



www.nepaltimes.com

NEPALI Times

#176 26 December 2003 - 1 January 2004 16 pages Rs 25

everest assured

You take care of the good times, we'll take care of the bad times

Everest Insurance. Keeping You Secure.



Everest Insurance Co. Ltd.
Hattisar, P.O. Box: 10675, Kathmandu, Nepal.
Tel: 4425758, 4444717, 4444718 Fax: 977-1-4444366, E-mail: everest@eic.com.np

2003 This year was bloodier than last year. What will next year be like? 2004



JANUARY: After months of secret negotiations, a ceasefire is declared. The government withdraws the terrorist label and bounty on capture of Maoists.

FEBRUARY: Maoists organise mass meetings in various cities, including Kathmandu. Baburam Bhattarai and Ram Bahadur Thapa make public appearances for the first time. Government forms negotiating team headed by Minister Narayan Singh Pun.

MARCH: First formal peace talks between the government and Maoists begin in Kathmandu. Despite the ceasefire, Maoist extortion and threats continue throughout the country although there aren't any major clashes.

APRIL: Tourism in the peak trekking season is

hit by the effect of SARS. China seals border. A Himalmedia poll on Nepali new year shows 70% of Nepalis think Maoist demands can be met by peaceful means and 20 percent would vote for them if they lay down arms.

MAY: Five parties launch first phase of agitation to force the king to reverse his 4 October move. Their demand: either restore parliament or form an all-party government. The United States lists Maoists as a terrorist organisation, prompting the rebels to harden their anti-American stance. Nepal benefits from worldwide publicity at the Everest Golden Jubilee celebrations. New records and traffic jams on the world's highest mountain.

JUNE: Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand resigns, setting off a scramble to replace him. King Gyanendra asks parties to recommend candidate, but opts for Surya Bahadur Thapa instead of Madhab Nepal. Parties close down 8,000 schools all over the country for a week.

JULY: In response to a Maoist demand, the government frees three rebel leaders to resume peace talks. Agitating parties come up with an 18-point program aimed at curtailing royal powers. There are no signs of reconstruction and rehabilitation as the period of no war no peace drags on.

AUGUST: Children are declared a zone of peace. Army kills 17 Maoists in Doramaba just as talks are being held in Dang. Maoists declare an end

to the ceasefire, government restores terrorist tag. Maoists begin urban assassination killing senior army colonel in Kathmandu.

SEPTEMBER: Nepal joins the WTO in Cancun. Conflict escalates with heavy Maoist casualties. Maoists take attacks down to the tarai. Kathmandu-based ambassadors lean on parties to patch up with king, they tone down agitation.

OCTOBER: Under pressure from civil society Maoists declare a 9-day unilateral Dasai ceasefire. Security forces continue operations. The CIAA arrests former Nepali Congress and RPP ministers for corruption. Global Nepali diaspora holds its first ever conference in Kathmandu.

NOVEMBER: The government sets up a 'unified command' under the army and says it will arm villagers to resist Maoists. Both moves condemned by rights groups and donors. Maoists use landmines to target security patrols with devastating effect. Interpol once again issues red corner notice against 11 Maoist leaders. Despite insurgency, tourism rebounds.

DECEMBER: Five parties resume agitation, arrest of three student leaders angers protestors. Government announces amnesty and rehabilitation for Maoists who surrender. National Human Rights Commission issues list of more than 808 people disappeared by both sides.

Best and worst case scenarios

As 2003 draws to a close, neither the palace and the parties, nor the army and the Maoists show signs of negotiating. What is in store for 2004?

Best case scenario: Palace and the parties agree on a national government that will rise above vested interest to agree on a ceasefire, while working towards local elections. The Maoists could be persuaded to join the political mainstream and contest parliamentary elections in two years.

Worst case scenario: The king and parties carry on as sworn enemies, pushing the parties to join the Maoists in a republican cause. The parties' agitation merges with the insurgency and the country sinks further into anarchy, the insurgency takes on an ethnic edge, there is greater militarisation, more human rights violations and at least another decade of worthless conflict.

Times nepalnews.com Weekly Internet Poll # 116

Q. Is a military solution the only way to resolve Nepal's insurgency?



Total votes: 1,494

Weekly Internet Poll # 117. To vote go to: www.nepaltimes.com

Q. Now that their leaders have been released, should the students call off their agitation?

Park Village at Budhanil-kantha

Aesthetic Living in Pure Nature

Special Holiday Package

- 48 Suites
- 7 Conference hall
- Amphitheater
- 6 acres garden
- Swimming pool
- Health Club
- Mini Cinema hall & Recreation center

Tel: 4 375 280 pvh@wlink.com.np

Sudha's Creations The Boutique

Please visit us for:

- Dress Designing
- Tailoring
- Embroidery
- Dyeing

We assure you quality service at reasonable price

Special Discount on Christmas and New Year

Head of Green Supermarket
1st Floor, Jyoti Building, Jyoti Road, Lalitpur
Mobile: 944719130 Tel: 5524208
E-mail: sudhas@creations.com

Now open/available

Bring your plain Pashmina Shawls. Go back with sparkling metal prints of your choice.



STATION

Kapendol, Lalitpur, Nepal.
Tel: 5547400, 500, 600

New Years Eve Dinner

Enjoy a festive buffet dinner and see in the New Year 2004

Rs.700/- per person plus tax

New Years Day Brunch

Relax over a leisurely brunch between 11am and 2 pm.

Rs.500 per person plus tax



Summit Hotel

For Reservations: please call at 55 21 810 ext 506

Weekend delights... @ the



Godavari

A Traditional BBQ Lunch 11:30 am onwards

Rate:

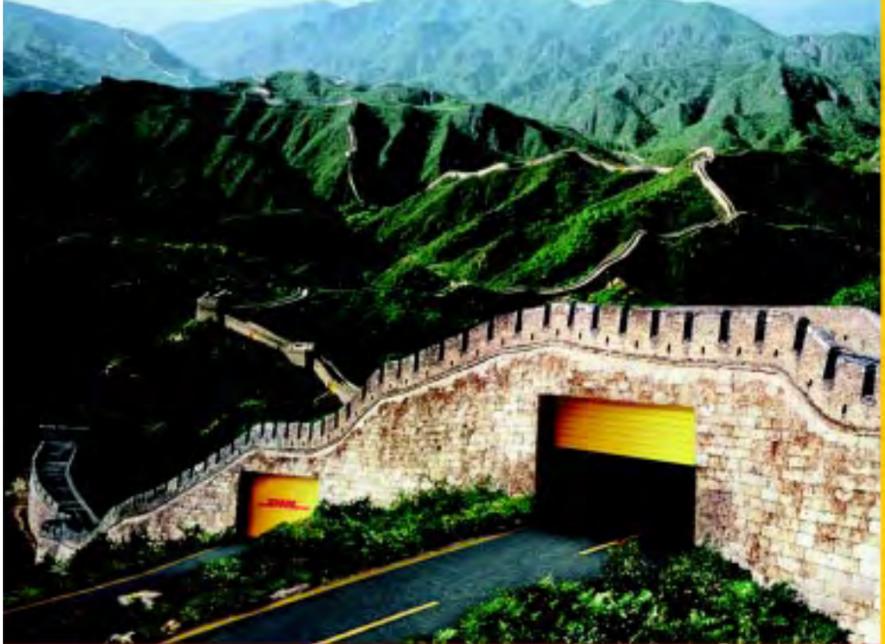
- Vegetarian Rs. 399 per person*
- Non-Vegetarian Rs. 499 per person*
- 50% discount for children below 4 ft.

Prior reservation recommended. *Price is subject to tax

Tel: 977-1-5640675, 5640775 - E-mail: gsdetails@mail.com.np

Deutsche Post World Net

MAIL EXPRESS LOGISTICS FINANCE



More growth markets.

The future is with DHL. DHL Worldwide Express, global leader in air express, Danzas, global leader in air and ocean freight, and Deutsche Post Euro Express, European leader in parcel delivery, have joined together under the name DHL to create a new global standard in express delivery, freight and logistics. The new DHL offers more service and more possibilities in more than 220 countries. We can deliver you the key to the markets of tomorrow, so if you want to go places, call DHL on 478 32 48 or visit us at www.dhl.com

WE MOVE THE WORLD **DHL**





Nepali Times is published by Himalmedia Pvt Ltd,
 Chief Editor: Kunda Dixit
 Desk Editor: Trishna Gurung, 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: Sudan Bista sales@himalmedia.com
 Sanchaya Kosh Building, Block A-4th Floor, Lalpur
 GPO Box 7251, Kathmandu, Nepal
 Tel: 01-5543333/ 5523845 Fax: 01-5521013
 Printed at Jagadamba Press, Hattiban: 01-5547018/17

STATE OF THE STATE

by CK LAL



Boom, gloom and doom

We live in the present with the memories of our past, and undermine our future.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

There are times these days when the sense of déjà vu is so acute it gets unbearable. The appearance on state television news of Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa at the airport on Tuesday flanked by pre-1990 faces to warn protesters on the streets that he would tolerate all criticism except condemnation of the monarchy was straight out of another era.

It is when once self-evident truths have to be restated and enforced by policemen dressed like ninjas that you know the polity has entered another age. The more things change in Nepal, the more they remain the same.

To be fair to the prime minister, this erstwhile warrior against 'underground extra-constitutional forces' during the Panchayat period is still a bulwark against the rise of the hardline right. Having been consistently centrist throughout his career, he apparently sees familiar ghosts from 20 years ago lurking again in the corridors of power.

The day after returning from his second SAARC tour, Thapa reversed the potentially disastrous decision to put three student union leaders behind bars. That short-sighted move had carried all the hallmarks of a bygone era, and was proof to many of the ascendance of Panchayat-era throwbacks in Kathmandu. We get vertigo just watching them struggle to grab the steering wheel as the bus with all of us in it careens to the edge.

There are now too many signs of democratic reversal for this trend to be a fluke: the belief that nominating a new prime minister is some kind of a solution, the announcement of yet another royal civic reception in Nepalganj next month, a familiar sycophantic ambience in the air.

There is a reckless disregard for public will and national sentiment. When you see power as a zero sum game, there is a 50-50 chance you will lose. To win at all cost, it is tempting then, to use militarisation, religious fundamentalism, or revert to authoritarianism. But it is no victory if you haven't addressed the grievances that set all this off in the first place: we don't want this to escalate from a class war to an ethnic or separatist conflagration.

It is already too late to set some things right. But future Nepalis will never forgive us if we don't try, even at this late hour, to work towards a Nepal where power is devolved to the periphery—the only guarantee of lasting peace.

Time is unrelenting, it moves on. Time heals, time manages itself, it takes care of things. We in Nepal have always let time take its course. It is the fatalistic excuse of the feckless to let things drift. Let us, in this new year, take time by its horns. Let us lift ourselves from this quicksand, from a gathering miasma of apathy and hopelessness, to restore faith in our own ability to set things right.

After storming into the history of Nepal with the Kot Massacre, Jang Bahadur did three things. First, he acquired social legitimacy by forcing intermarriages between the Shah clans with their Kunwar soldiers. Second, he reinforced it by either butchering or exiling the competition. Third, he acquired political legitimacy from the East India Company by offering the services of the Gorkha Army for activities like crushing the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny for which Karl Marx gave Jang the appellation 'British dog'.

These shrewd moves served Jang's extended clan for well over 150 years, even though his sons had to enjoy their prosperity in exile when his brothers did to each other what he had done to his illustrious uncles. The cross-marriages between the Shahs and Ranas fused the

two into the single ruling family of Nepal.

Rai, Magar and Gurung youngsters paid with their lives in Flanders Field, Mesopotamia and the Burma Front so that Nepal's rulers would continue to profit from their ties to the British. Had successive Rana cousins been less tyrannical, perhaps the bravery of Gorkha soldiers would have been much less desperate. Nepali rulers got used to a 'permanent war economy': living as if there was no tomorrow.

Lord Krishna says in the *Gita* that people emulate what their 'superior beings' do, so the present generation of Nepalis has also learnt to live for the day. Kathmandu's rulers live their sepia colour life reminiscing about the good old pre-1990 days when the downtrodden knew their place and stayed there. The neo-elite lived off the glory of the Jan Andolan of

1990 that made them what they are. The Maobadis draw their inspiration from the China of 1960s, a period in their history that Chinese themselves are trying hard to forget.

A society lives in the present, with the memories of its past, without realising that it is undermining its own future in the process. After successive years of stagnation, the government predicts that the economy will grow by over 4.3 percent, exceeding the budgetary target set for this year. The World Bank reports that Kathmandu's air is the dirtiest of all 17 Asian cities that it surveyed, perhaps proving the link between economic growth and ecological suicide.

Such a rosy forecast from the Finance Minister makes one wonder if he has taken note of the poverty reduction equation that says it takes 6.8 percent growth in the GDP to create 2.5 percent more employment. It is unlikely that 4.3 percent economic growth will lead to any poverty reduction—especially given our present exponential growth in military spending.

The boom in Kathmandu amidst a climate of doom and gloom enveloping the rest of the kingdom is reminiscent of the early 20th century when the Ranas, rewarded for their loyalty to the British, competed to outdo each other by building extravagant palaces. History is testimony to what happened later. The paradox of plenty amidst poverty is inherently unsustainable.

These are some of the questions that we should be worrying about at the end of another year. Over time, the anti-monarchy slogans that rent Ratna Park will become redundant. Maobadis will ultimately peter out. There is no doubt that the people will finally prevail. Such is the march of history. As the Rig Veda says: "All things will pass." ♦



LETTERS

ROYAL RESOLVE

The World Bank country director in Nepal, Ken Ohashi, wrote in a local English daily recently that the Managing Director of the World Bank, Shengman Zhang, had an audience with His Majesty the King during which the monarch, sharing "the sense of impatience" (of the World Bank), asked the visiting official to "insist on specific and tight deadlines" (with the government) in implementing reforms.

In the mid-80s, as a joint secretary in the National Planning Commission we had to persuade the World Bank's Structural Adjustment Loan Mission to make user management of forests one of the conditionalities for the loan. They obliged and it worked, paving the way for the vigorous regeneration of forests in our country. I had to resort to the ploy because I was too small a fry in the bureaucracy to successfully

prevail over the recalcitrant Ministry of Forest at the time, and there was no other help around.

But not the omnipotent king of Nepal. Zhang probably went away a disappointed man because the king did not tell him that he would direct the government to fulfil its commitments, or else.

This particular episode certainly did not add to the dignity of the monarchy. The monarch should surround himself with advisers not only with demonstrated loyalty but also the know-how to make the state machinery work more efficiently. More than the World Bank, it is the vast multitude of poor and powerless Nepalis who are longing for such royal resolve.

The monarch has an unenviable but historic role to discharge as he presides over the country's current political transition. This challenge is made more complex and paradoxical because after elections the reins of state power have to be handed back to the same genre of

politicians whose sustained misuse of popular mandate brought about the catastrophe that the country suffers at present.

The king will not earn laurels from the people if he has to meekly surrender power to them as being demanded at present by the opportunistic coalition of the otherwise highly unlike-minded political parties. As difficult as the proposition might sound, the king has to engineer such changes so that the politicians, once restored to power, will find that they can do no harm to the country.

The issue at stake is the devolution of authority to stakeholders at the grassroots so they are sufficiently and inalienably empowered to plan, implement and manage their own development initiatives. It is this principle that worked in the robust resurgence of our forest wealth, despite chronic bad governance perpetrated by stinking corrupt politicians during the last dozen years of democracy.

The priority for the country

today is to replicate this experience across all socio-economic arenas that directly affect the peoples' welfare: education, health, agricultural, development and population control among others. While such devolution promises the building of a stronger Nepal, it is frustrating that the international community, interested in Nepal's security, have not found it necessary to advise the country along this line.

Bihari Krishna Shrestha
Kathmandu

ROYAL NEPAL

Your puff piece on Royal Nepal Airlines ('Royal Nepal Airlines battles battered image', # 175) does nothing to mitigate the suffering of thousands of passengers who have been inconvenienced and treated like dirt by Nepal's flag carrier. Nor does it force the airline to take responsibility for its dismal performance. The airline's managing director you interviewed in the same issue is right when he says the airline

reflects the state of the country. Look at the way he is passing the buck on past mismanagement and past corruption, blaming everyone but himself. He sure is talking like a Nepali politician.

JN Singh,
New Delhi

● Mohan Khanal is right ('The airline develops if the country develops', #175) when he says that it is political interference by corrupt politicians in the past 12 years that has ruined his airline. I personally have watched helplessly as hundreds of people were forced into the airline's staff roll every time there was a new

tourism minister. The politicians never allowed the airline to buy the kind of equipment it required, but arm-twisted them to negotiate exorbitant lease rates on unsuitable aircraft and pocket vast sums in kickbacks. 'Lauda' is now synonymous with corruption because of this. The politicians not only ruined the airline, but they also ruined the country. And they are back on the streets burning tyres because they want to get back to plundering the country.

Name withheld on request
Kathmandu



NA REN

Voice of the people

KISHORE NEPAL

Walls limit our freedom, said poet Basu Sashi in another age. Those lines make more sense today than when it was penned: the higher and thicker our walls, the more insecure we become.

In the villages, where many young Nepalis die at the hands of the Maoists or security forces, the sense of insecurity is acute. Most deaths never get reported. Dead husbands and sons, daughters slaughtered become mere statistics. The list of disappeared grows every day.

