It's not about Hritik anymore

If we needed a proof of just how volatile Nepal's political scene has become, then this week saw it. A rumour that Indian actor Hritik Roshan had slandered Nepal in a television show on 14 December spread like wildfire. Triggering riots and demonstrations all over the country, Indians were targeted, as political factions, parties and student groups pushed to cash in. No matter that Hritik himself denied ever having said anything to insult Nepal. He was quoted as saying: “The fact is now that I have visited India and have tremendous respect for the Nepali people.”

But the damage had been done, and the street fervent took it as a momentous event. Swarms of young people were kicked in police being in the capital, including a 12-year-old boy shot hit by a stray bullet in his arm in Thamel. Several dozen were injured. The government realised that events were escalating in an opportunity for them to see and lead. Congress factions, emboldened by the unrest, small blood. A group of left students unions saw this as an opportunity to boost their agitation. Unknown rightists spread leaflets demanding the restoration of “nationalist” rulers to correct what it said were the wrongs of the past 10 years of democracy in Nepal. In the wings, the Maoists benefited from their escalating atmosphere of anarchy.

It was apparent that the catalyst that triggered the violence was forgotten as the anger spread over into the streets of the capital and other urban areas of the country. The dangerous anti-Indian edge of the agitation was especially worrisome because of the implication for millions of Nepal living in India, as well as for the Himalayan relations with Nepal. Hritik also said that the question of the saying anything derogatory towards Nepal by people living doesn’t arise as both his parents are from his family home in Bandipur and his personal assistant are Nepalis.

We checked our www.akarshan.com.np to reply to the interview on Birla Garewal’s show on Star Plus. We found no reference to Nepal on the entire show in which his father, Rakesh Roshan and mother, Pinky, also answered questions.

JOURNEY TO MAALOAND

He looks like someone you’d meet on a Thamel street, handsome, with a short haircut and a slight grin. Smiling, he shakes my hand firmly and says: “Welcome to our little town.” We had reached the town of Ghoshikin Dang on the last leg of a road from the Maoist-controlled district of Rukum and he is our local contact. We are meeting in a hotel and at one point in the morning we meet “Comrade Pamuk”, a young man from Rukum. Together we board the bus to Salyan at three in the morning. At Salmun in Salyan, we get onto another and drive on through a rough road. Our guide looks nervous about being stopped by the police, but there is not a single policeman to be seen. Every stop, young men between 19-25 get on the bus and communicate in sign language among themselves. When we reach the headquarter of Bungla police at three in the afternoon, the young men turn out to be members of a Maoist squad armed with handguns. Far to the north, the snow-covered summit of Sane Yuli towers like a pyramid. Here we are in the heart of the Maoist-controlled hills of remote western Nepal. After a short rest, we begin our trek passing a “martyrs’ gate” which we are told was consecrated with cement donated by a nearby Royal Army camp. The army is here to build a highway from Salyan to Rukum. “We meet the soldiers all the time along the tracks,” says a young girl accompanying us and who is carrying crude homemade bombs in his backpack. “The army is friendly as far as, but they warn us that one day they may fire on us.”

By evening we reach an inn with camp. A man at a sewing machine is busy stitching camouflage uniforms, others are busy making the hammer and needle and red flags, still others are rehearsing musical performances. Food is being cooked in large pans outside. It looks like preparations for a large festival are underway.

The next morning we continue our journey northwards. Greeted by villagers of all ages who have lined the tracks including revolutionary songs, we find them. The road is steep, and we are escorted by two armed Maoists. We stop for a rest at a small village along the way, where we are offered yoghurt by an elderly shopkeeper. We talk with the Maoists about the situation. “We are not harassed in any way, after all we are all Maoists,” she replies.

On the border with Rukum District, we are handed over to our counterparts from the other side. We spend the night in the town of Khara, where 15 people were killed in a police raid nearly a year ago. Comrade Pahadei, who has not been seen since, Dang, has not been told us where we are going, and neither have we asked. Villagers along the way look like they are not used to seeing the police on the road anymore, they know we are guests of the Maoists. We pass Maoist army posts with guns and bright red banners proclaiming, “Long Live Maoist Army”.

One question that I still can’t answer after my visit to Rukum is this: have the people turned Maoist because they believe in Mao Tse Tung thought or because of the sense of power they get with a gun in their hands?

SUDHEER SHARMA IN RUKUM

Hammer and sickle flags drying in Salyan; mixed group of Maoist fighters in Rukum, with unoccupied captured from the police.

www.akarshan.com.np

Now you can browse through our selection of international quality wrought iron furniture, accessories and gifts from the comfort of your home. We have hundreds of items for you to select from and you can even order the items online! So, what are you waiting for? Log on to our site today.

Close to the edge p 6
Symbol of Nepali nationhood

If you march at the head of your nation, these ideas will follow and sustain you. If you march behind them, they will drag you with them. If you march against them, they will overthow you.

-Napoleon III

The good...

It is the spirit of the season that we must begin our roundup of Year 00 by picking out things that went right. In Nepal if things go well it is usually an act of God, and if things go wrong then you can be sure someone screwed something up. So let’s see the economy: we will probably register a six percent growth this year not because of good planning, an efficient administration or an honest government, but because of nature: a healthy monsoon, unseasonally good rains, and no major floods all contributed to growth. Our rain-fed economy is doing well despite government. Imagine what would happen if we didn’t commit hari kari suicide by using the economy. If we spent our budgets properly without leakage, mismanagement and outright theft, if we were more efficient at aid utilisation.

This is the first year in recent memory that saw the end of power cuts. Blackouts in a country with the world’s biggest per capita potential for hydropower generation had become a glaring anachronism. With Birendra, Pranab, Keshab and Mohini coming online, 114 megawatts will be added to the national grid. That is one piece in which we thought our policy of 1992 to attract foreign investors worked remarkably well—although we talked very hard in 2000 to unravel the gains by harassing investors with new taxes.

Agricultural and other sectors, especially to India, have zoomed. The employment-generating garment industry is doing well, and even our carpets are on the rebound. The other big Nepal export—manpower to the Gulf and India—and to some extent around the world—it’s seeming something of a boom. Fight to and from Kathmandu are loaded with Nepalis pushed to seek work abroad because there is no money to be here. They work for a pittance, are exploited heartlessly, but what they bring back year after year adds up to more than the country’s annual budget.

We fared out best in the tourism industry this year with bands, hotel strikes, an insurgency and pollution. We denigrated badly, but Nepal is such a unique product that no matter how much we try to discourage visitors from coming, they still do. The domestic airline industry is flying high, adding new aircraft and making it easier than ever before to fly to main destinations. The media is flourishing, new Nepal dailies have hit the stands, others have been revived. And an inflation of cash has raised their professional quality. The paper in which you are reading these lines is into its sixth successful month.

The bad...

Actually, we don’t have to remind you about the things that went wrong in 2000. Just read the daily headlines. Still, to recapitulate: the flogging of IC814 damaged ties with India and nearly ruined tourism, there were six bands that didn’t achieve much, there were no foreign investors and some existing ones shut up shop and left, the textile industry is in deep crisis, farmers are suffering record low rice prices, the hotel industry is in crisis, the government and public is playing cat and mouse. And everyone and everyone of them is complaining that the country is going to the dogs. Of course it is, because no one is governing. The result is there in your face: a law and order crisis, a partition administration, an epidemic of graft and corruption, a fear psychosis, uncertainty and a national sense of despair. It’s not about lifeless at all.

The ugly...

The Great National Political Boxing Championship continued. Members within the cabinet claw at each other, Congress factions are at each other’s throats, the Congress and the main opposition barely tolerate one another, the UML, ML and RPP all suffer internal rifts, the police and army have degenerately drawn, the government and public is playing cat and mouse. And everyone and everyone of them is complaining that the country is going to the dogs. Of course it is, because no one is governing. The result is there in your face: a law and order crisis, a partition administration, an epidemic of graft and corruption, a fear psychosis, uncertainty and a national sense of despair. It’s not about lifeless at all.

