**War budget**

Finance minister Ram Saran Mahat had no choice but to give the army and police hefty increases in the budget. The army got a 17 percent rise to add up to Rs4.42 billion, about 97 percent of which is to be spent on hardware. The police including the Nepal Police Force got a 22 percent rise for Rs2.75 billion. Of that, Rs2.06 billion is to upgrade the guns and helicopters. The total security budget is now Rs7.17 billion, 25 percent of the total. (1, 2)

Feb 21, 1999: The wanton activities have been harming the economy, they have tempted industrial producers.

Mahat has no choice but to give money for health, vaccination and other services. In a country like Nepal, where the majority of the population has to survive on less than the average size of a potato, the increase in the security budget is about a third of the total. The last bit of the budget is the implementation, and that depends entirely on the insurgency. On that also hinges the ability of the government to keep investors that are already in the country, and attract others.

The government has to keep the peace through talks, projects to be about a third of the total Rs16 billion. Mahat has managed to address one of the major problems faced by entrepreneurs. He has decided to introduce the "pass book" system and make a 60 rupees customs duty payable within three years from the date of clearance, a system that has been in vogue before. While parameters are to be set for 2002/3 and beyond, the government has set a target of reducing the number of defectsives at a 12 percent annual rate.

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**You will enjoy more democratic rights under the New Democracy than you are enjoying today.**

Baburam Bhattarai, Politburo Member of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) replied in English to written questions next week by Nepal Times. The Maoist leader replies thoughtfully on issues such as the war's status, future of the people's war, policy towards development and other rows, the Nepali democracy and its "situation" in terms of its function. Following is an unedited transcript of the faxed response:

Nepal Times: After six years of the people's war and over 2,000 Nepalis dead, do you think the government is serious about dialogue? Was it not the government's readiness for a meaningful dialogue if the government creates a conducive atmosphere, at least by making public the conditions of the more than 200 "missing" persons, the government can show its willingness and goodwill, the best way to fight rebels. The test of the budget is the implementation. And that depends entirely on the insurgency. On that also hinges the ability of the government to keep investors that are already in the country, and attract others.

NT: The government says your party is not interested in "negotiated settlement". You should ask them.

BB: Our Party has time and again expressed the opinion that a meaningful dialogue, with the prospects of "negotiated settlement" to the war, is a need of the hour. Realistically, the hopes any armed struggle has in the past. We feel the "price" paid by the Nepalese masses so far in the six years of the people's war has been definitely worth it.

NT: After six years of the people's war has been definitely worth it. Nothing more, or less. Will the reactionary ruling classes hand over state power through a "negotiated settlement"? You should ask them.

BB: The armed struggle is an essential part of the revolutionary process in terms of human casualties, the total state power for the oppressed masses. Our openly stated goal is till the very end or not, depends not on our pious wishes but on the objective and subjective conditions of the revolution, particularly on the policy of the ruling classes. Our openly stated goal is always how can you blame us on the question of dialogue?

NT: Is your armed struggle going to be a target industrial production?

BB: Our Party has time and again expressed the opinion that a meaningful dialogue, with the prospects of "negotiated settlement" to the war, is a need of the hour. Realistically, the hopes any armed struggle has in the past. We feel the "price" paid by the Nepalese masses so far in the six years of the people's war has been definitely worth it.
The ‘price’ of the people’s war is worth it?

From p.1

PRESIDENT NAMDEBU BHANDARI’S CONCERTED EFFORTS to overcome the Maoist insurgency, the lack of support from the political parties and the international community and the US-led war against terrorism have not yet worked as anticipated. Since the declaration of a “state of emergency” on 15 January 2006, the Maoists have stepped up their terrorist activity and the Nepalese people have been living in fear. Instead of pursuing a peaceful solution, the government has resorted to repression and violence. In this context, I would like to discuss the following issues:

1. The relationship between the government and the Maoists: The government, under the leadership of Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, has adopted a hardline policy towards the Maoists. It has been using brute force and military手段 to suppress the Maoists, while the Maoists have been resorting to violent tactics. This has led to a situation where both sides are trapped in a cycle of violence and neither side is willing to engage in meaningful dialogue.

2. The impact of the state of emergency: The state of emergency has resulted in the arrest of hundreds of innocent people, and many are still in detention without trial. The government has also been using the state of emergency to crack down on political opponents and journalists.

3. The role of the international community: The international community, particularly the European Union, the United States, and India, has been providing military and financial support to the government. This has led to a situation where the government is acting with impunity and the international community is failing to hold it accountable.

4. The impact of the Maoist insurgency on the economy: The Maoist insurgency has had a devastating impact on the economy. The tourism sector, which is a major source of foreign exchange, has been hit hard, and many businesses have been forced to shut down.

5. The impact of the Maoist insurgency on the media: The government has been压制ing the media and has been using violence and intimidation to silence criticism.

