The paramilitary and the Nepal insurgency. The regional chiefs will be located in Dhankuta, regional administrators in all of the country's major cities. The ordinance now needs the Secretary Shreekant Regmi told us. "The armed police force to battle the Maoist insurgency last week. The Home Ministry says it hopes to iron out its differences with the government in Belhara. The total cost of the project is $41 million and includes bilateral donors from Nordic countries and Japan, and loans from the World Bank.

New Zone Bosses

King Birendra gave his OK for an armed police force to battle the Maoist insurgency last week. The Home Ministry says it hopes to iron out its differences with the government in Belhara. The total cost of the project is $41 million and includes bilateral donors from Nordic countries and Japan, and loans from the World Bank.

RAJENDRA DHAL IN POKHARA

The multi-award Nepal Congress Convention on Friday was a day of victory, anti-communist activism in the region and between the warring factions. Thelanga Singh, son of Ganesh Man Singh and Koirala, was "repulsed" by the cut-throat campaign on behalf of her daddy Prakash Singh, son of Government Singh and Koirala, was focussed on Pokhara. Even the main opposition leaders from the UML and other leftist parties admitted they were keenly watching the outcome of the Pokhara convention to formulate their strategies. With an unprecedented number of grassroot parties and members of mass organisations attending the event, the party's ideals of understanding and accommodation will be a reality.

The leadership then will be divided rudderless on a stormy ocean. With the party preoccupied with no-confidence motions, there will be unprecedented number of pressure groups, political parties and donors insisting on where you live, and if the leaks in our distribution network are fixed before that. Nepal and the Asian Development Bank formalised a $120 million loan for the Melamchi project on Wednesday to bring the snowmelt into the valley. ADB President Tadao Chino was in town to witness the signing of the project agreement. Finance Minister Mahesh Acharya thanked Chino for the money and had tea with him on the Ministry lawns. The total cost of the project is $41 million and includes bilateral donors from Nordic countries and Japan, and loans from the World Bank.

Under My Hat

CEASEFIRE!

"You will see everything will be happening within ten days." - Girja Prasad Koirala

INFOTECH SPECIAL

EXCLUSIVE
GET ON WITH IT

Just as well that tourism is in a deep slump. Pokhara needed to keep its hotel rooms full, and it reaped a bonanza from the Congress convention that was present. The politico-business nexus that was present in Pokhara would do well to make a mental note of that.

The ruling party should now get down to the job of ruling. There is a lot of catching up and patching up to do. The rebel faction got enough votes at the Convention. The reason is clear: they are a force to be reckoned with. Party chairman and prime minister, Girija Prasad Koirala, must, for the sake of his party and the country, be inclusive and unite the party (even if it means sharing the power).

Winter in Pokhara

Winter, as a venerable columnist pointed out in these pages last week, settled—which isn’t a surprise given the complete lack of scruples that our politicians have. Party chairman and prime minister, Girija Prasad Koirala, must, for the sake of his party and the country, be inclusive and unite the party (even if it means sharing the power).

STATE OF THE STATE

Despite poverty and squalour, Bihar has the lowest suicide rate in India. It seems those who expect nothing are never disappointed.
Red, Green and Blue

There is no military solution to this crisis. Pursuing that option will destroy the country, and may ultimately cost us our sovereignty.

MIN BAJRACHARYA

There is no military solution to this crisis. Pursuing that option will destroy the country, and may ultimately cost us our sovereignty.

MIN BAJRACHARYA
FM as the bogeyman

HELMATA RAI

The government ban on news on FM radio is seeing a backlash led by a parliamentary committee.

The history of radio broadcasting in Nepal dates back to 1934 when the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) started broadcasts from Kathmandu. However, it wasn’t until 1984 that Nepal’s first radio station, Radio Nepal, started broadcasts from Kathmandu.

In an interaction programme last week in Kathmandu that included journalists, human rights activists and legal practitioners, the government once again faced a round of criticism over mechanisms used to limit press freedom.

The licence holders (kind)

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White man's burden

I've been to some gatherings lately where the talk among foreigners was pretty discouraging. You'd think that these people were actually affected by the things they were complaining about—bandhans, shortages, the WAY THEY DRIVE!!!

You have a long face, you're rude, you're impatient, and you're a poor driver. You drive too fast, you honk too much, and you're generally inconsiderate. You're not a nice person to be around, and you certainly don't make me feel welcome in Nepal.

But I'm not complaining. I'm just observing. I think that the way foreigners drive is part of the reason why there are so many crashes on the roads. The driving is not only unsafe, it's also impolite.

The problem is not just with foreigners, but also with locals. Many Nepali drivers are just as aggressive and impatient as the foreigners. They honk and shout at each other, they weave in and out of traffic, and they don't obey traffic rules.

I think that the government should do more to regulate driving in Nepal. They need to enforce traffic laws more strictly, and they should provide better road infrastructure.

It's not just about being polite on the roads. It's about respecting other people's lives and property. We need to drive responsibly, and we need to treat each other with kindness and consideration.
January does not live up to its promise related to community development as the radios could focus their coverage on related to community development for areas the radios could focus their overview. The radios could focus their coverage on related to community development for areas the radios could focus their coverage on related to community development for areas the radios could focus their coverage on related to community development for areas the radios could focus their coverage on.