Nepal Times is published by Himal Books Pvt Ltd
Banking account- All in One- Post Exchange, Kathmandu
Microphone: 275 7272, 275 7273
Website: www.nepaltimes.com
Phone: 504 0973, 504 0938
Room 5003/102/103
Email: info@nepaltimes.com
Editor: fed@nepaltimes.com
Desk editor: Basanta Thapa, Somnath Thapa, Anjali ManiKarnika
Marketing: executive director prof@nepaltimes.com

STATE OF THE STATE

by CK Lal

The future is not only hazardous, it is also hostile. We can’t predict if the future is not one's own business, it is also hostile. We can’t predict
Nearing the point of no return

A loss of authority has plunged our country into the most serious crisis since the 1814-16 Anglo-Nepal War. We are seeing a steady erosion of authority that could threaten the very existence of this nation.

In a recent book, *Dramatic Conflict and Crisis of Goodratable in Nepal*, Prof. Dhruva Kumar writes: “In the absence of any carefully thought out strategy to realise its objective, democracy becomes disastrous. A decade of democratic experience in Nepal suggests this.” Various writers in this book point out that the main cause for the failure of democratic consolidation is the inertia of leadership, their greed, corruption and even involvement in criminal enterprises. Political parties, they say, have pursued their narrow partisan ends to such an extent that they have wrecked the civil service, the police and many other institutions by misusing them for partisan interest. They say elections have become increasingly unfair: the objective now is to win by hook or crook and use state power and money so as to keep the party in power in power back in power. As a result, violence, both booth capturing and the expenditure of state money have become the norm for elections.

Another disease that plagues the policy factionalism which has reached such proportions that even when a party has a majority of 133 in a house of 205 it suffers from instability. Even the speaker, Mr. Nish Rawat, admits the government has failed to deliver because there is a “predominance of corrupt people and smugglers in the party and the government” and they have been encouraged by top leaders when toppling governments. None other than the prime minister recently made the remarkable disclosure that “parliament is invaded by smugglers” even though it was he who allocated the tickers for elections. Contributors to Kumar’s book mentioned earlier agree with Krishna Hachcheyn’s conclusion that “the role and performance of parties have become a major impediment towards democratic consolidation in Nepal.”

We have a government that is hardly functioning, in fact it seems so engulfed in intra-party wrangling that it may have forgotten that there is actually an insurmountable crisis of governance in the country. The situation that has come to the forefront is the need of the hour. In fact, the country is being pushed to the brink by the government itself. It is time for a change of government to prevent the Crisis of governance in the country.

The situation has come to the forefront is the need of the hour. In fact, the country is being pushed to the brink by the government itself. It is time for a change of government to prevent the Crisis of governance in the country.

ISP E-ROBBER

It’s a matter of simple e-calculation that 20,000 email/ internet account holders (just at 200,000 telephone subscribers in the county) will generate additional local call revenue for NTC at the rate of Rs 20 per user per account holder. The value of ”ISP E-robber” for NTC may “have a ‘poor service record’ in the eyes of the Internet service providers as well as the end-users.”

NTC may “have a ‘poor service record’ in the eyes of the Internet service providers as well as the end-users.”

TIBET AND CHINA

Edward Said in his interview “A serious anti-colonial report”, 1971

may not know about it, but you are a citizen of a neighbouring country. I am sure you cannot ignore that Chinese troops are not India in 1949, and settled the country in 1859, forcing the Tibetan government into exile in India. The occupation has now lasted for more than 50 years, and more than 100,000 people have perished. I don’t know what is left except a military occupation. I cannot give the article “Made in China” to Mahender Lama (1974). The term “quality” appears more than once in your columns. Some weeks ago I bought a pair of Chinese speakers for a CD player at a market not far from New Road. These speakers don’t produce any sound when I play music on the player. The connections weren’t fixed properly, and it was not connected with the outgoing cable. Definitely not the fine quality you speak of.

Fredéric Leclaux, Kathmandu/Nepal-US

WE SHALL RETURN

We recently spent two weeks in Nepal. We had a truly great experience and will highly recommend a visit to anyone who enjoys people, hospitality, beauty and culture. We’ve travelled extensively in Asia, but Nepal was unique and we’re eager to return to our whole family. What was the attraction? It’s the sum of Nepal’s many wondrous parts. The people, their smiles, warmth, friendliness, pride and hardness. The breathtaking beauty: the non-stop vistas of mountainous rice paddies, the glowing faces of people, the informal streets, the markets, the beautifully restored Bhaktapur. This is the way it was and around us making it a taste of remembrance more beautiful than any rug we could buy.

But all is not perfect in Shangrila: the politics in Kathmandu is ever-evolving. Despite this drawback, I would like to return to Nepal soon (and not only on the exhaust and long lines) with our extended family so they can share the Nepali experience.

Yvonne Weil, Citibank, New York

C K Lal

This is in response to “Engineer of human souls” by CK Lal (D3). Mr Lal has only focused on the negative. Why has he not said anything about the Super Specialty Hospital and the Institute of Higher Learning and other institutes of learning? Where people get free medical care and advancement? Mr Lal, wake up. Let us learn about compassion, learn to respect others, appreciate others beside yourself. It is not too late yet for you.

William Bennett via Internet

CORRECTION

Gadawan Village Resort was incorrectly identified as the Central Gadanout Resort in the Millennium Getaways (p10-11-32, R32).
You’ve got mail theelse

The state-run postal system faces stiff competition from efficient private courier services and the Internet. Nepal’s Department of Postal Services is taking a hard look at itself—but is anyone else?

THE NATION

Hemlata Rai

At the age of 21, Shanda Rai was an avid sports fan and a member of the Nepali national cricket team. But after suffering a career-ending injury, she turned to writing and publishing. Her first book, "A Place in the Sun," became a bestseller and earned her a Pulitzer Prize for literature. She has since published several novels and has become a prominent figure in the literary scene.

The state-run postal system faces stiff competition from efficient private courier services and the Internet. Nepal’s Department of Postal Services is taking a hard look at itself—but is anyone else?

Nepal's Department of Postal Services is facing stiff competition from private courier services and the Internet. The department has been slow to adapt to the changing landscape of communication, but is now taking steps to improve its services.

Hemlata Rai

The state-run postal system faces stiff competition from efficient private courier services and the Internet. Nepal’s Department of Postal Services is taking a hard look at itself—but is anyone else?

Ambraengadaha, Sri Lanka—There’s a certain clarity in life at sea level. The ocean pounds on the shore, fixing its dance upon the beach, palm trees rustle in the salty gusts. To race into the waves is to be swaddled in the embrace of nature, to feel the burn of sun and sand on skin. It’s a moment of pure, unadulterated joy.

Ambraengadaha, Sri Lanka—There’s a certain clarity in life at sea level. The ocean pounds on the shore, fixing its dance upon the beach, palm trees rustle in the salty gusts. To race into the waves is to be swaddled in the embrace of nature, to feel the burn of sun and sand on skin. It’s a moment of pure, unadulterated joy.

Nepal’s Department of Postal Services is facing stiff competition from private courier services and the Internet. The department has been slow to adapt to the changing landscape of communication, but is now taking steps to improve its services.

And here I am, on the beach in Sri Lanka, reading my travel guide, spending my surplus income, ordering cocktails in coconut shells, surrounded by dozens, hundreds like me.

A sense of place, of being. It’s like being on a cruise ship, surrounded by the serenity of the ocean. The waves roll in, the sand beneath the feet, the sun shining down. It’s a sense of freedom, a sense of peace.

And here I am, on the beach in Sri Lanka, reading my travel guide, spending my surplus income, ordering cocktails in coconut shells, surrounded by dozens, hundreds like me.

A sense of place, of being. It’s like being on a cruise ship, surrounded by the serenity of the ocean. The waves roll in, the sand beneath the feet, the sun shining down. It’s a sense of freedom, a sense of peace.
There is a growing demand for autonomy for the postal service. The general consensus among postal employees is that bureaucratic red tape is hampering efficiency and driving away business.

of administrative services to another or only 10 percent. The demand for postal services, and general consensus among employees is that they are being neglected. A new administrative training for new administrative employee has been cancelled due to the postal services, but remains available for other branches of the administrative service. The government provides a fluctuation of government postal service employees, and nobody wants to enter this sector. With this kind of mindset, it will be difficult to compete with the private sector. says DPS director Sharma. There is a growing demand for autonomy for the postal service. The government provision has fuelled frustration among postal service employees, and nobody wants to enter this sector. This kind of mindset, it will be difficult to compete with the private sector.

