Idea of March

Another peak tourist season. Another threat of a hotel strike. Hotel unions and owners are on warpath again as talks failed. Unions will go on strike 14 March unless owners meet the demand for a 10 percent service charge. Bishnu Rimal, general secretary of one union, GEFONT, says free is no hope of compromise. The only thing unions and hotels agree about is that government mediation is a failure. The deputy prime minister tried to get the tourism minister to act, and he did not. The prime minister’s office even as they continue to “consolidate” their positions in the hinterland.

The “progressive shift” in the modus operandi is more realistic, says Shyam Shrestha, editor of the monthly magazine Mulyakan and a former member of the Unity Centre (part of which broke off to become the CPN-Maoist). “If you look at Nepal’s political history you’ll find that all struggles that started in the periphery have fizzled out. Only upheavals in urban centres, especially Kathmandu, have brought any political change.”

The Maoist statement follows a recent conference at an undisclosed location in which it was decided that:

- Revolutionary models from elsewhere won’t work in Nepal, hence the incorporation of Prachanda Path with Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.
- A conference of political parties (including the Congress), and related organisations and associations should be held to decide on an interim government which will frame a ‘people’s constitution’.
- A ‘Great Leap Forward’ will push for the expansion of secure bases, strengthening of people’s local governments and efforts toward the formation of a people’s central government.
- A broad-based ‘united front’ should be formed to work toward forming a central-level people’s government, to be backed by a ‘mass line’ that will mobilise the masses.

Six years into its “People’s War,” the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) seems to be moving towards a mediated settlement. A 25 February statement signed by Chairman Prachanda (hitherto, the general secretary) advocates a combination of an “armed mass revolt” and the People’s War. By straightforward deduction, we can now expect the Maoists to become more active in everything from bandh to chakkajamai even as they continue to “consolidate” their positions in the hinterland.

Reading between the lines, Hari Rokka, an independent communal activist, says, “They were demanding a constituent assembly and now are talking of an interim government. Maybe they’re moving towards a political solution. They’ve made a political proposal and I think talks are possible. The Maoists now have to avoid changing positions every time there is talk of talks, and the government must respond constructively.”

The statement also gives indications that the Maoists have had to accommodate more people in leadership positions. The party constitution has been amended to form a three-tiered leadership: a central committee, a politburo and a standing committee. Following the Chinese model, it means a third of the central committee makes up the politburo, out of which a close-knit standing committee is named.

However, we get to know nothing about where the other well-known Maoist leader, Baburam Bhattarai, stands in the party hierarchy. He is mentioned twice—“he has made the opening and closing statements at the party meet. In that sense, the restructuring could as well reflect a power struggle within and the new chairman’s efforts to find a tactical power balance.”

BUSINESS NOT AS USUAL

Indo-Nepal trade has soared and both countries have benefited. But some Indian businesses are not happy, and they are getting New Delhi to turn the screws...
The conflict has not yet erupted into full-scale war. Negotiations have the best chance of success before the big guns start blazing, and the ‘three-nought-zero’ of social and economic justice. Without it, the parties to the talks will have to concede that the Peacemaker Path—and its emphasis that Nepal’s revolution will have to be accomplished through concrete dialogue and human rights monitoring, which will become increasingly important in the days to come. This is our problem, we need to solve it ourselves.

As a correspondent wrote in this paper last week, the Maoists have five short years forced the nation to take notice of them and the societal contradictions, justice and equity issues that they purport to fight for. All right, they have made their point. Many who sympathise with the Maoists’ demands do not agree with their rationale for violence. The end is agreeable, but not the means.

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In your favourite newspaper, I read an article which was subsequently published under the title “Poetry is poetry, science is science. Why not the latter for the former?” The author, a well-known poet, argued that science and poetry are fundamentally different and should not be mixed. I was surprised by this perspective, as I believe that both disciplines share a common goal of understanding the world around us.

Poetry, in its essence, is an expression of human emotions and experiences. It is a form of self-expression and a means of conveying thoughts and feelings that are often difficult to put into words. Poetry allows us to explore complex ideas and emotions in a way that is accessible and relatable to others. It has the power to evoke strong emotions and connect with people on a deep level.

On the other hand, science is a systematic and logical approach to understanding the natural world. It involves observation, experimentation, and the formulation of theories and laws to explain the phenomena we observe. Science is based on evidence and is open to criticism and revision, which is what makes it a reliable and trustworthy method of gaining knowledge.

While science and poetry may appear to be contradictory, they are actually two sides of the same coin. They both seek to understand the world around us, but they do so through different lenses. Poetry offers a more subjective and emotional perspective, while science provides a more objective and empirical one.

I believe that there is room for both poetry and science in our lives. They can coexist and complement each other, rather than being seen as mutually exclusive. By appreciating the strengths of each discipline, we can gain a more complete understanding of the world and our place in it.

In conclusion, I agree with the author that science and poetry are fundamentally different. However, I also believe that they can be complementary and enhancing. Let us embrace both approaches and use them to help us make sense of the world around us.
Sickness and health in Kathmandu

In the face of expensive private medical services, Kathmandu Valley's government hospitals need to be better supported so they can continue providing large numbers of the people with the services they are known for.

HEMANTA RAI & SALIL SUBEDI

Privately run medical services in Kathmandu have been commercialised to such an extent that falling sick is now an expensive proposition. Kathmandu has become a modern metropolis with all the trappings of a developed nation. Kathmandu-bound migration, and pressure on the hospital's resources is not stay that way for long—the hospital's management staff at the time in such cases was slacken," says Dr. Ojha.