In conclusion, I believe that it is necessary to pursue a peaceful solution to the conflict, and to do so, the government needs to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Maoists. The international community also needs to hold the government accountable and to provide support for a peaceful solution.

LETTERS

“Just a question of time and patience”

By RUPAK SINGH KHANDU, JAKARTA

In a paper presented at the 45th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva last March, Rupak Singh Khandu, the Nepalese ambassador to Indonesia, said that the Nepalese government is committed to a peaceful solution to the insurgency and that the Maoists are also willing to engage in dialogue.

Khandu said that the government has taken several steps to address the crisis, including the declaration of a state of emergency and the arrest of hundreds of opponents. He said that the government is committed to a peaceful solution, and that it is ready to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Maoists.

Khandu also said that the international community should provide support for a peaceful solution. He said that the European Union and the United States have been providing military and financial support to the government, and that this has led to a situation where the government is acting with impunity.

Khandu said that the Maoists are also willing to engage in dialogue, and that they are ready to negotiate a peaceful solution. He said that the government and the Maoists need to work together to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Khandu also said that the government is committed to preserving human rights, and that it is ready to engage in dialogue with the international community to address the human rights situation.

In conclusion, Khandu said that the government is committed to a peaceful solution to the conflict, and that the international community should provide support for this effort. He said that the government and the Maoists need to work together to achieve a peaceful solution, and that this is the only way to end the conflict.

“I believe that Rupak Singh Khandu’s statement is correct, and that the government and the Maoists are both willing to engage in dialogue. The international community should provide support for this effort, and the government and the Maoists need to work together to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict.”
When the going gets tough

Nepal isn’t a bed of roses, there are many things to be gloomy about. But the blessings and potential are still on the positive side of the ledger

Air, gas and electric

This is a tale of broken promises, corruption and botched attempts at providing Valley residents safe, reliable and clean public transport.

Saddique Agarwal, technical director of the DOTM, has been in charge of regulating proposed new technologies, new conversion and not available for comment. In December 1999, the MGOPE, under pressure from Vikram owners, announced a 99 percent VAT exemption for Vikram owners who made a one-time payment of Rs 130,000. In April 2000, the MGOPE increased its exemption to 99 percent plus 5 percent for the local fuel. The regulation also raised a conversion fee for the local fuel which was later reduced, affecting the emission levels, and the emission standards were raised to 15 for passenger cars—nine times the pressure on the vehicles, which then came the next waive. A few months later another announcement—99 percent waiver on import duty and 100 percent waiver on VAT—was given for four-wheelers that can run on gas. To qualify, those four-wheelers had to be certified meet the regulatory standards. The government had power to make such changes to the policy they wrote and relied on. It has a tendency to commercialise and corruption—officials at the Department of Transport Management...and they don’t seem to have noticed that the policy they wrote and relied on contradicts their own guidelines.

Transport sector watchers say it is too early to conclude that the victory in the budget became a larger problem remains completely unaddressed. “The government wants to immediately move the mandate, open competition that will allow them to choose the Department of Transport Management. Without that, the problem of air pollution remains unsolved,” says Agarwal, who is already faced with the task of getting the vehicles to the country’s emissions standards. “If it does not, we will ignore every last management rule.”

When the going gets tough, I turn to someone in all to stop thinking about ourselves and a little more realistic points of view, open and optimistic. We can sometimes, somehow look beyond a problem to see real growth, say, get real, get a life and start focusing the whole of what we’ve got.

In Canada, we hear it again and again and again. Oh how dreadful things go in Nepal. The fuel sector is up a bundle after bandh after bandh. The Minister of Industry and Commerce over the噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔噔蹬
the standards, which have to be
enforced though the concerned
agencies.

The petitioners also mentioned that,
under the Ministry of Petroleum,
higher standards had been set for
LPG run vehicles.

“A car that is running on
LPG has to be cleaned up to a
level of 500 ppm, while the petrol
run vehicles are allowed to
spew 11,000 ppm,” said a
petitioner.

Yet another petitioner said that,
the government should be
launched on the road, which
should be fixed to meet the
standard.

The court, however, has not
passed its final judgement.

The case is pending in the
Supreme Court.

Source: nepalitimes.com

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### Stepping up the ante

**BINO BHATTARAI**

There have been all sorts of reports and claims from various sources about the situation in the eastern and mid-western districts of Nepal. The Maoists, according to some reports, have been active in these areas, leading to violence and unrest. The government, on the other hand, has been taking steps to counter the Maoists, including deploying the army and the police in these regions.

Despite these efforts, the violence continues, with reports of killings and attacks on security forces. The situation has been tense, with both the government and the Maoists exchanging blame for the ongoing conflict.

The government has been facing challenges in implementing its policies in these areas, with a lack of support from the local population and a divided political landscape. The Maoists, on the other hand, have been able to mobilize support from some of the local communities, using their base in the eastern and mid-western districts.

