KIRAN NEPAL

One week after the ghastly slaughter at Narayanhiti Palace, it seems the classic police procedure of finding evidence on the night itself has faltered. The initial police report is still a mystery, and the investigation has been slow and seemingly overlooked.

The report mentions a number of key events:

1. The police report states that King Birendra was shot dead by his son, Crown Prince Dipendra, at 11:45 PM on Friday, May 1, 2001.
2. The report also notes that Queen Komal, the queen mother, was also shot dead.
3. The report mentions that Prince Nirajan, the king's eldest son, was killed by his father.
4. The report states that Prince Ranabhat, the king's youngest son, was also shot dead.
5. The report notes that Queen Komal, the queen mother, was also shot dead.
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9. The report states that Queen Komal, the queen mother, was also shot dead.
10. The report mentions that Prince Ranabhat, the king's youngest son, was also shot dead.

The report also mentions that the investigation has not been transparent and that the police have not been cooperative with the media.

The future of the royal family is uncertain, and it is unclear how the country will move forward.

IT WAS DIPENDRA.

Probe team finds smoking gun.

MIN BAJRACHARYA

The committee asked Nepal's ambassador to India, Bhekh Thapa, to talk to Devyani in order to "defuse the situation.

Although determining the motive was not easy, the probe panel presented several key findings:

1. The panel interviewed royal survivors and gathered evidence from eyewitnesses and relatives.
2. The panel conducted a post-mortem examination on the bodies of the deceased.
3. The panel reviewed mobile phone records and other relevant documents.
4. The panel interviewed key individuals, including Queen Komal, the queen mother.
5. The panel presented its findings to King Gyanendra, who thanked the Chief Justice and the Speaker, requesting them to "take this report to the people immediately."
Those were the last words King Birendra spoke as he collapsed in the billiard room on Friday, 1 June. Shock, rather than pain, was wracked across his face. More than the shock of being shot, it was the shock of knowing who had shot him.

What have you done, he murmured, as he slowly slumped to the floor. Nepal will also not be an exception in their trajectory. The Nepalese royal family, once the very embodiment of cooperation and collaboration, has been torn apart by conflict and contention.

Let us be clear about it: democracy and common sense with outdated mourning rituals of requiem music and news blackout for 13 days. This is why it was so easy to win the people over with information that is more credible, accurate and independent than what the other side is saying.

Contempt, and insulting their intelligence by Panchayat-era mandarins who believe in treating the public's right to information with angst of geography, debris from the collision is scattered far and wide.

In India's countryside, villagers cope with black humour. Whenever there is a caste massacre, the first to arrive are the vultures, followed closely by reporters, their agenda clear: the traditional opacity of the royals is an anachronism that weakens constitutional monarchy. It must open up to the press as it has to the public. Only transparency can stop the domestic yellowrags and the international gutter press from displaying dirty royal linen.

There is a public mania for journalism. But the press is only as good as its professionalism. That will take time to develop, and there are no shortcuts to learning and concentrating on core business. The only institution that can regulate the press is its own professionalism. That will take time to develop, and there are no shortcuts to learning and concentrating on core business.

The print media, with little or no access to the drama unfolding inside the palace, were reduced to recycling reports from Indian and foreign cable TV channels. Ace journalists became news capsules that could be strung together to form a story.

The only institution that can regulate the press is its own professionalism. That will take time to develop, and there are no shortcuts to learning and concentrating on core business.
Nepal's trip of stability

The past-political resonates over in Nepal, the country of Singh and Baniya, the kingdom of the Gurungs. In the capital of Kathmandu, the old and the new co-exist. The royal palace is still there, the government buildings, the monasteries, the temples, the people. But the country is different. The political landscape has changed. The old order is gone, the new one is taking shape. But the challenge is immense.

Even if the political parties are weak and disjointed, they are the only institution that can save the country from total anarchy during this crisis. Democracy worked as a safety valve to release the public's grief and anger.

The three-way tussle between the palace, the NC and the CPN-M is a popular one with Nepal's jittery establishment who are quick to raise the specter of a möglichst nach der nächsten. The Nepali Congress has been trying to manipulate the triangular political power balance by allying with one ... and the left opposition, and bringing other political forces into the fold under a minimum programme then the Nepali...
There is no democracy without freedom of expression

In a column titled “A voice to the voiceless,” (HTL) lamented our education system which fails to recognize the importance of the middle class... which increasingly empowers people to run ahead with... Get an education that provides a solid foundation for... provides them with the knowledge and skills necessary to... They may not have the means to afford the... is dominated by... In his column “A voice to the voiceless,” (HTL) lamented our education system which fails to recognize the importance of the middle class... which increasingly empowers people to run ahead with... Get an education that provides a solid foundation for... provides them with the knowledge and skills necessary to... They may not have the means to afford the... is dominated by... 

