The German G-36, US-made M-16s and Israeli Galils, and they are all neck-to-neck in this high-stakes deal which could total ... All are assault rifles that use imported 5.56mm calibre, “double base” ammunition that have a killing range of up to 600 m.

Jumping the gun?

The army presently has a requirement for 50,000 guns, which include assault rifles, light machine guns, grenade launchers and carbines. Most officers and rank-and-file ... others find the Israeli Galil even more suitable because it is lighter, and more durable because of its solid body parts.

Tibetans warned

There are 60,000 Tibetans living in Nepal, which include assault rifles, light machine guns, grenade launchers and carbines. Most officers and rank-and-file ... others find the Israeli Galil even more suitable because it is lighter, and more durable because of its solid body parts.

one world...
Mayday, Mayday

It is time Koirala the citizen and Koirala the president of the ruling party asked Koirala the prime minister to step down.

The Nepali bourgeoisie is caught in a jet with a major systems malfunction that is diving towards the ground, while the captain and co-pilot are busy punching each other's faces, as a hijacker behind them holds a gun to their heads. Go figure out who is who.

Pretty soon, at the rate we are going, there will be nothing left to fight for. Here we are, confronting one of the most perilous times in our nation's history, and our elected politicians are behaving as if it is a jester on a seesaw. At a time when we need national consensus, we are at our most divided. At a time when we need decisive leadership, we have vacillated and are floundering. At a time when we need transparency and accountability, the leaking has gone into high gear. At a time when we need to be delivering medical care and education on a war footing, we are fumbling and fail. And there is even a screeching screech on its pocket palmtops in the parliament on the extent of the missing millions.

So, there are scorpions in the desert even within Koirala’s inner circle. Sushil, Koirala, the morphine and the post-secretariat of the prime minister, (together) Nishan Acharya, Niraj Karmacharya and Govinda Raj Joshi, Deputy Prime Minister Ram Chandra Paudel can barely stand Sushil and Jaya Prakasha Prasad and Acharya, and they hardly return the favour. Acharya and Mahat can’t get along, and both have problems with Arjun Narsing Rijal.

If you thought that was bad enough, look at the Koirala family. Prakash hates First Daughter Sujata who hates First niece Shailaja who hates actress Manisha. Auntie Nona, for her part, is disgusted with Sujata and Sushil who reciprocate the feeling.

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Girija must take the leap

Girija Koirala must step down and hand over to a younger generation of leaders. Time is running out. The party must act swiftly and prudently in the national interest.

By ALT B R THAPA

It is the duty of every responsible NC legislator to persuade Girija Koirala to step down and hand over to a younger generation of leaders. Time is running out, and the party must act swiftly and prudently in the national interest.

Herein lies the challenge for the Nepali Congress: can the party break the impasse? The NC Parliamentary Party must be called immediately to evaluate the options available to the prime minister.

Koirala must take the leap

The party must act swiftly and prudently in the national interest. This would pave the way for a smoother transition and set the stage for a fresh round of talks with both the opposition and the Maoists.

The alternatives are: stepped up pressure on the party to seek an alternative, but may yield a hung parliament, or the left parties securing a two-third majority in the House of Representatives.

The Maoists have laid down the gauntlet and the party must act swiftly and prudently in the national interest. This would curtail freedom and civil liberties and would be a major setback for our fledging democracy.

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**Lost in Space and Time**

**Space Time’s plans to go into orbit with Nepali first satellite programming has fallen victim to behind-the-scenes Indian pressure.**

BY RAVIKTA LIMBU

Space Time’s plans to go into orbit with Nepali first satellite programming has fallen victim to behind-the-scenes Indian pressure.

We asked Ravi Prasad, the owner of the satellite company, and he assured us that he would push ahead with the plans. “We’re looking into the process. I don’t want to say yes or no,” he said. However, Prasad had earlier informed the Programming Development Committee that his company was waiting on the go-ahead from the Ministry of Information and Communication (MOC) and the Space Technology and Telecommunications Authority (STTA) before going ahead with the project. A member of the committee, Dipak Mehra, said they would face problems because of the MOC’s reluctance on this front.

