

# NEPALI Times

#326

8 - 14 December 2006

16 pages

Rs 30

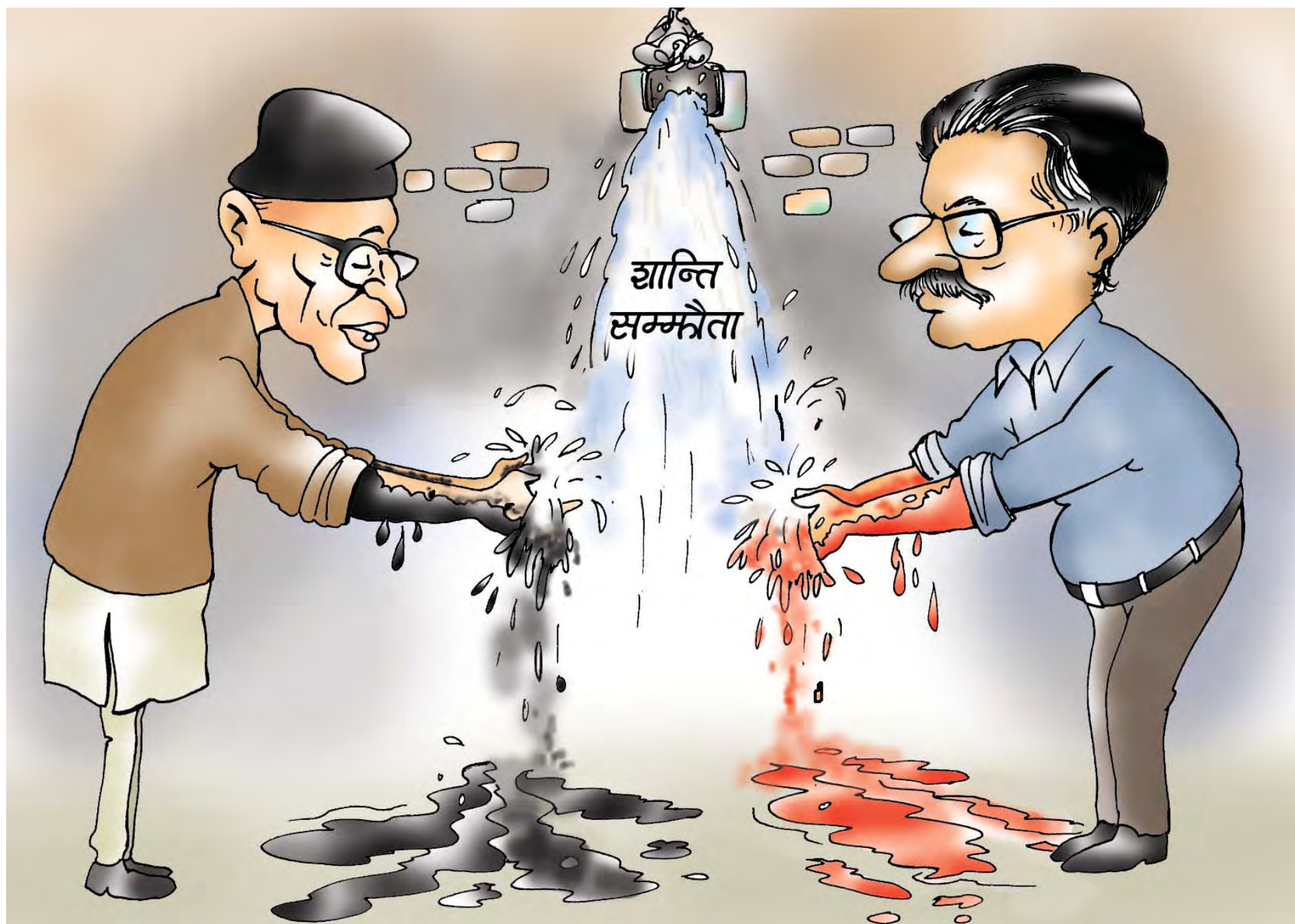
Open your gate to the world of opportunities.  
Earn American, British and Australian University degrees in

## Singapore

MDIS offers foreign University degrees in Singapore in partnership with following universities.

Orbit Int'l Education

Putalisadak, Kathmandu, Tel: Hot Line 4430677, E-mail: orbit@info.com.np  
Pokhara: Mahendrapul, Tel: 061-531171, E-mail: branch.pokhara@orbitedu.com  
Japan: Chuo-ku, Osaka Tel: 81-06-6767-1600, E-mail: orbit.japan@orbitedu.com  
CHINA: Xinxiang City, Henan Province, P.R. China, Tel: 13072685094  
www.orbitedu.com



ROBIN SAYAMI

# SCRUBBED

Editorial Forsake violence Guest column Born again p2

**Times** nepalnews.com  
Weekly Internet Poll # 326

Q. What do you think of the recently passed Citizenship bill?

Total votes: 2,848

- Positive 21.1%
- Discriminatory 17.4%
- Needs homework 57.2%
- Don't know/can't say 4.2%

Weekly Internet Poll # 327. To vote go to: www.nepalnews.com

Q. How is the country doing today compared with before 24 April 2006?

**ARISTON**  
Europe's No. 1 selling Water Heater

**HOME FURNISHERS**  
Tripureshwar (way to Thapathali), Kathmandu  
Ph: 4254601, 4262240

The only green paradise for comfort, delicacies, meetings and conferences with additional attraction of BBQ Banbhoj and picnics.  
Excellence is our name.

**Godavari**  
Village Resort  
Tel: 5560675

Now Available at Bookstands

**NEPAL**  
Struggle for Existence

Jagadish Sharma

The struggle continues...

www.nepalstruggleforexistence.com.np

**HP COMPAQ**  
dx7300 BUSINESS PC

Processor: Intel Core Duo - 3.4 GHZ  
Memory: 512 MB DDR2  
Hard Drive(s): 80 GB SATA  
Removable Media: CD-RW/DVD-ROM Combo

**CAS** CAS Trading House Pvt. Ltd.  
P.O. Box: 2932, ComputerLand Building, New Plaza, Putalisadak, Kathmandu  
Phone: 977-1- 4440271, 4430858, 4430859  
E-mail: sales@cth.ccsnp.com, Web: www.castradinghouse.com

**HEALTH TRACK** Taiwan  
Let's run for your Spirit

An Exclusive Fitness Showroom

Available  
• Treadmills  
• All Exercise Equipments

**Spectrum Merchandise Pvt. Ltd.**  
Tripureshwar, Radha Bhawan, Cosmos Building, Ktm.  
Tel: 01-4252025, Cell: 9851070121

**LAND-ROVER**  
GO BEYOND

**Land Rover Freelander**  
All Terrain 4WD  
Luxurious Interior  
Matches for all lifestyles

**AUTHORIZED AGENT:**  
Euro Gears Pvt. Ltd.  
Ka1-75-2 Teku Road  
P.O.Box 4790 Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 4261235, 4371104  
Fax: 4420877, 4262069  
E-mail: eurogears@mos.com.np

**SERVICE CENTER:**  
Delta Motor Works Pvt. Ltd.  
Dhumbarahi, Kathmandu  
Tel: 4371104



**NEPALI**  
**Times**

editors@nepalitimes.com  
www.nepalitimes.com

Published by Himalmedia Pvt Ltd, Editor: **Kunda Dixit**  
Executive Editor: **Anagha Neelakantan** Desk Editor: **Jemima Sherpa**  
Design: **Kiran Maharjan** Web: **Rupendra Kayastha**  
Sales and Marketing: **Sunaina Shah** marketing@himalmedia.com  
Subscription: subscription@himalmedia.com  
Hatiban, Godavari Road, Lalitpur  
GPO Box 7251, Kathmandu 5543333-6, Fax: 5521013  
Printed at Jagadamba Press, Hatiban: 5547018



# Born again

## It isn't just Nepal that's new, GPK and PKD have also reinvented themselves

The 21 November peace agreement was a rebirth in many senses: for Nepal, for Pushpa Kamal Dahal, and for Girija Prasad Koirala.

Koirala can finally mask his sordid behaviour from 1991 to 2001. He can make the political



**GUEST COLUMN**  
**Purushottam Dahal**

connection between his present and what he was before 1991. Similarly, Dahal has washed his hands of the blood of thousands of Nepalis whose lives were lost during the ten years of conflict. He can separate himself from those who still think that a society can be violently transformed into utopia.

Behind both of these metamorphoses is a series of mechanisms, events, and commitments. There's no point trying to find fault with the peace agreement, it's as thorough as it could be. Even before they signed the deal, the Maoists and the seven parties had already agreed on 105 of the clauses. Ten more points were decided upon on the day of the agreement. The document is the result of one year of negotiations, six meetings, and 230 points of discussion.

What we need to do now is test the commitment of both parties to the peace process they have set in motion. There have been delays, and certainly peace can't be rushed. But not every deadline can be pushed back, either.

This agreement is being touted as stronger than the weapons the Maoists and the state have depended on for the last decade. Dahal claims the agreement is something of a shock to the world's system, since it is the 'first time in history' that leftists have participated in a peaceful movement, sat down to talks, embraced democracy, and joined the government. It's not strictly true, but if it makes everyone happy, why not?

