The disclosure came as Nepali and Indian officials met in Kathmandu this week to discuss an agreement to export surplus power from Nepal to India. So far, the two countries have exchanged electricity where needed. The state-run Indian Power Trading Corporation and the Nepal Electricity Authority are negotiating to buy Nepal’s 80 MW of surplus power in the wet season.

But there is haggling over tariff: the Indians are offering Rs 2.4 per unit, while NEA wants more. Nepal and India have been paying Rs 4 per unit for electricity they currently exchange along the border.

In the dry season, the two countries will build a 1320kV transmission line from Butwal to Anandamgur in India.

NARESH NEWAR

Children are declared a zone of peace.

Children bear the brunt of war, but they don't even figure in peace talks.

"Easter Sunday: Has the war finally ended?" was the banner headline the day after Easter Sunday this year. The world was stunned by the news that the Maoists had accepted a truce with the government. But while the guns were silent on that day, the war continued.

"We will lobby with the government and the Maoist leaders to sign an accord and incorporate child protection into the code of conduct. We want a joint statement that guarantees our children will be kept out of conflict," said Pradhan of Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN), told us. Of the 226 children killed in the conflict since 1996, more than half were under 15. According to the rights group, the Maoists were responsible for 175.

"It is really distressing that children are not even mentioned in peace talks," said Pradhan. "Much more suffering do Dutch children bear in similar conflicts."

"Love in Nepal is slated for a September release. I have pretty much signed on for one more film after that," added Mukherjee, who will act with his real-life partner, Delhi TV producer Naresh Paudyal. "It's a typical action-humour generesque film. —"What does a journalist know about films? I have only acted in two films, mentioned Mukherjee. "They're both bollywood films, but I have no idea how they are going."

"Perhaps Nepal Tourism Board and Anokhi Kahani and Kaash... Aap?"

"They don't even figure in peace talks. They don't even mention this fact."

"Of the 600 children who have been forcibly recruited, abducted, arrested and displaced, many hundreds have been killed by both sides in the conflict."

While her song is already playing on Indian music channels, Jharana wasn't invited to the third round of peace talks in Kathmandu this week, neither was thought it important to regret, even to mention this fact.

"Is it really distressing that children aren't even mentioned in peace talks?"
If and when, the Maoist insurgency peterrs out, Panduranga in Dang will probably develop as an attractive destination for domestic tourism. In consequence of this, Shivaram Khatri’s house at the centre of Hapure village may even evolve into a guesthouse that is a tourist attraction in its own right. "Here is where the Abhiscotic Round of Places Talka Were Held," a brass plaque on the wall may say. The bed-and-breakfast FailedUplift Program (SUP) specifically to improve the socio-economic condition of residents in the 14 villages in the Malamchi Valley. The SUP pursues a holistic development approach, including health and nutrition, education, health, income generation and community development, and rural livelihoods. The local residents, community organisations, and have been involved in various activities, including water management and the prevention of conflict and interests to mitigate the incentive for corruption.

The success of the talks will depend on the approach that the government will take in handling these issues. Much of the acrimony between the monarch and political parties stems from the abuse and misuse of Article 127. The probability of a successful negotiation is low if this issue is not settled. Without going into much detail, a good compromise could be to bring Article 127 under the Parliament Act (see "Ambiguity to Truth", p. 114).

In recent interviews, the king has reaffirmed his commitment to constitutional monarchy and the multi-party system, but does acknowledge some technical changes and ambiguity in both. The voice of the opposition forces in the country is quite firm and unified on Article 127, and it cannot be ignored. A mutually acceptable solution and a modified Article 127 must be worked out to ensure the sovereignty of the people’s representatives, particularly taking the commander-in-chief of the current three-person National Security Council, or making him a non-voting member, and broadening the membership to include not only the main political parties but also the civil society movements.