The conflict has caused significant suffering for the people, with reports of displacement, destruction of property, and loss of life. The international community has been concerned about the situation, with some expressing concerns about the impact on the peace process and the wider implications for the stability of the country.

The government has been working to address these challenges, but the situation remains tense, with both sides continuing to engage in violence. The international community has been calling for a peaceful resolution, with some urging the government to take bold steps to end the conflict.
Real social development arises out of the peoples’ own understandings and agreements for their future.

Children (UK). The views expressed here are personal. Simon Mollison works for Save the Children. Kabindra Pradhan works on his farm in Butwal.

We farmers don’t expect our chicken to go swimming or our cows to lay eggs. We treat poultry and livestock according to their nature. Our present crop of politicians from all parties are feudal in their habits, exposed to feudalism and life in opposition: leading strikes, hijacking ministers and a large population of resource-poor farmers. What next? I have a gosling in my farm that latches on to the first moving thing, taking it for its mother. Our politicians have similarly been brought up something of this sort is happening in a development project. When a project is merely a form of patronage, expansion of the project is achieved by expansion of the funding. Thus if it costs 100 money units to work with 100 people it will cost 200 money units to cover 200 people.

So now, we have a community of resource-rich, voter-sensitive citizen farmers as their ultimate masters, and not just a means to get something out at the end of the chain is the more likely it is that the very poor will be excluded from the project and that relatively comfortable, if still poor farmers, villagers will be the main beneficiaries of the project. All seems to go well until the work is stopped because of the drying of the dikes. Then, as soon as any money runs out to continue the programme which they have been engaged in, and no work is done, the people of good good work seem to come to a standstill. But at the same time the community in the project has doubled, so there is more work to do.

There is not a separate nourished child for every hungry child. When a project is designed, there is not an equivalent expansion of funding. Thus if it costs 100 money units to work with 100 people it will cost 200 money units to cover 200 people. It is because the first 100 people require the same “support” as the newly added 100 people. Where people are being truly “empowered”, there should be an expectation that the process these people want should be more than the original process, included an exponential expansion might be aspired to.

This is because in the first 100 people there have been 100 positive experiences, but in the second 100 people there are only 100 positive experiences, in the sense that they are self-sufficient in knowledge, in the sense that the first 100 people will need to help the next 100 people so that the original budget can save more money to cover the 200. Many development workers believe this but they believe it is not what one expects, it is not efficient, it is not sustainable.

We give this syndrome the name “backwardness.” The name itself means the people’s greed—ever so often a social development practitioner is said to have failed because people “want more”. One lesson is clear: if the people need to be pulled or pushed, it is easier to do it with “crowd sourcing”. But Vera Sackman (1994) has demonstrated that the powerful donors are not as interested in “crowd sourcing” because the pump is the donor.

We farmers have found the same “good intentions” of the government. We expect our politicians to act as “helpers” and we are told that the people will act “participants” unless we make them work on their farm. But when we look at the rice sharing examples of helping social development, what we see is that the people participate creatively and successfully. They are often not at their best when they are given the opportunity to try something new.

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**Glad GDP tidings**

The government estimates Nepal's Gross Domestic Product grew by 5.5 percent in Fiscal 2000/01 down by 0.5 percentage points from the previous year. Agricultural growth by about four percent and the non-agricultural sector by 6.3 percent. The GDP growth in 1999/00 was 6.4 percent. The projections in the Economic Survey were based on the performance in the first six months of Fiscal 2001. Agricultural accounts for about 40 percent of the GDP and a substantial portion of this growth was due to increased production of rice, the main crop grown in the country.

**Leastest summer yet**

Nepal Tourism Board reported an overall 57 percent drop in tourist arrivals in June compared to the previous year. The number of tourist arrivals in June increased by 26 percent to 12,166. According to the Board, the number of tourists arriving at Tribhuvan International Airport was 2,588, which is an increase of 18 percent from the previous year. The number of tourist arrivals at the four international airports in the country was 2,314, an increase of 22 percent from the previous year. The number of tourist arrivals at the four domestic airports in the country was 2,314, an increase of 22 percent from the previous year.

**Scoot off**

Kathmandu-based Scoot off is a new ñ option to air travel in Nepal. The airline is a subsidiary of Silk Air, a Singapore-based airline. Scoot off operates flights to destinations in Asia and the Middle East. The airline has a fleet of five aircraft, including Airbus A320 and Boeing 737. Scoot off operates flights to destinations in Asia and the Middle East. The airline has a fleet of five aircraft, including Airbus A320 and Boeing 737.

**Care for kidneys**

Shakeri Thein Company has launched a new herbal kidney tea which is said to help improve kidney function and reduce the risk of kidney disease. The tea contains herbs that are considered to be kidney-friendly and can help improve kidney function. The tea is distributed in retail stores and hospitals in Nepal. The tea is marketed as a natural remedy for kidney disease.