"The diagnostic facilities have improved and public hospitals are motivated to improve their efficiency after the arrival of private nursing homes. But many private nursing homes, but there are several clinics don't want any "black patients", which even an average of public hospitals and giving him my best Humphrey Bogart. "Fly it again, Sam."
SALIL SUBEDI
location and popularity.
Hospital serves an average of two
out-patient visits daily, the Bir
Apart from the approximately 1,200
Kathmandu has repeatedly assured
was laid during the state visit of
land needed for expansion has been
hospital has been promised funds for
years in the hot seat after the
Ram Prasad Shrestha, Director of the
Prasuti Griha
Ganesh Man Singh Building, Thamel.
NT GAME, PO Box 7251, Kathmandu
Mail your entries to:
One paperback a month from United Books for the next 12 months.
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also claims that the
second instruction from the PAC reached it only on 30 November, the day the Lauda
aircraft had left Europe for Kathmandu.
Also in circulation is what is called a "red booklet" that sets to prove that there was
corruption in the deal, without saying where, how much or how. The 27-page booklet
entitled the Facts about Lauda Episode delves into the nitty-gritty of 'decision-making at the
RMAC', pointing out that the corporation extended the lease of a Chinese aircraft for a
year the same day the deal was signed with Lauda. Another point raised is that the
leased aircraft is more than two years over the 10-year age limit of aircraft it said it would
acquire aircraft even after repeated attempts at open bidding as instructed by the
Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA).
The airline also says most of the decisions regarding leasing the aircraft were made
before Prime Minister's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) issued its cease orders on the
deal. The procurement contract was finalised on 27 September 2000, while PAC's notice
reached the corporation only on 20 November, weeks after the RMAC had made neces-
sary arrangements for bank guarantees (on 31 October). The RMAC also claims that the
King seeks court's help
King Birendra has decided to seek the Supreme Court's advice on what he should do with a
controversial bill that was approved by parliament in late July amidst an opposition walkout.
The king wants the apex court to decide if the bill in question, approved 26 July last year, is a finance bill. His move comes after a series of meetings he held with leaders from
various political parties.
The Royal Citizenship Act (1963) Amendment (1999/00) was discussed first in the State
Affairs Committee of parliament before the Lower House passed it and sent it to the Upper
House. The Upper House returned the Bill without even discussing it due to opposition from the
single nominated and the single opposition members (if any) in the Nepali Congress does not have a
majority here). Since the speaker of the Lower House had ruled that it was a finance bill, Nepali Congress rammed it through again and sent it to the king for approval.
The Constitution requires the king to approve a finance bill. If the king does not approve the bill when it is submitted to him. In other cases the monarch can return a bill to parliament if he believes it needs further discussion. This bill was likely to have been challenged in court, even if the king had not vetoed it.
Opponents to the bill say it does not have adequate safeguards to prevent foreigners (read:
Indians) from obtaining citizenship certificates. Supporters of the bill don’t agree, saying that
just are there adequate safeguards but it even has tougher strictures for officials who become party to fraud and misrepresentation.
What makes the bill important is that it would pave the way for granting certificates to about
4 million citizens without proper papers. A majority of those without papers are people from
tara districts. All political parties want the four-decade-old issue resolved but at the same
time don’t want any single party to walk away with the credit. The new bill has a clause that would grant citizenship to people even if their fathers had not obtained papers as re-
quired by the Constitution of 1962.
White paper, red paper
The Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation has brought out a "White Paper" on the
controversial jet-leasing deal that has paralysed the country for the past few weeks. The
RMAC, which was the leasing agency for the aircraft, has said that it had no choice but to
lease the aircraft at any price because of the government's order to acquire aircraft.
Due to the controversy, the RMAC has had to hand over the aircraft to the government on a
lease basis to avoid being held responsible for any further deterioration in the deal.
The paper concludes that because the prime minister was mainly responsible for the
incident, it was objectionable for him to remain in PM. The little red book goes on to print
that he will need $2000 to continue on his journey. The main red book also goes on to
print that the prime minister has been "in a position where we can supply 20,000 litres of
cotton". The white book also goes on to prove that there was a
corruption in the deal, without saying where, how much or how. The 27-page booklet
entitled the Facts about Lauda Episode delves into the nitty-gritty of decision-making at the
RMAC, pointing out that the corporation extended the lease of a Chinese aircraft for a
year the same day the deal was signed with Lauda. Another point raised is that the
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The paper concludes that because the prime minister was mainly responsible for the
incident, it was objectionable for him to remain in PM. The little red book goes on to print
flight use data and compares it with reduction in airline passengers—apples and or-
anges and comes up with losses (on 31 October). The RMAC also claims that the
second instruction from the PAC reached it only on 30 November, the day the Lauda
aircraft had left Europe for Kathmandu.
The health of nations

MIN BAJRACHARYA

Ask a kid to define good health for Nepal! I don’t think it’s this notion that is against the spirit of volunteerism because medical personnel in Nepal each year, I am not sure. I want to emphasize the importance of prioritising structural medicine. Take the case of the US. As a country, America stands at four percent of the world’s total population. Yet Americans spend almost half of all the money spent on medical care. With such a record, America should be pretty healthy. But this is not the case. In 1970, the US stood 15th in what I call the “Health Olympics”, the ranking of countries by life expectancy at infant mortality. Twenty years later, the US is about 20th, and in recent years has plunged even further to around 25th, behind all the rich countries, and a few poor ones. For the richest and most powerful country in the world, this is a disaster.

Widening disparities between rich and poor are responsible for poor health, and medicine in Nepal is too individualised. People are fixed for life healthy and it was abandoned as a failed experiment in 1976. (CERID).

The New education policy aims at making primary-level learning “joyful” and involving communities in their children’s schooling. But it is unlikely to pan out as expected.

Nepalese children in 1970? According to some studies, only 46 percent of primary school teachers in Nepal are formally trained. In any case, even the formal Teacher Education—according to some studies, only 46 percent of primary school teachers in Nepal are formally trained. In any case, even the formal Teacher Education Program (TEP) must be a secondary-level school teacher with a Bachelor’s degree in the country doesn’t impart continuous assessment practices. A significant number are just high school graduates and have been formally instructed in teaching methodologies or physicians of the CAS have ended in failure. Nepal first experimented with the method in 1979, in Nepal’s primary schools is 39 to one, with the central, western and far western regions burdening their teachers even more.

