order 2000."

Personal baggage rules have always been nerve-wracking in Nepal since the country decided to encourage smuggling in the 1970s as a means to boost the economy. The tight of people wanting ever layers of camouflage jackets and identical Adriates at Bangkok airports in the middle of summer had become an easy way to identify Nepalis. "Baggage (personal luggage) has made the airport one of the petrol stations for cash transfers. Successful mines have started a steady flow of funds for the party by managing this trade," said a new order is a step in the direction of the practical tradition of making new laws to protect new or stolen money from today's black extravaganza with price tags still dangling from their Rabaris.

The new Order has some interesting provisions. The first is that a person may make a one-time surrender of uninsured or converted foreign exchange. So if you have bought some from the money store near by do not worry. There is nothing that can be held with the right amount to the right place at the right moment.

If you have travelled abroad between 15 and 30 days (important points: extra time, not, but you will get an opportunity for good of total cost of Rs. 3,000.) And if you are more than 365 nights you can get an exemption worth Rs. 6,000. At today's official rate you can get the exemption of an astronomically stand-ing-bagging amount of Rs. 85. Travellers should not show up odder at the Customs. For example by wearing more clothes than needed according to the weather, or carrying more than one piece of pack, etc.

Grindlays Gazette

INTEREST RATE UPDATE

Nepal Rupee
CURRENT % PREVIOUS %
Call Money 5.00 5.00
Ubil 4.50 4.50
51 Days 4.75 4.84
90 Days 4.68 4.68
Prime Rate 5.25 5.25
Average 15 day T-bill rate dropped down to aggressive bidding by some of the Optus banks. Excessive liquidity in the inter-bank market especially with some public sector banks that has infused rather good on the rate on July 15 the demand has got back before the rate moved. Expected range for next week 4.5 to 5.0.

FOREIGN CURRENCY: Interest rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>interest rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUR</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>AUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>NZD</td>
<td>17.50</td>
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</table>

- Oil prices are soaring prices are soaring in a trend to put pressure on the Rupee further, price move may go to Rs. 85 to 87 next week.

Currents - Rupee tumbled to lowest level against the dollar after a report in US Federal Reserve official said the US is in a "deep recession, and the dollar against the Rupee's weakness appears to be a lessening strength in the foreign currency markets. The Pound Sterling was at 14 years' low against the dollar amid the Rupee's weakness and is an indication of the direction of the foreign currency market. The Indian Rupee Outlook -

The Indian Rupee rallied 85.91 (2004) new, closing lower on Monday as worries persisted about the impact of oil prices, near 135.80, however, the Rupee hit its high of 135.87 against the dollar. The currency fell to Rs. 83.91 in the week to September 8 to $ 0.305 billion.

INTERNATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR NEPALESE TIMES

- 6 months: US$25
- 1 year: US$48
- Other countries: US$40
- US$75

market@maitho.com.np
Pokhara pokes around for tourists

Nepal’s scenic valley is coming out of a tourist drought and is looking eagerly forward to a healthy autumn season.

Pokhara seems to be picking up. “November looks very, very good,” says Vijaya Subba, Front Office Manager. “We have a feeling that things could be changing.”

Pokhara has been plagued by high management turnover, the pullout of Duca Thani, the Thai hotel chain, from a management contract, and low occupancy. The poor condition of the 8 km access road to the city is also hurting business. Not that the roads to other hotels in Pokhara are any better, but at least distances are shorter.

Pokhara’s new manager, Deepak Bhatt, formerly of India’s Taj and Hindustan Hotel International groups, has a track record of bringing airlines to profitability, and he is looking forward to working some of his magic here. “Pokhara is not Calcutta,” he told us. “But we will turn this property around within 12 months. That is both a commitment and a commitment because it is time we started showing the owners some money.”

But for the real break-through in arrivals, most agree that Pokhara must have direct daily flights from Indian destinations. Pokhara’s other heavy-hitters—Shergil Village, The Bluebird, Peace Lake— are also gearing up to entertain tourists to stay longer with casinos, discos, golf courses and adventure spots. There are already ultra-light sightseeing flights (very popular with Indian tourists), paragliding and windsurfing on the Phewa Lake.

“We’ve always done well during the tourist season, now we want to improve occupancy during the off-season,” says Raja Sherpa, Front Office Manager at the Shergil Village, the elegant and well-proportioned hotel south of the airport. The hotel has managed to maintain a 65 percent occupancy, which Sherpa says resulted from its own marketing that began in 1993, three years before the hotel opened.

Over at the tourist hotspot of Bindun-Lakeside, increasingly called “Thamel-by-the-lake” because of the large number of backpackers and squatted shops that have come up in the small area, Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge is one of the most popular lodges. The resort has 19 elegant rooms in hand-cut stone bungalows arranged in clusters on terraces around the main lodge, reflecting the architecture and layout of the local Gurung communities.