The few stories that do reach Kathmandu, are either untrue or distorted. A fortnight ago, national newspapers reported the case of 20-year-old Suresh Baral, a student in Pokhara, who was reportedly killed in the crossfire between the Maoists and security forces when the rebels started firing from across the lake in Raniban. Only later, it was revealed that there were no rebels at all, only a rumour of Maoists on motorbikes. Two innocent young people were shot when panic-stricken sentries sprayed surrounding residential buildings with gunfire.

It's time that we started asking for the truth, straight from the horse's mouth. It's time we let the villagers, farmers, students, bus passengers and local teachers speak. As a journalist, I was always trying to find a way where my role would be minimal, how we in the media could give a forum to the people. We hit upon the idea of a roving field-based television talk show. We would broadcast the voice of the people with minimal editing.

A television program shows that Nepalis still have the courage to speak up. The nation listens.



Participants at a *Mat Abhimat* program in Pokhara.

Four months ago, when we started broadcasting '*Mat Abhimat*' on Nepal Television every Tuesday night, it seemed like a bold step because, unlike conventional Kathmandu-centred talk programs with studio guests, we took our studio right to the people. We thought it would not be easy gathering people in places where speaking the truth on camera was suicidal. But we underestimated how brave people can be when they have suffered and have nothing to lose.

In four months we visited 24

districts, and we were overwhelmed by the extent of local participation. Numbers grew from 30 participants in Gorkha to 100 in Dadeldhura. People walked for days to be on the show and pour out their sorrows and shared their hopes. The format is open: everyone gets an opportunity to speak as long as possible. They are intelligent and speak with simplicity about violence, extortion, threats, corruption and hopes for peace. There is no manipulation or superficiality. Without fear they express their frustrations towards both the army

and the Maoists. At times, it is us in the editing rooms who have to think twice about including statements that could get them into trouble.

As a journalist, this is satisfying work: we are pushed into the background and the medium takes over. It brings satisfaction and also tears of sorrow to hear the suffering of the Nepali people who have been made childless, widows and orphans.

Jaykishor Laba, a lawyer in Janakpur, has been living on the street for the past few months. He describes what his son, Sanjib Karna, looks like to anyone who will listen. His wife, Bimala Debi, runs towards every familiar face and weeps when it is not her son. Every time the phone rings, both hope it's their boy at the other end. They don't know where he is, or even if he is still alive.

In Parsa, the Maoists killed Phulkumari Debi's husband, a policeman, and she tells us on camera she doesn't want to live anymore. "What is left for me now? It doesn't make any difference whether I live or die." In Gorkha, a brother laments the loss of his sister but feels nothing for his other sibling who joined the rebels and died in an encounter. "He died for his political commitments but my sister had nothing to do with the Maoists, she wouldn't even hurt an ant," Rudra Pokhrel, principal of a local school, said on *Mat Abhimat*.

Jasoda Sharma in Baglung exists in a limbo. Her husband was disappeared and although the village regards her a widow, she still walks around with *sindoor*. "For how long do we have to live in misery like this?" asks Bhuyuman Ligal, 84, from

Palpa. He says that he has seen too many young people die and disappear. The tears running down his wrinkled face say the rest.

Through *Mat Abhimat*, the unheard voices of Nepal's rural population from the most violence-ridden districts are now on record. Of course there are risks involved. Just two days before Dasai, in Saule Bazar at Doti, we arrived at an encounter and found three policemen bleeding to death on the ground. That sight left me and our crew sleepless for many nights. At Dipayal, a Maoist disguised as an army officer tried to force a police constable to pressurise us into giving him a ride in our car. And on our way back to Dhangadi, we found ourselves in the middle of a shootout.



The 21 talk shows we have broadcast so far made me realise that the people are still optimistic and aspire to a better future. The people of Nepal, away from the cities and big towns, are honest, hardworking and don't have big dreams. They want peace and understood very clearly what's at stake. We all stand to learn more by listening to what they have to say. ♦

Mat Abhimat airs at 9PM every Tuesday on Nepal Television.

Where in Nepal will you get this kind of **DISCOUNT?**

Ongoing anniversary offers valid till December 31st

Highlights

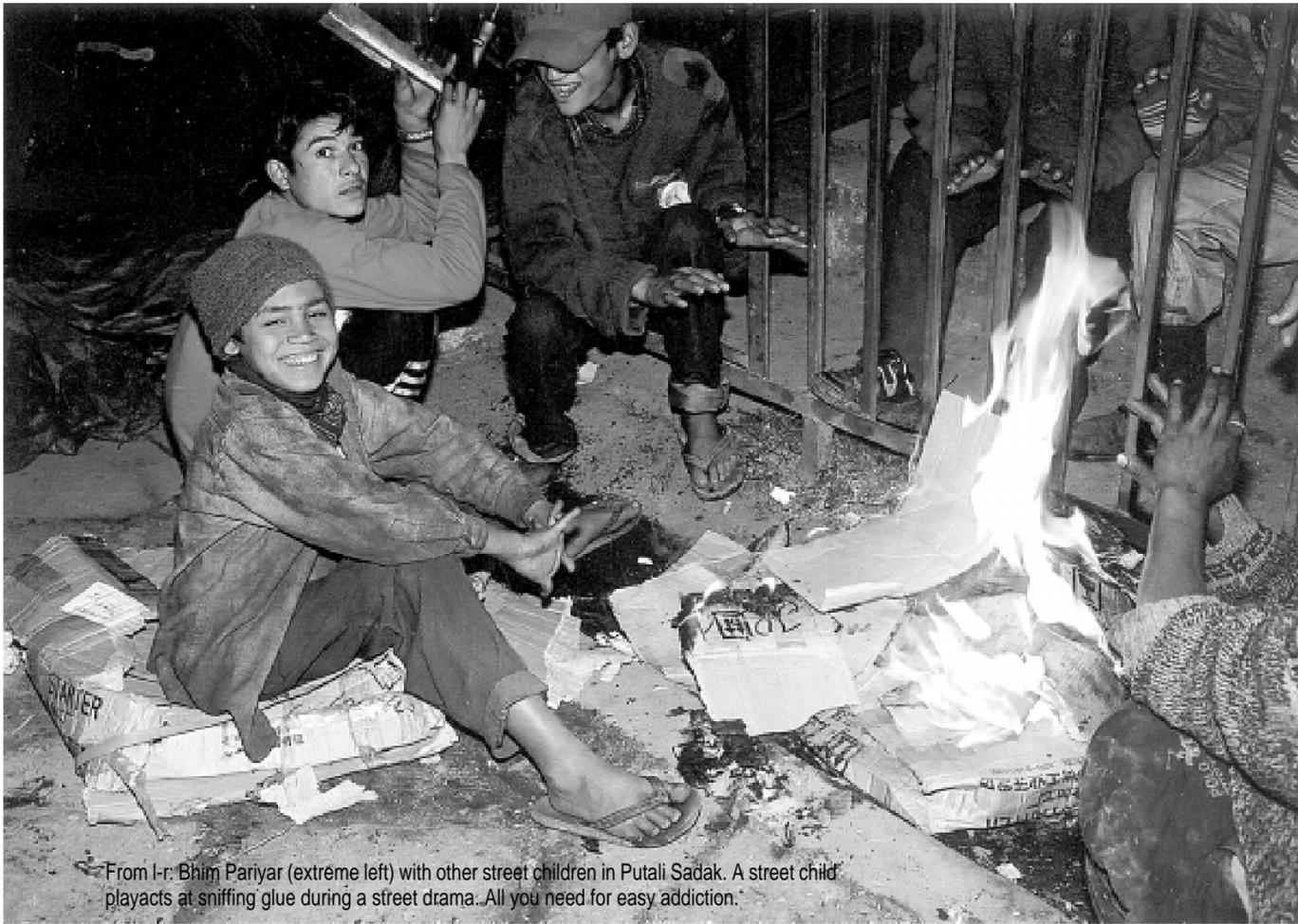
- Storewide discount
- Weekly Lucky Draw-Every Saturday at 7:00 pm
- Mega Lucky Draw-31st December at 7:00 pm
- Special Offers
- Free makeovers for women
- Free popcorn & video games for children while you shop



Come January 2004 enjoy 6:00 pm-6:00 am **HAPPY HOUR** discount at METRO MALL the only '24 hour store' in town
Look out for details



Metro Mall, Casino Building, Soaltee Crowne Plaza 4283233 • 4275515



From l-r: Bhim Pariyar (extreme left) with other street children in Putali Sadak. A street child playacts at sniffing glue during a street drama. All you need for easy addiction.

Glued to the streets

The Valley's street children crisis has a growing new dimension: glue addiction.

KIRAN PANDEY

NARESH NEWAR

It's late night at Putali Sadak. The busy street is quiet and the good citizens of the capital have gone home to sleep. But this is the best time of day for Bhim Pariyar and his friends—no policemen, no shop-keepers or taxi drivers to harass them.

Under the ghostly yellow glow of the halogen lamps, they make a bonfire of cardboard boxes and huddle around the flames for their favourite pastime: listening to Bhim spin stories of impossible exploits. He is the 10-year-old prince of Putali Sadak's rag world, and the richest among his peers. He makes an enviable Rs 400 a day selling plastic.

It's almost 9PM now, time for Bhim, the youngest and most hard-working in the group, to scour the dirty innards of

Kathmandu to find recyclable rubbish. "There's no competition at night because all the others are asleep," says Bhim. With a headphone over his head and a walkman tied securely to his waist ("You don't really want to know how I got this," he says with a laugh), he walks into the dark while his friends spread their thin blankets on the pavement. "That one's crazy, I wonder why he works so hard," says one of his friends.

"I wish I was home even if it meant living with my cruel stepmother and father," says 14-year-old Rajen Subba who ran away from his home in Kakaribhitta. He has been living on the streets since he was eight, and believes it's too late for him to go home now. Rajen is weak, having recently recovered from a

severe chest infection. Now, living in the cold with no warm clothing and little food to eat, Rajen seeks escape from the cold and loneliness by inhaling fumes from carpet glue that has been squeezed into an old milk bag. The adhesive contains toluene, a sweet-smelling neurotoxic hydrocarbon, which depresses the appetite and takes the edge off the winter.

"I forget everything. I won't feel cold and hungry and can sleep easily," Rajen explains. The neurotoxin dissolves the cell membrane of the brain cells and also causes hallucinations. "Last night, I saw one god but don't remember which one," Milan Tamang, 14, jokes with his friends. "I got so furious when I couldn't see anything last night," says Rabi Gurung, 16. He is

admired in his circle for his addiction to glue.

Sniffing glue is a short 'trip' with an immediate high. The pleasure is temporary, and the children are unaware that sniffing causes permanent neurological damage, kidney or liver failure, paralysis and even death. A report last year by the child welfare organisation, CWIN, found that nearly 95 percent of all Kathmandu street children were hooked to glue. Researchers found some children use as many as 15 tubes a day—a single tube can last five sessions.

The cheapest glue is made in Nepal and is easily available in all hardware shops. A tube costs anywhere between Rs 20-40 for 25mg. "I was really surprised by the number of street children coming to buy carpet dendrite

from my shop, now I know," says Ramesh Shrestha who owns a shop in Jawalakhel.

"The government should make it illegal to sell the dendrites to minors," says activist Sumnima Tuladhar of CWIN. CWIN and another group, Sath-Sath, organised an awareness workshop for shopkeepers with Kathmandu Valley Police but this hasn't lead to a decrease in the problem. Some shopkeepers increased the price of glue to discourage the children, but the demand is too high. There is also a lack of in-depth research and no longterm study of the health problems faced by users. "This is an emerging problem. If we don't take it seriously, then a lot of lives will be at stake," says Bisoo Bajracharya of Sath-Sath.

A surprising number of

activist groups working for child rights contacted during the research into this article seem unaware of the epidemic. Kathmandu Valley Police has paid serious attention, but since glue sniffing is not considered illegal they have problems in controlling shops that sell glue to children. "The best we can do is raise awareness among shop owners and the street children," says Assistant Sub-Inspector Salina Gurung from Valley Police Women's Cell.

Sniffing glue is relatively new to Nepal but is rampant in Latin America, Southeast Asia, South Africa and now in South Asia. According to reports, out of 40 million street children in Latin America, more than half sniff glue. Their numbers are rising in Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia,

HERE AND THERE

by DANIEL LAK

Time passages



Ponder, if you will, the importance of time. Not the magazine, which at its best is a prop for not showing fear on airplanes. No, I want to think this week about the time that governs when we sleep, work, travel and live our lives.

We can't control its passage. At best, we can try to manage time. But, contrary to what quite a few foreign residents of this capital city may believe, we can't stop time. It rolls on, even when you're wearing sandals and a dashiki. One of the most effective techniques of managing time came to us from a Canadian named Sanford Fleming. A railway engineer by profession, Fleming got to thinking about the passage of time when he missed a train in 1878.

Less than 10 years later, the entire world had adopted his notion of Universal Standard Time, based on the British imperial notion that the world was centered on London.

It was a simple enough idea. A single system of time for the entire planet that began in the village of Greenwich and marched away east and west in one hour intervals, encircling the globe and ensuring that everyone got to do their daily activities in—well—daylight.

This was an especially important concept in a place like North America. Canada and the United States are wide countries and thanks to Sanford Fleming's idea, New Yorkers and Los Angelinos, along with Canadian fishermen on both coasts, work in the daytime, not at night.

Alas for the people of China and India, it appears that Fleming is considered a dangerous radical there. Both of Asia's behemoths are also wide countries, China is almost as wide as the United States. India's extremities—from the Rann of Kutch to the mountain jungles



of Arunachal Pradesh—are as far apart as, say, Los Angeles and Atlanta. That's four time zones in America. As for Russia, the land of Rasputin sneers at North America's puny time zone count. You have to reset your watch 11 times as you fly from Vladivostok to the border of Byelorussia.

But India? China? Nope, just the one time zone for us thanks. So if you're in Beijing or Delhi, all is well. You get up at dawn, go to the fields or the office when the sun is warming the sky and head home at dusk. No problem. But how about the people of Urumchi in distant Xinjiang province? They awake and start their day's labor when there

A new year is as good a time to ponder the benefits of time zones.

are still five hours of darkness left. And they take their first drink of fermented mares' milk at high noon, figuratively speaking. The same disconnects plague people in Dibrugah, Assam or Bhuj, Gujarat minus the mares' milk.

Simply put, some pinhead in the recent history of both countries has decided that 'National Unity' matters more than the convenience and safety of citizens so the entire country will follow the capital's schedule.

Ironic, methinks, that the British Empire found ways to accommodate both the imperial center and the fringes of its far flung possessions but modern, ostensibly anti-colonial nation states can't.

This idea of time zone nationalism spills over into Nepal as well. In the scheme of things, we could be two different times if we followed international norms. The country is wide enough. And that pesky 45 minutes that has to be added to any time given in almost every other part of the world. Confusing to the innumerate, present company included.

Given that standardised time is a Canadian invention, I am honored to urge India, China, Nepal, and all other holdouts from the march of Flemingsque progress, to reconsider their stance on the question of time. If only so we can get in a few extra pegs at the end of a long day. Mares' milk anyone? ♦



SATH SATH

Malaysia, Pakistan, India and the Philippines, which has the largest population of street children.

One country has dared to take extreme measures to control the trend: Kenya. In Nairobi this year the government criminalised the supply of harmful substances to minors as well as child glue addicts. The new law states any person found distributing such substances faces three years incarceration.

Here in Nepal, the trend is leaving the streets and entering schools. "It's time for us to take this issue seriously because the trend is spreading to classrooms," says Bajracharya who has seen students sniffing glue on the premises of a private high school in Lalitpur. "We found a lot of school girls are pasting glue on their ties and sniffing it during class," says Tuladhar.

The immediate danger to glue addicts on the streets is being run over by cars. Recently, a teenager jumped from a bridge and broke his leg. He did not know what he was doing. Another 10-year-old

boy walked straight into a motorcycle and nearly died. A 14-year old girl was cut in a traffic accident.

Nepal's basic drug law is the Narcotic Drugs (Control) Act, 2033 (1976), under which 'the cultivation, production, preparation, manufacture, export, import, purchase, possession, sale or consumption of most commonly abused drugs' is illegal. The Narcotic Drug Control Act, amended in 1993, implements most of the UN Single Convention and the 1972 Protocol by addressing narcotics production, manufacture, sales, import and exports. In association with the United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP), Nepal has developed a master plan for drug abuse control.

While all this legalese looks good on paper, what Bhim Pariyar and his friends on Putali Sadak need this holiday season is a little kindness, a lot of awareness and a chance of rehabilitation. ♦

DOMESTIC BRIEFS

WB pollution report flayed

A World Bank report presented at an environmental meeting in Manila last week that named Kathmandu as the most polluted city in Asia has been flayed by air quality experts in Nepal. The report that went out internationally on the wire services last week lists New Delhi and China's Chongqing as second and third.

But Nepali environment experts, including those involved in air quality monitoring, say the report is unprofessional and has distorted the real picture. A World Bank consultant appears to have taken raw data of three-hour averages during rush hour from Kathmandu's worst-polluted streets and compared it to annual averages of other cities. That survey of Kathmandu air was carried out by the ESPS project in Kathmandu to determine the location of its monitoring meters, and measured the worst areas of Kathmandu during the most-polluted peak hours during winter.