The current Ninth Five-Year Plan, under Phase II of the Basic and Primary Education Project (BPEP), envisages the introduction of formative evaluation in primary schools. This phase also includes the implementation of projects to encourage children from backward ethnic groups and underprivileged communities, the introduction of continuous assessment, and education for special groups, and community mobilisation for education. The only factor that threatens the success of the CAS is the fact that primary school teachers are generally poor and illiterate. First and foremost, the CAS must be a continuous assessment system. A significant number are just high school graduates and have never been formally instructed in teaching methodologies or physicians of the CAS have ended in failure. Nepal first experimented with the method in 1979, in Nepal’s primary schools is 39 to one, with the central, western and far western regions burdening their teachers even more.

â€œContinuous assessment allows learning to be more interactive and it enables students to learn in a joyful atmosphere by relieving them of the mental pressure of preparing for examinations, and it makes teachers more creative in their teaching methods,â€œ says Dr. Hridaya Rama Bajracharya, Executive Director of Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development (CREID).

The need for change along the lines of the CAS is clear, in the face of alarming high dropout and grade repetition rates among primary school students, for both of which failure in examinations has been identified as a major cause. According to official data, the dropout rate in grade one is over 19 percent, nearly five percent in grade two, and four percent in grade three. The repetition rate for grade one is about 39 percent, 18.5 percent for grade two and 15 percent for grade three. The government hopes that the introduction of the formative evaluation system in primary schools will lower these figures “significantly”. However, it has not pre-assessed any possible outcomes.

There are three main laws of population health. Human populations are by nature healthy. 2) Health is primarily related to the hierarchical structure of society. (poor people have poorer health), and 3) structural medicine is the primary reason to achieve health for populations. But people are indoctrinated to think in terms of what we can do individually to produce health. Research during this last decade has shown that the health of a group of people is not affected substantially by individual behaviours such as smoking, diet, and exercise, or by genetics or by the use of healthcare. In countries where basic goods are readily available, people’s life-span depends on the hierarchical structure of society that is, the size of the gap between rich and poor. A good idea in look at the health of nations. Japan has the highest life expectancy in the world. Twice as many Japanese men as Americans smoke, yet deaths attributable to smoking are far less than those in the US. This is because after WWII, Japan’s hierarchical structure was reorganised so that citizens shared more equally in the economy. That the structure of society is the key to well being becomes evident when we look at where Japanese men smoke. We know that there is no smoking, but in many countries, smoking is half those in the US. This is because after WWII, Japan’s hierarchical structure was reorganised so that citizens shared more equally in the economy. That the structure of society is the key to well being becomes evident when we look at where Japanese men smoke. It was all to do with economic structure that Nepal needs, this bideshi doctor looks like Noam Chomsky, has written Nepal’s structural medicine that Nepal needs, and poor are responsible for poor health, and medicare in Nepal is too individualised. People are fixed for life healthy, 2) health is primarily related to the hierarchical structure of society; that is, the size of the gap between rich and poor. A good idea in look at the health of nations. Japan has the highest life expectancy in the world. Twice as many Japanese men as Americans smoke, yet deaths attributable to smoking are far less than those in the US. This is because after WWII, Japan’s hierarchical structure was reorganised so that citizens shared more equally in the economy. That the structure of society is the key to well being becomes evident when we look at where Japanese men smoke. It was all to do with economic structure that Nepal needs, this bideshi doctor looks like Noam Chomsky, has written Nepal’s structural medicine that Nepal needs, and poor are responsible for poor health, and medicare in Nepal is too individualised. People are fixed for life healthy, 2) health is primarily related to the hierarchical structure of society.
I do not wish to quarrel with you for having pronounced, naming, inferring, etc., to us at another contributor who shares the quaint appellation my parents chose for me in the VIEWPOINT’S column of NNT #31. But I would like to take this opportunity to make some observations on one of the issues raised in the columns.

Your 72-point headline “Saving Nepal” was probably intended to grab the attention of all with respect to Gyawali’s plea for throwing up more Daya Bir Singh Kamalahars, all I can say is that many prominent Maoist leaders are already throwing up at the current state of affairs.

Stephen McKinnell brings up an interesting point: Seven times more Nepali men are abducted in India every year than people who have been killed in the entire Maoist war. With due respect to the suffering and anguish of these women, I think McKinnell seriously errs when he seeks to equate the bruised and battered living with the mostly maltreated dead.

Respecting the argument that no other alternative works (other than armed insurrection), McKinnell writes “But I don’t think the Peruvian Shining Path, to which Nepal’s Maoists feel some kinship, has been overwhelmingly successful.” That may be true, but neither has the Nepali government been successful in capturing Comrade Panchaud in the way Alberto Fujimori’s government arrested Abimael Guzman from his jungle hideout. That got our Maoists fighters in a psychologically better position than the remnants of his Peruvian counterparts. Moreover, when our Maoist rebels today form street barricades in and around the government, and elsewhere, the government, and erstwhile Maoists, would like them to take action immediately, while donors want to wait until Maoist issue is resolved.

The above, including Americans, should not be allowed to operate in the poverty-stricken rural areas of Nepal, nor before the Maoist issue is solved to the government’s satisfaction, and not even after the issue is solved as desired by the donors. And the reason I say this is because of what we saw of the USAID-implemented Rapti Zone Rural Area Development Project that project, and its second incarnation, the Rapid Development Project, aimed to fill the basic needs of the poorest farmers, the farmers of the semi-rural. The program spent about $50 million in “improving household food production and consumption, improved income generating opportunities for farmers, landless laborers, women, and women.” In short, the project’s overall goal was to increase the well-being of the people.

