

NEPALI Times

Nepali Times is published by Himalmedia Pvt Ltd,
Chief Editor: Kunda Dixit
Design: Kiran Maharjan
Webmaster: Bhusan Shilpakar
editors@nepalitimes.com, www.nepalitimes.com
Advertising: Sunaina Shah, advertising@himalmedia.com
Subscription: Anil Karki, subscription@himalmedia.com
Sales: Sudas Bista, sales@himalmedia.com
Sanchoya Koiri Building, Block 4-4th Floor, Lalpur
GPO Box 7251, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 01-543333-7, Fax: 01-521013
Printed at Jagadamba Press, Haharai, 01-547018/17

THE REFEREE DECIDES TO BAT

On a recent interview on Nepal Television, veteran kangresi Pradip Giri used an apt cricket analogy to describe the political games being played out in Kathmandu. He said it was like a captain who keeps on batting even though he has been bowled out several times, so the referee gets fed up and decides to bat himself.

When the referee sent the captain off on October Fourth, he was fed up with the lack of team spirit on both sides and was forced to do something drastic. But by stepping up to the crease to take on both teams, the referee changed the rules of the game. It just wasn't cricket anymore.

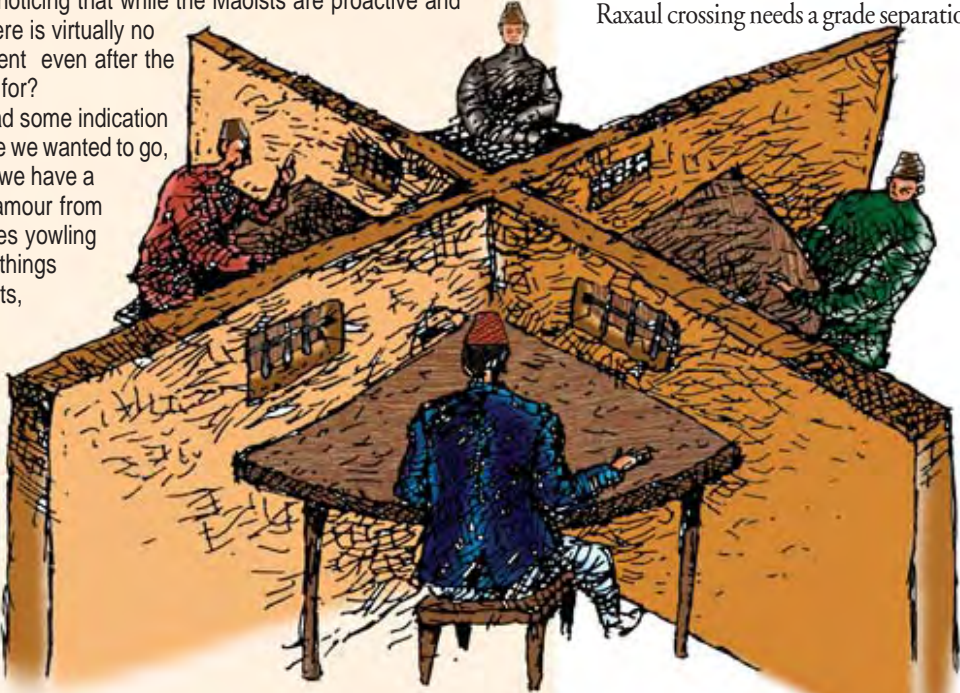
This is a king who staked all on his unconventional move. He is telling the crowd, I'll just bat until these two teams sort out their problems so we can resume with the match. The teams don't trust him, but the spectators in the stands are willing to go along with that for a while. Soon, the people will start getting restless. King Gyanendra's predicament is that he needs to be hands-on to get things back on track, but he can't be seen to be. The predicament of the political parties is that they can't be seen to be opposed to peace, but they want a share of the pie.

By announcing the ceasefire, the king and his royal team of administrators have bought some time for themselves. There are those in the cabinet who are quietly going about making necessary structural changes in ministries that were rotten to the core: corrupted by the politicisation, interference and indifference of the past decade. These moves are invisible, but vital to improving future service delivery. Other ministers are too busy playing games of intrigue and giving speeches.

But for the peace process to be made irreversible, much more needs to be done and urgently. The royal appointees need to show that they have a government that cares, that they are different from the bungling parties and that they are working to get things moving again. So far, the people have seen scant signs of such resolve.

Reports in this issue of our paper from Jumla, Surkhet, Salyan, Rukum and Rolpa show that in the heartland of the insurgency, the government has lost the chance to wrest back the initiative. It is showing the same callous disregard for local welfare, the same cavalier attitude towards the disenfranchised. Meanwhile, the Maoists are holding open meetings in which they do mass calisthenics with SLRs and RPGs. You could say, well, at least they are not using those guns. But the Maoist message is clear. To be sure, seven years of conflict cannot be set right overnight. We can't be impatient while the behind-the-scenes negotiations between the king's emissary and the Maoist leadership tries to get over years of bad blood and fix the rules for future bargaining. But we can't help noticing that while the Maoists are proactive and have kept their cadre busy, there is virtually no tangible presence of government even after the ceasefire. What are we waiting for?

By now we should have had some indication about what we had to do, where we wanted to go, and how to get there. Instead, we have a cacophony of contradictory clamour from the cabinet, with political parties yowling away outside. There are a few things everyone, including the Maoists, could now agree on—a shared commitment to a democratic, pluralistic and inclusive Nepal so that we put in place the socio-political prerequisites to development. If everyone plays by the rules, we should be able to agree on a mechanism to make that happen. That way, the referee could go back to being a referee again.



LETTERS

KRISHNA MOHAN
Krishna Mohan Shrestha, your words will not be forgotten. Your bravery will be the guiding light. Your mission will be completed.

How can you believe a person who kills your father and mother and three days later wants to talk peace with you? Will you? See it in the eyes of Krishna Mohan's three young daughters ("No more orphans", #131) whose parents have been snuffed out of this world. My dear Nepali brothers and sisters, mark my word, the souls of Krishna Mohan and his



wife and many others who were murdered in this cowardly fashion across the nation will haunt you for the rest of your lives if you don't take the courage to voice your outrage against this inconceivable brutality and petition the government to take stern action against these godless culprits. You know why the Maoists have not come forth and taken responsibility of this heinous crime? Because they are scared of public backlash and dwindling support for their cause. They know this crime can never be forgotten or forgiven.

I met Krishna Mohan and his wife about a month ago for the very first time in my life. And I was mesmerised by his gentleness, humility, resolve and confidence. He was one of the very few truly dedicated officers in this country. My shock and grief is now turning into anger. These cowards will never say they did it. We have to go after them

before they turn Nepal into another Cambodia. Someday, Baburam and Prachanda, the long arm of the law will come and get you. That is if the daughters and sons whose parents you murdered, fathers and mothers of the children you massacred, or the grandchildren of the old men and women you butchered don't get to you first. The ghosts of the people you have killed, including those of Krishna Mohan and Nudup, will haunt you for the rest of your days.

Name withheld

personal effort, integrity and honesty. He did not have to pull strings, he wouldn't. In his death, the nation now has a role model. Let there be thousands of Nepali Krishna Mohans to replace this great citizen.

Rabindra Chhetri, email

CAN'T FAIL
This is in response to Kunda Dixit's analysis "Can't fail this time" (#130). The ceasefire announcement was welcomed by everyone except the political parties. That is because the king totally ignored them. On a recent visit to Nepal, I attended King Gyanendra's speech in Biratnagar. His reasoning was exactly the argument that a monarch should have on watching his subjects suffer. He threw the challenge at the political parties: come let's solve this problem together. But the



SUBHAS RAI

response of the political parties was negative because they know that the people are aware of how corrupt they are and that democracy for them is just an excuse to steal some more. The politicians are also unsure about what future peace talks will bring, so they are trying to put a

spanner in the works. My view is that we should not trust these clowns until we are absolutely sure that they have reformed, have a long-term vision for the country and a workable plan to get us there. I plead with the government and the Maoists to keep the political parties out of the



DURGAKHAKHRE

DURGA POKHREL IN JUMLA AND LIBANG.
At night, the rugged mountains surrounding Jumla reverberated with the sound of gunfire. The firefight went on for several hours as a paramilitary unit was ambushed by guerrillas in what turned out to be one of the last battles before the ceasefire was announced three days later. It snowed all night and the fighting tapered off. The next morning, there were several inches of snow on the ruins of Jumla bazar, devastated in the deadly Maoist attack of 14 November in which more than 130 people were killed.

The town was tense as we flew out of Jumla's partially destroyed airport. When we got to Surkhet that night, we heard that a ceasefire had been announced. Next stop was Pyuthan, and had the ceasefire not intervened, the Maoists were reportedly preparing to attack Pyuthan the night we arrived.

With the truce, the atmosphere everywhere is more relaxed and we met the district administration, the security forces, and women detainees in jails (see pictures, above). The Maoist detainees were scathingly critical of any peace brokered in Kathmandu. The dialogue for peace should begin in the districts that have been most affected, was their viewpoint. In other words, walk the talk.

With this message in mind, I carried on the next day to Rolpa, the district where

the "peoples' war" had been launched exactly seven years ago this week. I was travelling with two young journalists and an even younger driver who was from Rolpa but hadn't been up there for a while. As the jeep bounced wildly on the rough road in the darkness of this cold Rolpa night, I recalled the first news in 1996 of black-hooded attackers. The government paid little heed, perhaps because it still perceived the Maoist party—which had the third largest showing in the 1991 general election—to be still in the mainstream. What might have escaped the kangresi leaders' memory then was the way they had also launched their underground armed struggle against the Panchayat system in 1968.

The Jhupali Marxist-Leninists also mounted an insurrection then, so this was not the first time there was an armed uprising in the country. After 1996, the conflict spread like wildfire, engulfing the whole country. But I wonder if the politicians in Kathmandu ever really woke up. The old games of business-as-usual, corruption and narrow-sighted patronage in all their forms, continued as the war raged. Nearly 8,000 Nepalis have been killed, many thousands more were maimed physically, materially, and mentally.

But perhaps it took the killings of Krishna Mohan Shrestha, his wife, and bodyguard to wake up the leaders in

Walk the talk

After seven years of war, the scars are raw, but the truce brings new hope to Rolpa.

Bimala Gharti (with child, left) smiles for the camera in the yard of Libang jail. She and her husband are both militia members.



Six years after being arrested for being a Maoist, Bhujimala Pun (on left, pic right) is still serving a jail sentence in a cell covered with newspapers.

Kathmandu. Finally, the revolution was getting close enough to matter.

We lurched along the Bhalubang-Libang road at about 9 km/hr. All around were 3,000 m peaks. The district is rugged and with a population of only 210,000—with seven thousand more women than men because of out-migration. Rolpa also has the highest proportion of the population who are gun-carrying Maoists. And 40 percent of the militia are female. Most are Magars, with Kamis and other Dalits. It is easy to see why the war started here. It might not be one of the remotest districts, but it sure is underdeveloped with one of the worst human development parameters in Nepal and an entrenched feudalism.

Night fell, a dim light was glowing on a far hilltop. In the ghostly darkness we passed ruins of bombed-out, deserted, or padlocked buildings. This was a war zone. It was way after curfew, and driving here was risky business even with the ceasefire. The tiny glow was from a house where a woman and a child stared out at us. "Weren't you stopped?" she asked. Would she give us baas for the night, and some *gundruk* and *bhat*? The husband grunted from inside: "*Dekchha*, they'll see us." He prepared food, we ate hurriedly and were moved up to the attic to sleep with another warning not to go anywhere.

The military came at 7am to check who had arrived in the jeep.

Technically, we were illegal arrivals since we had come after 6.30pm without having actually registered at the checkpoint. It took another hour to reach Libang. The district headquarter was surrounded by barbed wire and looked like the fortified garrison town that it is. Tin cans and bottles were hanging from the barbed wires to serve as early warning, and the slopes were said to be mined. Beyond the wires was "them".

We met them soon enough, and talking to the women could sense their empowerment. They are convinced that proletarian rule will soon come, and they complained bitterly: "What did multi-party democracy do for us? The leaders were worse than the panchas."

Rolpa's single hospital was under construction, but now lies abandoned. There are hardly any government services. This is a district that has been left to fend for itself the best it can.

A Maoist woman prisoner told us why she joined the movement: "We had been left here alone to die. Most of us have no farmland. No roads. No businesses. Nothing." Another added, "It was *waar ki paar*."

I asked, aren't you tired of the fighting? Answer: "Not really."

Without exception, prisoners felt they were there for a just cause, as though it was just a question of days until their cause would be won. Those outside jail expressed pride at having Rolpa almost totally under their control. "Yes, we are happy about the ceasefire and the talks," said one.

That view is even shared by the deputy-superintendent of police in Libang. "I wish I could arrest anyone I hear talking negatively about the ceasefire," he says. Rolpa after the ceasefire is a happier place. Outside the jail house I asked a woman with a baby what she thought about the ceasefire. "*Ramro bhayo*," she answered. What about the security forces? Very happy, too, they posed for a photograph.

The Rolpali say they want to come to Kathmandu for a mass rally and cultural performances. You have to hand it to the Maoists for being so many steps ahead of the rest of us: they want to "attack" Kathmandu not with guns but with musical instruments. Maybe they should add ploughshares, too, so that the message comes across: the giving must start from Kathmandu. ♦

(Durga Pokhrel is the chairperson of the National Commission for Women.)



peace talks. Bring them in later when you have fixed the country they destroyed.

Pravesh Saria, Chicago, USA

- I must compliment your paper for its brilliant cartoons by Subhas Rai. He is a Nepali treasure trove of talent and sensitivity. I especially liked the illustration he did for your story "Let the talks begin" (#131). Subhas Rai manages to say with a few deft strokes of his pen what countless like CK Lal take 1,000 words to write.