The situation is similar with a government that has been... Many people feel disillusioned... The Middle World, Department of South Asian, Harvard University...

My thanks to theeditors for making this possible. We are all... If someone asks, “What... and sense that something grand and evil is being... The Nepal Times, Space Time Network, Sagarmatha and... national tragedy at the beginning... This country will recover from the... It seems unlikely that the... The way to cope with the... all these have their own dynamic, and a strong notion of what their audience... They will get their story, no matter who gets hurt or offended in the... There is no democracy without freedom of expression... It seems unlikely that the... The Middle World, Department of South Asian, Harvard University...

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Politics as usual

Nepalis riot over what a remark a Bollywood actor never made.

May-June 1999: General elections, septuagenarian Krishna Prasad Bhattarai elected Prime Minister. He initiates a commission to try to hold dialogue with the Maoists before he is toppled.

March 2000: Fellow-septuagenarian Girija Prasad Koirala pulls the rug from under Bhattarai's feet. NC rebels paralyse the party and government. But they fail in two attempts to topple Koirala both as prime minister and party president.

December 2000: Fringe Maoist students force schools to shut down and five million children stay home, and hotels shut down for a day. Nepalis riot over what a remark a Bollywood actor never made.

January 2001: Koirala is re-elected NC president and the UML—which apparently was hoping that NC dissidents would get rid of him—steps into the fray. Winter session of Parliament is paralysed.

April-May 2001: UML takes to the streets, attempts to prevent the prime minister from commuting to work. Nepalis riot over what a remark a Bollywood actor never made.

If a crisis of this magnitude fails to unite our bickering politicos, what will?

Politics as usual provided by the 1990 constitution that appears to have provided us the flexibility and the elasticity to deal with this crisis.

However, even staunching the bleeding things would have gone wrong suddenly, with the collapse of the democratic space. Although the goal of political liberalisation achieved, the country was no more equal to opposition political parties.

The Maoists' new political leader may yet take some time to convince them to back down, but that may take longer than we think, and it is possible they will not. The country is in a situation where the Maoists, who have been in power for the past two years, may face a crisis that they have not been prepared for.

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Another blow to tourism

On the Auspicious Occasion of the Accession to the Throne of the Kingdom of Nepal, we devoutly extend our hearty felicitations to our loving Monarch His Majesty the King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev for his Majesty's long and prosperous reign, excellent health and longevity.

FELICITATION

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"We cannot pretend to have a constitutional monarchy when our laws are archaic and feudal."

Better Coverage

Samacharpatra

Harka Gurung
Academic, former minister

A tragedy of unusual magnitude has taken place. Instead of speculating how it came about, we should look forward to how the spontaneous expression of the public’s grief after the royal tragedy. I hope the politicians rise to the occasion.

Chaitnya Mishra
Academic, former NPC member

I have a six-point checklist. The murder has to be investigated fully and independently. If more time and skills are needed, declare emergency. I would not worry about the impact of the emergency and declare a national mourning period. The government should call general elections. Whoever comes to power can change the constitution if needed. The government may need unification. The people should seize the opportunity to demand fundamental changes in the political landscape. Let us rise to the occasion.

Yankila Sherpa
Entrepreneur

This is the greatest national tragedy that Nepalis have ever had to face. The terrible incident has shocked us, and let us fight back. Let us fight back together. We need unity and strength. The heads of the business community have called for a bumper response from the business sector, and I am sure Nepalis will rise to the occasion. Let us fight back together.

Mangal Siddhi Manandhar
Politician (UML)

The tragedy has occurred, but it will take time for the wounds to heal. Time does not stop, and time will heal. We cannot stop and stay, as we are now. Even before this tragedy, the country was already in crisis. Now the situation has worsened. The nation should not be disheartened. The government should take immediate action to save the nation.

CP Mainali
Politician (ML)

The people don’t believe what they have been told, let us hope they will make up their minds after the commission makes its report.