The World Bank report cited Kathmandu's PM10 concentration (particles smaller than 10 microns per cubic metre) at more than 500, while the actual annual average is about 150. The World Bank report compared the worst pollution in Kathmandu to average levels for other cities. "This has done incalculable harm to Kathmandu's image," said air quality researcher, Toran Sharma at *Aja ko Kura* discussion program on Radio Sagarmatha on Tuesday. "Sure, Kathmandu has a pollution problem but you can't extrapolate data from non-standardised measurements." Kathmandu Valley ambient air pollution is now being measured by six monitoring stations and is posted on the Ministry of Population and Environment website (www.mope.gov.np) and weekly averages are carried in this newspaper (page 14).

The World Bank cited the case of Bangkok, where the visibility at the city's airport improved from about five km in 1996 to nine km in 2000. And, in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka, the phase-out of two-stroke engines on motorcycle taxis has slashed concentrations of fine airborne particulate matter by 41 percent.

Loan

The Asian Development Bank this week approved a \$20 million loan to Nepal to improve levels of food security, nutrition, incomes and employment from livestock production and small-scale livestock related enterprises for 164,000 families in 48 districts of Nepal. The main focus is on developing livestock production, processing and marketing in 22 districts.

"The livestock subsector is one of the key entry points for programs to reach the rural poor and, if correctly oriented to small animals, its development favours disadvantaged groups, such as women and poor farmers," says Brian Fawcett, ADB Principal Project Economist. Livestock accounts for 31 percent of agricultural GDP.

NEW PRODUCTS

A SPECIAL DERBY: There's no horsing around with whisky and although plenty of it is available, Nepal Liquors and McDowell believe "the unique blend and impressive aesthetics" of their recently launched Derby Special Premium will put their product in a class apart. The blend of superior Scotch and finest Indian malts is available in 180ml, 375ml and 750ml bottles and are priced between Rs120-470.



TAKEN PLACES: Whether you need scheduled cargo transportation or a specialised charter to ship auto parts, live animals, delicate high-tech goods or precious perishables, no other carrier promises to deliver like Martinair which began its cargo service in Nepal from 22



December. Nearly 10 tons of cargo can be taken to the Martinair cargo hub at Sharjah, bound for worldwide destinations. Marco Polo Travels, the Martinair Cargo GSA in the kingdom, say the company employs the most dedicated professionals, provides personalised and efficient service anytime, anywhere and sets the industry standard for cargo management. The B767-300 ER aircraft flights will fly from Amsterdam to Kathmandu via Sharjah.

RITZY SNACK: Crisp, lightly salted and light, Ritz biscuits could be the new contender for the favourite accompaniment to your morning cuppa. The Golchha organisation in association with Hulas Biscuits and Confectionaries are banking on the quality and the packaging of their product that is available throughout Nepal in 75gm boxes.



RETAIL LENDER: Everest Bank Launched their flexi loan scheme under the retail lending segment that entitles loans to individuals and business houses against a mortgage of immovable properties up to 150 percent of the loan amount. The bank has been making steady and sustained growth of over 50 percent in its operating profits for the first quarter of the current financial year.



COOL RIDER: A new and affordable Hero Smart motorcycle has entered the Nepali market. Manufactured by Hero Motors Company of India, the supply is made through Nepal's SNS Automotives. With an American engine and Italian design, this four-stroke engine 75cc motorcycle has one the best mileage—100km on a litre of petrol, making it a budget investment for Nepali bikers.



RING IN THE NEW YEAR CHIMES IN STYLE AT THE

Godavari
Village Resort

Warm Friendly And Tranquil Environment

-The New Year Overnight Package includes accomodation with a Lavish Gala Dinner/Dance and Breakfast the next Morning

Contact : GVR Sales & Marketing Dept. Tel:5560675 Or City Sales Office: at Greenwch Village Hotel Tel:5524780

Date:31st December
Rate:NRs.4900.00+Tax Per Couple
Nrs.3499.00+Tax Single
Special rates available for children
* Prior reservation required

Buddha Air
Coca-Cola
LIVE BAND
Heartbreakers

Happy New Year 2004

NOTICE

The Alliance Française of Kathmandu is shifting from 1st January 2004 from Thapathali to Tripureshwor (previous JICA office) opposite of the Hotel Janak

Mandala House
APARTMENT HOTEL

Luxury Apartments At Comfortable Rates

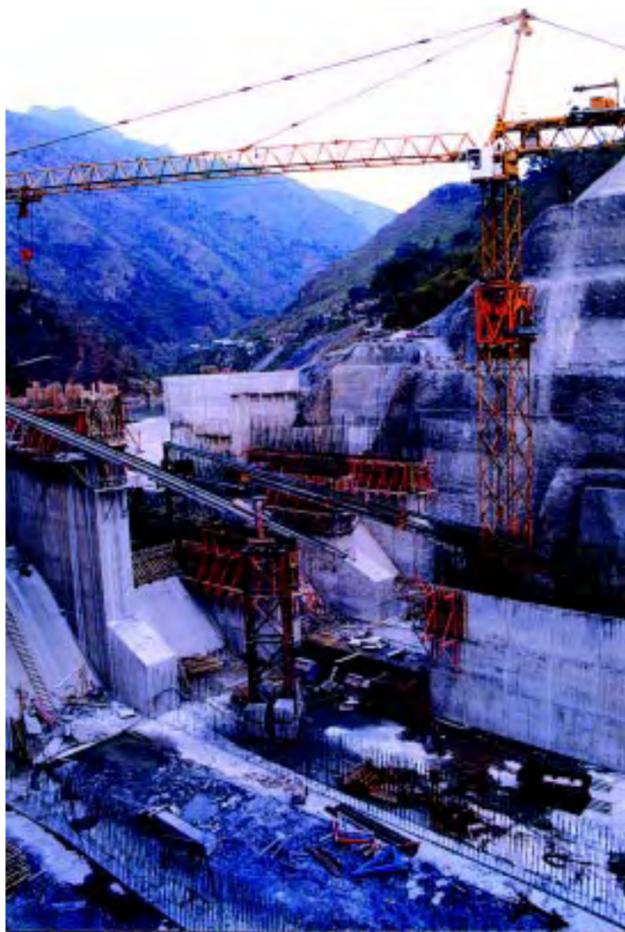
Baluwatar, Kathmandu
Tel: 4412412 (9:00 am - 3:00 pm)
96412-24635 (after 5:00 pm & Saturdays)
E-mail: mandala@wlink.com.np
Web site: www.mandala.com.np

WOOD CRAFT

For Custom Designed Furniture & Interior Works
Contact: Kabindra Pradhan
Ph: 5548518. Before 8 a.m., after 5 p.m.
Email: kabipah@mail.com.np

Printed in Nepal.

JAGADAMBA PRESS
jagrap@mos.com.np
Tel: (01) 5547017, 5547018
Fax: 977-1-5536380



Dam development

How local support frittered away on Nepal's largest hydropower project, the Kali Gandaki A.



Bikas had finally arrived, and locals were promised jobs, electricity, school and roads. People would no longer have to go to work in India or the Middle East. The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) speedily built the road, and electricity was promised to most VDCs.

Nepal's adolescent democracy and civil society was heralding a new era of openness. The cancellation of the 402MW Arun III project in East Nepal by the World Bank and other donors in 1994 had favoured Kali Gandaki as an attractive alternative. But Arun also forced project developers to use new democratic processes for more public consultation. Cash compensation

was provided to families who lost land to the access road for the first time. Local political leaders did not have higher education, lacked negotiation skills and were unable to raise important vital questions. Their support was total, they did not envisage any negative effects.

Families living in the dam site at Mirmi and the power house site at Beltari remember their naivete. It was only when land acquisition details were printed in *Gorkhapatra* that they started seeing flaws in the deal. Then powerful locals started negotiating with project staff for good jobs on the site.

Rival local alliances sprang up. The Italians who were the

main contractors paid high rates and salaries for even junior jobs. People were therefore supportive of them, but those who did not get the jobs were angered and this led to divisions in the community. Power was played out in small circles as people negotiated at all levels. Roads and electricity were replaced by other priorities.

When their expectations were not fulfilled, the people resorted to negotiation through constant agitation. They were starting to learn about the intricacies of large projects, and that the only way to have a say was to follow the 'mass can create an effect' rule. Some of their demands were met, others not. Project developers used local power channels to make it difficult for the agitations to be successful.

The high rate of employment during the construction period made locals relatively cash-rich and they found new ways to spend it. But the absence of economic vibrancy after the construction finished forced them to look for alternatives or return to agriculture.

Migration to urban centres within Nepal or outside (both temporary and permanent) increased. People accustomed to income and a heightened cost of living found it difficult to adjust. Those who had learnt technical

skills moved to jobs in the Middle Marsyangdi project in Lamjung. People realised that political dealings are not the only means to gain benefits and economic activities have to be taken seriously as well.

Having lost their land and resources, most don't take risks anymore. In mid-2003, local land was up for acquisition to build an army camp. Although the locals were bitter and resentful, they could no longer revolt, as the crucial negotiation advantage they had when the project was being built did not exist. Land prices tripled over the years. In comparison to other projects, the compensation rates were better but it could not match the rise in prices after project intervention. Most of the powerful have either bought small farms in the tarai or shifted to Kathmandu.

The rampant small-scale corruption during the project period made locals antagonistic towards the project. They now realise that with better information and community orientation, they could have bargained for more support such as drinking water facilities. But most are now resigned to their fate again. All for the sake of *bikas*.

Kavita Rai is an anthropologist, currently pursuing her PhD at the Center for Development Research, University of Bonn, Germany.

Countries need to build hydropower projects for energy and economic gain, but their construction has to be balanced by local needs. Understanding this balance makes all the difference between good projects and bad.

This is the main lesson from the 144MW Kali Gandaki A, the largest hydropower project in Nepal (See: 'Kali Gandaki inauguration may be delayed',

Nepali Times, #174). Ten VDCs are affected by the power plant, dam site and reservoir which are spread over four districts: Syangja, Palpa, Gulmi and Parbat. The most seriously affected 250 families live in Shree Krishna Gandaki VDC in Syangja.

Despite large political factions in the main project area, there was overwhelming support from the local people when the project was first announced.

Beautiful at any age

keep a PASHMINA close to your SKIN

One stop for the Best Pashmina, Best Prices, Guaranteed Quality

NEPAL PASHMINA INDUSTRY
Head Office & Factory: Redcross Marg Kalimati (Near Hotel Soaltee) PO Box: 1956, Kathmandu
Tel: 4273292, 4277023 Fax: 977-1-420092 Email: npipushpa@wlink.com.np www.nepalpashminaindustry.com

EPSON THE POWER TO CREATE

MULTIMEDIA PROJECTOR EMP-S1

TRUE SVGA RESOLUTION 1200 ANSI LUMENS

The "S" Concept - SMART • STYLISH • SIMPLE

Epson introduces the EMP-S1, the sleek new LCD projector that's easy on the eyes, and effortless in its functionality. Its futuristic look complements what's on the inside: cutting edge projector technology that Epson is known for. With its user friendly controls, quick power and shut down feature to its versatility to project in any environment, the EMP-S1 is a comprehensive tool for the demands of today.

is your **PROJECTOR** reproducing the **TRU COLOR?**

MERCANTILE OFFICE SYSTEMS
Mercantile Building, Durbar Marg, Kathmandu
Tel: 4220773, 4243566 Fax: 977-1-4225407
Email: market@mos.com.np

Authorised Dealers:
STAR OFFICE AUTOMATION
PUTAUJ SADAK TEL 4266820, 4244827

ISHAN INFOSYS
NEW ROAD, 4244440, 4247119

HIMAL WHO NEEDS WSF?

The Indo-Pak Bomb

GROW UP!

New issue of Himal South Asian ahead of the SAARC Summit in Islamabad.

“Media competition will ensure quality advertising.”



Sanjeev Roy is Director for the region of French-based Euro RSCG, the fifth-ranking advertising agency in the world. He was in Kathmandu this week to look at the Nepali market and is excited by the prospects.

Nepali Times: How come such a big company is interested in a relatively small market like Nepal?

Sanjeev Roy: We have some Indian and global clients who need specific attention in Nepal, some have asked for it, some have not. But we see it as an opportunity, it is a market which doesn't require very high expenditure for you to get any reasonable rate of returns. One thing that I am sensing is that Nepal and indeed all of South Asia is predominantly young, and these young people are not going to be caught up with borders. They are much more international and because there is so much happening, it is going to create a lot of desire, whether the economy grows or not. There is going to be very high levels of competition within media in Nepal, and that means a much bigger role for quality advertising. Irrespective of what the market looks like now, it is going to be rapidly professional and before we realise, it is going to change. That is why we are here with our Nepali partners, Outreach Nepal.

How about your India operations?

Euro RSCG started in India in 1996, and I was one of the start-up members. The key thing was that this was going to be a young, modern entity. All my life I had worked with these large established networks, and something that bothered me is this 'one shoe fits all' was not the way the world was going anyway. Euro RSCG promised to be very different. For example, from the start we went completely digital, in 1996 that was unheard of in India. We started with globally aligned clients like Intel, and we picked local clients along the way and today we are among the top 10 in India.

Isn't the market in India already crowded?

But it's growing all the time. That is the beauty of it, some sector may stagnate, but there are new sectors that get added on every year. So if it's not the cars that fuels growth, then it's the durables or the financials. And the advertising market is growing at anything between 8-12 percent. This sometimes defies logic, but it is growing rapidly.

How much has television impacted on this growth?

It has changed the picture dramatically. And it has also changed things around, so that more budgets have moved towards satellite, especially for brand advertising. Newspapers are still big for corporate or information advertising, but satellite television has really hit the magazine market. But it has also created an opportunity for a whole lot of marketers to expand, like the sari manufacturers. Suddenly they became brands because of television. This means media planning, buying and scheduling functions, which used to be backroom till about five years ago, is up-front.

How has the readership survey and ratings industries reacted? Is there more accuracy?

How do you get anything accurate in a country like India? It's so huge. Something like the National Readership Survey had a sample size of 100,000 and was one of the largest surveys in the world, but it is difficult to say what the right sample size is to guarantee accuracy.

Isn't there a contradiction that the satellite channels have regional footprints, but the content and indeed the advertising is aimed primarily at the Indian market?

There are some channels where regional advertising happens a lot, like CNBC. But any seasoned advertiser who has been to India recognises that there are better bangs for the buck if you plan for India, so a lot of people go through this learning process by going through Singapore or Hong Kong. For most of them, India is the dominant market, and any regional advantage is a happy spillover because the numbers in India are a lot larger. Also, the people in the region who are accessing the Indian channels are predominantly Indian.

STRICTLY BUSINESS

by ASHUTOSH TIWARI



Art for mart's sake

Marrying art with business.

Nepali artists are worried about the declining prices of their paintings in Kathmandu. “Works that have taken years to finish are being sold at dirt-cheap prices,” artist Kiran Manandhar told *Kantipur* this week. “[gallery owners] do not understand that once the prices are lowered, it's hard to raise them again.”

The report indicated that Manandhar and other artists were expressing their anger at the way Srijana Art Gallery had carried out its recent clearance sale of paintings. The sale, meant for raising overhead expenses by attracting price-sensitive Nepali buyers, included works by both senior and junior artists.

Fortunately, from a business point of view, the market for paintings in Kathmandu is no different from elsewhere in the world. The art market here too bows to the laws of supply and demand.

Supply: In recent years, Kathmandu has seen a proliferation of art galleries, from Patan and Naxal to Thamel. In Lazimpat alone, two excellent galleries have come up in the last year. More galleries mean more space to display paintings. And more display space

encourages artists to supply paintings for exhibitions and sales. This is good for buyers who now have choices in terms of subjects, prices and types of paintings.

But more paintings in the market also means the price of each painting goes down, even to such an extent that sooner or later a few galleries are forced to hold clearance sales to turn excess stock into money, which they can use to pay bills. This problem is compounded all the more by a general economic climate that does not encourage people to spend money on art.

Reputation: A painting is a risky investment. A serious collector wants to make sure that the painting bought today goes up in value over time—the artist's critical reputation must increase and appreciate in future. Unfortunately, in Nepal, one can never really be sure about how good a particular Nepali contemporary artist is or gauge their potential. Some well-known artists, even from within the *barishtha* fold, could be mere media stars with fawning press coverage for everything they do, despite work that is

predictable and pedestrian—something their Nepali friends and colleagues are too polite to tell them.

And so, in the absence of art-related journals, critics and experts who can assess the work and offer informed judgement, serious collectors, Nepali or foreign, rarely want to take chances on the work of contemporary Nepali artists other than as an expression of goodwill, friendship and charity—hardly the foundations on which to build a thriving art market.

What, then, can an individual contemporary Nepali artist do? He can start by accepting that the market for art is a highly volatile one. He can then lower the supply of his paintings while looking for ways to signal his critical, as opposed to popular, reputation to the marketplace.

Failing that, he can take inspiration from Vincent van Gogh's life: Van Gogh sold nothing when he was alive. Other artists who sold much more are largely forgotten today. But aided by the work of historians and critics, Van Gogh's



reputation has become such that his paintings, the supply of which is fixed, are now sold for millions of dollars.

For Nepali contemporary artists too, rather than complaining about the wildly fluctuating current prices of their paintings (that could be resold for higher prices later on), the more pressing challenge is to look for ways to establish a critical reputation so that their paintings continue to pull in money long after they are gone. ♦

Winter Festivities at Yak & Yeti

This New Year's eve celebrate with style. From intimate dinner experience at The Chimney Restaurant to the lavish New Year's bash at Sinners in Heaven, Yak & Yeti has something for everyone.

The Chimney Restaurant

Seeking to bid adieu to New Year's in style? Why not celebrate it at the most exclusive venue in town - The Chimney Restaurant!