In Canterbury, the group meeting was to discuss the technicalities of putting a satellite into orbit. They had been thinking about the project for some time but had not been able to push it forward because of the Indian government’s reluctance. The MOC, which has the authority to approve the project, had been reluctant to give the go-ahead because of concerns about the project’s technical feasibility.

The delay in allowing Space Time to go ahead with its transmission reflects a business dispute within the Koirala inner circle. The government is under pressure from India which has expressed security concerns about Space Time. Jamim Shah himself figured on a list of names given to the Indians.

Many MOC officials suspect the delay in allowing Space Time to go ahead with its transmission reflects a business dispute within the Koirala inner circle. The government is under pressure from India which has expressed security concerns about Space Time. Jamim Shah himself figured on a list of names given to the Indians.

**Nepal’s biggest power struggle is over?**

The delay has strengthened reports that the government is under pressure from India which has expressed security concerns about Space Time. Jamim Shah himself figured on a list of names given to the Indians.

**And we thought the debate about where the Buddha was born**

Across the border in Lumbini, the controversy continues. The delay has strengthened reports that the government is under pressure from India which has expressed security concerns about Space Time. Jamim Shah himself figured on a list of names given to the Indians.

**But his bravado and blunt talk does not endear him to the Indians.**

The government is under pressure from India which has expressed security concerns about Space Time. Jamim Shah himself figured on a list of names given to the Indians.

**Hacks in the mist**

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Nepal has hit the big time of world conflict reporting. Welcome. With luck, we won’t stay long.

Nepal’s satellite equipment is just an excuse to keep the network lingering so they’ll lose heart and pull out,” confirmed a government source. “The government may have yet another reason to stop Channel Nepal as well—technical tests of NTV’s equipment. It’s a new ploy.”

Against this backdrop, with parliament and political parties fighting on for months over the ESCG report, the situation in Nepal has become even more volatile and uncertain. The recent intervention by the Indian Army in the Maoist stronghold of the Terai has added a new dimension to the conflict, raising fears of a wider regional war. The Maoists, who have been fighting a decade-long guerrilla war against the Nepalese government, have already vowed to continue their struggle, despite the setback.

On the other hand, the Nepalese government has been under increasing pressure to negotiate with the Maoists, with international pressure mounting for a political solution. The United Nations has called for an immediate ceasefire and a political dialogue between the government and the Maoists.

In Nepal, the situation remains tense, with sporadic clashes and human rights abuses reported from both sides. The Maoists have been accused of human rights violations, while the government has accused the Maoists of blocking peace talks.

The conflict has also had a significant impact on the economy, with tourism and trade being severely affected. The country’s economy has been hit hard, with the country facing a balance of payments crisis and a severe currency devaluation.

Despite the challenges, there is a glimmer of hope for a political solution. The government and Maoists have agreed to a cease-fire, and talks are underway to find a political solution. The international community has been pushing for a political solution, with the United Nations and the United States providing diplomatic support.

However, the situation remains fragile, with both sides still deeply divided over the nature of a political solution. The conflict has exposed deep-seated political and social divisions in Nepal, and it will take time to find a lasting solution.

In the meantime, the people of Nepal continue to suffer, with thousands displaced from their homes and basic human rights at risk. The international community must continue to support a political solution, and ensure that the people of Nepal are not forgotten in the conflict.
The political economy of corruption

This is the paradox of democracy in Nepal: you have to be corrupt to uphold the system of multiparty elections.

Where do we draw the line between anarchy and democracy? Or does that not even matter anymore?

politics: and once again, it's us, the people, who suffer because some greedy, amoral politicians are playing games with our future. The people, being treated like dirt in the game of politics. History suggests politics is a game for power. But somewhere, there have to be some hidden good intentions. Politicians must want to develop and improve their nation and not run it to suit their interests. The degree to which present day politics revolves around selfishness and power is not just dangerous but also frightening. No one bothers to ask us what we want. Where do we draw the line between anarchy and democracy? Or does that not even matter anymore?

