



June 1, 2001 page 8-9

## ONE YEAR LATER

**King Gyanendra balances his constitutional role with the need to help sort out the country's political crisis from behind-the-scenes.**

**KUNDA DIXIT**  
**O**ne year after his ascension to the throne following the massacre of nearly his entire family, King Gyanendra has had to overcome a deep personal tragedy while working discreetly behind the scenes to seek a way out of the country's political tumult.

Public figures who have met him in the past year told us in interviews that King Gyanendra seems acutely aware of the constitutional limitations to his authority as well as his persisting public image problem. But, they say, the king is impatient to get the country back on track.

Given the bleak and sorrow of one year ago, His Majesty has managed to come out of it, and he has played a very positive role," said one close royal relative. "But he really misses his family, and there are very few left who he can confide in."

King Gyanendra is said to be much more informal than his brother in family gatherings, and consults closely with Queen Mother Rama. Royal sources say Queen Koral has had a harder time. She lost her sister Queen Aishwarya on 1 June, and was seriously wounded by a bullet near her heart. The third sister, Princess Preksha, died in a helicopter crash on Lake Rara in November.

The king meets political leaders regularly, and aides say he tries to steer them towards transcending personal or party grievances and think of the national interest instead.

Sources confirmed that at times King Gyanendra shows signs of personal frustration at the political infighting and factionalism that continue despite a serious national crisis. But they denied that he had any intention of

taking the country back to the days of autocratic monarchs. One close aide told us: "You get the sense that His Majesty is keen to influence change within constitutional limits."

Interviewees agreed that King Gyanendra shares his brother Birendra's breadth of knowledge about the Nepal polity, and shows a willingness to listen. But they confirm that King Gyanendra is a much more decisive person. An example is the palace's formal endorsement of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's decision to dissolve parliament last week. The Prime Minister met the king at 9:45 PM, and the public announcement was made within two hours.

Public figures who have met the king say the 55-year-old monarch has already sketched a vision for Nepal in his mind, and the steps that need to be taken to get out of the political mess. "He does not tell us everything," said one close confidante. "He listens keenly, but keeps his decisions pretty much to himself."

King Gyanendra also brings with him his business experience. Some manifestations of his managerial skills may become more visible after 20 June, the astrological date when he officially comes out of the mourning period. His diary is already filling up: the royal visit to India is scheduled for 24-30 June, he returns to Nepal for his birthday on 7 July, and soon after will head off to China.

It is no secret that former prime minister Gijya Prasad Koirala had a strained relationship with the palace and the army. King Gyanendra appears to get along better with Sher Bahadur Deuba, which has prompted Koirala to publicly accuse Deuba of

trying to take the country back to the days of autocratic monarchs. One close aide told us: "You get the sense that His Majesty is keen to influence change within constitutional limits."

Interviewees agreed that King Gyanendra shares his brother Birendra's breadth of knowledge about the Nepal polity, and shows a willingness to listen. But they confirm that King Gyanendra is a much more decisive person. An example is the palace's formal endorsement of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's decision to dissolve parliament last week. The Prime Minister met the king at 9:45 PM, and the public announcement was made within two hours.

Public figures who have met the king say the 55-year-old monarch has already sketched a vision for Nepal in his mind, and the steps that need to be taken to get out of the political mess. "He does not tell us everything," said one close confidante. "He listens keenly, but keeps his decisions pretty much to himself."

King Gyanendra also brings with him his business experience. Some manifestations of his managerial skills may become more visible after 20 June, the astrological date when he officially comes out of the mourning period. His diary is already filling up: the royal visit to India is scheduled for 24-30 June, he returns to Nepal for his birthday on 7 July, and soon after will head off to China.

It is no secret that former prime minister Gijya Prasad Koirala had a strained relationship with the palace and the army. King Gyanendra appears to get along better with Sher Bahadur Deuba, which has prompted Koirala to publicly accuse Deuba of



From right to left at the Ghode Jara ceremony on 12 April: Queen Koral, King Gyanendra, Prime Minister Deuba and (standing) Chief of Army Staff, General Prajwal S Rana.

officials say they see a clear link between political instability and poor governance.

Concluded one insider: "We are very much aware that the donors

don't trust this government to handle any money. And the international community will also not look very kindly towards an autocratic takeover at this point."

**Editorial** p2  
**The next six months** p2  
**CK Lal** p2  
**A year after**

**EXCLUSIVE**

**The mess we're in**

It's even worse than we thought. The Central Bureau of Statistics says GDP growth this year will be 0.84 percent—the lowest ever in the past 20 years. The main culprit is political instability which has hit investment, trade, and tourism. Bad weather also affected harvests, which would have otherwise cushioned the impact. Growth in agricultural GDP will be only 1.72 percent, about a third of last year.

Manufacturing is looking even worse, taking a near six percent plunge. Carpet and garment exports are down by a quarter. As if all this weren't bad enough, revenue is down. "At best we may collect Rs 50 billion," a Finance Ministry source told us. This is far short of projections of Rs 60 billion, and will barely cover recurrent expenses. The only silver lining seems to be overseas remittances.

**Times** Weekly Internet Poll # 11

**Q. Do you think Prachanda is serious about peace this time?**

Total votes: 1820

**Q. Was it right for Prime Minister Deuba to dissolve parliament?**

**FLEXOUBE**  
 UNIVERSAL BANKING SOLUTION

**the unfair advantage**

i-flex solutions limited (formerly Laxmi Bank Limited) is the exclusive group of over 100 financial institutions worldwide who have introduced FLEXOUBE as their banking software.

FLEXOUBE has been ranked among the top ten banking systems in the world.

With the technological Laxmi Bank Limited is capable of providing safe, secure and reliable services to its customers through a complete range of delivery channels including internet and mobile devices.

We wish Laxmi Bank Limited success in future endeavors.

**i-flex**  
 i-flex solutions ltd.  
 empowering financial institutions globally



In the past three years, we have got used to saying that our nation is at the crossroads. Even though that metaphor has become threadbare, at no time has it been more true than today. Parliament is dissolved, elections are six months away, an emergency is imposed and barely three hours later 170 Nepalis are killed in the latest bloodbath. We don't quite have a constitutional crisis yet, but that is academic. We will get to the constitutional...

the pettiness of their concerns, and their short time-horizons that fed the furnaces of rebellion. The inability of rival cronies in the Nepal Congress to get along has ruined not just a one-crunch political party committed to the ideals of social democracy, but also impacted the nation. It is futile now to go into the blame game. The Nepal Congress is its own worst enemy. With a party like that, who needs an opposition? Ever since the 1990 elections in which it won a majority in parliament, the Nepali Congress has been busy trying to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. How can a party that can't even turn itself around see this fractious nation from the throes of crisis? Egged on by envy and ambition, Girma Prasad Koirala pushed Sher Bahadur Deuba against the wall and, true to his name, the Sher reacted like a cornered cat. He damned the consequences and dissolved parliament, effectively buying himself six more months in office. The two are now getting into serious name-calling. Deuba, rather unimagnavely, has called Girma a 'terrorist', while Girma says Deuba is a 'janta' 'chhaldin'.

The upshot of all this is that we are preparing for an election during a

state of the state



When the serpent-hooded Shaha throne was dethroned out of the ascension of King Gyanendra at Hanuman Dhoka last year, the future of the dynasty had never looked so uncertain. A shocked and confused populace was unwilling to accept the official explanation of the Narayanhiti massacre. Doubts were openly raised about the fate of an institution that had implored from its own innocents. In a cunning bid to cash in on the popular disenchantment, Dr Baburam Bhattarai wrote an incendiary op-ed piece for Kantipur. There were riots in the city, a curfew had to be imposed, and the army was deployed to restore

Memories

(Clockwise from left) The late King Birendra with his brother King Gyanendra resting during a trek from Tinsuli to Gorkha in 1967; with the late Queen Aishwarya and King Gyanendra at a London car showroom (1998); taking a brisk walk on a London street with Subhas Chandra Nema (1995); crossing a bridge on the 1967 trek; Prince Nirajan and Princess Sitajit in front of the Summer Palace, Beijing (1996). These pictures are taken from the collection of Dr Khagendra Bahadur Shrestha, Royal Physician, whose exhibition 'Remembering Late King Birendra... in my Pictures' runs at the Birendra International Convention Centre from May 31-4 June.



A year after King Gyanendra's reign has got off to a rocky start.

the power granted in the country, and nobody wants to stain the venerable institution with the blood of the Narayanhiti massacre—especially when the other institutions of state have turned out to be moral pygmies. Many desperately want to believe that the king is their saviour. How the mighty have fallen. The Royal Nepal Army lost face when it failed to save the life of its Supreme Commander-in-Chief. The enemy, as it happened, was not outside the palace walls, but within. The Hehen'fason then exposed the weakness of the defence establishment and the contradictions in our civilian-military relations. After that came Ghorahi, which shattered the illusion of the invincibility of the military, and despite later successes against the rebels, the debacle at Manglen was proof that this was not going to be as clean and swift as the government had hoped it would be. The media, lawmakers, the graft-busters and the judiciary soon got into a wrangle, ostensibly over a draft law meant to check corruption. Whether the exercise helped improve the bill is debatable—Upper House lawmaker Sher Bahadur Deuba's decision to impose a state of emergency was the final blow. Now, nobody other than the Maoists and the members of the security forces have any

of the institutions involved. The main opposition UML won the state of emergency when it disrupted the lower parliamentary session, managing to prevent even a single sitting. Hounded by media, chased by the opposition, undermined by the instruments of the government, and hassled by his own party members, Girma Prasad Koirala walked out of Singha Darbar moan in disgust than disgrace. Among other things, Koirala's resignation proved the powerlessness of the prime minister in a government that is supposed to have been modelled after the Westminster system. For a section of Nepali society, including the ill-intelligent, the Maoists had been a source of hope. The insurgents presented themselves as an alternative to the corrupt rule of Singha Darbar and politicians in general, and the glibly urban Nepali middle class brought the promise of utopia. But the Maoists squandered this support by using the ceasefire to regroup, reorganize, and harm; and then in November wrecked any hope for peace by taking on the army. In this enveloping darkness, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's decision to impose a state of emergency was the final blow. Now, nobody other than the Maoists and the members of the security forces have any

THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

state of national emergency and a raging insurgency. This is like getting a couple of foxes to guard the chicken coop. The current crisis of human rights abusers by both sides are sure to get much worse when election campaigning takes place at a time of suspended civil liberties. But let us hope that by some Pashupatinath-engineered miracle, relatively free and fair elections can be held. An independent, technocrat-led, multi-partisan caretaker government is a priority necessity. There is no need to shed tears over the dissolution of Deuba's jumbo cabinet which only fattened itself at taxpayers' expense. Nepal's democracy had been functioning most effectively at the grassroots, and it may be more important at this point to hold the delayed local elections rather than national ones. But at least elections will bring politics back to centre-stage of governance. In fact, 13 November can be a referendum and an election for a constituent assembly rolled in one. (Maobadis, please note.) If civil society is active, there is no reason why this can't be converted into an issue-based poll on exactly the demands of the masses. Our guess is that if that is removed, Nepalis will overwhelmingly come out and vote. And it will be a vote for democracy. But if in November we allow democracy's Humpty Dumpty to fall, then all the king's horses and all the king's men may not be able to put it back together again.