Featuring a mind boggling 7 course Candle lit dinner with a fixed menu & lavish culinary treasures, it'll be an event to remember for years to come.

Prices are Rs. 5,999 Nett per person inclusive of dinner and half a bottle of sparkling wine.

The Sunrise Café

The café will feature a lavish spread of traditional and eclectic culinary treasures for Rs. 1,499 per person on New Year's eve. This feast fit for a king will only be featured for one night. Reservations are encouraged.

The Day After

Enjoy an all time favourite - The Red Eye Brunch, aptly named after the wholesome experience of guests after a full night of New Year's blast. This lavish yet nourishing brunch feature the culinary delights of our chef along with a glass of Sparkling Wine meant to prepare you for the days ahead at only Rs. 999 Nett per person.

Time: 8 pm onwards
 Tickets: Rs. 1,599/- per person
 Inclusive of unlimited drinks & snacks
 Date: 31st Dec. 2003

For more information and other promotions visit our website: www.yakandyeti.com
 Or call Guest relations 4248999 Extn: 2865

Happily ever after



"Families surely provide the foundation of a relationship."

George Varughese

SRADDHA BASNYAT

If the demographics of new Nepali couples these days is any indication, Nepal is well on its way to becoming an integrated society. King Prithvi Narayan Shah described the kingdom he united as a garden of many flowers. Well those flowers are getting cross-pollinated like never before.

Judging by an informal poll we carried out over the last marriage season, Nepali men and women are increasingly venturing beyond their caste-mates to find mates. And looking around Kathmandu it's not all that easy anymore to fit people into neat categories of caste and ethnic orientation based on facial features and accents anymore.

Today's intercultural couples are taking urban society by storm, even those that condone segregation. Two years ago when Monica Rizal, a Bahuni, married a Tamang, Chandan Lama, she recalls most people came to the marriage out of curiosity. "Things are changing. Now everybody is getting married intercaste. It's such an accepted part of society in the city," Monica muses. The Rizal and Lama households have readily accepted their children's choice. Luckily, Monica's family was not

strictly Brahmin and Chandan's own mother is a Bahuni and father Tamang, so there was precedence for inter-ethnic wedlock.

Monica and Chandan are well aware of the tolerance and leniency that urban life affords them. "I know there are still strong social barriers especially in the villages. But Kathmandu is becoming a melting pot and I don't feel like we've broken any barriers except the conditioning that society has imposed on us since childhood," says Chandan.

Couples whose parents had mixed marriages feel it's easier to go through with it themselves for a variety of reasons, but at the core, it's family support that make all things possible. Just ask Sheri and Satendra Thapa. Sheri's father is Nigerian, her mother a Magar and her brother is married to a Sherpa. After they tied the knot, Satendra's family did not demand the couple stay with them.

Recalls Satendra: "Growing up in Dehradun, I didn't know about caste. Maybe because we were a minority, no one needed to know my father's *jath* or *thar*. I married a Nepali and that's it. It's ridiculous—people have gone to the moon and come back and we're still stuck on the *jath* thing."

The concept of saving, keeping and maintaining 'face' is integral to Nepal's collectivist social structure, and personal life is gossip for the neighbourhood. Villages are less tolerant of those who don't live by the rules (*see box, p9*). In the order of things, almost all traditionalists view inter-racial marriages as even more galling than inter-caste unions



"Nepalis have to become one, and inter-ethnic marriages will do this."

Madankrishna Shrestha



"It's ridiculous- people have gone to the moon and come back and we're still stuck on this *jath* thing."

Satendra Thapa






BUMRUNGRAD HOSPITAL

World Class Medicine...

- ONE-STOP MEDICAL CENTER
Emergency, outpatient, diagnostics, therapeutics, inpatient
- INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED DOCTORS
Over 600 physicians in all medical specialties
- REGIONAL REFERRAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED CARE
Heart, Cancer, Neurosurgery...
- ASIA'S FIRST INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED HOSPITAL

World Class Service...

- INTERNATIONAL PATIENT CENTER
Interpreters, visa assistance, medical coordination
- INTERACTIVE WEBSITE
- EMAIL APPOINTMENTS
- ON-SITE HOUSING
74 serviced apartments



BUMRUNGRAD HOSPITAL
BANGKOK, THAILAND
33 Sukhumvit Soi. 3 (Sai Nana Nua), Bangkok 10110, Thailand
Tel: +66 21 667 1234 Fax: +66 21 667 1214
E-mail: info@bumrungrad.com
www.bumrungrad.com



स्वकुटुम्बको समाज सेवा कार्यको सहयोगार्थ

अन्तरा

दीप श्रेष्ठसँग एक अन्तरङ्ग सौझ
भोलि शनिबार, पुस १२ गते
बिरेन्द्र अन्तराष्ट्रिय सम्मेलन केन्द्र, नयाँ बानेश्वर
टिकट दर: रु. २०००, १०००, ७००, ४०० र ३००
कार्यक्रम शुरू हुने समय: सौझ ठीक ४:३० बजे
(हल प्रवेश ४:०० बजे देखि)
टिकट प्रवेशद्वारमा पनि पाइन्छ



आयोजक



One's Own Family

आयोजन प्रस्तोता



www.vibes.com.np




तपाईं जहाँ भए पनि ... टुबोर्ग

Inter-caste, inter-ethnic, inter-racial. Nepalis are getting married all over the place.

"I had to make compromises and he had to make some too, we try to balance."
Subarna Rai



but that's precisely what's happening as more Nepalis travel and live abroad.

Kala and George Varughese think of their union as complementing each other. Kala is the daughter of a Gurung soldier in the British army, born and raised in Brunei. George's parents are Kerala Christians and educators. The only prerequisite they had regarding George's wedding was that it be a Christian ceremony. In fluent Nepali, George says, "Nepalis are surprised I am married to a Nepali, but I was born in Gorkha and brought up in Nepal, so when I explain it to them, they are impressed."

For Kala and George, the greatest obstacle hasn't been society—it is government bureaucracy. Their Christian wedding led to 10 months in and out of government offices for a marriage certificate. With Kala in the final trimester of her pregnancy, they have to face another unpleasant reality: "My children won't be eligible for Nepali citizenship regardless of how much we contribute to Nepal because my child's father is a foreigner."

Chandra Gurung had his

marriage give and take is important, and maybe more so in an inter-racial marriage."

Compromise is something Subarna Rai understands. Her husband Rajendra Rai is Catholic. A Catholic priest officiated their wedding ceremony in 1992, in which Subarna chose to wear a red sari, *sindur* and *pote*, in keeping with her Newari roots. Her in-laws came to ask for her hand in marriage for Rajendra, afraid the couple would elope, and her family accepted with no problems. "My family is nuclear, independent and very liberal," says Subarna. Though Subarna did not convert to Christianity, their son was baptised.

One half of Nepal's favourite comic duo, Madankrishna Shrestha met his better half Yashoda at work. She was a Bahuni and he a Newari. They were worried their families would not accept their union so they had small ceremony at Suryabinayak with just friends present. It took two weeks for their parents to come around which was followed by a traditional wedding with all the trimmings. "My father was understanding," recalls Madankrishna. Inter-caste marriage was the focus of



"In any marriage give and take is important, and maybe more so in an inter-racial marriage."

Chandra Gurung

family's support and belongs to a culture that not only accepted his Japanese wife, Tokiko Sato, but immediately made her feel completely comfortable. During their small wedding ceremony in Chandra's home village of Siklis in Lamjung, Tokiko wore traditional Gurung garb and family and friends came to celebrate their union. When Chandra went to visit Tokiko's family in Japan, he found them very similar to the Gurungs.

Later, Chandra challenged the traditional role of the father in Japan where he was a 'househusband'. "I would be so tired when my wife got home, but I enjoyed it," he recalls. "In any

Madankrishna and Haribangsha Acharya's telefilm *Pandhra Gate*. "My children know people are all the same, which is a very important attitude in today's world," says Madankrishna.

Then there was another famous couple: he a PhD in architecture and she a lecturer at Pulchok Engineering Campus. She came from an affluent Newari clan, he from a landed Bahun family in Gorkha. Later, he joined politics and she became a social activist. Hisila Yami and Baburam Bhattarai have a daughter: Manavi Yami Bhattarai. They live underground, but not because of their inter-ethnic marriage. ♦

Dungeon 69

Only 50 will Rule the Night
Would you be one of them?

The only Dungeon in Kathmandu opens its doors to 50 favored couples to have a haunting New Year's Eve. The chosen ones will horrify in the dark and mysterious labyrinth power packed sound and lightning effects. Immending your senses and discharging your energies will be the DJ from Hell - Rax Singh. Some experiences a one resolution be damned.

Radisson Hotel Kathmandu
PO: 2269, Lazimpat, Kathmandu
Tel: 441 1818, 4423888
radisson@radkat.com.np

Celebrate New Year's Eve
At OG with a
Dinner - Dance party
& Drinks on the House
exclusively for 50 couples.

7:00 p.m. onwards
31st December 2003
Rs. 3000 /- per couple,
inclusive of food & beverages

Dress code : Black

FREEDOM

2004

Enter FreedomE 2004.

Electrifying laser, 3 international DJs with mind numbing performances, cataclysmic volts of sounds & juggling bartenders will catapult you all into a promising euphoric NEW YEAR 2004

Countdown begins: 8 pm onwards 31st of December
Travel fare to 2004: Rs 1499 nett per person (3 complimentary drinks & snacks)
CATH members: Rs 1299 nett (one guest allowed for Rs 1299)

FREEDOM OF Lights

STATUTORY DIRECTIVE: SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH.

Judging Saddam

Now that Saddam Hussein has been captured, the world's attention has turned to his trial. Should Saddam be tried by Iraqis in Iraq, or should he face an international tribunal? The forthcoming conference on democracy, human rights and the role of the International Criminal Court in Yemen on January 10-12 will provide a forum to debate these questions.

It is, of course, certain that Saddam Hussein will not escape trial for the extra-judicial, extra-legal and summary executions, torture, and systematic persecution of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis that marked his decades of murderous misrule. However, the aim of his trial should be not only to bring to justice the dictator and his accomplices, but also to foster national reconciliation through the affirmation by Iraqis of universal principles such as non-discrimination, fairness, and transparency.

For years, Iraq has only known the brutal laws of force and intimidation. If judging Saddam Hussein and his regime is to become a cornerstone in the building of a free, democratic, and reconciled Iraq, then the US, as the leader of the coalition that ousted him, should do everything in its power to pursue this opportunity and set a very high standard of justice.

President George W Bush has stated that he would "work with Iraqis to develop a way to try [Saddam Hussein] that will

International participation is needed for competence and impartiality.



withstand international scrutiny." The best way to address that scrutiny and avoid accusations of "victor's justice" is to involve other international players in the exercise.

To address the systematic violations of the laws of war and the crimes against humanity committed in the former Yugoslavia, in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, or in Sierra Leone and Cambodia, the international community, with the involvement of the United Nations, set up international and internationalised courts. These institutions have finally established the principle that major violations of human rights and dignity are of

universal concern and that the international community should actively participate in the quest for justice and reparation for victims.

While no one doubts the willingness of Iraqi judges to try their former "head of state" in a national court, the novelty of such an effort and its political implications suggest some type of international participation for the sake of competence and, most of all, impartiality. Thirty years of brutal dictatorship have destroyed the very concept of justice in Iraq. For justice must mean more than the cries of "Death to Saddam" that now echo in some quarters around the world.

It is important that the US take the lead in this crucial aspect of state-building. It should reach out to the UN in an exercise similar to those that, without providing for capital punishment, have brought to justice Slobodan Milosevic and the leaders responsible for the Rwandan genocide—and that tomorrow might bring to the dock Liberia's Charles Taylor and dozens of Khmer Rouge leaders.

An added benefit of internationalisation would perhaps be to make clear to the current American Administration that withholding endorsement of the International Criminal Court is fundamentally against its own interests. It could also facilitate the process of internationalising the burden of rebuilding Iraq, which cannot be shouldered entirely by the US and its allies.

Before elections can be freely and fairly held, huge efforts must be made to establish a truly open society in which all individuals and groups can express their political opinions. Establishing a system of justice that protects these rights is indispensable; otherwise, there will never be a durable and lasting peace in Iraq. An internationalised court in Iraq for the prosecution of crimes against humanity would contribute to the development of a national justice system that will actually deliver justice for all Iraqis, and will thus assist the already encouraging efforts of the Iraqi Governing Council towards democracy. ♦ (© Project Syndicate)

Emma Bonino, a former EU Commissioner, is a Transnational Radical Member of the European Parliament. Gianfranco Dell'Alba is a Transnational Radical Member of the European Parliament and the director of the NGO No Peace Without Justice.

Harsh justice

Foreigners like Govinda Mainali serve a stiffer prison sentence in Japan.

SUVENDRINI KAKUCHI in TOKYO

Reports about rising statistics of crimes committed by foreigners in Japan has put the spotlight on the vulnerability of non-Japanese in their host country's justice and criminal procedures. "Foreigners committing crimes often do not get a fair trial in Japan due to language and cultural disadvantages. With many of them lacking proper visas, they are already criminals when arrested, making them extremely vulnerable in this country," says Yasushi Kigashizawa, a human rights attorney. He says that foreigners tend to get heavy sentences as a result of poor



interpretation during criminal proceedings and the use of confessions during police interrogations, where lawyers for the defendant may be absent.

Activists also point to Japan's negligence in complying with human rights standards for prisoners—including the lack of medical care and the imposition of strict discipline. A new survey in October reveals that more than 34 percent of inmates in prisons have been assaulted, and that foreigners are most affected by this. Mikiko Kyakuno, an activist, says her

work with foreigners in prisons shows "deep-rooted racial xenophobia in the country against non-Japanese".

Kyakuno belongs to the Govinda Support Group, a group of 12 Japanese volunteers supporting a Nepali man who was sentenced to life imprisonment in October for a murder he vigorously denied committing. The case is seen as a clear example of discrimination and hardship faced by foreign convicts in Japan. Govinda Prasad Malinali (pic, above) is a suspect in the 1997 robbery and murder of a Japanese woman. He was arrested in 1997 supposedly on the grounds that he overstayed his visa but was later charged for the crime. The Tokyo District Court declared him innocent owing to lack of evidence in 2000. But before he could be deported home, he was re-arrested without explanation and thrown back in jail. He was then retried—and sentenced to death in October. Kyakuno says she decided to join Govinda's support group because she is convinced that he is innocent. "His lawyers have long complained against the final judgement and accused judges of making a verdict at the expense of a foreigner," she points out. With his life sentence, Govinda faces a future that he has described as a "living hell". Kyakuno says the strict discipline meted out in Japanese prisons, has caused Govinda, like other foreigners, to languish behind bars without much hope. Govinda cannot even speak to family members when they visit because they must use Japanese or English, the languages understood by his prison guards. Letters between prisoner and family are also governed by the same rule.

In addition, says Kyakuno, Govinda's family does not have the financial means to spend long periods in Japan and must rely heavily on the support of Japanese activists who also do not have large budgets for such expenses. At the same time, she says Govinda is still lucky. "He has a strong support group and a sympathetic media in Japan. Compare that to the thousands of foreigners who face the same severe conditions but must languish in jail with no support at all," she points out.

The National Police Agency reports that more than 7,600 foreigners were arrested for crimes in 2002, up from 7,150 the previous year. Although the number of foreigners make up only a minute figure in the overall number of arrests in 2002, the perception of foreigners being more responsible for crime continues. With prominent politicians in tow, the Japanese police has launched a widespread campaign to crack down on entrants from overseas. ♦ (IPS)

NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Last Dance 2003

with *La Pasio'n* at Megha Malher Hall

PIZZERIA Discover the true taste of Italy.

China Garden Embark on a culinary voyage far beyond the shores of China.

BUNHARA Ancient recipes from the North-West Frontier.

Garden Terrace An exotic buffet spread of over 150 items.

Guests in the New Year 2004 with special dinner sponsored by La Pasio'n, a troupe of 5 raringly talented from Europe.

Megha Malher Hall
Time: 2000 hrs onwards
Rate: Rs. 4000 nett per person (Priority Package members at Rs. 3400) (See tickets for details)

Kid's Creche
Special arrangements for your kids too.
(Mini video, games, cartoon movies, disco floor and special buffet dinner)

Venue: Malher Hall
Time: 2000 hrs-0100 hrs
Rate: Rs.500 nett per child

Cover charge: Rs. 750 nett per person.
All restaurants will operate from 1030 hrs to 2330 hrs.

Overnight Packages
Deluxe Package
A package for two nights in a Deluxe room at USD 1250* per room.
*Credit worth USD 50/- for use in any service.
* Complimentary bottle of wine plus covers other fantastic benefits.

OTHER PACKAGES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE

For more details please call 4273999, Ext: 6777

SOALTEE

KATHMANDU

World view 2004

World trends in the new year that Nepalis need to know, and worry, about.



BHAGIRATH YOGI in LONDON

One of the major political features of 2004 is going to be major democracies exercising fresh mandates of their people in all areas, especially trade. Following the debacle of the WTO talks at Cancun, the Doha Round too could collapse if the North doesn't open its markets to the South. While the big fish tout the Third Age of Globalisation, the fate of millions who go hungry every day will probably remain neglected.

The new year should herald in changes with a spate of national elections right across the globe, and whoever wins the one in the US, that country will plunge on as an unparalleled unilateral force. Starting close to home with India, the largest democracy in the world will hold parliamentary elections in October. Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, who is all set to become the first non-Congress chief executive to spend five years in office, could bring dates forward if he succumbs to pressures from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to cash in on the recent poll results where they swept three out of four state elections. New Delhi's pre-eminence in the SAARC constellation will not be eclipsed in 2004.