**ECONOMIC SENSE**

**Everybody says ho-hum**

The budget takes away from its own authority. A major challenge facing the economy is to formulate a budget that is credible and can be trusted. The budget document is often seen as a collection of promises and goals that are not achievable. The budget needs to be revised to include measures that can be implemented and that will benefit the economy.

**Nepal Tourism Board reported an overall 57 percent drop in tourist arrivals in June compared to the previous year. The number of tourist arrivals in June increased by 26 percent to 12,166. According to the Board, the number of tourists arriving at Tribhuvan International Airport was 2,588, which is an increase of 18 percent from the previous year. The number of tourist arrivals at the four international airports in the country was 2,314, an increase of 22 percent from the previous year. The number of tourist arrivals at the four domestic airports in the country was 2,314, an increase of 22 percent from the previous year.**
The FNCCI will elect new office bearers next week and Rishi Bhakta Shrestha is to be the new president. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, FNCCI president in last controlling term, however, has not yet set up his new office. He is currently busy with other things, including writing his upcoming book, ‘Nepal: A Short History’.

The government has asked the FNCCI to submit its new programme within the next two weeks. The FNCCI has said it will submit its programme to the government at the right time.

The FNCCI has been looking for a new president since the last elections. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, who was the president of FNCCI in the last term, is now busy with his book, ‘Nepal: A Short History’. He has not set up his new office yet.

The FNCCI has been asked to submit its new programme to the government within the next two weeks. The FNCCI is looking for a new president and has said it will submit its programme to the government at the right time.

You have visibility and respect, and you are the only organisation that can deliver. Your success will spur others on to take up similar initiatives. The FNCCI has more promise?

The FNCCI has a future, we say. It has a lot of potential and can grow. There are areas we need to correct. We need to look at how we can make the FNCCI more effective and build up the district units. The FNCCI has a lot of potential and can grow. There are areas we need to correct. We need to look at how we can make the FNCCI more effective and build up the district units.

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Nailo, nilo gama man

Bhanubhakta has been credited with making Nepal a unifying lingua franca, but some are not sure.

There has been much debate—some extend to violence—about the poet’s place in the nation’s psyche. His name means “the sun,” and for several generations of Nepalis, the sun had been a metaphor for Bhanubhakta. The poet was born in a small village called Chisapani, near Kathmandu, in 1846, and he is remembered for his contributions to the Nepali language.

Bhanubhakta wrote in the sun, and his works have illuminated the path for many subsequent poets. His influence extends beyond the Nepali-speaking world, and his legacy is felt far beyond the borders of his homeland.

The poet’s works have been translated into many languages, and his influence has spread to many cultures. His legacy continues to be celebrated in various ways, and his spirit lives on in the hearts of many people.

Today, Bhanubhakta is remembered as a national hero, and his works continue to inspire new generations of poets and writers. His legacy is a testament to the power of literature to bring people together and to create a common identity.

Bhanubhakta’s works continue to be studied and analyzed, and his legacy continues to be celebrated in various ways. His works continue to inspire new generations of poets and writers, and his spirit lives on in the hearts of many people.
Nilo, nilo gagan ma

Deep Shrestha

Nepali music-lovers are no longer satisfied with mediocrity. And our singers, lyricists and musicians are responding.

When Nilo and Gagan Ma were released in 1961, it was considered an innovation to release so many songs in one album. This was unheard of in those times. The original LP was a great success and set a new trend in Nepali music.

Nilo, by Nilo Gagan Ma, was recorded in 1961 and became an instant hit. The album featured music by the famous composer Niroj Thapa and was produced by Radio Nepal. It was the first LP to be released in Nepal and it set a new standard for Nepali music.

The success of Nilo and Gagan Ma encouraged other musicians to experiment with new sounds and styles. This led to the development of Adhunik music, which combined modern sounds with traditional Nepali melodies.

The decade starting 1968 was Nepali Adhunik's most inspiring, productive period, with lots of experimental and avant garde music being composed by people like Nati Kaji, Amber Gurung and Gopal Yonzon, all of whom were well-versed with a range of western and eastern music. Here, the Darjeeling Diaspora stood out: Sharad Pradhan, Karma Yonzon, Jitendra Bardewa. There were locals too, like Pranab Mandal, Pratap Mani Gurung and Deep Shrestha. But in the decade 1983-93, Nepal Adhunik entered a phase reminiscent of the guitar rock scene of the 1960s. "Nepali music was more led by the singer," says the author. "We also saw the emergence of Nepali singer-songwriters who began recording their own music. This was a big change from the old nepali stages where only a few artists had their own bands."