by CK LAL

MANUSHREE THAPA Is Manushree Thapa hinting at bringing an end to her Nepal literature column just because someone questioned her? (Mid-Columbian, #95) I hadn't read much of original Nepal literature until Manushree Thapa introduced me a few months ago to a horde of already renowned as well as talented contemporary writers through her commendable fortnightly column in your paper. I am indebted to her, or shall I say Nepal literature is indebted to her. What Rabassa did to Marquez is seemingly impossible to repeat, but Manushree is doing laudable work. Please carry on. Rigin Dehakung Boudha Thapa

and their works she is handling. That is being one-sided, yes, but that is it—so be it, so what? My good friend Ramesh Shrestha of Bangkok wrote to me after he read Manushree's translation of Bhuvan Dhungana's short Nepal story originally published in a Kathmandu vernacular magazine. Unlike Ajit Bhai and I, who are fortunate to read both originals and translations in Kathmandu, Ramesh has access only to websites where Nepal publications are hosted. Nepal Times being one of them. Ramesh praised to high heavens both Manu's successful effort and Bhuvan's theme and its treatment, even making him claim that "our generation (Bhuvan, Ramesh and I) being MIA mates at her for it. Rabindra Raja Shahi, Gaighat Campus, Udayapur

desperate pleas it was reduced to 30 percent. We paid in instalments. How many companies pay their bills, or if it cheaper to pay bribes? A restaurant owner in Thamel told me he was compelled to meet on strictly his terms, otherwise his rates would not be competitive. Let us not even talk about government offices. How can we blame the donors? Dinesh Raj, Nepal DALAI LAMA I enjoyed CK Lal's 'The Prince of Peace', #95, and after reading him, and being a member of the Tibetan diaspora in Nepal, I see a glimmer of hope that one day His Holiness the Dalai Lama will be invited as a pilgrim to visit Lumbini. D Rinzing, by email



POLITICS AS USUAL At a recent gathering of his party, the general secretary of Nepal Communist Party (UML), Madhav Kumar Nepal, was quoted as saying that the killings of his party activists in Nepal were unfair. He also went on to say that when he and other communist leaders had met Prachanda at the national regarding a signature a few months back they had all reached an agreement that the Maoists would not kill or punish any of UML or any other communist supporters. So, if they killed anyone else that would be fine? This is typical UML duplicity. The UML leadership has never been honest to the nation regarding its stance on issues like that of the Maoist problem, while the Nepali Congress is too busy fighting within itself. Krishna Paudel, Pokhara

By name ourselves Dr Narayan Khatiwada's 'Soul Searching' (Letters, #95) proves that we are still not ready to look within ourselves to identify the cause of the problems plaguing this country. The World Bank and ADB do not see loans as handouts as our national banks have done until they went bust. The two banks in question want their money back. The only means they see are if the NEC raises tariffs. But the fault, dear doctor, lies within ourselves. NEC does not bother to collect money from big institutions and business houses. I have been witness to such practices. While working for a small firm, the management changed hands and we discovered that we had not paid electricity bills for almost two years. Our electricity was never cut although our bills had accumulated to more than Rs 150,000. Strangely our landlord's line, which lighted up only the staircase of the building, was cut because he had not paid on bill of Rs 1,200. The story does not end there. I was sent along with the accountant to clear up the matter. Guess what? They had no idea what we owed, and asked us to come back later. A few days later, the accountant there pulled out ledgers they had laid away. It took him a considerably long time to add up the bills. Finally the bigwigs there told us to pay a fine of 50 percent. After

CK Lal's bold suggestion to have the Dalai Lama visit Lumbini is what every Buddhist in Nepal wishes. ('The Prince of Peace', #95). The Dalai Lama did visit Lumbini in 1987, despite strong protests from China. Since then, His Holiness has, as a Nobel Peace Laureate, carried on a mission in the international arena as an icon of morality and peace—both lacking in these troubled times. It therefore makes sense that he be invited to Lumbini, and what better time than when the Mayadevi Temple is completed ('Lumbini's Birth', #95). China's objections have assumed a ritual status rather than a political one. China is changing with its one-nation-two-system policy very fast, and in the right direction. I believe that in about a decade or so China will not only catch up with western nations, but will also assume a global role for peace, freedom and stability. This would in fact bring Beijing closer to the goals of the Dalai Lama. It now belittles on our leaders to initiate steps to invite the Dalai Lama and encourage his visit to Lumbini possible. If that happens we have everything to gain, economically, spiritually, culturally and morally too. Phi Daw, Boudha

ARITHA BEED Artha Beed's 'Amika Return' (#95) raises questions but doesn't provide answers. One of these is about the direct airline connection between the US and Nepal. I doubt if that is feasible at a time when other airlines are pulling out. On the prime minister's visit to the US and the UK, the Beed contradicts himself by saying that he was the first to suggest it, and on the other, by asking the question as to why he did not raise other issues of trade and aid. There is also the question about whether he should be looking for outside aid and support to combat the insur-

gency. An increased US presence in Nepal would kill unnecessarily internationalising the crisis. As the writer himself points out, USAID and the UN are doing their best to promote trade and investment in the region and boost Nepal's economy. Sanchit Chokhani, by email THIRD WORLD WARS I've looked over the articles and letters these last two weeks in your paper, and in other papers from the Valley, all bemoaning Nepal's situation and each pointing a finger at one or another reason as being the cause: America, too much democracy, corruption, Maoist leadership and so forth. A mistaken theme running through all these letters and articles is that Nepal is some sort of exception, and that by making adjustments here and there, Nepal's problems will be solved. Unfortunately, these problems are everywhere in the world. Nepal has its armed insurgency, but it is not just Nepal's tears. There are at least 49 other countries experiencing their own armed insurgencies in their Third World wars. They all arise out of real grievances: rural rent-seeking and servitude such as in Nepal, theft of land, water and resources. Maoism is just the unfortunate face given to this one, but its violence comes out of the frustration of alienated young people who in their desperation see no other alternative. President Bush, cheered by his allies and emulated by his puppets across the globe, has chosen to call these people 'terrorists.' How convenient. So

When the cause of insurgency is poverty, unequal wealth, environmental destruction and injustice, an insurgency won't be solved by more guns, just as the cause giving rise to the insurgency can't be solved by the guns of insurgents. Most of the time, the war is over hands, just make for more destruction, more poverty and enlarges the problem. When the Maoists thought they were winning because they were slaughtering people, they cut off the negotiations. Now that the government is getting military support and claims to be slaughtering Maoists, it is no longer interested in negotiations. All war does is benefit the arms industry. The answer of course is democracy, but democracy in which people organise and educate themselves. Stephen Mikeseil, by email

Dr Deepak Shikmdaka Claremont, California

# Break for the border

**SHER BAHADUR KC** / BUTWAL CENTRE FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

In late August last year an anti-smuggling patrol of the Royal Nepal Army impounded trucks with license plates Ba 1 Kha 6474 at Gallamandi, Bhairahawa. The papers that accompanied the truck was a 1992 model, the customs duties due on it were paid 11 years ago, in 1987. A close examination revealed more: the truck's real license number was Ba 1 Kha 838 but had been covered using Tipp-Ex. The truck was, in actual fact, manufactured in 1999. Going by the papers, it entered Nepal a good 19 years before it was built.

This is not an isolated occurrence. Between early 2001 and early 2002 soldiers on revenue patrols have actually confiscated 45 vehicles and sent them to the Bhairahawa customs office.

These include five full-sized trucks, 25 jeeps and passenger cars and 15 motorcycles. Likewise in the Krihananagar customs area, 34 vehicles have been confiscated between August 2001 and February 2002—three trucks, 16 jeeps/cars and 15 motorcycles. What's more intriguing is that these vehicles were not impounded at the customs check posts as they were coming from India. They were among the many actually operating around Nawalparasi and Kapilvastu for the past four or five years with "valid" papers issued by the Office of Transport Management.

And it is the ordinary, unsuspecting purchaser of vehicles locally that has become a victim of a racket that involves Nepal and Indian smugglers, police in Nepal, their political allies and government employees.

India has also begun to clamp down on car thefts. Police across the border have been extra vigilant



after they started being impounded with daily reports of thefts. Early this year Indian police arrested 40 stolen vehicles headed for Nepal through Sunauli and Gorakhpur.

The Indian police is seeking similar support from its Nepali counterparts. This has come up in every meeting between officials from Nepal and India on controlling cross-border smuggling. Indian officials specifically requested the support of Nepal's Police to stop cross-border crime at the meeting held at Bhairahawa early this year. The two sides agreed to exchange information on crime, including car thefts, and to act accordingly against those involved in the business. At another meeting held in Gorakhpur on 2 May this year Nepali officials specifically asked Indian officials to arrest 28 Maosts and provided them with their pictures. The Indians wanted Nepal to help track down and arrest four car-smugglers who operate along the Nepal-India border. Among those named are

engaged in a campaign to bust car thieves and we need everyone to help," says Raja Srivastava, Superintendent of Police in Maharaipur district of India's Uttar Pradesh state.

The Indian police is seeking similar support from its Nepali counterparts. This has come up in every meeting between officials from Nepal and India on controlling cross-border smuggling. Indian officials specifically requested the support of Nepal's Police to stop cross-border crime at the meeting held at Bhairahawa early this year. The two sides agreed to exchange information on crime, including car thefts, and to act accordingly against those involved in the business. At another meeting held in Gorakhpur on 2 May this year Nepali officials specifically asked Indian officials to arrest 28 Maosts and provided them with their pictures. The Indians wanted Nepal to help track down and arrest four car-smugglers who operate along the Nepal-India border. Among those named are

Dayaram Yadav, Bhagwanpur's VDC, who runs his business from Bhairahawa and Sunil Kumar Pandit of Tanlihua.

Most stolen vehicles sold in Nepal have been smuggled in by Dayaram Yadav. One of his former accomplices, Iswari Bhadrani of Bhairahawa, says "The vehicles now impounded were registered in the names of his workers." An officer at the Office of Transport Management says most of the impounded vehicles were registered under the names Tulasi Ram Pandey, Bhawani Prasad Bhusal, Jurnam Musalman, Mahendra Yadav and Rishram Khan—all one-time employees of Dayaram Yadav.

On 29 August last year, the revenue patrol impounded a Tata Sumo from the house of Surya Dhoj Khandi former Superintendent of Police, who has received a notice under the law. In another raid, they confiscated a jeep (license plate: Lu 1 Cha 1245) belonging to Birendra

## Stolen cars are some of the most lucrative goods traded across the border with India. But that may be about to stop.

Kanautia, Minister of State, Water Resources. Even the llaqa police office of Raurau uses a stolen vehicle with a license plate Ba 1 Ja 1975.

Employees of the Office of Transport Management are deep in the racket involving the falsification and issuance of fake licenses to stolen Indian cars. Bache Raya, the head of the transport office in Butwal said evidence obtained from the impounded vehicles shows that there have been "weaknesses" in the past. He says, "We found 50 suspicious vehicles that came for re-use. They were all on the books to the owners after collecting a minimum duty. It is also demanding action against transport department employees who approved the first registration, as well as the person who sought it. A five-member special committee headed by Surendra Nath Agyal formed to investigate the issue submitted its report to government late last year. The Finance Ministry has still not decided what course of action to take.

The Nepal police has intensified its surveillance for stolen cars, but this, too, is hampered by political interference. The Rupandehi District Police impounded 12 vehicles in September-October last year, but was forced to let all of them go. Initially, Dayaram Yadav tried to coerce the police into releasing the vehicles. When that was unsuccessful, home minister Khum Bahadur Khadka intervened and made sure that a police officer and they were out.

When Godauli share highly was in his stirring and relentless denunciation of the canon known as 'creationism.' This is the notion put about by some Christians—fundamentalists, I dare say—that the words of their religious text, the Bible, are to be interpreted literally on matter of the creation of life on earth. Thinking people of any faith have little difficulty reconciling religious belief and evolution. But creationists are disproportionately influential, especially in America. Gould and his fellow paleontologists stood shoulder to shoulder against those who would have us think that dinosaurs, cave men and the creatures of the Burgess Shale blinked into being overnight, and shared a crowded planet before obligingly becoming fossils, just to confuse us.