Chintan convalescing

Well-known human rights activist and lawyer Rajesh Shiwakoti “Chintan”, attacked by unknown assailants on the night of 17 January, says the police has made no attempt to nab assailants even a week after the incident. “This silence is alarming,” says Chintan, now recovering after emergency treatment. “They’ve not even come to get a first-hand account from me even though I filed a formal complaint with the Ammannagar police office on 18 January."

The National Human Rights Commission too is appalled by the neglect. “We’re concerned about the inaction,” says Kapi Shrestha, member of the NHRC. “We’ll follow this incident to its logical conclusion.”

In what appears to be a well-planned attack, a woman called Chintan at home on the day he was attacked asking him to step out on the street to collect a packet she was delivering for his son. He did accordingly and was on his way back after waiting 15 minutes for the caller to show up when he was attacked. He escaped with a broken knee and nose and a wound on the head. Two passers-by, who are reported to have seen three people fleeing the scene of crime, helped him get home after the attack.

Doctors at Kathmandu Model Hospital reported the incident to the police as soon as the injured Chintan was taken there but the police did not come to the hospital to draw up a first information report (FIR). Instead they are reported to have told doctors to continue with the treatment and that the FIR could be filed the next day. “I have no idea who may have attacked me,” says Shiwakoti. “I may have made many enemies by looking into cases as I do from Arun-Hills to the Lauda lands,” he adds.

Besides being among the handful of activists responsible for the World Bank withdrawal from the controversial Arun-III project in 1995, Chintan is one of the few human rights activists who has consistently raised a voice against police excesses in the course of suppressing the Maoist movement. For his pains, he was arrested by the police two years ago and kept in custody for 11 days.

More work disruption

New Year’s was a strike and so was the day after. Now there is the threat of more work disruption, the only consolation is that this time there’ll be chakka jams affecting the movement of vehicles and not full-scale bandhs. The chakka jams would begin 26 January, if the government fails to fulfill the two-point demand put forth by the Federation of Nepalese Transport Entrepreneurs (FNETE). Here’s a schedule of the FNETE’s protest programme: A protest rally on 26 January, another protest rally “with vehicles” on 2 February, an hour-long chakka jam in Kathmandu Valley at 5 am on 7 February and another two-hour chakka-jam in the Valley from 3:30 pm on 11 February. If the demands are still not met, Phase Four of the protests will begin, FNETE says. This one would involve a day-long Valley-wide chakka jam on 16 February, a similar protest west of the Narayani River on 26 February and another one east of the Narayani, in Chitwan on 5 March. The following are the FNETE’s demands:

* Take back the government’s decision to ban 20-year-old vehicles
* Guarantee purity of petroleum products based on international standards
* Stop foreign vehicles from commercial operations in Nepal
* Stop running ‘fake’ Sajha buses (buses hired from private operators and run as Sajha)
* Release impounded vehicles and drivers by taking their insurance policies as guarantee
* Stop parking fines in driver licences (there’s one for each major violation)
* End irregularities in vehicle inspection
* Stop import of new vehicles
* Introduce competition in petroleum product imports
* Stop sale of kerosene at the petrol pumps
* Stop import of fake vehicle parts and lubricants
* Provide industry-like facilities to transport entrepreneurs, and
* Simply double-triple taxation on motor vehicles

Markings of an epidemic

Nepal has begun to show signs of the being gripped by a major HIV/AIDS epidemic, says the National AIDS and STD Control Centre. Though the number of Nepal’s HIV/AIDS infected remains low (1,807) it could be much higher given the poor testing facilities.

The recent numbers are based on tests of 182,160 blood samples. Among the HIV positive, the majority (1,063) of men were clients of sex workers, and of 536 positive among women, 384 were sex workers. The remaining 110 women were homemakers who contacted the virus from their male partners. Besides, another 196 with the infection were intravenous drug users, infected by sharing needles. Another three got the virus through blood transfusion.

Most of those with HIV/AIDS are in the 20-29 age group. Also among the HIV positives are 19 children, 11 boys and 8 girls, victims of transmission from their parents. The Centre warns that although only 142 people are known to have succumbed to HIV/AIDS so far in Nepal, there is every possibility that the problem could be worse since there is no way of knowing how far the harness has penetrated the hinterland.
To climb or not to climb

Banning climbing only because the mountain is beautiful has no rationale. The prettiness or otherwise of the mountain cannot determine whether it should be climbed or not.

Gauri Shanker, Annapurna, Bhadra Himal, Ganes Himal. On the question of further study, since Annapurna was conquered 15 years ago, there have been valuable studies at this mountain range. The Annapurna Conservation Area Project has been there for the last 20 years and it has enough data on tourism and the endowment of the area.