Pokhara Lodge bags new award

Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge, which opened in 1998, has been awarded the coveted Connoisseur Nato Traveler Ecotourism Award 2000 in the hotel/resort category. Connoisseur Nato Traveler awards properties, tour operators and destinations which make “protecting the planet a profitable enterprise”. This now makes four international awards for the latest Tiger Mountain property including the PATA Heritage and Culture 1999 Gold Award, and Highly Commended Status for the Conservation International Ecotourism Excellence Award, presented at 3,600 feet (1,100 m) on a spectacular hillock ridge, Pokhara Lodge is Tiger Mountain’s most recent tourism destination. The resort has 19 elegant rooms in hand-cut stone bungalows arranged in clusters on terraces around the main lodge, reflecting the architecture and layout of the local Gurung communities.

If you had this drink! Would you be able to identify the brand...

The Nepal Distilleries P. Ltd.
Spirited Endeavours.

Your probably would, because we at Nepal Distilleries have for the past 40 years continuously strived to put quality into our products before we put our name. And by continuing to enjoy our products, you’ve put your trust in us. And that is a commitment we will forever give up on.

Rum

Dhade jeev is a strong alcoholic drink made from the juice of sugarcane plant. I’ll leave it to the faves of Juga to make a comment. Famous drink (U). “Jalpatri“ on the drunk men’s chest and who-ever has a bunch of “jali” is a great song from Robert Lewis Stevenson’s Treasure Island (1883)...

Visit us at nepaldistilleries.com
Zen and the art of kite flying

In Nepal kite flying is a martial art. We don’t just fly kites for the fun of it, we fly kites to fight other kites.

SAIL DURBAN

A

s the monsoon rains subside, the sky turns deep blue again and the wind suddenly changes from east to west you can tell Kathmandu is ready once more for the annual kite-flying season. There are other things that go with kite flying: the fluttering memory of rooftops. And everyone has a kite-flying memory of childhood. Of a cousin who fell off a roof while backing out after a launch (luckily, he escaped with just bruises), epic kite battles in which a dozen kites with their lethal maajhaas strings fought for supremacy in the great Battle of Water in 1968, children chasing falling kites with long sticks and running across traffic with their eyes on the prize.

The big difference between Nepali and European kite flying is that here it is martial art. Nepalis don’t just fly kites for the fun of it, they fly kites to fight other kites. The idea is to cut their line with your line. That is why you need a kite with manoeuvrability, obedience and a killer instinct. You need thread that looks threatening with a blind red colour and sharp edges of glass glinting in the sun. And then the most important item: you need a dense that has the capacity to reel in or reel out faster than the enemy. It is the latteai that also distinguishes the Nepali kiteflyer from Indian flyers.

We don’t know whether kite-flying came to Kathmandu from the north or south, but either way there is no doubt that it has evolved its own distinctive Nepali characteristics. Kites seem to have been discovered in the land that discovered gunpowder: China. First historical references date to 400 BC, but it appears that kites may have come to China from what is now Indonesia. Kites were used in 170 BC by the Chinese general Han Hsin to measure distances. Kites have reached enormous heights, and the world record is 30,000 ft. People have always been fascinated by the possibility of going up in a kite, and Marco Polo did it in the 13th century on return from China. But people-flying kites didn’t really catch on.

Now you can use a kite to boost an aerial for your trans-Atlantic radio transmission. And kite flyers like the editor of this paper have flown kites at 18,800 ft as Malhaa Base Camp in winds gusting up to 60 knots. But because the air is thin, the kite survived. In congenial Katmandu, kite aficionados clamour up to their rooftop terraces to get their kites aloft and there is never a shortage of enemies to engage. The fight, when they do happen, are exciting even for spectators as the top guns swoop, climb and slide their mastery rolls in the ethereal daylights overhead. And the unquashed, defying ungagged in the breezy trailing long strings.

These days people don’t make their own line armour, called maajhaa. But some old timers still have the secret time-tested recipes that have the secret of lead glass made from crushed light bulbs. These have to be mixed carefully—you don’t want a maajhaa that is so sharp that it can cut your own line inside the latteai.

Kite fighting with a latteai is an art that needs a lifetime of experience. True kite warriors first learn from their masters, then they gain experience and pass it down to the next generation. After getting a kite aloft you let it go in a tumbling motion riding on a gust of wind. Tumbling makes it reel out faster than a side-by-side (colteke) motion. After the line has gone for a while and when the kite looks dangerous close to the trees, you stop the latteai abruptly, and the kite shoots straight up. The way a kite behaves in the sky gives an indication of the predictability and dexterity of its pilot. You can tell that a kite is flown by a novice, a puchhare is probably a kid, the flashy Red Baron is a show-off who will sooner or later get himself shot down, the Daring Diner is probably flown by a daredevil who will get stuck on a television antenna, the High Heasurer is a deceptively calm but ruthless falcon whose kiteflyers develop great acrobats and undulating fish whose fins float in the sky, suggesting the movement of fish in the water.