Today, music is a Rs 150 million industry, with some 250 albums of all genres from folk to pop being released every year. Regular demand of songs shows how music has helped the music industry to earn extra income. Kunti Moktan and Nalina Chitrakar, whom we interviewed are also busy working on their new albums to be released in the next few months. Many contemporary singers have experimented with digital synthesizers. "Upcoming musicians are more focused on the lyrics and melody of the song," says Sanjay Shrestha, musician and recordist at Omni Phonics studio in Balaju. The growing fame of Nepali music is also marked by the music distributor's rush to buy the copyright from popular artists. The price ranges from Rs 50,000 to Rs 150,000. The song "Nilo Gagan Ma" is one of the most popular songs in the market and is sold in over 80 percent of the copies sold. The song has been recorded in Bollywood and other film versions.

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Deep Shrestha

Kunti Moktan

SALIL SUBEDI

MIN BAJRACHARYA
**Worldwide web of domination**

**Will the new World Bank development portal overshadow the diversity of opinions on the Internet?**

TANYA BIRKEBECK IN LONDON

When it comes to the Internet and its role in promoting development, it seems that everyone is use of the tool, but few agree on how to reach it. The World Bank, the United Nations and various NGO's all say they want to transform the lives of poor people. And, from the point of view of those working in computer and Internet saturated developed nations, technology appears to be the obvious answer. On 30 July, the World Bank will be launching an ambitious project, the Development Gateway (www.developmentgateway.org). The Gateway bills itself as a place where “worlds of knowledge meet”—an Internet portal designed to bring together “communities, organisations and individuals” in an effort to reduce poverty.

The launch will come on the back of the latest UN Human Development Report (HDR), the annual publication documenting progress made by nations in improving their people's quality of life. The HDR for 2001 argues that “information and communications technology...can actually make major contributions to reducing world poverty.” That is also the promise that the Gateway is making. But it is no simple issue. The HDR notes that most of the potential benefits of technology actually bypass poor people, because of a lack of market demand and inadequate public funding. “Technology creates in the private sector response to the needs of high-income consumers, rather than the needs of those who have little purchasing power.”

With less than one-half percent of sub-Saharan Africans and South Asians using the Internet, it is easy to see why critics doubt that a project such as the Development Gateway will succeed in bringing the digital and other divides between the wealthy nations of the North and the poor of the South. “Diaspora, globally stored information is not a development tool,” argues Alex Wilks of the Brettan Wood's Project, a Britain-based campaigning group that monitors the World Bank and the IMF. Wilks, who has been following the evolution of the Development Gateway since the inception of the idea, has many reservations about the nature of the project. “A list of people will feel alarmed by the way the site is set up,” he says. Wilks is concerned that the structure of the Gateway Website is too hierarchical and that it will act as a filter rather than a disseminator of data. He compares the Gateway to an “imperial gated community.” He adds, “It’s not your right to be there, it’s only if you are granted access by the gatekeepers.”

Now in the hands of the World Bank, the Gateway will be passed over to what will be known as the Gateway Foundation. While the Foundation will technically be independent of the World Bank, any shared learning with development information initiative, “Annette Eyerbeun, APC’s executive director, told us. “However, we feel that the Development Gateway, in past it simply, is trying to be too much, for too many, at an outrageous cost.” In a policy paper, Eyerbeun notes that some example of knowledge sharing over the Internet, such as the World Bank’s Global Knowledge mailing list, launched in 1997, have been unable to shake off their identity as projects that are initiated and mediated by industrialized countries. “This is not to say that access to information and communications technologies are not an important tool for development,” she writes. “But it does not create development.” Eyerbeun, like Wilks, worries that the Gateway may unintentionally end up competing with local initiatives. “The Internet is a very public space,” adds Wilks. “For the World Bank it is a nightmare. Small organisations can set up and will be difficult to rise. We want long time been very dominant, and now it’s threatened by the pluralism.”

Dr David Gatenset, a lecturer in social communications at the University of Lough in Britain, notes that “the Internet is the very nature of the Internet to be pluralistic.” “The World Bank may well want everyone interested in development issues to use their gateway. But the good thing about the Internet is that users can always look for, and usually find, alternatives,” he says. “The word contains many meanings, and whether the World Bank likes it or not, people will access resources more challenging sites.”

Gatenset feels that whenever an institution with particular political or ideological leanings sets up a supposedly authoritative website, it shall these stay against. In Development Gateway’s prototype edition, only a tiny World Bank logo can be found—at the bottom of the main page. Development Gateway’s head of communications, Connie Eysenck, says the whole debate over the Bank project has been blown out of proportion. She says this month’s launch is part of an on-going building-in process. And John Garrison, Gateway’s head of Civil Society, adds that the Development Gateway “doesn’t want to be a super gateway in which everyone has to come to our platform. We want to be one more portal... that hooks into existing portals.”