Narahari Acharya
Politician (NC)

The 1st June incident is the most devastating crisis Nepal has faced since unification. But the country cannot stop here. It is the people’s responsibility to save the nation. We need to find a solution to the problem of the monarchy. We need to find a solution to the problem of the monarchy. We need to find a solution to the problem of the monarchy.

Arzu Rana Deuba
Development worker

I feel we should stand behind our new king who is the constitutional head and the rightful heir to the throne. We must support him—we have nobody else. We need to develop a new democracy. We need to develop a new democracy. We need to develop a new democracy.

Shyam Bahadur Panday
Hotelier

Tourism has been directly affected. This is the first time we’re at zero growth. All bookings have been cancelled. At the minimum, we need to come together and tackle the issues through the media. We need to choose between saving our country and our businesses and running after after hearsay. After all, we have to live with the consequences. We all need to help by re-building our image, because the more negative news there is about us, the more it will affect us. We all can help by being more patient and responsible, otherwise there can be nothing but sadness ahead. We must make sure that there is no escape for Nepalis. We must make sure that there is no escape for Nepalis. We must make sure that there is no escape for Nepalis.
The once and future king

Urbane, erudite and a good manager, King Gyanendra is not expected to suffer fools.

Reality Bites

Samacharpatra
The Shah Dynasty Tree

1. KING PRITHIVI NARAYAN (1723-1775)
   - Killed at Narayanhiti on 1 June
   - Wounded at Narayanhiti on 1 June

2. KING PRATAP SINGH BAHADUR
   - No progeny identified

3. KING RANA BAHADUR
   - Raj Rajeswori
   - Subarna Prabha
   - Kanti Mati (Brahmin from Tirhut)
   - Chandrawati
   - Lalit Tripura Sundari
   - Ranodat Shah (Died at 15)
   - Siddhi Laxmi

4. KING GIRVANYUDHA
   - Gorakshya Laxmi

5. KING RAJENDRA SAMRJAYA
   - Laxmi
   - Rajya Laxmi
   - Ranendra Bikram Shah (Migrated to Kasi with mother.)
   - Trailokya Rajya Laxmi
   - Punya Kumari
   - Narendra Bikram Shah (Exiled to India, then in Gorkha)
   - Trailokya Bikram Shah (Died before being crowned)
   - Juna Raja
   - Tara Kumari
   - Name n/a (Jung Bahadur's niece)
   - Daughters of Jung Bahadur

6. KING SURENDRA
   - Upendra Bikram Shah (Descendents in tarai.)
   - Trailokya Raja
   - Tikra Rajya Laxmi
   - Name n/a (Jung Bahadur's niece)
   - Daughters of Jung Bahadur

7. KING PRITHVI
   - Rewatiraman Rajya Laxmi
   - ™ Laxmi Divyeswori
   - ™ Kirti Divyeswori
   - ™ Durga Divyeswori
   - Ram Bikram Shah (Daughters of Bir Sumsher)

8. KING TRIBHUVAN
   - Kanti Rajya Laxmi
   - ™ Iswori Rajya Laxmi
   - ™ Basundhara Bir Bikram Shah (No male progeny)
   - Hari Bikram Shah (No progeny identified)
   - Krishna Bikram Shah (Chief Sahibjyu)

9. KING MAHENDRA
   - Himalaya Bir Bikram Shah (No issue)
   - ™ Daughters of Punjabi Rajputs
   - Dipak Bikram Shah (Lit the funeral pyre of King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya)
The once and future king

Urbane, erudite and a good manager, King Gyanendra is not expected to suffer fools.

As a known conservationist, these were traits he is expected to lend to his role as constitutional monarch. A contracts contractor on the suites recalled that Gyanendra was with them well into the night to see them completed in time.

When the first SAARC summit was planned and Nepal was named host, it was Gyanendra who oversaw all the details with painstaking meticulousness. His vision was to lend to his role as constitutional monarch. A contracts contractor on the suites recalled that Gyanendra was with them well into the night to see them completed in time.

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Three princesses

Princess Shanti Singh (1941-2001), born on 10 July 1941, was the first child of King Mahendra and late crown princess Indra Rajya Laxmi. Her sister Princess Sarada Shah was born in 1943. Shoba Shahi, now the only surviving daughter of King Mahendra, was born in 1949. The sisters studied at the Loreto Convent, Darjeeling, and the late Princesses Shanti and Sarada went on to Tribhuvan University. Princess Shanti's husband, Prince Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah, a noted writer and academic, was beheaded in the palace on 1 June. They are survived by three sons.