Go fly a kite (and unite)

PETER DURBAN IN DIEPPE, FRANCE

They came from Australia and South Africa, China and Chile, Germany and Guatemala, Italy, New Zealand and Nepal. In all, 33 delegations of kiteflyers were gathered with their creations in the kite village erected at the edge of the seaway that separates France from Belgium. Thousands of people crowded the town for nine days to watch fantastic displays—and sometimes friendly battles—in the sky. There were vigorous acrobatic kites and dangerous kites dancing ballets. But most impressive of all were the monarchs of the sky, such as the tubular sea monster brought to Europe by famed kite maker Peter Lynn of New Zealand, and his green octopus that threatened constantly to land, like King Kong, on the roofs of adjacent hotels.

For this millennium edition of the Dieppe biennial festival—the eleventh in the series—three countries were the guests of honour: Guatemala, Korea and Indonesia. A team of 10 Guatemalan kite flyers brought to Europe for the first time six giants of Sumpago—vast circular constructions on bamboo frames measuring up to 18 metres across, richly painted in reds and ochres that evoke the colour of the soil of the land where they were made.

Korean kites, too, are conceived as means of communication with the heavens. It is a tradition in Korea to write on kites the names and dates of birth of new children and to launch the kites during the first fortnight of the year. When the kite is high in the sky, the cord attaching it to earth is cut and it wafts away the evil spirits that threatened the children it protects. Battle kites are also a specialty of this nation, whose kite flyers develop great speed and dexterity. Indonesian kites, in keeping with the predominant philosophy of that country, are considered to be in communion with nature. The layang-layang are of a vast variety, many of them associated with a particular island of the archipelago. The most popular Balinese kite is the he-bean, in the form of an undulating fish whose fins

mirinda

To go up: reel in while kite is pointed up.

To go up faster: pull while reeling in while kite is pointed up.

To go left: reel out while kite is pointed up.

To go down: reel out while kite is pointed down then reel line in quickly, pull latteai if you want to dive.

To go in fast: hold latteai with palm up and pull in line, usefulness after kite is cut if you don’t want to dive.
One thing you have to remember while kite fighting is to watch out for pirates with pre-armoured mandali dart out. You can still see some of them around. Nepali kites, of the kite line—cancel out. From the wind, and the tension on the line which is proportional to the tension on the kite. Because of the congested urban space, the Nepali kites have the advantage of a lower takeoff and get it higher after the launch for it to catch a passing breeze. But it doesn't. The reason is that there is thus a high pressure buildup behind the kite which gives it lift. Gravity tends to pull the kite down while the lift gives it lift. It is an airfoil, and its flight is under the influence of gravity, lift, drag, and upwash, which is defined by aerodynamics and Bernoulli's principle. Unlike other airfoils like the wings of aeroplanes, sails, bird wings and parachutes, kites can alter or redirect the flow of air around it unerringly so as to create pressure differences. While putting the kite in the air, the angle of the kite diverts the flow of air upward. This causes the air passing over the kite to move faster than the air passing under. This point, according to Bernoulli's Principle, the faster a current of air moves, the lower its pressure becomes. And, as any physics student will tell you, there is thus a high pressure buildup behind the kite which gives it lift. Gravity tends to pull the kite down while the lift makes the kite float. When the kite is in equilibrium, four forces—gravity, lift, resistance (drag) from the wind, and the tension of the kite line—cancel out.

The high point of this year’s edition of the Dieppe festival was the Children’s Arch. Two kilometres long, it consisted of 2,500 individual kites strung together in the longest arch ever created. Every child attending a primary school in the town was invited to decorate one of the kites. The arch was conceived as a window on the world, facing both land and sea, and a peaceful symbol of the new millennium. (The Observer)
Nepalis have always loved to chat. Today young Nepalis from all over the world meet in the cyber chows to chat away.

with internet speed great enough to support it. Says one staff in a Kathmandu-based company: “Three days I go to office on Saturdays for chatting—it is great fun.” Isn’t it exciting, finding out that from Karolbagh Chat that Sapana has just burnt her fingers? Rub a cucumber slice on it, Sapana.

Below are some frequently-used phrases in Nepali chats. Readers can send in translations, where they think we are off mark.