For that and much else I'll venerate this man, as I shall read about his words—and those of Charles Darwin, Richard Dawkins, Charles Doolittle Walcott—to my children for as long as they'll let me. Stephen Jay Gould, scientist, b1942, d2002. ♦

in Rupandehi said that the Superintendent of Police Keshu Bahadur Shahi was transferred from his post to Kathmandu because he refused to buckle under pressure from Yadav. Says a police officer in Rupandehi, "We had only just begun confiscating stolen cars. There was pressure from above, how can you work in such a situation?" Even today, "pressure from above" is the reason most policemen in the area will tell you when asked why they return impounded vehicles.

The car thieves have also changed their tactics and altered their routes, especially after Indian police began to clamp down on the racket across the border. A white Mantri was stopped and confiscated near the Ram Janaki temple in

Sunauli on 10 September last year. The authorities discovered that the Indian license plate HR 65 K 6453 was fake. The people in possession of the car had borrowed papers belonging to an acquaintance, Mahesh Kumar Yadav of New Delhi, and changed the license plate. Similarly, another vehicle that was impounded across the border from Sunauli on early January was sporting a license plate taken off a motorcycle belonging to Anurag Agrawal of Gorakhpur. The car-pushers also masquerade as journalists sometimes. The occupants of three Mantri vehicles on the road near Gorakhpur had produced identification cards showing that they worked at Manohar Bhanari, an Indian Hindi weekly. On further investigations,



the police discovered that they had more to do with stolen cars than newspapers, and that the vehicles they were driving had been stolen.

After the revenue patrols began picking out stolen cars, even transport operators have changed their routes. The vehicles plying the roads of Butwal, Kapilvastu and Nawalparasi have now begun servicing the dirt road to Gulmi, Baglung and Arghakhanchi. "We have reports of suspect vehicles in Gulmi and Arghakhanchi," says Yagumati Bhandari, head of the western division of the Revenue Investigation Division, at Butwal.

"We've been unable to get there because of lack of adequate resources and the general security situation."

"Things are not as easy as they used to be, even though police don't give us much trouble, the army is strict," says Mahendra Yadav, a trusted operative of Dayaram Yadav. "Many have already stopped the business." As for himself, he says he has begun taking on construction contracts and dealing in real estate, believing they are now more lucrative than the cross-border trade in stolen vehicles.

Meanwhile, Jagadamba Srivastava, who is charged with vehicle thefts got a 20-year sentence at the appeals court in Butwal, in a

separate case concerning the murder of a driver, Kallu Badi. The court decision came on 10 March and Srivastava has been on the run since. He had been charged with murdering the driver in 1994.

India is taking the car theft and illegal trade very seriously, and the National Crime Record Bureau, an agency under the Indian Home Ministry, is now involved in fighting it. Indian police officials say the Bureau will maintain updated computerised records of all vehicles registered in India, their chassis, engine and license numbers, as well as information on the owners. The New Delhi Bureau will also set up branch offices in Raunai in Bihar, Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh and other places where needed. "Once that happens, we will be able to make quicker arrests of car thieves and also recover stolen vehicles," says Bed Prakash Tripathi, of the Kholahi police station across the border in India. ♦

the police discovered that they had more to do with stolen cars than newspapers, and that the vehicles they were driving had been stolen.

After the revenue patrols began picking out stolen cars, even transport operators have changed their routes. The vehicles plying the roads of Butwal, Kapilvastu and Nawalparasi have now begun servicing the dirt road to Gulmi, Baglung and Arghakhanchi. "We have reports of suspect vehicles in Gulmi and Arghakhanchi," says Yagumati Bhandari, head of the western division of the Revenue Investigation Division, at Butwal.

"We've been unable to get there because of lack of adequate resources and the general security situation."

"Things are not as easy as they used to be, even though police don't give us much trouble, the army is strict," says Mahendra Yadav, a trusted operative of Dayaram Yadav. "Many have already stopped the business." As for himself, he says he has begun taking on construction contracts and dealing in real estate, believing they are now more lucrative than the cross-border trade in stolen vehicles.

Meanwhile, Jagadamba Srivastava, who is charged with vehicle thefts got a 20-year sentence at the appeals court in Butwal, in a

### India and Pakistan: Lightning without thunder?

Find out next week in the June issue of Himal South Asian

**Plus:**  
Nepal's human rights situation  
Looking Pervez Musharraf in the eye  
The Dalits of Tamil Eelam

**HIMAL**  
WRITERS WITHOUT BORDERS

### International Newspapers

The world has been a 'global village' for on-demand print and the distribution of international newspapers. You can order your favorite newspaper from a collection of 100 dailies including HT, The Times, The Washington Post, WSJ, USA Today, Le Monde, Sueddeutsche Zeitung, La Stampa, Mainichi Shimbun, El Pais, Basler Zeitung, Berlingske Tidende, Aftenposten etc... We hand-deliver fresh copies every morning. For a detailed list and price, please call us today:

**Bazaar International, Phone: 255125 Fax: 229 437**  
E-mail: [bazaar@mos.com.np](mailto:bazaar@mos.com.np)

### Clean sweep

Japanese climber Ken Noguchi is intent on making a clean sweep. A year after his Noguichi/Asia Comolomanga Clean up Expedition brought down 1,600 kg of garbage from Tibet, this spring Noguichi's Uthuse South Col Cleaning Expedition 2002 returned to the Nepal capital with over two tons of garbage, including 161 oxygen cylinders.

Some dating back to 1952. Noguichi, who is also climbed the seven summits, the highest peaks on seven continents, says it was a sense of shame that prodded him to take the task of cleaning the Himalayan gyms. He came back to Everest with a clean-up expedition in 2000, the year after he climbed Everest in 1999, when he realised a large amount of the garbage on the mountain had been left by Japanese, Korean and Asian expeditions. Such clean-up expeditions, suggests Noguichi, should receive partial reimbursement of climbing royalties.

### The war in numbers

The death toll is rising. According to the human rights organisation INSEC 2,883,000 Nepalis have died in clashes between security forces and the Maoists during the country's six-month emergency. INSEC says 2,305 Maoist leaders and cadres have been killed by the security forces while 573 other Nepalis have been killed by the Maoists. The breakdown reads like this: 106 soldiers, 291 policemen, 54 political activists, 15 teachers, six students, six civil servants, and 100 civilians. The Maoists read the numbers a little differently. They claim that the government has killed 62,210 Maoists, four students, three teachers, five civil servants, and 83 members of the general public.

In the past six months the insurgents have destroyed Rs 14 billion worth of public property, including 670 VDC offices, 240 post offices, both small and big hydro-power projects, telephone stations, universities and schools. Since the imposition of the emergency, 70 districts have been affected by murder and violence, and 7,000 people have been taken into custody. Following investigations, 5,500 people have been released. Of the journalists arrested, 94 have been released, and 22 remain in custody.

### Education for all..

The government will soon set up assessment centres in all 75 districts to ensure the education of all children by 2015 under the Education for All (EFA) program. EFA was launched earlier this year as part of the Basic and Primary Education Programme II (BPEP II) and is in its pilot phase in 30 districts. Each assessment centre will consist of a doctor, a psychologist, a senior teacher and a parent representative. EFA will specialise focus on providing education opportunities to disabled children—they will be enrolled in the nearest school from their homes or will be provided alternative learning opportunities.

### Jettisoning the load

In an attempt to reduce its financial constraints, Royal Nepal Airlines has decided not to renew the contracts of 25 cabin attendants. The national flag carrier needs a total of 101 airhostesses as most for its two 757 Boeings and three operating Twin Otters. It said, "we are in access".

RNAC is also to start thrice-a-week Kathmandu-Dubai-Kathmandu flights from 17 June. The flights will leave Kathmandu at 10AM Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and return at 7:50 AM the following day. The airlines expects to cash on the thousands of Nepalis going to the Persian Gulf countries for employment, and the growing popularity of Dubai as a place to catch connecting flights to Europe.

HERE AND THERE by DANIEL LAK

# Wonderful life

Stephen Jay Gould, scientist, b1942, d2002.

extended skywards, the less said the better.

Of course, none of these creatures survived past the Cambrian age. Nor do any of them have any descendants at all among supposed species. For Gould, that was most crucial. He proposed then that what still seems the most plausible explanation for the march of natural selection. This was not the favoured, neo-Darwinian, steady, slow progression towards stronger, more logical body designs, but an evolution that creates an optimum species quickly than sees it wiped out by some unpredictable and catastrophic external event. For this, Gould was pilloried by an establishment that preferred a more linear form of evolution, but he wrote on, modified his theories, even admitted mistakes and kept astounding us all with his—yes—wisdom.

When Gould shared his thoughts on his stirring and relentless denunciation of the canon known as 'creationism.' This is the notion put about by some Christians—fundamentalists, I dare say—that the words of their religious text, the Bible, are to be interpreted literally on matter of the creation of life on earth. Thinking people of any faith have little difficulty reconciling religious belief and evolution. But creationists are disproportionately influential, especially in America. Gould and his fellow paleontologists stood shoulder to shoulder against those who would have us think that dinosaurs, cave men and the creatures of the Burgess Shale blinked into being overnight, and shared a crowded planet before obligingly becoming fossils, just to confuse us.

For that and much else I'll venerate this man, as I shall read about his words—and those of Charles Darwin, Richard Dawkins, Charles Doolittle Walcott—to my children for as long as they'll let me. Stephen Jay Gould, scientist, b1942, d2002. ♦

the ear) and the sound of rejection slips being slapped on a manuscript that thankfully was never treated so.

For I have seen the Burgess Shale, and gazed upon reconstructions of the wondrous creatures therein in the world's best paleontology museum, the Royal Tyrrell, in the western Canadian town of Drumheller. The horrid and fantastic shapes that life took in those early years are beyond belief, so much so that the discoverer of the Burgess Shale—a Victorian pioneer of palaeontology with the marvellous moniker of Charles Doolittle Walcott—gave them scientific names that seem rooted in his own dismay at what he had found. *Anomalocaris* resembled nothing less than a two-metre long shrimp, with clacking claws and a mouth mad of revolving arm-like plates. *Marella* the lace-carb had dozens of legs and appendages and was an early version of one of Jules Verne's robots. *Olfactoneuria*, a stumpy legged amalgam of worm and aquatic dachshund with pointy hairs on its back, or perhaps a hairy creature with stumpy legs

There aren't many people that I would describe as "wise." He was one of them. There are intellectuals, savants, wonks, swots, geeks, nerds and eggheads—each word a pejorative wrapped up in a description of sheer mental ability. Mr Gould was quite simply a wise human being whose writings and thinking bubbled over with warmth and enthusiasm about the never-ending quest for knowledge. I doubt he ever stopped poking through his fossils and piles of notes, or reading papers and books and e-mails from colleagues in the field, even as he lay dying from the cancer known as mesothelioma.

It was Mr Gould's book from 1980, *Wonderful Life*, that captivated me most, yet is about the most unlikely of topics. I can imagine a commission editor at a popular publishing company sniffing with disbelief at receiving a proposal from a young scientist—a younger Gould perhaps, not, as he was then, at the height of his powers. Had this been so, *Wonderful Life* might never have been written for a mass audience, simply because it appears to be about the most dreary and andy-noise scientific topics. It is a story of an outcropping of sedimentary rock in the northern Rocky Mountains of North America, known as the Burgess Shale.