The late princesses were involved in social work and founded a number of social welfare organisations and charities. Princess Shanti founded the Nepal Leprosy Relief Organisation in 1964, and Princess Sarada founded the Nepal Cancer Relief Organisation in 1971. The late Princess Jayanti Shah (1946-2001), known for her contribution to cancer relief programs in Nepal, was the daughter of King Mahendra's youngest brother, Prince Khetan Dhirendra Shah.

Princess Shanti was the first to become active in social work, founding the Nepal Leprosy Relief Organisation in 1964. She was also a member of the Child Welfare Subcommission and the Child Welfare Subcommission. She was married to Prince Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah, a noted writer and academic, who was beheaded in the palace on 1 June. They are survived by three sons.

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Madhav Nepal's flip-flop

Jana Aastha National Weekly, 8 June

You attended the meeting of the Privy Council. How did this function work?

Nepal has sufficiently clarified the context in which the meeting was convened, and the function worked perfectly.

In 1904 (1962 BS) Rana Bahadur Shah, to pay the debts he had accumulated while in Banaras, on the advice of Bhimsen Thapa, sold all his lands, including those of his relatives. He then sold all the land in their village. Brahmins and Kirats then rose up in revolt. This was forcefully repressed and thousands were killed or exiled.

Pradip Nepal, CPN (UML) MP

1885 (1942 BS) Parba

Budhabar Saptahik, 4 June

After the unimaginable incident of 1 June, people started fabricating stories. They spoke anything they dreamt up.

Bad blood

Pradip Nepal, CPN (UML) MP

The incident at the Kavre Palace was a very serious matter. The king should have been informed. He should have been present.

Inventive media

Pradip Nepal, CPN (UML) MP

BBC: So if these matters are put in order, will you help the king?

MN: We are ready to help in all ways. It is not that I am not on the committee because the king formed it on his own. But it is necessary to think about [the committee] in terms of the constitution and laws.

MN: It isn't that we as a party are not ready to support or remain in the committee, but at the individual level, the person might have problems, or be busy, there might be other circumstances.

BBC: When you say the matter needs to be thought through, are you thinking about the possibility of finding an alternative solution?

MN: We believe in the monarchy and the constitution. I further stated that the situation at the time demanded that the monarch and the government act together for the benefit of the country.

BBC: But wasn't this committee discussed even before the royal incident?

MN: We have taken this as something very uncommon, unnatural. I asked what exactly happened. The prime minister has been asked to present the facts and make a statement. He also said an ... required and that this was a very difficult matter. It is the responsibility of the country to properly investigate this.

BBC Radio, 15 June

The palace and government have not said anything and people are speculating. The media is airing these speculations. Haven't you pressured the government to make information public?

I am not in a position to answer about a legally correct option, you are trying to say that the king and the government should have taken action and the situation...
No answers in Nepal

Japanese Times

The fact that absolute monarchy is still a viable option in the 21st century, the country having been able to maintain its stability, has been one of the major achievements of the Nepalese monarchy. Although it began its reign in 1999, the Nepalese monarchy has been able to maintain its stability, despite being said to be the world’s last absolute monarchy.

Akiz Kajiyama

Intelligence agencies and some British officials are still investigating the mystery in Nepal's monarchy. The government has been investigating the possibility of a conspiracy, but so far no concrete evidence has been found.

Sanjeev Subedi

The government has not yet released any information about the investigation. However, there is a possibility that the investigation may be ongoing. The government has been very secretive about the investigation and has not provided any information to the public.

MJ Akbar

A terrible grief, a bleak future

The Times of India

Nepal is in a terrible situation after the recent royal massacre. The government has not yet released any information about the investigation. However, there is a possibility that the investigation may be ongoing. The government has been very secretive about the investigation and has not provided any information to the public.

Hindustan Times

To play the king

The New York Times

A royal mess

This is a tragedy built into Nepal's compromise, into the imperfection of the Nepalese Congress.

by M.J. Akbar

Companions are easier suggested than done. Compromise is only possible with national interest in mind. Nepalese Congress has to prepare itself for a future scenario. Nepalese Congress is easy but very sensitive. They are not easy to please. They are not easy to please. They are not easy to please.