Mutual understanding in bigger political issues will make it easier for everyone to sit down and deal with the royal perks. A sensible proposal, without dismantling the throne and the crown, should not be difficult to prepare. King Gyanendra in recent statements has shown extraordinary flexibility on these issues. It is secularism that is more important than any other thing for the people of this country. As I see it, the debate and even the two sides will be better for the government its focus on transparent, accountable mechanisms and devolving decision making, including economic ones, to local users themselves. The government should focus on ensuring the equitable distribution of benefits through better monitoring and evaluation mechanisms as the CCFUs have collected the fund locally for people, the key livelihoods for people be India’s trans-Himalayan river flows through the Upper Mahatama River basin. The project has also dually considered riparian flow requirements for existing uses and will maintain minimum flow in the Melamchi river at any time of the year. Details are available at www.melamchiriver.com.

M S Shrestha, Deputy Executive Director Melamchi Water Supply Development Board

INDIA-NEPAL

Rabindra Mishra deserves thanks for his thought-provoking article about the king’s visit to Nepal. The article was surprising in a way that I was left wondering if I could find a way that I was left wondering if I could find a way that I was left wondering if I could find a way that I was left wondering if I could find a way that I was left wondering if I could find a way
The government is in a hurry to parcel out the management of national parks like Rara. What’s the rush?

Last month, the government made headlines for its decision to launch a model for the privatization of national parks. This initiative, known as the National Park Management Authority (NPMA), aims to engage private entities in the management of national parks, thereby opening up the possibility of increased revenue and greater accessibility to tourism.

However, this move has sparked controversy and criticism. Many conservationists and environmentalists argue that such privatization could lead to a loss of control over natural resources and a potential decline in the quality of park management. They fear that commercial interests may take precedence over conservation goals, potentially compromising the natural habitats and biodiversity that these parks are intended to protect.

The decision to privatize national parks is not a new one. Governments around the world have experimented with similar models, often with mixed results. Some argue that privatization can bring in needed funding and expertise, while others warn of the risks associated with an emphasis on profit over conservation.

For the government, the motivation behind this move is likely multifaceted. It may be driven by the need to generate revenue, reduce the burden on state resources, and enhance the overall experience for visitors. However, without careful planning and oversight, the potential negative impacts on the parks and their ecosystems could be significant.

As for the public, the reaction has been mixed. Some are hopeful about the possibility of improved facilities and services, while others remain skeptical about the long-term sustainability of this approach. The privatization of national parks is a complex issue that requires careful consideration and ongoing monitoring to ensure that conservation goals are not compromised.

In the ongoing debate, it is crucial to balance the need for revenue with the imperative to protect and preserve these invaluable natural resources. Only through a careful and thoughtfully executed approach can we achieve a sustainable future for our national parks.

(End of excerpt)
Nepal in the WTO

The challenge will be to protect the interest of present producers without jeopardising future potential.

The crucial consideration for our country is the current productivity of the livestock sector and the need for the small-scale livestock operators to get the Indian states that they can trade to cities like Bangalore, Kochi, or even the major cities like Mumbai and Delhi. There is no lack of demand for vegetable juices in these states. The issue is about the competitiveness of the Nepalese producers in these markets.

The challenge is to ensure that the producers have access to these markets and can compete on a level playing field. This requires the government to facilitate market access, provide technical assistance, and strengthen the capacity of the small-scale producers. Only through such efforts can we hope to achieve a balanced and sustainable development in this sector.

Nepal has been negotiating under tremendous pressure to adhere to other obligations, but the progress has been slow. The current negotiations focus on several key issues:

1. Access to markets: Nepal needs to ensure that its products are not restricted or discriminated against in Indian markets.
2. Tariffs and non-tariff barriers: Nepal needs to ensure that it is treated on a non-discriminatory basis in negotiating trade agreements.
3. Technical barriers to trade: Nepal needs to ensure that its products meet the technical standards required by Indian buyers.
4. Sanitary and phytosanitary measures: Nepal needs to ensure that its agricultural products are free from pests and diseases.

In summary, the challenge for Nepal is to navigate the complexities of trade negotiations while protecting the interests of its producers. Only through a strategic and sustained effort can Nepal achieve a favorable outcome in these negotiations.