I can hear the editor at the publishing company now, snorting with increasing derision and calling out to his colleagues in other words. "This Gould bloke was telling us all about some fossils in Canada, full of mythical creatures, he says, evokes a prehistorical metaphor for the progress of life itself." More laughter, and remarks about rocks being



# "I think it was premeditated." Anyone opposed to his marriage with Devyani (right), Dipendra said, would "face the consequences".

In April, BBC TV's Panorama programme broadcast a documentary, *Murder Most Royal*, about the massacre of the Nepali royal family on 1 June 2001 at Narayanhiti Palace. Nepali Times brings you an abridged transcript of the film in which eye-witnesses, royal family members and others are interviewed.

On his eighth birthday, at an age when most boys would be playing with toy guns, Dipendra was given a real pistol.

Major General Bharat Kishor Sinha 1989-92  
"All the king's sons, from their childhood they were sent to a teacher who would teach them the art of war. Art of war comprises of learning about all kinds of weapons. He was exceptionally good. Good shot. To tell you frankly, he knew more about weapons than me. I am an army man."

King Birendra 1945-2001  
Twenty-two years later, on June the first, 2001, the city of Kathmandu was preparing for its traditional family gatherings. Two days earlier Crown Prince Dipendra had checked how many of his relatives would be attending the royal family's get together.

King Birendra 1945-2001  
"I was asked are you coming or not. Which means it was important to know whether I was going or not. And that I can only think of is he wanted to know how many people would be in the room."

King Birendra 1945-2001  
"I was asked are you coming or not. Which means it was important to know whether I was going or not. And that I can only think of is he wanted to know how many people would be in the room."

King Birendra 1945-2001  
"I was asked are you coming or not. Which means it was important to know whether I was going or not. And that I can only think of is he wanted to know how many people would be in the room."

King Birendra 1945-2001  
"I was asked are you coming or not. Which means it was important to know whether I was going or not. And that I can only think of is he wanted to know how many people would be in the room."

King Birendra 1945-2001  
"I was asked are you coming or not. Which means it was important to know whether I was going or not. And that I can only think of is he wanted to know how many people would be in the room."

King Birendra 1945-2001  
"I was asked are you coming or not. Which means it was important to know whether I was going or not. And that I can only think of is he wanted to know how many people would be in the room."

King Birendra 1945-2001  
"I was asked are you coming or not. Which means it was important to know whether I was going or not. And that I can only think of is he wanted to know how many people would be in the room."

Majesty walks into the room.  
The crown prince was well known for being able to handle drink and drugs. So his royal relatives were surprised when he appeared to lose control.

Katari Chester  
"I did comment to my sister, I said I don't think he is drunk, why is he giving the impression that he is drunk because he is banging into furniture, into people. I have seen him genuinely drunk and he never does that kind of thing."

Gorakh Rana  
"We thought it would be appropriate to take him up to his room. It would have been more embarrassing for His Majesty to come and see him. So the Crown Prince passed out, essentially."

Gorakh Rana  
"I don't think he could have just casually disappeared from the gathering. No somebody as important as him. So he needed this excuse, so I think it was premeditated."

Katari Chester  
"I was asked are you coming or not. Which means it was important to know whether I was going or not. And that I can only think of is he wanted to know how many people would be in the room."

Katari Chester  
"I was asked are you coming or not. Which means it was important to know whether I was going or not. And that I can only think of is he wanted to know how many people would be in the room."

Katari Chester  
"I was asked are you coming or not. Which means it was important to know whether I was going or not. And that I can only think of is he wanted to know how many people would be in the room."

Katari Chester  
"I was asked are you coming or not. Which means it was important to know whether I was going or not. And that I can only think of is he wanted to know how many people would be in the room."

Katari Chester  
"I was asked are you coming or not. Which means it was important to know whether I was going or not. And that I can only think of is he wanted to know how many people would be in the room."

Katari Chester  
"I was asked are you coming or not. Which means it was important to know whether I was going or not. And that I can only think of is he wanted to know how many people would be in the room."

his wish to begin a new era for the creation of a just, dynamic, democratic society. He hoped that his son's western-style education would help mould a modern monarchy to lead a modern country. In 1987 Dipendra was sent to Eton where it was hoped that he would acquire the polish of an English gentleman.

Edward Demetriou, Eton College 1986-91  
"He was quite really, really, he wasn't clever with words like most boys were. You know it was cool to be quite sharp with your wit, and he wasn't warty with it."

Gorakh Rana  
"Maybe he wanted more of the boys to like him, but he didn't have that luxury at school and became more sort of marginalised socially as time went on in school. He'd always talk about how much he drank back in Nepal. How much he loved brandy, and to drink brandy, he was always the drink of choice. And so one day one of the boys asked him to go and get some brandy."

The fellow Etonian told the story (to a tabloid). For the Crown Prince, it was a lesson on the attitude of the modern world to monarchy. From that moment on Dipendra learnt to give nothing away.

At 8:30 pm on June the first Dipendra's telephone records show he was always set apart from his sister and his younger brother Prince Niraj. The King, a womanizer, wanted his son to be educated outside the confines of the palace walls. Dipendra was sent to an English-style boarding school by his brother-in-law. It was a different world from the cloistered court. For the first time in his life, the young autocrat came in contact with his subjects. Initially he seemed stunned. But the young prince's self-confidence returned and he began to excel in his sports.

Edward Demetriou  
"I remember Dipendra (Dipendra) telling me that he had fallen in love with her, you know, then. He told me many times that, you know, she is sort of perfect and I would love to spend time with her and spend my life with her. He was very keen to marry her, for that reason because he wanted her to be his wife and to be his queen perhaps one day."

2001, King Birendra was the last to arrive at the family party. Protocol dictated that all royal relatives had to ask permission to drink in the presence of the king.

Edward Demetriou  
"I remember Dipendra (Dipendra) telling me that he had fallen in love with her, you know, then. He told me many times that, you know, she is sort of perfect and I would love to spend time with her and spend my life with her. He was very keen to marry her, for that reason because he wanted her to be his wife and to be his queen perhaps one day."

Edward Demetriou  
"I remember Dipendra (Dipendra) telling me that he had fallen in love with her, you know, then. He told me many times that, you know, she is sort of perfect and I would love to spend time with her and spend my life with her. He was very keen to marry her, for that reason because he wanted her to be his wife and to be his queen perhaps one day."

Edward Demetriou  
"I remember Dipendra (Dipendra) telling me that he had fallen in love with her, you know, then. He told me many times that, you know, she is sort of perfect and I would love to spend time with her and spend my life with her. He was very keen to marry her, for that reason because he wanted her to be his wife and to be his queen perhaps one day."

and shot him."  
Mik Singh  
"I started looking at His Majesty because I was always close to him, he looked all right for a second. Then I see him sliding on the right side. And while this was happening I saw streaks of blood on his right shoulder."

Gorakh Rana  
"It just seemed so shocking for everyone in the room, something, which is not conceivable. There was some screaming initially but after that everyone was just looking around, looking at His Majesty. I guess. And nobody actually had the presence of mind to do anything but that."

In 1989 the young prince visited Stona Park, the home of his English grandfather. It was here that he was introduced to a girl who would change the course of his life and the history of his country. Her name was Devyani Rana.

Prabakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin  
"She was a very close confidant of the late king and she also had access to state matters, and therefore she was perhaps one of his principal advisers on many happenings that took place in the kingdom."

Dr Karan Singh, Devyani's uncle  
"She was a very bright, intelligent somewhat head-strong girl with a mind of her own. She was not one of those traditional sort of girls, those prepared to just sit and do what their parents or anybody else just wants them to do."

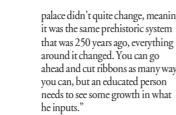
Prabakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin  
"The queen advised her two husbands there were only two girls in the entire kingdom suitable to become crown princess. Devyani Rana, now back at her parents' home in Kathmandu, was not one of them. Perhaps because her face was unforgettable or perhaps because she had been forbidden to him, the Crown Prince pursued Devyani."

Prabakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin  
"Nobody has anybody, nobody. I mean I have never heard of anybody hitting anybody. Her case was the first case when she came and said look my brother hit me, she had a bruise. I was like, my god. Did not know what to say, because firstly he's the crown prince. I just said that I not done. It could be anybody, you don't hit a woman."

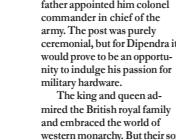
Princess Shrutti, Dipendra's cousin  
"I remember Dipendra (Dipendra) telling me that he had fallen in love with her, you know, then. He told me many times that, you know, she is sort of perfect and I would love to spend time with her and spend my life with her. He was very keen to marry her, for that reason because he wanted her to be his wife and to be his queen perhaps one day."

Princess Shrutti, Dipendra's cousin  
"I remember Dipendra (Dipendra) telling me that he had fallen in love with her, you know, then. He told me many times that, you know, she is sort of perfect and I would love to spend time with her and spend my life with her. He was very keen to marry her, for that reason because he wanted her to be his wife and to be his queen perhaps one day."

Princess Shrutti, Dipendra's cousin  
"I remember Dipendra (Dipendra) telling me that he had fallen in love with her, you know, then. He told me many times that, you know, she is sort of perfect and I would love to spend time with her and spend my life with her. He was very keen to marry her, for that reason because he wanted her to be his wife and to be his queen perhaps one day."



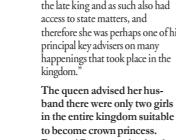
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



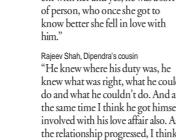
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



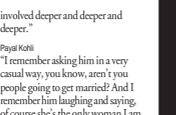
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



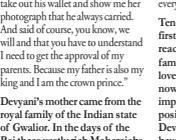
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



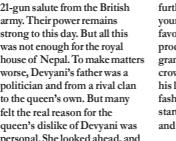
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



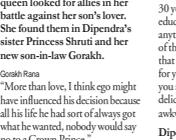
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



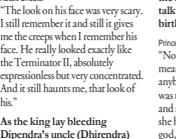
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



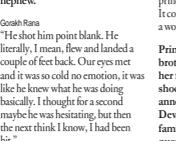
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



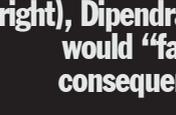
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



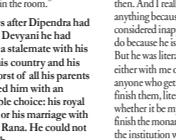
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



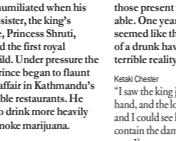
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



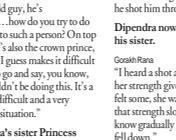
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



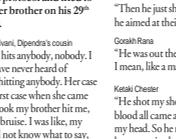
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



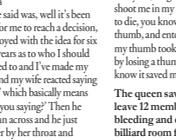
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



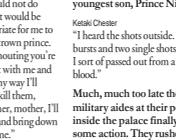
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



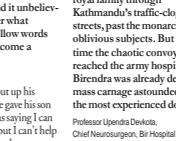
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



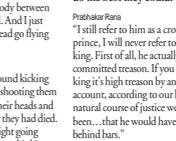
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



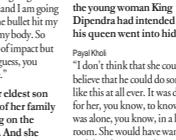
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



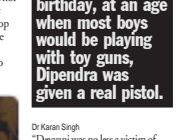
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



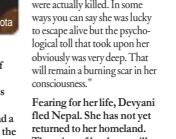
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



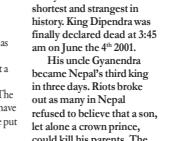
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



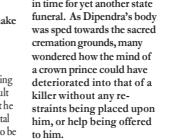
Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin



Prabhakar Rana, Dipendra's cousin

## "Ke gardeko?"

EDITORIAL, NEPALI TIMES, 10 JUNE 2001

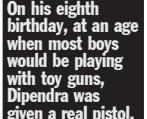
Those were the last words King Birendra spoke as he collapsed in the billiard room on Friday, 1 June 2002. Shock, rather than pain, was writ large on his face. More than the shock of being shot, it was the shock of knowing who had just shot him.

