No one won, everyone lost

Nepalis have never before faced such deprivation and insecurity.

Waiting for breeze

One year after September 11, tourism hasn't picked up.

RANJAN DAHAL

The two megatrends of September 11—terrorism and the revision of the emergency—were the culprits, or rather, the catalysts for another major political crisis that engulfed Nepal.

The resignation of king Gyanendra Shah has raised questions about the role of the constitutional monarchy. The king was clear: Deuba had to go. But he failed to convince the army and the palace, and the political crisis continued. The prime minister is even less powerful than it was, and the monarchy's public image is quiescent. Who benefited from all this?

Certainly not the Nepali people. The absence of political leadership continues. The political and military might of the Maoists have been strengthened. The strengthening of the extreme left has provided polls as a way out of this stalemate, but they are not going to let the people vote.

The king has provided a stepping stone off the back burner. The question is: Will it be enough? Will it really matter who gets the tree symbol? Or if the emergency is extended or not. In fact, even without a formal emergency, the country is in a state of emergency.

The economy has been battered, investments are squandered popular support, and it would be too hardline to digest. The defence establishment is fairly clear that Deuba's left hand is destroying his right hand, and his cabinet is self-destructing. The media-led campaign against Deuba loyalist Chiranjibi Wagle has made a political spectacle of the prime minister.

The Maoists have never before faced such deprivation and insecurity. They have lost purchasing power, markets, food supply, health services, education, and personal security. They have lost their sense of direction. If the Maoists were happy, it would be an easy thing to digest.

The atmosphere is not yet ripe for a political solution. The only possible way out is to back the royal army, the palace, and the monarchy. Certainly not the Nepali people. The two protagonists in the present crisis—the extreme right and the extreme left—want the same thing: an end to the monarchy.

Given this undercurrent, it doesn't seem possible for the grand coalition to emerge. There are signs the extreme right has been defeated, and the extreme left has begun to mobilize. But the electoral process will be postponed.

The elections will be postponed. The king has provided an impetus to keep them at bay. But will it be possible for the government to keep them at bay? The constitution does not provide for a political solution. The king's resignation shows that certain forces didn't like what Deuba had to say about the role of the constitutional monarchy.

Shah had said Tuesday that the king can use Article 127 to amend the constitution and take necessary powers. The magnitudes don't seem to matter anymore. The king has given the tree symbol. If the emergency is extended, the country is in a state of emergency.

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The Nepali Times

6 - 12 SEPTEMBER 2002

STATE OF THE NATION

Distant neighbours

Who will we take lessons from in forging a new, updated relationship with India: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, or Sikkim?

The results of climate change and environmental laws may ease the relief of the maize. There is no such thing as ‘back door’ anymore and global warming is already changing the face of the world, threatening livelihoods and the biodiversity of our natural economy. The world needs a new economic model.

The Nepali Times is not the first to point out this issue in the Himalayas. Other writers have written about the prospect of a great debate on the subject that is expected to draw the world’s attention to the potential consequences of global warming. The discussion needs to be framed in a way that is accessible to the general public.

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Sapta Man Shrestha (above, right) with his improved ghattha. The wooden paddle with this metal turbine to triple its mill's efficiency.

Traditional Horizontal Water Mill

Traditional ghattas are still relatively common in the more remote villages of Nepal. The improved ghattha runs with a paddle as the driving mechanism, and it turns a wooden disc on top of a stationary disc and grinds corn or wheat. The traditional ghattha is an example of an ancient technology that has been passed down through generations.

Improved Ghattha

The improved ghattha was made of steel blades and encased in a wooden case. The unit is made of metal and comprises of three detachable segments to make it easy to carry to remote locations. The MMPU can turn to diesel mills.

Multi-Purpose Water Wheel

The improved ghattha uses the energy of falling water channelled through a tunnel to turn the rolling wheel or water wheel made of a wooden paddle with elliptical-wet paddles and a stone at the bottom. A wooden wheel turns the spinning blade as the water flows over the stones, causing it to turn. The paddle can be taken with a boat or a rickshaw where the ghattha is not yet installed.

Water Wisdom

The traditional design is a wooden water mill, which is a simple but effective water-driven mill. The traditional ghattha has been improved by adding a metal paddle to increase its efficiency. The new design has been tested in several villages, and it has been found to be more efficient than the traditional design.

Sapta Man, for his part, says he is not thinking of selling his ghattha. He is running his improved ghattha to run a small factory. He uses the grinding machine to make flour and sell it to the local market.

Improved the quality and quantity of flour that comes out of the improved ghattha. Sapta Man says he wants to continue using the improved ghattha. He is not thinking of selling it. He is happy with the way his family's ghattha has been improved.

One of the benefits of the improved ghattha is that it can be adapted to different environments and can be installed in remote areas without much expenditure and expertise. The improved ghattha can be turned into a small factory and can be used to generate electricity, run mills or do all the work simultaneously.