The New York Times

In this time, we are saying the absolute opposite: India's best hope lies in the monarchy, not in the democratic system.

India Abroad

"No conspiracy"

A terrible grief, a bleak future

The Times of India

"No conspiracy" is the investigation into the royal massacre.

Aziz Kajiyama

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The medium was the message

Information through the Internet emerged as a credible, alternative source of news from Nepal last week, as millions of people across the world typed "Nepal" into their search engines.

The government's information blackout didn't help matters, it sowed confusion and wild rumours which also found their way back onto the Internet through people sharing information on the streets or via telephone or mobile phone updates. It sowed confusion and wild rumours which also found their way back onto the Internet through people sharing information on the streets or via telephone or mobile phone updates.

The Nepali diaspora, if they were not called by relatives and friends in Kathmandu, first learnt about the tragedy from the internet sites. The servers of Nepali News and the internet edition of Nepali Times hosted on nepalnews.com had the story and the crown prince's reported involvement. The government's information blackout didn't help matters, it sowed confusion and wild rumours which also found their way back onto the Internet through people sharing information on the streets or via telephone or mobile phone updates.

The government's information blackout didn't help matters, it sowed confusion and wild rumours which also found their way back onto the Internet through people sharing information on the streets or via telephone or mobile phone updates.
Nepalis all over the world find their long-held belief systems and cultural practices radically challenged.

The royal massacre has been stripped of its divinity and made worldly, flesh and blood mortals with virtues and failings. Opening the palace gates to the nation was an act of democratization. The royalty has irrevocably been stripped of its divinity and made worldly, flesh and blood mortals with virtues and failings. The monarchy has been demystified, reducing its appeal for the masses. The palace, once the symbol of royalty and power, now belongs to the people.

1 June as cultural crisis

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Fly

4 days a week to Europe and the best connections to USA, from London, Paris, Frankfurt and Rome.

Special offer to Africa, Cairo, Athens, Turkey and Middle East.

Call us for travel in comfort and luxury at very reasonable prices.

Godavari
All the king's businesses

But his substantial business interests in tourism, hydropower, tobacco and other industries have drawn the attention of foreign media in the past. Some have argued that his influence should be curbed, while others say it is better to have a functioning king, especially one who understands business management.

Biswok bita has investments in some companies of the Soaltee Group. After taking the reigns, many members of the royal family continued directly running companies like Nabinbhai. The Soaltee Group includes Seebrook Enterprises Limited, Seebrook Estates (P) Limited and Surya Enterprises (P) Limited. The group is involved in hydropower, agriculture (tobacco), manufacturing, media, real estate and shipping. The group owns the three companies in the Soaltee Group, but none of the government's regulatory commissions, and all of the group's obligations are said to be “up-to-date.”

The royal family's investments are made through Surya Enterprises, which has investments in three companies — Himalaya, Seebrook Estates and Surya Estates. This investment is handled by professionals and not by the royal family itself, according to the company. The family doesn't have any interlocks in the company.

Company sources told that the group of Himalaya Goodricke is the royal family's largest investment. The company's shares are in the name of the royal family's trust. The group has a total turnover of $60 million, with $30 million coming from the group's business and $30 million from investments. The group is also the largest contributor to government's total tax revenue, with all tax obligations said to be “up-to-date.”

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The king is expected to keep up with his conservation interests, and by law would become patron of the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMNTC). One source told us: “He is already too much into it, and it is an environmental charity.”

BISWOK BHATTAI

KING Gyanendrasingh was a recluse behind the scenes, his conservation work and business dealings for 30 years that his brother reigned. His shadowy presence during the Panchayat was seen as the reason for a powerful business contact.

Since 1982, Gyanendra became more involved with the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMNTC) and garnered international attention during the annual meeting of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Kathmandu in November.
ABOUT TOWN

EVENTS

- The Club, Bhatathareni. Latest Hindi movie and latest top-ten English movie, 7pm, free.
- Nepali and Hindi movies online ticket booking at www.nepalishop.com

EXHIBIT

- Sekura (BBQ) Night Dwarika’s Hotel. Starters, meats, vegetarian selections, dessert, complimentary drink. Traditional dance in lamp lit Niewari courtyard. Rs 699. Friday nights. 479488
- LaSooon Restaurant and Vinotheque. Lunch, tea and dinner with European and American food, fine wines. Puchchowk. 535290
- Brunch with swimming Shangri La Kathmandu’s award-winning garden. Rs 700 + tax. 412899
- Wet & Wild Summer. Swimming in a cool pool and a buffet lunch. Saturdays at Godavari Village Resort. Adults Rs 600, children Rs 350. Taxes extra. 560675, 560775
- Mango Tango Exotic manges dessert Hotel de l’ Arnapampa. All day, all food and beverage outlets.
- Movepwick Exotic desserts at the ice-cream lounge, Darbar Marg.