The fact is, it became necessary for the Maoists to give up arms and walk the path of peace. By the same token, the political parties who treated violence as anathema also felt the need to join hands with armed rebels. Perhaps the outcome would have been the same even if Gyanendra had not taken his

executive decision on 1 February 2005. Perhaps our awareness of the looming possibility of a civil, ethno-separatist and regional war motivated us to participate in Jana Andolan II.

This comprehensive agreement is a direct result of many months of Indian diplomacy, and behind-the-scenes spadework by the EU and the UN. Yet, conspicuously missing from discussion is what the loktantrik foreign policy of the Maoists and the seven parties will look like. With the eclipse of the monarchy and the dawn of a new Nepal, we urgently need a clear policy and principles that define our relations with the rest of the world. That does affect internal affairs, like it or not.

When Dahal was in India for a leadership conference recently, he was emotional when talking about India's assistance to his party while it was still underground. He also made the now-famous comments about ISI activities in Nepal. Surely a leader like Dahal, whose career is built on talk of national pride and integrity, shouldn't make such blanket comments at an international conference.

Gyanendra, who remained silent after relinquishing power on the night of 24 April, has welcomed the peace agreement. Some may argue that this is his last attempt to save the monarchy, and others may say he is trying to define his new role. Whatever the case, he, like the nation and in particular its two top leaders, are moving into a new era. ●

*Purushottam Dahal is president of the Human Rights and Peace Society. A longer version of this piece appeared in Himal Khabarpatrika.*



DEEPENDRA BAJRACHARYA

## BIRDS ON A WIRE

Every day that goes by during this heady hiatus, the Maoists are taking themselves further out of the jungles from which they came. Ahead lie the challenges of statecraft and the politics of compromise.

This can be a powerful culture shock to comrades who are habituated to the absolute certainties of revolution. They have been used to the 'scientific' analysis of the dialectics of class struggle. Like doctrinaire communists of a bygone era, they think they have all the answers. Their revolution, after all, had no space for doubters, revisionists, and reformers.

Well, welcome to the real world. When Maoist MPs enter the jam-packed interior of the interim parliament one day soon, they will have to remember that no one elected them. They got there by wielding political power that came out of the barrel of the gun. As a price of peace, the Nepali people were willing to temporarily hand over to the Maoists nearly a third of the seats in the House of Representatives.

The path ahead will not be easy, but it will be made more difficult if the Maoists continue their corrosive coercion and try to undermine a multiparty polity. They can't have it both ways: they can't be in an interim government without formally forsaking violence. Even if some of their arms are contained in cantonments everyone knows they can still insinuate violence.

And why is Pushpa Kamal Dahal suddenly pushing for Indian ex-Gurkhas to monitor arms management until the UN gets its act together? Of course the UN takes time, 'delay' is the UN's middle name. The reason this tricky monitoring mechanism has credibility is because the UN is involved, let's not get Nepalis with possible conflict of interest to manage arms.

Ironic, isn't it, that the very success of the Maoist armed struggle was that it ultimately forced them to give up armed struggle. To convert his fighters' dramatic gains into political power, Pushpa Kamal Dahal had no other option but to agree to lock up his arms. It was not an easy decision, given the fissures in his movement. Already, the Maoist leadership has a splinter group causing havoc in parts of the tarai. Unlike the rest of Nepal, people in places like Siraha still endure bombs and assassinations and haven't known peace.

It must be tempting for royal reactionaries and the saffronites to incite ethnic unrest in the tinder dry tarai. If King Gyanendra, however indirectly, supports this he'll have made his third and last mistake and will have to relocate. The throne he is on is hanging by a slender thread. The only way he can preserve it, if at all, is by sitting perfectly still until the people decide on his fate.

# Change management

## The Nepal Army isn't going anywhere, which is why it must be made accountable

Again, the Nepal Army is in the headlines for all the wrong reasons. A promotion list that proposes to reward tainted officers has raised the hackles of some senior SPA ministers. Local leaders of political parties are sore about the favouritism rampant in ration contracts. Activists believe officers guilty of human rights abuses have been let off lightly. The Supreme Court has added to



**STATE OF THE STATE**  
**C K Lal**

the woes of the Bhadrakali brass by rapping them on the knuckles for gross mismanagement of the army welfare fund.

But not all the criticism directed at the army is justified. Unlike civilian arms of the state, not everything military can be open to public scrutiny even in the absence of war. What we call peacetime is a period of preparation for any

professional armed force.

Perhaps the problem is ignorance and lack of trust. The army has been trained to doubt the intentions of everyone who does not belong to them. Politicians believe—in the light of their experiences in December 1960 and February 2005—that the Nepal Army owes allegiance to the king rather than the constitution. The press and the civil society, by their very nature, consider people with power guilty until proven innocent. The onus is on the leadership of the army to prove its innocence and good intentions.

The army top brass has courted unnecessary controversy by repeatedly ignoring court orders to make the fund's accounts transparent. They must accept that the fund's records have not been properly audited for years, and identify officers responsible for this dereliction of duty. If funds have been misused, everyone complicit must be held accountable. Yes, military traditions are sometimes stronger

than the provisions of the rulebook, but this is too serious a breach to let pass.

The crisis of credibility facing the Nepal Army will only get worse if the officers ignore pleas for openness. That said, the claim that every soldier be reimbursed in full what the UN pays for peacekeeping duty abroad is unjustified. A Nepali soldier in the Blue Helmet isn't a mercenary, and peacekeeping duty isn't like a stint with a private security agency either. A soldier on deputation to the UN is an employee of the government. He serves abroad as a representative of his corps, service and the country, with attendant duties and responsibilities.

Those in the know say that even if there is a political decision to demilitarise the Nepali polity, it will take at least 20 years to pare down the NA's strength from 100,000 to about 10,000 without negative repercussions. Meanwhile, this huge force has to be kept occupied. One Rana prime minister made troops march three times a

day through the capital to keep them busy. Sending more troops to the UN is a better alternative.

We're one of the top 10 troop contributors to UN peacekeeping forces, but lag behind countries like Ghana and Uruguay in terms of representation as a proportion of population. Unilateral peace enforcements have collapsed spectacularly in Afghanistan, Chechnya, Iraq, and Sri Lanka, while the UN has had relative successes in Bosnia, the Congo, and East Timor. There will be more Blue Helmets, not fewer.

If we want to use this opportunity for national gain, at least the welfare fund must be managed in a transparent manner. The army now has to learn to be accountable, responsive, and responsible. It will be hard to inculcate these traits in an organisation used to being a state within a state, but there is no other way. Bhadrakali needs to use the chance it has been given to redeem itself. ●



## LETTERS

## GIRIJA BABU

The title of CK Lal's article ('Loving to hate Girijababu', #325) paints a true picture of our ambivalence towards Girija Babu. Often termed as inefficient, corrupt, and irrelevant within his own Koirala and kangresi clan, he has proven himself in the end. Today, he stands as the symbol of unity between the political parties and Maoist rebels. As the Grand Old Man of Nepal, he has redeemed himself and completed his duty towards the motherland by signing the Peace Accord after 10 years of war, political instability, international pressure, and other factors. To be sure, I never liked the man for his political short-sightedness and corruption that he engendered. Now it is the duty of the younger leaders in the NC to take over and lead this great nation. Great job, Girija Babu!

Pravesh Saria, email

● Divas Sarma (Letters, #325) is right about how the peace deal in Nepal got so little attention in the international media. As sad as it is, it is true that a historic event like this does not mean much when it is a country like Nepal and besides, the so-called 'international' media need their airtime and web space for something sexier than peace breaking out in Nepal. Perhaps the political pundits from Nepal should not have scheduled the event at the same time when Tom Cruise was getting married and Brittany Spears was getting a divorce!

Sushil Bogati, Atlanta, USA

● PM GP must be happy that those who used to chant "Talukhuile Girija, Bharat tira Chirija" want to nominate him for the Nobel Peace Prize. But the Nobel Prizes, especially those for Peace and Literature, are no less controversial than our own Grand Pa of Nepali Politics.

D Sarma, Kathmandu



● The persistent call for the abolition of the monarchy only stems from political parties with vested interests. This pathological, rabid hatred that the baddies espouse for His Majesty is not shared by and large by the Nepali people. And I'm not talking about the few hundred people who got asked in the capital. The end of the monarchy would open up and hand over tremendous wealth and assets to any government. Suddenly we'd need a lot of greedy and hungry politicians to manage trusts and funds supposedly for the benefit of the

Nepali people. We all know who really stands to gain.

Rick, email

● One should think carefully, instead of before adopting the interim constitution in a hurry. Are we, as Nepalis, destroying our common identity and heritage in the name of progressive thinking? Will we destroy our social fibre which will, in turn, sow the seeds of national disintegration? All the major parties have endorsed the federal structure for Nepal without comprehending its long-term implications, but just as a trump card to counter Maoist appeal. Responsible political parties with a democratic history and credentials should not decide on issues of such far-reaching importance so lightly for short-term political mileage. The Maoists have always played this divisive role but responsible political parties can't compete with them on populism and divide the nation along ethnic, caste, regional and religious lines. The nine federal regions devised by the Maoists along indigenous lines are based on a faulty premise, because no region has a majority of the ethnic groups they are named after.