The fourth argument calls for seeking the opinion of inhabitants who live at the base of Machhapuchhre. The truth is that all the 152 peaks opened in Nepal till now, the opinion of the villagers living at their base has never been a consideration. Why is this sudden interest? Involving the locals is likely to be fair, since Machhapuchhre was open for climbing till 1985 and then closed, it became important to examine why the peak became off-limits to climbers after that. It had nothing to do with security or the lack of it. The reason given so far and one that has been historically a generation of Nepal, is that this peak has great religious significance for the Gurung who live below it. That Machhapuchhre is sacred to the Gurung is nothing more than a myth, and it is easy to speculate that it had something to do with Col. John Roberts, a British eldest officer who led both the reconnaissance (1956) and expedition (1964) teams to the mountain. The climbing team had to retreat due to heavy snowfall. Roberts wrote in his memoirs to the account of the expedition, "I felt myself to be climbing mountains in Nepal and I felt once to Machhupuchhre in a frame of anxiety last, some blemish had already the authority to appeal pavilion to attempt Machhapuchhre..." He continues: "We Machhapuchhre because of the ideal mountain, a personal possession yet out of this world, containing like millions by ill luck, rifles, it must be a country and a people which shall the seat of life..."

It would seem natural that Roberts should wish that no one should conquer a mountain he had begun to believe was his own and which he had failed to conquer. In the 1960s, Col. Roberts happened to be military attaché at the British Embassy in Kathmandu and it is not difficult to imagine that his sentimental advice to the Foreign Ministry (that handled expedition) regarding Machhapuchhre’s sanctity influenced the fate of the mountain.

In 1958, I was chairman of the consultative forum to suggest suitable Nepali names for peaks with foreign names. I visited the Modi area, meeting villagers to collect required data. Last March, I was asked to examine Machhapuchhre village development committee itself, on neither occasion was I able to learn of local names for any snow peak, I, however, discovered some cultural situations that may be of interest to serious mountain climbers:

The people living around Machhapuchhre do not have a specific name for it, but call all the peaks Valley, which means snow in the Gurung language. Since the peaks do not influence their lives directly, it does not hold religious importance for them. Therefore, Machhapuchhre does not hold any religious significance.

For the protection of their sheep and goats, the mountain people perform puja sites along the route to high passes during the seasonal migration in spring and summer. They also ensure the nearby communities as precipitation and local deity.

The only religious site along the route, in the Annapurna Sanctuary (Central). Thousands of trekkers and scores of climbers keep the actual venerated site. Why is it that a religious site, Dhaulagiri, cannot be visited by foreigners, but a snow peak with no religious significance, Machhapuchhre, can? If there is official concern for the sanctities of Dhaulagiri religious places, the logical step to protect them from desecration would be to begin at the Annapurna Sanctuary itself.

Since Machhapuchhre does not hold any religious importance for the Gurung community, there is no reason to make it off-limits. In fact, the mountain should be made open and permission for first attempts should be granted to the team that conducts the largest donation to the International Mountain Museum in Pakistan, through a bidding process. Machhapuchhre is a virgin peak, and if it is bid, there will be many expeditions to climb it. In 1998, 31 expeditions came to climb Annapurna XI and they paid a royalty of Rs 5,000, 000. Machhapuchhre will attract a lot more expeditions, generating more revenue and creating employment opportunities. The peak is not the monopoly of the inhabitants of Machhapuchre with their basin. Bringing the peak to Annapurna II, it will be a good example for others

(The Harik Gurung is a noted geographer and a former tourism minister. He was associated with new international expeditions to Everest, an unsuccessful one in 1971 and a successful one in 1988.)
Civil Disobedience in the west

This is the first time that free, poor, indigenous yet landless people have issued a frontal challenge to the government.

You should learn as many languages as you can. There is no better ice-breaker than speaking to people in the middle of nowhere in their own mother tongue. While teaching French in Kathmandu in the early 1980s, I went on becoming a journalist, crossing the world’s hotspots, and then I did I realised how useful this language from the Himalaya would be to me in some of the most unlikely places.

Ten years later, I found myself back in Kabul covering the Soviet invasion for a French newspaper, Everywhere I turned in Kabul, I would run into a Himalayan with a French security guards at entrances and waitresses in restaurants would

Pickup the latest issue of Nepali Times and get the full story.

You can also find us on Facebook: Nepali Times.
The Nepali Oil Corporation (NOC) announced a major reduction in the price of kerosene last week but shortages of Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) continued despite assurances of increasing supply to ease the problem. On 14 October the government raised the prices of petroleum products, raising kerosene rates by 100 percent—from Rs13.10 to Rs 26 and fixing another rate for ralgi fuel. Later, the government gave in to widespread protests and reduced the price to Rs 22. Kerosene is now available at Rs 17 a litre, while one-ounce reductions have been made in both petrol and diesel prices.

**Kerosene cheaper**

The Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) had announced a 50 percent cut in kerosene prices last week but shortages of Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) continued despite assurances of increasing supply to ease the problem. On 14 October the government raised the prices of petroleum products, raising kerosene rates by 100 percent—from Rs13.10 to Rs 26 and fixing another rate for ralgi fuel. Later, the government gave in to widespread protests and reduced the price to Rs 22. Kerosene is now available at Rs 17 a litre, while one-ounce reductions have been made in both petrol and diesel prices.