Pakistan will have its moment of glory as the host of the SAARC Summit in January. While everyone will make nice for the media circus and despite easing of bilateral tensions, it's uncertain whether the two antagonistic neighbours will make a lasting breakthrough. In Sri Lanka, the power struggle between President Chandrika Kumaratunga and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe is not going to abate. But at least the Tamil rebels continue to observe the ceasefire despite tensions with the Sri Lankan army. The rest of Southeast Asia will also see a spate of elections: presidential in the Philippines and general elections in Indonesia and Malaysia, the first in Malaysia after the departure of the charismatic Mahathir Mohammad.

One of Nepal's major donors, the EU, will expand to 25 members from its current 15 on 1 May 2004. The new EU will debate on a new constitution while France and Germany try to emerge from under the US shadow in foreign policy and defence affairs. Britain is expected to register a modest economic growth of 2 percent while keeping the inflation at around 1.6 percent. The Labour government is likely to crack down on illegal asylum seekers but open doors for skilled migrants.

In Russia, bolstered by the

main threat to global peace and development will still be terrorism. While chances are slim that Osama bin Laden will be "smoked out" by US forces, al-Qaeda and its allies will still wreak havoc in insidiously effective ways and the democratisation of Islam will continue to top the world public debate forum.

2004, China, the other emerging global power, will enjoy strong economic growth (8.2 percent) while attempting to maintain political stability. The country's constitution will guarantee some sort of private-property rights in March and people will be issued passports more easily, possibly resulting in a huge outflow of Chinese tourists. Nepal, however, will be unprepared for the boom, despite being the first South Asian country to be declared an outbound destination for Chinese nationals.

Nepal's biggest bilateral donor, Japan, is likely to register a modest economic growth between 1-2 percent. Having won parliamentary polls, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi will be preoccupied with the security policy. Though one-fifth of the Japanese population will be 65 or over, there is still strong resistance to opening its labour market to foreigners. The perception that outsiders cause trouble is gaining ground (*see p11*).

The economic boom will continue in the Gulf, and this will maintain the outflow of Nepali migrant workers. Our government had better regularise the foreign employment sector and protect the interests of nationals working abroad. The other destination for Nepali workers, Malaysia, will see a continued upswing with accelerated growth. Nearly 100,000 Nepalis now work in Malaysia, and it's time to think about upgrading the average income of the workers with skills training.

Away from political wrangling, global competition and nationalistic zeal will reach Olympic heights during August in Athens. This may just prove to be too much temptation for the Nepali squad who are wont to disappear once on foreign soil. ♦

Bhagirath Yogi works at the BBC Nepali Service in London.



MB NAQVI in ISLAMABAD

This month's narrow escape by Pakistan President Gen Pervez Musharraf of an attempt on his life has made him even more important to the international coalition in its 'war on terror'. The incident could not but alarm US and several European governments that see Musharraf, the country's embattled military dictator, as a lynchpin in this Western-led war.

What is disconcerting about this bomb attack was its sophistication. It was an expertly assembled operation that must have taken experienced bombers at least an hour or more to attach to a bridge and was timed to go off at exactly the time when Musharraf's motorcade was to pass over the bridge. That Musharraf escaped is said to be due to a device fit in the cars he uses: it jams the electronic timing device, and it successfully jammed the timer for a minute or so during which the vehicles passed over the bridge.

Speculation is rife: either the Islamic terrorists have penetrated the official security apparatus or it was an elaborate drama staged to impress the US administration about the perilous circumstances that Musharraf is in, while stoutly defending Western causes. Going by this theory, he would thus earn more understanding, support and aid from US President George W Bush.

This is addition to recent and ongoing developments in the India-Pakistan relationship, which apart from Iraq and Afghanistan have made Musharraf even more important to the international coalition fighting terror that now badly wants Pakistan to make up with India. Musharraf, as it happens, is engaged in just that effort. He is also the key asset that the West possesses for fruition of its schemes for South Asia as well as Central Asia.

For that, it is essential that his regime is consolidated at home and threats to it eliminated. But inside Pakistan, Musharraf is beleaguered, though he has support from the United States, British, Chinese, Russian, some European and even the Indian and Israeli governments. How or why is his support at home so patchy and uncertain while all major nations are ready to keep his regime afloat?

The reasons are several. First, the manner of his coming to power and the nature of his regime have forced

the Commonwealth to keep Pakistan's membership suspended. He violated his country's constitution in seizing power the way he did: he was a dismissed officer of the Pakistan Army, dismissed by competent authority. Instead of obeying the prime minister's orders, he staged a coup, overturned the organic law of the land and imprisoned the then prime minister, Nawaz Sharif.

In addition, he has arbitrarily amended the constitution to permit himself to remain army chief and president, able to dismiss all elected governments and assemblies. Most major parties refuse to recognise the legitimacy of his presidency or that of this amended constitution.

This confrontation, dubbed by many as a fixed fight, is not likely to bring any significant change in the situation even if all the demands of the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA)—the alliance of six religious parties—are met by Musharraf. He would remain in power with all of today's powers. The MMA now controls 20 percent of the parliament, has its own government in the North West Frontier Province and comprises a large chunk of Balochistan's provincial government as a result of October 2002 polls.

The two, for political purposes, are seen as partners in the army's major enterprises. This is one reason why many say MMA stands for 'Military-Mullah Alliance' and why the harsh MMA rhetoric of opposing the Musharraf regime lacks credibility. The MMA's rise is often said to be Bush's gift to Pakistan. In all seven elections in Pakistan until 2002, religious parties, all combined, never got more than eight percent of the national vote. Thanks to 11 September and the US invasion of Afghanistan, the toppling of the Taliban regime made a darling of all religious parties. But today, Musharraf is opposed by all the major mainstream parties.

It is actually a three-way division among the major parties: the largest party to emerge from the October 2002 polls, under a controversial legal framework, was the Pakistan Peoples Party led by self-exiled former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, then by the Pakistan Muslim League of exiled former prime minister Sharif. ♦ (IPS)

Close up

Close-Up Fluoride Gel with Antibacterial Mouthwash

Lemon Mint

Keeps your breath fresh and teeth healthy

Scott and the Sherpas

Kantipur, 21 December

कान्तिपुर

"It is not possible without the Sherpas," is a cliché among mountaineers. But as soon as they get back to their countries they forget about them. Other than a few like Edmund Hillary and Junko Tabi, most summiters usually ride the glory of their climb without a thought for those who made it possible. Now there is one more person who is showing his thanks in concrete ways. British mountaineer Doug Scott is involved in building a porter shelter in Machermo in Gokyo valley, three days' walk from Namche Bazar.



Scott saw that porters suffer the most when they are hired by disorganised and cheap agencies. Since there are very few houses in Machermo, there isn't enough room for the porters. "We started the shelter to protect the porters from the cold and other hardships," says Scott, "The cold and high altitude endangers their lives."

According to the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG), in the last decade at least three porters died each year in the Himalaya. The proposed shelter will cost Rs 5.8 million and is at about 5,420m on the route to Cho La peak, considered one of the toughest trekking passes. Two hundred trekkers go there annually despite the high risk of extreme cold coupled with high altitude. "This shelter will really be of great relief for the porters," says Ang Tshering, president of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, which had also helped set up a similar shelter in Lobuche and the Island peak area. Scott plans to hire a medical doctor and a nurse for the peak tourist season and has been helping porters through Community Action Nepal.

Second chance

Nepal Samacharpatra, 20 December

नेपाल समाचारपत्र

Orphaned by the insurgency, the fate of Nepali children hangs in the balance. Their rehabilitation has been restricted to lip service. A few girls have been lucky enough to be in school, even though it is hundreds of miles away from home. Eleven Nepali children are enrolled in the Michael Jop Memorial and Medical Institute in the south Indian city of Chennai. Five of them are from Humla, one each from Kabhre and Kathmandu and four from the Bhutanese refugee camps in eastern Nepal. Thirty more Nepali girls who have been orphaned by the ongoing conflict will be enrolled in the school by mid-2004.

Seven-year-old twins Sita and Sapana were left orphans after the Maoists slit their father's throat nearly two years ago. Soon after, their mother's disappeared, leaving the girls with no one but an aged grandmother, who managed to get them admitted to the Indian school. The school was established three years ago by PP Jop in memory of his son who died in a car accident, and provides education to 400 girl children from conflict areas around the world.

The Sagarmatha Youth Awareness Group in Lalitpur, which coordinates enrolment from Nepal says it is finding it difficult getting proof that the girls are victims of the ongoing conflict.

Faux pas

Deshantar, 21 December

देशान्तर साप्ताहिक

When Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa deplaned at Dhaka Airport earlier this week, his Bangladeshi counterpart Begum Khalida Zia and other senior officials were there to welcome him. The Bangladeshi prime minister advanced to offer Thapa a bouquet. Immediately after that, she greeted him with her hands joined to offer namaskar. In the meantime, Thapa passed the bouquet to one of his aides and offered a handshake. The Bangladeshi chief executive was still standing with her namaskar, while Thapa kept his hand out. Neither knew what to do next, when an aide whispered something in Thapa's ears. Thapa then returned the namaskar and gave up the idea of shaking hands. This little fluster took about 30 seconds and state-controlled Nepal Television aired the full footage without cuts in the evening.

Open secret

Chief Election Commissioner Keshab Raj Rajbhandari in Spacetime, 22 December

स्पेसटाइम दैनिक

"My duty is to hold elections but the responsibilities of political parties and the government are equally crucial to create the right environment for these elections to take place. I have not held

discussions with both of these parties till date. The Election Commission is there to hold elections but only after dates for the polls are fixed after the government, political parties and security agencies show they are ready.

They could be doing just that at the moment. The election commission has already started doing the necessary homework. We have focused on increasing our offices in the districts. So far,

we have branches in only 30 districts. I am also studying the internal structure of the commission. Once this is completed, I will start working in a concrete manner for the elections.

I have nothing to say to those who oppose me. I am an open secret. I am grateful to the constitutional council that recommended me for the post of election commissioner and to the king who appointed me."



"Sa' b, he's got a bomb"
"Unh-huh."
"Sa' b he's got a gun."
"Unh-huh."
"Sa' b he's shouting rousing slogans."
"WHAT?!"

राजधानी Rajdhani, 21 December

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"Maoists are not just Nepal's problem, they are also a challenge to Indian security."

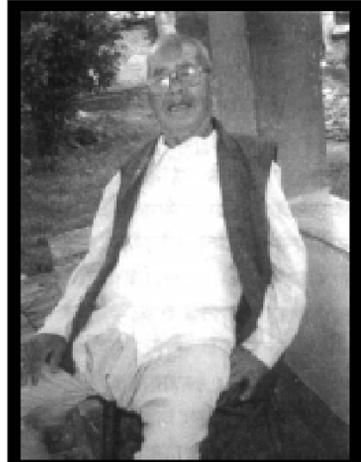
Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Shyam Saran in Rajdhani, 21 December

The disappeared

In the eight years since the Maoist insurgency began, the bell has tolled for thousands of Nepalis. For families of those who have gone missing, there is no closure, no permission to grieve—nothing but the hollow feeling of not knowing where their loved ones are. The following is a list of 808 disappeared since 2000 by both sides. It is based on information from families, friends, relatives and other organisations and does not include those not reported to NHRC. A few from this list have been released, but others disappeared in the past weeks need to be added. A majority (663) were abducted by the state, and 69 of the total were women.