With time comes development and change in everything, including education. There are great inequalities in our society, and it is not fair that the disadvantaged are not provided the opportunity for quality education. So what do our great revolutionary politicians do about it? They close down private schools. Now, how does that benefit anyone? Not only do the disadvantaged not get a quality education, but nobody else does, either! Yes, the governments have had us absolutely responsible for the sorry state we are in. There would not have been a need for private schools if government schools provided a first-class education. Most of the time teachers in government schools aren't there to teach but to do the time they make their oaths. For many of our politicians, corruption is our commonsense. Blame the system, like, we used to do in the bad old days, if you think it worthwhile. From a macro-economic standpoint, take a close look at what is happening in India and the country that provides education to our poorest children.

...
We don’t need any education?

We don’t need any education?

A dejected educationist in Kathmandu: “This is the tragedy: the three schools that come closest to what the Maoists themselves say they want to do with people’s education are the ones to be closed down.”

All three schools are now closed.

St Joseph’s in Gorkha (set up in 1994) had 500 students. The highest fee it charged was Rs300 a month in grade nine. It had 45 scholarships and took in students from the indigenous community. The student wing of the Maoists is at the forefront of destabilising the government through a crisis in education. Another ... want to reform education they should start with pressuring the government to improve the quality of public schools.

Tragedy

The student leaders have now been released, I am confident there are now no obstacles to talks,” he said Tuesday.

Notre Dame is indeed a private institution, as are so many other schools. But there is no education law that says Notre Dame had to be closed down citing three reasons: it was an attempt to “colonise” students, it was private, and it was a for-profit institution.
To whom it may concern

Shangrila Hotel

Date: 18 May, and you’ll know what we’re talking about. Maruti is offering a free holiday to Nepal to anyone buying a Maruti 800 paying INR 125 a day—that’s something about the financing plan it offers. Good start NTB.

Artha Beed

by Paul D. Grossman

Private education, public diktat

The conditions that make educational institutions an easy target for Nepal’s revolutionaries are the very ones that would have failed us anyway, in ten, fifteen, twenty years.

Maruti is offering a free holiday to Nepal to anyone buying a Maruti 800 paying INR 125 a day—that’s something about the financing plan it offers. Good start NTB.

As this dependence grew, private education, public diktat

Private education isn’t some new-fangled institution we don’t know what to do with. Until the governing government has found in schools one of its most singular and effective targets. This is terribly depressing—here are the revolutionaries who are not rich or powerful and likely have taken a dangerous job to support their families, will be affected greatly. Another case is the little rubber band group of children’s educational and sports associations. They are not required to do it for the short-term returns. Foreign- administered programmes are all about the short-term returns, including the Red Cross, and also belong to an educational help to children’s education. Finally, the announcement of the “rate of return” principle. If a day should come when... aid. And that will be difficult to handle unless they start building a positive agenda and demonstrate that publicly now.

The conditions that make educational institutions an easy target

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Caught reading

A new generation of Nepali readers, writers and illustrators are prodding publishers.

The demand for children’s books grows across the country. Awareness campaigns, the promotion of informal education and teacher training programs have all helped. But the single largest factor have been exhibitions of children’s books in 18 towns across Nepal organized by Bal Sansar, a not-for-profit clearinghouse run by the Himal Association. “In most places people had no idea in many books were published for children,” recalls Dadin Pandey, marketing manager of Bal Sansar. The organisation says some 70,000 books worth Rs 500 million changed hands as a result of its 2000/2001 exhibitions. “Distributors in places like Dang, Bhairahawa and Surkhet now sell over Rs 8,000 worth children’s books a month,” says Pandey. Nepal has twelve children’s literature publishers and around 170 titles from all these houses are available through Bal Sansar. The organisation has also put together a children’s book bank with more than 300 titles—virtually all the children’s books published in Nepal in the last ninety years. Govinda Shrestha of Ratna Pustak Bhandar, one of the oldest private publishers in the country says his firm actively revisits books once a year, discarding some, and adding six new titles.