**Power for power**

Nepal and India have agreed to sell more electricity to each other. The Nepal-India power exchange committee that met in Kathmandu last week agreed to exchange 150 megawatts of power, up from the existing pact of 50MW. Presently, Nepal imports 50MW of electricity and exports about 37MW. Nepal Electricity Authority says the new arrangement will enable it to use the surplus energy after some power projects now under construction begin supplying to the central grid. Nepal and India exchange power at Rs11.80 per unit. The power exchange would entitle construction of 132KV transmission lines connecting Butwal and Anandnagar, Birgunj and Mothi, and Dhakhebar and Stamadi. Nepal has already put together finances needed for the new construction on the Nepal side of the border.

**Droit Ports near completion**

Nepal's largest Inland Container Depot (ICD) or dry port, at Alahau near Birgunj, will be ready for operations mid-February—11 months behind schedule—when contractors are expected to finally hand it over to the government. Two other dry ports at Bhairahawa and Biratnagar are already operational. Over 70 percent of Nepal's trade takes place through Raxaul bordering Birgunj. The new dry port with a broad-gauge rail link with the Indian system is expected to heavily reduce transport costs, both on raw material imports and export of finished goods. A $23.58 million World Bank loan and another $5 million contribution of the government funded the ICD. The rail link was built with Indian aid.

**ECONOMIC SENSE**

by ARTHA BEED

**Can Nepal Do It**

There may be millions of global players, but there's always room for a hundred specialty players.

At last year’s CAN Info-Tech, Nepal

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A stall at last year's CAN Info-Tech.

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The event had humble beginnings. The first CAN Info-Tech fair was organised in January 1995. The executive committee of the Computer Association of Nepal (CAN) had a brainstorm and they decided to kick off with an exhibition than a business show. Over the years, the show had grown from mere computer and networking equipment exhibitions to a fully-fledged IT exhibition. The biggest hi-tech event in Nepal.

As the years went by, the show was known as the annual distributing and networking equipment show. The first CAN Info-Tech fair was organised in January 1995. This year it has a new look and a new name. CAN decided to make the event an annual affair. The first CAN Info-Tech fair was organised in January 1995.

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The biggest hi-tech event in Nepal.

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The Internet on the Top of the World

A new study offers hard facts about IT in Nepal. Entrants in this class are winners, the only real loser being HMNG.

In Nepal the first people see is a Win with a high-speed lead. Impossibly high-speed (and hard) loss more people are buying home PCs, and older ones are usually "professionally" on the move, but this is not the case in Nepal. Students, publishers and individuals working in the teaching and tourism industries may not be able to afford their own computers, but they can afford some use of them. Less expense and easy access, together with their web-based familiarity.

How do we explain every dollar of hard currency flow to a place where Internet access would cost 100 times the international rate? What is the future of the IT sector? Entitled a report on the state of the country’s Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Nepal since it marked the first foray into the world’s IT sector.

...
The roof of the world
entrepreneurs and the urban middle
those they purport to serve.

about by the actions of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, marked a
genuine watershed in the history of Nepal, especially for the print media. Over
the last decade, many newspapers, magazines and journals have been
established in Nepal. Whilst increased literacy and greater
political awareness have encouraged the growth of print media, the
traditional distance of printing and physical distribution has not
yet been overcome. Partly in
response to these challenges, many newspapers have created
websites in the past three years. These pages differ in quality and
worth, ranging from purely
commercial ventures to the publication, excepted of a lead story and some
contact information. Well
achieved, interactive sites with
identical content to the printed
physical copy. Opinion letters and
other comments can now be
submitted through the home
pages of the publication or by
e-mail to the editors, leading to a
much higher rate of feedback on
articles and features.

The making of Windows millennium modems.

New ventures were operational and
Nepal had the lowest dial-up
Internet tariffs in all of South Asia.
Conventional communication
technologies (telephone and
telefax) are still state-controlled
but Internet Service Providers
(ISPs) have largely left to their
own devices. One direct result of
this freedom has been fierce
competition between the old
incumbent ISPs (ISPs in Nepal to
secure customers and provide
technical support.
Moreover, the authors of the
ITU report have singled out Nepal
for special praise for "actively
pursuing network connectivity,
and Nepal's expansion plans are
enthusiastically enjoyed.

Falling and unexpected paradoxes? Well, the success of .np
as a Top-Level Domain (TLD) is in no part due to the fact that .np
is relative to "hipper", which would explain why according to the ITU
report, "there are essentially a relatively large number of Japanese
businesses using .np".

Overall, the report is a mine of information about the state of
telecommunications in the
Kingdom. There are a few
entertaining and unexpected
surprises, but the main thrust of the study is that it offers
surprising facts about the use of Information Technology in Nepal.
Entrepreneurs and the urban middle
class emerge as the primary, the only
real "loser being HMG and those
they purport to serve: "some
Ministry Secretaries who were
contracted did not even know if
their ministerial websites existed."