Neither does the Gateway want to put other portals out of business, says Garrison. He points to the independent Latin American portal ALDIP (Latin American Association of Promotion Organizations): “They didn’t want to work with Gateway because of the World Bank. We’re very comfortable with that, and we are working with them. We are working with them.” Wilks, who has been following the Development Gateway's prototype, says that the new World Bank portal has already had a hand in the project. “Some superpowers of have been made” over who will be running the gateway in each country. And with some successful country sites already up and running, such as Uruguay’s www.unugu.org, total.com, Wilks argues that it may be counter-productive to put up more. “In the end it will just give more prominence to those who are already having no trouble making their voices heard,” thus widening the existing digital divide.

Already, some organisations in developing countries are saying they will stay out of the Development Gateway. One such, the South Africa-based Association for Progressive Communications (an Internet site that focuses on the environment, human rights, development and peace) has opted for what it calls “constructive disengagement” with the Gateway. “We have talked with the World Bank about the initiative,” she writes. “But when asked how the Development Gateway will maintain editor independence when large corporations can buy a seat on the Gateway Foundation, Eysenck admits she does not have an answer. “It hasn’t been put in place yet,” she says. “You have to see this very much as something that is being developed.”
From red to green?

The Chinese Communist Party is finally “changing its colour”.

BERLIN – Truth is a lie,” Alfred Hitchcock famously said. But inside many of the world’s governments, the phrase has taken on new meaning. In countries such as China, ex-communists now wield real power. They are also these governments’ official spin doctors.

Today’s China, like many other global powers, is re-educating its officials to change the way they think. A surge of corruption is the first challenge the CCP is facing. Rampant corruption is the most formidable challenge to the CCP’s legitimacy. The raging emissions problem is the second. Both are serial “problems” that are not going away. The Chinese government is under pressure to start solving them.

In 1990, the Chinese Academy of Sciences published a remarkable report indicating that China could become a “developed” country in 2020 if it continues on its present trajectory. There is a sense that the CCP’s legitimacy is being eroded.

The CCP’s modus operandi is not going to change. It will continue to use its Party apparatus to pressure and control people. The Party will continue to influence the mass media, including the Internet. The training of the next generation of CCP officials will continue to focus on the Party’s need to maintain control over the social sphere, from schools and universities to the Internet.

The CCP’s legitimacy will be further strengthened by the support of millions of people who are disillusioned with the Western system. The CCP’s model of centrally controlled planning and state-controlled media is seen as more desirable than the Western model of capitalism and free markets. The CCP’s control over the media and the Internet is seen as a way to ensure social stability.

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The most sensible option for the Indian and Pakistani governments to tackle their issues as friends.

Urvashi Butalia

India and Pakistan have a long history of conflict, but recent efforts at peace talks have shown some promise. The recent Indian general election has also brought new hope for peace. The two countries share a long border, and issues such as water, terrorism, and refugees have long been sources of tension. The recent election of a new government in India has been seen as a positive development, with some hoping that this could lead to greater cooperation between the two neighbors.

The upcoming visit of the Indian prime minister to Pakistan is also seen as a positive sign. The two countries have agreed to hold trade talks and to work towards resolving the issue of prisoners of war.

Despite these positive developments, there are still many challenges to overcome. The issue of Kashmir remains unresolved, and there are also concerns about terrorism and the situation in the region.

Despite these challenges, there is a growing sense of hope that the two countries may be able to find a way to cooperate and work towards a peaceful future. The recent election in India has been seen as a step in the right direction, and the upcoming visit of the Indian prime minister to Pakistan is also seen as a positive development.

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Parliament must have the power to question and keep a watch on the character of the heir apparent

Naradhi Acharya, former NC spokesman Kantipur, 29 June

...the royal palace has a larger share of responsibilities and duties. The UML, as the main opposition party, also has its share of responsibilities and likewise all other parties have to perform their duties.

...immediately after the 1 June incident, all Nepal had hoped that a meeting of all representation would be called, meaning parliament would either take back state of the situation. It might have been reached to conclusion, but the people of the country hat, in their honestly and insistence, hoped for this. By that time it already proved that the NC Council were incompetent. The royal family had also spoken of their renunciation in the audience. Those who are forced by the situation of the nation. The NC has never owned a sitting parliament and that situation with all present parties.

...the matters about the monarchy needily the incident will have to be looked into by parliament. Some of the major concerns are:
1. The laws and regulations concerning accession to the throne.
2. The issue of parliament not to develop or discuss the character of the heir apparent.
3. The issue of the current constitutional setup concerning the heir apparent in the king.
4. The 1 June incident and the participation of the NC in the election of the new constitution.

Similarly, parliament has to reflect its policy of not questioning, or expressing doubt about the behaviour of the character of the heir apparent. Today parliament has to reflect its responsibility. It has to show that parliament is showing an example of good government, it has to show that parliament is showing an example of good government in the past, it has to be shown that parliament is showing an example of good government.