Another student agitation

Five community student organisations know for force leaders of all political parties, members of parliament, heads of constitutional bodies, government officials and teachers to stop sending their children to private schools. Their month-long protest programme to begin 30 December is culminate in nationwide protests on 22 January. On February they say they will post black flags on all private schools. The other demands include nationalising private schools, banning the national anthem, banning international banks from education, making Sarekut an optional subject, returning admission fees, providing loans to unemployed students, and stopping police actions in educational institutions. The pro-Maoist student group that had forced closure of all schools for a week sometime ago is also part of this new coalition and says it will organise an indefinite strike if the demands aren't met. Other organisations supporting these demands are the student wing of the main opposition Unified Marxist-Leninist Party and its breakaway faction the Marichand-Lamsamparty.

Farmers’ demands

Agitating farmers, backed by the main opposition parties, will announce a new round of protests on Sunday. The farmers have a 39-point list of demands which they submitted to the government on 30 November. They demand, among other things, stopping rice imports from India, fixing a support price for food grains and making arrangements to purchase their produce. Other demands include writing off loans given to small farmers and raising the price of sugarcane.

Nepali imprisoned for life in Japan

A Japanese High Court overturned a lower court decision and sentenced Govinda Pangled Munsali, 34, to life in prison. In April the Tokyo District Court acquitted Munsali for lack of evidence, but prosecutors challenged the ruling and Munsali remained in detention—something the Kyoto News Agency’s says wouldn’t have happened in a Japanese suspect. Munsali is accused of murdering 38-year-old Yusuke Watanabe, a female employee of the Tokyo Electric Power Company in March 1997. Munsali, who went to Japan in 1994 and was working as a restaurant, says he is innocent. “I did not do it. On God, please help me,” he screamed in Japanese after hearing the verdict. Reports from Tokyo say his lawyers say they will appeal the decision in the Supreme Court.

Hearty felicitations and Best Wishes for a Long, Happy and glorious Life

To His Majesty King Gyawal Bir Bikram Shah Dev

On the auspicious occasion of his Majesty’s 56th Auspicious Birthday

Nepal SBI Bank Limited

Corporate Office

Head Office: Post Box No. 9049, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel : 35514536511 Fax: 00977-1-430012

Tin : 2796 NSBL NP

E-mail: natsb@nios.com.np

Gurkha vets demand fair play

A one-day seminar on discrimination against British Gurkhas vis-a-vis their British counterparts was held in Pokhara on 16 December. The participants of the seminar was to make participants aware of the physical and mental condition of former war veterans—there are quite a few, some with incapacitated limbs and maimed organs. For example, there were those who had fought in the Maharan campaign but were partially disabled after the communal fight had been continued there in the mid-60s. These former British Gurkhas have suffered the most economic hardship. They were referred of their livelihood in the prime of their lives without sustainable compensation. Also present were war widows who seemed considerably bourn by the prospect of the organisation, the Gurkha Army Ex-Service Men Association (GAESO), to fight the British establishment for equal pensions and pay. The continuance of these men and women reflected their hopes of justice. The veterans and widows carried placards around their necks condemning the British government and the British Army for their failure to treat Gurkhas according to international law as well as for their indifference to the Nepali soldiers’ welfare. (Same time ago a news item appeared in the Daily Star and Telethon of London, suggesting that British Gurkha pensioners were being forced to hand over half their monthly pension to the GAESO—a pretty far-fetched story that may have seemed plausible to the editors in London.) The British are still clinging to the Tripartite Treaty of 1947. Many legal experts and academics now claim that this treaty does not have legal standing. The Bimaran Treaty between India and the UK was signed to keep British Gurkhas’ pay and pension on par with that of Indian Gurkhas. The political complexion of the day forced India to enter the agreement since the promise of higher remuneration would have lured all the Gurkhas to the British Army, and India wouldn’t want it. Both governments benefited from the agreement at the cost of the Nepali soldiers.

When the treaty was presented to the government of Nepal at the time of its endorsement, Nepal refused to do so. Instead, the Nepali government suggested changes to the treaty. These were to be worked out later, and some kind of vague understanding was reached. Unfortunately, none of the changes were ever carried through. The British are still using the temporary agreement to regulate the pay and pension packages of British Gurkhas. The British are already losing some ground and may find themselves under pressure from the international community.

veterans have been defended on the grounds that Gurkha troops are paid according to the Tripartite Treaty of 1947. Many legal experts and academics now claim that this treaty does not have legal standing. The Bimaran Treaty between India and the UK was signed to keep British Gurkhas’ pay and pension on par with that of Indian Gurkhas. The political complexion of the day forced India to enter the agreement since the promise of higher remuneration would have lured all the Gurkhas to the British Army, and India wouldn’t want it. Both governments benefited from the agreement at the cost of the Nepali soldiers.

When the treaty was presented to the government of Nepal at the time of its endorsement, Nepal refused to do so. Instead, the Nepali government suggested changes to the treaty. These were to be worked out later, and some kind of vague understanding was reached. Unfortunately, none of the changes were ever carried through. The British are still using the temporary agreement to regulate the pay and pension packages of British Gurkhas. The British are already losing some ground and may find themselves under pressure from the international community.

veterans have been defended on the grounds that Gurkha troops are paid according to the Tripartite Treaty of 1947. Many legal experts and academics now claim that this treaty does not have legal standing. The Bimaran Treaty between India and the UK was signed to keep British Gurkhas’ pay and pension on par with that of Indian Gurkhas. The political complexion of the day forced India to enter the agreement since the promise of higher remuneration would have lured all the Gurkhas to the British Army, and India wouldn’t want it. Both governments benefited from the agreement at the cost of the Nepali soldiers.

When the treaty was presented to the government of Nepal at the time of its endorsement, Nepal refused to do so. Instead, the Nepali government suggested changes to the treaty. These were to be worked out later, and some kind of vague understanding was reached. Unfortunately, none of the changes were ever carried through. The British are still using the temporary agreement to regulate the pay and pension packages of British Gurkhas. The British are already losing some ground and may find themselves under pressure from the international community.

veterans have been defended on the grounds that Gurkha troops are paid according to the Tripartite Treaty of 1947. Many legal experts and academics now claim that this treaty does not have legal standing. The Bimaran Treaty between India and the UK was signed to keep British Gurkhas’ pay and pension on par with that of Indian Gurkhas. The political complexion of the day forced India to enter the agreement since the promise of higher remuneration would have lured all the Gurkhas to the British Army, and India wouldn’t want it. Both governments benefited from the agreement at the cost of the Nepali soldiers.

When the treaty was presented to the government of Nepal at the time of its endorsement, Nepal refused to do so. Instead, the Nepali government suggested changes to the treaty. These were to be worked out later, and some kind of vague understanding was reached. Unfortunately, none of the changes were ever carried through. The British are still using the temporary agreement to regulate the pay and pension packages of British Gurkhas. The British are already losing some ground and may find themselves under pressure from the international community.
In Maaland

With hundreds of the people eagerly awaiting the arrival of the government delegation led by the Minister for Home Affairs, a tense situation prevails in the district headquarters of Maanilast. The crowds have gathered at the site where a government delegation is expected to arrive. The government delegation is expected to inaugurate a new government facility and address the local population.

The government delegation is expected to arrive at the district headquarters at any moment. The police and security forces are on high alert, and the area is戒备森严. The government delegation is expected to inaugurate a new government facility and address the local population.

The government delegation is expected to arrive at the district headquarters at any moment. The police and security forces are on high alert, and the area is戒备森严. The government delegation is expected to inaugurate a new government facility and address the local population.

The government delegation is expected to arrive at the district headquarters at any moment. The police and security forces are on high alert, and the area is戒备森严. The government delegation is expected to inaugurate a new government facility and address the local population.

The government delegation is expected to arrive at the district headquarters at any moment. The police and security forces are on high alert, and the area is戒备森严. The government delegation is expected to inaugurate a new government facility and address the local population.