"What have you done," he murmured, as he slowly slumped to the floor. Nepalis will also want an answer to that haunting question as they agonise over what happened that night. As individual citizens, and as a nation, we will have to come to terms with this unspeakable slaughter and move on with our lives in the days ahead. We will soon know what happened, we will hear in excruciating detail of the exact sequence in which the royals were slain, we will get the forensic and ballistic evidence, we will be told clinical descriptions of how many bullets, and about the nature of the fatal wounds. There may even be hints as to motive.

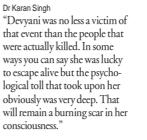
But no one is going to be able to explain what was going on in the head of this young man, and what psychological or chemically-induced rage made him convert what he may have seen as a personal dead-end into a head-on crash with his family and a kingdom that he would have inherited. Nepalis will ponder this cataclysmic event and what it means for the direction our society, culture and polity are headed in. An unimaginable tragedy like this isn't just a lesson in morality, it turns our beliefs and value system on its head. Where does insanity end and evil begin? An entire generation of Nepalis alive today will carry this as a burden on its collective consciousness. There are no answers: just a numbing sense of the senselessness of it all. And finally, it will only be the inexorable passage of time that will give us the distance from this moment.

Some of us will try to find solace in the Ramayana and Gita and look for parallels, but we will not find anything there that approaches the magnitude of this crime: the cold blooded murder of parents, the slaughter of siblings and relatives. Even our holy books didn't foresee senseless carnage on such a wide scale—not among the warlike gods or our pantheon, not among lesser mortals. But the Gita does have a message that is relevant: how to gain wisdom from suffering. The epic battles of Kurushetra, the jealousies, greed and vanity that afflicted our gods bring them down to a human level so that we can recognise our own failings in them. The Gita explores the limits of an individual's free will, the possibility of reconciling conflict when both sides are convinced they are right, it seeks an explanation for the suffering of innocents and our responsibility of the rich and powerful towards the weak and the voiceless. Our holy books, like Greek tragedies, bestow upon readers a sense of relief by catharsis. They give us a glimpse of the abyss, so we do not take the plunge.

Princess Shrutti (Dipendra's husband)  
"He did order on the walk-talkie for some points to be brought to him, which was delivered by an orderly a few minutes later. And he smoked that in the billiard room itself. Actually I got a little scared at that point of time. Because, I mean, I remember thinking my god what His Majesty was doing to his youngest son, Prince Nirajan. Katari Chester  
"I heard the shots outside. Two bursts and two single shots. Maybe I sort of passed out from a loss of blood."  
Much, much too late the military aides at their posts inside the palace finally took some action. They rushed the bodies of the dead and dying royal family through Kathmandu's traffic-clogged streets, past the monarchy's oblivious subjects. But by the time the chaotic convoy reached the army hospital King Birendra was already dead. The mass carnage astounded even the most experienced doctors.  
Princess Upreti Devkota, Chief Neurosurgeon, BIR Hospital  
"They showed me the body and said this is Her Majesty, and I could not believe the whole head was split into literally two halves in the top back and she was lifeless. Next she showed me Prince Niraj. Horrendous injuries, he was also gone."  
De Karan Singh  
"Devyani was no less a victim of that event than the people that were actually killed. In some ways you can say she was lucky to escape alive but the psychological toll that took upon her obviously was very deep. That will remain a burning scar in her consciousness."  
Fearing for her life, Devyani fled Nepal. She has not yet returned to her homeland. The reign of her lover will surely be remembered as the shortest and strangest in history. King Dipendra was finally declared dead at 3:45 am on June the 4<sup>th</sup> 2001. His uncle Gyandevendra became Nepal's third king in three days. Riots broke out in many parts of Nepal refused to believe that a son, let alone a crown prince, could kill his parents. The streets were brutally cleared in time for yet another state funeral. As Dipendra's body was sped towards the sacred cremation grounds, many wondered how the mind of a crown prince could have deteriorated into that of a killer without any restraints being placed upon him, or help being offered to him.  
© Murder Most Royal, Bkaway Productions, 49 mins



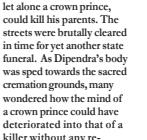
Devyani Rana



Devyani Rana



Devyani Rana



Devyani Rana



Devyani Rana

# "Anyone who gets in my way, I'll finish them."

COMMENT

by JOHAN GALTUNG AND DIETRICH FISCHER

# Media in conflict



There is a difference between war journalists and peace reporters.

NEW YORK—Imagine a media blackout on everything associated with nuclear power, which disease is reported in gruesome detail, considered a natural event in which the stronger eventually wins. This is essentially the situation with war journalism and reporting about domestic violence and racial and class conflicts.

What is needed is what might call 'peace journalism'. Peace journalists would focus on the true nature of a given conflict, who the parties are, and what their real goals are—including parties beyond the conflict arena. War journalists tend to focus only on two parties and the area where violence occurs, but the source of a problem is not necessarily where it shows up. Peace journalists would investigate the deeper roots of the conflict, its structure and culture, and the histories of the various parties. War journalists focus on the day's events, on who advances and who capitulates,

the number killed and wounded, and material damage. The same perspective is applied to negotiations, which are treated as verbal battles who outmaneuers the other, who comes out closest to his original position.

War journalists tend to report only official positions, peace-journalists inquire about other possible outcomes than one party imposing itself on the other. They would report on groups that are working to prevent violence, their visions of conflict outcomes, their methods, and who they could be supported. They would ask difficult questions. In the plan acceptable to all parties, and what would the possible shortcoming be. Is there a process, and if so who would do what, how, and when? Or does the plan merely impose a halt? Does the plan foresee an ongoing conflict resolution process or only a one-time agreement? If the plan doesn't work, is it reversible? Does it create new conflicts or problems? For

There is a danger of violence but also an opportunity for human progress, to find better solutions without violence. Peace journalists humanise all parties: war journalists dehumanise the "enemy".

Peace journalists are proactive: they seek prevention before any war occurs. War journalists report only after violence has occurred. Peace journalists expose untruths on all sides. War journalists are propaganda-oriented, exposing "their" lies while covering up "ours". For example, a public opinion poll conducted in 31 countries after 11 September asked people if they favoured a police action (to apprehend those responsible and bring them to court) or military action. About 80 percent favoured police action. Only in India, Israel and the United States did majorities favour military action. No major US paper published that poll. The opposite result would have been front page news. Truth is one of the first victims of war.

Peace journalists are solution-oriented and focus on peace initiatives and ways to prevent future violence through reconciliation. War journalists are victory-oriented and leave for another war as soon as the violence ends. With more peace reporting the conflict and end of North Ireland would have entered a more peaceful phase long ago. The media focus on violence only hid the real conflict and nourished more violence.

For good peace work empathy, creativity, and non-violence are needed. Exactly the same is required of peace journalists. And that includes dialogues with war journalists. ♦ (1/05)

(Johan Galtung is professor of peace studies and director of Transcend, a peace and development network. Dietrich Fischer, a professor at Pace University, is co-director of Transcend.)

## Democracies against free press

Western democracies are undermining freedom of expression mistakenly believing their actions will aid the fight against terrorism, the President of the World Association of Newspapers said Monday. The newspapers of the free press have found all the inspiration and justification that they needed in developed democracies like the US and Britain, where the governments have called on the media to refrain from broadcasting or printing the self-justifying messages of Osama bin Laden. President Roger Parkinson, at the opening of the World Newspaper Congress and World Editors Forum. The breeding grounds of international terrorism are by and large countries where the right to free expression, the free flow of information, open discussion, and free press through which these rights are exercised, are systematically outlawed and crushed," he said.

Parkinson said United States policies post-9/11 contributed to the increasing threats to press freedom. "The United States, which in recent years had made the defence of free expression one of the cornerstones of its diplomacy and foreign aid efforts, has done a brisk about-turn. This change... is illustrated in its attitude to the Qatar TV station al-Jazeera. That station, praised until then as a model of free expression in the Arab world, suddenly became one that had to be muzzled as soon as it did not confine itself to relaying the American line, but gave airtime to bin Laden." He added that the attitude and actions of the American government are important, given the immense power and influence that the US wields on the global stage and the effects its policies and example have on so many other countries. Parkinson gave several examples: Singapore has justified the "healthy guided censorship" which it sees in its US information policies; Zimbabwe, seeking to justify repression against independent journalism, said, "if the most celebrated democracies in the world won't allow their national interests to be tampered with, we will not allow it either."

In Italy, where former Foreign Minister Renato Ruggiero praised the "example" of Tunisia's dictatorship in the right to terrorism.

**Pakistan and India: who's in, who's out**  
Pakistan's missile tests over the weekend have provided India with another opportunity to flex its nuclear muscle. In addition to acquisition of nuclear and missile technology from North Korea. After Pakistan carried out tests of its medium-range and short-range, nuclear-capable ballistic missiles. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nirupama Rao said that India was not impressed by these missile parades, particularly when all that is demonstrated is borrowed or imported ability. He emphasised that the technology used in the missiles was "clandestinely acquired from other countries, a fact that has been unearched by India and extensively documented in research findings by well-established research institutions and laboratories all over the world."

In June 1999 Indian customs at the port of Kandla in western Gujarat state seized a North Korean vessel bound for Karachi and impounded its cargo of largely missile components and production materials for the Nodong missile on which the Ghauri is based. The seizure at Kandla led many to believe that Pakistan had entered into a deal with North Korea to barter its nuclear technology, miniaturised for use in nuclear missile warheads, in exchange for missile technology developed by Pyongyang. Commenting on the alleged barter deal, the South Korean newspaper Chungsung Ilbo then quoted a defence ministry official who said North Korea was bent on obtaining materials on miniaturised nuclear warhead technology from Pakistan, which tests these devices in 1998. The nuclear-armed neighbours have between them massed more than a million troops on their border, along with missile carriers, tanks and artillery. The threat of war has not softened the stance of Pakistan's ever-fierce opposition—more than 15 mainstream political and religious-political parties issued a resolution last week in Lahore saying they wanted President General Pervez Musharraf to step down and hand over power to an independent caretaker set up as the only way to forge national unity. But the opposition made it clear in the same statement that it is against Musharraf and not the military itself, in an apparent move to capitalise on anti-Musharraf sentiment said to be simmering within military ranks because of his political ambitions. (P2)

## Defamation law and the internet

CANBERRA—Major international media companies urged the High Court of Australia on Tuesday to overturn a lower court decision which they argue will dramatically limit freedom of speech on the Internet, as a result of a defamation action between an Australian businessman and the US-based Dow Jones media company. The case has its origins in an 30 October, 2000 article, 'Unholy Gains', published in the United States by Dow Jones-owned Barron's Magazine that discussed, in part, the involvement of a prominent Australian businessman, Joseph Guitnick, who was active in raising funds in America.

Guitnick launched legal action in the Victorian Supreme Court for defamation on the grounds that the article damaged his standing, especially in the eyes of key financial investors in Victoria. While only a small number of the printed copies of the magazine made their way to Australia, 1,700 Australian subscribers had access to the article via the website of the Wall Street Journal where the article was also published. Dow Jones lawyers argued that the article was published and loaded to a server in New Jersey and so the appropriate jurisdiction for any legal action was in the US. Guitnick argued that it was published where 300 paying Victorian subscribers to Barron's downloaded it and so the case should be heard in Victoria. In his landmark decision, Justice John Hodgson concluded that the article was published where it had been downloaded in Victoria. "This has been the law for centuries for other forms of communication and I find no persuasive reason it should not apply to Internet publications," he wrote in his judgement.