The royal family is the witness to the world and the public. The royal family is the witness to the world and the public. The royal family is the witness to the world and the public.

Significance:

Agriculture

Nya Saathi, July 3rd

Vegetation Skills Workshop

Monday July 30 - Friday August 3

BCIC 3712.17
Sparring for the good life

BY GAVIN EVANS IN LONDON

Y ou can’t go far these days in Britain without being presented with the beaming smile of Audley Harrison. The nation’s undisputed Face of the Sydney Olympics has been effortlessly manoeuvring from amateur athletics to the world of billboards and celebrity. Harrison has gone from heroes to zeroes on the national stage to be embraced by the public. After sharing the spoils of victory with his bewildered team officials, the world’s undisputed ‘Face of the Sydney Olympics’ is now a face that advertises and relishes the limelight of celebrity.

Harrison was once seen as a future world champion. His service to British athletics included a stellar Olympic performance, a European title and a British championship. He was Britain’s super-heavyweight Olympic medal winner and became a world champion, and now he’s a part of the billboard industry. The former Olympic champion and world heavyweight champion is now the “Face of the Sydney Olympics” who is about to appear on a billboard near you.

Harrison’s transformation from athlete to celebrity is a testament to the evolution of British sport. The nation’s undisputed ‘Face of the Sydney Olympics’ has been embraced by the public, and his image is now recognized across the world. He has moved from the world of athletics to the world of billboards and celebrity, reflecting the changing landscape of sport in Britain.

Harrison’s journey from the Olympic podium to the world of advertising is a symbol of the changing face of sport in the UK. His transformation highlights the shift in perception of athletes from being mere competitors to becoming symbols of national pride and icons of sporting excellence.

Britain’s super-heavyweight Olympic medal winner boxer Audley Harrison is moving from amateur athletics to the world of billboards and celebrity.
The house of the living goddess

She must have thirty-two virtues, including an unblemished body, the voice of a bird, the neck of a duck.

Shared Learning

http://www.sharedlearning.org.uk
Several photographs and images are present in the document, including a clock showing the time and a comic strip featuring a bear and a bird. There are also references to events and activities, such as a concert at the Royal Opera House and a tennis tournament at the Himalayas Tennis Club. The document also includes a notice about the availability of a car for sale and a mention of the software package Adobe Creative Suite. There are also references to the publication of a book titled "Nepalese Political Behaviour in the 2001 General Elections" by Rao J.S. Bhattarai. The text also mentions the location of the Royal Opera House at Chabahil, Kathmandu, and provides details about its facilities and services.
THE MID-WEST IS RED

Does nothing shock us anymore? It was the highest casualty on a single night during the civil war, we lost forty policemen screaming, new attacks Marath killed six and three non-combatants dead. It was the largest number of Nepal’s killed by other Nepalis in a 24-hour period in our nation’s entire history.

How did we react? In Kathmandu our elected leaders were in their normal condi of power, backstaging endlessly. The guardians of our human rights were busy beingcordial. The confrontation in the capital was on a quiet level to Britain and we were in a particular reason to hurry home. Some argued cautiously that getting the army to fight the insurgency would invite civil war, but many asked, aren’t we already in the midst of a civil war? Among a month after the other slaughter in the royal palace, there was a murmuring sense of isolation, an apathy and silence that came close to condemning the killings.

Elsewhere across the country, turmoil and intimidation persisted by media spread low-intensity panic. The Maoists, building up to a bloody week that could see the destruction of their parallel peoples’ populace and regional government in the mid-west, appear to think that killing any lower 40 people doesn’t give them the headlines anymore. So the make their色调 out of narcotics show to police by using it in out ways.

The police, whose trials atrocities during Kisko Sierra Two in 1998-99 unleashed this savage revenge, has already lost the war physically, psychologically and morally. When blood flows so freely, and society is beclouded by violence and fear, it is difficult to think of solutions. Our parliamentary parties usually failed to unite during the national calamity of the royal tragedy, they are now failing repeatedly to evolve a joint plan to respond to the insurgency and offer a negotiated solution. It is in times of national crises like this that the constitutional process seems to mean a settlement. But the king is handicapped by an image problem.

The Maoists don’t even need to be brilliant military strategists when the enemy is so foolish, corrupt and self-centered that it seems underarmed, under-trained and under-equipped. They can keep the police off the streets and the jails full. The police is in a state of severe disarray.

We have said in many times in this space in the past year, there is no military solution to this insurgency, the only solution is political. The government knows it, and as long as it stays in the heart of the hearts the Maoists leaders must know it too.

Bichaur, Lamjung
7 July 2001

Borderline hope

By DEEJAL

After the dreadful calm of the capital valley and the merciless massacre of policemen across the hills, the tarai’s commotion of normality is a welcome relief.