Dear,

The ITU-Report is freely
down loadable from the Internet at
http://www.itu.int/eks/casesudies/np/np/np.html

(Mark Turner is working on a
grammar of Tharuhi, a Tibeto-
Burman language spoken in Nepal,
and is the administrator of the
Himalayan Languages Project at
Ladakh University.)
## INFOTECH 2001 FLOOR PLAN

**25 JANUARY - 29 JANUARY 2001**

### Stall No. | Floor | Name of Exhibitor
--- | --- | ---
A1 | G | Sky Infosys
A2 | G | Ishan Infosys
A3 | G | Shrestha Anrni Traders
A4 | G | Shrestha Anrni Traders
A5 | G | Shrestha Anrni Traders
A6 | G | Himalayan Shangrila
A7 | G | Touch Stone Sales and Service P L
A8 | G | Touch Stone Sales and Service P L
A9 | G | CNC Pvt Ltd
C10 | G | Himalayan Dot Pvt Ltd
C11 | G | Mgs Pvt Ltd
C12 | G | Geospital
C13 | G | Mars International
C14 | G | Associated
C15 | G | Jingle Inc
C16 | G | Exactly Support & Training Center
C17 | G | Seagate Computer Inst.
C18 | G | City Computers
C19 | G | Agris-Pagri
C20 | G | BDC
C21 | G | Computer Care Pvt. Ltd
C22 | G | DTI
C23 | G | CSTC Pvt Ltd
C24 | G | The Readers Concern
C25 | G | 1st Self Electronics
C26 | G | Connection
C27 | G | Daisylink Computers
D13 | G | Nucrelsoft Software
D14 | H | Baltronix
D15 | G | Computer Security Co.
D16 | G | Pioneer Trade marketing
F15 | G | Trade Wings
F16 | G | Trade Wings
F17 | G | Easy Page
F18 | G | Mars Trading International
F19 | G | Mars Trading International
F20 | G | Lift Trading Co
F21 | G | D & D International
G22 | G | The Waves Group/ GM Software
F23 | G | Infozoom Online Pvt Ltd
F24 | G | Infozoom Online Pvt Ltd
F25 | G | Salt Computer Trade Concern
F26 | G | Salt Computer Trade Concern
F27 | G | Salt Computer Trade Concern
F28 | G | Mazda International Computer
F29 | G | Anhart Multisystem
F30 | G | Interactive Group
F31 | G | Interactive Group
F32 | G | IT Nepal Pvt Ltd
F33 | G | Star Office Automation
F34 | G | Star Office Automation
F35 | G | CSE System and Office Automation
F36 | G | CSE System and Office Automation
F37 | G | Laser Manufacture Co Pvt Ltd
F38 | G | Anhart Multisystem
H39 | G | Pacific Office Automation
O40 | G | Kajis Kohli
F46 | G | International Electronics Concern
F47 | G | International Electronics Concern
F48 | G | ITNTI
F49 | G | Mercantile Communications Pvt Ltd
F50 | G | Mercantile Communications Pvt Ltd
F51 | G | Mercantile Communications Pvt Ltd
F52 | G | Mercantile Communications Pvt Ltd
F53 | G | ITNTI
F54 | G | International Electronics Concern
F55 | G | International Electronics Concern
J56 | G | PC World
J57 | G | 1st BOK
J58 | G | 1st NIC
J59 | G | 1st Business Age
J60 | G | Kantipur Publications
J61 | G | 3rd Informatics Computer School
K62 | G | The Readers Concern
K63 | G | Mercantile Communication Pvt Ltd
K64 | G | World Distribution Nepal
K65 | G | Mercantile Communication Pvt Ltd
K66 | G | Sigma Resources
K67 | G | Worldlink Communications
K68 | G | 3rd College of Software Engineering
K69 | G | 3rd College of Software Engineering
K70 | G | 3rd SSI Kathmandu Center
K71 | G | 3rd Lord Buddha Education Foundation
K72 | G | 3rd Everest Education Foundation
K73 | G | 3rd Software Group Pvt Ltd
K74 | G | 3rd Softtech Computer Inst.
L1 | G | 1st PCWorld
L2 | G | 1st BCK
L3 | G | 1st NIC
L4 | G | 1st Business Age
L5 | G | 1st Kantipur Publications
L75 | G | Informatics Computer School

### Additional Information

- **High Quality Education, Great Value**: Outstanding Nepali Pakistani students are choosing the University of Windsor.

- **SHARP AD**: Contact the University of Windsor International Outreach Office Tel: 1-416-831-1570. 
  E-mail: info@windsor.ca 
  Web: www.windsor.ca 
  Applicants for Bachelor's degrees only!
Clinton shaped and marked the actions of others, even while having little to show for it himself.

**A President without precedent**

Clinton entered the White House four years ago as the first Democrat to do so since 1964. In his final year, 1996, although the truest test will come as he leaves office so synonymous with a modern America. He has shaped the media in ways that have been intense and at times personal. In his interview, there is little doubt that he will think about this.

The big things were to make US education standards world-class, to make further care insurance, and to use the power of technology to achieve second tier rank. Morris suggests that the 1970s debates about a so-called information divide remains as important as land and physical capital. In this market-driven economy, the potential for social benefits of the emerging electronic revolution. He sets this in the context of the growth of western media empires that are anyway western-based. The media in developing countries seen to be a distraction from the need to begin to develop local media systems. World Bank has the main specialist on financial systems, it has been left to the Italians to define what a so-called New World Information and Communication Order (MICRO) he said to the Commonwealth Press Union conference in Barbados last November that new technologies were bringing in “the end of traditional media”. He has been a major political influence, articulating the challenges of a future information age. Indeed, he was one of the few politicians who could write an essay on the “internet” and make it run to over 20 pages.