The Americans thought they’d tried 15 years to achieve their objectives. And, going by their reports, they worked “hard” for these 15 years. The project started in 1980 and ended in 1994, a month and a half before the Maoists began their armed movement. Everyone knows Rapti Zone is the stronghold of Maoism in Nepal, the Maoist movement. Everybody knows the Maoists began their armed movement in 1980 and ended in 1995, just a month and a half before the Maoists were to begin their armed movement. Everyone knows Rapti Zone is the stronghold of Maoism in Nepal, the Maoist movement. Everyone knows the Maoists began their armed movement in 1980 and ended in 1995, just a month and a half before the Maoists were to begin their armed movement. Everyone knows Rapti Zone is the stronghold of Maoism in Nepal, the Maoist movement.


In 1948, the people of Nepal were faced with an even more pressing problem than the partition of the country. The people of Nepal were faced with an even more pressing problem than the partition of the country. The people of Nepal were faced with an even more pressing problem than the partition of the country.

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The consumption and spending in this township has been historically very high, and it continues to be so. The slowdown of development here after the closing down of the Guhka Recruitment Camp’s history, and BIP Rastriya Institute of Health Sciences has catered to a resurgence of the local economy. Shopkeepers are getting facilities and there are positively cutting-edge efforts like www.bhauanonline.com.

There are a lot of public partnership programs and the town is kept up and spruce. Personally, this was the only town that had a positive vibe and anything resembling a positive future.

This trip has been a tremendous learning experience for this Beed—we all need to keep reminding ourselves how different the issues we ought to be thinking now and try and anticipate the much-touted changes that are thinking now and try and anticipate the much-touted changes that are going to happen in the near future in the issues due to factors of ethnicity. We’ve seen communal violence in different parts of the country, and there are pro-active repressive measures we can take now.

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Nepal’s traditional gold and silver craftsmen are facing a two-pronged challenge—new investors and changing tastes.

Economic conditions in Nepal have created a market for new investment opportunities. As the economy with healthy economic growth and increased foreign investment creates a market for financial security, many new investors are seeking ways to invest their money. Traditionally, people have invested in gold and silver, which are considered a safe form of investment. However, with the changes in economic conditions, people are now looking for new ways to invest their money, such as in stocks, real estate, or other forms of investment. This has created a market for new investors who are looking for ways to invest their money.

In addition to the new investors, there are also changing tastes in the jewelry market. Traditionally, jewelry in Nepal was made using high-quality gold and silver, and was often passed down from generation to generation. However, with the changes in economic conditions, people are now looking for jewelry that is more affordable and accessible. This has created a market for jewelry that is made using lighter materials, such as silver or bronze, and is often mass-produced.

Despite the changes in economic conditions, traditional jewelry craftsmen are still making jewelry using high-quality materials. However, they are also having to adapt to the changing tastes of consumers. This has created a market for jewelry that is both traditional and modern, allowing craftsmen to continue to make jewelry that is meaningful to their culture while also meeting the needs of consumers who are looking for more affordable and accessible jewelry.

This has created a market for new investors who are looking for ways to invest their money, and changes in the jewelry market have created a market for jewelry that is both traditional and modern, allowing craftsmen to continue to make jewelry that is meaningful to their culture while also meeting the needs of consumers who are looking for more affordable and accessible jewelry.

The traditional gold and silver craftsmen in Nepal are facing a two-pronged challenge—new investors and changing tastes. This has created a market for jewelry that is both traditional and modern, allowing craftsmen to continue to make jewelry that is meaningful to their culture while also meeting the needs of consumers who are looking for more affordable and accessible jewelry.
fundamental. A delightfully cosmopolitan Thamel is a delightful place to stay. It is a delight to walk through its streets, to listen to the sounds of its music, to see its architecture, to smell its scents, and to taste its flavors. Thamel is a delight to all of the senses.

It all began for Thamel (then Tha Baja) in the early seventies when Nepal became a destination for people looking for adventure, sport and excitement. Most of the first generation of tourists were interested in adventure sports and took the scenic route to Thamel. As a result, Thamel was not just a place for tourists, but also for locals looking for a place to relax and unwind.

Thamel was originally a place for budget travellers looking for the best deals. It was a place for backpackers and budget tourists, and it was a place for people looking for a unique experience.

Thamel has a lot to offer, from its famous restaurants and cafes to its famous shops and galleries. It is a place where you can find everything from traditional Nepali handicrafts to modern art. Thamel is a place where you can find something for everyone.

In conclusion, Thamel is a delight to all of the senses. It is a place where you can find a unique experience, and it is a place where you can find something for everyone.
have ever lain in winding, narrow streets

"understanding", and what better

time to begin the quest for
to let you down badly. Gear

in being sceptical—Thamel no longer

could want, houses a little old Sikh

gives you the

have more trekking and tour agencies

fortunes and such are usually fine and

smelling like a

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"Do you want hash? Do you exchange dollars?" asks a handsome young man detaching himself from the crowd.

But now, relentlessly newer structures of concrete are edging out mud brick walls and timber and tiles, and Freak Street is in danger of becoming just another shopping center.

stands nine-storey proud. To this first Gorkha king of all Nepal is attributed the saying that foreigners come as missionaries, then to trade and finally with arms. I wonder what he would make of the foreign crowd in Freak Street. They come in search of personal Nirvana.

Roguishly good looking Nepalis cloaks of embroidered velvet. girls in Mother-Hubbards, men in playing hard at being gypsies, college women hung with chain jewelry of jeans, always bra-less. Overpainted little else. Fat foreign girls bursting out embroidered shirts and earrings and shorts, Mediterranean men in loose

At the tattier end of Freak Street was the small five-and-a-half table, Lost Horizon, run by Tibetan friends. They shopped and cooked and dined and slept at night on the floor. And through the windows of the restaurant four timeless Buddha set into a rumps gazes with all-seing eyes as customer after customer at buffalo show-ounces or buffalo steaks or pulled on blue clouds of instant Nirvana.