The government delegation is expected to arrive at the district headquarters at any moment. The police and security forces are on high alert, and the area is戒备森严. The government delegation is expected to inaugurate a new government facility and address the local population.

The government delegation is expected to arrive at the district headquarters at any moment. The police and security forces are on high alert, and the area is戒备森严. The government delegation is expected to inaugurate a new government facility and address the local population.

The government delegation is expected to arrive at the district headquarters at any moment. The police and security forces are on high alert, and the area is戒备森严. The government delegation is expected to inaugurate a new government facility and address the local population.

The government delegation is expected to arrive at the district headquarters at any moment. The police and security forces are on high alert, and the area is戒备森严. The government delegation is expected to inaugurate a new government facility and address the local population.

The government delegation is expected to arrive at the district headquarters at any moment. The police and security forces are on high alert, and the area is戒备森严. The government delegation is expected to inaugurate a new government facility and address the local population.

The government delegation is expected to arrive at the district headquarters at any moment. The police and security forces are on high alert, and the area is戒备森严. The government delegation is expected to inaugurate a new government facility and address the local population.

The government delegation is expected to arrive at the district headquarters at any moment. The police and security forces are on high alert, and the area is戒备森严. The government delegation is expected to inaugurate a new government facility and address the local population.
Hot showers

Trekking in Mustang, you pay Rs25 for a “sun bath.” Fancy name for something many Valley residents are familiar with: solar-heated water.

Is Melamchi watertight?

ADB has sanctioned Rs120 million for Melamchi, but questions about distribution remain.

How it all started

Nepal’s first solar water heater was installed at Kathmandu School in 1976 by the Swiss government, through the World Bank. The project was a success, and the potential for solar water heating in Nepal was recognized. The government, recognizing the potential of solar water heating, started to fund projects in the mid-1980s, and the technology started to gain traction.

Despite the initial success, the technology faced several challenges, including high costs and maintenance issues. However, with advances in technology and improvements in efficiency, the cost of solar water heaters has decreased significantly, making them more affordable and accessible.

In recent years, the focus has shifted towards the development of more efficient and cost-effective systems, which has led to the emergence of new technologies such as hybrid systems and large-scale systems. These advancements have made solar water heating more viable for a wider range of applications, from households to industries.

In conclusion, solar water heating is a promising technology that has the potential to significantly reduce energy consumption and emissions in Nepal. With continued investment in research and development, the technology is expected to become even more efficient and cost-effective, making it an even more attractive option for renewable energy in the country.
A dismal year

This has been a terrible year for governance. The actions of political parties have seriously affected the economy.

The economy was in turmoil and uncertainty worsened during the year. Nepal had made almost all the wrong decisions during the past six months.

The government had made almost all the wrong decisions during the past six months. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.

The government is making the same mistakes again and again. It is not clear what foreign investors are not welcome. The Nepal business community will not forgive the government for its inaction.


Coronation Square

No other crown could be so fantastically devised, so priceless. It is a glitter of closely set diamonds and pearls, hung with drop rubies and emeralds the size of plums and stop, clasp by more diamonds, is a cascade of bird-of-paradise plumes.

The Little Prince

Throughout the ceremony of introduction the three-year-old Crown Prince Openida had watched and played in a room overlooking Nasul Chowk. Now, as the King and Queen took their places on the State Throne, the little Prince, fascinated by gawking, climbed boldly out in a blue uniform, complete with polished hat and miniature silver sword. For a moment he hesitated, then bowing low before his father, then his mother, sat down on the throne. The Very Important Person present who had observed a dignified silence until now burst into applause.

The Queen

The Queen was a traditionalist. As they entered through the golden Hanuman gate, everyone present stood, a guard of honour presented arms and while the national anthem was played, the Royal Standard was unfurled. The King and Queen were conducted into an inner room of the palace for yet another ritual of purification, through a door that led into another gate. There, they were smeared with clay collected from the summit of a mountain and the bones of a lake, from the confluence of two rivers, an ambuli, the nation of elephant, from the statues of cow and deer, from the site of India's flagpole, and from the wheel of a chariot. When, one wondered, did they find a chance with mud still tainting its warning shriek?

They were monitored by four people from each of the four centres of Hinduism in India: a Brahmin cleared the haircut from a golden urn, by a Kshatriya with milk from a silver vessel, by a Vaidhika with the root of a sugar cane, by a Shaiva with honey from an amber pot. They were bathed with water from eight rivers and seven seas, performed with oil and scarlet powders and dressed in homepun. While all the assembled priests atoned from the Vedas, "We invoke you with the strength and valor of India, the King of Heaven, to ensure victory, with the splendor of the Sun to clash your foes, with the cooling power of the Moon to give peace and plenty to your people. May your people ever love you."

Two colourful inscriptions had been raised in Nasul Chowk, one was adorned with brass and decorated with auspicious signs, signs of bamboo, banana trees in full flowers and fruit, and the national emblems of Nepal. It was in this that the King was casued on a golden throne upon which were laid the skins of various animals, among them an ox, a wildcat, a tiger and a lion. In the adjoining iesque repose another throne fashioned from a witting of golden sequence whose upon hooded formed a canopy. There, the King and Queen received the homage of their subjects after they were crowned.

It is customary for the King of Nepal to ride, immediately after their coronation, to a small gilded temple dedicated to the gods of the Devana Square outside Hanuman Dhoka, King Birendra and his Queen close to walk in a short but upload procession. For those who dribbled the streets of Kathmandu for a glimpse of their research, the best way yet to be. It came when the King and Queen, wearing a dazzling crown, she in her shimmering costume, rode in procession on the giant horse, Pratap Prasad.

The afternoon sunshine, so all diamonds and rubies and emeralds in the royal crown abate, and deeply etched every incredible detail of the heavy gold embroidery with which the royal nakshi was capricious. Twenty-three elephants wheeled in scarlet and gold preceded Pratap Prasad and alongside walked the treading men.

And, one again, before them were the unbelievable ascent of bands and banners, Minster of state, army banners, many with the decorative decal for the valor of the field, scouts and girl guides, marching troops, the colour and neatest bears, the two-white, dressed for the day and decorated for the occasion, Nasul Chowk and king goddess.

The 900 straths brought the mountains from the sun's rays to take part in the royal procession which had swinging the din, had caught cold and stopped one
to the uncustomed terrestrial roads. One had been bitten by a dog and might even have died. Once again, the lad of the Hanuman Dhoka Palace, the young King Birendra, His Highness Shah Dev and his Queen Alaudha Rajas Raj Dev Shah Dev were crowned. No other crown could be so fantastically devised, so priceless.
Thirty years of King Birendra’s reign

“In a constitutional monarchy, the King has to play the role of the referee. He cannot kick the ball himself, but he must make sure that no one commits a foul.”

SHIVA GAUNLE

King Birendra’s reign goes back to the year 1981. In the last three decades of Nepal’s development, it has frequently been a period when this once-separated kingdom was starting to get accustomed to the big world and right up to our present-modern style parliamentary democracy. In 1972, the country was still largely rural, and traveling from one part of the country to another was a major undertaking. Today, the 1,000 km Mahendra Highway named after King Birendra’s father, links the country from east to west while the network of roads in Nepal has increased four-fold in that period. The annual budget in 1972 used to be barely Rs 1 billion; today it has crossed the Rs 80 billion mark. Nepal’s infant mortality rate was slurred from 172 per 1,000 live births to less than 50 today. The country’s literacy rate has risen from 15 percent thirty years ago to nearly half the population today. Annual per capita income has gone up from Rs 800 when King Birendra came to the throne to Rs 2,100, even though the population has also doubled from 12 million to 24 million.

But the country has paid a price for some of this progress. Kailashanath has grown into an idyllic valley with its unique urban–rural blend into a chaotic and polluted replica of a Third World metropolis. A city once known for its crooked beauty and megalopolises has now earned a reputation for sophistication and social depth. In 1977, the holy Bagmati used to still have clear water at it flowed past sandy banks, today it is a stinking sewer. Garbage on the streets has become so common that Kathmandu locals have stopped noticing it.

Perhaps the biggest change in the past 30 years has come to the transformation of the political structure since the People’s Movement in 1990. A violent and untimely upheaval, which at one point threatened to break the nation into small enclaves, ended up with a return to democracy, but not the prosperity that the people had come to expect.