RAJENDRA K KHETAN

An untouched market for India

How robust is the insurance business in Nepal?

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How robust is the insurance business in Nepal?
Lo and behold
Lo is located between the Himalayas and the Tibetan plateau. It is a Tibetan Buddhist kingdom ruled by a monarch granted with a degree of independence within Nepal. Lo was the base of the Tibetan Khampa guerrillas during their covert war against China in the 1960s, and was classified a politically fragile area and closed to foreigners till 1992. Today it is labelled a restricted area, and only about 1,000 foreign visitors are allowed in annually. They have to pay $200 each for a 10-day permit, plus Rs 2,000 to the Annapurna Conservation Project who use the money to boost eco-tourism in the region.

Trade deficit
For the Chinese traders in Mustang, the road to Lhasa is just a way to resell in Nepal what they have bought at Tatopani and hauled all the way to Ghemi, have to be flown into Jomsom and taken on mule trains to Lo. Only about a 1,000 foreign visitors are admitted in annually. They have to pay $700 each for a 10-day permit, plus Rs 2,000 to the Annapurna Conservation Project who use the money to boost eco-tourism in the region.

Trade deficit
The writing of 'high Himalayan' cultures in English has been mostly dominated by Western scholars, and it is in this terrain that Tribhuvan University cultural historian Ramesh K Dhungel has come out with a historical study titled The Kingdom of Lo. The work, drawing on ancient Nepali and Tibetan sources and based largely on documents unearthed by the author in Upper Mustang, is published by the Tashi Gephel Foundation. It was launched Thursday at the Deharpur Hotel by Cho-gye Thi-chen Rinpoche, abbot of the Sakya Tsher-pa tradition. Dhungel visited Mustang in 1962-64 and 1995 to complete this work. Launching the book, the Rinpoche said, "In these fearful times, when the inestimably precious cultural tradition established by the ancestral rulers of the Dharma kingdom of Mustang is in danger of being lost altogether, this book will help in the continuity and restoration of the traditions of Mustang."

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**Comment**

When UN Under-Secretary-General Annan’s special envoy to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, was killed last month, he was a symbol of the UN’s efforts to bring peace to the war-torn country. But his death has also highlighted the dangers faced by UN peacekeepers in Iraq and around the world. The UN is now faced with the challenge of ensuring the safety of its personnel in a country that is still not safe for them. The UN has had to take on more responsibilities to maintain security in Iraq, and it has had to face serious attacks.

The UN has been hit by a series of attacks in recent months, including a deadly explosion at the UN headquarters in Baghdad last month. The UN has had to take emergency measures to protect its personnel and equipment. The UN has temporarily closed its offices in some areas of Iraq, and it has had to increase its security measures.

The UN has also had to face serious challenges in its efforts to promote peace in Iraq. The UN has had to deal with the various factions in the country, including the Saddam Hussein regime, the Iraqi National Congress, the Iraqi National Salvation Front, and the Iraqi Nationalist Movement. The UN has had to work with these factions to promote peace in the country.

The UN has also had to deal with the situation in the Kirkuk region, where there has been a conflict between the Kurdish and Arab groups. The UN has had to work with the Iraqi government and the Kurdish authorities to resolve this conflict.

The UN has also had to deal with the situation in the south of Iraq, where there has been a conflict between the Shiite and Sunni groups. The UN has had to work with the Iraqi government and the Shiite authorities to resolve this conflict.

The UN has also had to deal with the situation in the north of Iraq, where there has been a conflict between the Kurdish and Turkmen groups. The UN has had to work with the Iraqi government and the Kurdish authorities to resolve this conflict.

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The visits are coming thick and fast for BP Koirala in solitary at Sundarjal Prison. A day after his visit, allowed to visit, a police team arrives to interrogate him on tape. BP’s lawyer, Ganesh Raj Sharma, is not allowed to speak privately to him. BP is appalled by the ilegality of the exercise, which is an absolute crime, he says. It corrupts absolutely and despairs for the Nepali people. He thinks years of authoritarianism have reduced Nepal to “a mass of characterless men and women”. The regeneration of such a mass is an impossible task, after some time they may just disintegrate, and disappear from history.”