Unsurprisingly, for an industry not known for its production values, straightforward prose is the most common genre. “More than 80 percent of the trade books for children are collections of stories or of poems and songs,” says Manesh Shrestha, coordinator of Bal Sansar. Forget about buying your children books with essays or about science, or travel—subjects like these are ignored, with only new translations for children written in Nepal. As for illustrated books, a staple of children’s publishing in other places, Shristikala of the Himalayan Book Centre says: “Children love colourful books and comics and that is what I sell most. But all in English or Hindi.” Shrestha remembers a poetry popular attempt at producing Nepali illustrated books 15 years ago—the low quality two-colour comic books published on leftover paper from the stock acquired for educational materials by the government-run textbook publisher Janak Sikhepu Samagri Kendra.

Part of the reason the market is so dismal is that writing for children here is generally about narrow and outdated portrayals of ethics, morality and belief. “We need to produce good writers and illustrators and ensure quality. Most Nepali children’s books are sexist, classist and too didactic. Why all the heavy moralising and boring messages?” asks Binam Nibha, a research fellow at Bal Sansar. To this end, Bal Sansar is reviewing its collection to resurrect good titles and banish the bad. And to ensure better books in the future, it organises training, interaction and networking programmes for authors, illustrators and publishers. Other organisations are doing their bit: the Nepal Children’s Literature Society (NESCIL) has an annual award for children’s writers and illustrators, AsiaFest gets children excited about books via performance art, and the Hatamara Sanschar has built a network of young readers across the country through its magazine. Ram Babu Subedi, a Nepali teacher and poet, has been looking closely at the development of the industry as well as children’s reading habits. “It seems that around 15 percent of children between standards four and seven are regular readers and purchasers of books directed at them,” he says. Subedi adds that increasingly, parents are also encouraging their children to read in Nepali.

General consensus is that a market good for Nepali children will also be good for writers. “We have the latest technology here. There are already benchmarks for quality printing in Nepal. Now we need to develop a culture of books here,” says Govinda Shrestha, of Ratna Pustak Bhandar. “And, add Shine Shrestha of the Himalayan Book Centre, “to aid in this, publishers must do their bit like is done in India—there you can get quality story books for Rs 25.” The way things are going, distributors won’t desperately have to wait for books coming in from Banaras anymore.
The British inventor of the world wide web, Timothy Berners-Lee, has been awarded fellowship of the Royal Society, the UK's highest scientific honour, in a move suggesting Britain's most exclusive club is leaning towards the internet. Prof Berners-Lee, who invented the web's address system and layout in 1990, revolutionising the way information is presented and accessed. Yet the 360-year-old Royal Society, notorious for its rigour and tradition in its determination to admit only the highest, was thought to be a closed club to such an innovation.

In March, the new president of the society, Sir Robert May, complained that the organisation had been slow to adopt the web. Prof Berners-Lee, who had not been nominated by any of its members to put his name forward for the ultimate accolade of fellowship itself, said he had been among 43 fellows whose election to the Royal Society was announced earlier this week. The citation says that his work has led to the development of the Internet, enabling the universal access to information, and that the web has had a profound economic impact.

This is not the only time that the Royal Society has taken note of scientists' success in reaching the public imagination. Newly elected member, biologist Richard Dawkins, author of The Selfish Gene, will also be awarded fellowship, along with mathematician Ian Stewart, the mathematics and complexity guru. This is not the only time that the Royal Society has taken note of scientists' success in reaching the public imagination. Newly elected member, biologist Richard Dawkins, author of The Selfish Gene, will also be awarded fellowship, along with mathematician Ian Stewart, the mathematics and complexity guru. He will be joined by the likes of Elton John and Cliff Richard."

Use our advantage to yours

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Use our advantage to yours

Finally...

The UK's Royal Society is getting less stuffy—this week, they admitted the inventor of the Internet and a very popular science writer.