PB Rana, email

## AMA DABLAM

I am writing to congratulate you and thank Padam Ghale for the excellent story on Ama Dablam ('Accident on Ama Dablam', #324). It is the best piece of mountaineering journalism I have seen in this country. We were all saddened by the tragedy, and it proved just how dangerous climbing in the Himalaya is because of the objective dangers.

Tim Rogers, Edinburgh, UK



## CORRECTION

Due to an editing error, in 'Foreign investors need fair treatment' (#325), the CEO of Spice Nepal was wrongly identified. The name should read Dmitry Zaika.

In 'Uphill slog' (#317), Keshav Bohara should have been identified as manager of the Kakani International Training Centre.

## LETTERS

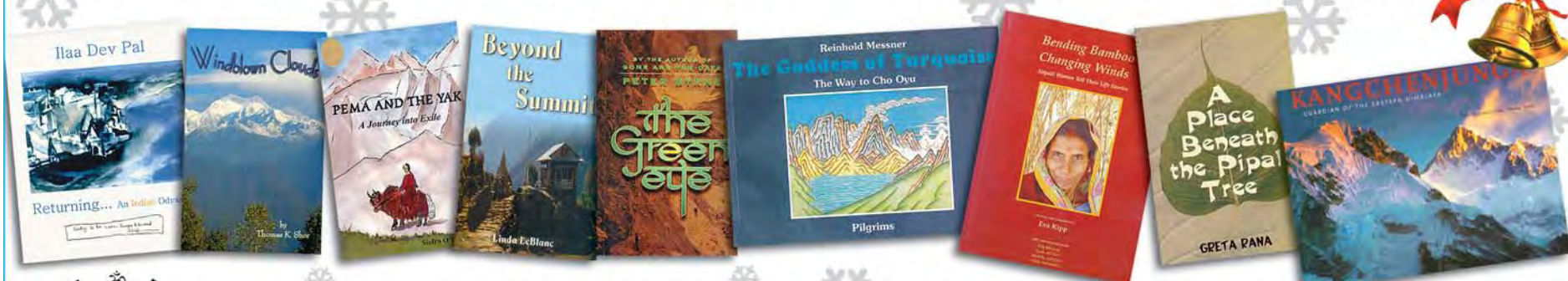
Nepali Times welcomes feedback. Letters should be brief and may be edited for space. While pseudonyms can be accepted, writers who provide their real names and contact details will be given preference. Email letters should be in text format without attachments with 'letter to the editor' in the subject line.

Email: letters@nepalitimes.com

Fax: 977-1-5521013

Mail: Letters, Nepali Times,  
GPO Box 7251, Kathmandu, Nepal.

**NEW ARRIVALS!** on the occasion of Christmas and New Year we offer these books as Christmas reading with a discount of 15% until 31st December



PILGRIMS BOOK HOUSE

Kupondole  
Opposite Hotel Himalaya  
Tel: 5521159, 5543956  
www.pilgrimsbooks.com

Thamel  
Close to Kathmandu Guest House  
Tel: 4700942, 4700919

## 10 X MOISTURISER FOR DANDRUFF-FREE HAIR\*

New generation Clinic All Clear removes the root cause of dandruff. It treats scalp dryness with ten times the moisturising properties of a non-conditioning shampoo. Giving you healthy, shiny and dandruff free hair.



\*Visible flakes with regular use.

NO DRYNESS. NO DANDRUFF.



## Dear Wave Customers



**Only 5 days are left for paying Wave phone bills for the month of Kartik 2063. The last day of payment is Mangsir 26, 2063.**



**Pay the bill within the stipulated period and ensure interruption free service for your phone.**



Bills can be paid at the following Customer Service Centers:

Shanti Marga-1, Hattisar, Tel: 2000104, 2000105  
Machhapokhari, Balaju, Tel: 2000401  
Chuchchepati, Chabahal, Tel: 2000301  
Nakkhu Chowk, Lalitpur, Tel: 2000501  
Suryavinayak Chowk, Bhaktapur, Tel: 2000601  
Gathaghar, Thimi, Tel: 2000701

We are open on all days including Saturdays



**United Telecom Limited**

Tel: 2222222, Fax: 2499999  
E-Mail: [info@utlnepal.com](mailto:info@utlnepal.com)  
Web Site: <http://www.utlnepal.com>

# Certified problem

## Accurately assessing the size and strength of the PLA will be a nightmare



JB PUN

**JB PUN**

Certification of guerrillas and their weapons is a cornerstone of the peace process. This is what the success and credibility of the cantonment and 'arms management' hinges on. But certification is exactly what the 12-page long peace agreement leaves vague. The best the seven parties and the Maoists could come up with after six days of discussion was an agreement to "solve the issue of certification at the suggestion of the UN."

The deal does agree that 'People's Liberation Army' soldiers under 18, and those recruited after 26 May this year will not be in the camps. Which seems fair enough, until it becomes apparent that there is no mechanism to determine how minors and new recruits are to be identified.

Human rights watchdog Insec estimates that the Maoists' 8-21 November recruitment drive right before the peace deal was signed added almost 5,000 people to their army. Insec cautions that this figure does not include new cadres recruited in remote areas.

In Palpa, for example, five of

150 students taken away returned to the district headquarters and testified that they were undergoing military training and had been told to say that they'd already spent two years in the PLA.

In Ilam, a 13-year-old new recruit accidentally killed another teenager while learning to handle a .303 rifle.

Padam Pun reports from Rukum that the Maoists opened a temporary recruitment office and promised young people who signed up positions in the national army commensurate with their educational qualifications. Right now in Rukum students from grade five to college levels are receiving military training from the PLA.

Establishing who is a minor is difficult in the first place because not everyone has citizenship, educational and birth registration certificates. When people do have them, the paperwork often sports arbitrary birthdates. The Maoists are also likely to argue that their fighters have been unable to get citizenship certificates because of the conflict.

In places where the Maoists claimed they had set up a 'new

system' people were effectively prohibited from obtaining documents like citizenship papers from the 'old regime'. Birth registration in rural areas is a hit-or-miss affair, which is also to the advantage of the Maoists.

It is also difficult to identify who was recruited after 26 May, as many of these new fighters have had five months of training and indoctrination already. Those taken away by force, or tempted with offers of employment in the national army, are unlikely to speak out against the Maoist party.

The Maoists, for their part, understand the importance of keeping sweet the thousands of children they've used as porters, informers, guides, technicians, and cultural groups, or worse, those who have been tortured or lost limbs for the cause.

The party has a real numbers problem. At their meeting in September last year in Chunbang, Rukum, the Maoists claimed in a show of strength directed at the royal regime, to have seven divisions. In reality, the PLA had three divisions and needed about 23,000 new soldiers to add four more. They could barely recruit 1,000. The contribution from their strongholds in Rukum and Rolpa was a paltry 300 youth. They are thus now even willing to canton their militia, to make up the numbers.

The Maoists will also have to deal with the internationally-accepted 'one man, one weapon' model for guerrilla certification. Best estimates are that the PLA has around 7,000 weapons looted from the army and police, 5,000 taken from villages, and 300 bought from India. Again, to make up numbers, the Maoists thus demand that khukuris, socket and pressure cooker bombs also be considered as weapons. ●



**CHEVROLET**

**TAVERA NEO**  
2yrs / 40,000kms warranty



2yrs / 40,000kms warranty



2yrs / 40,000kms warranty

Vijaya Motors Pvt. Ltd.

E-mail: [marketing@vmpl.com.np](mailto:marketing@vmpl.com.np)

Ph: 4433205, 4414625 (Lazimpat) 2022022, 016206621 (Kantipath)



2yrs / 40,000kms warranty



**Now available, a wider choice from Chevrolet**



More tourists, please

The Nepal Association of Tour Operators (NATO) sent a letter to all foreign embassies, urging them to review and lift their travel advisories against Nepal the day after the signing of the peace agreement on 21 November. Embassies including Israel, France, and Malaysia have responded, extending their support and cooperation to NATO and Nepal's tourism industry.

Laxmi in Teku

With the addition of a new branch in Teku, Laxmi Bank now has a total of eight branches in Nepal, three of which are inside Kathmandu Valley. The new branch, situated on the premises of National Trading Limited, will host Laxmi's workforce remittance centre in addition to normal banking services. Laxmi Bank expects that the new branch—their third in the last four months—will attract commercial clientele in the Teku/ Kalimati area, as well as residential customers from surrounding neighbourhoods including Kalimati, Tahachal, and Kuleshwor.



Awarded

Everest Bank has been awarded Bank of the Year-2006, Nepal by *The Banker*, a publication of the British Financial Times. The award is given out on the basis of commendable



performance, recording consistent business growth, improved asset quality, good governance, and returns to shareholders. Over the last financial year, the bank's disposable net profit increased 39 percent to Rs 237.3 million. Laxmi also saw a 36 percent increase in deposits, a 28 percent increase in advances, and a 21 percent rise in operating profits to Rs 453.1 million from Rs 375.1 million in the previous year. The bank also reports among the lowest non-performing assets of all commercial banks in Nepal. Everest Bank has 18 branches with plans for two more, and its own online remittance service.