L B Gurung, Pokhara

- I couldn't agree more with the last sentence of your editorial ("For talks, don't talk.", #131): "Maybe what we actually first need is a ceasefire between the palace and the parties." How true. If Prachanda and King Gyanendra can bury the hatchet, why can't the parties and the palace? Aren't they supposed to be both in support of democracy and

constitutional monarchy? Or, like you say, are we Nepalis programmed to fight over everything until there is nothing to fight over? "*Nationalist*"

- Your editorial "For Talks, Don't Talk." was a great read. Especially the part "What's more, there are even members of the cabinet who can't seem to be able to countenance the idea of a colleague from a minority community being in the limelight for putting the country back on track to peace." Magars, who form the largest block of a mosaic known as the Nepali populace, have been instrumental in the creation and sustenance of the Nepal, even though they have been underrepresented in much of the national affairs of late. The ruling class, with its idiosyncrasies of bad governance, forget this. Thank you for drawing attention to the inflated egos of certain members of this current cabinet.

And one last thing, Magars are not a "minority".

Raja Thapa Magar, Hong Kong

- There is a glimmer of hope on the horizon. The recent ceasefire and the upcoming roundtable talks should be welcomed by all who desire peace and prosperity. Politicians like Giri, Madhav Kumar Nepal and others only belittle themselves by criticising the hard work people put in to bring everyone to the table for the peaceful resolution of this crisis. No matter what the circumstances or how it is done, it is a commendable effort and all involved deserve high praise for trying to materialise a long-awaited process. We do not want the democratic norms of our country compromised, but we most certainly want our long lost peace and harmony back. The present caretaker government may have shortcomings, but it

deserves credit for being able to convince the Maoists to a ceasefire and a possible permanent resolution of the crisis.

Ashok Srivastava, GE Transportation Systems, USA

NOT REALLY FUNNY
I was glad to read Rabin Tuladhar's letter in #131. Before that I always thought that it might be a cultural issue that I don't find "Under My Hat" really funny. Sometimes there are rays of lights in terms of comedy and I think "Too good to be true" #130, was a good example) but most of the time it seems like something has to fill the last page. Maybe you could invite some guest writers for the ironic round-off of your paper to give new potentials in this field a space to express their ideas.

Tobias Denskus, email

- I just discovered that I am not the only one who starts reading

your paper from the back with Under My Hat. Your front page is too depressing, can you do something about it? The last Hat on disembarkation cards was hilarious.

Ivan Lind, email

- I am an irregular reader of your weekly for its political analysis and investigative reporting. I would like to make a few comments about the language used by its editor Kunda Dixit in his Under My Hat column. It is not easy to understand not only for me, but for most newspaper-lovers who are not from the English-speaking background. Can he make it more simple and clear? Isn't that what journalism is supposed to be, so people can understand what you are saying?

Chun Bahadur Gurung, Editor, Jwala Weekly

- I don't know what kind of

chap Rabin Tuladhar at AIT is, but he sounds like a grouch. Kunda Dixit deserves the nation's highest awards and medals for that spoof on disembarkation cards. Let's hope the authorities haven't read the column yet and changed the cards, otherwise we will have lost a source of free-in-flight entertainment. It is difficult to improve on Under My Hat, but here are some suggestions. In the box for "Passport" with "Passport colour, Place of Issue, Date of Issue and Best Before" may be he should have added: "Passport: Stolen, Forged, Red" so that we know who is who and what is what. And under "nationality", he should have also added "past nationality" for the thousands of friends from neighbouring countries who have adopted Nepal as their motherland.

Ritu Thapa, Samakhushi

The cradle of the revolution



SHARAD KS

from p1 Ruins

Further up, near Triveni, a young woman is singing a folk song as she collects fodder at the edge of the forest. The words go, "When will my beloved return to me?" She is happy the fighting is over, and doesn't even want to think about it starting again.

Acting Salyan CDO Mohan Akela says he won't let anyone disrupt the ceasefire, adding that if the Maoists are not armed they can come to the district headquarters.

Villagers are hopeful, but suspicious of the Maoists' real intentions. "We can't trust the Maoists even if the talks succeed," says Dhan Bahadur Hamal, of Marmapari Kada, who fled his village and has been living in Khalanga for the past five years. "We will go home only if the Maoists disarm and vow that they will not murder and extort

anymore," he adds.

Nirmala Rathour's husband is a policeman with the paramilitary, and she has been worried about his safety. Despite the ceasefire, she is nervous and still unsure if she will ever see her husband again.

"After all, they double-crossed us before," she says. We put that to a local Maoist activist, who identifies himself as Rohit. "We will fight during the time of war. Otherwise, policemen can come here and lead a normal life," he promises us. But this doesn't assuage the fear of students like Bishnu Sharma of Kavra and Amar Bahadur Pun of Badagaon.

"They can't be trusted," says Bishnu simply. Amar Bahadur agrees, "They never practice what they preach." But even the fact that women, students, officials, farmers and the Maoists are

talking so openly is already a sign that the situation is more relaxed, and if real peace is restored things will be back to normal in no time.

Seven years ago, many in this neglected and abandoned region of Nepal believed that liberation was at hand. But as the attacks mounted and the state used strong-arm tactics to nip the revolution in the bud, the violence spun out of control. The truce two years ago was followed by even more brutal fighting as the army was dragged in, and that explains the wariness with ceasefires agreed upon in distant Kathmandu.

The mid-western regional office of the human rights group, INSEC, says 1,174 persons have been killed in Rolpa district alone during the last seven years. Of them, 992 people were killed by the security force whereas 182

people (including security personnel) were killed by the Maoists. In neighbouring Salyan district, the security forces have killed 159 people while the Maoists killed 65 people. Those killed in Salyan by the Maoists include 12 Nepali Congress cadre and three UML supporters.

With much accumulated bad blood, political parties which have had their local cadre base decimated are most skeptical about the ceasefire. Lok Bahadur Dangi of the UML's district committee says he is still taking a wait-and-watch move. President of the Nepali Congress Salyan district, Dilli Raj Regmi, is more realistic. "It will take at least six to seven months for people to return to their villages," he tells us.

Despite the brutality, loss and trauma there are plenty of people



in Salyan who want the ceasefire to be a new beginning. Surprisingly, those who yearn the most for peace are the ones who have lost near and dear ones, like Dhan Bahadur Hamal whose 17-year-old son was abducted and killed by Maoists four years ago. "He won't come back," he tells us, "but at least if peace is restored we can live without fear."

The Khalanga jail still has detainees, and dozens of people remain in Maoist custody, including radio journalist Dhana Bahadur Rokaya of Radio Nepal, Surkhet. In Rukum, a meeting of political parties has made public names of 26 people abducted by the Maoists.

Across the western districts, the Maoists have been holding open meetings displaying their captured weapons, including grenade launchers, in marchpasts. In one such meeting near Tulsipur this week, we listened to Comrade Barta tell the people, "If the government cheats us again, we'll repeat the victories of Ghorahi, Syangja and Salleri."

Local political activists are apprehensive about the open display of weapons. Said Shrimani Acharya of the UML, "Even after the ceasefire, people are forced to live in fear of guns.

The talks can't succeed unless both the parties are honest about peace."

Development has been at a standstill, and despite the ceasefire there is not a hint that any kind of massive relief or rehabilitation drive is going to start anytime soon. Dang, Rolpa and Rukum were always underdeveloped, but most villages had sub-health posts and post offices. In the past four years, Maoists have systematically destroyed 271 VDC buildings, 138 post offices, 16 health posts and 29 bridges. All three districts had phone lines, and all have been cut off since the Maoists destroyed telecom towers.

Had it not been for the fighting, Rolpa, Rukum and Salyan link roads would have been built by now. Today, most of these districts are as inaccessible as ever. Salyan Congress president, Regmi, says the VDCs will have to invest their next three years' budget just for reconstruction of infrastructure. Multiply that across the country, and it is clear that the fighting has set the country back at least 20 years. ♦

(Top Bahadur Khadka in Rukum and Sharad Adhikari in Dang contributed to this report.)

by DANIEL LAK



Pre-empt failure

One thing that isn't in short supply in Nepal these days is hope. We want peace and we see the current ceasefire as the last best hope. But there's a real danger of the whole process falling into a familiar pattern where the political intrigue of Kathmandu overwhelms what goodwill and flexibility there may be. There are ways around this and perhaps they're all best expressed in two words: pre-empt failure.

In other words, don't allow the talks to fail. Take action that entrenches peace and development and take it now. I'm not sure who I'm writing this to, but it's the summary of many conversations over the past two weeks since the truce was announced. The rumbling and grumbling of political parties, the to and fro statements of ministers, the mysterious movements—later denied—of senior rebels and government negotiators. These are not a peace process. They are a harbinger of failure.

What we need are concrete steps to end rural alienation and they must be taken on a war footing. The security forces are already widely deployed all over the countryside. Let them now start winning hearts and minds by delivering food, repairing trails and making friends in the villages. Spend money—foreign development money that currently just moulders or gets wasted in the capital—creating jobs for stood-down rebel fighters. Form local committees in the districts and VDCs to build confidence. Soldiers, police, civilian officials, local people and rebels should all meet regularly to talk about problems and flash points where a little pre-emptive action might avoid tensions. People who've left the countryside should be encouraged to come back.

One place to start might be Jumla where the dozens of buildings destroyed in last November's Maoist attack are not yet being repaired, or cleared away so a new structure can go up. Why not set up work crews, paid in food or money, whichever people want, and start the reconstruction



now? Don't wait for Kathmandu's elite to take the lead, do it locally. MPs from the dismissed parliament, VDC and DDC members could all reach out to local Maoists and get agreement on this. Then a combination of former fighters, local unemployed and the security forces could get going. It doesn't need to be donor-led or government-sponsored. Presented with a project well under way, no one could fail to support it.

What about setting up a Nepali version of the American Peace Corps to fan out into rural areas, assess local needs and meet them? Unemployed youth from the capital might just be the best source of person-power. People could work for minimal expenses and the promise of a lump sum at the end. Work would be co-ordinated through those defacto local confidence building committees. Town hall and village square meetings could decide what to do first. Again, rebuilding seems an

"Maybe this time there will be peace."



"If this peace holds, there will be development and people won't have to work as chowkidars in India. They could take care of their families in the villages."

• Indra Lal Dangi, Sinawang VDC, Goitibang, Salyan



"We will watch the government's attitude first."

• Maoist militia leader who calls himself 'Badal' outside Khalanga



"The ceasefire is an immense relief. We suffered from both sides, and moved to the district headquarters for safety. Maybe now we can go back."

• Tilak Ram Basnet, a carpenter, Sinawang VDC, Goitibang, Salyan



"We were always ready to fight, but there were fears of a Maoist attack. With the ceasefire, everyone is relieved."

• Rajendra Dhakal, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Salyan



"The ceasefire is good, but it could fail like last time. The people have suffered enough, the government and the Maoists should find a way out of this."

• Gaushara Oli, Jugur, Nerpa, Rolpa



"No one trusts the Maoists. I won't go home yet. I will wait for total peace."

• Bishnu Kumari Sharma, college student in Khalanga



"There are more people coming to the district headquarters after the ceasefire announcement. But we have not advised our cadres to return to their villages, since we don't know what the Maoists are up to."

• Lok Bahadur Dangi, member, UML's Salyan district unit



"Had there not been a war, our remote district may have become accessible by now. The war has resulted in total destruction. My heart aches to see the devastation in our district."

• Dilli Raj Regmi, President, Nepali Congress, Salyan



"My son will never come back. But I wish the war ends so people can live without fear."

• Dhan Bahadur Hamal, Marmaparikada-6, Salyan



"For the last four years, my husband hasn't visited us at home. There was a ceasefire last year too. Maybe this time there will be peace and my husband can come home."

• Nirmala Rathour, wife of a policeman, Jugur VDC, Rolpa

Your favourite Barbeque, back once again at Godavari

A typical BAN BHOJ



Looking into the previous experience and choice of our valued guests, GODAVARI VILLAGE RESORT is delighted to once again present its typical Barbeque with an all new package.

Every Saturday and Sunday come to the GODAVARI VILLAGE RESORT and savour a wonderfully juicy Barbeque Lunch prepared to delight your palate. Unwind in the lush-green Vijayanta Garden restaurant or the Poolside and savour the delectable cuisine at your own leisurely pace.

Vegetarian: Rs. 399/- + tax per person*
Non-Veg: Rs. 499/- + tax per person*
Time: 12:30 - 15:00 hrs.

50% discount for children below 4 ft.

*Includes a glass of wine or beer for adults and a bottle of soft drink for children.

Swimming and tennis included in the package (advance booking is required for tennis)

Godavari
Village Resort
Kathmandu • Nepal

Life tastes good

Carlsberg

Amarabati, Toulkel, Godavari, Tel: 560675, 560775, Fax: 977-1-560777.
E-mail: godavari@godavari.wink.com.np ~ Website: www.godavariresort.com.np

DOMESTIC BRIEFS

Concluded inconclusively

The third joint secretary level transport talks between Nepal and India concluded Thursday without an agreement. "There was a lot of progress on a lot of areas, and we need to firtune it at a diplomatic level," one top official told us. Nepal agreed to a joint venture partnership to run the Inland Container Port (ICD) in Birganj in exchange for other concessions, but that didn't seem to satisfy the Indians who were under heavy pressure from state transport lobbies to allows direct cargo and passenger services between Indian cities and Kathmandu. The port is critical for landlocked Nepal's access to the sea, and would reduce transportation cost by up to 35 percent. India linked the Nepal-India Railways Agreement (NIRA) with the transport proposal. Nepali transporters, alarmed by the prospect of Indian trucks and buses having unrestricted access to the domestic market with no reciprocity, threatened a nationwide strike. "It's totally absurd to link direct transport access and ICD," said Bishnu Siwakoti, President of the Federation of Nepali Transport Entrepreneurs. The railway agreement is more important for Nepal, since the ICD has been lying idle ever since the World-Bank funded project was completed two years ago. As a compromise, the Nepali side now appears willing to go along with joint management if that is what it takes to get the negotiations unstuck. Nepal has also insisted on a streamlined one-time lock system ensuring direct entry of the containers to Nepal once they have been inspected and locked at customs in Kolkata.