Homa la? = isn’t it
Ho ri? = really
Aai = that
Saamro = good
Hatorka = oh, no
Chhau = shall we
Kasto = what what
Suna = off
dhuk-dhuki chat = What is happening in Nepal.
Riddleman—a regular chatter at the site says: “Hey man, come on— who wants to do serious stuff on a Internet Chat room.”
He is off to put another riddle to the chatters “Where is it happening in Nepal.”
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A ghost from the past has come to haunt relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan: the blood-soaked 1971 Bangladesh liberation war against Pakistan. A Pakistani report into the secession, kept under wraps by successive governments, has reopened past wounds.

For many years, there is a major public record of the abuse of power, atrocities and revolt in Bangladesh, accusing Pakistan of committing war crimes. The report is highly sensitive to the public.

A former Chief Justice, Hamoodur Rahman, was submitted in October 1971, has been made public.

Leaked to the news magazine *India Today*, the report is highly critical of the Pakistani army generals who were involved in suppressing the revolts, accusing them of abuse of power, atrocities and moral turpitude. It had always believed that such big events would be unveiled some day, and at last their time has come, "says Kaiser, whose son was killed in the war. But, she adds, "there is nothing in the report about the killing of intellectuals. I demand a proper investigation into the killing of my family members in the Bangladesh liberation war during the liberation war.

Like Kaiser, old wounds have been reopened in recent days. Priyavashini, an eminent sculptor who was gangraped by Indian soldiers in Calcutta in 1971, has been made a secret of the brutal sexual assault on her. Unlike many other women, Priyavashini never made a secret of the brutal sexual assault on her. She told a shocked audience the launch of an antiterrorism Bill in 1999: "I failed to save myself from the class of the soldiers even though I was born into a Muslim aristocratic family."

Her grandfather, Abdul Hakim, was speaker of the provincial assembly of the province of Pakistan which later became Bangladesh. Priyavashini supports the demand for punishment for those responsible for the atrocities of 1971—between 1.5 and 3 million Bangladeshis are believed to have been killed in the military crackdown. An Australian doctor, Geoffrey Davis, who provided treatment to women after the war, estimates that a staggering 450,000 women were raped. The government put the rape figure at 250,000.

Priyavashini supports Kaiser's demand, citing the Nuremberg trial of Nazi war criminals. "Why not," she asks, "when the Nazis and perpetrators of crimes during the Second World War are still being hounded? I demand their trial in the international court.

Hundreds of mass graves have been unearthed across Bangladesh, and they are still being discovered—the remnants of the great war against the enemy. It has been estimated that the war claimed the lives of more than 1 million Bangladeshis. Visiting the United Nations for the Millenium Summit, Bangladesh Prime Minister Hasina Wazed called for the trial of Pakistani officials involved in the 1971 war crimes.

Now in her address to the UN, Hasina, whose own father—Bangladesh's first president Sheik Mujibur Rahman—was killed in a military coup, said action against those regimes which undermine democratically-elected governments. Although she did not name Pakistan, it's military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf responded by calling off a scheduled meeting with her. Back in Dhaka, Hana's guns were still blazing. "Pakistan must ask forgiveness for their atrocities and this is not only our demand, but the world's conscience," she said. As far as her criticism of military dictators, she added, "I have spoken about my ideals and people are the source of all power, not warlords. I don't know why he took it upon himself."

Hasina, the national press in Bangladesh, as well as victims of the war, demand that all accused soldiers be held accountable for their actions in the war. But, in submissions from their homes and assassinated at the end of the nine-month war—a move calculated to leave a nation bereft of its best brains at birth. Now, a secret report ordered by the Pakistani government is said to demand publication of the full report by the daily Star newspaper in the next instalment.

The Hamoodur Rahman Commission charged the occupation army officers with serious moral degeneration and corruption. In 1972, and five other cánnon officers, accused of the main causes of defeat in the war. But, in submissions to the Commission, General Amir Abdul Khaan Niazi, the Zonal Martial Law Administrators in the then East Pakistan, and his predecessor, General Tikka Khan, both denied their personal involvement in the atrocities.

"I say no. I have been doing marital late days. I never stepped anything into view. I became very religious after the East Pakistani trouble. I was not so before. I thought more of death than these things," he told the Commission. Neverthe- less, the Commission incrimi- nated him, saying he had been "nurtured repute of sexual immorality". The Commission is said to have recommended trial of six top army officers, includ- ing Niazi. But none were tried.

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Whites will become minorities in US, Europe

Just 500 years ago, few had ventured outside their European homelands. Then, with several races of geoculturally clear the. ().

The past millennium was more than anything the era of the whites.

From kingdom to repub-

W

On 27 September - 3 October 2000 NEPAL TIMES

Oil prices will remain high

London - Oil prices will stay at or near their current high levels, at least for the short term, according to oil experts. "We expect no substantial change in the coming three to six months," Standard Chartered Bank oil analyst Claudio Piron Tuesday. OPEC's attempts to talk down the oil price hold little prospect of success, according to him, an oil trader at Schroder Salomon Smith Barney, adding, "the market wants to see more barrels".