In a British invention of the world-wide web, Timothy Berners-Lee, has been awarded fellowship of the Royal Society, the UK's highest scientific honour, in a move suggesting Britain's most exclusive club is leaning towards the Internet. The citation says that his work has led to the development of the Internet, enabling the universal access to information, and that the web has had a profound economic impact.
Electronic espionage and the EU

AIDS by any other name

Wearing red ribbons and badges is meant to do little for the health of Africans.
Laughing their woes away

International Affairs.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

Habits, environmentalists fear, will soon see other types of fish disappearing from their natural habitat. The world's most startling and alarming example is China's decision to ban on any type of genetically modified foods, which President Jiang Zemin was told by his <i>juche</i> associates—includes the country's top agricultural officials. The total government ban on any type of genetically modified plants is not expected to be loosened, even as other Pacific Rim countries, including Japan, are moving toward more cautious measures.

In the 80s, North Korea was self-sufficient in food. President Jiang Zemin is{.n}

One possible reason for this is that the government has not been committed to improving its education system. These include low teacher morale caused by poor pay and working conditions, and the fact that many teachers are not well-trained. The number of teachers in primary and secondary schools has declined, and the number of students who are enrolled in higher education has also declined.

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The lungs of the world

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**Nepal's Talibans**

**Europa Press, 3 May**

More than 900 private and boarding schools around the country along with the government-run ones have joined the All Nepal Independent College Students' Federation (ANNFSU) which has waged a fight against the government to cut off its funding from the ministry of education. The government has not approved any new schools, and the number of schools and seats have not increased for many years.

The students have been demanding that the government move on thewhole of the country to ensure that the schools are properly funded, and that the government ceases its funding to the schools. The government in a meeting on 1 May decided that the students have a right to protest against the government and that the students should be given a chance to present their demands to the government in the meeting on 1 May.

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John Harris

The Lennox Lewis-Hasim Rahman rematch saga took yet another turn this week, as expected, when Mike Tyson filed a lawsuit against Don King Promotions seeking $75 million in damages and a guarantee that he be given the right to fight Rahman for the WBC title in the re-match challenge. Lewis and another action hero, filling a legal suit in the top court, is now in charge of arranging a rematch against Rahman, as agreed in the original contract for the fight in April. The plan was, of course, to set up a fifth round bout in Germany, but it now looks as if the heavyweight world might be heading to the Philippines. The announcement is expected to be made in the Philippines tomorrow. Lewis has reneged on the heavyweights tour as Rahman’s promoter, replacing Eddie Rothen. Rahman wants another WBC title, which means a return to the UK for the title fight. However, the English-born American champion is the No. 1 contender for the WBC title, which means he must face either John Ruiz or John Michael, the WBA champion, for the title. There is, of course, a legal battle between King and Tyson on the issue of the WBC title, which means Tyson is the No. 1 contender for the WBA title. Lewis’s World Boxing Council (WBC) champions would put on the title in the round of the year for Tyson. Lewis must, of course, be given the right to a title bout against Rahman as well. The new champion, who is WBC’s top choice, will have his own champion, but Tyson is determined to have his say in the matter.

Tyson claims that as the recognized WBC No. 1 challenger he has a legal right to a title bout against Rahman on 15 November. According to Fightline magazine, the former world heavyweight champion, who has been on the sidelines, is now fighting with WBA champion John Ruiz for the WBA title. WBA decided that under no circumstances would they sanction an immediate rematch between the former world champion and Rahman for their title. There is not much left between King and Tyson and the No. 1 contender for the WBA title, who is already earning and counting using each other’s previous allocations of prize money. Meanwhile, King is back on the front page of the boxing establishment. The controls for the WBC and WBA have been transferred to another champion, John Michael. The WBC and WBA title bouts are in the hands of two former champions, John Ruiz and John Michael. The WBC title bout is scheduled for November. A new champion, John Michael, is named heavily as the challenger with 15 November as the target date for the No. 1 challenge.
its gentle tones in your childish lisp; but that sweet song didn't turn you into its flute. Through all my youth its beautiful reflection in your endearing smile, you'll start feeling about, but it will be more effortless to touch than snow and fire. Really, Mother? Yes, I'd hoped to see its shadows in your tender face when you were born, when it comes you'll first take it for a dream. I won't have to keep patting your hair and bear it yourself, take it upon yourself; instead of my offering you patience you'll leave for the battlefield offering consolation to a mother's heart which refuses a hundred thousand explanations; you'll be able to see it for yourself, to understand it for yourself. Do you think that it can come? I'm a mother, becoming the voice of all creative energy I can declare. Mother's milk is a symbol of pure, immeasurable love. The body of the mother is as sacred as the soil of the nation. In the Kingdom of the Gods mother, the mother whose love knows no bounds.