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In January 1991, the US and Britain continue to maintain a military presence in Iraq, controlling airspace over 60 percent of the country’s territory, demanding that Iraq divest of non-conventional weapons—biological, chemical and nuclear—remain unresolved despite a further Anglo-American violation of its airspace, Iraq’s most powerful resource—oil—is under a direct economic stranglehold of the United Nations. Though Iraq has been pumping and exporting oil, without any IMF-imposed limit for the post-war period, the earnings are deposited into a UN account and Baghdad restricts more than half that sum. The UN allocates the rest to a compensation fund for those who suffered Iraqi aggression in Iraq and for administering the UN oil-for-food scheme, inspections under monitoring.

Ten years on, the nations overseeing Iraq’s disarming established a democratic order in December 1998. As United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in September 1998: “it personally believes that disarming Iraq is never going to be possible. At the end of the day, the Security Council must decide whether Iraq is disarmed or disarmed the threat that it is a threat to our neighbours, that it has no weapons of mass destruction, and, if so, it has capacity to make weapons of mass destruction.”

Although through the freeze of the government, the Security Council remains the only body that has the authority to demand that the sanctions remain in place, its effectiveness is weakened by the continued occupation of Iraq.

Still weathering Desert Storm

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The ruling party holds that Maoists lack political character and therefore at a time for dialogue; numerous attempts are to be taken to end the conflict. Because of the political character of the Maoists, the ruling party has an opportunity to say this. This does not however mean that there aren’t any honest people among the Maoists. There are people in that organization who are building an ideal society, for establishing a republic and people’s government, for providing direction to the country, for providing equality and justice for all, for an end to foreign intervention in our country’s affairs, and for upliftment of the poor.

Could you clarify some of the issues and wrongs that have been raised by the Maoists? First of all let us discuss the new society that the Maoists want to create. Are other parties going to enjoy the same amount of space and freedom in that society? Is everyone and every political party going to be treated equally? Is everyone going to enjoy the same fundamental rights? Are political parties going to be allowed to present their line of thought and action to the masses? Can they counter the wrong thinking and actions of Maoists? Can they go to the people? Can they meet the masses? Are the Maoists ready to accept criticism?

We say all these should be allowed. These are the rights of every individual. The Maoists have to make all these points clear, spell out their answers to these questions. They should not be bent upon destroying anyone who does not toe their line. We have protested against the negative actions of the Maoists. We have criticized them to help them understand what is wrong with their actions and thought. The Congress is another issue.

While we provide constructive criticism, the Congress tries to capitalise on those wrongs and gain political mileage. The Congress is not keen on seeing problems solved, and therefore sees nothing good with the Maoist revolution. We have been telling the Maoists to rectify their actions and enter the political arena in a proper way. We are prepared to help them in whatever way is feasible. We think that this is the only way the nation can benefit.

Will the Maoists rectify their mistakes and take corrective action? If the Maoists desire the creation of a new society, want communist movements to benefit, provide new direction to the nation and want to be part of society at all endeavours to lead better lives and want a better country, they have to give up arms. They have to move according to the wishes of the people and the country. At present, they seem to be more of a terrorist organisation. This has helped the Congress in committing more crimes against people.

The villagers are caught between the police and the Maoists. How can they be freed from this situation? The villagers have been heard between the frying pan and the fire. It is not the villagers who are trying to destroy the villages. These villages are communist areas. The police are acting like the police. The Maoists’ army cannot behave in the same way.

The Maoists have brought to the fore the problems of the country. How do you view this? It is not the Maoists who highlight the problems of the country that has remained hidden till now. Now that the country has taken notice of those problems, if we could use this opportunity for the benefit of the nation it would be very good. The country needs drastic changes, not minor face-saving changes.

The Maoists are attacking and destroying all their opponents. How is the UML going to counter that? We think that one communist party will fight against another is the thought of reactionaries. We do not want to act accordingly if anyone acts against us, and we will react to it in an appropriate manner.

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Glimpses of Nepal and White Water Challenges Slide show on Nepal’s lifestyle, culture, and the jungles of the tarai. Also the challenges of white water rafting & kayaking in Nepal 6pm at Ultimate Descents, Northfield Cafe, Thamel. Admission and drinks free. 410625, 426230.

Challenges and opportunities in re-building and re-vitalising Kathmandu Slide lecture by Artur Krzysiek. Evening raises funds for a project of the Kathmandu 2000 campaign: Training teachers to teach better about Kathmandu. Baber Mahal Revisited. 27 January. 2pm. Rs 550 per person. Includes five drink coupons.

Leisure Inn. 26 January, Friday, 4 pm. Rs 555 per head, includes drinks and dinner. Available at the venue or hotel. 26 January and 27 January. 411818 or 412740.

Unplugged concert and art show Voice of the Youth is a joint initiative of Godavari Alumni Association (GAA) and Academy for Audio-Visual Arts and Sciences (AA-VAS). The launch programme is an unplugged concert and art show. Artist, including Dev Rana, George Subba, Tilak Malla, Om Bikram Bista, Yogeshwor Amatya, Boban Pradhan, Sitan Prat, Luni Rai, The Mystic and others, will work all day at the venue. Verge Luxe Inn. 26 January, Friday, 4 pm. 415555, includes tea and drinks. Dinner available at the venue or ring 261555.