The Dow Jones legal team argued that the decision meant publishers worldwide risked being sued in any one of the 191 countries with Internet access. With no other court in the world having ruled on the issue to date, global media companies are alarmed at the precedent the decision will set unless it is overturned on appeal. Many of the English-speaking world's largest media companies—including The Guardian (UK), Reuters, and the Washington Post, the New York Times and on-line operators Amazon and Yahoo!—were allowed to join the action alongside Dow Jones. (P3)

SUCKER FOR SOCCER



# Fan's-eye-view



The new stadium in Suwon city, South Korea (top), and Brazilian star Rivaldo (below, left).

After four years of waiting, I'm getting ready for another World Cup. I'll be following pretty much the same program that's worked for me at past Cups. Which is to say: I don't have any match tickets, hotel reservations, or even much of an itinerary in mind. Once I get there next week, I'll be scalping tickets and moving around by train to the matches I think I can get into.

And I'll give you a feel for things you won't read about on the sports page what it is like outside and inside the stadiums on match day, who the fellow-fans are, how Japan and Korea make it easier (or not) for all of us to get around and enjoy ourselves.

This year, my primary curiosity is what the tournament will look like when it's being played in Asia—will any local favour shine through, or will it just be a free-floating, mass-produced spectacle? My past experience from covering the last two Cups, is that the sociologists are right. I was living in the US when the tournament was held there in 1994, and going to games involved a few tasks that Americans don't do the time: calling a free long-distance number for the privilege of paying an obscene amount for your tickets, getting in your car and blasting down the

I was living in the US when the tournament was held there in 1994, and going to games involved a few tasks that Americans don't do the time: calling a free long-distance number for the privilege of paying an obscene amount for your tickets, getting in your car and blasting down the

I was living in the US when the tournament was held there in 1994, and going to games involved a few tasks that Americans don't do the time: calling a free long-distance number for the privilege of paying an obscene amount for your tickets, getting in your car and blasting down the

I was living in the US when the tournament was held there in 1994, and going to games involved a few tasks that Americans don't do the time: calling a free long-distance number for the privilege of paying an obscene amount for your tickets, getting in your car and blasting down the

मङ्गलमय शुभकामना

40,000/ft.BAR ...

... Where the tales are as tall as the mountains

Succulent steaks and burgers bountiful, with a vegetarian variety. The friendliest bar between Tibet and Timbuctoo. Live hand on Fridays!

RUM DOOLE

THAMEL, KATHMANDU, NEPAL  
TEL: 414336

OPINION

by RALF DAHRENDORF

# Separate but equal

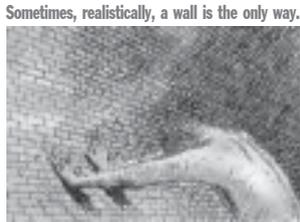
Sometimes, realistically, a wall is the only way.

Surely not a wall! An Israeli friend of a "Peace Now" activist, replied to my question with his own: "Do you realise that no one outside border entered Israel from the Gaza Strip? Why not? Because there is a fence." If an electric fence was built around the West Bank territory, he continued, two problems could be solved at once. Palestinians would be allowed into Israel only at a small number of checkpoints, and the settlers would soon find their own position untenable and return to Israel.

Things, of course, are not that simple. Such a fence would probably include settlements close to, but inside the 1967 line. The return of the settlers would be difficult in practical terms and because of Israeli public opinion. Then there are the questions of the Israeli Arabs and of Jerusalem. Can it be liberalised in two by a wall, as Berlin was? That said, it is striking that a man of fictional values such as my friend should advocate the physical separation of groups as perhaps the only road to peace.

The notion that groups should have equal rights but remain separate—apartid without oppression—was once the ultimate obsession of traditionalists in the old segregated American South. Liberal forces wanted a society in which blacks and ethnic groups and religious denominations mixed freely. When they lived apart in their own "ghettos", their children were taken by bus to schools of the other groups so that what is nowadays called multiculturalism could be practised. Ultimately, the liberal dream saw a blurring of lines of difference not only on common living spaces but also by intermarriage. It is the ultimate dream of a fully developed citizenship that a common floor of rights, including a guaranteed economic status, will enable different people to live together in harmony.

I today we know this is only a dream. It may appear to become real where people of different social classes live together, but it is because the lines of class themselves have become blurred. However, where differences cannot easily be blurred, such as those of religion, ethnic and cultural origin, colour, common citizenship has not achieved the unity of diversity so many have dreamed about. Wherever different groups have had to share a space, they are either fought each other or drawn a line to stay separate. Sometimes these lines are highly visible, borders are drawn most dramatically between the parts of the former Yugoslavia. Usually the drama imposed a high human cost. "Ethnic cleansing" means in fact mass persecution and killing. International peacekeepers soon abandoned hope of making Muslims and Christians, Croats and Serbs live as peaceful neighbours again even when they had done so in the past. Even in the most civilised countries, the same process is equally prevalent. In riot as in peace. The Turks of Berlin, the Bangladeshis of Bradford, the North Africans of Paris suburbs have not blended into the surrounding societies. In fact, sometimes the second



generation cultures are in difference from the mainstream culture more aggressively than the original immigrants.

Why? Why do equal citizenship rights not achieve their purpose? Often, people may not have tried hard enough. After all, so far as Jews are concerned, Israel has done a remarkable job of integrating diversity. The United States may be less of a melting pot today than it was a century ago, but even so it sees a good example. Perhaps it is the lack of integrative strength in other societies which makes people feel that the only place where they really belong is among their own people. Globalisation may have something to do with it, as well as the disintegration that accompanies modernity.

For those who still hope for the eventual victory of enlightened values but nonetheless see clearly the real world, a version of "separate but equal" may provide an interim answer. So far as equality is concerned, the guarantee of full citizenship rights for all represents a goal. As for separateness, it should be explicitly promoted unless it is the only hope of peace. It should be allowed, though, together with common spaces that are available and safe for all. London comes to mind when thinking of an example of relative success in the face of extraordinary diversity. Here, many people live among mostly their own but share the pleasures and the miseries of public spaces. Their lives are intertwined and yet diverse. ♦ (Project Syndicate)

(Ralf Dahrendorf is a member of the British House of Lords.)

# A crazy system

Jyoti Pyakurel in Himal, 29 March-13 April

We decided to visit the Central Jail to confirm rumours that looked up there along with criminals were women with psychological problems. As we walked past the cells, accompanied by prison employees, both kinds of inmates gathered around us, pouring out their anguish.

- Will you allow us to go home?
- I was badly beaten up by my husband for no mistake of mine, and then he had me locked up here
- My husband married another woman, and I did not even get custody of my children.
- I fell madly in love with a man, but discovered too late that he was already married.
- I'm willing to take up any work, please just let me out of this place.

These statements sound like dialogues from a play, and the scenes we saw were equally surreal. The situation of the women in the central prison reflects the state of Nepali women as a whole.

Of the 107 female inmates in the Central Jail, 45 are in for being "mad". They are between the ages of 14 and 56, and some have been there as long as 34 years. They are crammed into six dark, stinking rooms with no facilities for cooking, washing or bathing. They are supplied with jail rations and asked to cook for themselves, but how can those women who are mentally disturbed be expected to cook. Many women have contracted diseases here, but the prison offers no treatment. Some women are here on grounds as slight as their parents and husbands writing to their chief district officer requesting "imprisonment and treatment" for these "mad" women.

Nepal law allows a man to marry again if his first wife is mad. Mentally ill people are not entitled to inheritance, and their families are not obliged to support them or provide their treatment. The easiest way to get rid of a woman is to declare her "mad". Society will turn a deaf ear to any declaration by a woman about her own state of mind.

The living conditions here could drive any woman crazy. There is an acute water shortage, and the situation gets worse for these women when they have their periods. When we visited, one woman was playing with her own blood, making patterns on the floor. This scene spoke volumes about the condition inside the jail. The government 'treats' these women— with sleeping pills.

Bishnu Maya, 48, was released from the Central Jail after seven years of imprisonment, but was brought back here. She told us, "I am not mad. When I was released from here, my husband's second wife and her daughter-in-law used to denigrate me constantly. I was hurt, so I quarrelled and cried, which was all they needed to prove that I am mad. My husband brought me here by force to be locked up again."

Most women are here on charges of abortion. A 1997 study shows that 20 percent of women prisoners in Nepal are serving sentences for abortion, but only 0.3 percent of male prisoners were being prosecuted on the charge. Usually, men flee their village as soon as they discover they are responsible for an illegitimate pregnancy. The few who get caught use their political connections or buy their freedom. These statistics from 1997 tell another bitter truth: a man is supported by his family and society even if he is a rapist, but society is always unsympathetic to a woman even if she is just a victim.

## Emergency elections

Deshantar, 26 May

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba dissolved parliament saying it was

essential that the emergency remain in force for another six months so the security agencies could remain mobilised against the Maoists. The emergency ended on midnight, 24 May, but the security forces are still on the move and the Defence Ministry has been reporting on their actions against the Maoists. The new emergency was announced on 27 May. I would have been something else if the dissolution of parliament had gone together with an extension of the emergency.

Deuba has also called for elections, which means there might not be a state of emergency indefinitely. For an election you need to allow people to assemble, to speak their views in public and allow them to organise. Chances are, an emergency order could be issued even now, and run for three months at most. If the Nepal Congress decision to not extend the emergency would have lowered the morale of the security forces, as the prime minister claimed it would, discontinuing the emergency will do the same? Are there provisions to take action against the prime minister for being responsible for that?

Deuba must ensure the continuation of the emergency to keep the Maoists at bay, and he must also prepare for elections. For an emergency to be effective, civil rights must be suspended, but elections can only be held when people can exercise their full rights, or if the environment is conducive to doing that. We can't have both things at the same time. One wonders about the motivation behind the prime minister's decision.

Deuba must ensure the continuation of the emergency to keep the Maoists at bay, and he must also prepare for elections. For an emergency to be effective, civil rights must be suspended, but elections can only be held when people can exercise their full rights, or if the environment is conducive to doing that. We can't have both things at the same time. One wonders about the motivation behind the prime minister's decision.

## UML conditions

Bimantara, 24 May

Excerpt from UML General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal's letter to the Chairman of the Nepal Communist Party (Maoist) seeking their 'attention' to the following issues:

- Immediately stop killing our acts such as beating up and inhuman acts



party workers, and others harbouring different ideologies. This also goes for killing innocent citizens or charging people you do not like with being informants and killing them.

- Stop forcing members of our party and others, and their supporters to give you refuge in their houses. Do not force them to form large groups, or take donations by force. Stop forcing the wives of political representatives and political party members to seek divorces.
- Stop the restrictions on the movement of citizens and the curfews you impose in certain areas. Do not force people you want to create problems for by forcing them to give up their property and flee.

Stop evicting the elderly, women and children from their homes at night and taking over their houses.

- In many places, members of our party and other parties and even ordinary citizens have been abducted and tortured. This must stop, those abducted should be immediately released.
- In many places elected representatives from our party and other elected officials have been forced to resign or been prevented from doing their duties. VDC buildings have been burnt and [you] have prevented local bodies from carrying out development work. Stop such acts immediately.