Name	District	By	Tek Bahadur B. K	Banke	State	Yagya Bahadur Rawal	Bardia	State	Shoman chudhari	Dang	State	Rajendra Prajuli	Gorkha	State	Bandhu Pandey	Kathmandu	State
Bhaghi Damai Paniyar	Achham	State	Tika Jung Shahi	Banke	State	Yogendra Tharu	Bardia	State	Shomraj Chaudhari	Dang	State	Rajendra Raman Khanal	Gorkha	State	Basudev Aryal	Kathmandu	State
Dil Bahadur Shah (Shital)	Achham	State	Til Bahadur Rijhal	Banke	State	Jeet Bahadur Chaudhari	Bardia	State	Udaya Ram Chaudhari	Dang	State	Raju Gurung	Gorkha	State	Bhasu Lal Shrestha	Kathmandu	Unknown
Harka Bd. Saud	Achham	State	Yagya Bahadur Budha	Banke	State	Anu Shai	Bhaktapur	State	Uttar Kumar Shrestha	Dang	State	Ram Bahadur Ghimire	Gorkha	State	Bhata Ram Lamichhane	Kathmandu	State
Janak Bahadur Bista	Achham	Maoist	Bhola Guragain	Bara	State	Buddi Narayan Tyadhana	Bhaktapur	State	Rudra Khanal	Dang	Maoist	Rudra Khanal	Gorkha	State	Bhim Raj Marjan	Kathmandu	State
Krishna Prasad Haishi	Achham	State	Bikash Chaulagain (Jhamka)	Bara	State	Dil Bahadur Taj	Bhaktapur	State	Yubraj Sharma	Dang	State	Sanjaya Dhakal	Gorkha	State	Bhiv P. Gautam	Kathmandu	State
Prem B. Rawal	Achham	State	Dependra Karki	Bara	State	Gangaram Shrestha	Bhaktapur	State	Danesh Kumar	Darchula	Unknown	Sarada Prasad Adhikari	Gorkha	State	Bindhu Pandey	Kathmandu	State
Purana Prasad Khanal	Arghakhachi	State	Isad Hussan Ansari	Bara	State	Hari Prasad Suwal	Bhaktapur	State	Gagan Singh Kuwar	Darchula	Unknown	Suman Dhakal	Gorkha	State	Bipin Bhandari	Kathmandu	State
Tarapati Pokharel	Arghakhachi	State	Jyoti Guragain	Bara	State	Jagat Krishna Pokhrel	Bhaktapur	State	Badri Lal Tamang	Dhading	State	Thanka Prasad Devkota	Gorkha	State	Chatmath Dangal	Kathmandu	State
Tej Prasad Pokharel	Arghakhachi	State	Kamala Guragain	Bara	State	Navaraj Dulal	Bhaktapur	State	Basudev Banskota	Dhading	State	Thakur Prasad Kandel	Gorkha	State	Chhabilal Gautam	Kathmandu	State
Ram Prasad Kafila	Baglung	State	Laxmi Dhakal	Bara	State	Rajendra Regmi	Bhaktapur	State	Chatu Man Gurung	Dhading	State	Tula B. Nepali	Gorkha	State	Chhatra B. Shrestha	Kathmandu	Unknown
Surya Prasad Sharma	Baglung	State	Sita Guragain	Bara	State	Ram B. Khadka	Bhaktapur	State	Deewakar Luitail	Dhading	State	Bimal Gyawali	Gulmi	State	Dalak Bd. Tamang	Kathmandu	State
Uba Raj Kharel	Baglung	State	Suraj Guragain	Bara	State	Sagna Taj	Bhaktapur	State	Diwakar Luitail	Dhading	State	Padam Neupane	Gulmi	Maoist	Danda Pani Neupane	Kathmandu	State
Nobraj Nap	Baitadi	State	Tika Nepal	Bara	State	Sahadev Ghimire	Bhaktapur	State	Gyanendra Prasad Bidari	Dhading	State	Adaan Singh Thapa	Humla	Maoist	Deepa Rokaa	Kathmandu	Unknown
Surendra Singh Thakuala	Baitadi	State	Babu Ram Tharu	Bara	State	Shree Shyia N. Prajapati	Bhaktapur	State	Hari Lamsal	Dhading	State	Chhaka Bahadur Lama	Humla	State	Deepak Amatya	Kathmandu	State
Bharat Bahadur Thapa	Bajura	Maoist	Badhu Tharu	Bardia	State	Udisha Shai	Bhaktapur	Unknown	Janak Lamichhane	Dhading	State	Netra Phadera	Humla	Maoist	Deepak Pokharel	Kathmandu	Unknown
Tula B. Thapa	Bajura	State	Bhudhi Tharu	Bardia	State	Yam Bahadur Shodari	Bhaktapur	State	Krishna Kumar Regmi	Dhading	State	Puspa Raj Neupane	Ilam	State	Dev Bahadur Maharjan	Kathmandu	State
Bhangti Tharu	Banke	State	Bhuvan Kumar Chaudhari	Bardia	State	Bharat Karki	Bhojpur	State	Mukunda Prasad Panta	Dhading	State	Tirtharaj Kathiwada	Ilam	State	Dil Bahadur Rai	Kathmandu	State
Bikau Lal Koiri	Banke	State	Budhi Tharu	Bardia	State	Bhishnu Shrestha	Bhojpur	Maoist	Phoolmaya Tamang	Dhading	State	Asagar Ali	Motihari (In India)	State	Dil Bahadur Rai	Kathmandu	State
Bishnu Kumar Aryal	Banke	State	Bum B. Shai	Bardia	State	Deepak Rai	Bhojpur	Maoist	Pradesh Chandra Lohani	Dhading	State	Khamba Lal Gautam	Jajarkot	State	Ganga Prasad Tiwari	Kathmandu	State
Charan Das Dhoi	Banke	State	Chillu Tharu	Bardia	State	Iswor Rai	Bhojpur	Maoist	Ram P. Tripathi	Dhading	State	Birendra	Jhapa	State	Gopi Krishna Thapaliya	Kathmandu	State
Devi Prasad Adhikari	Banke	State	Madhav Tharu	Bardia	State	Madhav Prasad Neupane	Bhojpur	State	Ram Prasad Acharya	Dhading	State	Deepak Budhathoki	Jhapa	State	Gyan Bahadur Maharjan	Kathmandu	State
Dhan Bahadur B.K	Banke	State	Govra Tharu	Bardia	State	Nabin Rai	Bhojpu	State	Ramhari Rupakheti	Dhading	State	Deepak Chandra Acharya	Jhapa	State	Gyanendra Nepal	Kathmandu	Unknown
Dhan Bahadur Chhetri	Banke	State	Him B. Bista	Bardia	Maoist	Navin Kumar Rai	Bhojpur	State	Than P. Lohani	Dhading	State	Depak Chandra Acharya	Jhapa	State	Hari Pd. Gautam	Kathmandu	State
Dhan Kumari Chaudhari	Banke	State	Hira Singh Budhamagar	Bardia	State	Om Kumar Shrestha	Bhojpur	Maoist	Achut K.C.	Dhading	State	Gopal Dhakal	Jhapa	State	Hari Sharan Shrestha	Kathmandu	Unknown
Gopal Thama Chhetri	Bake	State	Janaki Chaudhari	Bardia	State	Shaligram Adhikari	Bhojpur	Unknown	Baikuntha BhujelDhanding	Dhading	State	Krishna Bahadur Limbu	Jhapa	State	Hariidwar Kuwar	Kathmandu	State
Hari B. Khatri	Banke	State	Kali Bista	Bardia	Maoist	Suman Shrestha	Bhojpur	Maoist	Chandra Bd. Poudyal	Dhading	Unknown	Milan Khadka	Jhapa	State	Harsha Man Maharjan	Kathmandu	State
Hari Prasad Subedi	Banke	State	Kamala Chudhari	Bardia	State	Dambar Bahadur Gurung	Chitawan	State	Dhanshyam Adhikari	Dhading	State	Puspa Raj Besnat	Jhapa	State	Hem Pd. Ghimire	Kathmandu	State
Hari Prasad Subedi	Banke	State	Kamala Kumar Lamichhane	Bardia	State	Dil Bahadur Adhikari	Chitwan	State	Gyanendra Prasad Bldari	Dhading	State	Sanitram Bhattarai	Jhapa	State	Jamli Ahamed	Kathmandu	Unknown
Hikmat Bista	Banke	State	Kaser Bahadur Basnet	Bardia	State	Gyanandra Tripathi	Chitwan	State	Hari Pd. Acharya	Dhading	State	Suresh Kumar Pokharel	Jhapa	State	Janak Pd. Adhikari	Kathmandu	State
Hom Bahadur Bhandari	Banke	State	Kimlal Tharu	Bardia	State	Hari B. Tamang	Chitwan	State	Indra Bahadur Aryal	Dhading	State	Bhim Giri	Kailali	State	Jayanti Thapa	Kathmandu	State
Hukum Bahadur K. C	Banke	State	Krishna Prasad Chaudhari	Bardia	State	Karma B. Tamang	Chitwan	State	Ishwori Prasad Regmi	Dhading	State	Binod Chaudhari	Kailali	State	Kabir Kumar Shrestha	Kathmandu	Unknown
Jahir Kha	Banke	State	Lahanu Chaudhari	Bardia	State	Krishna K.C.	Chitwan	State	Mukunda Prasad Panta	Dhading	State	Bishnu Prasad Gawali	Kailali	State	Kaji Nepal (Krishna Nepal)	Kathmandu	State
Juhariya Lal Tharu	Banke	State	Lahanu Chaudhari	Bardia	State	Megnath Sharma	Chitwan	State	Navaraj Thapa	Dhading	State	Jariki Chaudhari	Kailali	State	Kamal K.C	Kathmandu	State
Kaman Singh Kanal	Banka	State	Launi Tharu	Bardia	State	Miss. Ambika Mudbhari	Chitwan	State	Puspa Thapaliya	Dhading	State	Karan Singh Gartimagar	Kailali	State	Karmawal Tamang	Kathmandu	Unknown
Khil Prasad Bhusal	Banke	State	Laxmi Ram Tharu	Bardia	State	Prakash Khanal	Chitwan	State	Shyam Pd Rupakheti	Dhading	State	Khadka Bahadur Thapa	Kailali	Maoist	Kedar Prasad Gautam	Kathmandu	State
Kripam Murai	Banke	State	Lok Ram Tharu	Bardia	State	Rajan Neupane	Chitwan	State	Sudersan Regmi	Dhading	State	Kumari Damai	Kailali	State	Kiran Gurung	Kathmandu	State
Krishna Bahadur Tharu	Banke	State	Mohan Tharu	Bardia	State	Ratna K. Tamang	Chitwan	State	Thakur Pudasaini	Dhading	State	Kumari Nepali	Kailali	State	Krishna K.C	Kathmandu	State
Kuber Rijal	Banke	State	Mukh Lal Tharu	Bardia	State	Sharda Shrestha	Chitwan	State	Bhagati Mandol	Dhanusa	State	Kusum Kumari Chaudhari	Kailali	State	Krishna Sen Iechhuk	Kathmandu	State
Lal B. Dangi	Banke	State	Nim Prakash Tharu	Bardia	State	Shusma Khanal	Chitwan	State	Durgash K. Lama	Dhanusha	State	Narayan Chaudhari	Kailali	State	Loknath Chaulagain	Kathmandu	State
Mahandra Bikram Oli	Banke	State	Nuwa (Dhani Ram) Tharu	Bardia	State	Dal Bahadur Dhami	Dadeldhura	State	Haridev Mandal	Dhanusha	State	Narayan Prasad Chaudhari	Kailali	State	Madav B. Ghimire	Kathmandu	State
Mishri Lal Bhudhathoki	Banke	State	Palta Tharu	Bardia	State	Dan Bahadur Bohora	Dadeldhura	State	Jetendra Jha	Dhanusha	State	Narayan Prasad Chaudhari	Kailali	State	Madav Dahal	Kathmandu	Unknown
Mohammad Jakir Shek	Banke	State	Pati Ram Tharu	Bardia	State	Dil Bahadur Jagri	Dadeldhura	State	Pramod Narayan Mandal	Dhanusha	State	Promod Uprati	Kailali	Maoist	Maha Prasad Amgain	Kathmandu	State
Mohan Bikram Aryal	Banke	State	Patiram Tharu	Bardia	State	Lal Bahadur Bohora	Dadeldhura	State	Raj Kumar Yadav	Dhanusha	State	Sehotri Chaudhari	Kailali	State	Mamaraj Agrawal	Kathmandu	State
Mohan Lal Oli	Banke	State	Priya Tharu	Bardia	State	Prem Bitalu	Dadeldhura	State	Sanjaya Raya	Dhanusha	State	Sudhir Chaudhari	Kailali	State	Maya Lama	Kathmandu	State
Mukunda Singh Bali (Ajit)	Banke	State	Raghuwa Tharu	Bardia	State	Thagi B.K	Dadeldhura	State	Sanjeev K. Karma	Dhanusha	State	Kulman Shai	Kalikot	Maoist	Mohammad Yunus Anzari	Kathmandu	State
Naraha K. Ansari	Banke	State	Rajan Kumar Chaudhari	Bardia	State	Dhirendra bahadur Rawal	Daleikh	State	Shalindra Yadav	Dhanusha	State	Parek Bahadur Shahi	Kalikot	State	Mukunda Prasad Phuyal	Kathmandu	State
Narayan Prasad Acharya	Banke	State	Ram Bahadur Chhetri	Bardia	State	Nagmal Bista	Daleikh	State	Shobhit Yadav	Dhanusha	State	Dan Shinga Thapa	Kanchanpur	Maoist	Nanda Prasad Tiwari	Kathmandu	State
Pawan Tharu	Banke	State	Ram Chaudhari	Bardia	State	Arjan Kumar Adhikari	Dang	State	Hari Shankar Bhandari	Dholakha	State	Nirmal Kumari Meenu	Kapilvastu	State	Nani Maya Maharjan	Kathmandu	State
Penta B.K	Banke	State	Ram Chaudhari	Bardia	State	Bhim B. Chaudhari	Dang	State	Dil Bahadur Bhudhathoki	Dolakha	Maoist	Pradeep Khandal	Kaski	State	Narayan Adhikari	Kathmandu	State
Phool Raj Chaudhari	Banke	State	Ramesh Bahadur Tharu	Bardia	State	Bir B. Thapa	Dang	State	Sunil Rajbhandari	Doti	Unknown	Purna Poudel	Kaski	State	Narayan B. Thapa	Kathmandu	State
Prtima Gautam	Banke	State	Ramghor Tharu	Bardia	State	Bishow Raj Acharya	Dang	State	Badri Bahadur Pandey	Gorkha	State	Raju Chhetri	Kaski	State	Narayan Khadka	Kathmandu	State
Rahish Kha	Banke	State	Rohina Tharu (Chuka, Gova)	Bardia	State	Deepak Kumar Chaudhari	Dang	State	Budhi Slipakar	Gorkha	State	Ram Chandra Subedi	Kaski	State	Narsh Maharjan	Kathmandu	State
Raj Bahadur Chaudhari	Banke	State	Santaram Tharu	Bardia	State	Dhaniram Chaudhari	Dang	State	Chandra P. Khanal	Gorkha	State	Shom Bahadur B. K	Kaski	State	Nirmala Bhandari	Kathmandu	Unknown
Raja Ram Tharu	Banke	State	Shanu Tharu	Bardia	State	Dhruva Kumar Adhikari	Dang	State	Deepak Lamichhane	Gorkha	State	Shree Ram Subeki	Kaski	State	Nischal Nakarmi	Kathmandu	Unknown
Ram Milan Balmiki	Banke	State	Som prasad Tharu	Bardia	State	Ganesh Thapa	Dang	State	Dipendra Pant	Gorkha	State	Yash P. Subedi	Kaski	State	Prabesh B. Bista	Kathmandu	State
Ram Prasad Pokharel	Banke	State	Sonia Tharu	Bardia	State	Hari Lal Chaudhri	Dang	State	Dipendra Panta	Gorkha	State	Aaite Muktan	Kathmandu	Unknown	Pradip Karki	Kathmandu	State
Ram Prasad Pokhrel	Banke	State	Suraj Kumar Bhattarai	Bardia	State	Jedma Kumari Sen Wali.	Dang	Maoist	Gita Thapamagar	Gorkha	State	Abdul Garbar	Kathmandu</				

“Man-eating Gurkhas!”



In this installment of the memoirs of veteran Gurkhas we begin 89-year-old Bharati Gurung's story this week. He fought in the Northwest Frontier Province in present day Pakistan and Afghanistan, and during World War II. His story is part of *Lahurey ko Katha* that records the lives of 13 retired Gurkha soldiers, most of them over 75 years old. Published by Himal Books, this fortnightly column has been translated from Nepali by Dev Bahadur Thapa for *Nepali Times*. Bharati Gurung (above) remembers fighting fearsome Afghans, daring German soldiers and how Gurkha soldiers were thought to eat the flesh of dead enemy soldiers.

I arrived in Dehradun after my enlistment on 20 October 1932. In the course of our six-month training, war had broken out in Afghanistan but we hadn't taken the oath of allegiance. There were strict orders from above not to send recruits to the front if they hadn't sworn allegiance, so, a few days after that notice, we all took our oaths at Landikotal in Pakistan. The war lasted till 1934 and afterwards we were sent to Dehradun. In 1934-35 fierce fighting began again at Landikotal in Baluchistan, which is now in Pakistan. In that war Subedar Mehar Singh Gurung of Parbat was killed. His brother Prem Bahadur Gurung of the same regiment came through unscathed. In 1937, we were once again sent back to rest.

Three notorious countries of the world, Germany, Italy and Japan joined hands to crush England and America. Gradually, a full-scale world war started in 1939. Initially, it was just a propaganda war. Hitler made a propaganda film depicting the sky filled with their planes, every inch of the land filled with their tanks and the sea with their ships. This went to the extent that quite a few viewers could not bear to see the whole movie and left the cinema. For their counter-propaganda, the British made Gurkha soldiers shave their heads except for a tuft at the back to resemble a wireless antenna. They spread rumours that these soldiers ate the flesh of fallen enemies. There also was a regiment from Africa about whom similar lies were spread.

The Germans showered us with leaflets in Italy and Africa from their planes, telling our soldiers that their lives were worth only Rs 16 and called us to sit and eat with them. The

greatest battle was fought in Africa. In Tunisia we fought or three years against Hitler's troops. His men were daredevils, brainwashed by Hitler.

The Germans did not marry short women and always looked out for tall, healthy mates. While it is customary among our men to select and seduce women, with them it was the opposite. The women folk looked out for men who were tall and young. In general, their men married by 35, the women by 25. The parents are happy with their daughters' choice.

Only robust men were selected for the army. In this system the same person would, as the occasion arose, fight from the air, fight on land, work as a clerk and cook as and when necessary. In short, they were adept in all sorts of works and nothing remained undone.

Nobody can say exactly where and how many of the troops died in any war. The first war was in Afghanistan, and even today there is some unrest there. The Pathans resorted to guerrilla tactics. A few soldiers emerge, the bulk remain hiding. The women grazed cows in the ravines and the men had armed reconnaissance exercises in the mountains. They snatched weapons and rations from British troops and passed the loot on quickly through their women so none of us knew where it went. True, they had farms but the harvest was meagre. They carved out rocks to make dwellings. When sons separated from their parents, they carved out another cave. Donkeys and camels were the only animals they reared.

There was a United India when British ruled for 104 years. Sri Lanka, Burma, Maldives, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan were all part of United India. The



British had the notion that coloured people could not run such a vast subcontinent and so carved small states out of it.

Now we will talk about the fighting that took place at Landikotal. Altogether 22 regiments were stationed there. If the officer posted there was from Gurkha, they would establish Gorakhnath, Kalikamai and Manakamana temples (pickets we called them) inside the barrack compound and if he happened to be from Syangja, then the pickets bore the names of famous deities of that place. A picket was something like house made of stones that no bullet could pierce. However,

that too was attacked. There was a Jamdar called Kokale from a place called Gounda in Lamjung. He was a daring soldier who cut the ropes of enemy tents, entered it and killed them with a bayonet.

Once, Sergeant Mitral Thapa from our company captured an enemy machine gun that could fire 22 rounds per second. He was promoted to Subedar Major. The fighting force was rotated every two years. One regiment relieved another. Our own Gurkha regiment had 20 battalions. They were granted leave from time to time but shorter leaves had to be spent in the unit. ♦



