Maoist message: take us more seriously

PUSKAR GAUTAM

The cold war has been a classic Maoist arena at ‘analytical rigidity and tactical flexibility’ After two deadly clashes of little ability, the leadership has sent out a clear signal with a proposal for ceasefires and dialogue. The leadership has to be realistic for the government to take the movement as gravely as it is by now. In the new government, the Maoists have to prove the public that they are not a threat.

The Maoists have to show their capability to negotiate and to participate in the democratic process. They need to show their commitment to the peace process and to the rule of law.

The Maoists have to prove that they are not a threat to the stability of the country. They need to prove that they are not a threat to the security of the people.

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The moral high ground and war of words

The army is operating in difficult conditions after years of conflict. Major political parties need to support it with moral and psychological pressure.

The army is a product of the society. A society that cannot deliver services to the people under the security umbrella, is a society that cannot deliver services to the military. A society that is not respected or recognised by all Nepalis on matters of national security. The army in this case represents our national pride. The army means respect and glory. The army means dignity.

What we lack is a brave and courageous political leader, a political leader who can and will come forward and say that the army is our national pride and we should respect it. We should respect the army and give our support to the army.

The army is not a criminal group. The army is not a political group. The army is not a group that can be negotiated with. The army is a group that can only be broken with absolute and unrelenting force.

We have a few brave political leaders in this country. But we lack a political leader who can come forward and say that the army is our national pride and we should respect it.

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The zookeepers are enthusiastic, and visitors can’t get over the open space and exotic species. Now if only the Central Zoo had some more cash.

In 1997, the zoo began a project called Friends of the Zoo under its conservation education program, targeting schoolchildren and their parents. Already, the FoZ is acclaimed as one of the best undertakings of its kind in Nepal. The zoo now has over 5,000 members from about 75 schools in Kathmandu Valley. "Children between the ages of 11 and 14 are more keen on our activities, the older ones are already overburdened with preparing for SSL exams," says Geeta Shrestha, chief of FoZ. Most of the students are members of a school’s girls’ group, in large part because the fee Rs 150 is simply too much for children in government schools to pay. Bhawani Ramai, a teacher at the Bhaktapur Adhara School, who is taking 54 students around, was disappointed but not too much. "Our students are not members because their parents cannot afford the fee. But we bring them here and at their requests and every year for their project in zoology and biology," he said. FoZ would like to subsidise membership fees for government students, but simply cannot afford any. The fee is Rs 1,7 million. The fees cover only Rs 300,000-400,000. But says Shrestha, they are seeing the results of the government schools for group memberships and have started identifying contact persons in schools. This year 12 programs have been planned for various schools to participate with their more privileged peers. Another program, under the zoo animal welfare scheme, is getting sponsors for animals. The cost to partially sponsor the feed for an animal ranges between Rs 90 and 134,000; depending on the animals and their size of their enclosure. This programme was introduced to lighten the zoo administration’s Rs 4 million annual feed bill.

Became a member of Friends of the Zoo

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We’ve been looking for you.

The zookeepers show their strength and enthusiasm.

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**ECONOMY**

**ECONOMIC SENSE**

**Southeast Asia**

Most Sukisaks, authorized distributors of Sukisak vehicles in Nepal, have introduced three new models in Nepal. The company says its three new models are the Fulbari Resort & Spa has signed a service agreement with UTELL, a leading hospitality market and distribution network. The Fulbari is the latest group to join roughly 5,500 independent and chain hotels in 150 countries that are members of UTELL. The Pokhara property has been classified as Superior First Market Position, and banking structure and strategy, says an SCBN release. 

**SOMEWHERE IN NEPAL**

**First Time in Nepal**

**And Computerised Hair Styling**

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**NEWS**

**Don’t blame private power producers**

The international financial community is watching the performance of the Bhote Kosi and Khimti projects closely before committing any more resources in Nepal’s hydropower. 

**ECONOMIC SENSE**

**Rio +10 + + ?**

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**WE, THE PEOPLE**

What matters is how to win the elections any way.

**Boat Race**

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might appear at first glance to be a more sociologically complex outfit. Women are also turning to the outfit, if somewhat hesitantly, and even married women like Rajbhandary, with higher slits for those who ride two-wheelers, are adopting it. Increasingly, older women would have believed that the kurtha-suruwal would be the outfit of choice for their daughters-in-law. However, the sari immodestly slipping down. It is more mobile—be less fussy when running after microbuses, sit astride motorcycles, not bother about the payment for that.
UN wrong on rights

Joanna Weschler

There's an anti-human rights lobby at the UN, and they're gaining ground.