The price for a barrel of oil stood at $36.88 last week in New York, the highest price in a decade. By 19 September oil prices in both New York and London had dipped slightly. The current oil stockpiles in the USA are about 30 million barrels below the average in the last three years, Gignoux said, adding that "it is very hard to try to predict how long we will take for the pressures holding up oil prices to fall off. "In a bull market, everything's bullish, and right now everything seems to be a variety of stimuli. The market is very nervous," Gignoux said. He favours the United States releasing some of its 571 million barrel strategic fields and cisterns as the market in time for winter's cold weather. If that were done, he says, the market would be rid of one worry within two or three weeks. On 23 September, US President Bill Clinton announced plans for...
The college was established when Nepal’s overall literacy rate was a mere 3 percent, and the number of educated women was even more negligible. In such a situation, the college marked the beginning of a new era in Nepal’s social and political history and there is no doubt that it has contributed tremendously to the general development of Nepal. In the last fifty years, the campus has produced hundreds of politicians, efficient administrators, eminent academicians and outstanding professionals. It’s list of alumni could not be more impressive: Queen Alhumaira and her daughter, Princess Shristi; Nepal’s first and as far as only woman deputy prime minister, Shitala Acharya, the only woman in the present cabinet, Kangini Pun; the first UN Fund for Women regional director, Chandani Joshi; and so on.

Even these days when ‘private’ colleges are making their mark, the college is still a highly sought-after educational institution. “The college had a unique role in initiating free education for girls in Nepal. The college was established during a time when almost every girl was consigned to marriage or was born into poverty. The college was started in order to provide free education to girls, to ensure that they did not engage in marriage-related work, and especially to ensure that the girls did not go through the hassle of getting ready for Dashain and Holi. The college has played an important role in the social and political development of Nepal. The college was started in 1951, and the first batch of students graduated in 1953. The college is unique because it is the only college in Nepal that provides free education to girls.”

The campus administration has ambitious plans for the future. It wants the campus be developed into Nepal’s first women’s university under the government’s multi-university concept. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has assured consideration of the proposal when it was made back in 1997, but no one has come of it so far. The college has an ambitious plan on the anvil for the last couple of years. It wants the campus to be developed into Nepal’s first women’s university under the government’s multi-university concept. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has assured consideration of the proposal when it was made back in 1997, but nothing has come of it so far.

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Innovative Ideas

Wave Show

Mukti & Revival
September 28 Thursday 6 pm
Opening band -
The All Stars

Robin N Loozza:
October 2 Monday 6 pm
Opening band -
Albatross

September 30, Saturday 2 pm

Flower Generation
Wild Graz
Smarica
Third Grade Chaos

At Dasain Mahotsav, Bhrikuti Mandap Exhibition Ground.
Dasain Mahotsav organized by House of Rajkarice
See October issue of Pure for your free entrance ticket to Dasain Mahotsav.

Royal alumna
Queen Aishwarya, like her daughter, Princess Shristi three decades later, graduated from Padma Kanya Campus. That was back in the 1960s, when she attended college as a regular BA student, and when no one had any idea that she would one day become queen of Nepal.

Her then principal, Angur Baba Joshi, remembers her as a “quiet” and “very disciplined” student. “She was by nature quite reserved,” says Joshi. She also recalls Queen Aishwarya had a close circle of friends who were “good and prominent students” in their own regard. “She had a keen interest to participate in cultural programs organised by the college, but her parents did not give her permission to take part in them.”

Joshi, however, says she had not noticed the Queen’s aptitude for literature when she was at the college. “It could be that her literature teachers saw the possibility of her one day earning a reputation as an outstanding lyricist of our time, but I personally do not remember associating her with literary activities.”

Says Sushmita Dahal, a BBA student at Padma Kanya, “Parents encourage their girls to join this college, but students here face some disadvantages also. Since it’s a prominent girls’ college with an easily recognizable uniform, parents want to be critical about the girls’ behaviour in and out of the campus. They do not excuse a PK girl so easily.”

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Says Sushmita Dahal, a BBA student at Padma Kanya, “Parents encourage their girls to join this college, but students here face some disadvantages also. Since it’s a prominent girls’ college with an easily recognizable uniform, parents want to be critical about the girls’ behaviour in and out of the campus. They do not excuse a PK girl so easily.”

The campus administration has ambitious plans for the future. It wants the campus to be developed into Nepal’s first women’s university under the government’s multi-university concept. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has assured consideration of the proposal when it was made back in 1997, but nothing has come of it so far.

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Flower Generation
Wild Graz
Smarica
Third Grade Chaos

At Dasain Mahotsav, Bhrikuti Mandap Exhibition Ground.
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Australia’s multi-hued squad signals changed times

Although discrimination against Aborigines is widespread and rife, sports-mad Australia is learning to draw from an increasingly multicultural pool of sporting talents.