(Courtesy: Water Technology by B.S. Sedlacek and Andreas Bachmann, 1979)

Improved Lives

Sapta Man Shrestha, the traditional ghattha user, has been known to make flour for his family and the local community. He has been using the improved ghattha for a few years now and has noticed a significant improvement in the quality and quantity of flour that comes out of the improved ghattha.

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(Courtesy: Water Technology by B.S. Sedlacek and Andreas Bachmann, 1979)
Poll vault

It's hardly defining democracy when those who want polls aren't nearly as fired up as those who don't.

The security situation across the country has changed. The government has a bigger house to keep the people inside. That alone is enough to keep the Maoists at bay. They are not that stupid. The Maoists would not be in such a rush to make a move when they know that the people would rise up against them.

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Flying with the flag on Everest, the moon signifies the Nepali soul. The blue border in the Himalayas also suggests the immensity of the values of which we are a part.

Oddly enough, given its origins in a war and its history, the 1959 constitution only ever acknowledged the banner as the national flag. We engage in a ritual every act of violence on Earth, but look around any time over 10 years and above, and you will see many of them, flying flags where they shouldn’t be. The government officials, heads of state, and the general public, are all constitutionally entitled to fly the flag, but very few actually do, and those who do make a big deal out of it. Moreover, the 1992 flag policy requires that the flag used in official ceremonies should be the unification of Nepal by Prithvi Narayan Shah, though the border at that time was green, rather than red.

According to Shrestha, the government and officials hoist the flag to reflect the standards or identity of the country. It’s a sign of striving, an indication that at least we are doing our best.

Does our banner yet wave?

HERITAGE

The sun is a symbol of the Nepali soul, the moon signifies the Nepali soul. The blue border in the Himalayas also suggests the immensity of the values of which we are a part.

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The end of the history


Bread lines in the Soviet Union and riots in Argentina both expose the fallacy of economic determinism.

Economic theory has always been a source of comfort to those who believe that human society is a closed system in which people, in the aggregate, always make decisions that act to their own benefit. If gains are made by one group, they are offset by losses somewhere else. If the overall economy grows, it must be because the gains of one group are exactly balanced by the losses of another. Thus, it can be argued, the collapse of the house of cards, but...
Nepali CD-ROM: Essential words and phrases for absolute beginners.

Learning Nepali the Klingon way

A new CD-ROM teaches you to ask in Nepali where the beach is.

The content of the CD-ROM is increasingly fundable from the European Union. In the last couple of years the Nordic countries have been asked to contribute to the financial support of other language learning courses that are being developed in the European Union. This is a good example of what can be done when countries are willing to put their money where their mouths are.

The budget allocation for the Ministry of Defence, which put the underprivileged children at a disadvantage.

While the linguistic content of the CD-ROM is good, the presentation is rather poor. There are many illustrations that are not relevant to the task at hand and could have been replaced with more useful ones. The language used is also somewhat difficult, even for native speakers of English.

The state is in a massive crisis. Its anti-people policies and the way it has handled the economy have caused widespread suffering among the people. I want to see a change in the way things are done. That is why I am calling for a change in the government.

The lack of cultural tuning is a problem outlined in the preceding paragraphs. The content of the CD-ROM is not well tuned to the needs of the learners. It is too difficult for beginners and too easy for advanced learners.

The ironies of which is all too apparent when starting to learn a South Asian language. Sapir and Whorf would turn in their graves if they saw how we are trying to teach languages to people who have never heard them before.

The problem is that the education system in Nepal is not designed to teach language to people who have never heard it before. It is designed to teach language to people who already speak it, but who need help with pronunciation and grammar.

The government has not done enough to address this problem. It has not allocated enough resources to language education. It has also not taken enough steps to increase the number of language teachers.

A second useful feature is the ability to listen to the language modelled in the menu structure, however, as the user is not guided through the steps at all.

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The ironies of which is all too apparent when starting to learn a South Asian language. Sapir and Whorf would turn in their graves if they saw how we are trying to teach languages to people who have never heard them before.

The problem is that the education system in Nepal is not designed to teach language to people who have never heard it before. It is designed to teach language to people who already speak it, but who need help with pronunciation and grammar.

The government has not done enough to address this problem. It has not allocated enough resources to language education. It has also not taken enough steps to increase the number of language teachers.

A second useful feature is the ability to listen to the language modelled in the menu structure, however, as the user is not guided through the steps at all.

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6 - 12 SEPTEMBER 2002 NEPAL TIMES

NEPALI WEATHER
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CULTURE

In Thamel, a couple make a literary and gastronomic connection between their home countries.

In Kathmandu, “Happiness is cooking,” says Yin. “And it’s all about the vegetables. It’s about the colors of the ingredients, of the spices, of the herbs. I love cooking and I’m glad that I can cook for others.”

The couple, Jeong and Kim, are well-known in Kathmandu for their writing and cooking. Jeong, a Korean writer, and Kim, a Nepali writer, have collaborated on several cookbooks and novels in both English and Korean.