- Immediately stop the destructive attacks on telecom towers, electricity projects, forest offices, airport offices, bridges, drinking water systems, health posts and government buildings.
- You call people from every household to send a member to fight for your cause in some districts, causing people to flee their homes in panic. This forced recruitment must stop immediately.
- In districts where you have influence, you have prevented political parties from carrying out their activities. Criticism has not been tolerated—[you] don't engage in discussion, just attack those who raise questions. [You] harbour an undemocratic single-party ideology and don't want people with differing views to even enter areas you control. You must create an environment where others can go to the people who support them.

- If some [among you] engage in such acts even after they have been asked to stop, you must take action against them, and take necessary measures to keep those [in your ranks] who do not want peace under control.
- If you are willing to resolve the problem peacefully, in this manner, you need to publicly announce that such acts are coming to an end. Because [you] broke the negotiations and went down the road of violent struggle, you must immediately end the violence and murder and announce that you are putting your weapons down and are willing to help build a new environment.

## Deuba, the pawn

Interview with Shailaja Acharya in Dristi, 28 May

How do you interpret the action taken against Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba?

The state is in a crisis. Local elections were [put off] because of the Maoists and political activists are unable to go to the villages. The Lower House has been dissolved in a secretive manner—the council of ministers had no say in the decision. I cannot support this. This is a well-orchestrated step to endanger democracy, and the party is right to have taken such action.

Is Deuba to blame for the dissolution of parliament? Girija babu did the same before, but no action was taken against him.

It's the prime minister's prerogative to dissolve parliament. But this wasn't appropriate in the current circumstances, when under no circumstances can elections be held. Today, the army is playing a deciding role. It's even been issuing political press releases. Even if we were to hold elections, it would be similar to Pakistan's limited democracy, not an actual election. I don't see how elections can be held nationwide.

Prime Minister Deuba says the action taken against him is dictatorial.

If I were sure there was no threat to democracy, I would think it was a bit extreme, but I think his actions have endangered democracy.

Won't the disciplinary action taken against Deuba split the Congress?

The same people who've encouraged corruption and the rise of a mafia within the party in the last 12 years are responsible for the current national crisis. That is why the party is moving towards a split. I don't believe a new party formed by the same personalities can create a new society.

There are extremists on both sides. It's important to overhaul the party and clear out the trash. The people only believe in moral leadership, the number game doesn't count anymore.

Won't a split in the party weaken democracy?

That's sure to happen. I've been fighting for party unity.

Do Deuba's actions suggest to you that he is now someone's pawn?

He is a pawn, he's always worked that way, since [1995/1996]. As a pawn, he consciously brought in horse-trading to parliament, as well as the Pajero culture, all to undermine the parliamentary system.

Whose pawn?

I am not with the intelligence agency, so I can't say, but he is a pawn.

## Deuba, the righteous

Interview with Bimalendra Nidhi, Central Member, Congress, in Dristi, 28 May

How do you see Prime Minister Deuba's expulsion from the party?

It is extremely irresponsible, prejudiced and unfortunate. It is the prime minister's special privilege to dissolve parliament. Girijababu, too, dissolved parliament without consulting the party, many of his cabinet ministers didn't know.

The situation is different now. The conditions are not right for elections.

You can't take action on that basis. The dissolution of the House hinged on extending the emergency. Once the party directed the government to withdraw its decision to extend the emergency, there was no way parliament would assist the executive.

Why wasn't the prime minister prepared to face parliament?

What party decision has the prime minister flouted? The party president directed him to withdraw the proposal for an emergency. But if parliament is dissolved how can the proposal be returned? You don't need the party's approval to dissolve parliament.

There's a feeling that Deuba's action endangered democracy from within, through the constitution?

Once the date for elections has been set, it's in the interest of democracy to ensure they take place. To be suspicious of elections and spread rumours that they can't be held upsets the elections and endangers democracy.

The government was unable to hold local elections on time. Can it hold mid-term elections?

That's meaningless. Should elections be put off until terrorism is brought to an end?

Will the Congress remain unified, with the expulsion of the prime minister?

The party disciplinary committee is not the final authority. The final decision comes from the central committee, the main committee and the general assembly.

The prime minister says he won't appeal to the central committee. The decision can be revoked by the general assembly. We are preparing to call a general assembly.

Do you have a majority?

Yes. The majority that elected the party president at the Pokhara General Assembly can be overturned with regard to this decision. The situation has changed, many who supported the president then are now with the prime minister.

If the general assembly is not in your favour, will the party split? Whoever expelled the prime minister started the split in the party.

# Studying in the USA



## Associate, Bachelor's and Graduate degrees



Over 14,000 students from all 50 States and more than 90 countries  
 Campuses located in: Providence, Rhode Island; North Miami, Florida;  
 Charleston, South Carolina and Denver, Colorado (Program offerings vary among campuses)  
 Scholarship opportunities for applicants with proven academic excellence\*

\* up to \$ 4,000 per academic year for undergraduate degrees

### Undergraduate Programs Include:

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| International Business | Information Science       |
| Culinary Arts          | Hospitality Management    |
| Management             | Internet Commerce         |
| Culinary Nutrition     | Hotel Management          |
| Marketing              | Web Site Development      |
| Food Marketing         | Travel-Tourism Management |

MBA Programs with concentration in:  
 Financial Management, International Trade, Marketing, Organizational Leadership and Hospitality Administration

Johnson & Wales University, International Admissions Office

8 Abbott Park Place, Providence, RI 02903 USA

Phone: +1-401-598-4927 Fax: +1-401-598-4901

Email: John.Waterman@jwu.edu

Visit: <http://www.jwu.edu>

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

When the nation is searching for an alternative and a change no one should create a hurdle.

— CPN-UML General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal in Dristi, 28 May.



Bridge: Emergency Porter's load. Mid-term polls

Basu Kshijit in Budhabar, 29 May

ABOUT TOWN

**FIILN**

- ◆ **Pokhara International Film Exhibition**
- ◆ 31 May, 11.30 AM: Ganek, Mirosław Dembinski, Poland, 1998. A father and his three-year-old son are both climbers, sort of.
- ◆ 31 May, 2.15 PM: Lost on Everest, Peter Firstbrook, UK, 1999. An expedition's search for the body of Mallory.
- ◆ 31 May, 1.30 PM: Chickenshit and Ash—A visit to Paradise, Karl Prossliner, Austria, 1997/8. Two Tamang villagers discover and analyse a foreign, western world.
- ◆ 31 May, 3PM: Yet: The Call of the Snowman, Jerome-Cecil Aulreiff, France, 1999. Friendship blooms between a Yeti and a Sherpa. All screenings at the International Mountain Museum, Pokhara. Email wavelax@winlink.com.np for details.

EXHIBITION

- ◆ **Inhabitants & Reminiscence** Paintings by Bhairaj Maharjan and Binod Pradhan at Park Gallery, Pulchowk. Until 6 June, 11AM-6PM, except Saturday, 522307
- ◆ **Spote** An exhibition of drawings and paintings by senior Indian artists on the occasion of 2546<sup>th</sup> Buddha Jayanti. Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revisited.

FOOTBALL

- ◆ **World Cup Passion** The largest TV screen, special menu and discounts on beverages at the Coffee Shop; 30 percent off beverages and snacks at the Juneli Bar. Prizes to be won, including \$10 to two in London. Hotel de l'Annapurna.
- ◆ **World Cup Football Show All** The World Cup matches on the Summit big screen. Free Entry, 521810
- ◆ **World Cup Kick-off** Watch inaugural match on 25 screen with buffet dinner and lottery. Hotel Radisson, 4.30 PM onwards, 31 May, Rs 999. Nepal German Chamber of Commerce, 226101
- ◆ **Football on show** Posters, national team jerseys, equipment, football newspapers and magazines, stamps, memorabilia, photographs and lots more. Also surf websites of the Nepal Football Fan Club, the British Council, and World Cup sites. From 26 May, British Council, Lainchaur.

EVENTS

- ◆ **Party with pizza and live music** at the newly-refurbished Roadhouse Café. 7PM-until late. No cover charge. Reservations at c\_kayeshtha@hotmail.com, 260187.
- ◆ **Organic vegetable market** Sundays and Wednesdays with complimentary tea/coffee and cookies. 10AM-12.30 PM. Summit Hotel, Kopunole.
- ◆ **Friends of the Bagmati** A group of concerned activists with the aim of cleaning up the Bagmati River. Membership open to all. friendsofthebagmati@gmail.com

MUSIC

- ◆ **Club Rumba** Latin band, salsa food until midnight on Thursdays. Early bird discounts between 8-9.30PM, buy one, get one free. Hotel Shangri-La, 412999
- ◆ **Dineeh & Pomba** Live every Friday 7PM-9PM, Himalatte Café, Thamel, 262526
- ◆ **Live music** by Catch 22, Friday nights at the 40,000 1/2 ft Bar, Rum Doodle Restaurant, Thamel, 414336

DRINK

- ◆ **Mountain Madness** Cocktails, happy hour every 4PM-8 PM, two for the price of one at Rs 250. Kiroly's of Kathmandu, Thamel, 250440
- ◆ **Fusion Bar at Dwarika's** Live blues and jazz, snacks, European ambience 479488

FOOD

- ◆ **British Week** British speciality food. 2-9 June at Summit Hotel 12.30 PM - 9.30 PM and Patan Museum Café 1.20PM - 4.30 PM, 521810
- ◆ **Monsoon Madness Barbecue** every weekend from 6.30 PM onwards at Rs 250. Kiroly's of Kathmandu, Thamel, 250440
- ◆ **The Tharu Kitchen** Dikhai (steamed rice dumplings) with special jungle sauces and hot coriander chutney. junglesdecamp@yahoo.com, 061-25954
- ◆ **Wood fired pizzas** at the new Roadhouse Café. Completely redesigned with separate bar seating and coffee bar. The Roadhouse Café, Thamel.
- ◆ **Weekend Brunch** Rs 350 per head, special package available with bowling. Oriental and continental lunch or dinner by the pond. 1905 Boardwalk, Kantipath, 225272
- ◆ **Vegetarian Specialties** and day-evening pizzas at Slupa View Restaurant & Terrace, Boudha, 480262

GETAWAYS

- ◆ **Jolly Jomson Stopover Package** One night, airport/ resort transfers, return airfares Pokhara/Jomsom. ACP permit, airport tax extra. Resident expats \$150 per head, Indian nationals, IRs 4,999 per head, Nepalis NRs 4,999 per head, taxes included. Until 31 August at the Jomsom Mountain Resort, jm@sc.winlink.com.np, 485110
- ◆ **Secret Garden Overnight** package at Dwarika's Hotel, \$99 plus taxes for one or two people. 479488
- ◆ **Bardiya National Park Getaway** Full board, luxury on stilts' cottages and pickup, \$10 a day (park activities at Jungle Base Camp Lodge. junglesdecamp@yahoo.com, 061-25954.

For inclusion in the listing send information to editors@nepalintimes.com

NEPALI WEATHER

by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

The unseasonably heavy pre-monsoon showers made May an abnormally wet month. Despite this, the monsoon seems to be on track, with Kerala and Assam getting the first showers. Usually, monsoons in the subcontinent are delayed during years when pre-monsoon showers are above normal, and that may still be the case this year. But if all goes according to plan, the first showers should hit eastern Nepal 7 June and Kathmandu 10 June. The distinctive feature of monsoon showers are diving relentless rain without the fanfare of thunder and lightning.