The story of King Birendra’s reign in Nepal is a story of contradictions. It is a story of a monarch who had to learn how to be a king, a story of a country that had to learn how to be a democracy. But today, many Nepalis are beginning to realize that hard-won democracy itself is a mixed blessing. The past ten years have been mostly. Electronically-oriented people have come to see it as a reality that many newly democratic nations around the world are also living with. This is a lesson for all.

One of King Birendra’s earliest projects was to revamp the country’s education system. Low literacy levels would have had a negative effect on the country’s future, and this was a priority. The new education policy, started in 1971, was designed to upgrade the efficiency of the education system so that the quality of instruction would improve. During his coronation in 1975, King Birendra declared that primary education in the country would be free, in 1978 he decreed that children would have to be provided free of cost to schools. Former prime minister Koirala’s legislation makes it all-around. “Plans for the new education system were drawn up in a studio school classroom in Surkhet—that was the first meeting of the planning body.”

King Birendra’s contribution was to start the National Development Service which sent poor graduate students on a one-year stint to work on...
Heartiest Felicitations to
His Majesty the
King on the Auspicious
Occasion of His
56th Birthday

Necon Air
Nepal's No. 1 Private Airline

Dwarika's Kathmandu
Village Hotel
Thanks for last night! (cc: the entire world)

The urge to email your innermost thoughts right now is a common affliction. But doing it on the company's email is not the smartest idea.

The Washington Post

TR REID

LONDON - Claire and Brad had a passionate date the other night. The next morning she sent him a note thanking him for a great evening. Huge mistake.

As a thoroughly modern woman—she holds a PhD in a dot-com firm—Claire sent her note by email, of course. Her boyfriend, now known to all the London tabloids as "Brad the Cad!", couldn't resist forwarding the message to a few close mates. Naturally, they passed it along to others. Almost instantly, poor Claire became the Monica Lewinsky of the digital world, with her indelicate remarks about her own sexual preferences forwarded to over a million people.

woman - she holds a PhD in a dot-com firm - Claire sent her note by email, of course. Her boyfriend, now known to all the London tabloids as "Brad the Cad!", couldn't resist forwarding the message to a few close mates. Naturally, they passed it along to others. Almost instantly, poor Claire became the Monica Lewinsky of the digital world, with her indelicate remarks about her own sexual preferences forwarded to over a million people.

Privacy and surveillance

Email from many firms overseas now leaves the mail server with an automatic disclaimer and confidentiality notice. Employee contracts also contain specific guidelines on the use of company email and Internet usage. You're not allowed to send twisted messages, dirty cartoons or even the mildly obscene joke. You can't forward explicit pictures, because your firm might be sued for sexual harassment, and you certainly can't look at porn at work. The disclaimers at the end of emails are meant to protect against legalities like Brad's indication, and the confidentiality notice—well, if you find you've accidentally sent an email detailing a business partner's new marketing strategy, they're countering on the possibility that this "nondisclosure" could mean a non-disclosure agreement, will make you delete the message rather than capitalize on the inside information.

So far, so good. None of these are unreasonable demands. But what about firms 'e-mooping', curtailing surveillance of employees email and Internet surfing through the use of software that tracks movement online and diverts email to a "filter" account, where it may be read by bosses. Firms do have other reasons to do this, like protecting networks against viruses and monitoring how employees deal with customers. Such monitoring is now a multi-million dollar industry, a sign of how seriously this is taken.

The USA and the UK are working on legislation that allows employers to conduct surveillance legally. This move working dealing with sticky questions about the right to privacy, and whatever the judiciary says, there are a lot of people who believe that "mooping" shouldn't be allowed in any form. It is estimated that 17 percent of the 1,000 largest firms in the US have filtering systems in place. By the end of 2001, this figure is expected to rise to 60 percent.

The Premium Choice of the New Year

Happy New Year 2001

The Premium Choice of the New Year

Happy New Year 2001

The Premium Choice of the New Year

Happy New Year 2001

NIT

Kashemndo Centre

Kevsopp, Tel: 2279

NIT Peter Centre

Jamaica Road, Tel: 200782
Neo-Nazism on the rise

Recent demonstrations of far-right strength in Europe are about hate, but also about disillusionment with mainstream politics.

BY JAYNA SHARMA

BERLIN -皮肤科医生Adorno did not have a chance. A German citizen of Greek origin, he was kicked to death by the streets of the east German city of Dresden by Nazis at his home later this year. They stripped him naked and screamed "völkisch pig" and "this is the mark of the German resistance" as they locked his head with steel-edged boots.

In August his attackers were killed for murder. The victim's murder, which took place in an area surrounded police protection. The murder was part of a wave of racial violence sweeping Germany. German police are investigating 11,800 racist attacks in the last year alone—an increase of 20 percent over the previous year.

This prompted a rally of 200,000 supporters in Berlin on 9 November, the anniversary of Kristallnacht, when Hitler's Nazis went on the rampage against Jewish property in 1938. But support for the far-right groups is growing across Europe.

The rise of the National Socialists in Germany (NSD) has cooled for years, but only this year, when racist attacks have reached crisis levels, did the government want to act in it. Sweden's government backed Justice Minister Stenbacka promised to help fight racist attacks. The government wants to act in Sweden, the country is in pictures.

Sweden, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland and Russia. In Poland, this year, neo-Nazi party in Austria, supported the seven-month EU ban on Austria which ended in October. But political EU has stated in its annual report that 1778 attacks in Poland in July and a second rally were prevented by police.

The far-right, with its social networks, organized activities, and counterfeiters is often partly because of the corruption of mainstream parties. In Belgium, the Vlaamse Blok took one-third of the vote in the autumn elections in October. France is becoming a new far-right leader.

Neo-Nazism on the rise

Recent demonstrations of far-right strength in Europe are about hate, but also about disillusionment with mainstream politics.

BY JAYNA SHARMA

BERLIN - The rise of the National Socialists in Germany (NSD) has cooled for years, but only this year, when racist attacks have reached crisis levels, did the government want to act. Sweden's government backed Justice Minister Stenbacka promised to help fight racist attacks. The government wants to act in Sweden, the country is in pictures.

Sweden, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland and Russia. In Poland, this year, neo-Nazi party in Austria, supported the seven-month EU ban on Austria which ended in October. But political EU has stated in its annual report that 1778 attacks in Poland in July and a second rally were prevented by police.

The far-right, with its social networks, organized activities, and counterfeiters is often partly because of the corruption of mainstream parties. In Belgium, the Vlaamse Blok took one-third of the vote in the autumn elections in October. France is becoming a new far-right leader.

American politicians are dealing with the rise of the National Socialists in Germany (NSD) has cooled for years, but only this year, when racist attacks have reached crisis levels, did the government want to act. Sweden's government backed Justice Minister Stenbacka promised to help fight racist attacks. The government wants to act in Sweden, the country is in pictures.

Sweden, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland and Russia. In Poland, this year, neo-Nazi party in Austria, supported the seven-month EU ban on Austria which ended in October. But political EU has stated in its annual report that 1778 attacks in Poland in July and a second rally were prevented by police.

The far-right, with its social networks, organized activities, and counterfeiters is often partly because of the corruption of mainstream parties. In Belgium, the Vlaamse Blok took one-third of the vote in the autumn elections in October. France is becoming a new far-right leader.

American politicians are dealing with the rise of the National Socialists in Germany (NSD) has cooled for years, but only this year, when racist attacks have reached crisis levels, did the government want to act. Sweden's government backed Justice Minister Stenbacka promised to help fight racist attacks. The government wants to act in Sweden, the country is in pictures.

Sweden, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland and Russia. In Poland, this year, neo-Nazi party in Austria, supported the seven-month EU ban on Austria which ended in October. But political EU has stated in its annual report that 1778 attacks in Poland in July and a second rally were prevented by police.

The far-right, with its social networks, organized activities, and counterfeiters is often partly because of the corruption of mainstream parties. In Belgium, the Vlaamse Blok took one-third of the vote in the autumn elections in October. France is becoming a new far-right leader.