Govinda's brother appeals in Japan court

Indra Prasad Mainali, the brother of Govinda Mainali who has served seven years in a prison in Japan accused of the murder and rape of a Tokyo woman, has written to the Supreme Court, which is hearing Govinda's appeal, to acquit his younger brother.

The 36-year-old Govinda ("Here comes the story of Govinda Mainali", *Nepali Times* #39) was acquitted by the Tokyo District Court but later lost an appeal in the high court. Now, his brother says Govinda was gainfully employed and not in urgent need of money, as claimed by police who convicted him of robbing the 39-year-old woman of ¥40,000 and strangling her.

"I strongly believe that my brother could not have committed a grave crime in a country where he was making good money, and while he was preparing to return to his family in Nepal," Indra wrote.

Govinda had reportedly already saved \$37,000 by the time of his arrest. Japanese human rights groups have taken Govinda's case as symbolic of Japan's flawed justice system and say he was falsely charged and convicted. Indra went to Japan last week to lobby with the court appeal. "He seemed so irritated and exhausted, both physically and mentally," Indra told *The Japan Times*. "I just cannot believe how he could survive in a small dark cell so far from home." Even if Govinda wins his appeal, it probably won't come for another few years. "If my brother was a Caucasian from a more advanced country, I believe that the Japanese authorities would never have treated him in the manner they do now," he said. It would help if the Nepal government took up the issue, but it is hesitant because Japan is Nepal's biggest donor. Indra and Govinda's parents are 80 years old and live in Jhapa. "Both are suffering from serious illness, and we are all concerned that my brother may never see them alive again," he said.

New air route to Delhi

India and Nepal have agreed on a new flight routing that shaves off 15 minutes from the Kathmandu-Delhi flight by taking a shortcut flying over Nepalganj. The present route takes a circuitous airway over Bhairawa and Lucknow. Indian civil aviation authorities have sanctioned the route for airlines from India, Nepal and west-bound flights by international airlines from Kathmandu. "The new route will go into effect after Nepal and India sign a Letter of Agreement to this effect," Rajesh Raj Dali, deputy director general at the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), told us. Will that bring down air fares is what we want to know.

Toni Hagen's film

Ring of the Buddha, a documentary by Nepal-lover and Swiss geologist Toni Hagen, premiered in Germany on 28 January to glowing reviews from both critics and the audience. Hagen travelled all over Nepal in the early 1950s just after Nepal opened her borders, making a detailed geological map of the Himalaya and charting out potential sites for hydropower plants. The documentary begins in 1999 with the 82-year-old explorer accompanying Chogyi Trichen Rimpoché back to Nepal. The past and present are skillfully woven in a narrative that spans five decades of change in Nepal, filmed on location in the tarai, Jomsom, Janakpur, Kathmandu and the high Himalaya. Hagen is currently recuperating in a hospital in St Moritz after a bad bout of flu.

In the February Himal

Jehan Perera on Sri Lankan Peace
Puskar Gautam on The King's Ceasefire
Indian feminism and the patriarchy of caste
Sindh: Pathology of a military democracy
Bowling down to the NRI
Formalising domestic work
The sustainability of hunger
Aids and India: Fronting its way to the forefront

To subscribe, call 543-333 or write to subscription@himalmag.com

Mandala House APARTMENT HOTEL

Luxury Apartments at Comfortable Rates

Baluwatar, Kathmandu
Tel: 412412, 429919 (9:00 am - 5:00 pm)
9810-35322 (after 5:00 pm & Saturdays)
E-mail: mandala@wink.com.np
Web site: www.mandala.com.np

Wishing all our clients a

Happy Valentine's Day
Wizard's
fresh flower shoppe
Isuzu Building, Kamaladi, Cpp, Kathmandu Plaza, Tel: 441755
E-mail: naresh_wizard@yahoo.com

First 30 orders will receive a Special Valentine's Gift

PICTURE FRAMING AT

KALINTA

East Side of King's Palace, Nag Pokhari, Kathmandu Tel: 442437

An excellent selection of classic & modern frames: imported & manufactured by KALINTA. High quality framing materials & decorative objects also available

OPEN 10 AM - 6 PM

Japanese Branded line of Sporting goods and Sports Fashion Wear.

MESUCA Fashion.Sports

Hong Kong, Taiwan, South East Asia, China, Bahrain, Germany,

Russia, Estonia and NOW IN NEPAL

at SINGI PLAZA

Royal Singi Hotel Arcade, Kamaladi, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 424191 ext. 8501, Fax: 425802, 424189 Email: hotel@rsingi.wlink.com.np
ADEQUATE PARKING FACILITY AVAILABLE BEHIND THE HOTEL



Social Science Research Council

South Asia Regional Fellowship Program

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC), New York, is pleased to announce the second round of their annual postdoctoral fellowship competition.

The theme for 2003-4 is migration

The primary intent of the fellowships is to enable successful applicants to take leave from teaching and other responsibilities to write up completed research. Applications proposing new research or seeking support for ongoing field research will not be rejected but have much lower priority. Funding is offered for short-term fellowships (3-4 months) on topics related to this theme from scholars in any discipline of the social sciences, humanities, and other related disciplines.

The South Asia Regional Fellowship Program seeks to strengthen the link between teaching and research, hence, the competition is open only to full time faculty members holding earned PhDs and presently teaching in an accredited college or university in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal or Sri Lanka. Junior fellows will receive up to \$2200, senior fellows up to \$3000 as fellowship awards. As many as twenty fellowships may be awarded each year. Deadline for receiving applications is 15th May 2003. This program is supported by a grant from the Ford Foundation.

Please email queries to sur@ssrc.org. Application forms may be downloaded from <http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/southasia/> and can also be obtained from:

SSRC Fellowship Program

Attn: Deepak Thapa

Social Science Baha, PO Box 166, Lalitpur, Nepal
Tel: 542544 • Fax: 541196 • email: ssrc@himalassociation.org

EASY TIMES

It's never been easier to subscribe to *Nepali Times*. Just dial this number and leave your address.

543333



THE FULBRIGHT & THE EAST-WEST CENTER 2003 SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States and Nepal (USEF/Nepal) announces the 2003 competition for the Fulbright and the East-West Center (EWC) Scholarships. Those selected would begin their studies in the US beginning August-September, 2004. (a) The Fulbright program provides all expenses (including travel) for a Master's degree program of up to two years at selected U.S. universities, in any field except medicine, engineering or computer science. (b) the EWC scholarships of the University of Hawaii (UH) are available for Master's or doctoral-level study in any field offered at UH and cover all tuition and fees, but not travel expenses. Applicants for either program may be employees in any government or semi-government agency, private business, NGO or INGO.

General Requirements for Entering the Competition

All applicants must:

1. possess Nepali citizenship;
2. demonstrate in post-intermediate degrees a minimum aggregate marks of: 56% for students in non-technical fields (humanities and social sciences), and 60% for students in science and technical fields. (The minimum requirements for students under the semester system are: 65% in non-technical fields; 70% in technical fields; or a Cumulative GPA of 3.5/4.0 in either field.)
3. have a high level of competence in speaking, reading and writing English. (Applicants who pass the first screening will be required to sit for an English test during the application process. The test requirement will be waived for those who have a valid TOEFL score of 213 or higher and have submitted copies of their score reports with their applications.)
4. be under 40 years of age as of the application filing deadline date (March 31, 2003);
5. possess either a four-year bachelor's degree; or, if the bachelor's degree was of fewer than four years duration, then a master's degree is also required, such that the total number of years of formal education equals at least 16;
6. have at least three years (for men) or one year (for women) of post-bachelor's degree, full-time, professional work experience in an area directly relevant to the applicant's chosen field of study as of the application filing deadline date (March 31, 2003) and document this experience by letter(s) from employer(s) that verify applicant's position(s) and years of employment;
7. be in excellent health, as evidenced by a letter from a medical doctor; and
8. be eligible for a U.S. visa.

Note: Individuals holding master's degrees equivalent to a U.S. master's degree are ineligible to apply for the Fulbright scholarship competition, but are eligible to apply for the East-West Center competition Ph.D. program; and individuals who have previously resided in the United States for six months or more during the preceding five years are ineligible to apply for both the competitions.

(Applicants must submit documentary evidence for items No. 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7.)

Application Forms & Deadlines

Application forms and detailed information regarding the competition are available from: the USEF/Nepal office at the American Center in Gyaneshwor (between 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday); the Ministry of Education; the National Planning Commission; Tribhuvan University Rector's Office; Kathmandu University Rector's Office; and with Campus Chiefs at out of the Valley degree campuses. **Applications and information may also be accessed and downloaded from the Commission's website: www.fulbrightnepal.org.np.** Application forms must be taken out from the USEF office or downloaded from the website by 4:00 p.m. Friday, March 21, 2003. No applications will be given out after this date. Duplicate, hardcopy, completed applications must reach the Fulbright Commission (USEF) no later than 4:00 p.m. Monday, March 31, 2003. Incomplete applications or applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

SOMEWHERE IN NEPAL

by PUSKAR BHUSAL



Healing hands

Our rush to forgive or forget the past must not be allowed to obscure its lessons.



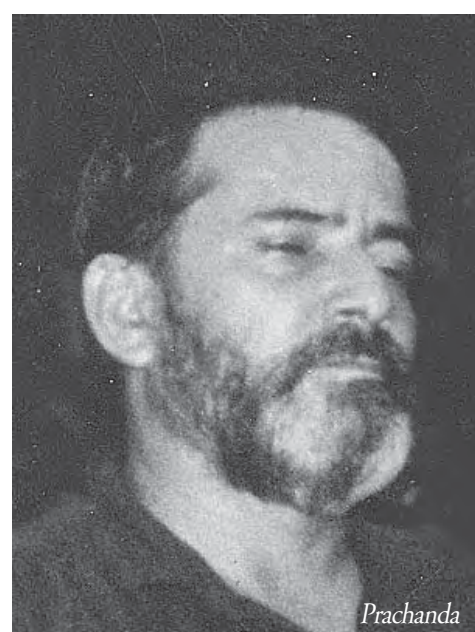
Lokendra Bahadur Chand



Girija Prasad Koirala



Madhav Kumar Nepal



Prachanda

The triangular struggle for Nepal's soul is going around in circles. You can gauge the gravity of the situation from the number of phone calls Comrade Prachanda has been making to leaders of mainstream political parties. From Girija Prasad Koirala to Madhav Kumar Nepal to Narayan Man Bijukchhe, the question is the same: how could you?

The rebels didn't have to recognise Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand's government to feel comfortable talking to his housing and physical planning minister. They outsmarted the rest of us in recognising the futility of talking to mainstream political parties pushed to the margins. If the people don't seem to have a problem with the palace having become the real repository of power, how could those who have been fighting in their name?

That was the easy part. For an organisation that has thrived in subterranean existence, transparent action can often prove traumatic. In his first formal interview since last month's cease-fire, the Maoist supreme said the success of the peace talks would depend on a serious approach by all three camps. We can holler all we want about how the record puts the onus on the rebels to prove their commitment to peace. Their understanding of events hardly resembles ours.

Actually, the Maoist perspective on why the last peace talks failed might succeed in illuminating the ambiguous course ahead. (It turns out that Sher Bahadur Deuba's original strategy to prolong his tenure consisted of dragging on the peace talks as long as he could.)

The Maoists have a real interest in leaving the past in suspended animation. By focusing on the objective realities that impelled them towards dialogue, they can talk of war and peace in the same breath with Clausewitzian conviction. Our rush to forgive or forget the past must not be allowed to obscure its lessons, particularly those pertaining to the nation's early-detection capabilities. Chiranjibi Wagle and Krishna Bahadur Mahara were two days away from the second round of peace talks in Bardiya on 9/11. It was becoming clear after the 10PM English news on NTV that the status quo had lost its relevance. The peace talks would have to continue with greater urgency. Or the rebels would have to return to the jungles before the battle lines of the emerging war on terror became clearer. The Maoists suspended their demand for a republic as Badal's stock soared among cadres in the rural hinterlands. In those delicate times, the scales could have tipped either way.

It was a monumental mistake to have treated Mahara's threat in Bharatpur to create our own versions of the World Trade Centre and Pentagon as little more than a creative metaphor. The parties in parliament could have tempered the talks, but they were busy provoking each side to pummel the other. The primary task today is to watch for telltale signs and the burden falls on the mainstream parties. Amid today's strategic stalemate, it doesn't matter which of the two armed sides is sturdier. The real power could lie with the civilian centre if it recognised its central role in the round-table conference. The forum could serve as the political equivalent of a truth and reconciliation commission, where participants could unmask both democracy's dictatorial tendencies and the moral repugnance of political violence. Balancing peace and justice, forgetting and forgiving, healing and punishing are all part of the catharsis we've sorely needed since the creation of modern Nepal.

Progressive mainstream political parties want to preserve the gains of 1990 while speech writers at the "regressive" palace are busy defining the monarch's role in the 21st century. Such contradictions are bound to encircle the round-table conference. The strength and value of the deliberations would depend on the independence with which the forum operates and the credibility that it holds among the people.

Koirala made a promising contribution in Dhangadi last week by asserting that Kangresis were ready to accept moral responsibility for the ills of 12 years of democracy. More important was his plea to the people to recognise the good things that have happened during this period. It might take an anguished nation a little longer to establish the authenticity of such candour. With more of it, though, the healing process could begin. ♦



How has the economic situation affected business?