The couple met in 1996 and have been living in Kathmandu since then. They have two children and are both involved in various cultural and literary activities in Kathmandu.

The couple’s cooking is a blend of Korean and Nepali flavors. They use fresh ingredients from their garden and from the local markets, and their cooking style is influenced by the food they grew up eating in their respective countries.

In a career spanning over five decades as writer, editor, journalist, lawyer, MP and diplomat, Khushwant Singh’s views were always incisive, insightful and with a great sense of humor. He was a man of letters, a man of wit, a man of letters, and a man of letters.

In his autobiography, “Truth, Love and a Little Malice,” he writes about his love for writing, his love for the people of India, and his love for the country of India.

The couple has also collaborated on several cookbooks in Korean and Nepali. Their most recent book, “Korean Nepali Cooking for Beginners,” was published in 2002.

The couple has received several awards for their work, including the National Book Award for Best Fiction in Korea and the Nepali Academy Award for Best Cookbook.

The couple’s cooking is known for its simplicity and its use of fresh ingredients. They believe that the best way to cook is to use fresh ingredients and to let the flavors of the ingredients shine through.

In conclusion, the couple’s cooking is a wonderful combination of Korean and Nepali flavors, and their love for cooking is evident in every dish they prepare.

For more information and recipes, please visit their website: www.koreancookingshop.com
Under My Hat
by Kunda Dixit

Two weeks out and we told our new neighbors we'd be back in two months, but the thought of struggling with snowleopards seemed less daunting now than it did when we first went out.

On returning from the annual migration, some told stories of encounters at the airport that they were pleased to impart to tales of Nepali still extant. “It’s quite a shock,” said a newly returned friend.

Hunger Headlines

In Katmandu as elsewhere in the state of national urgency to declare a nationwide alert, the situation for the All-Women's Federation of Nepal (Reactionary) has defied the re-imposition of a ten percent service charge for household work and higher overtime pay.

The organisation has announced a series of escalating protests in the run-up to the strike, which includes meetings and rallies and blockades in the kitchen during Friday, exquisite baby boy morning and Saturday morning, and announcing forward deployment of pressure groups in the capital by foot and by bike.

“This should do the trick,” chairman of the Hunger Headlines Preparation Committee said, putting the capital today. “We hope the menfolk take heed of this, and not remove our next posting.”

Hunger Strike Preparatory Committee told journos in the capital today. “We hope the menfolk take heed of this, and not remove our next posting.”

Scrambling the Tracks

In Kathmandu this week to re-launch Vanishing Tracks: Four Years Among the Snow Leopards of Nepal, Darla Jackson undertook the first scientific expedition to study the big cat in its Western Nepal range. In 1981 when Darla and husband Rodney Jackson undertook the first scientific expedition to study the big cat, they captured, collared and released five cats, the first scientific expedition to study the big cat in the Himalayas. They later released five cats, imaginatively named Ek, Dui, Teen, Chari and Panch. They had captured and released five cats in the Eastern Nepal range.

Darla put together a team and spent 16 years in the Western Nepal range, studying the snow leopard. She captured, collared and released five cats, imaginatively named Ek, Dui, Teen, Chari and Panch. They had captured and released five cats in the Eastern Nepal range.

Rodney Jackson and Darla Jackson have been working with the Snow Leopard Conservancy for the past 16 years, studying and tracking the snow leopard in the Western Nepal range. They captured, collared and released five cats, imaginatively named Ek, Dui, Teen, Chari and Panch. They had captured and released five cats in the Eastern Nepal range.

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The firstfruit of Darla and Rodney's undertaking was a book published with Mandala Book, an updated and expanded edition of Vanishing Tracks: Four Years Among the Snow Leopards of Nepal.

Darla, Rodney...

The Snow Leopards of Nepal, Darla's seminal account of their work between 1987 and 1991, is now in its third printing.

After being away for most of the summer, Nepal-based expatriates have started flocking back to their hardship posts, and say they can't wait for their Christmas breaks.

An end to the mass exodus?

The idea of studying snow leopards in the Langu Gorge that is now in Shey Phoksumdo National Park.

In order to check retributive killings by angry farmers whose livestock snow leopards sometimes prey on, the Conservancy is helping locals build predator-proof corrals and pens in places like Upper Mustang.

Another returnee, Bo Gunnarson, told CNN he was mentally prepared for the worst, but the fact that La' Soon had re-opened meant things were getting back to normalcy. “For a moment there, we were quite worried,” Gunnarson added. “It helps the country doesn’t totally vanish before our next posting.”

Nepal women to go on hunger strike

The All-Women's Federation of Nepal (Reactionary) has demanded an immediate nationwide alert and higher overtime pay.

The organisation has announced a series of escalating protests in the run-up to the strike, which includes meetings and rallies and blockades in the kitchen during Friday, exquisite baby boy morning and Saturday morning, and announcing forward deployment of pressure groups in the capital by foot and by bike.