More sport

Nimbus Sports Broadcast has given Pacific Traders authority to distribute the Neo Sports and Neo Sports Plus channels within Nepal. Neo Sports is a 24-hour cricket channel, and Neo Sports Plus covers major international sporting events.

NEW PRODUCTS

CLICK: Fujifilm has launched a range of new photographic products via Rainbow Group Nepal, including two models of Fujifilm Minilab—the Frontier Digital 500 and the Frontier Digital 550.



Volunteering growth

We need short-term foreign experts for more diverse and efficient industry

Last week, I spoke about career management at a Kathmandu business school. My audience, final-semester MBA students in their 20s, said that in addition to teaching them the art of resumé-crafting and interview-giving,



STRICTLY BUSINESS  
Ashutosh Tiwari

their school regularly invites professionals to talk about the types of jobs and career paths available in Nepal's private and non-profit sectors.

The students I spoke to are relatively fortunate—they represent the decimal-thin upper-end slice of this country's five million citizens between the age of 16 and 24. They will find jobs but hundreds of thousands of their peers will end up going to India, Malaysia, and the Gulf countries for jobs, while still more will look for employment in urban Nepal.

Given this reality affecting one-fifth of our population, how are we to create thousands of jobs in the near future? We need not revisit one of those telescopic 20-year development plans that become meaningless by being all things to all people. But how about giving space to conceive and implement multiple, diverse and experimentally-oriented small plans that address the pieces of our employment problem from different angles? One plan could be to allow competent and willing foreign volunteers—on a one-year visa with an option to renew for a year

more—into the country to serve as advisors to Nepal's small and large for-profit businesses.

There are three reasons why our private-sector firms can derive value by making use of temporary, inexpensive, voluntary foreign expertise. First, our growth-oriented firms do well up to a point, after which they appear unable to grow further. If some of these firms have access to additional networks, markets, product ideas and designs, and even sources of capital, they are likely to expand further and hire more people. Without taking away jobs, well-placed volunteers can bring in the appropriate business knowledge and technological know-how to help such firms develop further.

Second, our firms learn to do business by copying the practices of other Nepali firms, which are badly run to start with. They do not even know what they lack to develop well-functioning personnel management, accounting, marketing, product development systems and the like. They're reluctant to purchase business services, but volunteers can help spread business methods that cut costs, boost revenues, and improve the quality of the workforce.

Third,

seeing how visitors remain Nepal's informal ambassadors abroad long after their treks are over, it's conceivable that many business volunteers too will remain in touch long after their assignments are finished. They'll deepen relationships, informally market Nepal as a destination for small-size investments, source products and services, help link our businesses to global customers, and send more visitors our way.

Some agencies, such as GTZ, do assign foreign experts as short-term volunteers in Nepali firms. In 2002, for example, a German carpenter spent some months at a woodworking facility in Patan, teaching new methods to craftsmen while learning from them. That exchange led to higher product quality for the Nepali firm.

For our businesses to grow to create jobs, we will need many such interactions, in an institutionalised form, between expert volunteers and firms willing to provide basic amenities in exchange for services that add value.

Yes, some bad apples may find their way in. But if the easing of visa restrictions comes with appropriate safeguards, the positive consequences of hosting business-focused foreign volunteers for a couple of years far outweigh the risks. ●



Did your paper arrive on time this morning? If not, call our

Customer care @ 5547002

DIRECT LINE



Himalmedia Pvt. Ltd. Hatiban Lalitpur



REVEAL THE **5** SIGNS OF FAIR, FLAWLESS SKIN

- Radiant Fairness
- 100% Blemish Lightening
- Clear Even-tone
- Instant Smoothing
- Non-Oily Look

NEW FAIR & LOVELY SKIN CLARITY ANTI-MARKS FAIRNESS CREAM is specially formulated for blemish-prone skin. It's unique VITA-ALOE COMPLEX clarifies, lightens and reduces blemishes and hyper-pigmentation, to give visibly fairer, flawless complexion.

Fair & Lovely skinClarity™



# Memories of torture

Ghanesh Dhakal in *Kantipur*, 2 December

कान्तिपुर

Ramesh Prasad Guragain, Krishna Raj KC, Nischal Nakarmi, and I were arrested from my room in Ghattekulo Heights on the evening of 3 December 2003 by a Royal Nepal Army team led by Colonel Raju Basnet. I knew the former two as teachers but had only just met Nischal Nakarmi. At the time, I was studying at Tri-Chandra Campus and teaching at Maitidevi Higher Secondary School.

As we were being blindfolded and put into a van, Colonel Basnet threatened Nakarmi, "Capturing you is a great success for us. Whatever we do, we won't kill you." The other two teachers and I are still alive but we do not know what happened to Nakarmi. An OHCHR report from 23 May this year listed his name among the 47 disappeared from Bhairabnath Battalion.

During the 266 days I spent in Bhairabnath I did not believe I would make it out alive. We were blindfolded and hooded all day long, our hands were tied behind our backs and we did not get two proper meals a day. We were tortured while going to the toilet, forbidden from bathing or brushing our teeth for months, made to exercise even when we had no physical strength, tortured again, beaten by drunk soldiers every night, electrocuted, beaten with thin plastic pipes, kicked with jackbooted feet, doused with ice-cold water, dunked in vats of urine, abused endlessly.

We were usually kept indoors, in the squash courts, but several times we were loaded onto a truck and taken to a bunker. From the talk of the soldiers on guard we



realised that a team from the International Committee of the Red Cross had come to inspect the barracks, and were shown the empty hall.

During our last days in the squash hall, we were forced at gunpoint to write and sign a statement that read, "I am a Maoist and am in the very comfortable custody of the security forces. Since arresting me a few days ago, they have treated me humanely. I have not been tortured and have no problems here. If I am released, the Maoists will kill me and so, for reasons of my own security, I have chosen not to contact my family. I will be released in a few

days." The statements were undated and those who could not write were made to put their thumbprints.

On 16 March, 2004, as the Battalion celebrated its anniversary with a big party, we were kept hungry all day. That night Major Bibek Bista led a team that beat us with their boots and pipes.

The day I was released, my prisoner number, 96, was suddenly called out. I was dragged to a nearby tent and my blindfold was taken off. Major Bista was sitting there. He didn't appear to be the devil I'd imagined him to be. He seemed understanding and asked me whether I

knew him. I said I'd heard his voice. "Has anyone done anything wrong to *mastersaab*?" he asked. I lied that I was all right. "I told them to take special care of you," he said.

"That's what detention is like," I replied. "Mastersaab, no one has 'Maoist' written on their forehead. We have to interrogate and you were a victim. Please don't mind." I said I didn't mind, but that if I was innocent, he should release me.

"I am trying to get you released. What will you do for us if you are released? You must give us information about the Maoists." I told him I was not in a position to do that. His second proposal was: "After being freed do not meet journalists or human rights activists. If you do, you will be responsible for your own safety. If you say anything about anyone (Nischal Nakarmi), you will be brought in again and I cannot guarantee your life then. Nepal is small. We can pick you up in an hour."

I was blindfolded again. After a while another officer came in, shoved my head around, and threatened me, "Master, don't think you are free. We can bring you back in a minute. If you speak one word about the barracks outside, your life is gone." At around 2PM I was told to sign a receipt for my belongings. After a few hours of waiting around, I was blindfolded and told to lie down on the seat. I could sense that we were turning often, and finally I was dropped off at a relative's home in Baneshwor. In the 266 days I was in custody, I went down from 58kg to 44kg.

After my release I had to meet army officials on specified dates. I had to go alone, but I made secret arrangements to have relatives all around so if I was taken in again, they would know. I was summoned 36 times after I was released, and each time I was warned that to speak about what happened would mean death.





**BAJAJ**  
*Pulsar DTS-i*  
DEFINATELY MALE  
**RELOADED**

**The Best has become even BETTER**  
[44 New Changes Incorporated]



**WOLF EYED HEADLAMP | DIGITAL COCKPIT | L.E.D TAIL LAMP**

**Price: Rs. 1,54,900/- (180cc), Rs. 1,46,900/- (150cc)**

**5 Yrs Warranty-180cc, 4 Yrs Warranty\*-150cc | 5 Yrs Free Service**

**Dealers:** Dillibazar Exchange, 4441042; Gyaneshwore Exchange, Tel: 4435916; Kumaripati Exchange, 5533316; Battisputali Exchange, Tel: 4497554; Boudha Exchange, Tel: 016225725; New Baneshwore Exchange, Tel: 4781946; Bhaktapur, Tel: 6611777; Banepa, Tel: 662264; Pokhara, Tel: 522315; Baglung, Tel: 520882; Dumre, Tel: 580169; Narayangadh, Tel: 523689; Rajbiraj, Tel: 520625; Birgunj, Tel: 523837; Hetauda, Tel: 522498; Lahan, Tel: 560987; Mirchैया, Tel: 550401; Siraha, Tel: 520974; Biratnagar, Tel: 524476; Janakpur, Tel: 521300; Dharan, Tel: 522682; Damak, Tel: 582096; Dang, Tel: 560743; Dhangadi, Tel: 522058; Birtamode, Tel: 540724; Butwal, Tel: 544549; Bhairawa, Tel: 527700; Palpa, Tel: 520946; Nepalgunj, Tel: 522751; Surkhet, Tel: 521358; Taulihawa, Tel: 560416; Malangwa, Tel: 520703

\* Conditions Apply

**Sole Authorised Dealer:**  
**Hansraj Hulaschand & Co. Pvt. Ltd.**  
Teku Road, Kathmandu.  
Ph. No: 4220094/4230001/4261200







Historic night

Biswadeep Pandey in *Samaya*, 7 December

समय

It was the night of 28 November, and the entire nation’s attention was on the prime minister’s residence in Baluwatar. Senior party leaders, civil society members, and observers were at the hall. The observers and leaders of other communist parties looked confused, almost harassed. The talks were delayed, and some were almost falling asleep from exhaustion, waiting for the PM to wake up from his nap so the talks could resume.