Even during these difficult times, we have not been as affected as other players in this segment. The crisis has been more of an opportunity. When there is a crisis like this, bigger players in the market are affected more. Since we are smaller we are affected less. At Philips, for instance, we have doubled our sales every year in the last two years. So we are very optimistic that with the situation improving and the peace talks taking place, things will get better and our business will also grow many folds more.

It seems to be a paradox that despite the crisis and lower purchasing power, sales are up. How do you explain that?

We are very young in this market. The others have been here for decades and they are very established but when there is a slump, the bigger guys have more layoffs. We are just coming into the market and are more aggressive. It helps that Philips customers tend to be more techno-savvy. They know about the products they want to buy. Such people are better customers, and sales are not as buffeted by an economic slump.

How about your other products, like cars?

Honda cars are a long-term investment. Our new set-up of the three-S facility service has been a big investment, but we are looking beyond just short-term gain, keeping in mind the future. But again, despite the situation, we are doing reasonably well with sales. This could be due to the worldwide brand recognition of Honda as a quality product that customers trust. But even then we were prepared for the worst.

You are one of the traditional Nepali family houses that has

“With peace and good governance, things will automatically pick up...”

Saurav Jyoti is a third-generation entrepreneur from a family-run Nepali business house, the Jyoti Group, which has interests in trading, manufacturing and lately in hydropower. *Nepali Times* talked to him about the economic situation, prospects and Jyoti Group's future plans.

had to adapt to modern business and managing practices.

How has the transition been?

We are beginning to make the transition, but we may be a slightly conservative group. Change is inevitable and necessary. It is beginning to take place but perhaps not as quickly as one would like it to. Overnight transition is also not possible, and may not be desirable. This is a family business that is almost 45 years old. We have a lot of people who have been with us from the beginning, and there are benefits to having all that experience, loyalty and trust. With the transition to modern management, you may find more efficiency and productivity, but there may be other traits you cannot buy in a manager. So, there are pros and cons. The new ventures we are getting into require hiring totally new staff and professionals. We have to go about bringing slow changes with older established companies in our group.

Your group is getting into ceramics, what are your other future expansion plans?

Actually, ceramics is not new to us. My grandfather started Himal Ceramics which made traditional red clay tiles in Bhaktapur. The new modern factory in Panchkhal called Jyoti Ceramics, is the biggest tile factory in Nepal that makes a variety of basic tiles in different sizes. Despite delays, production will be starting soon. We are very excited about this project. Demand for traditional tiles is growing with the renaissance in traditional architecture in Patan and elsewhere. In the second phase we may invest in a glazing unit to make modern tiles.

Any other areas?

Jyoti Group is now also into hydropower. We are a part of BPC with a consortium of investors. We are very optimistic about

hydropower. It is the future of Nepal, and if we exploit the potential it could kickstart the economy. We are glad that the government finally pushed through the privatisation after so much delay.

What is holding business back in Nepal? Is it corruption, lack of political will? What do we need to do to promote investment, create jobs and move forward?

The first thing at the moment is obviously peace. We need the restoration of peace so foreign and domestic investors will regain confidence in investing again. After that, the main factor affecting a country's economic growth is political stability so that there is a continuity of policies, accountability and visionary leadership. We're basically talking about ways to ensure good governance, after that things will automatically pick up. Without that, I don't see Nepal improving.

In a country like Nepal, do business houses like yours have a mission statement where you look beyond profit at the common good?

Yes, we do. From my grandfather's time, we have always looked beyond profit. Profit per se is not bad. You need it to keep things going. But that is not all. In our mission statement, we've addressed community upliftment. Being Newars, we are committed to various community development activities. You don't hear much about this because we don't make a big fuss, but the idea is to give back to the community what it has given to us over the years.

Congratulations
to
Godavari Marble Industries Pvt. Ltd.
for obtaining an
ISO 14001 Certificate
Your partner in achieving your Environmental Objectives....

IEM Institute
of Environmental
Management
Kathmandu, NEPAL



Institute of Environmental Management

GPO Box: 4149, 1st Floor - IEDI Building

Tripureshwore, Kathmandu, NEPAL

Phone: 0977 1 268 630 / 268 631 Fax: 0977 1 268 632

email: emsinfo@iem.org.np

IEM Institute
of Environmental
Management
Kathmandu, NEPAL

Special Announcement for Industries of Nepal

An opportunity to implement Environmental Management System (EMS)
leading upto an ISO 14001 certification !!!

The Institute of Environmental Management (IEM), currently a component of the DANIDA / HMG Environment Sector Program Support (ESPS), since its inception in January 2000 has been offering Demand Driven and "Off the Shelf" Courses to its stakeholders as well as the general public. Besides training activities, IEM has been promoting Environmental Management Systems in the Industries leading to the highly coveted ISO 14001 certification. As of now 34 industries from Kathmandu, Helatada, Birgunj, Biratnagar and other major industrial cities of Nepal are in various stages of EMS implementation with several of them on the verge of an ISO 14001 certification. One of these industries has already been certified as an ISO 14001 company.

The EMS implemented industries have already shown the following achievements as a result of EMS implementation:

- System Development
- Legal Compliance
- Enhanced competitive advantage
- Production cost reduction
- Motivation to employees
- Improvement in environmental activities
- Easier access to international markets
- Improvement in goodwill
- Easier implementation of ISO 9000

Due to the demand from many industries, IEM, once again, offers a special and low-cost opportunity for industries to receive ISO 14001 Certificate and thus be prepared to compete nationally as well as globally. The 10 month long EMS implementation program will be conducted by internationally trained national-level experts from IEM.

A shorter "Fast Track" version of the EMS program is also available for highly committed, technically sound and interested industries. Group implementation for a group of industries will also be available.

IEM will be launching its next phase of EMS program from end February for interested industries, hotels and similar enterprises. Organizations interested to sign up for the program or desirous for more information pertaining to the program are kindly requested to contact:

Institute of Environmental Management

Tripureshwore, Kathmandu, Nepal

GPO Box: 4149

Tel: 0977-01-268 630 / 268 631 Fax: 0977-01-268 632

email: emsinfo@iem.org.np

Detail of the EMS program including an on line application can be accessed from
www.esps.org.np/iem/ems



Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge, Chitwan.

SRADHA BASNYAT in CHITWAN

Chitwan used to be the happy hunting grounds of Nepal's royals until it was declared a national park in 1973. Ever since, nature lovers have flocked here from all over the world to do shooting of a different kind: with cameras. A safari on elephant back through the early morning mist, lurching along the floodplain of the Rapti to catch a glimpse of a tiger or a rhino has become an essential part of the Royal Chitwan National Park experience.

This is easily Nepal's favourite wildlife destination for nature lovers with an abundance of flora and fauna: 570 species of flowering plants, 40 species of mammals, 486 bird species, 17 reptiles and 68

fish species are among the known inhabitants of the jungle. Chitwan is also a haven for several endangered mammals, including the Royal Bengal Tiger, the Greater One Horn Rhino and the Gangetic Dolphin.

In the old days, even royal visitors made do with tents or machans perched high in the trees. Today, the discerning nature lover need not part with creature comforts. There are world class lodges operating inside the park boundary and several others on the fringes. In the heart of the jungle, wild animals often stroll through the grounds of the lodges, some of them even stopping to nibble at the carefully tended flowerbeds.

Whether you stay within the park or outside its perimeters, all visitors are guaranteed elephant safaris, nature walks with a trained

naturalist, bird watching excursions, evening slide shows and boating on the river where you may see the rare river dolphin swimming alongside. Spotting Gharials sunning themselves is almost a certainty as are water birds that stilt and stalk the river banks. February is the best time of year to visit. The days are warm and the nights cold enough to ensure the fog burns off quickly at dawn to display the Annapurnas and Himalchuli to the north. With the onset of spring come meadows of wildflowers, and with it, the flutter of butterflies and birds.

Across the deceptively placid current of the Narayani River and a twenty-minute jeep ride later, an opening in the forest reveals Temple Tiger. Naturalist Ambika Parajuli gives you a crash course in wildlife biology: the Greater One Horn Rhino is a 2.5 ton vegetarian, has an average life span of 50 years, two-thirds of which is spent in a water hole.

Temple Tiger staff are eager to show off their latest arrivals—three baby elephants, each fathered by a wild male. Durga Kali, Badri Gaj and their older half-brother Ojasho Prashad are friendly and adorable. They have learned to

play the crowds, especially if they spy bananas on their visitors. The baby elephants have each had their *nuaran*, a special naming ceremony. Some even have a rice feeding ceremony, or *pasni* after six months, though they continue to feed on their mother's milk until they turn two. They are then trained by two older elephants and an experienced mahout, eventually learning 35 oral commands in Tharu.

A little further east is the legendary Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge, the first to be built inside the park. Its tree houses and bungalows were built with jungle materials and have been recently refurbished. Solar power lights up the lamp, ceiling fan and heated shower in every room.

Also accessible by raft, Island Jungle Resort is north-east of Tiger Tops on a jungle island called Bandarjola. The scrumptious food will make you forget your mother's cooking, and you can wash it down with made-to-order jungle cocktails at the surprisingly well-stocked Tharu bar. In the floodplains of the Narayani, ox-bow lakes continually transform the geography of this area.

Moving eastwards on the northern most edge of the park,



Chitwan Jungle Lodge, Chitwan.



Royal Bengal Tiger sighted at Chitwan Jungle Lodge, Chitwan.



A rhino grazes at the perimeter of Machan Wildlife Resort, Chitwan.

Narayani Safari is situated on a bluff overlooking the Rapti and provides an unparalleled jungle experience with fantastic sunset views.

Its true magic is found in the peaceful coexistence of multiethnic communities. Chitwan is a Nepali melting pot and there are Chettris, Magars, Brahmins and Gurungs who migrated here from the mountains to the north. Narayani is now involved in community development, which is supported by income from eco-tourism.

Many of Nepal's 450 Greater One Horned Rhinoceros wander the central northern area of the park, and Gaida Wildlife Camp is ideally located to observe this majestic mammal. Guests can choose from the luxury lodge or outdoor jungle camp overlooking the Dunge River. Built in a semicircle around the dining area, each of the twin sharing bungalows with attached bath and solar powered shower has a sweeping view of the river and jungle beyond.

At the Gharial conservation project in Kasara you can observe fish-eating crocodiles at close quarters. Their characteristically long thin snout sometimes reaches 20 feet

in length, restricting Gharials almost exclusively to hunting for fish, a relief for those who want to take a quick dip in the rivers.

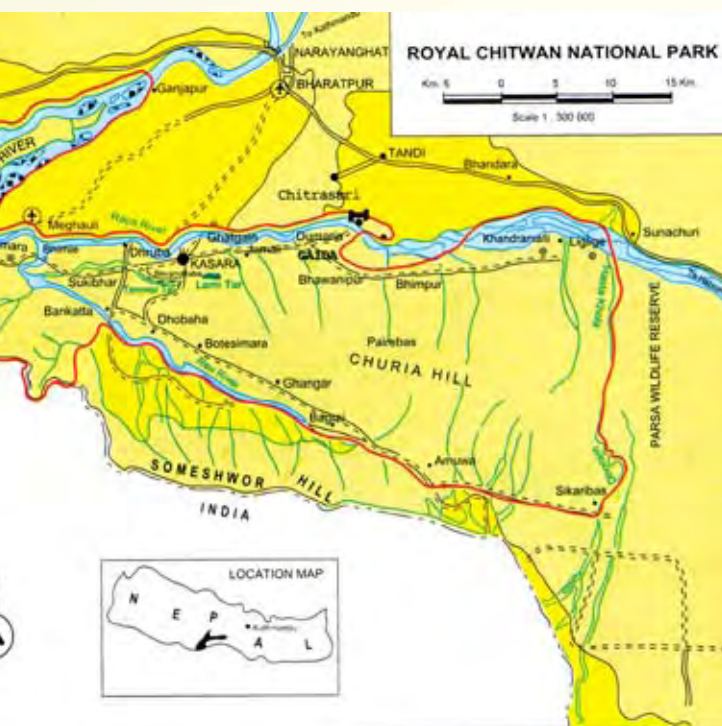
Then there is Chitwan Jungle Lodge which borrows its aesthetics from traditional Tharu architecture. Mud walled huts with comfortable twin beds and attached bathrooms blend in perfect harmony with the wilderness, isolated from villages. Gaurs, the world's largest wild oxen, have come down to the surrounding lower slopes for the dry months in search of water and greener pastures. These shy creatures return to the densely forested Churia hills in the south once the monsoon sets in. Bird watching is a treat: visitors from all over the world flock here to see the Nepal Red-headed Trogon, Paradise Flycatcher, Bengal Florican and Giant Hornbill among the many resident and migrant bird species regularly sighted. Naturalists Ramesh Pradhan and Janak Chaudhary take guests on fascinating nature walks through the jungle, home to 47 species of orchids that bloom in the wet season.

At the eastern edge of the national park where the sal forest of the Chitwan jungle

meets the wide valley of the Rapti River, the world is a wild and splendid place. Nestled between the grassland sweeping north to the Mahabharata range and virgin jungle extending south to the Churia hills is Machan Wildlife Resort. Bungalows crafted in the traditional Tharu design decorated with brilliantly colourful art have upper bunks especially suitable for families with children.

Dawn at Chitwan is a splendid affair, especially seen from a dugout canoe drifting gently on the Rapti River. This is a bird paradise, attracting many rare species like the Large Racquet-tailed Drongo, the Ibis and the Giant Hornbill. From Siberia come the Rhodesian Ducks (*chakeba chakebi*) who mate for life and are the subject of many Nepali love songs.