The list of Australian medal winners at the Olympic Games a century ago could easily be mistaken for a team from the British Isles. Australians in those days considered themselves as much an extension of Britain that, when they lacked the numbers to participate in team events, they joined up with the British.

But the make-up of Australian sport is changing at a multicultural immigration gradually blurs the nation's ethnic dividing lines. This year's Australian team boasts not only "traditional Aussie" names such as Thorpe, O'Neill and Perkins—it also has sportswomen and women with names like Oleskey, Gregorieva, Van Heer and Kneebone.

Among those in this month's Games is Bulgarian-born weightlifter Kiril Kounev who has trials in August is Patrick Johnson and yellow Aboriginal flag. Another Aboriginal athlete rying for selection at the Olympic trials in August is Patrick Johnson from the Ulugm tribe of north Queensland. Add to this lot two Australian-born sprinter, and Queensland. Add to this lot two

The Committee has announced that the first time at the Millennium Games on Sunday and international swimming events—spending nearly six hours

The Sydney Olympic Games during the Sydney Games in an effort to catch those who undermine exclusive Olympic television broadcast rights through illegal video-streams on the world Wide Web. So far, IOC director general Francois Carrard said, the efforts have been successful.

"We are looking for protection of our rights holders and looking for violators," Carrard warned. The IOC has hired a London-based company for the warning about complacency. Sydney organised: "We are taking action when necessary. So far I think we have been rather successful."

With more and more people hooked up to the Internet around the world and high-speed connec-

IOC protects Internet rights SYDNEY - International Olympic Committee watch-

Rains in the game SYDNEY - It may seem ironic that it rained for the first time at the Millennium Games on Sunday and that a piece of the Olympic stadium roof crashed to the ground, at a time when everyone was worried about complacency. Sydney organised: "We will never allow the Internet to be a substitute for television. The Internet is an addition to television." (apa)

Sex and sports in Sydney

Sex is not yet a designated competitive event at the Olympic Games, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t plenty of it going on after the torch was lit on 15 September. The Sydney Olympic Games Official Committee (SOCOC) is certainly taking no chances, although the incidence of AIDS in Australia is one of the lowest in the world.

The Committee has not underestimated the capacity of the 10,000 residents of the Olympic athletes’ village to have a good time and has ordered from the official supplier to the Games, Anzel, "stronger and safer" condoms, in an "assortment of types, including ribbed and regular." Anzel says it will make 100,000 condoms freely available to athletes. Sex workers always abound at international sports events. Sydney is no different and the cost of commercial sex will not be low. Raphael Epstein, of the media has the potential to fundamentally alter the way sports is perceived. sex workers at its headquarters 4 and 5 December. "New contracts also rising, the Internet is posing a big threat to the IOC and international television broadcast rights through illegal video-streams on the world Wide Web. So far, IOC director general Francois Carrard said, the efforts have been successful."

"We are monitoring the situation very closely. We are looking for protection of our rights holders and looking for violators," Carrard warned. The IOC will be the largest single sports event to be held in Australia this year. The Games are being held in Sydney, which has been chosen as the host city for the 2000 Olympic Games. The Australian government has invested over $1 billion in the Games, and there is high expectation that they will be a success. The Games will include over 200 sports events, with an estimated 10,000 athletes from around the world competing. The Sydney Olympic Games will be the first time that Australia has hosted the Olympics, and it is hoped that they will bring a significant boost to the country's economy.

The Games will feature a range of events, including athletics, swimming, cycling, and sailing. The Sydney Olympic Park, which was designed specifically for the Games, will be the main venue for the competitions. It will feature a range of indoor and outdoor facilities, including a swimming pool, a running track, and a cycling circuit. The Games will also feature a range of other activities, including music and entertainment events, and cultural programs. The Sydney Olympic Games will be a major event for Australia, and it is hoped that they will bring a significant boost to the country's economy.
The Bhairab at Hanuman Dhoka on a recent evening, and as drawn by Desmond Doig in 1980 (above).

If you look long enough at that wide-eyed, grimacing face, you see a scarlet smile of pleasure. Perhaps the children who told me that the great black Bhairab had come from heaven were right. Their reasoning might surprise scholars, for they had been so gorged on the wicked and on demons that did not any longer fly. Why did he not fly away again when he was empty?

Some Dinesh Adhikary verses have found their way into music, with vocals by Narayan Gopal and others. "My words are about people, their love, hate, angst and soul of people," Adhikary told us. "So I explore their place in society, the economy in politics." The Madan Puraskar literary award went to noted Nepali poet and lyricist Dinesh Adhikary. What many of Adhikary's admirers don't know is that he is a government lawyer, working for the Investigative Authority (CIAA), an anti-corruption agency.