Rajendra Gautam	Kathmandu	State	Aasta Raj Bajracharya	Lalitpur	State	Parishit Regmi	Nawalparasi	State	Prasun Kandel	Ramechhap	Unknown	Villa K.C.	Rolpa	Maoist	Dependra Kumar Singh	Siraha	State
Rajesh Maharjan	Kathmandu	State	Ram Maharjan	Lalitpur	State	Sudersan Poudel	Nawalparasi	State	Ram Babu Gari	Ramechhap	State	Wife of Sunai Budha	Rolpa	Maoist	Gauri Shah	Siraha	State
Rajesh Shrestha	Kathmandu	State	Amir	Lalitpur	State	Arjan Khatiwada	Nuwakot	State	Ramchandra Bhandari	Ramechhap	State	Devi Lal Khadka	Rukum	Maoist	Jokendra Kushait (yadav)	Siraha	State
Rajman Shrestha	Kathmandu	State	Amrit Man Shrestha	Lalitpur	State	Arjun Pokharel	Nuwakot	State	Puspa Kumar Giri	Ramechhap	State	Dilli Bahadur K.C.	Rukum	Maoist	Narayan Yadav	Siraha	State
Ram Krishan Shrestha	Kathmandu	State	Anuman Shrestha	Lalitpur	State	Chola Prasad Dhakal	Nuwakot	State	Kemab Man Dangol	Rasuwa	State	Lok Bahadur K.C.	Rukum	Maoist	Keshar B. Magar	Solukhumbu	Maoist
Ram Pd. Bhattarai	Kathmandu	Unknown	Dharma Raj Dongol	Lalitpur	State	Denesh Nepali	Nuwakot	State	Khuwa P. Acharya	Rasuwa	State	Gopal K.C.	Rukum	Maoist	Krishna Prasad Kandel	Solukhumbu	Unknown
Ram Prasad Gautam	Kathmandu	State	Dr. Rishi Raj Adhikari	Lalitpur	State	Dhruba Prasad Mishra	Nuwakot	State	Raj Kumar Acharya	Rasuwa	State	Goverdarn Rawot	Rukum	Maoist	Padam B. Magar	Solukhumbu	Maoist
Ramchandra Bhandari	Kathmandu	State	Gopal Nagarkoti	Lalitpur	State	Dinesh Nepali	Nuwakot	State	Menka Sapkota	Rautahat	State	Karna Bahadur Nepali	Rukum	Maoist	Padam B. Magar	Solukhumbu	Maoist
Ramesh Gautam	Kathmandu	State	Khadka B. Gharimagar	Lalitpur	State	Dipendra Nepal	Nuwakot	State	Mrs. Manesh Pokharel	Rautahat	State	Lal Bahadur B.K.	Rukum	Maoist	Prem Thapa Magar	Solukhumbu	Maoist
R. Shomsher Rupakheti	Kathmandu	State	Krishna Dahal	Lalitpur	State	Hit B. Sudehi	Nuwakot	State	Ram Chandra Rawal Barai	Rautahat	State	Laxmi Gari	Rukum	Maoist	Chetnath Dhungana	Sunsari	State
Ramhari Chaulagain	Kathmandu	State	Krishna Man Shrestha	Lalitpur	State	Janak Prasad Adhikari	Nuwakot	State	Ram Janma Rawot (Patel)	Rautahat	State	Lok Bahadur Bista	Rukum	Maoist	Chiranjivi Gautam	Sunsari	State
Ratna Prasad Thapaliya	Kathmandu	State	Machhe Narayan Shrestha	Lalitpur	State	Keshab Prasad Bhatta	Nuwakot	State	Rupa Sapkota	Rautahat	State	Mohanlal B.K.	Rukum	Maoist	Deepak Bishwakarma	Sunsari	State
Shanta Shrestha	Kathmandu	State	Padam Narayan Nakarmi	Lalitpur	State	Keshab Prasad Bhatta	Nuwakot	State	Somraj Timalisina	Rautahat	State	Narbir B.K.	Rukum	State	Devhari Rijal	Sunsari	State
Shanta Shrestha	Kathmandu	Unknown	Parsuram Thapa	Lalitpur	Unknown	Kousalya Pokharel	Nuwakot	State	Upendra Chaulagain	Rautahat	State	Toyta Nath Poudel	Rukum	Maoist	Kul Bahadur Khanal	Sunsari	State
Shanti Ram Bhattarai	Kathmandu	State	Prer B. Maharjan	Lalitpur	State	Laxman Neupane	Nuwakot	State	Aalaram Pun	Rolpa	Maoist	Santosh Pandey	Kapilvastu	State	Lochan Dharmala	Sunsari	State
Sharda Mahat	Kathmandu	State	Rajendra Mali	Lalitpur	State	Malika Shrestha	Nuwakot	State	Meerita Shrestha	Rolpa	Maoist	Tara Pd. Bhusal	Rupendehi	State	Ratna Bahadur Rawal	Sunsari	Maoist
Shiva Raj Gautam	Kathmandu	Unknown	Ram Chandra Maharjan	Lalitpur	State	Meera Adhikari	Nuwakot	State	Begam Rana	Rolpa	State	Bed B. Bhojara	Salyan	State	Santosh Kumar Rai	Sunsari	Maoist
Shiva Tiwari	Kathmandu	State	Ram Khadgi	Lalitpur	State	Nab Raj K.C.	Nuwakot	State	Dil Bahadur alis Dil R.Khatrri	Salyan	State	Dil Bahadur alis Dil R.Khatrri	Salyan	State	Umesh Shah	Sunsari	State
Shival Prasad Tiwari	Kathmandu	State	Ram Maharjan	Lalitpur	State	Pasupati Dhungana	Nuwakot	State	Bhaglal Pun	Rolpa	Maoist	Pokharraj Bhudathoki	Salyan	State	Bir Bahadur B.K.	Surkhet	State
Shom Bahadur Tamang	Kathmandu	State	Rupa Raj Maharjan	Lalitpur	State	Piman Singh Tamang	Nuwakot	State	Bhagman Budha	Rolpa	Maoist	Poshraj Budhathoki	Salyan	State	Ramesh Gautam	Surkhet	State
Shuva Shankar Kandel	Kathmandu	State	Sita Karanjit	Lalitpur	State	Pradip Adhikari	Nuwakot	State	Bijaya Gharti	Rolpa	Maoist	Pramod Kumar Shrestha	Salyan	State	Upendra Budhamagar	Surkhet	Maoist
Shyam Bhatta	Kathmandu	Maoist	Surendra Khadgi	Lalitpur	State	Raj Kumar Karki	Nuwakot	State	Budhendra B.K.	Rolpa	Maoist	Sangita Bista	Salyan	State	Bhabnath Dharmala	Syangja	State
Shyam Kumar Shrestha	Kathmandu	State	Suryaman Maharjan	Lalitpur	State	Rajan Bajjane	Nuwakot	State	Deepak Rokka	Rolpa	Maoist	Devrag Gurung	Sankhuwasabha	State	Mahesh Kafle	Syangja	Maoist
Sonam Tashi	Kathmandu	2002	Thal Prasad Timalisina	Lalitpur	State	Ramashower Dhungana	Nuwakot	State	Dor Bahadur Waii.	Rolpa	Maoist	Kadar Kumar Dhakal	Sankhuwasabha	State	Netra Narayan Bhandari	Syangja	Maoist
Suchendra Shrestha	Kathmandu	State	Ujjwal Jhukla	Lalitpur	State	Sankar Nepali	Nuwakot	State	Gajaman Kunwar	Rolpa	Maoist	Basu Shakyu	Sankhuwasabha	State	Rebkala Tiwari	Syangja	State
Sudindra Bhudamagar	Kathmandu	State	Bal Krishna Shrestha	Lamjung	State	Saraj Tamang	Nuwakot	State	Chahanda Hamal	Rolpa	State r	Bikash Sharma	Dang	State	Atindra Neupane	Tanahu	State
Sujindra Maharjan	Kathmandu	State	Bishnu Prasad Tiwari	Lamjung	State	Shyam Raj Acharyaya	Nuwakot	State	Gorakh Bahadur Bista	Rolpa	Maoist	Dhwarika Timalisina	Saptari	Unknown	Dhan Bd. Magar	Tanahu	State
Sumitra Shrestha	Kathmandu	State	Chandrakanta Poudel	Lamjung	State	Tara Bhandari	Nuwakot	State	Gyan Bahadur Bista	Rolpa	Maoist	Nar Singh Prasad Chaudhari	Saptari	State	Keshav Sing Thakuri	Tanahu	State
Sumpurna Adhikari	Kathmandu	State	Chelath Ghimire	Lamjung	State	Tara Bhandari	Nuwakot	State	Ishwor Lal Budha	Rolpa	Maoist	Rajendra Prasad Shah	Saptari	State	Lok Raj Joshi (Arjun)	Tanahu	State
Surendra Maharjan	Kathmandu	State	Krishna Neupane	Lamjung	State	Tirtha Pande	Nuwakot	State	Janak Oli	Rolpa	Maoist	Ram Bilash Sharan	Sarlahi	State	Padam Bd Rana	Tanahu	State
Suresh Shrestha	Kathmandu	State	Krishna Prasad Phokharel	Lamjung	State	Bimal Kajji Karki	Okhaldhunga	State	Judda Bdr.Daugee	Rolpa	Maoist	Badri Koirala	Sankhuwasabha	State	Shankar Joshi	Tanahu	State
Tejnarayan Sapkota	Kathmandu	State	Lilaraj Kadal	Lamjung	State	Chakra B. Katuwal	Okhaldhunga	State	Kale Budha	Rolpa	Maoist	Matrika Timsina	Sankhuwasabha	State	Ganesh Adhikari	Taplejung	State
Uday Prasad Wadal	Kathmandu	State	Manoj Regmi	Lamjung	State	Deepak Pokharel	Okhaldhunga	Maoist	Kamal Pun	Rolpa	Maoist	Mohan Prasad Guragain	Sankhuwasabha	State	Ramesh Kumar Adhikari	Taplejung	Unknown
Uday Prasad Shah	Kathmandu	State	Padam Pd. Neupane	Lamjung	Unknown	Dhro Prasad Bhattarai	Okhaldhunga	State	Kausala Pun	Rolpa	Maoist	Tej Bahadur Dhakal	Sankhuwasabha	State	Ganesh Dhakal	Terahthum	State
Uday Raj Gautam	Kathmandu	State	Shaker Nath Ghimire	Lamjung	State	Dhron Prasad Bhattarai	Okhaldhunga	State	Rajendra Prakash Malla	Rolpa	Maoist	Yubraj Dhakal	Sankhuwasabha	State	Raj Kumar Khadka	Terahthum	State
Upendra Timalisina	Kathmandu	State	Shakernath Ghimira	Lamjung	State	Haran Bhattarai	Okhaldhunga	State	Khem Bdr. Khani	Rolpa	Maoist	Raj Kumar Dhakal	Sindupalchok	State	Shila Ram Bhandari	Udayapur	State
Yub Raj Mainali	Kathmandu	State	Sundar Raj Poudyal	Lamjung	State	Mohan Bhattarai	Okhaldhunga	State	Khim Bahadur Giri	Rolpa	Maoist	Krishna Pd. Kandel	Solukhumbu	State	Sitaram Bhandari	Udayapur	State
Ashok Tamang	Kavre	State	Chhabil Yadav	Mahottari	State	Mohan Prasad Gautam	Okhaldhunga	State	Kul Bahadur Dangi	Rolpa	Maoist	Manoj Rai	Solukhumbu	State	Bam B. Adhikari	Birendra Multipal Campus	State
Bhem Prasad Chaulagain	Kavre	State	Chandeshwor Chaudhari	Mahottari	State	Mohan Lutail	Okhaldhunga	State	Madkail Khadka	Rolpa	Maoist	Hari Prasad Khanal	Syangja	State	Bir Bahadur Bishwakarma	-	State
Bhim Bd. Tamang	Kavre	Maoist	Jagdish Mahato	Mahottari	State	Om B. Thapa	Okhaldhunga	State	Man Bahadur Budhathoki	Rolpa	State	Basista Koirala	Sindhuli	Maoist	Bishnu Bhusal	Peoples' Front	State
Chitram Lama	Kavre	State	Kishori Raya Yadav	Mahottari	State	Padam Prasad Dahal.	Okhaldhunga	Unknown	Naresh Bhuda Magar	Rolpa	State	Bharat Burjamagar	Sindhuli	State	Buddi Lama	ANTUF	State
Devi Pd. Bajgain	Kavre	Maoist	Manoj Kumar Shah	Mahottari	State	Prachanda Katawal	Okhaldhunga	State	Padam Prasad Magar	Rolpa	State	Binod Dahal	Sindhuli	State	Chakrapana Poudel	Peoples' Front	State
Kebhab Chaulagain	Kavre	State	Pushkar Raj Subedhi	Mahottari	State	Rajan Dahal	Okhaldhunga	State	Om Prakash Pun	Rolpa	Maoist	Devi Bhulon	Sindhuli	State	Chandra B. Rana	Peoples' Front	State
Khadga Singh Tamang	Kavre	State	Ram Shewok Shah Sonar	Mahottari	State	Shambhu Katuwal	Okhaldhunga	State	Padam Bd. Malla	Rolpa	Maoist	Loknath Adhikari (Ranu)	Sindhuli	Unknown	Damodar Gautam	Atmaa Nirval B.M.	State
Kul Prasad Humagain	Kavre	State	Ram Singh Shah	Mahottari	State	Tharaj Wagla	Okhaldhunga	State	Prem Prakash Acharya	Rolpa	State	Ram Chandra Kapile	Sindhuli	State	Dhan Bahadur Magar	-	State
Lok Pd. Bajgain	Kavre	Maoist	Ramadrjya Yadav	Mahottari	State	Bal Krishna Shrestha	Parsa	State	Puna Prasad Chaud	Rolpa	Maoist	Sanjya Kumar Sanjya	Sindhuli	State	Dhan Bahadur Roka	-	State
Man Bahadur Tamang	Kavre	State	Rambhis Shaha	Mahottari	State	Bal Krishna Shrestha	Parsa	Maoist	Suresh Chandra Koirala	Rolpa	Maoist	Sanjya Kumar Sanjya	Sindhuli	State	Himal Sharma	Student	State
Neema Dorje Lama	Kavre	State	Saileendra Kumar Rai	Mahottari	State	Bimal P. Ghimire	Parsa	Maoist	Uddab Prasad Ghimira	Rolpa	State	Manoj Rai	Sindhuli	State	Indra B. Khadka	Peoples' Front	State
Punya B. Lama Tamang	Kavre	State	Sharan Mandal	Mahottari	State	Jagan Nath Nepal	Parsa	State	Aakash Lama	Rolpa	Maoist	Nar Bahadur Shahi	Sindhupalchok	State	Khadag Bahadur Thapa	Peoples' Front	State
Rajendra Gautam	Kavre	State	Shyam Sundar Kushwaha	Mahottari	State	Ram Chandra Shrestha	Parsa	Maoist	Basundhara Shrestha	Rolpa	Maoist	Bishnu Khatri	Sindhupalchok	Maoist	Krishna Shrestha	Peoples' Front	State
Ram Krishna Thapa Magar	Kavre	State	Sunil Yadav	Mahottari	State	Ramakant Giri	Parsa	Maoist	Ghed B. Basnet	Rolpa	Maoist	Ghed B. Basnet	Sindhupalchok	State	Milan Nepali	Janadesh Magazine	State
Remash Gautam	Kavre	State	Gyendrina Kanlakhathi	Makawanpur	Unknown	Rita Yadav	Parsa	State	Ramu Roka	Rolpa	Maoist	Kaji Gurung	Sindhupalchok	State	Nabin Bivash	Yugbhod Daily	State
Reshaya Bahadur Tamang	Kavre	State	Kumar Karki	Makawanpur	State	Shobhit Pun	Parsa	State	Ramu Pun	Rolpa	Maoist	Lila Dahal (Nepi)	Sindhupalchok	State	Nanda Rishi Joshi	Vaimiki Campus	State
Santa Bahadur Tamang	Kavre	Maoist	Nobraj Dahal	Makawanpur	Maoist	Shyama Sundar Dhungana	Parsa	State	Rupa Pun	Rolpa	Maoist	Madha Nepal	Sindhupalchok	State	Nii Kantha Tiwari	NTC Staff	State
Santu Maya Lama	Kavre	State	Prabhu Syatal	Makawanpur	Maoist	Bijula Kuwar	Parbat	Maoist	Sarita K.C.	Rolpa	Maoist	Nandina Sapkota	Sindhupalchok	State	Radha Siwal	-	State
Shiva Prasad Gautam	Kavre	State	Santa Bahadur Baiba	Makawanpur	State	Sarita Devi Sharma	Parbat	State	Sun Kumari Rana	Rolpa	Maoist	Nandina Sapkota	Sindhupalchok	State	Ram Krishna Adhikari	Shangu Weekly	State
Subas Chandra Mainali	Kavre	State	Dilli Pd. Dangal	Makawanpur	State	Binod K. Khadka	Ramechhap	Maoist	Sunmya Budha.	Rolpa	Maoist	Ram B. Basnet	Sindhupalchok	State	Suresh Shai	Shandha Times	State
Tanka Prasad Tripathi	Kavre	State	Gopal Karki	Morang	Maoist	Denesh Chaulagain	Ramechhap	Unknown	Tara Pun	Rolpa	Maoist	Reshab B. Karki	Sindhupalchok	State	Umaram Acharya	Peoples' Front	State
Yub Prasad Gautam	Kavre	State	Hari Bahadur Karki	Morang	State	Govinda Ghimire	Ramechhap	State	Tek Bahadur B.K.	Rolpa	Maoist	Saraswati Sapkota	Sindhupalchok	State			
Thakur Gautam	Kavre	State	Hari Dangal	Morang	State	Gyan Bahadur Chhetri	Ramechhap	Maoist	Thanti Bista	Rolpa	Maoist	Subhash Shrestha	Sindhupalchok	State			
Yaknath Chaulagain	Kavre	State	Kapana	Morang	State	Jeey Nath Gautam	Ramechhap	Maoist	Tilak Budha	Rolpa	Maoist	Tilak Prasad Sapkota	Sindhupalchok	State			
Yog Prasad Thapaliya	Kavre	State	Kamala Dahal	Morang	State												

ABOUT TOWN

FESTIVALS AND EXHIBITIONS

- ♦ **Divine light of Tibet** Photographs by Gabriela Mayorquín till 5 January at Lazimpat Gallery Café. 4428549
- ♦ **Reflections of Colour** Paintings by Susan Gillerman Boggs till 9 January at Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revisited. 4218048
- ♦ **The Land I Love** Photographs Kim Hong Sung till 16 January at Gallery Nine, Lazimpat. 4428694
- ♦ **Photographs of working children by children** Exhibition from 27 December at Baggikhana, Patandhoka.

EVENTS

- ♦ **Sinners in Heaven** New Year Eve blast at the Yak & Yeti Hotel. Details: 4248999
- ♦ **Style Nepal** Fashion show by Sunimu Boutique and party, 6PM on 28 December at Hyatt Regency Kathmandu. Details: 4441073, 4229123
- ♦ **The God's Dance of Kathmandu Valley** 7PM on Tuesdays. Tea+Ticket: Rs 400 at Hotel Vajra.