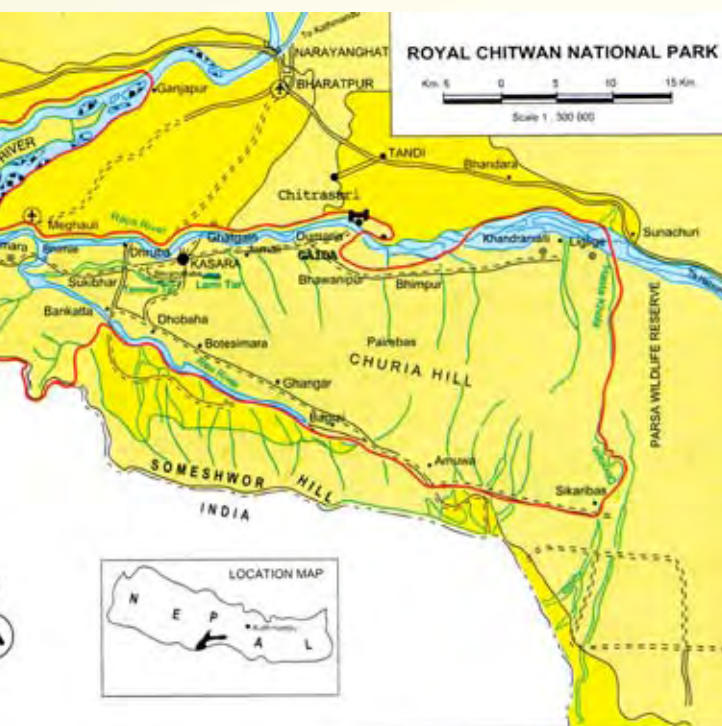
A quick paddle over the inviting waters of the Rapti River, just outside the northern border of the park, and visitors seeking budget accommodation will find themselves in Sauraha.



Safari Narayani Lodge, Chitwan.



From left: A machan in the national park, a room at Machan Wildlife Resort, Chitwan and baby elephants at Temple Tiger Jungle Lodge, Chitwan.



Jungle Activities

- Elephant Safari
- Nature/ Jungle Walk
- Bird Watching
- Jeep Safari
- Elephant Bathing
- Slide Show, etc.

Attractions

- Crocodile Lake
- Reader's Tree House
- Wildlife Observation Towers
- A Mini Museum
- Elephant Stable

For reservations:
Tel: 977 1 442240, 442241, 427469
Fax: 977 1 442228
Email: info@chitwanjungleodge.com
www.chitwanjungleodge.com

adventures in the wild

offering special discounted packages

CHITWAN JUNGLE LODGE

In the Heart of Royal Chitwan National Park

Tiger Mountain wild life experience

Tharu Safari Lodge Tiger Tops Tented Camp Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge

Special offer for EXPATRIATES

Amongst our three best Tiger Tops safari operations in Chitwan, we are pleased to announce a very special offer for expatriates and Nepalese/Indian residents for minimum 2 nights stay at Tharu Safari Lodge with immediate effect as follows. So please.....H U R R Y U P !!!!!

- \$40 only all inclusive per person per night.
- Transportation to and from Bharatpur will be extra
- Children under 12 years at 50% off on the above rates

For further information please contact our sales team.
email - info@tigermountain.com | Tel.361500 | Fax: 361600 |
website: www.tigermountain.com

MACHAN WILDLIFE RESORT

Durbar Marg, Reservation Office P.O. Box: 3140, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 225001, 245401, 245402 Fax: 977-1-240681 E-mail: machanwildlife@mail.com.np

Nepal's only branded PC

MODELS AVAILABLE

NEO	-Intel Celeron 1.2 GHz -for Homeusers
Explorer	-Intel Celeron 1.7 GHz -for Home Office/ Small office users
Professional	-Intel P4 1.7 GHz -for Professionals
Animator	-Intel P4 1.7 GHz -for Graphics users

Financing available for Corporates through Ace Finance.

2 YEARS WARRANTY

Bundled with EPSON C-41UX INKJET Printer

Quality You Can Touch.

Showroom / Service Centre

MERCANTILE Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
Mercantile Building, Kantipath, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 255415 Fax: 263232 Email: sales@mercantilepc.com.np

Authorised Distributors:

Himalayan Trading House, Pokhara Tel: 061-21756 • Computer & Electronic Trade Link, Butwal Tel: 071-42699, 45699 Megatech Computer & Electronics Concern, Biratnagar Tel: 021-28328 • Birat Infotech Enterprises, Biratnagar Tel: 021-25150 • Technopark Center, Chitwan Tel: 056-26686 • Computer Science Education Centre, Hetauda 057-23503 • Manokamana Hitech, Nepalgunj 081-21382

Aid at risk

LONDON - The world's biggest source of development assistance could be at risk from a new European convention being given final touches. It will review EU institutions and policy framework, including Europe's development cooperation, something that leading non-governmental organisations say could subordinate development assistance to foreign policy goals. EU aid, at a national and European Community level, constitutes the world's largest development aid package and also is the biggest trading partner for most developing countries. The recommendations will be presented at an EU heads of state summit in Greece in June.

But the convention is being challenged by the biggest ever collection of NGOs on any European issue. A 34-page convention report outlining a blueprint for future EU "External Actions" makes only minimal reference to development cooperation and poverty eradication. The paper refers to "strategic interests" rather than values, and development is seen as one of the "instruments and tools" for the EU to "maximise its influence", BOND (British Overseas NGOs for Development) says in a comment on the convention. Development advocates say the new proposals may undermine the international development policy adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2000 with poverty eradication at its heart. (IPS)

Solutions to hunger

WASHINGTON - To prevent repeats of a deadly looming famine that could cost thousands of lives, Ethiopia needs to adopt food-for-school programs, create efficient road networks and develop a working food market, says Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). They warned as many as 15 million Ethiopians could face famine "potentially even larger than, the 1984-85 famine".

Although Ethiopian food production has increased by 70 percent since the 1980s, it is still in dire need of immediate relief. Joachim von Braun, director general of IFPRI, said short term relief and long term development should be based on three pillars: food-for-education program to promote literacy, a food-for-work program to build infrastructure and small-scale investments in trade financing and market banking to help develop market institutions.

In December, another US-based Food First / Institute for Food and Development Policy, blamed the famine in Africa on policies imposed by international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. But IFPRI argues Ethiopia's persistent food crises were caused by poor governance in the past, the helplessness of its farmers, problems with food production and non-functioning markets. Von Braun's group of donors includes the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. (IPS)

Iraq crisis weakens NATO and EU

HILMI TOROS IN ISTANBUL - NATO and EU, two Western pillars built on the principle of consensus, are both being torn apart over the Iraq crisis to such scales that raise serious doubts on their future ability to act in unison.

"The vase is broken," commented Middle East Technical University professor Huseyin Bagci in Ankara, Turkey, in the wake of an initial veto by France, Germany and Belgium of a US-backed Turkish demand to plan military assistance to Turkey, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's only Muslim member and also the lone one bordering Iraq.

"A serious problem not to be underestimated," a sombre NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson acknowledged.

The sharp NATO disunity came less than two weeks after the European Union displayed its own division within Greece, holding the rotating EU presidency, was "stunned" it was not

even contacted when a now-called "Gang of Eight" sent a letter of support to US President George Bush on Iraq.

They included both established EU members Britain, Spain, Italy, Denmark and Portugal as well as accepted candidates Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis, irked but somewhat hapless, said the letter undermined efforts to speak with a single voice—and has since called an emergency EU Summit for 17 February to reach a common EU approach. "We will make an effort for Europe to speak with one voice because it is necessary there to be a single line," he said.

"These are definitely historic times," was the comment in the Greek daily Kathimerini on Tuesday. "The outcome of ongoing developments will determine the future of European integration, the nature of EU-US ties, and the new face of the Old Continent.

NATO's refusal to come to Turkey's aid cracks open the alliance.

.....

History has taught us that alliances, groupings and divisions inside Europe foreshadow nothing but ill."

An Italian observer, Fernando Mezzetti, put it more bluntly, saying: "As of Monday morning 10 February (time of the French, German and Belgian veto) NATO is now longer what it was...It will live, but not as before."

US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld has called the veto blocking military planning to assist Turkey "shameful," further distancing the United States from what he once called "Old Europe" in reference to France and Germany.

The NATO split, even within European members, came forth as the Netherlands said it would ship Patriot defence missiles to Turkey.

The NATO blow to Turkey, coming after persistent EU doubts on its accession to the club, was taken in a low-key manner in the midst of a long religious holiday, but anger is seething beneath.

Foreign Minister Yasar Yasir held the view that even dissenting France, Germany and Belgium agree in the "essence" of protecting NATO bulwark Turkey, but had a "disagreement" over the timing, seeing any planning now as too soon and likely to jeopardize their continuing efforts to avoid a US-led war on Iraq.

In an imminent war, both French and German officials have told Turkey the two countries would come to its assistance under the NATO umbrella.

Prime Minister Abdullah Gul was slightly more forthcoming. "In the same way that Turkey protected over the whole of Europe for 50 years during

Priceless values

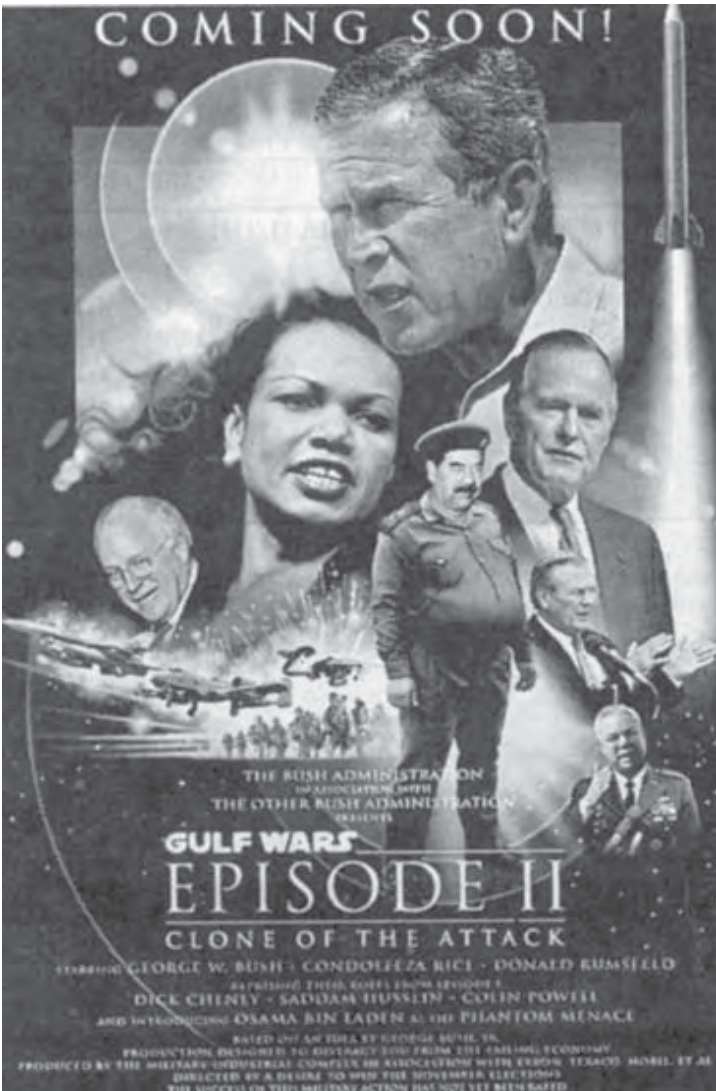
Humanity is tired of being used as an alibi for assassins.

there defending us against the demons of war? Five—the five countries with vetos on the UN Security Council. Though these five also happen to be the principal arms manufacturers of the world. We're in good hands. And how many owners of democracy are there? The people vote, but the bankers veto. The world is tired of being used as an alibi for assassins. And tired of mourning its dead at the end of every war. This time it wants to stop the war that would shortly kill them.

David Grossman, former lieutenant colonel in the US army and a specialist in military education, has shown that man is not naturally inclined to violence. Contrary to what is widely supposed, it is not easy to teach people to kill other people. Instruction in violence, which entails brutalisation of the soldier, requires intense and sustained training. According to Grossman, in the barracks this training begins at 18 years of age. Outside the barracks, it begins at 18 months: from very early on, television administers the lessons right in the home.

Another American, writer John Reed, concluded in 1917 that war crucifies the truth. Many years later, his compatriot, President Bush the Father, who launched the first war against Iraq with the noble purpose of liberating Kuwait, published his memoirs. In this volume he confessed that the US bombed Iraq because "a hostile regional power couldn't be allowed to take hostage a large part of the world's oil supply".

How many archangels of peace are



consumption for initiating chemical warfare against the air and the climate of the earth.

The Bush administration, less a government really than an oil pipeline, needs to take over the world's second

largest petroleum reserve, which lies beneath Iraq. It needs to show off the latest models from the arms industry out on the battlefield. And it has to justify the resulting gigantic increase in military spending.

by EDUARDO GALEANO



This is what it's about. Everything else is pretext. And the pretexts for this next bloodbath are an insult to intelligence. Power equates value with price. Tell me what you're paid and I'll tell you what you're worth. But there are values that far exceed any price. No one can buy them because they're not for sale. They have survived only because they have not been on the market.

Irrepressibly alive, these values are the energy that stir the secret muscles of civil society. They arise from the most ancient memory and common sense. Today's world is each for himself. In distant epochs, when we had not yet evolved from the category of an easy snack on the plate of our voracious neighbours, we were able to survive because we knew how to band together to defend and share what we had. Today it is more necessary than ever before to recall these ancient lessons in common sense.

What is the most commonly used word in the world today in almost every language? Me. Me, me, me. A scholar of the indigenous languages, Carlos Lenkersdorf, has found that the most commonly used word by the Mayan communities, a word at the centre of their sayings and their way of life, is the word "us".

In Chiapas the word for "us" is "tik". It was for this the World Social Forum, the universal model for participatory democracy, was created and developed—to say "us". Tik, tik, tik. ♦ (IPS)

(Eduardo Galeano is an activist and a writer who participated in the third World Social Forum in Porto Alegre.)

OPINION

by DEEPAK CHOPRA



Columbia's spirit

The symbolism of the crash lies in its redemptive message.



pretend to believe in.