MUSIC

- Cadenza Jazz at the Upstairs Bar, Lazimpat, Wednesday, Friday 7:30pm. Rs 200

DANCE

- Sounds from the Underground Dance party at Simply Shutter Bistro, Baber Mahal. Revisited. 1 June, 6pm onwards. Rs 300.

SPECIALS

- Fanta Grand Fun Fair Live music, games and food. Godavari Alumni Association and Cohort 1,2,3 June. Jawalakhel Grounds.
- Stress Free Weekends Overnight stay at the Hyatt, dinner for two at the Rux Restaurant, spa and outdoor jacuzzi, ayurvedic massage for two, weekend brunch, late check out Sunday. Rs 9000 plus tax. Hyatt Regency, Kathmandu. 419234
- Pheri Jaun Hai Pokhara Free airfare, room, breakfast, airport transport, use of health club and lots more. Rs 1500 for Nepal, 545 for expats. Shangri La Hotel & Resort; sales@hotelshangri.coma. 412999
- Spiny Babbler Museum Readings and presentations of contemporary Nepali literature and art. Sundays 5-6pm Kathmandu Guest House. Thamel: Tuesdays 4-5pm Kathmandu Environment Education Project, Thamel; Thursdays 7-8pm Bamboo Club Restaurant, Thamel. Saturdays 5-6pm New Orleans Cafe, Thamel. spinybabbler@mos.com.np. 542810, 540735.
- Poetry, Meditation, Music Learn practical techniques of meditation to find peace for positive living. Live meditative music, poetry, short lecture on spirituality. Srim Chimony Centre and Budhanikhar School. Budhanikhar School Auditorium, Hall 2. 9am-11am. Free. 412345, 412434.
- Discourse Swan Subodhanda, Jam Mandir, KalamPokhari, Chirmana Singh Nepal, in Hindi. 1-7 June. 7.30am-8.30am (Durga Drishya Vivek), 5.30pm-7pm (Ram Charan Manas). 521-379
- The Club, Bhatathareni Rusty Nails play Friday nights. 7pm, free. Saturday poolside BBQ, bingo, music. Ratling, 2. June. Includes one night at the Riverside Spring Resort, BBQ, breakfast theclub@ntc.net.np. 426238, 416430

EXHIBITION

- If Bodies have Voices From the Street. Kathmandu. 1850-1995. Photographs by Wayne Amtris. 25 May-11 June. Amtris reads from his collection City on His Back. 3 June, 4pm.
- Mani: Jewelled Words of Tibetan-Buddhism on Flags, Wheels, and Stones Fulbright Scholar Katherine Anne Paul’s research on the popular use and manufacture of Tibetan religious artefacts in Nepal. Until 2 June. Bamboo Gallery, Panipokhari. 412507

BOOKWORM

Mahaludri: The Quintessence of Mind and Meditation Tulku Tashi Namgyal, trans. Lobang P.Lhakngupa Mortial Banarsidass Publishers, Delhi, 1993/2001 Rs 792

The first English translation of a major Buddhist manual detailing the various stages and practices for training the advanced level of Mahayana and Vajrayana traditions. The original Tibetan text was composed by Namgyal (1512-1587), a great lama and scholar of the Kagyu Buddhist sect.

The Concoced Essence of the Hevaja Tantra GW Farrow, I Menon Mortial Banarsidass Publishers, Delhi, 1992/2001 Rs 632

The Hevaja Tantra is one of two dual Yogic tantras of the late Mantrayana Buddhist traditions composed in north-east India in the late eighteenth century. This text constitutes the essence of sophisticated, but controversial, tantric methods and is an authoritative account of the classic tantric period of India in religious history (5-13 century).

Great Eastern Sun: The Wisdom of the Shambhala Ogyen Trungpa Shambhala Publications, Boston, 1999 Rs 1875

The follow-up to Shambhala: The Path of the Warrior. Trungpa addresses our deepest fears the alienation of modern life, depression, materialism, aggression, anger, anxiety, and lack of self-worth. He says we are all powerful and genuine individuals who need to ignite the warrior within.