The most prevalent characteristic of women in Nepali literature comes from Gopal Prasad Rimal, known as the father of Nepali free verse. In 'A Mother's Dream,' translated below, Rimal depicts the traditional mother-son bond in Freudian terms—the mother seeks from her son the means to fight the traditional powers, she seeks from her son an equal role, and as a one-dimensional symbol of a certain sentiment, rather than as an individual, misses the complexity of women's identities. mother, the mother whose love knows no bounds. But no matter what, it will come; I'm a mother, becoming the voice of all creative energy I can declare. 

A Mother's Dream

Mother, still early morning? Yes, dear. It's early. Like the morning sun, it spread brilliance on it. I'll wake you up. Have you seen a weeper's leaf? It's beautiful, mother. Weepers are women with that sort of beauty. When it rains, you'll find it lit up. It's a sign of love. It isn't cold, but it will be more effective to touch them with love. Ready, Mother? Yes. I'm hopeful to see those shadows in your tender face when you were born, when it comes you'll first take it for a dream. Its gentle tones in your childish lisp; but that sweet song didn't turn you into its flute. Through all my youth its beautiful reflection in your endearing smile, you'll start feeling about, but it will be more effortless to touch than snow and fire. Really, Mother? Yes, I'd hoped to see its shadows in your tender face when you were born, when it comes you'll first take it for a dream. I won't have to keep patting your hair and bear it yourself, take it upon yourself; instead of my offering you patience you'll leave for the battlefield offering consolation to a mother's heart which refuses a hundred thousand explanations; you'll be able to see it for yourself, to understand it for yourself. Do you think that it can come? I'm a mother, becoming the voice of all creative energy I can declare.
Nepali Weather

Yak Yeti Yak

The weather in Nepal is changing. Greater cloud cover will stabilize the circulation is starting to build up from the southeast. With a month or so to go for the monsoon, heavy rain is still some ways off. Afternoon thunderstorms in the tarai and lower midhills will be of lower intensity next week. Accumulated afternoons snowfalls have given more than usual snow cover on Himalayan passes. The Indian desert state of Rajasthan, clouds continue to pour in over the Himalaya from the Tibetan plateau. This is likely to keep the air clearer and cooler than usual this time of year.

Radio Sagarmatha

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day.


to talk about the history, culture and traditions of Nepal.


Flowers and Ferns is a beautiful book written by Alarmel Valli. Passes from 14 May at: Embassy of India, L Kathmandu (413174), Nepal-Brunt Samarkot Kendra, (424547, 254744), Shrikrishna Sarita Khokapse, Thamel (417089, 412050), Indian Arthouse, Hatiboud, (442896), Chits Charo, Bodak Nepal Residency (250467, 250325), Nepal Association of Fine Arts (177539), and the Indigo Gallery, Thamel. Friday, 25 May, 7pm Royal Nepal Academy Hall Organised by the Indian Centre for Cultural Relations and the Embassy of India.

Spring Wellz Dinner and balloon dance workshop. May 10, 7pm, Dakshin Hall, Hotel Yak and Yeti. Rs 1200 per head. 246966

Stress Free Weekends Overnight stay at the Hyatt, dinner for two at the Ritz Restaurant, spa of health club, spa and outdoor jacuzzi, spa-time massage for two. Weekend break, book check out Sunday. Rs 500 plus tax. Hyatt Regency, Kathmandu. 45224

Flirt Jasmin featured artists, entertainers, and musicians will perform. Daily, three for a couple. Live jazz on Singapore Airlines, two nights complimentary hotel stay. May 24-25, May, Hotel Yak and Yeti. 246966