DRINK

- ♦ **Cosmic Cocktails** and chic home furnishings at Mitra Lounge Bar and Mausam homestyle boutique. Above Cafe Mitra, Thamel. 4259015
- ♦ **Fusion** at Dwarika's for over 100 cocktails, happy hour and Abhaya & The Steam Injuns every Friday. 4479488
- ♦ **Eggnog**, hot rum drinks, special wines with the best steaks at K-too! Beer & Steakhouse, Thamel. 4433043



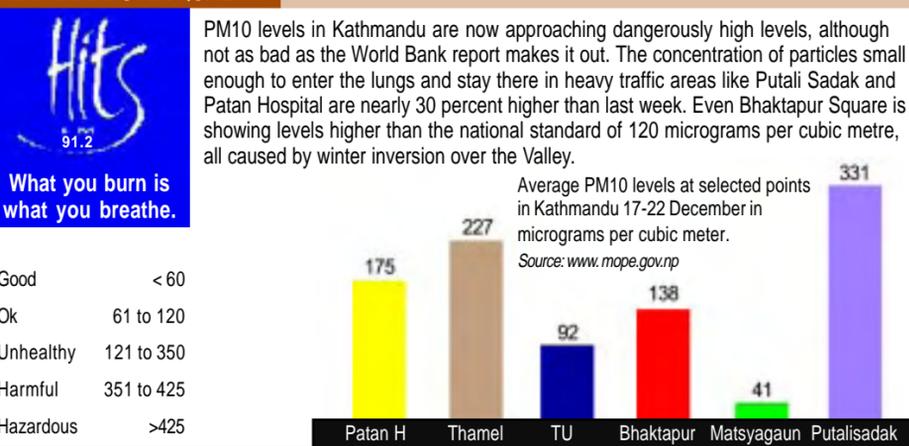
FOOD

- ♦ **Traditional cakes**, puddings, pralines and X-Mas specials at the Pastry Shop, Yak & Yeti Hotel. 4248999
- ♦ **New Years Eve Dinner** buffet for Rs 700 and **New Years Day Brunch** Rs 500 per person at Summit Hotel. 5521810
- ♦ **Nepali singers** and Chinese food for New Year Eve. Rs 2,000 per family (of four) at Tian Rui Chinese Restaurant & Bar, Thapathali. 4243078
- ♦ **Bring your wine** along every Thursday and Sunday and buy our dinner. Himalatte Café, Thamel.
- ♦ **Ring in the New Year** Dinner and live band Single Rs 1500, couples Rs 2500. Special overnight packages at Dwarika's Hotel. 4479488
- ♦ **Celebrate at the Hyatt:** 31 December - buffet with live band at The Café, seafood dinner at Rox Restaurant, three DJs at Rox Bar with juggling bartenders. 4491234
- ♦ **Homestyle cooking** by Japanese chef at Dan Ran Japanese Restaurant, Jawalakhel. 5521027
- ♦ **Vegetarian specialties** at Stupa View Restaurant & Terrace, Boudha Stupa. 4480262
- ♦ **Café U** Japanese home-cooking, cakes and coffee. Opp British School, Sanepa. 5523263
- ♦ **Malay, Singapore food** at Singma, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur. 552004

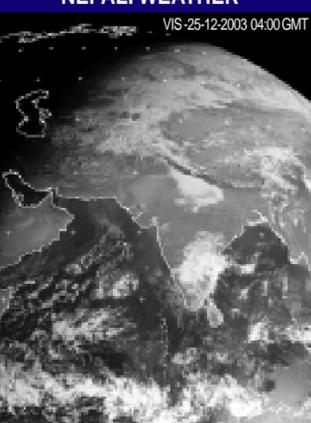
GETAWAYS

- ♦ **New Year Chimes** overnight stay with dinner and dance featuring The Heartbreakers. Prior reservation recommended. Godavari Village Resort, 5560675
- ♦ **Golf** in the Valley's last pristine forest. Gokarna Forest Golf Resort & Spa 4451212
- ♦ **Microflight flying adventures** with the Avia Club, Pokhara.
- ♦ **Shivapuri Heights Cottage** at the edge of Shivapuri. Email: info@escape2nepal.com
- ♦ **Weekend Special** for Rs 3000 per couple, Park Village Resort, Budhanilkantha. 4375280
- ♦ **Magnificent mountains** and deluxe tents at Adventure Tented Camp & Country Kitchen. 4418992
- ♦ **Christmas in the jungle** at Jungle Base Camp. 061-532112 Email: junglebasecamp@yahoo.com
- ♦ **Shivapuri Cottage, Dadagaon** gourmet meals, board and transport. Highland Travel & Tours. 4253352, 4253053

KATHMANDU AIR QUALITY



NEPALI WEATHER



by MAUSAM BEED

A notable event of this week's weather is the rapid growth of the winter fog cover in northwest Indian plain and Nepal's western tarai. This annual phenomenon is caused by the infusion of cold dry air from the northwest over the river basin. But a high pressure zone is keeping fog conditions away from the central and eastern tarai for now. There is no respite from the two-month-long winter drought with no major westerly system sighted on the horizon. This means continued morning smog in Kathmandu with sunny and breezy afternoons. The first night frost will be seen on the Valley outskirts.



BOOKWORM

Eleven Minutes Paulo Coelho
Harper Collins, 2003
Rs 472

Maria, a young girl from a Brazilian village, is left heart-broken after her first innocent brushes with love. She becomes convinced she will never find true love, that "Love is a terrible thing that will make you suffer..."

Coelho's gripping and daring new work explores the sacred nature of sex and love, inviting us to confront our own prejudices.



Courtesy: Mandala Book Point, Kantipath, 4227711, mandala@ccsl.com.np



Rise and shine

Get ready for a brand new day with BBC World Today.
Every morning on 102.4 FM from 5:45-6:15 AM

Daily 2045-2115 BBC नेपाली सेवा
Daily 2245-2300 BBC नेपाली सेवा

BBC
on FM 102.4

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



JP Dutta's *LoC Kargil* is based on the lives of those who fought in the 1999 Kargil War between India and Pakistan. With lyrics by Javed Akhtar and stirring music from Anu Malik, who seems to have shed his copycat image, *LoC* will probably raise patriotic fervour in India to unprecedented heights by their Republic Day in January. Here in Nepal, most of us are probably going to admire the cinematography, weep when the soldiers fall and marvel at the unwieldy star cast—so many characters to keep track of—that is rivalled only by the numbers of the production team.



JAI NEPAL CINEMA
Call 4442220 for bookings

Call for show timings.
www.jainepal.com

CLASSIFIED

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

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

To Let: Rabibhawan area two storey house 4 bedrooms 2 bathrooms large kitchen dining living terrace lobby and porch and telephone. Contact: **Roshani** 4275180

LIVE IN STYLE! Arcadia Apartments in the heart of Thamel. Centrally located, fully furnished apartments at unbelievable rates. For details: 981026903, 4260187

Renting made easy: www.21etonline.com- Looking for a place to stay- Log on to find the perfect house, apartment or even a retail space that meets all your needs. Make an easy 1000 bucks by reporting a vacant property to us. Find out how- www.21etonline.com

To Let: Pleasant room (with private, ensuite bathroom) in a quiet bungalow in Lazimpat. Share kitchen and large lounge. Perhaps suitable for visiting professional or volunteer. Tel 4428549

Get 10 % exclusive discount on the normal subscription

rate of Himalmedia's publication namely; Himal Khabarpatrika, Nepali Times and Wave magazine. Only at the Grihini Department Store limited, Baluwatar, Phone: 4415186

To Let: Flat in Jawalakhel Opp. Mahila Kendra.2 bedrooms,2 baths, living-dining, terrace with wooden floors. Contact: 5524389

Wanted : Nepali pilot, interested person should have experience for ultra light aircraft with Rotax 582 engine. Apply with cv, photo and contact address within 7 days to Avia Club Nepal Pvt. Ltd., P.O. Box 13680.

WHOLESALES BAGS AND GARMENTS-Our Factory Offers good quality products At Very Reasonable Prices, School Bags, Back Pack, Ladies, Gents And Child's Clothing. AMIT CRAFTS.e-mail:amitcrafts@rediff.com

Apartment For Rent: 3 Bed Rooms, Kitchen, Dinning, Living room with 24 hour hot & cold shower, in a very Prime location of Jyatha, Thamel Contact: 4225319

To-Let: 1-3 bedrooms modern apartment flats with parking facility at Jawalakhel Ringroad. Tel. 5528134 5527632

For insertions ring NT Marketing at 5543333-36.

Full circle

Ancient Himalayan Buddhist art is the hot new attraction in Los Angeles this new year.



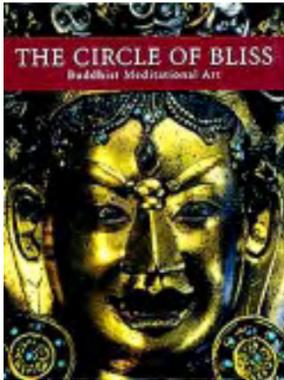
Almost four decades after the last travelling Nepali art exhibition to the west, *The Circle of Bliss: Buddhist Meditational Art* is on display at Los Angeles. This unparalleled collection of almost 160 Nepali, Indian, Tibetan, Chinese and Mongolian masterpieces, some dating back 13 centuries, has been well received by media critics and some 20,000 visitors have thronged to the museum.

Co-curator Dina Bangdel, assistant professor at Ohio State University, is ecstatic. "Given the political situation here, I feel that this exhibition has established for Nepal a much needed positive presence in the US with a very favourable response," she told us. "With Nepal so much in the forefront in the US, we should take pride in our cultural heritage."

The exhibition focuses on the context of the art and translates Himalayan Buddhist practices into physical form. Bangdel and colleague John C Huntington have also published a catalogue *Circle of Bliss* that helps visitors understand the artwork that flow from the Himalayan Buddhist tradition.

Modern art museums almost always leave interpretation—whether we invest art with meaning or not—to the viewer, so this guided exhibition to an understanding of the display is a rarity. Meditational art is both meaningful and with purpose: their creators knew the function of each piece was solely to aid the practitioner to attain enlightenment through meditation.

Currently on display at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the exhibition focuses on Chakrasamvara and Vajravarahi, regarded by some as key Tantric mediation practices. The artwork is exquisite and esoteric. Using graphic and explanatory panels, the organisers have made accessible an art form that has only been studied for the past 60 years.



The Circle of Bliss offers a historical scholarship of Tantra, in particular Chakrasamvara Tantra. Though the texts have been around, offering meditation technique for centuries, co-authors Bangdel and Huntington have placed the art in their religious and social context, emphasising their symbolic visual language.

While tracing the geographic and cultural development of Himalayan Buddhism across Asia, the authors examine the role of the Newar Buddhist community in Nepal as transmitters and interpreters of tantric teachings. The Newars are reintroduced as a catalyst in the development of Buddhism. The links are apparent in the 13 works of art that have travelled to LA from Nepal's national collection. All told, 40 international museums and private collectors from Nepal, North America, Great Britain and Europe have loaned art pieces: sculptures, thangkas, books, ritual instruments—it's all there.

Reliefs of Buddha's birth dating to the 5th or 6th century, lent by the National Museum in Chhauni, is one of the oldest works on display. At the core of the exhibition, are various examples of the two deities Chakrasamvara (which translates as 'circle of bliss') and his consort Vajravarahi entwined in a love embrace.

Aside from paintings and sculptures, the exhibit's chief attraction is the on-site creation of the Circle of Bliss sand mandala being made by Tibetan monks from the Ganden monastery in India. The 8m diameter sand mandala will be completed this week and then destroyed, its constituents sprinkled over the Pacific Ocean. ♦

The Circle of Bliss will leave Los Angeles County Museum of Art on 4 January and travel to Ohio.

DAVID CLOUD

The following are traffic rules for Kathmandu Valley updated in December 2003. The following rules shall remain valid for the next six months, unless otherwise notified by the authorities. Violators will be violated.

1. The biggest vehicle has the right of way.
2. The craziest driver has the right of way.
3. The driver looking the other way has the right of way.
4. Cows have the right of way.
5. Pedestrians running flat out across the road have the right of way.
6. The motorcycle driver that goes the farthest way across the solid white line has the right of way.
7. A taxi making a U-turn from the extreme right hand lane to the extreme left hand lane has the right of way.
8. On Ring Road, a vehicle coming around a blind curve on the wrong side of the road has the right of way.
9. People walking down the middle of the lane with their backs to the traffic have the right of way.
10. Motorcycles heading the wrong way have the right of way.

Trafficking in Kathmandu

Updated Kathmandu Traffic Rules.



MIN. BAIRACHARYA

11. Pedestrians walking casually across the road looking the other way have the right of way.
12. Buses pulling out have the right of way.
13. Buses pulling in have the right of way.
14. Buses going the wrong way have

- the right of way.
15. Buses backing up have the right of way—unless they meet a crazy driver or a driver looking the other way or a cow or a pedestrian running flat out or a driver going the farthest way across the solid white line or a taxi making a U-

- turn or a vehicle coming around a blind curve on the wrong side of the road or people walking down the middle of the lane with their backs to the traffic or a motorcycle heading the wrong way or pedestrians walking casually across the road looking the other way. ♦

Dove
does not dry your skin like soap
because it is 1/4 moisturiser

Dove Cream Bar
Rs. 35/-

Under My Hat

by Kunda Dixit



BEEEEEEEEEP

What is this country coming to? Do I now have to bribe you to read this column, or what?

However, since it has now been established through several readership polls that no one is actually reading this stuff, guess I can get away with writing the most outrageous stuff about the pillars of our society, of which at last count there were four. So here goes: BEEEEEP is a monkey, the BEEEEEP is an ass and so are the other BEEEEEPs in the BEEEEEP, the LONG BEEEEEEP and ANOTHER EVEN LONGER BEEP are a bunch of @\$%*/+&s.

Thank Pashupatinath that the press is still independent in this country and freedom of expressionism is guaranteed by our constitution, otherwise I would not be allowed to make the aforementioned x-rated comments in full view of all you underage readers out there. It is a matter of national pride that the Nepali press can get away with such slanderous libel without denting its credit rating. This is proof, if proof is still required by the international community,

that democracy in Nepal is still, if not alive and kicking, then at least crawling around on all fours with its tail wagging between its legs.

With those formalities now out of the way, and with permission from Madam Chairperson, I would now like to turn to the next item on the agenda, which is the economic crisis triggered by a joint pledge made by top Nepali businessmen last week in which they solemnly swore (in language that is unprintable in a newspaper that is also read by minors) that, as a part of their belt-tightening and cost-cutting efforts, companies will henceforth not be able to offer any more bribes to government officials and politicians.

An emergency meeting of the Cabinet on Wednesday looked at various ways in which the government could deal with this unexpected development that removes one of the most efficient methods so far devised to spread the wealth around. The no-bribe policy by business has already led to a serious shortfall in revenue for officials, and has set off a snowball effect on consumer spending, forcing the Finance Ministry to revise its premature announcement of an annual GDP growth rate of 4 percent drastically downwards.

Officialdom now has no recourse but to announce an escalating agitation beginning in the new year starting with a dot pen-down strike at all offices, a sit-down strike at the gates of FNCCI, culminating on a relay hunger strike at their places of work which will entail officials foregoing their afternoon tea break on alternate working days. If that doesn't prompt businessmen from lifting their ban on bribes, then may Pashupatinath save us all.

What? The *bhattas* are on strike?



NEPALI SOCIETY

Ms Engineer

Pushpanjali Khanal proves that it's not just a man's world. Without even trying to be a symbol for the sisterhood, this 34-year-old is the only female engineer at the Department of Roads (DOR). There are about 200 female engineers in Nepal, but most hold desk jobs, draft designs or are academics. Pushpanjali, however, chose to work in mainstream engineering. "Women tend to think that this is man's work and it's tough being a real engineer at construction sites in remote areas, but this is what I enjoy most," she says.

A decade ago when she joined DOR as one of its youngest engineers, Pushpanjali recalls receiving utmost respect for her professionalism from male colleagues. Pushpanjali didn't have to battle a glass ceiling—there wasn't one.

Her suggestions and ideas

were encouraged and accepted by her male colleagues and senior officers. Five years ago she bested her male peers to win a scholarship for a master's degree from the University of Surrey in England. Pushpanjali's next aim is a PhD, which will make her one of the highest qualified engineers in Nepal. "It's sad that there isn't enough encouragement for engineers in the country," says Pushpanjali, lamenting a tight job market. She is undoubtedly the most famous daughter of her village of Gaikhur in

Gorkha. She was the only girl to pass the SLC while most of her friends dropped out of school in grade five. When she moved to Kathmandu and joined Pulchow Engineering Campus, there were only two girl students. After graduation, when her friend chose to become a lecturer, Pushpanjali decided to become an engineer. Pushpanjali hasn't been home to Gaikhur in five years, and plans to visit soon.

Says Pushpanjali: "As long as you can prove yourself, work hard and not show your weakness, no one can ever look down on you as a woman."

◆ (Naresh Newar)



KIRAN PANDEY



Phase II

Differentiate the Difference Between Difference & the lasting Difference

The Civil Homes philosophy has always been that good homes should be superbly designed and beautiful to look at. It should also have real muscle beneath the surface, for a lifetime of reliability. Other homes may look as good as "Civil Homes" when they are new, but few have been given the immensely strong construction, and the uncompromising range of natural materials that go into every house that comes under construction.

Every house of Civil Homes are designed and built to become a heritage piece—a classic to be handed down through many generations.

Civil Homes Phase II has 100 independent houses throughout 76 ropanies of land at the west of Kathmandu 1km away from



Civil Savings & Credit Co-operative Ltd.

Civil Housing Program - Phase II
Promoted by : Bankers and Engineers

Project Office :

Soaltee Mode, Ravibhawan, Kalanki, Mathuri Sadan, Kathmandu
Tel : 977-1-4312780, 2021233, 4276760, 4271918, 4276048, 4276049
Fax : 977-1-4276047

E-mail : marketing@civilhomes.com, csavings@enet.com.np



Kalanki, to make quality living affordable at their best and avoid the extra cost of intermediaries. This extra care and construction quality is possible within a realistic price range.

Apart from these advantages, there are other very sound reasons for choosing one of these houses. Each one is staffed with a friendly, informed team-looking forward to helping you with every facet of choosing your home, from advice on design and style, to wider issue such as color co-ordination and room planning.

Civil Homes are promoted by experienced and professional Bankers and Engineers, has been existence for over one and half years.

Only home with earthquake resistive design, commits on time delivery and total ownership transfer.