American politicians are dealing with the rise of the National Socialists in Germany (NSD) has cooled for years, but only this year, when racist attacks have reached crisis levels, did the government want to act. Sweden's government backed Justice Minister Stenbacka promised to help fight racist attacks. The government wants to act in Sweden, the country is in pictures.

Sweden, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland and Russia. In Poland, this year, neo-Nazi party in Austria, supported the seven-month EU ban on Austria which ended in October. But political EU has stated in its annual report that 1778 attacks in Poland in July and a second rally were prevented by police.

The far-right, with its social networks, organized activities, and counterfeiters is often partly because of the corruption of mainstream parties. In Belgium, the Vlaamse Blok took one-third of the vote in the autumn elections in October. France is becoming a new far-right leader.

American politicians are dealing with the rise of the National Socialists in Germany (NSD) has cooled for years, but only this year, when racist attacks have reached crisis levels, did the government want to act. Sweden's government backed Justice Minister Stenbacka promised to help fight racist attacks. The government wants to act in Sweden, the country is in pictures.

Sweden, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland and Russia. In Poland, this year, neo-Nazi party in Austria, supported the seven-month EU ban on Austria which ended in October. But political EU has stated in its annual report that 1778 attacks in Poland in July and a second rally were prevented by police.

The far-right, with its social networks, organized activities, and counterfeiters is often partly because of the corruption of mainstream parties. In Belgium, the Vlaamse Blok took one-third of the vote in the autumn elections in October. France is becoming a new far-right leader.

American politicians are dealing with the rise of the National Socialists in Germany (NSD) has cooled for years, but only this year, when racist attacks have reached crisis levels, did the government want to act. Sweden's government backed Justice Minister Stenbacka promised to help fight racist attacks. The government wants to act in Sweden, the country is in pictures.

Sweden, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland and Russia. In Poland, this year, neo-Nazi party in Austria, supported the seven-month EU ban on Austria which ended in October. But political EU has stated in its annual report that 1778 attacks in Poland in July and a second rally were prevented by police.

The far-right, with its social networks, organized activities, and counterfeiters is often partly because of the corruption of mainstream parties. In Belgium, the Vlaamse Blok took one-third of the vote in the autumn elections in October. France is becoming a new far-right leader.

American politicians are dealing with the rise of the National Socialists in Germany (NSD) has cooled for years, but only this year, when racist attacks have reached crisis levels, did the government want to act. Sweden's government backed Justice Minister Stenbacka promised to help fight racist attacks. The government wants to act in Sweden, the country is in pictures.

Sweden, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland and Russia. In Poland, this year, neo-Nazi party in Austria, supported the seven-month EU ban on Austria which ended in October. But political EU has stated in its annual report that 1778 attacks in Poland in July and a second rally were prevented by police.

The far-right, with its social networks, organized activities, and counterfeiters is often partly because of the corruption of mainstream parties. In Belgium, the Vlaamse Blok took one-third of the vote in the autumn elections in October. France is becoming a new far-right leader.

American politicians are dealing with the rise of the National Socialists in Germany (NSD) has cooled for years, but only this year, when racist attacks have reached crisis levels, did the government want to act. Sweden's government backed Justice Minister Stenbacka promised to help fight racist attacks. The government wants to act in Sweden, the country is in pictures.

Sweden, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland and Russia. In Poland, this year, neo-Nazi party in Austria, supported the seven-month EU ban on Austria which ended in October. But political EU has stated in its annual report that 1778 attacks in Poland in July and a second rally were prevented by police.

The far-right, with its social networks, organized activities, and counterfeiters is often partly because of the corruption of mainstream parties. In Belgium, the Vlaamse Blok took one-third of the vote in the autumn elections in October. France is becoming a new far-right leader.

American politicians are dealing with the rise of the National Socialists in Germany (NSD) has cooled for years, but only this year, when racist attacks have reached crisis levels, did the government want to act. Sweden's government backed Justice Minister Stenbacka promised to help fight racist attacks. The government wants to act in Sweden, the country is in pictures.

Sweden, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland and Russia. In Poland, this year, neo-Nazi party in Austria, supported the seven-month EU ban on Austria which ended in October. But political EU has stated in its annual report that 1778 attacks in Poland in July and a second rally were prevented by police.

The far-right, with its social networks, organized activities, and counterfeiters is often partly because of the corruption of mainstream parties. In Belgium, the Vlaamse Blok took one-third of the vote in the autumn elections in October. France is becoming a new far-right leader.
Sujoy Dhar.

CALCUITA: Everyone is talking about the heavy rains that have turned the southern city into a giant waterlogged sludge. More than 50,000 residents have been forced to evacuate their homes. The city has been declared a disaster area and the government has declared a state of emergency.

The floods have caused widespread damage to infrastructure and transportation systems, with many roads and bridges washed away. The airport and railway stations have been shut down, causing disruption to travel. There are reports of power cuts and water供应 shortages.

The situation is desperate, with thousands of people stranded in shelters and seeking emergency aid. The government has called on people to stay indoors and avoid unnecessary travel.

Faking it in Mauritius

Mauritius is a tropical island nation in the Indian Ocean, known for its pristine beaches and clear blue waters. The country is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including the world-famous giant tortoises.

The island has a rich cultural heritage, with influences from Indian, African, and European cultures. The capital, Port Louis, is a vibrant city with a bustling harbor and colonial architecture.

In the recent past, Mauritius has faced challenges such as overfishing and deforestation, which have threatened the island’s unique ecosystem.

The government has implemented a number of initiatives to protect the environment and promote sustainable tourism. These efforts have helped to preserve the island’s natural beauty and attract visitors from around the world.

The island is also known for its shoe industry, which has been an important source of employment for many years. However, the industry has faced competition from cheaper imports, particularly from China.

The government has implemented policies to support local businesses and promote exports. These efforts have helped to maintain the industry’s viability, but challenges remain.

The island is expected to continue to face environmental and economic challenges in the future, but it is working to address these issues and ensure a sustainable future for its people and ecosystem.

Seahorses swimming into extinction

The graceful, horse-headed fish may soon be seen only in museum aquariums due to high demand and destruction of their natural habitat.

Henryito D. Tagio

BALL—Seahorses, once numerous in the Philippines, are now considered an endangered species due to overfishing, habitat destruction, and climate change.

The shallow waters off the coast of the Philippines provide a rich habitat for seahorses. However, the species is facing several threats, including habitat loss, overfishing, and climate change.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the seahorse is listed as a vulnerable species. The IUCN predicts that by 2050, the seahorse population will decrease by 70% due to habitat loss and overfishing.

Conservation efforts are underway to protect the seahorse population. The government has implemented laws to regulate the seahorse trade and preserve its habitat. However, more needs to be done to protect this unique species.

Seahorse populations are also threatened by climate change, with rising temperatures and ocean acidification affecting their habitat. Conservationists are working to mitigate these effects and protect the seahorse for future generations.

The seahorse is a symbol of resilience and perseverance, and it serves as a reminder of the importance of protecting our oceans and the creatures that call it home.
Koirala ready to sideline rivals

Nepali Times, 22 December

Koirala is gearing up for the Nepali Congress between the leaders and grassroot party activists. This division is expected to widen further if nothing is done to reconcile it. According to a source, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala is gearing up to sideline all party leaders who do not agree with him on his political functioning. People and leaders who are strongly against the current state of the Nepali Congress have started considering the possibility of forming another political party.

NC convention to act against Mafia

Koide Madak, 23 December

Girija Prasad Koirala, the President of the Nepali Congress, has announced that the party will take action against those who have been involved in criminal activities.

Maoist leader in Holland

Jana, 29 December

Jana, 29 December

Cobra Deka Holland, the leader of the People’s War Group in the Netherlands, has been detained by the police on charges of murder. The leader has been known for his radical political stance and has been involved in various conflicts with the government.

“Nepali Congress does not belong to anyone”

Koide Madak, 23 December

The Nepali Congress is planning to convene a convention to discuss the issue of political violence and to address the concerns of the Maoists. The convention is expected to be held in the coming days.

CNP (Maoist) directives

Jana, 29 December

The Maoists have issued directives to their members to continue their struggle for a just society.