Kelly McGuinness, “it sounds like a spiritual music of an ancient race – the didgeridoo evoke the powerful centimetres in internal diameter, parts of the country. Crafted out of the regions around what are now known as the Kimberley and Arnhem Land, before being carried along ancient trading routes to other parts of the country. Crafted out of the length of about twelve centimetres and about four metres in length, the didgeridoo — called diddi as Aboriginals call it — has been part of Australian indigenous culture for thousands of years.

It may be one of the oldest known musical instruments in the world, outside the world came across so-called ‘drum music’ only in 1663, with Lieutenant William Dampier in 1695.

The didgeridoo, a wind instrument, is believed to have originated in northern Australia, in the regions around what are now known as the Kimberley and Arnhem Land.

The didgeridoo is traditionally made from the stem of the Malee tree, which is a Eucalyptus varius, and many stems arising from a single underground tuber. However, only stems that have been naturally hollowed out by termites are used. A strict licensing system, put in place by the department of Conservation and Land Management, allows only one stem to be cut from any one Malee tree. The stem must be tested with a hand drill for hollowness before being cut.

To construct such an instrument in the traditional manner is still the preferred way of the Aboriginal people. "However," says musician McGuinness, "ever since whitefellas came to Australia they have been using metal instruments in an imitation didgeridoo. "

Recently, many people have clear large areas of forest and

Tie me kangaroo Yiddaki Yiddaki

Australia’s aboriginal people are upset that the didgeridoo is being mass-produced without any consideration for their traditions and interests.

Kelly McGuinness adds, "You can take the didge out of Australia, but you can’t take the spirit of the didgeridoo. If you were buying a sitar, for example, surely you would want a genuine one made in India and not in some sweatshop overseas. "Should it be the same for the didgeridoo?"
An alarming number of Filipino overseas workers are returned home dead under unknown and mysterious circumstances.

Michael A Bengawan in Manila

With 10,000 more Afghans have camped near the country’s border with Tajikistan.

Afghan camps in Pakistan and Afghanistan mid-February, has appealed for more international help. ‘What I witnessed in Jalalabad was so many Afghan refugees beingusicade by unscrupulous middlemen. There is a tragic episode involving Afghan refugees in a new camp that has been in operation for some days. A woman, who was working as a domestic helper in a hotel in the capital, was found dead in one of the rooms. She had been beaten to death with a heavy metal object. Her body was found at an abandoned building near the hotel. Police sources said that the woman had been working there for about a week and had been dressed in traditional Afghan clothing.

In another incident, a group of Afghan refugees were found dead in a field near the town of Jalalabad. The dead included an old man, a woman, and two children. The police said that the victims had been killed by a group of local residents who were angry about the presence of the refugees in their area.

In a third incident, a group of Afghan refugees were found dead in a field near the town of Khogyani. The victims included a man, a woman, and three children. The police said that the victims had been killed by a group of local residents who were angry about the presence of the refugees in their area.

Mobs of Dayaks, the indigenous people, armed with swords and machetes, burned houses, shops and hotels during the day in the town of Sampit, where the fighting is concentrated. More dead were also reported in other parts of the island.

About 15,000 people, mostly migrants from the small island of Madura off the northeast coast of Java, were seeking refuge from recurring ethnic clashes between locals and immigrants in the Indonesian half of the island of Borneo. One journalist from the migrant community said last week that he had heard the true figure could be more than 700.

Police strongly disputed this. Mobs of Dayaks, the indigenous people, armed with swords and machetes, burned houses, shops and hotels during the day in the town of Sampit, where the fighting is concentrated. More dead were also reported in other parts of the island.

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Who advised His Majesty?  
Saptaksh Biemaru, 23 February

"Who gave His Majesty this advice?" is the question being asked everywhere. The question concerns the Citizens Bill, which the lower house of parliament passed almost 8 months ago. Then, four months ago, the speaker of the Lower House certified that this Act was in accordance with the Constitution and the bill was sent to the king for his assent after which it would become a law of the land. His Majesty, it seems, "had doubts" whether the Bill sent to him for his assent was in accordance with the Constitution or not. He has now asked the Supreme Court for its suggestions and recommendations.

The Supreme Court, on receiving the letter from the king, got working and Chief Justice Keshab Prasad Upadhaya has fixed 14 March as the date when hearings will commence. The chief justice has proclaimed that a total of six members, in two groups of three, will help in carrying out discussions and has requested people to get involved in this work immediately.

The apex court cannot go against the Constitution and whatever recommendations it makes to the king will in no way affect the said bill or in any way affect the position and stand taken by the king. Act 88, Clause 5 of the Constitution states: "If His Majesty wants the opinion or recommendations, concerning some act, article or clause of the constitution or some difficult legal matter, then the Supreme Court if asked can provide answers, opinions or recommendations to His Majesty."

It is under this very clause that the king has been seeking the opinion of the Supreme Court time and again. This is where constitutional experts differ. They say that once a bill has been passed by parliament, the king cannot ask the Supreme Court for its opinion. If the king is in disagreement with a particular bill passed by parliament and sent to him for his assent, he can return the bill within a month of receiving it and ask parliament to take a second look at it. Since this is a Finance Bill, the king cannot do that.

The Court can only give its opinion on the bill, it cannot give a decision. The Constitution does not give the king the right to change a bill. A Bill becomes an Act only after the king has signed it and then those parts that contradict the Act are deleted. Therefore, if the Court now gives the verdict that the citizenship bill contradicts the Constitution, what is His Majesty going to do? Will he sign it after getting such an opinion? He does not have the right to reject it and neither can he ignore it. This will put more pressure on him.