The symbolism of the Columbia's crash lies in its redemptive message—live as if you know the universe is watching you. Be at peace with each other, because you are warring over imagined differences.

We will feel heartsick over the loss of Kalpana Chawla and all the crew until this message is recognised. As long as we ignore it, the painful truth is that every space shuttle crashes to a wounded and mutilated Earth, even when it lands successfully. ♦ (IPS)

(Deepak Chopra is a doctor and an author.)

ANALYSIS

Divided we stand

Why can't Asia unite even for the sake of its own security?

.....

Modern history, however, did teach Asians that disunity led to European triumphs over them. In the 20th century, leaders advocating unity against the colonial and imperial powers emerged. But the Europeans, who controlled over half the globe, seemed able to disrupt any temporary gains.

Over the past decade, Asia moved from division between two



by GUNGWU WANG



superpowers to something that could be described as dominance by one super-economy. Either way, no regional unity on politics and security has arisen. The only prospect for a feeble identity of interest is the emergence of some form of economic regionalism, pursued by Asian leaders through free-trade agreements.

Asian disunity can be overcome only if Asia as a whole confronts a common enemy. The West will do everything possible to prevent Asians from viewing Westerners as that enemy. In fact, most calls for Asian unity are concerned with uniting Asia with the West (often equated with the interests of the whole world) against some part of Asia, whether it be Iraq, Iran, North Korea or Myanmar. Given that most Asian leaders believe Asian disunity placed the West all-powerful in the first place, these calls are treated with understandable caution.

What, then, of the future? If the global economy continues to integrate, will the prospect of Asian unity be enhanced or hindered? Much depends on whether the West retains its sway in other parts of the world. If that dominance continues through increasingly powerful networking technologies, the chances of Asia creating a distinct unity of its own are slim.

We can see why Asian leaders appear two-faced or unreliable in the eyes of Europe and the US. Asia cannot afford to unite against the West. But Asia equally cannot afford to divide itself by ostracising one of its parts. For that way lies permanent dependence on the West. ♦ (© Project Syndicate)

(Gungwu Wang is the director of the East Asia Institute, University of Singapore.)

VACANCY

Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH) an NGO working in the drinking Water, Sanitation and Health Education Sector invites the applications from qualified Nepalese for the following post.

1. **Post: Head of Operation.**
Main Responsibilities.
Responsible for planning, communicating, reporting and monitoring of overall programme of the organisation. Ensuring the proper functioning of all operational programme activities.
Requirement & Competencies:
 - Bachelor's degree from a recognized university. Candidates with 5 years work experiences in the related field and Master's degree will be preferred.
 - Fluency in both spoken and written English and Nepali.
 - Computer skills in Microsoft Word and Excel.
 - Capable of preparing annual programme budget.
 - Capable of preparing regular report to donors.
 - Capable of communicating and interacting.
 - High degree of commitment and need to be creative.**Working base:** Kathmandu based with regular field visit to regional offices.

Nepal Water For Health (NEWAH) has experienced significant growth in terms of revenues, programme, geographical coverage, number of donors and staffs. In addition to this growth, this success has placed increased demand upon financial management system. To meet the gap on Financial Management "NEWAH" invites the applications from qualified Nepalese for the following.

2. **Post: Financial Management System Consultant (on the part time basis)**
Main Responsibilities.
 - Review the financial and programme reports required for informed decision making by management and Board.
 - Review the financial and programme-reporting requirement of the organisation.
 - Produce a list of costed recommendations for changes.
 - Produce a final document of costed recommendations and process incorporating any feedback as appropriate.
 - Work with management team and staffs to implement new issues or changes as agreed.
 - Produce and present forth-rightly reports to management on progress, problems and recommendation.
 - Conduct Training to senior team and Finance team.
 - Produce a final report at the end of the assignment.

- Requirements & Competencies:**
- Master's degree from a recognized university and 5 years experiences in the related work.
 - Fluency in both spoken and written in English and Nepali.
 - Computer skills in Microsoft Word and Excel.
 - Capable of communicating and interacting.

Working base: Kathmandu.

Note:

- Female candidates as well as candidates from the NGO sector are encouraged to apply. For the post of Financial management System consultant, reputed consultancy form are encouraged to apply.
- Candidates should be between 20-45 years of age.
- Salary and other conditions will be as per the rules of the organisations.
- The post will be decided on the basis of a written test followed by an interview.
- Selection process for consultancy forms shall be different than individual candidates.
- Applicants should send a summary of activities done by them in the related fields.
- Only short listed candidate will be contacted.
- Telephone and personal contact will not be entertained.
- Applications should be received by **Friday, 28th, February 2003.**
- Please apply with full CV, a copy of educational certificate, recent passport size photograph and exact contact address with telephone number to:



Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH)
P.O.Box: 4231
Kathmandu



The Coffee House

JIVIN' JOE'S

Come & Enjoy

Live Music/ Movie Day

Next to Pilgrims Bookstore in Kuponole
jivin-joes@hotmail.com Call for take out 539909
Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 12:00 - 8:00, Saturday 2:00 - 8:00

- * Coffee
- * Mocha's
- * Cappuccino
- * De'col Coffee
- * Shake's
- * Smoothies
- * Flavored Lattes
- * Iced Tea/ Coffee
- * Blended Mocha's
- * Chicken Quesadilla
- * Fajita Wraps
- * Bull/Chicken Mom's
- * Pizzas/ Soups
- * Sandwiches
- * Sizzlers
- * Muffins/ Cookies
- * Onion rings/Pasta
- * Desserts

Speaking his mind

Deshanter, 9 February

देशान्तर सप्ताहिक

Excerpts of an interview with Mohan Bikram Singh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unity Centre).

Have your ědisciples! come to their senses yet?

It's not good to categorise people as guru and disciple. For some time in the communist movement all of us were united. Differences and controversy caused the split in our ranks. On the subject of seeing sense, I think it's just a matter of the Maoist leadership learning to analyse situations in a way that we've always done.

We define the Maoists as "rightist opportunists" because they tried to bargain with "reactionary forces" through the so-called "people's war" in an attempt to wrest power by all means possible. This is why we think the main objective behind their current ceasefire is to consolidate power through this method.

What do the king and Maoists want out of the peace talks?

That's obvious. The king wants to strengthen the position of the Royal Nepali Army, thereby consolidating his own position, while the Maoists still want power, even if they have to share it, through whatever way possible. While the Nepali Congress has taken a clear stand on the issue of democracy the UML is still sitting on the fence. There must certainly have been discussions and a written understanding between the king and the Maoists, which haven't been made public. It's not good to veil such moves behind a curtain of secrecy.

Do you think India is taking advantage of the Maoists, especially after the Siliguri meeting in August last year?

India wants to see the Maoists become so strong that the Nepali security apparatus fails to control it and has to seek Indian assistance. And the help they lend Nepal would be motivated by their own interests.

Are the peace talks likely to succeed?

The palace, India and the US in their own way are using the ceasefire, talks and other Maoist activities. If it serves their purpose it will succeed, otherwise nothing will come of it.

On what basis do you accuse the Maoists of being pro-monarchy?

The singular aim of the monarchy and the Maoists has been the negation of the achievements made by the 1990 People's Movement. This became increasingly clear in the aftermath of the royal massacre in June 2001. For instance, the main targets of violence have been those who that took part in the pro-democracy movement. Those for the monarchy or the traditional parties have been relatively unscathed.

They have attempted time and again to destroy the multiparty system, the present constitution and dissolve the parliament.

Are you alluding to a working arrangement between the king and the Maoists?

They have reached an agreement to finish off the political system that came into place after 1990. Instead of playing the role of a revolutionary party, the Maoists spread terror and destroyed development infrastructure, which culminated in the king's 4 October move.

Could you explain how this is possible?

The Maoists will sign a pact with anybody if it benefits them, whether it is the King or India. In Nepali politics, the king has to weaken the Nepali Congress to become strong. That is why the palace has tried to use anti-Congress forces, including the communists, to this end.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

My husband was shot dead when he had gone out (in the evening) to take part in 'Pende' (a Tharu festival after harvesting the crop). I am sick and there is no one to support me. Now, who will take care of my kids? Shouldn't the government that killed my innocent husband take care of us?"

-Firi Chaudhary, widow of Sharad Chaudhary, narrating her story at a public hearing in Dang this week, as quoted by Nepal Samacharpatra, 12 February.



Prachanda on phone to political leaders: "You must understand: we don't want to remain in the jungle forever."

Trash: United Struggle

हिमालय टाइम्स Utam Nepal in Himalaya Times, 8 February.



Add it up

Nepal Samacharpatra, 9 February
Subhechha Bindu

नेपाल समाचारपत्र

The Social Welfare Council (SWC) has signed a bilateral agreement worth Rs 2 billion with two big international non-government organisations to run 94 social development projects. According to the council, 27 of the projects are in the health sector, 24 will be dedicated to community development, 16 will involve children and the rest will work towards common objectives.

Most of the donor INGOs involved in Nepal's social development are US-based.

Altogether 27 INGOs supporting social development activities in Nepal have headquarters in the US, 14 are based in the UK, 11 are Japanese and nine are German. The remaining are from Europe and Asia. SWC data shows 27 of the currently running projects may fold by year end.

At the receiving end, Nepali NGOs have clearly demarcated their areas of interest. Out of 842 projects that the government has permitted for Nepali NGOs, 208 are for youth, 100 are for women, 60 related to children, 58 to the environment, 51 to moral education, 29 for the disabled, 28 in health sector and 15 focus on education.

Strategic pawns

Tarun, 10 February

तरुण

The Maoist party has decided that its supremo Prachanda will remain underground even in the event of a Maoist led government. Our sources reveal he would not meet the monarch even if the Maoists are offered the position of creating an interim government for a constituent assembly. He turned down a meeting at the palace prior to the present ceasefire.

During the last failed peace talks, Prachanda was portrayed as a conservative militarist, whereas Baburam Bhattarai was put across as a pro-talk leader within the Maoist party. Badal's presence on the latest Maoist negotiation team is said to be at the request of the palace.

Some members of the cabinet claim the present ceasefire has been initiated without a code of conduct. Two weeks after the Maoists announced their negotiation team, the government has yet to reciprocate with his list. Meanwhile, a statement released by Prachanda has made it clear

that his party does not recognise the Chand government. The rebels also expressed their displeasure at government-owned media ignoring their decision to withdraw the Nepal bandh and the revelation of their negotiation team. The Maoists have made clear their proposed peace talk is with the king and not the government.

The latter was ignorant of any proposals of a ceasefire that was declared in late January. Some analysts view the exclusion as a strategy by the king and the Maoists to keep away possible foreign interference in domestic matters.

Main issues

Kantipur, 10 February

Advocate Tika Bhattarai

कान्तिपुर

The main issue that must be agreed upon between the mainstream political parties and the Maoists is political freedom. That includes elections on a multiparty basis and freedom of expression. If the Maoists accept these two fundamental issues, then there will be very little differences among the Maoists and the major parties. As far as the king is concerned, if he accepts a popularly elected candidate as a representative of the Nepali people, then he needn't stake everything on a constituent assembly. So, if an interim government is formed with participation of the Maoists and they participate in a constitution drafting committee like in 1990, then we can expect a positive outcome to what promises to be a lengthy peace process. And if we agree on these issues there will not be much difficulty in accommodating the rebel army and hitherto sidelined castes and ethnic communities.

NEA autonomy

Annapurna Post, 11 February

अन्नपूर्णा पोस्ट

Nepal Electricity Authority has decided to provide partial autonomy to 18 distribution centres all over the country to make them more efficient. The decision was taken by the NEA board of directors chaired by Minister for Water Resources, Dipak Gyawali, on Monday. The decision will come into effect on 13 February. The new regulation provides full autonomy to the centres allowing for commercial activities for self-sufficiency. It has also introduced a provision of reward and punishment to centres based on performance. The centres can share profits by giving consumers rebates. The centres covered are: Kathmandu centre, East Kathmandu, West Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Pulchok, Thimi, North Kathmandu, Birganj, Bharatpur, Janakpur, Biratnagar, Hetauda, Dharan, Pokhara, Bhairahawa, Burwal and Nepalganj. Together, they cover 60 percent of NEA consumers and represent 70 percent of Nepal's electricity use.

7th anniversary

Nepal Samacharpatra, 10 February

नेपाल समाचारपत्र

Chairman of the underground Maoist party, Prachanda, has asked for the forthcoming peace talks to involve all political parties, intelligentsia and the general public, instead of limiting itself to the government and the Maoists. In a message issued on the seventh anniversary of the "people's war", Prachanda said meaningful results would be difficult without the active participation of the masses. Reiterating that his party would not agree to anything against the

HISTORY AND CULTURE

FEEDBACK

by ARUNA KANDEL

Samrat, Manjushree and English writing in Nepali



"Samrat looks all set to continue packaging Nepal as solely governed by their libidinal drives, with Manjushree patting him on the back."



It is a matter of great significance that of late we have writers with Nepali background writing in English. Representing a tiny section of Nepali demographic terrain that has chosen to globalise, writers like Samrat Upadhyay and Manjushree Thapa speak to an English-reading audience to make their identity as well as fortunes. Even as they write to cater to the taste of western readers, their writing is fluid, engaging and has secured them a mostly warm response from Western reviewers.

In addition to translating some Nepali works into English, Manjushree has attempted a cultural intervention through her debut novel *The Tutor of History*. Samrat has a collection of stories and his first novel *The Guru of Love* just launched in the US. However, the way these authors have started to conduct themselves in public has been of some concern—from the view they seem to hold about their own place in the republic of letters to marketing of Nepal (especially women) in their works to their Western audience.