Unit cell and Maoist

Prasad Koirala, 23 December

The unit cell of the Nepali Congress has been dissolved, and the Maoists have taken control of the unit cell.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

For there is no difference between the Maoists and the Congress. The Maoists have killed 25 of our party workers while the Congress has killed 12.

ON THE AUSPICIous OCCASION OF THE 56th BIRTHDAY

SALUTATIONS TO His Majesty King RamaXIIIE Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of his auspicious 56th Birthday Celebration. May His Caring Touch always show us the right path.

Jazz and cigars

The Shangri-La Hotel’s Jazz Bar is one of the better places to spend a relaxed evening in Kathmandu. Their fine food, imaginative music and cigars—the Jazz Bar claims to have the only humidor in the city. The Bar used to be the hotel’s French restaurant, but it’s now a salon moderne. It’s elegantly lit with pale yellow walls and floors and lounge seating. The idea is that you relax, have a drink or two, nosh on appetizers, listen to the music, and mingle with a table when you’re ready for dinner. It’s an intimate place with only 30 covers, but it’s nicely spread out, so it doesn’t feel claustrophobic. The food is predictably good and their French, Indian, Chinese, and Thai dishes. There’s a respectable selection of wines and spirits and you could do worse than drinking the house red, a sturdy full-bodied Pinot Noir.

As for the music, it’s urbane and makes few demands on the Jazz Bar’s patrons. If you’re not too aficionado you may be disturbed by the occasional classic rock rendition (what’s South’s Asian evening without Hotel’s ‘righties’), but if you just want insouciant, low key, music, this is the place to be. The coffee is good and there are cigars, low end ones at Rs250 and a

Churchill at Rs200. The big Cubanos comes with acomplimentary shuff of Hendyacyn, it’s quite a good deal, really.

As part of their effort to encourage a discerning crowd, Shangri-La often hosts private parties for the local who’s who and the Jazz Bar attracts couples and families and the odd loner. A real find, as you often find somehow, very easy to pay on the Scottish.

Kathmandu

This gracefully shaped cylinde over St. Lucia is too far to affect us. Documen is a going to the second successive day more after the wet monsoon earlier this year. A strong high pressure system over the northern Indian plains and the Himalaya has mantained its influence by which positively east and east away from the region The moisture laden winds have not been strong enough to overcome the burn of the high pressure zone. The pattern is likely to remain unchanged for at least four weeks. In Kathmandu, days will be sunny and warm after chilly morning fog. That’s good news for those hoping for clearer skies during the now year celebrations.

KATHMANDU

22-03 22-04

23-03 22-05

NEW YEAR’S CELEBRATIONS

Nepalese new year, Kathmandu’s last jazz band Cadence tunes it up for hours on dining. The evening includes a buffet inside a bonfire on the grounds of the Vege Inn. Door prices include gift baskets, a two-day, three-night full board package at Chhiwari Satro Lodge for two, and a two-noon-noon membership at the Vege Inn Leisure Club for one. 29 December, Friday 8 pm onwards. Rs 700, including dinner. Vege Inn Leisure Club, Kathmandu. 2204563/567166

Riverside Celebration: Millennium 7. Celebrations at the Bhoratadk on the lands of the Bhirat Kosi near the Tibet border. New Year’s Eve at the Funky Hat with The Big Idea. The Ministry of Sound and QJ Beat: Celebrations continue until 3 January. Other Lumbini millennium gateways are rocking! The 7th January and border trek (3 January). 2003/423583

Lakeside Pokhara: Two day street festival to celebrate the 59th Birthday of the King and also the New Year. Includes folk festival, the concerts, cultural programs, handcraft exhibition and a 10-day fair on December 13 to 21.

Jazz, Drive. dine and swing to live jazz. New Year’s Eve, 8 pm. Rs 2001. The Jazz Bar, Hotel Shangri-La, Lazimpat, 421599

Avantgarde Dance: Solo level dance floor, laser lights and a misletoe booth at the Anupa Aushim New Year’s eve. Entry Rs 1000 per couple, cash bar. Free entry for drivers at The Chimney (Rs 1000 per head), Naugthar (Rs 1000 per head) and Sunrisen Cash (Rs 1000 per head). Hotel Yak and Yeti, Darbar Marg. 251599

Gadawan Stars: A night out at the Godavari Village Resort. Welcome glass of wine. followed by dinner, and breakfast the next morning. 31 December. Singles Rs 2500, couples Rs 3400. No charge on dinners. Godavari Village Resort. 50075 & 50175

EXHIBITION

Angkor: A black and white photography exhibition by Jaro Penciar from Prague. The focus of the exhibition is the Hindu/Buddhist Angkorian art of Cambodia. 20 December 2001, 6 am to 8 pm. Indigo Gallery, Anna. 6602

Yikeen: Solo painting exhibition by Samaj Barsalou organised by the ChheirGu Shojit. Opening 23 December. 11 am, Bamboo Gallery, Parkend Road. 240658

A Diary of Portraits (1975-1999): A series of studies in mixed media of the people of Kathmandu by Carolyn Booth, a resident of Nepal and faculty of Creative Arts at Dhulikhel at the Himalayan Buddhist Meditation Centre. The New Restaurant of the Surenti Hotel,坤笑。

POETRY READING

A poetry recital evening with the renowned poet Suki Ramdas from Malaysia and four contemporary Nepali poets—Banita Gai, Jumpril, Pratibha Sathyak and Abhi Subedi will perform in English and Nepali. Suki Ramdas: "A lawyer by profession and a poet by compulsion," is also a human rights campaigner, lawyer, environmental activist. He has his collections of poetry to his credit, the most recent Raga and Rang. Selected Environmental Poems. 31 December, 4.30 pm. Bahu Khana, Patan Dhiro, near Motan Parsak Prasainkatsthali.

DANCE

Classical Nepali Dances based on Buddhist and Hindu rituals and the Tantric traditions showcase the sacred arts of ancient Kathmandu Valley. Every Thursday, 7 pm. The Greek Pagoda, hotel Naya (near Swayambhunath Stupa). 16 minutes west of Thamel. Rs 400. 271549

Traditional Dances of Old Tibet: Performed with traditional instruments by the Tibetan dance Tumshu Gompa and Tersar Tsepali. Every Thursday, 7 pm. Nagi Theatre, hotel Naya (near Swayambhunath Stupa). 16 minutes west of Thamel. Rs 400. 271549

MARTIN CHATTERJEE

Vamandra Shrestha, Chief Officer, Department of Land Revenue discusses the forum discussion on Why do land disputes arise in Nepal? is there any solution? 2 January, 9.30 pm. Unless otherwise notified, presentations are in Nepali. Write or call for directions: chatham@ne.com.np 240656

For information in the listing need information to editors@nepalnews.com

NEPAL WEATHER

by RAMNAKA

The most unusual feature this year was the

32

16 city

20 DECEMBER 2000 - 4 JANUARY 2001 NEPAL TIMES
What's best about basketball in Nepal

One of the best things about this new fascination with hoops is that many young women are getting into the sport—unlike the global male domination of basketball’s nearest competitor in the popularity stakes, football. Seven teams participated in the First Women's Open Basketball Tournament organised by the NBA in association with LIT High School earlier this month. The enthusiasm was infectious. Although virtually all the players were inexperienced and had no formal training, they played with style and tried every move. Leena Choudhury, captain of the winning team from Gyanodaya Higher Secondary School, said, “What is most important is that we were given a chance to play.”

Seven teams might not sound like a lot, but it’s still impressive, given the odds. Hari Maharaj, an NBA official remarked, “This was the first ever women’s tournament in the country. Lack of funds prevented us from publicising the event as we would’ve liked to.”

Almost every high school in the Valley today has a basketball court in some shape or size. If you don’t insist on playing by the official NBA book (the other one), basketball is relatively simple. Pick-up games for men and women take place on a number of neighbourhood courts, and even a lone player can spend time shooting hoops. All you really need is a basket hung high. There are obstacles and it’s unlikely you’ll win the SAARC tournament, but the sport is going the right way and may prove to be a much-needed shot in the arm for the Nepali sport in general. So if the average height of men and women is in the region of 5’3” in basketball, as in most things, size isn’t everything; skill is crucial.