There was confusion over who was organising the talks that night. Frustrated, a UML leader started shouting at Home Minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula, “Sitaula ji, it looks like the talks are not going to start anytime soon. I’m not sure who is talking to whom! And where is my tea?” To which Sitaula answered gently, “This is the best Congress can do.”

The bickering did not disturb Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal, who was intently reading the newspapers. Deputy Prime Minister Amik Sherchan covered his face with his topi and took a nap. Devendra Raj Pandey was reciting satirical poems about the peace process, Laxman Aryal was practising yoga, and Lila Mani Pokhrel was being interviewed by radio stations on his mobile phone. Madhab Nepal asked his assistant Ishwor Pokhrel to inform him when the talks began, and left Baluwatar. Tired of waiting, Maoist leader Ram Bahadur Thapa ordered coffee, which took an hour to arrive. In the meantime, Maoist spokesperson Krishna Bahadur Mahara inspected all the rooms at the prime minister’s residence. Comrade Barsha Man Pun ‘Ananta’ ordered Frooti to cheer up the leaders.

Though the talks had not even begun, journalists outside the residence were eagerly waiting for any news on new developments. I could not tell them what was really going on and so said the talks were going smoothly and that the formal talks would begin soon.

Krishna Prasad Sitaula and Baburam Bhattarai were the only leaders serious about summit talks. They were

having an intense discussion, but both were obviously frustrated. Sitaula was worried the talks would fail if the agreement could not be signed that night.

Disappointed with the situation, I told Bhattarai, “I’d imagined there would be heated discussions in summit talks; I was so wrong.” Bhattarai smiled and said, “You’re lucky to have had the chance to study Nepali politics and history in the making so close up.”

At 11.30 PM, Prime Minister Koirala came down to the hall and the mood changed instantly. Leaders woke up from naps, and others came back, and soon the leaders of all eight parties were present. Sitaula read out the agreement, there was some discussion, and it was finally signed at 12.30 AM on 29 November.

Biswadeep Pandey is assistant to Maoist leader Baburam Bhattarai.

Paid off

Himal Khabarpatrika, 2-15 December

हिमाल

During the royal regime, only those with connections received financial compensation if their houses had been attacked out in the districts. Those who have received such monies include ministers, parliamentarians, members of various political parties, and those with social connections. Home Ministry files show that after 2001 more than Rs 150 million was given out as compensation. Over 600 people received amounts larger than Rs 100,000.

- Some prominent personalities received considerable sums:
- Kamal Thapa: Rs 450,000
  - Shiva Raj Joshi: Rs 1,000,000
  - Sunil K Bhandari: Rs 1,050,000
  - Parshu N Chaudhary: Rs 250,000
  - Khum Bahadur Khadka: 1,680,000
  - Khemraj B Mayalu: Rs 350,000
  - Sarbendra N Shukla: Rs 200,000
  - Hari Bahadur Basnet: Rs 92,000
  - Hem Bahadur Malla: Rs 183,000
  - Dil Bahadur Lama: Rs 150,000
  - Salim Miya Ansari: Rs 125,000
  - Prativa Rana: Rs 200,000
  - Dilendra Prasad Badu: Rs 58,000
  - Hem Bahadur Singh: Rs 175,000
  - Devi Ram Sharma: Rs 300,000
  - Kuwer Singh Rana: Rs 150,000
  - Jagat Bahadur Bista: Rs 200,000
  - Bharat Malla: Rs 225,000
  - Krishna Bahadur Giri: Rs 100,000
  - Khum B Kunwar: Rs 200,000
  - Nar Bahadur Budathoki: Rs 71,000
  - Hasta Bahadur Malla: Rs 150,000
  - Duryodhan Singh Chaudhary: Rs 225,000
  - Dil Bahadur Shahi: Rs 700,000
  - Padam B Bhandari: Rs 200,000

Hope for Humla

Interview with NC(D) member of parliament from Humla, Jiwan Shahi in the *Prakop Chakra* program on Radio Sagarmatha 102FM, 4 December

Radio Sagarmatha: There are a lot of reports in the media about food shortages in Humla. What is the exact situation?

Jiwan Shahi: I keep saying we don’t have a food shortage in Humla, we have a rice shortage. The people of Humla have their own crops: corn, millet, potatoes. It is true that winter droughts over the past two years have affected these indigenous crops, and the food shortage is more acute than in the past. The rice that is flown in to Humla for the civil servants has spread dependency on the outside world for food even to Humlis.

What can be done to make Humla self-sufficient?

Southern Humla, where there is supposed to be a food shortage now, is the part of Humla that can feed the whole district. It’s a low-lying valley, and bananas and vegetables grow there. If only we could irrigate the flats along the Karnali, the farms could make Humla and even the whole Karnali, self-sufficient.

And less dependent?

Food should never be just given away except in extreme emergencies. The World Food Program is on the right track with its food for work program. If we can use the food to build irrigation in southern Humla it would solve our long-term food



KUNDA DIXIT

crisis. As an MP I have always stressed on road access and irrigation for Humla. This way, we can set aside upper Humla for livestock, middle Humla for fruit and nut cultivation, and southern Humla for grain. And you will see that within a few years Humla won’t be hungry anymore.

As an MP you must know all the politicians in Kathmandu, why can’t you ask them for help?

I have, but Humla is always given the least priority. I have been in politics for 20 years now, and they always say “yes-yes” and then nothing happens. All we need is Rs 40 million in irrigation for Humla to grow enough food, but I am beginning to suspect there is no interest in making us self-sufficient because the mafia involved in flying food grains to Karnali have a vested interest in keeping us hungry.



It’s best for the country if city folk stay in the city, and jungle people in the jungle, *hakim sa’ab*.

हिमाल Robin Sayami in Himal Khabarpatrika, 2-15 December

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“The Maoists are matchless at sucking up to Indian expansionism. How can they, who indulge in such unstable politics, do the nation and the people any good?”

Chitrabahadur KC, Chairman, Janamorcha Nepal in *Dristi*, 5 December

SELECTED MATERIAL TRANSLATED EVERY WEEK FROM THE NEPALI PRESS

Fly with the new MAZDA 6:

- Cruise Control
- Fly by Wire
- Information (Digital) Display
- Advanced Engine
- Six Speed Transmission
- 6 CD Changer
- Cock Pit Comfort

MAZDA 6

MAZDA 3

zoom - zoom

The best car in its class

MAZDA

PADMA SHREE PRIVATE LIMITED

PO Box: 5623, Nag Pokhari, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: 44 11 900, 44 35 688  
Fax: 977 1 44 13 838 Email: padmasri@ccsl.com.np Showroom: Nag Pokhari, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: 44 35 631