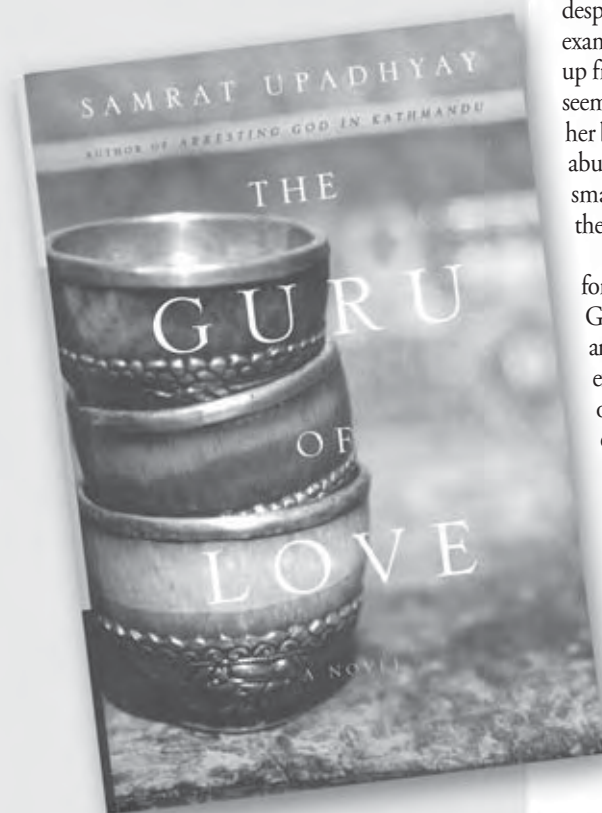
As a woman I am uncomfortable with Samrat's representation of Nepali women, who, in his stories, are no more than sex objects. Nor can I understand Manjushree's (in spite of her courageous feminist voice in other write-ups) uncritical enthusiasm about him ("I rely on the muse of hard work", #128). Samrat's misogyny is packaged in his artistically sophisticated methods.

His women are sometimes made awesomely divine as Goma in *The Guru of Love* or just sexually available as in his story *The Good Shopkeeper*, only to gratify the male (Samrat's own) desire for sexual transgression and adultery. One may say they are only characters, but look at what Samrat himself says in his chat: "Goma shows the complexity with which women must negotiate their existence in our culture."

What does Samrat want? Just a perpetuation of that condition through his narrative? And how many women today would want or do what Goma does: ask her husband to bring in his mistress? What is Samrat asking us Nepali women to do? How much water does his sweeping generalisation of Nepali women hold? I can't understand how Manjushree, who manages to let her widowed character love a man again in her *Tutor of History*, appreciates Samrat's patriarchal, Freudian fabrications.

When Manjushree once said she wanted to stop writing for the Nepali literature column in *Nepali Times* because she did not get enough feedback, I was sad. But now I understand the latent message after reading her question to Samrat in her writerly chat. She asks him to comment on a rumour, "word has it that... some professors at the Tribhuvan University English department have discouraged academic discussion of your writing." I only remember a large number of the now implicated faculty talk enthusiastically about his and Manjushree's works on several occasions, and my taking exception to victimisation of females in Samrat's imperial stories. Perhaps it is Manjushree's chagrin more than Samrat's that her novel is not taught at Tribhuvan University. Wouldn't it help to remember that, standardised canons aside, no such sponsorship is essential to any writer's repute?

Manjushree and Samrat must also renegotiate their selves and the identities they are projecting through critical debates and writings. Of course, they are free to write what they want to, but it won't do them any good by objecting to discussions on their representation of Nepal (and we Nepali hapless lot) by Nepali readers. The question of representation is not an anachronistic subject as Samrat thinks. Surf the net or shuffle through any current journal in literary or cultural studies and you will be astonished by how much of the discussion on representation of gender, race, ethnicity, class, nation, and various power structures in literary/cultural artifacts informs the research. If Samrat is projecting himself as a Nepali, he need not forget the decency of mutuality.



If Samrat and Manjushree want our support, where is the reciprocity? Moreover, why does Samrat, a diehard fan of post-colonialist theories, not want to recall Gayatri Spivak's idea of an author as a limited sample (of her culture, etc) and Homi Bhabha's concept of a culture's location? Can an author escape that trap? Or are these authors displaying their cultural situatedness by hanging on to corrupt and vanishing cultures like polygamy (as in *The Guru of Love*) or unethical, irresponsible sexual adventures, to provide the West with yet another exotic version of Nepal in the name of "deconstructing" her earlier misrepresentation?

As a well-wisher of these authors, I'm worried by their present trend of squandering energy in reader-bashing and exoticising Nepali in Freudian terms. Samrat looks all set to continue packaging Nepal as solely governed by their libidinal drives (as if there are no other contexts and conditions), and especially women as sex objects, with Manjushree patting him on the back. This will preclude a more rigorous cultural work in the interest of transforming the reality that Manjushree in her novel only begins to identify. I'm not trying to start a quarrel, but good friends should not refrain from healthy criticism. ♦

(Aruna Kandel did her MA in geography from Tribhuvan University, where she was also a student of English.)

For the love of a guru

REVIEW by ANAGHA NEELAKANTAN

In *The Guru of Love*, Samrat Upadhyay fine-tunes the preoccupations in his first publication, the award-winning collection of short stories, *Arresting God in Kathmandu*. Readers will find many similar themes—aspersion and its thwarting, love and lust of many kinds, empathetic but refreshingly unsentimental portrayals of lives made difficult when their ordinariness runs into modernity and its new gray areas, and characters who wander the streets of Kathmandu both questing and escaping.

The problem, I suspect, will be getting readers in Nepal and the rest of the subcontinent past the title, which seems egregiously orientalist of the author's own country. Once you manage to pick up the book and read it, though, you realise that as titles go, it isn't entirely inappropriate, and more than being exoticising, is a half-serious, half-ironic comment on the protagonist Ramchandra.

A mathematics teacher in a government school who also gives private tuition, Ramchandra's life changes from a normal lower middle class existence when he gets a new tuttee, Malati. Malati is a single mother in her early 20s who desperately wants to pass the SLC examination so she, too, can move up from a life mired in poverty, seemingly doomed to revolve around her baby, a temperamental, often abusive stepmother, and the latter's small chicken farm in the yard of their shack.

Ramchandra has been married for 15 years to his devoted wife Goma, and has two children, Sanu and Rakesh. Torn between an exciting new love, which seems to offer a vision of beauty and expansiveness missing from his struggling existence, and the deep tenderness and sense of accountability he feels towards his family, Ramchandra tells Goma about his budding affair. She reacts in typical Nepali fashion, moving to her maati. Eventually comes Goma's startling decision to move back and ask Malati to share their home, and Ramchandra's bed.

It's tempting to see this the way Ramchandra's colleague Shailendra Sir does, as a regression to the "old ways", with the husband taking a second wife even as the first martyr-like spouse lives under the same roof. But that makes for a rather disaffirming reading of the characters of *The Guru of Love* as archetypes, the novel itself as simple realist representation, and Upadhyay as a spokesman of all things Nepali, or at least Kathmandu. As in *Arresting God in Kathmandu*, here too instantly recognisable streets, turns of phrase and gestures simulate a Kathmandu we all know. But the characters are usually *not* people we all know, but familiar figures somehow distorted, so their choices and actions illuminate concerns and trains of thought usually sublimated.

A good example of this sublimation is in *The Guru of Love* itself. While the reasons for Ramchandra's enthusiasm for his student are laid out, obliquely, as is perhaps the only way to explain "love", it is difficult to understand why Malati decides to get involved with him. She seems to get into the affair almost unthinkingly, saying little, just responding to Ramchandra's overtures. Malati may be unconventional in many ways, but she adheres to given ways of

The Guru of Love is a more mature work than Arresting God.

behaviour at other times. Her behaviour is simultaneously instinctive and thought out, something that makes her, more than Goma, a rather everyday sort of person. As for Goma, she is hardly making a fool of herself. Instead of seeing her as an embodiment of female (Hindu, South Asian) "power", it is equally possible to see her as an individual within a cultural context that allows her to mete out punishment in a particular way that not many people have the stomach for—by not just complicating her husband's joy in his extramarital affair or forcing him to see how untenable his attempt to balance two intimate loves is, but also by inflicting pain on herself.

Goma's gesture is so dramatic, it will likely dominate most discussions of *The Guru of Love*, and morph into debating Upadhyay's preoccupation with the private and public sexual proclivities urban Nepalis could have, which is unfortunate. The book is stronger on other points, and in any case Upadhyay explored that subject well enough in *Arresting God in Kathmandu*. This new novel does other things, and it does them quite well. Upadhyay has a fine eye for nuances of class, for "old" communities versus newer ones, and for the differences between, say, those who are from Kathmandu and those from a humble hinterland background who, once in the capital, must try that much harder to survive, and dream that much longer about owning a piece of the city.

Also interesting is how Upadhyay weaves the *jana andolan* into his story. Initially it appears in the narrative in an arbitrary manner, but as it appears and disappears, surfacing at stray moments to become part of the fabric of lives that Upadhyay creates, occupying most of the characters only peripherally, preoccupied as they are with matters of more immediate resonance, until the movement itself gains such momentum, it is impossible to ignore.

This is not to suggest that Upadhyay tells "the truth" about a certain period in Kathmandu life or "exposes" it. His realism doesn't simply reflect reality—that would render much of his work ineffective, if only because it might be hard to believe the people in them and the things they do. Instead, Upadhyay shows how one understanding of a society or a city can be used to illuminate a few of the many possibilities for life and behaviour that

(Anagha Neelakantan is a writer based in Kathmandu. The book is now available in a Rupa special Nepal edition in Kathmandu book shops for Rs 250)

Now Available

SAMRAT UPADHYAY

Author of Arresting God in Kathmandu

Specially made available by Educational Book House

Chamber Building, Jamal, Tel: 244863

Carlsberg Green Bar of the month

Lowland
Restaurant & Bar
Under Nepalese Dutch Management

Log on to www.carlsberg.com.np and get a chance to win chilled carlsberg.
Contact no. 412713, 419607, Location :Thamel

ABOUT TOWN

FESTIVAL AND EXHIBITIONS

- ❖ Tibetan authentic paintings, furniture and ritual objects at Pathibhara Thangka Art Gallery, Thamel till 10 March. 256004
- ❖ Contemporary Japanese Architecture 1985-1996 11-20 February at Nepal Art Council Gallery, Baber Mahal.
- ❖ Copperware exhibition and sale Mexican design hand hammered copper goods. 10.30 AM-4PM on 21 February at Babar Mahal Revisited. 251647
- ❖ Festive Moods by Pradip Kumar Bajracharya at Siddhartha Art Gallery till 25 February. Baber Mahal Revisited, 411122

EVENTS

- ❖ Salsa dance workshop 17-22 February. Salsa party at Rox on 22 February. Rs 600. 416430
- ❖ Numafung Charity show at Jai Nepal Hall in support of Jeevan Kalyan Kendra. 9.45 AM on 16 February. Promote Nepal. 271022, 286681
- ❖ 2nd Pokhara Marathon 2059 8AM on 18 February from Pokhara Rangashala, Pokhara. 061-22978/31927/28928
- ❖ Kathmandu Festival 2059 18-23 February Hanumandhoka Durbar Square, Basantapur.
- ❖ Inauguration of Asman Kehi Bari at Kanti Children's Hospital by HRH Princess Shova Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah at 2PM on 18 February. All Asmanites invited.
- ❖ Shukrabar Gert M Wegner and friends 5.30 PM on 21 February 2003 at Patan Museum. Rs 350 and Rs 600 (with CD) 218517, 527373, 256411.
- ❖ World Cup Cricket at the Coffee Shop, Hotel de l' Annapurna. Win prizes.
- ❖ Like Water for Chocolate Mexican film 5.30 PM on 16 February at Bhrikuti Mandap. Tickets Rs 50 (Nepalis) Rs 100 (Expatriates) Inter-Cultural Film Society. 549386
- ❖ Valentine date with Nabin K Bhattarai 11AM onwards on 14 February. The Cyber Kitchen. Jawalakhel. 434554, 241408
- ❖ Austin Powers Valentine's party Fundraiser for Hamro Niwas Orphanage, 7PM on 14 February. Entry Rs 250. Any donations accepted. Thomas Kilroy at 1905, Kantipath. 225272

MUSIC

- ❖ Cadenza Collective Live 7.30 PM on 14 February at Shangri-la Hotel, Kathmandu. Rs 400 pp with a welcome drink. 412999
- ❖ Live music at Jivin' Joe's, Kupondole, every Friday at 5.30 PM, movies at 4.30 PM every Saturday. 539909
- ❖ Rusty Nails presents their blues, jazz and beyond, 7.30 PM every Friday at Dwarika's Hotel, Battisputali. 479488
- ❖ Friday Nites at Jatra with The Strings. Free entry. Thamel

DRINKS

- ❖ Paddy Foley's Irish Pub A wide range of drinks and food. Live music on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday nights. 416096.
- ❖ Rang Mahal Buy one drink and get one free from the house of Seagrams and Carlsberg Beer. 7-10PM, Hotel Vaishali. 413968/ 423878

FOOD

- ❖ Valentine's Day Special at The Chimney, table d'hote menu Rs 1500 (nett) per couple. Reservations 248999 Extn. 2865 Yak & Yeti Hotel
- ❖ Indian cuisine and classical music at le Meridian Gokarna Forest Golf Club Getaways for lunch on 14 February. Rs 600 pp, Rs 300 children. 451212
- ❖ Newari food festival from 15-23 February at the Summit Hotel, Kupondole.
- ❖ Valentine's Day at Godavari. Pool side BBQ, The Heartbreakers, complimentary drinks. Rs 1,200 per couple. Godavari Village Resort. 560675
- ❖ Saturday BBQ Lunch at Club Himalaya Nagarkot. Rs 500 per person. 680083/ 80
- ❖ Valentine's Candlelit Dinner at Rox Restaurant, 14 February. Rs 1400 pp, Rs 2400 per couple Hyatt Regency Kathmandu.