Wet & Wild Summer Soaking in a cool pool and a buffet lunch. Saturdays at Godavari Village Resort. Adults Rs 800, children Rs 350. Taxes extra. 560761, 560775

1976 AD The Club, Bhopalavati. Saturday, 19 May, 9pm. Entry Rs 230.

Bharatiyar Amrut recital by Aalam Yali. Passes from 14 May at Embassy of India, L Kathmandu (413174), Nepal-Brunt Samarkot Kendra, (424547, 254744), Shrikrishna Sarita Khokapse, Thamel (417089, 412050), Indian Arthouse, Hatiboud, (442896), Chits Charo, Bodak Nepal Residency (250467, 250325), Nepal Association of Fine Arts (177539), and the Indigo Gallery, Thamel. Friday, 25 May, 7pm Royal Nepal Academy Hall Organised by the Indian Centre for Cultural Relations and the Embassy of India.

Friends of the Bagmati River meeting to discuss bringing life back into the waters of the river. Tuesday, 25 May 479468

Spontaneous Inklings and presentations of contemporary Nepali literature and art Sundays 5-8pm Kathmandu Guest House, Thamel. Thaireads 4-8pm Kathmandu Environmental Education Centre, Thamel. Thursday 6-8pm Bamboo Club Restaurant, Thamel. Saturdays 6-8pm New Orleans Cafe, Thamel. spinyaablog@mos.com.np. 344160, 444023

What can be done to improve the research scene in Tribhuvan University? Dr Kanwar Vijay Singh Bedla of Udaipur. Complimentary starters. 18-27 May, 7-11.45pm, Far Pavilion, Everest Hotel. 488100

Mandala Book Point and The Mountain Institute, 2000. Edmund White The first anthropological monograph on Kiranti mythology in its social and historical context. Based on fieldwork in Nepal, this practice of kinship—detailing ethnographically an identity that is multi-layered and contextual rather than monolithic.

1987 model, 4WD, 1300 cc engine, high roof metal top, original paint, AC. Ring Joshi at 233040.

1987 Toyota Tercel 4WD Station Wagon. Duty paid. 5 Door, 5 speed manual, 1452 cc petrol. Very good condition, 112000km. Usd 7,600 (Rs 560,000) Lee or Lynn Poole at 524202 (home) or 521377 (work).

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**Up the Bhote Kosi**

**SAMUEL THOMAS**

rafting, kayaking, mountain biking, canyoning, trekking and hiking, all in one place.

This is one of the most exciting and unexplored adventure destinations in the country—Borderlands on the upper reaches of the Bhote Kosi, along the border with China. It is well located, a four-hour drive from the capital, up the historic Arniko highway.

It is arguably one of the best rafting sections anywhere in the world and the site for an annual five-day festival that brings in over 300 rafters. And three years ago, Borderlands pioneered canoeing in the deep gorge and various side by side through narrow valley sides. Canoeing requires a variety of skills. In addition to peak physical fitness, like navigation, steering, rafting, jumping, rolling, and climbing. Outfitters are also making some trips to be explored in their future—such as run to Bhairab Bandar and Langtang National Park area Langtang a few hundred kilometers north of the capital in the mid-19th century. Other international trips find alternative routes have been carried into the area around Langtang and Ganesh Himal. Furthermore, a new section is

also located Nepal’s only bungy jumping site. The economy diverse—rafting a "sleek" business and development work done for professional development programmes and adventure. The activities are relatively inexpensive, but operators---the organization---quality, professionalism, and good safety equipment make operations costly.

Plane for a proper plantation designed to destroy the last part of the floodplain. Many have the upper Bhote Kosi project will turn this into one of the best river segments into a "flat-cuba". "We are not going to exploit Nepal’s water resources, but these have the significant

**Up the Bhote Kosi**

Inland between two project and between two crossing China, says Megh Aye, son of Bhume Aye and founder of the Nepal River Conservation Trust, committed to conserving the wildlife of the Himalaya. The river is already threatened at two places—ramp issues and environmental at Langtang. But in between, there is an entire ecosystem and a thriving tourism industry.