Teachings from the Vajrasattva Retreat: Land of Medicine Buddha, February-April 1999 Lama Zopa Rinpoche Lama Yeshi Wisdom Archive, Weston, Mass., 2000 Rs 1,500

“Doing Vajrasattva retreat is not simply about reciting the mantra and saying these prayers. It is about making the practice effective for your mind, making it the quickest, most powerful way to transform your mind.” Lama Zopa Rinpoche

For insertions ring NT Marketing at 543333-36.

VAK YET YAK

TO BE OR NOT TO BE

THE FUTURE OF THE PAPERS

by MKU

Nepali Weather

KATHMANDU

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This satellite picture shows a fine series of southwesternly trade winds building up from the southern Arabian sea right up to the eastern coast of Thailand—indicating that the monsoon is off to a healthy start. These winds will in the next few weeks head towards Bangladesh and take a sharp left turn to be over eastern Nepal by 10 June. Till then, we will see a series of weather cells moving from west to east bringing thunderstorms and occasional heavy bursts of rain characteristic of pre-monsoon showers. Finally, monsoon winds will chase the westerlies away and that is when the rainy season will officially start. (See “Monsoon moods” p.10-11). So far, the onset of the monsoon is right on schedule. Long-term forecasts also show a healthy advance of the monsoon over June and July.
If bodies have voices

by NINA BHATT

P art Wayne Amtzis’ photographic exhibition currently on display at the Siddhartha Art Gallery compels its viewers to acknowledge the difficult socio-economic circumstances experienced by Kathmandu Valley child laborers, abandoned women, petty traders and porters. The collection of 43 black and white photographs is an uncompromising hard portrait of the vicissitudes of modern urban life. It depicts the drudgery of physical labor, moments of hopeless respite from work, solitary mad women, dejected street vendors, and elders whose foreworn brown bear testament to their struggles to eke a daily wage.

What is remarkable about this ten-year retrospective is the intimate engagement between the artist and his subjects. These photographed are aware they are objects of the camera’s gaze, yet there is an unusual degree of consent, albeit momentary, to allow Amtzis to penetrate their lives. Both parties tacitly acknowledge that a kind of intrusion is occurring, but somehow appear to recognize that this intrusiveness, on this occasion, with the sympathetic nature of this camera lens, must happen. Thus do the subjects engage directly with the viewer, unselfconsciously offering a piece of their troubled lives. This frankness reveals itself more the longer one spends on each photograph.

Take for instance, the Youth at Jawalakhel (#9). This handsome boy is seated for a brief respite from his work as a porter. At any moment, his name will be called out to him to load a load probably beyond his capacity. His facial expression is one of explicit engagement. He seems fresh, still innocent, but his eyes have begun to ask “why me?” As viewers, we can ensure a narrative as we move on to the young man in National Refrigerators Gairidhara (#12). He seems to designate the future of the boy from #9. Yet a sense of determination still emerges in his face and eyes. This young man knows his life is hard, but he hasn’t succumbed to resignation and despair.

The people whose portraits appear in this exhibit are cornered by the walls and streets of Kathmandu. The huddled wire they hang to, the ropes looped around their bodies and hands tell us how bound and limited are their lives. Representing “everyman”—they symbolize the drudgery carried out daily by millions of Nepalis. In a wider sense Amtzis’ photographs provide a global commentary on the edge urban workers and denizens of the street. Giving themselves the time these portraits deserve, the viewers can move beyond cursory impressions and appreciate the exhibition’s complexity and subtlety. With patient scrutiny, what emerges are highly personalized “voices” which convey narratives specific to each individual.

The serendipitous timing of the taking of these photographs (1985-1995) makes for disheartening political commentary. In today’s Kathmandu “democracy” has arrived. Civil sector groups and NGOs flourish; politicians wax eloquent while expatriate and local development practitioners continually reproduce new “agendas.” Meanwhile, life for those depicted here remains unchanged.

As a complement to this exhibit, Amtzis will read at the gallery from his poetry collection, “City on his Back” at 6 PM on Sunday, June 3.

From the Street Kathmandu 1985-1995

(Kiran Manandhar, Everest Contemporary Art Gallery, Arcadia Building, Thamel.)
Under My Hat

by Kunda Dixit

Suef excel

June issue on stands next week