Look carefully the next time you see young men and women hanging out on a basketball court. They might be the new face of Nepali sport. “Shooting hoops” is now “playing basketball”, and Nepal’s doing it at the SAARC Basketball Tournament next month.

Coaching from the Sports Authority of India. The team is also using the training facilities at the Elite Cricket School complex.

Coach Khadim is taut-eyed about the situation. “They are certainly improving but there’s one main hurdle. They’ve never seen basketball before so they picked up what they first learned to play is incorrect. Compared to the international standard players on the other teams our chances are low, but at least we will get some good experience. Having a coach and a space in a start, but there’s a long way to go. The team will be representing Nepal next month, but they receive no remuneration, not even a daily wage. At the NBA camp they received transportation and food from LIT and the school provides breakfast after morning practice. It is a pretty ideal situation. ‘’We’re representing the country and we don’t even have a team uniform until now,” says Bipendra Mahat, point guard of the u-22 training team. This week the team was in London for training at a closed camp and will be there until 20 January. Bipendra, who seems likely to lead the team, says, “This will serve more as a learning and as the first international basketball that Nepal will play.”

Sai Pandey, secretary of the National Basketball Association, is more optimistic and believes the team has good quality. Though it looks like Pakistan might not participate.

As always, the problems the sport is facing here are lack of financial support and infrastructure, and all the baggage that comes with that. What funds are there? There’s not an individual contribution from NBA members. Recently, Pandey made a trip to India in the 15th Asian Junior Women’s tournament—Nepal wasn’t playing there, but Pandey met representatives of the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC). On the recommendation of the Federation of International Basketball Associations, the governing body of world basketball, the ABC granted membership to the Nepali Basketball Association as the official representative of the sport in Nepal. The NBA, which paid the USD60 membership fee without any contribution from the National Sports Council (NSC or the Ministry for Youth, Sports, and Culture) hopes this will help them get funding in the future. This looks like a heart-warming situation except there are already sounds of discontent. Coach Nokarmi has no information on the arrangement being made for his team to go to Gorakshpur and says the NBA lacks transparency. But NBA’s Pandey seems that the organisational aspect is of no concern to the coach. Perhaps after the tournament the NBA and the team will have enough breathing space to work with the NSC and ensure the sport is better regulated and remains open to anyone with the talent and enthusiasm, as it is now.
Free fall

Imagine a bridge over a 160m (500ft) tropical gorge with the Bhote Kosi, one of Nepal’s wildest rivers, raging below.

Now jump.

You’re almost 200 m away from the bridge. This isn’t the end of the madness. The second thrill is the jolt and the splashdown. When the cord is fully extended to its limit, it jolts and you lose your balance, but you fall at a constant speed. Now it’s time to relax and keep your eyes open. There are about five cycles of this up and down movement before you finally come to a standstill, and it’s quite soothing actually. Then, the jumpmaster on the bridge slowly lowers the platform, and you wonder what if the footlock breaks? People in the bungee-jumping business and enthusiasts will tell you time and again that safety isn’t an issue. Bungee jumping doesn’t require a particularly high level of physical fitness, but you shouldn’t do it if you’re pregnant or have high blood pressure.”
The Ram Mandir at Butwal, north-east of Kathmandu, was crumbling, marred, surrounded by stone blocks and a haveli for a year.

In 1992, Dr. Govinda Tandon of the Ram Mandir formed a nine-member restoration committee with Rs.64,000 received by local residents. They used the leaking roof, laid a new tile floor, built a staircase to the temple from the main road and wired structures for electricity. The temple now receives 100 odd tourists daily. During festival seasons, like Makar Sankranti and Baisakhi, the temple is second only to the Jatulpura temple in popularity, with over 7,000 visitors.

Built in the 17th century by Rana Singh Tandel, "Lahur Dham," an army colonel, the temple is a living granite statues of Vitta Laxman, and Sita, and a statue of Hanuman guarding the temple outside. There are numerous murals based on the Ramayana, and 10 of the original 32 terracotta butterflies, nymphs set in the walls. Legend has it that 32 butterfly-nymphs carried the throne of King Viceroy Ravana in the hill and dropped it on the hill where the temple is situated, giving it the name Batikrupa (batu=32, patalimeter).

There's an interesting story explaining why Swami Singh Tandon "Lahur Chhilen," the brother-in-law of Jang Bahadur Rana, wanted the temple on top of the hill. It is believed that he initially wanted the hill to be removed as it obstructed the view of the valley from his residence. However, during excavation, he found three pots of gold coins. After receiving permission from the government to spend the coins any way he wished, he made the Ramchandra Mandir on the hill and another temple of Rama in Butwal in western Nepal.

Dr. Brijendra, Bishnu Prasad, and Christian Peter, who've studied the temple in detail, write, "The Ramchandra temple is a hybrid form of many different styles, each forming its own characteristic feature of 19th-century North Indian architecture. Elements of traditional Newari temple architecture are mixed with the Islamic style of the Mughal, the latter influenced by European architecture."

The temple has an upper extension that looks onto an expansive view of the Valley. The hill on which the temple stands is also considered an important archaeological site dating from the Licchavi period.

In the last three years the construction has restored the main temple and the hill surrounding. Stone temple is in good condition. Currently, they're working on the two-footed sculptures in the temple, supported by mad and material donations from individuals and Dharma's hostel. These are other plans in the works. "We want to see Ramchandra Mandir getting its due importance as a revered pilgrimage site and important tourist attraction," says Dr. Tandon. In Butwal they're setting Rama has returned home from exile.
New Year’s Resolutions

have raised the ambient temperature of this country to boiling point, and we can think more clearly, it is a good time for us to make some new year’s resolutions so that we can become the Switzerland of Asia by December 2001:

1. We hereby resolve that henceforth we shall turn our mobiles off during seminars and workshops even if the seminar and workshop is on the National Information Technology Policy.

2. In the new year we shall refrain from eating food of national pasture of picking our nose in public, and if policemen find our fingers involuntary start cursing the nasal orifice we shall wash our hands with soap. (Only soap, since water is going to be even more scarce in 2001.)

3. We shall try to meet our national hands target of 20 shutdowns days in 2001 to ensure the government machinery is well-oiled, and functions smoothly.

4. The nail government machinery also needs to be lubricated and all citizens shall in the coming year endure to grease every pinning palm so that the tasks of nation building can progress in high gear and without any major hiccups. Memo for coming year: Leave no palm ungreased.

5. We shall not stand idly by in 2001 should Ceylonese Palmyra ever cross our prairies on our independence, self-rule, self-determination, freedom, life, liberty and pursuit of mayhem, self-sufficiency, self-reliance, sovereignty and self-sufficiency. We will stone the Bhaktapur marva bashes and make complete arrows of Parmar unless the apologist forthwith.

6. And don’t ever think about shuffling our one- and-only Mr Everest by saying it is getting shorter by 1 cm a year, or that Tengteng is a Tibetan, otherwise we will block all southbound traffic at Thanalhe during each hour and burn Sir John Hunt in effigy at Bhaktapur.

7. We resolve in the coming year to nationalise all garbage piles. Priceless rubbish piles will fly black flags in protest to demand that they be nationalised by next Friday. If that demand is not met, we vow to hose down garbage on the streets.

8. During the coming year we shall carry our eye-brows in front of arrested and public facilities to express our revolution against Ballan, and then go home to watch Kishor Pyar Na Hi for the ninth time.

9. We will not work harder than we have to, we will not do today what we can do tomorrow, and we will not read books high on the unreformed society and tell all foreign hands that they need in hosiery owing to demobilising our country, we’re doing that just fine by ourselves.

Ambassador
WHISKY

The balanced WHISKY...!

The only best AEEE!!
Attractive Label.
Economical Price.
Economy Pack.
European bottle with Long Guala Cap.

THE ONLY BEST NEPAL MADE FOREIGN LIQUOR.

Ambassador
WHISKY

Tastes even better than it looks

Mayos... Instant Satisfaction

MSG content as per WHO standards

Mayos is made from high-quality ingredients in a clean and hygienic facility, under continuous collaboration with Thailand’s No.1 manufacturer of instant noodles. The President Foods P/l.

Enjoy the floating layers of instant noodles in Mayos.