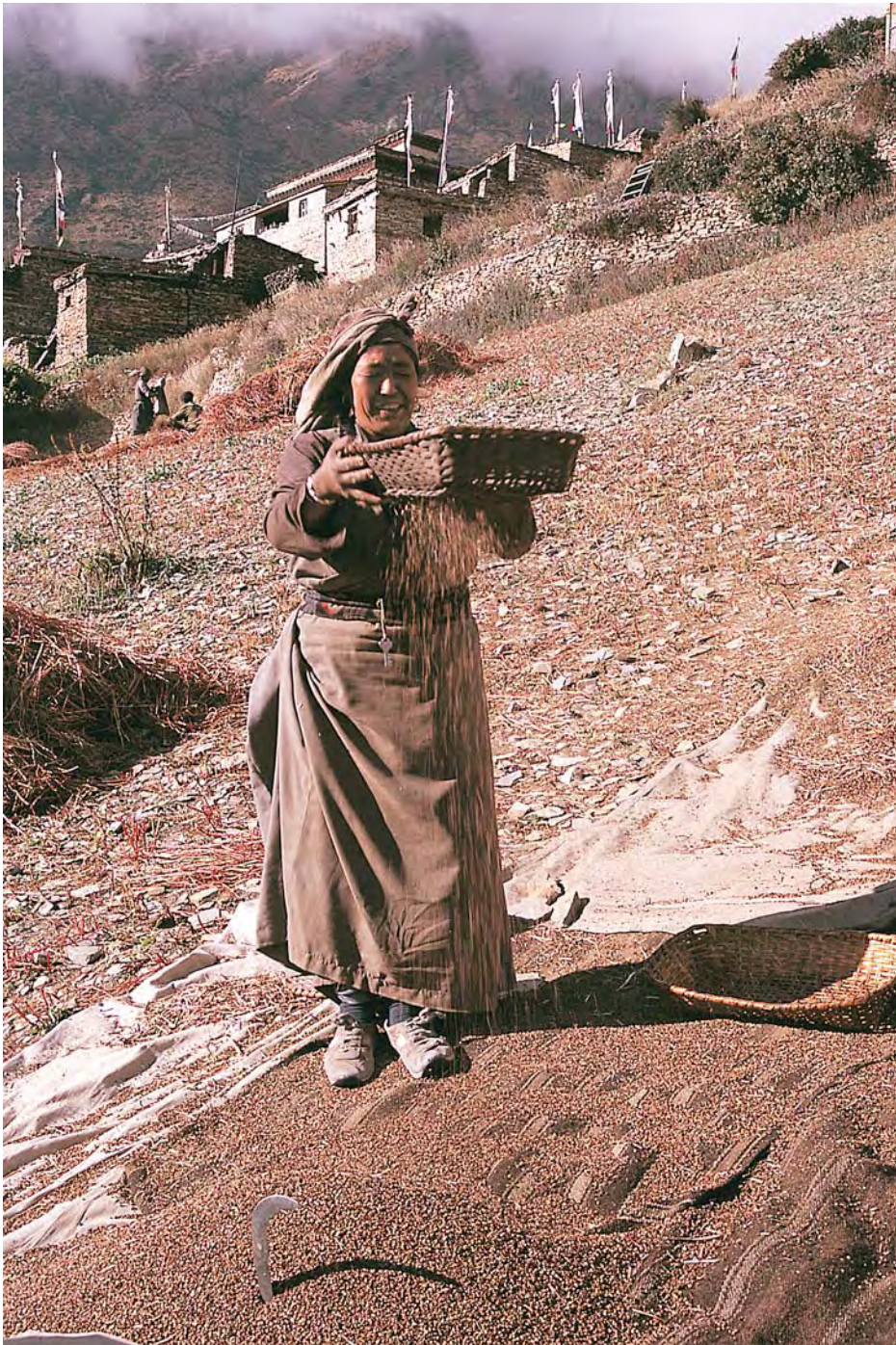
MANI LAMA

# Mountain lives



SUSHEEL KUMAR SHRESTHA





DINESH SHRESTHA



PROJJWAL B KHADKA

**T**hese images from In Harmony—People and Nature in Nepal's Highlands, a photography contest organised by Himal Association and WWF Nepal, are just some of the splendid work on display at this year's Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival (Kimff). Each of the 180 entries fell into one of the three categories, 'Sustainable livelihood', 'The high price of tourism', and 'Sacred natural spaces'. The 43 picks that made the finals will be on exhibition at Russian Cultural Centre until 11 December. Three winning photographs will be selected on the basis of originality, technique, content and effectiveness in conveying the theme and the winners will receive cash prizes at the Kimff closing ceremony at Gurukul on 11 December.

#### Facing page:

**THE LONG TRAIL TO MT KAILASH:** Pilgrims and porters travel to Humla in far west Nepal. (Mani Lama)

**ANIMAL PORTERS:** Crossing the Seti in Bajhang. (Susheel Kumar Shrestha)

#### This page:

**TRADITIONAL FARMING:** A woman winnows grain in Ghyaru, Manang.

(Dinesh Shrestha)

**BROTHERS IN ARMS:** Making a living by the Bardibas road in Banepa.

(Projjwal B Khadka)



# Enhance your lifestyle

## अब घरमै PARTY







**Finance Available**




# Free



**मूल्य रु. २५००/-**

#### Our all new product range:

\* यो योजना पौष १५, २०६३ सम्म मात्र ।

Marketed in Nepal by:

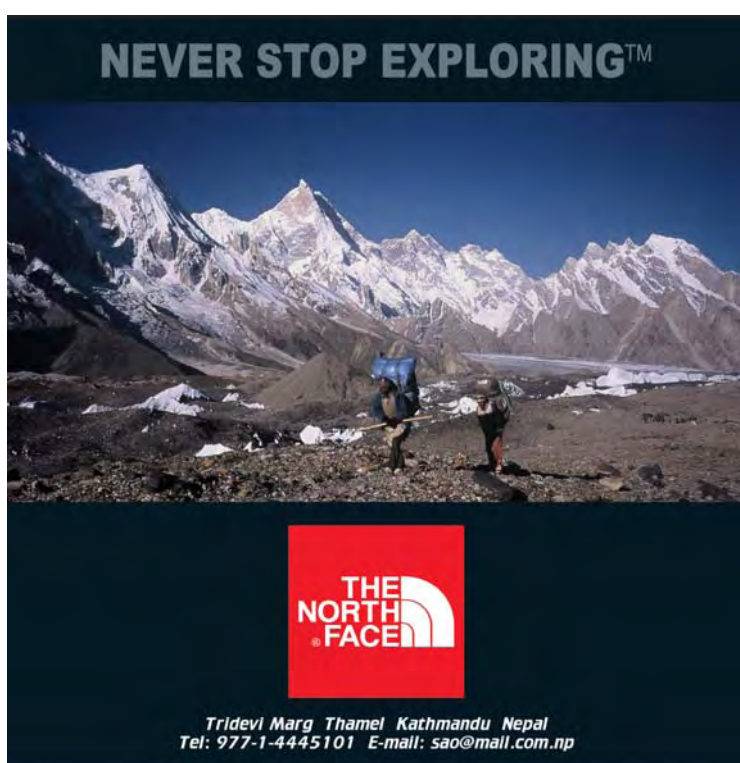


15K30MJ Rs. 13290/-	15K30ML Rs. 13990/-	21K44ML Rs. 18990/-	21K40ML Rs. 20990/-	21T40MA Rs. 24990/-	29K40ML Rs. 37990/-	29T40MA Rs. 46990/-	21Z30MA Rs. 23990/-	29Z30MA Rs. 42990/-

#### विश्वको नं. १ टेलिमिजनको सौगात

प्रस्तुत छ, **SAMSUNG** फ्ल्याट टिभि को नयाँ मोडलहरूसँगै उत्कृष्ट उपहार ।  
२१" र २९" फ्ल्याट टिभि संग उच्चस्तरीय डिजर सेट (१८ पिस) मूल्य रु. २५००/- पर्ने सितैमा  
१५" फ्ल्याट टिभि संग उत्कृष्ट जग-ग्लास सेट (७ पिस) मूल्य रु. ८९०/- पर्ने सितैमा  
अझ पनि विश्वको नं. १ टि.भि. छाडेर अरु साधारण टि.भि. किननुहुन्छ ?





**सोशल साइन्स बहाः**  
SOCIAL SCIENCE BAH

announces  
**The Mahesh Chandra Regmi Lecture 2006**  
to be delivered by  
**Michael Oppitz**  
(Professor of Ethnology and Director of the Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zürich)  
on  
**Close-Up and Wide-Angle: On Comparative Ethnography in the Himalaya and Beyond**  
When: 3 pm on 16 December, '06, Saturday.  
Where: The Russian Cultural Centre, Kamalpokhari.  
Admission open to all.

**Film Show**  
The first-ever public screening in Kathmandu of Prof Oppitz's highly acclaimed ethnographic film  
**Shamans of the Blind Country** (1980, 223 min, colour)  
will be at 1 pm on 15 Dec, '06, at Yala Maya Kendra, Patan Dhoka  
Entry: Rs 100/Rs 50 for students with valid ID  
Visit [www.soscbaha.org](http://www.soscbaha.org) for a review of the film.

Please direct queries to 5548142

# Blogwise

## Most bloggers this week sympathise with the king

MALLIKA ARYAL

Promises have been made to the Maoist cadres and militia, which simply cannot be kept—there aren't enough belongings to steal from those who 'have' in order to pass out to those who 'have not'.

-Dr Thomas A Marks on Nepali Perspectives  
<http://nepaliperspectives.blogspot.com/>

Those who rejoiced at how King Gyanendra had become the most humiliated man in Asia perhaps didn't expect the palace to issue a statement hailing the accord. It [takes] uncommon effort to extol the success of your adversaries.

-Maila Baje on Nepali Netbook  
<http://nepalinetbook.blogspot.com/>

Just when royalists are abandoning the king, Maila Baje's rightist writings in Nepali Netbook talk of the republican camp's frustration over the still-strong royal presence. His reading is that republicans are surprised at the staying power of the monarchy and frustrated because it seems as if Nepalis might still be attached to the institution. Maila Baje believes anti-monarchy camps across the southern border are vexed that the king hasn't fled the country.

Similar sentiments are expressed in Umesh Shrestha's Mero Sansar, where posters speculate that the king, Girija Koirala, and the seven parties came to an agreement on the modalities of how to keep the monarchy in the country when the king relinquished power in April.