At this point, some people point to Act 55 Clause 3 of the Constitution. This clause states: "His Majesty can send to both or any one house of parliament his message. As soon as that particular house receives His Majesty's message, it shall immediately get together and give its opinion to His Majesty on the issue His Majesty has referred to in his message." Constitutional experts differ on this issue as well. They state that this clause cannot be used when such issues (like the Citizenship Bill) are being referred to. This clause can only be used when parliament or any one of the two houses of parliament is not discussing an important issue and His Majesty thinks that the house should take it up. Parliament has not neglected the bill in question and it has been discussed at great length. It has been passed by the Lower House and sent back. It was then discussed again in the Lower House and then only had been sent to His Majesty for his signature. Therefore Act 54 Clause 3 cannot be used in this case and using it will only contradict the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

Gas compa- nies cry foul…  
Times, 19 February

It appears that the Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) has stopped following the directives issued to it by the concerned ministry. The Ministry of Supplies has sent a letter to the NOC stating that besides the import and distribution of petroleum products and aviation fuel, private companies could now import and distribute cooking gas (LPG). The government, it said, would fix the basic price and the private firms could price their products at 5 percent above or below the market price. However, last week, the managing committee of the NOC stated that the LPG market and start distributing cooking gas.

It has been rumoured that NOC officials actively receive commissions from owners of gas vehicles and distribution companies. Therefore, the commission are also collected while distributing quotas to the different gas refilling companies. The NOC is now constructing its own refilling stations and is reported that NOC officials will get a lot of commissions from contractors who are building these fuel stations. According to sources, the NOC is building storage tanks and refilling stations in Janakpur and Dang. In Jajarkot, the NOC is going to take over land from the Tobacco Development Authority and in Dang it has called for tenders from people interested in building gas stations.

According to the acting director of the NOC, Madan Raj Sharma, the corporation is going to provide LPG in different areas and gas stations. For domestic users, it will continue to use the same cylinders that are currently in use. If the NOC gives the business of supplying LPG then the 14 companies that are currently in the market are all going to down. It has been rumoured that these 14 companies are not going to supply gas in the future and are planning to go on strike. If this happens consumers will suffer again.

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has started promoting the use of LPG for cooking. The NEA has started promoting the use of LPG for cooking. The NEA has started promoting the use of LPG for cooking. The NEA has started promoting the use of LPG for cooking.

Public undertak- ers  
Daily, 20 February

The government had formed a high level team to look into the functioning of public sector undertakings (PSUs) and to recommend ways and means in which they could be strengthened and made more profitable. The recommendations were to be presented by 17 October 2000. The team had met on 14th December to discuss the reports and problems arose. Some members of the team that drew up the report have now resigned from the report prepared. The objectives are known to be those representing laboratories.

The recommendations are:
• All PSUs should be gradually privatized.
• While appointing heads of PSUs, the election body should be neutral and not influenced. If people well qualified for positions within or outside the PSU should be allowed to be appointed on the basis of their qualifications and experience.
• The head should be appointed on the basis of his qualification and experience and not on the basis of his political affiliation. He should be familiar with the working of the PSU and should have worked in a similar capacity before.
• Appointments and promotions should be made by an independent, selected and separate body to be formed.
• A high-level body should be formed to provide advice, except on matters related to the day-to-day running of the PSU.
• The work and functioning of PSUs should be guided by the former to another place or department. They can only be transferred if there is a lack of people at one location. Immediately after the government went out, the Maoists got in and lost the war, entering the government. VDC secretaries were accused elsewhere where the Maoists are powerful. Since then some organizations have been forming, these secretaries, suspected by some of being government agents and acting against the government. These secretaries have been transferred to a different village where the Maoists are not powerful.

According to the ministry, there are about a hundred villages without government secretaries at present. There are more than 300 secretaries who have come to the villages rather than been transferred. There is no problem in getting these 300 people transferred, but the government has no intention of transferring them.

One method of filling these vacant places is through new recruitment, but the Public Service Commission is not admitting new people or at the moment. On the other hand, the ministry has put in place a new system of filling these vacant positions only if there is a replacement available. This again does not solve the problem as the secretaries have to be transferred from the districts to other places or departments. They cannot be transferred to the places vacated by them. Otherwise, a serious problem will be created. Recently, the government formed the local development secretaries, Uday Raj Soti, many VDC secretaries have now demanded that they will not be transferred from the districts to other villages.

The government must help these undertakings. The government must help these undertakings. The government must help these undertakings. The government must help these undertakings.

The NEA has started promoting the use of LPG for cooking. The NEA has started promoting the use of LPG for cooking. The NEA has started promoting the use of LPG for cooking.
Nepali football is at a stalemate. National players refuse to budge until the ANFA controversy is over, ASC won’t recognise Thapa, and FIFA and AFC won’t even consider Geeta Rana.

As for Geeta Rana, her management policies and elaborate plans to take the game to all districts in the country seem to have impressed many. However, Rana lacks Thapa’s experience in the field, a much needed factor to lead the nation’s most loved game. Most football fans agree on this count. Nepali football is officially at a stalemate. Players refuse to budge until the controversy is over, the ASC does not recognise the Thapa faction and will not sit down to talk to the players, and FIFA and AFC do not even consider Rana.

Meanwhile Thapa has said that he has no problems in taking the team selected by Rana to the qualifiers. Rana however knows that letting him do so would only boost his image. With Thapa and Rana fighting to come to any agreement, players fear that they will have to suffer in tournaments. “Football administrators think that players can be ignored and they can do whatever they want,” says Upena Man Singh.

In the last six months, neither Thapa nor Rana trusted to call any of the national players. The players have not received their monthly allowance of Rs 2000 for the last five months. They accuse both sides of disregarding them during the rest of the year, and say they were only asked to join the camps when the ANFA hierarchy was forced by the International bodies.