GETAWAYS

- ❖ R&R 2 nights/3 days at Shangri-La Village, Pokhara. Rs 5,999 per couple, Rs 3,999 single. Sanjay: 435741/42/43
- ❖ The Great Godavari Getaway Special weekend packages including room with breakfast and dinner. Godavari Village Resort. 560675
- ❖ Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge Rs 2,750 pp per night (tax included) for accommodation, meals, arrival and departure transfers from Bijaypur, walks, bar snacks and swimming. 01-361500

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

NEPALI WEATHER by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

VIS-13-02-2003 03:00 GMT

Just as a point of interest, look that those three beautiful cyclones all in a row, moving from east to west in the southern Indian Ocean on Thursday morning. Not that it matters much to the weather over the subcontinent where it is a settled picture. We will see a rapid advance into spring from here on, with the advent of warm air from the Indo-Gangetic plains. There are no westerlies that threaten us immediately, so expect a steady rise in maximum temperatures into early next week, along with increased haze and dust in the atmosphere, and misty mornings. Higher altitudes and mountain valleys will begin to see convection cloud buildups with snow flurries towards the afternoon.

KATHMANDU VALLEY

Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
21-03	22-03	23-03	24-03	24-03



BOOKWORM



Kama Sutra: Amorous man and Sensuous woman
Lustr India, 1995
Rs 1,112

This his-and-her double volume of the Kama sutra is beautifully presented in a beribboned folio. Vatsyayana's teachings on the art of love are illustrated with reproductions of Rajasthani miniature paintings and art from the Khajuraho temples in India.

Sex and Relationships: The complete family guide Richard Walker BSc PhD
De Agostini, Italy
Rs 1,470

A comprehensive exploration of physical and emotional development, puberty and adolescence, contraception, body image, sexual health, libido and sexual pleasure and crucially, relationships. Invaluable for the whole family.



Ensnaured by AIDS: Cultural Contexts of HIV/AIDS in Nepal
David K Beine PhD
Mandala Book Point, 2003
Rs 650

Beine examines the Nepali understanding of a rapidly growing problem through the results of a long-term study that examines the process by which the development of the cultural models of HIV/AIDS occurs. This is the first long-term field study in South Asia of this subject.

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

CLASSIFIED

Visit Ground Zero Fine wines, designer candles, cards, gifts, stationery, wooden items, perfumes and more. Darbar Marg, opposite Hotel de l'Annapurna

Naked Chef, Nagarkot Room, Dinner, Breakfast, Transport package program Rs 1170 or \$15 for Nepalis & Expatriates. Tel: 413628/680006

To Let In Jawalakhel near Zoo Fully Furnished

- Apartment 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spacious living, dining, modern kitchen individual telephone, terrace, overlooking English garden with tall trees in quiet surrounding. Contact: 524389

- **Visit Femilines**, the Exclusive Lingerie Store for ladies undergarments, nightwear, bathrobes and more. Ladies staff. Opposite Sajha Yatayat, Harihar Bhawan, Pulchowk. Tel: 547428

For insertions ring NT Marketing at 543333-36.

HITS 91.2

SAY YES 2 CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

AND OUR NATION WILL STAND

Khushi is old wine in a new bottle. The remake of a South Indian hit, this is a love story directed by S J Suryah, who also wrote the script and screenplay. The film stars Fardeen Khan (Karan) and Kareena Kapoor (Khushi) as two college students who destiny throws together. Of course they hate each other at first sight, but eventually become friends. However, neither is willing to admit romantic feelings for the other. They must learn to listen to their hearts and forego their obstinacy and ego if they—and we—are to have a happy ending.



JAINEPAL CINEMA
12PM, 3PM, 6PM Telephone booking: 442220
Online booking www.jainepal.com

BBC on FM 102.4

Mon-Fri	0615-0645	BBC World Today
Sat	0615-0645	BBC Reporting Religion
Sun	0615-0645	BBC Agenda
Daily	2045-2115	BBC नेपाली सेवा
Daily	2245-2300	BBC नेपाली सेवा
Sun-Fri	0740- 0800	एकैछिन् (रेडियो पब्लिक)
Sun-Fri	0800- 0830	डबली (विषयगत अन्तरक्रिया)
Sun-Fri	2000- 2030	आजका कुरा (समसामयिक विषयमा बहस)
Sat	0800- 0830	शान्ति अभियान
Sat	1930- 2000	आचार विचार (षष्टाचारविरुद्ध सहकार्य)
Sat	2000- 2030	कूटनीतिक सञ्च

Radio Sagarmatha
P.O. Box 6958, Bakhundole, Lalitpur, Nepal
Tel: ++977-1-545680, 545681, Fax: ++ 977-1- 530227
E-mail: radio@radiosagarmatha.org, www.radiosagarmatha.org



TECHNOLOGY

Weaving a web

WWW 2003 proves we're not in digital darkness.



VIKASH PRADHAN

While most of us lament the great North-South digital divide and how the twin will never meet, it turns out if there is a digital divide some Nepali youth are not aware of it.

They have come up with world class websites, like the ones that recently entered the 2nd Annual WAVE Web Winner 2003. The idea was to showcase and sharpen the talent of young Nepali website designers with the annual competition.

This year judging got serious with three main categories: content, visual appeal and user friendliness. An independent jury marked the entries on a scale of 1-10. The scores were then averaged to derive winners in each category. The top three sites were decided by using the average marks obtained in each of the three categories. There were 62 entries this year out of which only 55 were marked. The rest were disqualified for failing to fulfill a criteria set to check the authenticity of the entry. Besides the top three websites

in the competition, judges also picked one winning website for each of the three categories.

<http://www.edunepal.com> bagged first place at W W W 2003. Designed and conceptualised by a group of engineering students, it focuses on education in Nepal by offering a comprehensive database of local educational institutions with their names, contact numbers and website links where applicable. It also provides information on universities in Canada, Denmark, Norway and the US. Apart from links to educational institutions, the site provides sample questions, online guide books as well as an archive of research papers and projects done by Nepali students.

A fan site to the punk outfit 5th Grade Dropout won First Runner Up. <http://www.geocities.com/idontlikethis> was the genius of Srijit Raj Bhandari, a Grade 10 student of Shuvatar School. This site scored heavily in originality of concept and ideas. One judge even gave it perfect scores in all three categories! The design is simple

without being simplistic and stays true to the anti-establishment punk ethos. The content is a witty complement to the style philosophy of the site.

The official site of the Kathmandu University's two-day Project Exhibition 2002, <http://www.sphosting.com/manozchandi/kukupex/intro.htm>, won Second Runner Up this year. It was designed by Manoz Chandi Shrestha, a 4th year computer engineering student. Mainly an events page, it is well designed with clean lines and colours.

Handing out special category prizes had an important function in WWW 2003. It recognised that different sites had different appeals and that a lack of content does not make one less valuable than a content-heavy site that is light on visual impact.

The visual appeal category winner, <http://www.latitude-23.com>, brought into focus the design capability of Nepali designers. The only Flash site among the winners, it displays a classy uncluttered look. Designed by Shivendra Patrabansh, an architecture graduate, it is the official site of Latitude 23, a 3D visualisation firm based in Bangladesh.

Too many sites are an absolute horror to trawl through. In honour of the blessed simplicity of navigation <http://www.myktm.com> won the WWW 2003 user friendliness category mouse down. It is simple without unnecessary graphics or text. This is a site that makes for painless surfing and delivers the goods.



The content category winner, <http://www.bm.com.np> is the official site for the magazine Business Manager. This is a brilliant resource for start-ups who need information on intricate business do-dahs. An especially useful feature is a handy currency converter.

The calibre of these sites says something—Nepal may not have “arrived” at Destination Digital, but you can bet your bits and bytes that we’re getting there. ♦

Hallmark “When you care enough to send the very best”

visit us for fresh flowers

Park & Shop, 2nd floor, Khichapokhari • Pokhara • Jawalakhel, Tel: 543134.

COMFORT ABOVE THE CLOUDS

Indoor heated swimming pool, and a centrally air conditioned environment.

tel: 680045-48/80/83
club@mos.com.np
www.nepalshotel.com

CLUB HIMALAYA Nagarkot

SKY LIGHT (P) Ltd.

Approved TECHNICAL Fabricator

A foreign-owned Nepali company, in technical collaboration with TECHNICAL of France. A complete range of high quality aluminium window and door frames, enclosures, shower cabins, skylights and more that is:

Save Nepal's trees! Use Sky Light's perfect alternative to wood!

- Eco friendly
- Resistant to corrosion
- Durable
- Maintenance free
- Value for money
- Complies with international safety & reliability standards

Satisfied customer: Private Residence, Thaha

Naxal Opp. Police HQ. Tel: 423851 Fax: 420789 Email: skylight@mail.com.np

Seagram's The King of the Forest

ROYAL STAG

TRULY WORLD CLASS

Mega Cricket





Under My Hat

by Kunda Dixit

Wrestling with our erotic past

It is hard to tell today that we are a people whose ancestors contributed valuable research data to Prof Vatsyayana so he could write his bestselling book, *The Kamasutra*. It is clear as we look around us today that we are only a shadow of the outstanding and upright people we once were. So let us take the opportunity of International Valentine Day and our own Annual Mating Season this week to remember past masters in the art of love.

Those were the days when we didn't beat around the bush when it came to birds and bees: we got straight to the point. Of course, our women then, as today, pretended not to know what that point was exactly, but we knew they knew that we knew it was only a question of time before they got the drift.

Much of the valuable ornithological and apiarian data we Nepalis amassed through the millennia was lost to posterity because Prof Vatsyayana decided that it was too risqué for his book, and threw it into the bin. Luckily, our ancestors had backup hard drives from which they rescued facts and figures and promptly carved them into the eaves of Kathmandu Valley temples where they have become the backbone of our tourism industry today.

Some of the technical details of this priceless corpus of research may be way over our heads, but all you need is a pair of powerful binoculars and a secret vantage point in one of the Valley's three temple squares to unlock the secrets of our holy architecture (From sanskrit: "arch" =dirty, and "itecture" =stuff).

These erections give us a peek into what our ancestors did for fun and games in prehistoric times while laying the foundations of our civilisation. And it is obvious from a cursory perusal of the evidence on display that we as a people loved to tie ourselves into knots. This was not just a way to mix pleasure as they went about their business, but also to follow a strenuous exercise

regimen closely integrated with three other ancient sports—yoga, wrestling and kabbadi. No wonder, then, that some of the x-rated struts on our temples show erotica that look uncannily like Greco-Roman wrestling. Imagine all the extra calories they burnt when protagonists in the same weight class grabbed each other in firm half-nelsons, pulled each other over with gut-wrenches and ankle-laces, followed by vice-like body-locks.

In a manoeuvre that the World Wrestling Federation now calls "Reversal" (which earns the player three bonus points) the passive encounter ends when the man underneath completely reverses his position and comes to the top position. The other below-the-belt move is called the crotch-lift, and a WWF manual says this position can be employed by the aggressor to execute holds with his or her arms and legs, leading to front head-locks with amplitude.

We don't know what the final outcome of these bouts were, because our ancestors had such fertile imaginations that they soon ran out of temples to depict them on. But what we do know for a

fact is that our forebears also loved to wrestle with sheep, water buffalo and other semi-mythical fauna in order to test their strength and stamina. In fact, they were such eager sportsmen that they would wrestle with just about anything that moved. They wrestled in groups, and sometimes they even wrestled with themselves.

Following this grand tradition, it is important for us this Valentine's Day to value and preserve our grand traditions by paying silent homage to the acrobats who laid the groundwork of the society we are now proud to call our own. And without their seminal contribution, we can say with a great deal of certainty that we would not be here today to pen these lines of tribute from the bottoms of all our hearts. ♦



Showcase Malaysia

FreeStay

4 Days / 3 Nights
Accommodation
In Malaysia



Features:

- 4 days / 3 nights FREE stay in Malaysia (FRCL/GCCL-5 star hotels/EYCL-4star hotel)
- 50% Discount on First and Business Class tickets plus 4 days / 3 nights FREE Stay in Malaysia-5 star hotels
- Promotion valid from January 5 - May 29, 2003
- Terms and conditions apply

Malaysia Highlights:

- Malaysia March Mega Sale Carnival 2003
- Petronas Malaysia F1 Grand Prix March 21-23, 2003
- Premier Medical Screening in Kuala Lumpur from US\$ 120.00

For more information and reservations, please contact:

Malaysia Airlines Kathmandu
PSA Marco Polo Travels
Heritage Plaza II, Kamaladi, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel Exchange: 247215 Ext. 012 or
Direct Line 241942 Fax: 977-1-244484
Email: airline_marco@polo.col.com.np
marcopolo@mail.com.np


TOURISM MALAYSIA


www.tourism.gov.my



malaysia

We take pride in jobs well done.






JAGADAMBA PRESS
japray@mos.com.np Tel: (01) 521393, 543017, 547018 Fax: (01) 536390

Once again Yak & Yeti brings to you a musical extravaganza that's truly beyond compare. Arguably the most expensive production ever undertaken. An open-air concert with the historical Lal Durbar as the stage facade, the entire setting has been designed to compare with the best amphitheatres of the world. From the stage to the lighting, the sound to the surrounding, the food to the drinks, it will perhaps be the grandest musical show the city has ever seen. In performance are internationally acclaimed bands and artists from Australia, France, England and India.

Time: 7.00 pm – 10.00 pm
Date: 28th February 2003

Tickets: Rs. 2499/- net per person (Inclusive of Dinner & all Beverages).
Rs. 3000/- net per person (Inclusive of Dinner & all Beverages)
plus FREE entry to 'The Atrium - House of Noise'.

For more information and other promotions visit our website:
www.yakandyeti.com Or call Guest relations 248999 Extn: 2865



YAK & YETI
Presents



A Night At Lal Durbar...

A Musical Extravaganza like never before.