No king can be expected to keep quiet while his house is being destroyed

-Prayas on Mero Sansar  
<http://www.mysansar.com>

Regarding the ongoing process, bloggers still do not trust that weapons will be managed honestly from either side. Blogdai criticises the weapons management program:

What good is 'locked' when Ian Martin has given the Maoists the keys to the locker? Why 'hide' when Girija has just authorised 100 million rupees to be given to the Maoists as support?

-Blogdai  
<http://nepalnow.blogspot.com>

Save Nepal Now asks the Nepali people to be vigilant about the ongoing changes, especially arms management.

Storing their guns behind locked doors for a few months or forming an interim government consisting of Maoist leaders is not an answer to the problem, but a problem in itself. Now that they have signed an exclusive peace treaty, people like us should make sure we leave no stone unturned to disarm the rebels completely.

-Save Nepal Now  
[www.savenepalnow.org/](http://www.savenepalnow.org/)

Posters at United We Blog! say the seven parties are using republicanism as a shield for their own incompetence and past mistakes. People need food, shelter, and education, they write, without which republicanism is irrelevant. No party has a strategy for making the lives of Nepali people better, so it's no surprise Nepalis are wary of any political change.

Despite the rumours about Maila Baje of Nepali Netbook being a Narayanhiti insider, the palace does not yet have a blog. However, [www.nepalmonarchy.gov.np](http://www.nepalmonarchy.gov.np) offers enquiring minds who wonder what the royals are up to these days a glimpse into a royal day, official appointments and an official history of the Shah dynasty, and all the royal proclamations and messages. Also on are Gyanendra's poems and numerous official portraits of royalty. Looking at the latter can be a little like coming across a once-common species now considered endangered. Further amusement comes from the homepage, where one image is a picture of Everest all right—from the Chinese side.

# Hunger in peace



MARTY LOGAN

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE: For Humlis like Man Bahadur Budha, Jaltirkha Budha, and Mangite Sunar, peace without food is little consolation.



# Women after war

**NARESH NEWAR**

The Maoist movement may have helped improve the position of women in Nepal, but the peace agreement is a throwback to less equal times. Women account for nearly 40 percent of the ‘People’s Liberation Army’, but nothing in the deal addresses the specific needs of women ex-combatants. Demobilisation and rehabilitation experts point out that women joining armed insurgencies usually cross tougher social and psychological

borders than men to do so. Often they return home to stigma in peacetime, or at best to the old roles they’d once fought against. “In most societies, men are welcomed as heroes following peace agreements. Women are not given the same respect and often get lost in the reintegration process,” an international expert on female combatants recently told us in Kathmandu. In Nepal so far, there are more unanswered basic questions than solutions. Will women ex-combatants—often with less training and education—receive

the same opportunities as their male counterparts, such as the option to join the national army? Or will their options include stereotypically female small-scale business and vocational training? Many Maoist women are mothers; what happens to their children? Will health facilities in the camps include reproductive care? How many female combatants do the Maoists really have? “For real, sustainable reintegration, women ex-combatants need employment opportunities,” says Sabnam Pradhan from Franchised-Skills, an employment-oriented training project of Helvetas that helps provide vocational and psycho-social training to former male combatants. Last year alone, F-Skill helped find loans and jobs in the Gulf for nearly 85 former rebels. F-Skill does not offer specific programs targeted at women ex-fighters.

The UN’s new *Operational Guide to the Integrated DDR Standards*, not yet publicly available, also points to the weapon=combatant misperception, which is one reason why women cadres who might not have carried conventional weapons are not in DDR programs. The worst-case scenario is the fallout of peace in countries such as Sierra Leone, El Salvador, and Liberia, where female fighters, ignored in the DDR process, joined armed criminal gangs and prostitution rings. Commanders of armed groups often keep female combatants out of demobilisation processes, or continue to hide away abducted women and girls for fear of legal and social consequences, according to the guide. ●



KIRAN PANDAY

**MARTY LOGAN** in HUMLA

When local Maoist leaders announced after April’s Jana Andolan that students should return to Shreenagar’s Suryodaya Secondary, the school’s population more than doubled, as pupils and their parents stopped worrying about the institution being used as a recruiting ground. The rebels also stopped “taxing” teachers seven percent of their salaries. “Previously they pressured us not to teach Sanskrit and moral education, saying the stories about the gods were untrue. They also said they would introduce a new curriculum, but they didn’t do it,” says head teacher Hari Gorkhali, sitting on a bench outside the school’s hostel as the sun sank behind the surrounding hills late one recent afternoon. Today, teachers in the high school that serves Shreenagar and four neighbouring VDCs in southern Humla are left alone to do their work and all locals can travel in and out of the village

without getting permission after the previous ‘chit’ system was abolished. But that doesn’t mean residents are bursting with hope. “We heard about peace but we don’t know how it will change things for us,” says one man among a dozen villagers speaking with us. Like others, the man had to be prompted before admitting that positive things had already happened—like, for instance, the Maoists no longer force locals to carry their goods. Reporters flew in to Humla on a helicopter chartered by the UN’s World Food Program (WFP) to deliver rice as part of its \$5.4 million emergency program to respond to last winter’s drought in 10 districts. Two weeks ago, French NGO Action Against Hunger expanded its therapeutic feeding for severely malnourished children in 10 VDCs of Humla and Mugu to Shreenagar: children here are in worse shape than those already being treated, said one development worker based in the area. “I’d like to request the state,

WFP and other donors to carry out a program of sustainable development,” Maoist area-in-charge Lal Kesh Jaisi said. “The most important thing is food production, which needs irrigation,” he added. The request is echoed by other villagers who stand one-by-one to recount their hardships: inadequate rain, thin crops, poor schools, an empty sub-health post and discrimination by people in India, where many of them will go to work for wages until the winter wheat matures next spring—if the rain comes. Still, Nepali Congress student leader Lokendra Bhandari tells a positive story. Seven years ago he left for Kathmandu after the Maoists threatened all political competitors. He returned a month ago. “There are still some small problems: Maoist leaders still act like they’re in charge. But we’re cooperating with the seven parties and the Maoists, and yesterday’s welcome ceremony was a joint event,” he says. ●

# Prachanda JBR and The Great Hysterical Pupil’s War

While taking a well-deserved break from meddling in the country’s internal affairs, the Hand (Foreign) couldn’t help but notice the recent dragooning of children into the so-called People’s Army. (Didn’t we just witness the signing of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement banning all such activity?!) Was this another example of Nepal’s astonishing ability to sustain dual realities concurrently, or a brazen act of Maoist duplicity? Settling firmly on the latter, it dawned on me that this latest tsunami of abductions and forced recruitment, appropriately labelled ‘crimes against humanity’ by UN reps, brings into sharp focus a devastating policy the Maoists have employed for the last ten years. For the youth of Nepal this is not a new phenomenon. Under the Rana Oligarchy, education was forbidden to all but the sons of nobility. This policy of keeping the citizens ‘simple’ proved

successful for the ruling class (and debilitating for everyone else). The Rana hereditary prime ministers ruled virtually unopposed for over a century. Upon their overthrow in the 1950s, Nepal faced the daunting task of setting up an entire educational system from scratch. Now, as if emulating the very history books they’ve banned, the Maoists systematically deny Nepali children their inherent right to education. The war waged against the state has consistently targeted the school system through constant strikes, forced closures, and kidnapping of students for indoctrination, leaving the country with another lost decade on the record. Where’s the merit of using children as fodder in the name of a failed, patently bankrupt ideology? Or any ideology, for that matter.



NARENDRA SHRESTHA

**LOST GENERATION:** In 2004, these students were taken away by Maoists from Chhaimale, 25km south of Kathmandu, made to walk for three days and forced to listen to revolutionary speeches

Official Maoist policy dictates all education must be state-run, exposing a fear of independent thought the Ranas would applaud. Throughout the conflict, private schools have been singled out for special attention, characterised by extortion on a massive scale. The rebels vehemently oppose such institutions and righteously demand their abolition, but they’ve found them convenient sources of free money. As with the Maharajas of yore, exceptions are always made for the elite, in this case Maoist. Children of high-ranking cadre study in exclusive institutions abroad while their parents wage war on the schooling system at home. Just in case we forget that irony is alive and well in the teetering kingdom, it is worth noting that the single most damning legacy of Rana misrule has proved a boon to the Maoist cause. Nepal’s pitiful literacy rate—far below that of most Asian nations—has provided an audience unused to critical thinking, less likely to question rhetoric, and easy to brainwash. The politburo must count themselves lucky that major global trends—such as the collapse of communism—have passed by un-noticed. While the Maoist leadership acted out childish fantasies of epic struggle from comfortable sanctuaries in Foreign Land, (any similarity to the author’s *nom de plume* is purely coincidental – or is it?), the result is Nepal’s youth have again been denied the chance for a normal childhood. If the Rana regime left a land woefully ill-prepared for the future as a modern nation-state, some forty years later the Maoists have spawned a traumatised cohort trained only in sloganeering, coercion, and warfare. Those cynically used by men seeking power will be left with nothing to show for it. Accustomed to free chicken at the barrel of a gun, and bereft of skills for gainful employment, many potentially productive members of the much-trumpeted ‘New Nepal’ are likely to resort to crime *sans* ideology as a means of survival. Unfortunately, that’s all their gang boss gurus have taught them. Your opinionated scapegoat willingly concedes he may know less than he lets on, especially concerning byzantine Nepali politics. That said, Foreign Hand is dead sure about a few things. The trust granted to a nation’s political class by its people includes the duty to ensure access to decent education. Enabling the young with the means to go forth and prosper is a primary responsibility of our leaders, real and presumed. In this respect, the Maoists have failed as miserably as the Ranas before them, wilfully sacrificing yet another generation to a narrow, deeply-flawed political agenda. Those with a gimlet eye will ruefully observe that even after all these years, the empowering nature of education still terrifies those who would be king. ●