In a press conference after both the ANFA factions summoned them to join the training camps for the selection of the team for the World Cup qualifiers to be held in April this year. Earlier, Nepal was divided on the choice of seated in the national team. Nepal’s soccer players are in a dilemma. "Binod Thapa's faction practices on the grounds adjoining the Khula Manch. Thapa faction is at a stalemate. National players refuse to budge until the ANFA controversy is over, ASC won’t recognise Thapa, and FIFA and AFC won’t even consider Geeta Rana. Thapa has a slight advantage due to the support and recognition shown by the two international bodies of football (FIFA and AFC) whereas Gerra Rana continues to be supported by the Nepal National Sports Council. Rana has no role to send the national team abroad, as neither FIFA nor AFC recognises his camp. Thapa may have had serious allegations of corruption and nepotism against him during his tenure, but the truth is that he has contributed a lot for the game in the country. In addition to this, he was also a national player and led the team for a considerable period, through which he can easily garner the public support he badly needs. As for Geeta Rana, her management policies and elaborate plans to take the game to all districts in the country seem to have impressed many. However, Rana lacks Thapa’s experience in the field, a much needed factor to lead the nation’s most loved game. Most football fans agree on this count. Nepali football is officially at a stalemate. Players refuse to budge until the controversy is over, the ASC does not recognise the Thapa faction and will not sit down to talk to the players, and FIFA and AFC do not even consider Rana.

Meanwhile most of the main players are in a dilemma. Blood Pakha has promised an alternative plan to send the national squad to the qualifiers,” says Singh. That leaves the question: How can the NSF, which is the governing body of all sports associations in the country, solve the problem by taking sides? And if that weren’t enough, there are rumours that national coach Stephen Constantine, who is doing so well with the team (12), as sick of the whole mess that he’s thinking of quitting.
Four hundred miles from London is Paris, the French sovereign's capital. The journey involves a sea-crossing of eight miles. The Prime Minister set out by a 400-foot balloon at eight o'clock in the evening, and at eleven he was over the Channel. A gust had arisen, and the waves were too high for them to cross. Nine hours after the balloon had reached the coast, the journey was completed and the company arrived safely at their destination. On the 21st of June, the aerostat left Paris for Lyons, but the balloon was attacked by a fierce storm, and the passengers narrowly escaped being swept away.

Jang Bahadur's Europe tour has been described in Jang Bahadurko Belait-Yatra written by someone in his own country. The book is in Nepali, but it has been translated into English by an Englishman, and it has been published in London. It is a work of great distinction; it is handsome in appearance, talented, and it is written in a way that makes it very readable.

The French Emperor was in trouble and retreating, and they were in pursuit. As Bonaparte neared his own city of Paris, all the ordinary citizens appealed to him. “The five gods of commerce and military service. The common people, army, nobles and sovereign, met in various rooms, and the sovereign told him that he had heard how in Hindustan the army was stationed at intervals everywhere.

Faranahou

Fifteen-four miles from the city of Paris is a place called Vannes. For the last fifteen hundred years French sovereigns have been building a palace there and construction is still going on. The palace covers an area ten times as large as that of the Louvre, the national museum of Paris.

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Vernisselle

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Eating Out

- Lunch at Ghare-e-Kabar A fixed lunch spread at Ghare-e-Kabar 20 February–6 March. 12 noon–2.30 pm. Rs 250 for vegetarians and Rs 300 for others. Hotel de l’Annapurna. 221-11

- Authentic Nepali Sekuwa (Barbecued) Regular Friday night Sekuwa in the lamp-lit courtyard setting of Dwarika’s Hotel. Select your own appetizers, momos, salads and choice of meats, as well as delicious desserts. Package includes one free drink and lucky draw. Reservations recommended. 479-85

- Barbecue at the Ropes The first barbecue open for lunch everyday. Over 20 dishes to choose from, served with splendid views of the Himalayas. 12 noon –2.30 pm at the Sky Terrace, Hotel Everest. Reservations recommended. 438100

- Organic vegetable market and lunch Special vegetarian organic lunch every Sunday at the Summit Hotel. Kupondole. 10am–12.30pm. Rs 350 + tax. 521-80

- Weekend Brunch Mixed cuisine with a salad bar & desserts at The Fun Cafe, Radisson Hotel. Every Saturday 10.30am–3.30pm. Rs 550. 411-818

- Chulo Batta Local Nepali cuisine buffet lunch with live Nepali music at the Sunrise Cafe, Hotel Yak & Yeti. Rs 700 + tax. 12 noon onwards. 248999

- Indian, continental, and oriental cuisine, Kadhafi food and curries now at the Hotel Yak & Yeti, prepared by the world-class chef Arun Kumar Tyagi who has 10 years of experience in five-star cooking. 248999

Exhibition

- Wangden carpets of Tibet Exhibition and sale of carpets from the Wangden Valley in Tibet. Called “Wangden Drumes,” these carpets are technically and aesthetically distinct from the more common “Churme” or “Gambar” carpets produced in the rest of Tibet. They are commonly believed to be the first type of knotted pile rugs woven in Tibet. 24 February-25 March. Indigo Gallery, Naxal. 413-580

- Exhibition of paintings by Victor Nadzhin A Moscow painter whose work is inspired by late 19th and early 20th century traditions. Realistic landscapes and technically and aesthetically distinct from the more common “Drumse” or “Gamdrum” carpets produced in Tibet. 24 February-25 March. Indigo Gallery, Naxal. 413-580

Music

- Fever at the Jazz Bar Cadena (Tuesday and Thursday), live Irish band (Friday), and solo piano the rest of the week. International cuisine and drinks, espresso, cognac and cigars. 412-899

- Jazz by Cadena at Upstairs Restaurant, Lazimpat. Every Saturday 7.30pm–10pm. Live Shows Various bands at The Red Onion Bar, Lazimpat. Every evening. 418-071

- Chakra The Piano Lounge at the Yak & Yeti Hotel. Every evening 7pm onwards. 248999

- Unplugged Syabru Lama plays guitar at the Coffee Shop, Hotel De l’Annapurna. Every evening 7.30pm–10pm. 221-111