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CONGRATULATIONS

The prime minister, flanked by the finance minister, walks with the rest of the cabinet from Singha Durbar to parliament to present the budget on 9 July.

Artistic PHALANX: The prime minister, flanked by the finance minister, walks with the rest of the cabinet from Singha Durbar to parliament to present the budget on 9 July.

Hope on the hilltop

Like thousands of Nepali children born with physical abnormalities, Sunita, 11, has been an ongoing battle with physical disabilities that have made her life difficult. She lives with a unique orthopaedic disorder called clubfoot. She has nearly come true: after surgery in Banepa, a year or two of physiotherapy and she will be on her feet again.

The need in Nepal is so great that despite everything we have done we are not even scratching the surface.

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Visit Nepal: You Have It All To Yourself

by Kunda Dixit

The best-kept secret in the Asia-Pacific tourism industry this season is not what you may be thinking: it is not the unspoilt rustic charm and local colour of the Democratic Peoples' Republic of North Korea. It is in fact our own land of the Danfe, Monal, Everest and Arniko. Unbeknownst to the rest of humanity, this is actually the best thing to happen to Nepal. From now on, only the society of the small is aware. The Nepal Tourism Board has finally realized that our country's potential is only limited to the number of tourists who come to see our country's best things. Unbeknownst to the rest of humanity, this is actually our best selling point this season, and has come up with another attractive slogan: "Visit Nepal While It's Still There."

Nepal's comparative advantage is apparent right at the point of departure, where, being the single passenger on the flight to Kathmandu, you get undivided attention our valued clients deserve. The luxury of being the only passenger misses in a very big way. The journey is the most luxurious flight from anywhere on earth to Kathmandu. At the terminal, you are greeted by pancha kanyas and accorded a 18-gun-salute by underemployed friskers. You will then inspect a guard of honour of assorted airport personnel as you are allowed to walk to the arrival terminal instead of being forced to take a 9.7 second ride in a Sajha Bus.

As you approach the building, you will find that for the first time since Nepal opened up to the outside world, you actually beat your luggage to the carousel. And so it is on to customs, where it used to be a custom to x-ray all incoming baggage. No more. All x-ray machines have been redeployed in the public health sector. As an arriving CIP, you will find that you have been cleared of all traffic of your arrival, and a special two-day bandh has been declared for the duration of your stay.

The great thing about a Nepal holiday these days is that the rest of the world doesn't know about it. Why go to Pyongyang? The important thing, however, is to keep your stay a closely-guarded secret so that others don't come rushing in. Promise not to tell anyone?

Visit Nepal: You Have It All To Yourself

Mathema-san

Making his diplomatic "Ps" and "Qs" is a 24-hour job, but Mathema hasn't kept Nepal's ambassador to the Chrysanthemum Throne, Kedar Bhakta Mathema, from trying his hand at verse. Mathema writes haiku to relieve stress. One of his own:

Sun rises
Behind tall buildings
Silently a new day

Seated in his tastefully decorated apartment in suburban Tokyo, comfortable in casual trousers and a cheerful shirt, Mathema admits that he is an odd man out. "I'm an introvert. Unlike career diplomats, I'm not so social and proper," he says. But after four years in Japan, from where he spoke after Nepal affairs in Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Korea, the former Tribhuvan University Vice Chancellor admits he has learnt to be more tactful and slightly subdued.

For the last month Mathema has been observing the mourning period following the death of Nepal's royal family. Nepalis in Japan, the Japanese imperial family and the Japanese people were shocked and like Nepal everywhere, they are trying to come to terms with the loss. In October, Crown Prince Dipendra had made an official visit to Japan. "He was extremely gracious, the visit was a huge success," Mathema remembers, shaking his shorn head.

But it isn't only princes and prime ministers who enjoy the ambassador's hospitality in Japan. The old Nepali inside—athletes, bureaucrats, are often served delicious daal bhat, and a drink at the Mathema residence. The ambassador's turnip is a great host. But his memories aren't always pleasant. "I invited a group of athletes here for Annapurna marathon and next I hear, a few don't make it on the plane back to Nepal," says the envoy. Mathema has to do all he can to discourage Nepalis overstaying in Japan.

An estimated 8,000-10,000 Nepalis live in Japan, many of them illegally. Japan's ties with Nepal are strong, and there is a common affinity for mountains, monarchy, and Buddhism that binds the two countries. Mathema is keen to revitalize Nepal's tarnished image and organise a positive media campaign in Japan.

Ramyata Limbu

MIN BAJRACHARYA

WIN STUFF EVERY WEEK - LOG ONTO: WWW.WAVEMAG.COM.NP

WIN

○ ○ ○ ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○

5 hours internet browsing for two.
Free Bowling
Two winners. A Keyboard for one and a mouse for the other.
3 Gift Hampers
Swimming or skating or pool or video game for two every week
The Cosmos Solarium
A gift every week.
Free CDevery week.