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So, beneath this anti-corruption lawyer lurks a modern poet whose simple words and accessible contemplation evoke deep social comment.

One of the piquant qualities of the great black Bhairab in Kathmandu's Durbar Square, is that we saw his house where it originally came from, the temple or even the town in which it stood, who the craftsmen were or to which age they belonged. It was found lying face down near a royal forest where a Malla king was constructing a garden. To many it was miraculous, as all statues that ‘rise from the earth’ are. The other great stone statue that was similarly ‘found’, is the image of Buddha-Nilkanth, the sleeping Vishnu, which belongs to the fourth or fifth century AD.

The Bhairab is more crudely carved, but its power matches the overwhelming might of its subject, a six-armed god standing triumphantly upon a demon, cloaked in human skins and garlanded with human heads. He wears an ornate golden headpiece, snakes writhe from his navel instead of earrings and coils about his neck, and in his hands holds an upraised sword, a chakra, a trident, severed heads and a bowl so reddened with sacrificial blood it might contain blood. Carved flames dance about the tableau.

Purists would have the statue cleaned of its colour but here it is unnecessary, the black figure hangs with red and yellow and white against a raw cobalt sky in which are set a vermillion and yellow sun and moon with human faces, projects a stunning force no ordinary stone could achieve. There is sacrificial blood on the figure which appears necessary for so powerfully primitive a god who instils majesty with fear and protects with terror.
The monsoon is in full vane, as you can see in this fine satellite picture taken on Tuesday afternoon. Aside from a few cells tower overing the Himalaya, the moisture has evaporated. But there is still some cloud convection in the afternoons that can spring surprises like the dousing that Pokhara got on Monday. Between 80 mm of rain in four hours. Light drizzles at night are possible, and a passing cloud could bring some as well. Flurries at altitudes above 16,000 ft. Temperatures will fall steadily to a minimum of 16°C in the mornings, with some mist that will burn away soon enough. The days will become bright by the end of the week.

FILMS
- Nepal
Basant - Dinesh Jyoti (221837), Plaza
Chachitra - Jatuk, Ganga Chachitra, Hira Raj L. Pruthi,
Maile - Geon (Kha) (520668), Krishna (470090), Ranjana (221191)
- India

EVENTS
- Celebrating the Mountain Porter. A treasure trove of ancient and modern porters portraits from around the world. Display includes pictures of traditional porters, trekking porters and high altitude porters.
- The Heritage of Chitrakars: A unique exhibition showcasing traditional paintings by the Chitrakar family of the Kathmandu Valley on a wide variety of subjects spanning a period from the medieval Malla era up to the Rana regime. Durge Shrawat, Bhat Shrawat, 11 am-5:30 pm, 22-30 Sep. Free entry: 416559, 429598.
- Fun and frolic- Dasain Mahotsav 2000. Annual fair of folk music, dance, crafts, fairs, dances, shows, Nepal folk dances and contests. 175 stalls at Bhiruli Mandir. 11 am-9 pm, Thu, 28 Sep, onwards.
- Lecture - Shankarpali Development Project from Operation to Cooperation, 1974-1986 by Dr Ernst Reichenbach (Program Coordinator of UDDI).
- In Fashion Summit 2000. Show by local and national models sponsored by IFT of New Delhi and designed by Pawan Sudhi at Dasain Mahotsav 2000, Bhiruli Mandir. 7 pm onwards. Sat, 30 Sep.
- Sports - Mountain Bike Championship, Second phase on 1 October. Registration open till event eve. MTB theory and practice follows after race by international coaching faculties. Contact Peter Stewart, Himalayan Mountain Bikes, Thamel. 427427

MUSIC
- Folk & Traditional - Dhime baju and dance. Ethnic Nepali bands from Lalitpur performing at Dasain Mahotsav 2000, Bhiruli Mandir. 1 pm, Friday, 29 Sep.
- Rock - Live rock show by Malak and the Revival Band celebrating the re-launch of WMW radio at Dasain Mahotsav 2000, Bhiruli Mandir. 6 pm, Thursday, 28 Sep. Entry tickets at entrance.
- Pop - An afternoon live rock gig featuring the Nepal female band, Souths Girls at Dasain Mahotsav 2000, Bhiruli Mandir. 3 pm onwards, Fri, 29 Sep.
- Jazz - Live jazz by Catherine at Upstair Restaurant, Lazimpat. Every Sat. 7:30-10 pm.