Fever at the Jazz Bar. Piano (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday), piano and violin (Tuesday), live jazz (Thursday and Saturday) and live Irish music (Friday). Contemporary and traditional jazz with international fusion cuisine from a bottomless cellar; gourmet food and espresso, cognac and cigars. 435741-42 or 435741-43 or www.hotelslingla.com

Dance

Bhasi Patre. Three ripositories; three-storey building with dining, kitchen, three bedrooms, pool, servants quarters, guard room. Mr. Prakash 8810241199.

The most intricately carved statues in Kathmandu. Handmade Nepal, handmade nepal- nepal.com

Lavish brunch Local Nepali cuisine—buffet lunch with live Nepali music at the Sunrise Cafe, Yak & Yeti Hotel, 7pm. Rs 410 + tax. Noon. Reservations recommended, 261518.

Eating Out

Chinese Food Festival A month-long festival offers a wide variety of authentic Chinese prepared with Chinese ingredients by special chefs. Hotel Shangri La. For reservations and information 435741-42 or www.hotelslingla.com

Quick Word 17

Across


Down


NEPALI WEATHER

KATHMANDU

Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue

02-01 22-01 23-02 22-03 21-04

24-02

26-01

Quick Word 17

Across


Down


QUICKWORD 17

Across


Down

The new pools are stagnant, their fountains refuse to play. The flowerbeds try valiantly to battle the press of people.

What makes Balaju special is its natural beauty. It is a place of pilgrimage, a destination for the devout and the curious. The gardens are designed to be visited by foot, not by car. The pathways are narrow and twisty, leading visitors through a series of small temples and shrines. The air is fresh and clean, and the scent of flowers fills the air. The sound of water from the fountains and ponds is soothing, and the sound of birdsong is everywhere.

As one enters the gardens, the first thing that catches the eye is the central fountain. It is a large basin, surrounded by a ring of smaller fountains. The water is clear and sparkling, and it sparkles in the sunlight. Around the basin are statues of deities, each one more beautiful than the last. They are made of stone, and they are adorned with jewels. The flowers that surround the basin are vibrant and colorful, and they add to the beauty of the garden.

Further into the gardens, there are smaller fountains and pools. Some of the fountains try to pump water today, but they are not very effective. The water is still and stagnant, and it reflects the surrounding trees and buildings. The flowerbeds try to keep up, but they are not as vibrant as they once were. The trees are full of leaves, and they provide shade for the visitors. The sound of water from the fountains and pools is barely audible, and it is almost like being in a different world.

The gardens are a place of solitude, where one can find peace and quiet. It is a place where one can escape from the hustle and bustle of the city, and it is a place where one can find some respite from the world. It is a place where one can find beauty and tranquility, and it is a place where one can find a sense of serenity.

The gardens are a place of pilgrimage, and they are visited by many people every day. They come to see the gardens, to see the fountains and pools, to see the statues of deities, and to see the flowers. They come to see the natural beauty of the gardens, and they come to see the beauty of the gardens in their natural state.

The gardens are a place of wonder, and they are a place of mystery. They are a place where one can find beauty and tranquility, and they are a place where one can find a sense of serenity.
LONDON—Michael Johnson, one of the greatest athletes of our time, is calling it quits.

During his first European tour in 1990, Johnson realised for the first time he could become a millionaire in a sport he had first entered through a pure love of speed. He devoted himself through rigorous preparation, the power of positive thought and a keenly analytical mind to becoming the perfect running machine, with his distinctive rapid strides compensating for legs comparatively short for his long upper body. The result was a unique 200-400 double at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and a world record of 19.32 seconds in the shorter event.

Johnson, who retained the Olympic 400 meters title in Sydney last year, agreed that the Goodwill Games in Brisbane this year would be a fitting place to finish his final year in the sport he has graced for a decade. Yet, as always, there was no misty-eyed romanticism as Johnson looked back on matchless achievements and forward to a lucrative future in television and the lecture circuit.

"It's important for me to go back and see all the fans who have supported me over the years and say goodbye," he said in his deep Texan drawl.

"During his first European tour in 1990, Johnson realised for the first time he could become a millionaire in a sport he had first entered through a pure love of speed. He devoted himself through rigorous preparation, the power of positive thought and a keenly analytical mind to becoming the perfect running machine, with his distinctive rapid strides compensating for legs comparatively short for his long upper body. The result was a unique 200-400 double at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and a world record of 19.32 seconds in the shorter event. Johnson identified the Atlanta Games, staged in sultry heat against the backdrop of raw southern rock ‘n’ roll, as the highlight of his career. "I was the first man to compete the 400 and 200 meters double," he said. "This was probably the biggest challenge in my career, I really won it.

Further notable feats were to follow, including running the anchor leg in the world record-breaking 4x400 meters relay team at the 1998 Goodwill Games and setting a world record over 400 meters at the World indoor championships the following year. Still after Atlanta, the challenge was not to fail to do the one which was always clearly lacking in the 400, to break 20 seconds in the 100. Neither Johnson, the defending Olympic champion, nor his compatriot Maurice Greene, current world champion, finished the 200 meters final at the US trials and the great duel was never destined to take place. Neither Johnson nor his compatriot Maurice Greene, current world champion, finished the 200 meters final at the US trials and the great duel was never destined to take place.