Al-Qaeda, alive and well

Daniele Bologna: "The head of the United Nations group charged with going after Al-Qaeda and its ilk in the wake of the September 11 attacks has admitted that his unit underplays the threats that the group poses to the world. In a curious twist, the UN's special representative to Al-Qaeda, Zachary Shenker, said during a recent press conference that the UN's anti-Al-Qaeda initiative is "underfunded" and "understaffed".

While the UN rhetoric is filled with the spectre of war, nervous investors dumped their shares. Within weeks, the news of a war in the Middle East sent the world into a tailspin. In a classic case of "selling the war," the US government arrested 15 Asian men accused of plotting attacks against the US and other western targets in the city. Singapore authorities said the group planned to assemble seven truck bombs and hit buildings including the US government offices. The group was allegedly linked to the Al-Qaeda network. The same holds true for female labour market minority rights are dismissed as extremists. Common bandits and parochial fanatics are abruptly elevated to the grand Christian families.

Qaeda was a videotape of the group's surveillance of prospective targets in Singapore found in the bombed ruins of a Kabul house used by Mohamad Atef, the mastermind of the September 11 attacks. The group was allegedly linked to the Al-Qaeda network. The same holds true for female labour market minority rights are dismissed as extremists. Common bandits and parochial fanatics are abruptly elevated to the grand Christian families.

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Spacetime, 8 September

Newspaper: Corrupt ministers to be punished by prime minister.

“Mr Minister, have you seen any corrupt minister come this way?”

create an environment for talks.

PLUS: FREE POSTER OF HISTORIC LHASA

In the First Himal...
NEPALI WEATHER

CULTURE

NEPALI TIMES

13-19 SEPTEMBER 2002

NEPALI TIMES

The launch of four new FM channels in Pokhara in January means availability of programming from evening until morning, folk songs competitions, phone-in shows and more.

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Under My Hat
by Kunda Dixit

As is well known to all and sundry, there is evidence of a certain degree of laxity on the part of God towards this country of late. If the almighty is as compassionate and considerate about our welfare as is reported in the national electronic media from time to time, then how come traffic is so bad on Putali Sadak? How come I haven’t yet got a raise? These were some of the burning national issues that were raised during a rally outside the gates of heaven recently.

In order to find out exactly what is going through God’s mind, Larry King recently obtained this exclusive interview. God does not usually give interviews to television journalists (considering them, as he puts it in his infinite wisdom, “the scum of the earth”) but it is an honour even for God to be interviewed by CNN. So, in a rare and exclusive live studio chat, God spoke frankly and freely on a range of issues including regime change in Iraq, the Kyoto Protocol, and the goings on in a tiny and far-flung Himalayan kingdom. Excerpts:

Larry King: Allow us, first of all, to say how glad we are that you agreed to fit us into your tight schedule. We know you are terribly busy these days.

God: Glad to be here, there, and everywhere.

Q: Mr God, sir, how many of you are there actually? Some say you are one, while others believe you are member of a divine jumbo cabinet.

A: Well, Larry, in the last census in heaven there were 33 million of us, give or take a few hundred thousands. But since then, most have emigrated to New Zealand and sought political asylum, and many have been stolen and are now residing in museums in Austria. So, that leaves just me up here to hold the fort.

Larry King: This must put a lot of pressure on your time, having to take care of the day-to-day affairs in paradise. Is this why you have let the landlocked kingdom of Nepal go down the tubes?

A: Yes, and no. It is true that on any given day, I have to use my executive powers to straighten things out not just in your universe, but in parallel universes as well. I am aware that things are drifting a bit in Nepal, and I have sent instructions down to my emissary there, Mr Pashupati Nath, to do whatever he deems fit within the constitutional framework to bring things back to normalcy. He’s been a bit tied up with demolitions lately, and putting his own house in order, but he should be getting down to banging some heads together very soon.

Q: Is it true that you are cooperating with the CIA to debar corrupt people from going to heaven?

A: Yes, we have signed an MoU to that effect under which those convicted of graft will spend a transit period at a halfway house in purgatory until their appeal is heard. If found guilty, they will burn in hell for eternity. We think this will serve as a deterrent to others who are tempted to steal from the people.

Q: And lastly, on a slightly personal note, are you a man or a woman, or both? This is a question that has bedeviled man since the dawn of history.

A: (Laughing heartily) That is a bit below the belt, Larry. And it just goes to show that you are the scum of the earth.