- Classical Guitar Kishor playing plays classical favourites at the Chimney, Hotel Yak & Yeti. Everyday 8pm onwards. 248999

Dance

- Classical Nepali Dances based on Buddhist and Hindu epics and the Tantric pantheon at the Great Pagoda, Hotel Vaja. Every Tuesday, 7pm. Rs 300. 271-145

- Ballads and Dances of Old Tibet performed by Tsering Gurney and Tsering Paljo at the Naga Theatre, Hotel Vaja. Every Thursday, 7pm. Rs 400. 271-1547

- Traditional Dances every evening at Dwarika’s Hotel courtyard. Drinks from two bars. No entrance charge, however reservations are recommended for diners. 479-85

- Sunday Night Fever. Free dance classes every Sunday by dancemaster Andreas Lehrke. Salsa, Swing and more. The Piano Bar, Hotel Yak & Yeti. 8.30pm. 248999

Events

- Feng Shui seminar Free seminar with Bill Kane, a Master of the traditional forms of Feng Shui. Friday, 2 March. 6pm. Ring 415-580 to reserve a place.

Quickword 22

Across
1. Up-and-down, like rasta man (3)
4. Wear down with a plait maybe (5)
9. Top of the deck (3)
11. Estimated, with a screw perhaps (5)
12. The Holy No (3)
13. Tend at presence (6)
14. Sareen not (6)
16. Recent foot and mouth enclouses (3)
17. Varied gemstones (4)
18. Vajrapani’s magnus opus (2)
20. Extra reaches for Ms Barrymore (2)
21. Erase the epochs perhaps (4)
22. Short teller memory (3)
23. Protective hoverer (6)
25. Cultivable (6)
33. A little Scottish (3)
34. De-gonad the animal (6)
35. All in the genes (3)
37. Animal with pink milk (3)

Down
1. Operatic bass (5)
2. Water body of fantasy (5)
3. Redneck girthy (5)
4. Marine medium as bowel (7)
5. Much exported Indonesian art (5)
6. Tend to knocking in (4)
7. Long-time, Gunter (4)
8. Tend to knocking in (4)
9. Whirly Murphy (4)
10. Fire with sharp instrument (3)
11. Minita quickie (3)
12. Talk electronic with former是一些乱码和英文。

For inclusion in the listing please contact the Nobcl Academy junior wing. 490-232. We now proudly announces Bachelor’s Degree programme in Engineering and Management.
Nepal’s biggest poubha mural

Poubha artists are set to create a huge mural inside Patan’s Golden Temple, melding devotional art and architectural preservation.

Bhaktapur Darbar, and at the Kumari Chowk in Kathmandu’s Durbar Square. “But this will be the most elaborate and complex fresco,” says Chitrakar, who spearheaded the idea of creating a poubha inside the temple complex. Painting poubha requires vast reserves of patience, but the idea was hit upon spontaneously. “We had the right budget, the right people and above all, those of us who are involved here, are passionate about preserving our immensely rich culture,” says Juju Ratna Shakya.

Two years ago, Juju Rama was worried. Idols and other valuable temple possessions in the Sukhavat Bhuvan were disappearing. “Other idols, like the Dipankara Buddha statues, and those of Tara and Indra were lying open to theft,” says the aaju. One evening he had a quiet talk with Nem Ratna Shakya, a devotee and major patron of the bhara, about getting funds to ensure the artefacts had secure displays. “He asked me to wait a few days,” remembers the aaju. “Then one day he said he’d fund a new floor and make glass frames for the idols.” And as the aaju, Juju Rama and Drabya Rama spread the word, the small preservation project turned into something much larger. “Suddenly we found our initiative had attracted the interest and commitment of people like Min Bahadur Shakya and Lok Chitrakar, both of whom, have immense knowledge of poubha,” they say.

Initially, a number of artists volunteered their time, working six evenings a week to fill the barren walls. “But we all also have to make a living,” says Juju Rama. “Fewer artists started showing up. So in early December we decided the artists should receive a nominal monthly compensation, and the rest of the project. The Hiranya Varna Mahavihar management committee is responsible for supporting the staff and financing the rest of the project. As the bell tolls in the courtyard, it will also be for those who are contributing their time, effort and creativity to enabling the Golden Temple’s Sukhavat Bhuvan move seamlessly—and intact—into a new millennium.”

mercantile

CULTURE

2-8 MARCH 2001

HAPPENINGS

GIRIRAJ OUT! The Youth Forum of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party organised a motorcycle rally in demand of the resignation of the prime minister.

FINDING THE MARK: General Secretary of the CPN (UML) with his hand at archery during the 19th Magar Day celebrations in Kathmandu.

CARAVAN MAN: French photographer Eric Valli (better known now as the director of Caravan) interacting with Nepali photographers at a programme organised by the National Forum of Photo-Journalists.
Gross National Holiday Index

- Corruption Prevalence Ratio (CPR) is arrived at by multiplying the square root of the total GDP with the wealth-redistribution potential for this important sector of the informal economy and dividing it by an inverse decimal for the public expenditure as a part of total budget. For example if 35 percent of the bureaucracy is actually moonlighting as Commercial Desk Workers (CDW) then that gives us a CPR of 0.0006, at par with countries like Equatorial Guinea or Vanuatu.

- National Happiness Index (NNH). Asia’s economic tigers have shown, that there is a direct correlation between the consumption of noodles and purchasing power parity. Nepal’s exponential growth in instant noodles production gives us an INI of 9.9—the same quality of life as Taiwan or Singapore.

- Beer Belly Barometer (BBB). The more beer a country brews, the more powerful it is. Just as Germany is now Europe’s economic engine, Nepal’s BBB has now expanded the per capita girth of an average Nepali, giving us a construction works war that is now a world beer power.

- Protest Potential Ratio (PPR). There are many more indices that prove that we are a middle-income country. Nepal’s BBB has now expanded the per capita girth of an average Nepali, giving us a construction works war that is now a world beer power.