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Johnson expressed no regrets about not having the chance to vanquish the world 100 meters record holder. "I think that Michael racing against Maurice this year is dead," he said. Greene, along with nine-time Olympic champion Carl Lewis, did not get a mention on Johnson’s all-time favourite opponents. In their place, he chose Namibian Frankie Fredericks, the 1993 World 200 champion and the only man, Johnson said, to have defeated him over 200 or 400 when he was completely fit.

"Now, I want to go out and enjoy it."
A devotional marathon

The Swasthani Brata is one of fasting, prayer and penance. Not to mention the walking and rolling.

If you are interested in extreme display of faith, get to Sankhu next Wednesday. It may not catch your ‘walking, body-placing, self-flagellating’ attension, but it is still a堪称 hardship—a group of men wrapped in white and rolling on the cold ground all over Sankhu, followed by women chanting prayers.

These are the hooj blazing devotees who attend the month-long festival on the banks of the Bhall river in Sankhu to re-enact an ancient custom. This year, there are 150 people (18 men, 132 women) undertaking the penance—ten from Rato Patan (56) and Sankhu (94), and the rest from the hills and elsewhere. The festival begins on the full moon night of 2 January this year and ends on 8 February, the last 15 days, with big yagya the devotional yagya, all-night puja, and chanting of Vedic verses.

This very-Nepali festival sweeps around the Swasthani, a test with stories from the Vedic tradition. The book has creation rights, stories about Banesh’s devotion to Shiva, and about the marriage of a girl-child, Ganga. Banesh, to this day, is disguised as an aging man. The Swasthani has been criticized by Hindu extremists for glorifying and catching and sanctioning discrimination against women, but this time of year households across the country—Takali, Gurung, Newar, Chhetri and Brahmin-have readings from the book. There are Nepali, Hindi and English versions of the Swasthani. Last year, an English version was also published.

The last biggest of all the three takes place at Laxmi Narayan. The grand finale takes place on 8 February. The night sky is lit up with flames from thousands of satras. Devotees pray before the first pilgrimage; and Rabi Nath Shrestha, manager of Swasthani Brata Sewa Committee, where a major puja will take place. Then the rest of the practitioners, led by just four pandits, where devotions pay before the first puja, and bothirthi, manager of Swasthani.

Clockwise from left: Sprinkling holy water on a devotee ready to begin his roll; the devotional pyre, all-night vigil; and Bahun—have readings from the Vedic verses. Each day begins with a dip in the Bagmati at Pashupati, Baudha and finally to Sankhu. They also undertake a 15-km pilgrimage to four sacred sites in the Valley-Baghpati, the Sixth Narayan Temple in Pashupati, Raniwali and the Changu Narayan Temple nearby. They also undertake this very-Nepali festival throughout Harinay, along the banks of the Bhall river, and a holy puja to the Bhall river, which is the goddess Bagmati. The next day, a dip in the Bagmati at Bagmati Bazar, and they end at Sano Gaucharan for lunch. The march then continues to Narayan Hill outside the Bhall River, where a major puja will take place, and they end at Sano Gaucharan for lunch. After puja at the Siddha Narayan temple the last pilgrimage through Nagarkot, Kalthali and on into Sankhu, they end their vows and get ready to return home.

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topical ingredients in creating a working performance. In the Phase II of the DSRSL Framework and empowering the grassroots through the construction of earthquake-resistant capacity buildings, aim at not just the physical but also the mental and emotional recovery, essentially the rehabilitation of local communities. The day and age are not as much about conveyance, but it is crucial to participation, in action research and exchange of experiences to bring about a working solution in all beneficiary and target groups. This is why we are doubly emboldened our efforts to not just reach out to the beneficiaries and policy makers but also to the general public, essentially the grass root level and otherwise. In this regard and age one has to understand, how to evaluate how much of it has been hot air. "Ready? On your mark, Get set, Go!"

Subhash Chandra Nemwang, the soft-spoken MP from Ilam, strikes terror in the hearts of corrupt government officials

Nepal’s former anti-corruption crusader, feels his job is to raise hell. And he is giving everyone who has something to hide a hard time, from the Prime Minister down. Nemwang is a member of the Central Committee of the Unified Marxist-Leninist party, but he seems to take his PAC job much more seriously. This is his third stint in parliament, his first eight years were spent in the Upper House. Since May 1999 he’s been representing his Ilam constituency in the Lower House. The 47-year-old Nemwang’s trademark gently belies no-nonsense investigative instincts honed over 22 years as an attorney specializing in constitutional law and criminal jurisprudence. It’s the same potent combination of humility, patience, wit and intensity that has earned him the respect of his constituents in faraway Ilam. But means Nemwang has little time for politeness, he is giving everyone who has something to hide a hard time. Notice me or just paying lip service only in

can ad for P11

Under My Hat
by Kunda Dixit

Ministries, Their Relevance, Their Significance, Non-Governmental Organisations, Advocacy

A multi-stakeholder approach