Saturday, 16 April, 1977

[Contains entry from 20 April]

Sunday, 17 April 1977

Sundarijal

At long last my name is appearing in Nepali newspapers. The pale of the govt to impress its non-successful efforts to the public in the Indian press resumption of and the redemptive mission of my cause. The criticism of the Indian press and Indian leaders in the mass media of Nepal is astonishingly mild this time. Otherwise the usual practice used to be to let loose floodgates of hostile propaganda against India, accompanied with stage-managed public demonstration against Indians all over Nepal. They are not doing anything of this kind this time. It appears they are trying to generate a healthy respect for Indian opinion. This change in the attitude can be attributed to 3 things: 1. The current Indian govt’s elements which are deeply interested in the democratic cause in Nepal and have personal association with me. 2. The attitude of the Chinese in the view of the new Indian govt in the critical position and the effects of the Indian govt’s elements which are deeply interested in the democratic cause in Nepal and have personal association with me. 3. The attitude of the Chinese in the view of the new Indian govt in the critical position and the effects of the Indian govt’s elements which are deeply interested in the democratic cause in Nepal and have personal association with me.

Tuesday, 19 April 1977

Sundarijal

Mr. Governor, at the risk of repetition, I feel compelled to stress that the 1977 elections were held in the presence of 2 great powers—the United States and the Soviet Union. The two superpowers have been engaged in a struggle for influence in the region, with the US supporting the pro-government forces and the Soviet-backed Communist Party of Nepal. The US had even provided military assistance to the pro-government forces, while the Soviet Union had supported the Communist Party. The elections were called in an attempt to find a solution to the then-existing political crisis in Nepal.

Friday, 22 April 1977

Sundarijal

I have always been a strong advocate of democracy and the rule of law. However, the current political situation in Nepal is alarming. The government has been using its power to suppress dissent and silence opposition voices. The recent elections were marred by violence and intimidation, and many parties have been banned. The situation is only likely to worsen as the government continues to crack down on criticism.

Saturday, 23 April 1977

Sundarijal

I recently returned from a trip to India, where I was able to meet with some of my closest friends and family. The trip was a much-needed break from the stresses of political life. I was able to relax and recharge my batteries, which I will sorely need in the coming months.

Sunday, 24 April 1977

Sundarijal

I recently returned from a trip to India, where I was able to meet with some of my closest friends and family. The trip was a much-needed break from the stresses of political life. I was able to relax and recharge my batteries, which I will sorely need in the coming months.

Monday, 25 April 1977

Sundarijal

I recently returned from a trip to India, where I was able to meet with some of my closest friends and family. The trip was a much-needed break from the stresses of political life. I was able to relax and recharge my batteries, which I will sorely need in the coming months.

Tuesday, 26 April 1977

Sundarijal

I recently returned from a trip to India, where I was able to meet with some of my closest friends and family. The trip was a much-needed break from the stresses of political life. I was able to relax and recharge my batteries, which I will sorely need in the coming months.

Wednesday, 27 April 1977

Sundarijal

I recently returned from a trip to India, where I was able to meet with some of my closest friends and family. The trip was a much-needed break from the stresses of political life. I was able to relax and recharge my batteries, which I will sorely need in the coming months.

Thursday, 28 April 1977

Sundarijal

I recently returned from a trip to India, where I was able to meet with some of my closest friends and family. The trip was a much-needed break from the stresses of political life. I was able to relax and recharge my batteries, which I will sorely need in the coming months.

Friday, 29 April 1977

Sundarijal

I recently returned from a trip to India, where I was able to meet with some of my closest friends and family. The trip was a much-needed break from the stresses of political life. I was able to relax and recharge my batteries, which I will sorely need in the coming months.

Saturday, 30 April 1977

Sundarijal

I recently returned from a trip to India, where I was able to meet with some of my closest friends and family. The trip was a much-needed break from the stresses of political life. I was able to relax and recharge my batteries, which I will sorely need in the coming months.