Just when entrepreneurship has helped bring the tourist potential of the region and created opportunities for the local economy, it looks like the future of the first stretch on one of the world’s most beautiful rivers may be damned.

**Carlsberg**

**BUDDHA STANDS**: Patan mayor Buddhi Raj Bajracharya gifts a symbol of peace, a bronze image of the Buddha to visiting Chinese premier Zhu Rongji during his visit to Patan on 15 May.

**THIMI THEME**: The closing day of the Thimi Exhibition as the mayors of Thimi, Kathmandu and Banepa break into smiles at an exhibition of traditional jewellery on 13 May.

**Kilroy’s**

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Under My Hat
by Kunda Dixit

There is nothing like the visit of a foreign dignitary to bring tranquility and calm to our succulent yam between two stones. To honour Zhu Rongji, Kishunji called a cessation of hostilities with Girijaji. Deubaji observed an armistice. Madhavji suspended the barricading between the peoples of Nepal and the peoples of the People’s Republic of China. Kathmandu has not seen internal peace and harmony breaking out on this scale since the Royal Visit of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh in 1961.

The other great advantage of official visits is that things actually happen. Ghanta Ghar is painted lavender for the first time since the Great Earthquake of 1994. Projects, like the Eastern Tundikhel Autobahn, get泪水 into the streets and streets into the project timeline.

We may have inadvertently hit upon the answer to all our woes in one swell foop here: the cure-all for this country’s chronic problem of political instability and lack of development. All we have to do is make sure that at any given time in our country’s glorious history we have a high-level foreign dignitary on an official visit to Nepal. Here is something that Shitall Nivas must start working on right away without much ado around the facts. It must send out official invitations to heads of all countries great and small to visit Nepal at their earliest convenience. Heads of state must start rolling in. Then all we have to do is pick 52 confirmations a year till up to your pious paws will chart the Ministry of foreign Affairs (Department of National Reconstruction Control). “Surely, we cannot accommodate His Excellency the President of the Democratic People’s Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the third week of April 2004, we already have the state visit of the Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of China scheduled.”

Asta Raj Bajracharya is a cornerstone in the unwritten history of neo-classical architecture in Nepal. There were once many artisan-masons like him who moulded with their bare hands some of the most intricate and extraordinary designs in the Valley’s palaces, gardens, memorials to rulers and other institutions. “There are only six of us left,” says Asta, who is in his mid-sixties. Some of his most prominent works are the large sculptures adorning the Palace of the Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of China. His work adorns the Social Welfare Council building, the cement cow standing on the logo of the Social Welfare Council building, and the six-foot high Saraswoti idol at the city hall in Biratnagar. In 1991, he and six other Newari artisans got together to create a miniature Swayambhu in Gyompa town in Japan.

Asta was born in Ikhache in Patan to a family of traditional artisans who had a special place in the houses of the ruling class. “I don’t know how I got into this—a family thing, I guess,” he says. He spent quite some time as a wandering artisan, working on the summer and winter homes of kings, princes and other influentials who were enamoured of European neo-classical architecture. “It wasn’t all flowers,” he says. “At one point I hadn’t been home in three years. I spent that time working at King Mahendra’s palace in Gokarna, by the dam on the Trisuli river and who knows where else.”

Asta feels strongly about his traditional building arts and the traditional crafts of the Valley. He’s encouraged his only son, Surendra, to pursue metalwork. And he’s really happy to be able to pass on what he’s learned to another generation.

The Ministry of Potholes and Hard Labour is now coordinating with MOMA so that it can sequence urban development projects to dovetail with these official visits. July 2001: State visit of Count Dracula to the Kingdom of Nepal. Project: Finish paving the stretch of Ring Road between Narayan Gopal Chowk and Sifal. August 2001: Official visit of Gen. Voldemort of Hogsmeade at the friendly invitation of whoever-is-in-power. Project: Complete the Tin Kune Turnpike. September 2001: Visit of Their Excellencies Batman and Robin to rid the city of crime. Project: Deodorise the Bagmati with Lilly of the Valley fragrance.

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