Festival
Ghantakarna - 29 September. Ghantashalapa, which literally means establishing the pot, marks the first day of Bada Dasain, a major festival for Nepali Hindus. On the first day, the kalash (holy water vessel), symbolising the goddess Durga often with her image embossed on the side, is placed in the prayer room. The kalash is filled with holy water and covered with cowdung on which maize seeds are sown. A small rectangular sand block is made and the kalash is placed on the centre. The surrounding bed of sand is also seeded with grains. Durga is invoked to bless this prayer room. The kalash is placed on the centre. The surrounding bed of sand is also seeded with grains. Durga is invoked to bless this prayer room.

Modernity's celebration of the traditional
Siddharta Art Gallery, Bhairab Mahal, Revisited
19 September, 3 October

In his poem "City Fair," the contemporary Nepali poet, Pune Bahadur Vaidya, describes modern-day Kathmandu as an obvious inadvisable "having her many multicolored eyes throughout her body—a city heading out civilization" at the crowd, and admits I "lose my very face within that overflown crowd."

The Newar painter Shyam Lal Shrestha in a key painting from the Expression 2000 exhibition currently on view at the Siddharta Art Gallery depicts a similar scene—a street or square full of numerous figures standing forth or milling round oblivious of each other’s presence. Perhaps they are Newars in the native dress, but the faces fade, the forms are overlaid by strokes of colour; the near facelessness masked by the beauty of multicoloured layering.

The artist, though admiring the city's anonymity, stresses beauty, and, in the larger context of his work, the face of his culture is maintained in paintings that characterize an impending and situation that are explicitly traditional Newars. Within this sensually rendered forms colour is brought forth as it is in life. Sometimes integrated to the emerging energy, strokes of colour wonder or mannerisms evoked by the paint stroke.

Modernity in the artist's bold use of colour and accenture of the bonds stroked conform to the vividness within the Newar culture itself—as colour and stroke abstracted were born of locality and tradition. In this larger context, the isolated moment of anomie to Newar life and ceremony attest to this ongoing and centuries-old tradition. In this larger context, the isolated moment of anomie to Newar life and ceremony attest to this ongoing and centuries-old tradition.

Where abstraction dominates, the sustaining rituals of the local are lost in the interpret of colour and stroke and what remains of the cohesiveness of its cultural gestures is thepattern regularity of brushstroke in the painter's hand. Where colour dominates, a satirical brilliance, not without the multicoloured hue the poet depicts as a sign of an indigenous culture's decline, masks in its celebration of the abstract beauty of multicoloured layering.
GRINDLAYS AD
T he Prime Minister has said that he has arrived at the conclusion that the time has come to end wrong trends that have vexed Nepalis, and to initiate measures to counter them if the nation is to march ahead in a four-directional manner to a bright and prosperous future. He was speaking at the prize giving ceremony of students who stood first, second, and last in the Inter-School Rubber Band Chaangi Competition at Sankhamool on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister for Roads, Highways, Bridges and Other Lucrative Infrastructure said he would leave no stone unturned to ensure the successful completion of the road. He also said that Nepalis must work towards constructive measures to counter them if the nation is to march ahead in a four-directional manner to a bright and prosperous future. The Minister added.

The Deputy Prime Minister has said that our athletes have a strong chance of winning gold medals. “After all, if our athletes have a strong chance of winning gold medals, “After all, if our athletes have a strong chance of winning gold medals, "If we are to advance, we must combine corruption with construction," the Minister added. News for the news in detail.

Mr Eco-tourism
Nepal may not be doing very well in the conservation of cultural heritage, but this country is internationally renowned for its achievement in nature conservation. The Royal Chitwan National Park, with its success story in preserving rhinos, tigers and other biological diversity and the unique Annapurna Conservation Area Project are Nepal’s showpieces. One Nepal whose hard work contributed to the success of the Annapurna project is Chandra Gurung. On return from Hawaii University in 1985 to complete his research paper on wildlife conservation, Chandra was asked to help in designing a project for conserving the Annapurna area. It evolved into work combining eco-tourism with conservation. Fifteen years later, it is regarded as a model for other countries. Chandra believes more than ever before that the only way to preserve nature successfully is with the active participation of the community. Regulations need to be imposed when the community does not understand the efforts. But if the community is made a part of it then that is the key to success," Chandra told us.

Today, Chandra Gurung has a high-flying job as country representative of the Worldwide Fund for Nature Nepal Programme, which is involved in supporting continued conservation efforts in Chitwan, Dolpo, Kanchendzonga, Mt Everest and Makalu-Barun. We ask Chandra how come environmentalists are only interested in celebrity mammals, and no one speaks for snakes and bats? Chandra says the tiger is an apex species and protecting it will also protect the entire food chain. And conserving Chitwan protects all other indigenous plant and animal life in the sanctuary.

Chandra is gearing up for the WWF conference in Katmandu in November which will be attended by luminaries such as Queen Noor of Jordan. The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra will be presenting a free open concert in Basantapur Durbar on the occasion.