Sunday, 1 May 1977

Sundarijal

I recently returned from a trip to India, where I was able to meet with some of my closest friends and family. The trip was a much-needed break from the stresses of political life. I was able to relax and recharge my batteries, which I will sorely need in the coming months.
In the land of Mustang: East of Lo Manthang
Peter Matthiessen, Photographs Thomas Laird Timeless Books Rs 2,400

In the spring of 1992, Matthiessen and Laird trekked deep in the secret valley of Sao Khola, tucked in the northwesternmost reaches of the Himalayas. From the central city of Lo Manthang, known as “Mustang,” along with their entourage of government chauffeurs, attendants and hordes, the two began a high altitude adventure across plateaus and narrow river valleys that is captured through expansive narrative and poignant photographs.

Mustang in Fragments: Manashree Thapa Himal Books, 1992 (Second ed) Rs 275

The writer made the first of her two trips to this remote corner of Nepal in 1990. This book, the first by the novelist of The Tutor of History, is an account of her travels and also the story of a Nepali society and culture, where she, in her own words, is an intruder. This acclaimed work provides first time visitors with a reference point and an insight into a region that once followed a strict policy of isolation.

Courtesy: Mandala Book Point, Kanti Jath, 4227711, mandala@csn.com np

Ki Mi Gaya is being touted as the dose version of ET meets X-Files. Rajesh Roshan’s mega production aims at changing our understanding of this genre in Indian cinema. The movie starring his son Hrithik Roshan, Priyanka Chopra and Rekha, uses the expertise of international production teams who worked on Independence Day and Godzilla. As always, we’ll have to suspend our disbelief (a spaceship that can actually land on Earth), but at least we can look forward to a new experience and perhaps the biggest Hollywood set till now ever made.

Coming soon - Boom
JAINPUBLICATION
12.30, 3.30, 6.30
Call 444220 for bookings.

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

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Bhagawan Koirala is between operations at the Shahid Gangalal National Heart Centre in Bansbari. That was the only time he had for an interview. Between his daily surgeries, meetings with his medical team and administration of the hospital, the 40-year-old doctor has little time to spare.

Bhagawan didn't exactly choose a career in medicine: as a young boy growing up in Palpa he was no different from his friends who only had hazy ideas about the future. But unlike his peers, Bhagawan had an extraordinarily sharp mind. By age 13 he had passed the SLC exam, and his parents enrolled him into a health assistant program at the Institute of Medicine in Maharajgunj. "They fudged my medicine," Bhagawan admits with a grin. It was the first step towards becoming one of Nepal's leading heart surgeons. Encouraged by GP Sharma, a lecturer at the institute, Bhagawan got fired up about cardiothoracic surgery. Years later, Sharma would again encourage Bhagawan, this time to begin open heart surgery on a regular basis at Teaching Hospital. 'I turned down several offers to stay abroad, I had a clear mission to return to Nepal," he says. So, two years ago, Bhagawan came home for good.

It wasn't long before he was offered the position of executive director at the heart centre. "I hate administration, but I thought it was the only way to create a platform that would enable me to give my fullest," he recalls. Today he juggles running the impeccably clean and efficient hospital with surgery. He is also on the expert committee of Princess Jayanti Memorial Trust where the good doctor waves bed, food, heart valve (costing Rs 75,000) and operation charges for needy heart patients. Despite his name and his accomplishments, Bhagawan does not suffer from a 'god complex'. "Working with heart patients in Nepal can go two ways," he says. "They can make you feel like a god over a routine procedure, but their unwillingness and, at times, inability to understand can also prove a formidable challenge." His team is well trained and on a good day, everything in the operation theatre goes smoothly. On a not-so-good day they pull off 12-hour sessions of intense concentration battling to save a patient's life.

"When you're working at the edge of life and death every day, your focus is on getting things right," says Bhagawan. Now, here is a doctor whose heart is in the right place.  

(Sraddha Basnyat)