KATHMANDU VALLEY

Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
28/16	27/15	27/15	28/16	29/17

YAK YETI YAK



BOOKWORM

**The Great Military Thinkers of the World** Indra Jai Rai Himalaya Book Stall, Kathmandu, 2002 Rs 150

The principal of the British Gurkha Academy explores the lives, military careers and fighting philosophies of 20 military thinkers including Sun-Tzu, Kautilya, Niccolò Machiavelli, Sebastian Vauban, Frederick the Great, Prithvinarayan Shah, Napoleon Bonaparte, Antoine Henry Jomini, Carl von Clausewitz, Marshall Ferdinand Foch, Sir Winston Churchill, Adolf Hitler, Edwin Rommel, Mao Tse-tung, and Che Guevara.

**Beyond the Himalayas** KN Dhakal Ferntrade International, Buses, 2002 Rs 150

KN Dhakal, who writes under the name Pratek Dhakal, has been a liaison officer for Belgian and Japanese trekking teams, and is also a poet, singer and writer of travel columns in Nepal. Here Dhakal gives an account of his extensive travels in Dolpo and Mustang, meditating along the way on natural history, religion, and architecture. The volume is well-illustrated with colour photographs.

**A Beautiful Mind** Sylvia Nasar Faber & Faber, London, 1998/2001 Rs 475

A 31, mathematician genius John Nash had a breakdown and was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Yet, after three decades of leading a ghost-like existence, he re-emerged to win a Nobel Prize and world acclaim for his contribution to game theory. Nasar's award-winning biography, the inspiration for Ron Howard's film, is a drama about the mystery of the human mind, a triumph over incredible adversity, and the healing power of love.

**The House of Blue Mangoes** David Davinder Viking or Penguin Books India, New Delhi, 2002 Rs 632

The history of modern India ebbs and flows with the story of the Doria family in Kerala, south India, their fortune inextricably linked to it. The early struggles for independence, the emergence of Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress Party, World War II and finally the new India—the great events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century form the backdrop to the story of an extraordinary family, richly detailed, skillfully narrated and peopled with vibrant characters.

Courtesy: Mandala Book Point, Kantipath, 227711, mandala@csul.com.np

CLASSIFIED

**Flowerlovers, don't miss our special FUCHSIA exhibition!** More than 60 new and very beautiful varieties of FUCHSIA, recently imported from Europe, are on sale now, for the first time ever in Nepal. Only at THE BISHALNAGAR NURSERY, tel: 431797, five min from Bhatbhateni Supermarket, two min from Beshalnagar Chowk (turn right and downhill).

**Landrover Defender 110** 1990, 146,000 kms. Duty not paid. Price negotiable. Contact 521105 between 10AM-12 noon.

**House to let** Sitapala Heights, 5 min. from Ring Road, 15 min. from Lincoln School. Big compound. Western style five bedrooms, two bathrooms. Servants' quarters. Motorable road. Ring 356 074, 91030322 for Hari, Shanta, Sanju or John.

**Nagarok special at Naked Chef** Bed and

- breakfast, transport both ways, three-course gourmet dinner. Rs 1,440 or \$19. For reservations ring 441494, 680006
- **Slupa View and Restaurant & Terrace** at Bauhanthana Stupa. Well-appointed restaurant and terraces with views of stupas and Himalayas.
- International vegetarian specialities, pizza from day oven, ice cream, soft guitar tunes on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays from 5PM on. Special events on full moon. Open daily 11AM-8.30PM, 480262.
- **K-Tool Beer and Steakhouse** not the "longest", "higest", "first" or "any other superlative." Just a relaxed, easy-going bar and restaurant with the coldest beer and juiciest steaks this side of the moon. By the Kathmandu Guest House, 433043
- **The way to Mexico** is too far. Botega Restaurant and Tequila Bar is near Thamel Chowk. 266433. 15 percent off season discount

For insertions ring NT Marketing at 543333-36.

BBC on FM 102.4

Mon-Fri	0615-0645	BBC World Today
Sat	0615-0645	BBC Science in Action
Sun	0615-0645	BBC Agenda
Daily	2045-2115	BBC नेपाली सेवा
Daily	2245-2300	BBC नेपाली सेवा

Radio Sagarmatha

RO, Box 6968, Bakhundola, Lalitpur, Nepal  
Tel: +977-1-545680, 545681 Fax: +977-1- 830227  
E-mail: radio@radiosagarmatha.org  
www.radiosagarmatha.org

NATION

# Air war over Lukla



**Khumbu braces for a renewed row over the airstrip at Syangboche.**

**RAMYATA LIMBU**

A six-year-old row over direct flights between Kathmandu and Syangboche has resurfaced after the Civil Aviation Authority announced plans to lengthen the airstrip at 4,000 m to accommodate short take-off and landing (STOL) aircraft.

Villagers living between Lukla and Namche Bazar on the Mt Everest trail fear they will lose their livelihood if trekking and cargo traffic flies directly into Syangboche, bypassing Lukla.

"It means trekking groups, lodges, porters will lose about five days worth of business," says Penorice Sherpa, Chairman of Lukla Village Development Committee. Flying to Syangboche will shorten the popular Everest trek from 14 days to nine days roundtrip and the traditional zokpo and yak trains which transport goods will be out of business, he says.

This month, business and representatives from Namche, Lukla, Phakding and Kharikhola gathered at Namche to discuss the repercussions of having an airport at Syangboche. In a memorandum submitted to the tourism ministry and CEO of 30 organisations, including airline operators, UNESCO, and the civil aviation authority, the Namche VDC says the extension of the airport will benefit 5 percent of Khumbu's businessmen but affect the livelihoods of 95 percent of the local population.

Namche Bazar, which is the business hub of the Khumbu region could potentially benefit from the airport, but lodge owners there aren't happy either. Syangboche airstrip is a half-hour climb above Namche. "It definitely means less business," says Jangbu Sherpa, proprietor of Café Dante, one of Namche's numerous lodges.

"As tourists usually spend more money and time on their return treks, we're going to lose that income if they fly out from Syangboche."

The Everest region got a boost when Sir Edmund Hillary converted potato fields near a small village called Lukla into the famous airstrip with its inclined runway. Suddenly, the two-week walk via Lamnaga and Jiri was shortened, and the entire Everest region became accessible. Now, with the airport higher up the valley in Syangboche, the upper Khumbu will be even easier for tourists to visit.

Arg Tiberting estimates 20,000 additional trekkers will visit the area once Nepal and China allow trekkers to pass through the Nang-pa base on the Nepal-Tibet border. The high pass north of Thame is the traditional trade route used by Tibetan traders who sell their wares in Namche's weekly Saturday market. Syangboche could possibly get a bulk for this traffic.

But Lukla locals say they will try to ensure Syangboche never opens for STOL traffic. They are even prepared to repair their 1997 sit-ins on the runway to protest cargo and passenger helicopters flying tourists directly to Syangboche. The runway improvement has already been delayed because of vandalism of some construction

equipment. "We first have to fix the equipment that was damaged by some unhappy locals," says Shankar Pradhan, a Civil Aviation engineer overseeing the project. The damage to an excavator and some hydraulic pipes has amounted to Rs 200,000-300,000. There are now police guarding the equipment.

The plan is to extend the inclined current airstrip, currently 400 m long, on both sides till 630 m and the approach path has to be re-aligned to take into account prevailing wind.

# Beautiful at any age



**EASY TIMES**

It's never been easier to subscribe to **Nepali Times.**

**543337**

Just dial this number and leave your address.

**Sunrise Homes**

Now presents an attractive option

**Sunrise Suites** Booking Open

**Rs. 12 Lacs onwards**

**Most competitive cost per sq. ft.**

**Cheerful Interiors**

**This is now no more a dream!**

**Few homes and flats left.**

**Urban Constructors & Development Co. Pvt. Ltd.**

Not just a Home... a Lifestyle



**Under My Hat**

by Kunda Dixit

# Touching raw nerves

I have spent the better part of the past two weeks in the company of a dentist in a hard hat who has been rooting deep inside my oral cavity with a pneumatic drill to reach the bedrock so that he can construct a root canal with approximately the dimensions of the Suez Passage in my jaw bone. Here is a blow-by-blow account of my ordeal:

**Day One:**  
Today, while lying fully reclined on Dr Frankenstein's chair with the footrest in an upright position, I had ample time to reconstruct in my mind the entire family tree of the Romanovs. This is getting to be almost as bloody as the Russian Revolution, but Czars had it relatively painless in comparison.

**Day Three:**  
I ruminate that if somehow I don't make it through this one, I would like to be reincarnated as a dental surgeon in my next life. Not only do you get an inside look at the nooks and crannies of a cross section of Nepali society, you can also carry out archaeological digs to excavate fossilised remains of a family barbecue which, after carbon dating, are found to be the relics of an ex-goat from the winter of the year 1977 AD.

**Day Four:**  
No pain, no gain. That is my philosophy. Dentistry is one of the few professions ever invented in recent human history where one is actually paid handsomely to inflict pain on other human beings. The only other profession is, of course, that of a Thai-style boxer masquerading as a masseur who can dislocate every ball-and-socket joint in one's skeletal system at a highly discounted off-season rate right there on the beach at Koh Samet.

**Day Five:**  
Today I got my first bill. The doc said I can pay in installments. Maybe I need a bank loan. There seems to be a direct correlation between the degree of pain and the size of the bill. I have come to know that dentists take a mandatory semester in medical school in which they practice extracting tusks from unanaesthetised African bull elephants before they are allowed to use the same techniques on hominoid patients.

**Day Ten:**  
At the risk of touching a raw nerve here among those who don't see the humour in having their precious ivories plundered by bounty hunters disguised as dentists, let me recount a professional trade joke told to me by my dentist. It comes from the horse's mouth.

Q: What is the difference between a dentist and a New York Yankee baseball fan?  
A: One yanks for the roots, and other roots for the yanks.

Since laughing gas is not used any more as an anaesthetic, dentists sometimes tell their patients jokes like the aforementioned witicism in order to kill the pain. "Harharharharhar. Didn't feel a thing, doc. Tell me another one."

Dentist: Open wide.  
Patient: My mouth or my wallet?  
"Hohohohoho. Good one. Hey, doc, did you just pull out my lower number six molar? Hal'Hal'Hal"

**Day 15:**  
As the days go by, there is less and less to laugh at as one by one I lose my incisors, my canines, my felines and finally my wisdoms. At this rate, pretty soon, I will only be able to gnash my gums while worrying about the state of the nation.



**RADO SWITZERLAND**

**INTERNAL**

TOTAL 17000 FEET OF HIGH TECH PERFORMANCE. 100% SWITZERLAND. 100% SWITZERLAND. 100% SWITZERLAND. 100% SWITZERLAND.

**Rado Centre**

100% SWITZERLAND. 100% SWITZERLAND. 100% SWITZERLAND. 100% SWITZERLAND.

## Felicitations

We join the nation in extending our loyalty to **His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev** and **Her Majesty Queen Komal Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah** on the auspicious occasion of the first anniversary of enthronement. Our best wishes for the peace, prosperity and progress of our country under His Majesty's dynamic leadership.



**नेपाल इण्डोसुव्‌स बैंक लि.**  
**NEPAL INDOSUEZ BANK LTD.**

Durbar Marg, P.O. Box 3412, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: 228229, 242530  
(DISA), Tlx: 2328 INDOSU NP, Fax: 226349, 228927



Heartiest Felicitations to His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev & Her Majesty Queen Komal Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah



**BHOTE KOSHI POWER COMPANY PVT. LTD.**  
A PUNDA ENERGY INTERNATIONAL, INC. COMPANY

BKPC is committed to help:  
• Build Nepal's future;  
• Provide the resources to allow Nepal to make the choices for its future.

P.O. Box 15153, Tahaachal, Kathmandu, Nepal. • Phone: +977-1-270027, 281658, 281659  
FAX: +977-1-273516 • E-Mail: bkpc@bkpc.com.np • URL: www.pundaenergy.com