Congratulations to all the winners of the 3rd month's lucky draw



**1st prize**  
Gyan Kirana Pasal  
Nepalgunj, Banke  
(Himal subscriber)  
21" Samsung CTV

**2nd Prize**  
Bhanubhakta Joshi  
(Himal subscriber)  
Max DJ 500  
Samsung Audio

**3rd Prize**  
Pratima Siddhiki  
(Wave subscriber)  
18 EVMS  
Samsung Refrigerator

**4th Prize**  
Central for legal  
research development  
(Himal subscriber)  
7300 EG Samsung  
Washing Machine

**5th Prize**  
Nilima Bajracharya  
(Wave subscriber)  
GE82W Samsung  
Microwave Oven

**6th Prize**  
Indra Pd Shilpakar  
(Himal subscriber)  
P-365H Samsung  
DVD Player

**7th Prize**  
Shankar Kr Basnet  
(Himal subscriber)  
VC 4620 Samsung  
Vacuum Cleaner

For subscriptions: 50611628 | 2110660

Life on Mars

Scientists have discovered tantalising evidence of water gushing down gullies on Mars, dramatically boosting the chances that regions of the planet might still be capable of harbouring life. Pictures taken from Nasa's Mars Global Surveyor, which has been orbiting the planet for 10 years, reveal distinctive streaks of what is believed to be water, bursting out of crater walls and flowing around boulders and other rocky debris strewn across the surface. Researchers have previously found evidence that lakes once dotted the Martian landscape, and vast quantities of water ice are locked up in sheets of permafrost at the planet's frigid poles. But this is the first evidence that liquid water, crucial to nurture life, might still be found on the planet today. (The Guardian)

Virtual yaks

Virtual worlds are yielding real cash, as non-profits target online Sim City-style communities, including the hugely popular Second Life. Save the Children is rattling the virtual tin in the 3D world, and the approximately two million Second Life participants can now travel to Save the Children's 'Yak Shack' and pay 1,000 Linden dollars (the game currency) for their own pixillated yak. The money is



transferred to a Save the Children account at \$3.50 to 1,000 Linden dollars, and is used to provide livestock for Tibetan families. A Second Life event for a US-based cancer charity recently raised \$40,000, and the anti-poverty World Development Movement has also established a presence in the community. (The Guardian)

Science in motion

Queen's University psychology professor Niko Troje is using a sophisticated motion-capture system to glean information encrypted in 'biological motion'. People wear special suits that outline their bodies with white reflective markers as high-speed video cameras record their movements from the marker dot patterns. Findings from over the last three years are relevant clinically and psychologically. For example, body motion can indicate telltale signs of impending mental depression, check progress of stroke victims, or, depending on their body language, even place politicians on a liberal to conservative continuum. The scientists have also found evidence that animal brains (including our own) are probably hard-wired to detect the presence of other animals from simple foot motion, rather than from body shapes. This 'Life Detector' was discovered using student observers and processed recordings, and provides possible explanation for why wild animals are more startled by humans on foot than on bicycles or canoes, or why certain stalking behaviours of predators are so effective. A popular website demonstration at <http://www.biomotionlab.ca/> regularly gets 50,000 hits a day. (The Toronto Star)



INSPIRE YOUR WORLD

STATUTORY DIRECTIVE: SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH



Naturally Silky कपाल अब Strong पनि !

Discover the goodness of Vatika Root Strengthening Shampoo with Deep Conditioning. Enriched with Almond and Coconut Milk, it strengthens hair from the roots, reduces hairfall, provides deep conditioning and makes dry and damage hair amazingly silky!



Almond ले Strong, Coconut Milk ले Silky



# Subversion to submission

## Middle-class morality in a radical play

HIMALI DIXIT

**H**ELP/Nepal's production of *The Vagina Monologues* undercut the very values the NGO claimed to promote by putting it on. Instead of a message of empowerment, Friday's performance in Kathmandu often delivered precisely the opposite.

*The Vagina Monologues* is a series of short plays based on author Eve Ensler's interviews with many women. The monologues aim to fight violence against women and its destructive political, social, and economic consequences by celebrating women's sexuality and strength. In one of the plays, characters discuss what their vaginas would wear if they got dressed. At first they imagine silly, fun things—"silk stockings," "jeans," "emeralds". Then one says, "An electrical shock device, to keep unwanted strangers away." The message is one of ownership: nobody else has any right over my vagina. It is also one of outrage and anger at the fact that a woman's body is not always treated as her own. In HELP/Nepal's translation, this sentence becomes something like "*Euta current laune aujar, ta ki mero shreemaan bahek kahi auna napaos.*" "An electrical shock device, so nobody but my



HELP/NEPAL

husband can enter." Ownership is taken from the woman and laid at someone else's feet, undoing the message of the original completely. One of the most common forms of violence against women is abuse by a male partner, but domestic violence and marital rape are ignored here.

When the same characters turn to wondering what their vaginas would say if they could talk, Friday's production had them say things like "*timrai na ho*"—"it's yours anyway"—to an unnamed partner. Such phrases were absent in the original. Why did the translators feel it necessary to include them? Why, in an entire fleet of actors, directors, and NGO workers, did nobody point out that these statements go completely against the spirit of the cause they claim

to espouse? How did HELP/Nepal's production come to say such harmful things, all in the name of women's empowerment?

Despite such massive shortcomings, the production does draw attention to a number of important issues that receive painfully little public exposure. As HELP/Nepal takes it to other venues, it will be good for people to hear discussed on stage things that are usually treated with silence. Hopefully the inadequacies themselves will provoke debate. But the fact that such disempowering messages remain in a performance meant to be a celebration of strength is indicative of just how much we need—and how unaccustomed we are to—assertions of women's strength and independence. ●

# Black and white

**T**ibet has been the source of inspiration for artists and poets alike for many centuries. Artist Zhang Weiyuan says he is merely following tradition. The result of his attraction to Northern Tibet is the exhibition 'Black and White Wood Engraving on Tibet', which brings the lives of its people to Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revsited.



Weiyuan first puts down his impressions on wooden boards, which he then skilfully transfers onto paper. These engravings combine tradition with innovation, and absorb elements from the arts of sculpture and photography too. The engravings on display are a testament to Weiyuan's extensive travels, and his deep understanding of the lives of the people he portrays.

Weiyuan, a native of Qidong City in Jiangsu Province, China, has spent twenty years in Tibet and presently works as a guest painter at the Academy of Calligraphy and Painting in Henan. ●

*Black and White Wood Engraving on Tibet at Siddhartha Art Gallery until 15 December, 10AM-5.30 PM. 4438979*

# Rainbows

**D**ocumentary filmmaking in Nepal has grown tremendously in recent years. The subjects and themes explored have, unfortunately, not. A welcome change is *Imagine Rainbow in Kathmandu*, by didgeridoo performer Salil Kanika and visual designer Thomas Bertschi. This 98 minute-long film, refreshingly new in technique as well as subject, envisions hope and future in a society devastated by war.

Shot in Kathmandu Valley between November 2005 and April 2006, *Rainbow* begins with portraits of urban wastelands and shots of street children whose future seems even murkier than their dirty hands and faces and greasy hair. Bertschi, artist, visual designer, traveller, and long-time friend of Nepal, found common ground with Kanika in their dedication to giving children a voice through art.



eyes.

The five groups of children worked on much more than just music and painting—they painted faces, banners inspired by traditional ceremonial Balinese Umbal flags and school buildings, and played instruments they made themselves. At the end of the film, each group—the sarangi orchestra, the rock chorus, the drummers, the didgeridoo players, and chanters of Buddhist verses—give a grand performance.

The rainbow—inspired by the Australian aboriginal myth of the Rainbow Snake, creator of growth and fertility—is an appropriate image. The performance evokes—even in cynics—the possibility that we can create a more beautiful world.

Proceeds from *Imagine Rainbow in Kathmandu* will go towards providing further musical and cultural education for children. ●

*Alok Tumbahangphey*

*'Beautiful at any Age'*

**NEPAL PASHMINA INDUSTRY**

Blankets Ring shawl

**NPI** **Nepal Pashmina Industry**  
Main Showroom: Sooltee Mode (On the way of Hotel Sooltee)  
Thamel Showroom: Opposite Sonchaykosh Building Tel: 4273292, 4277023, 4283644 | Fax: 977 1 4270092  
Email: npi@mos.com.np | Web: www.npi-nepal.com

**"Fair Trade" Trade Fair 2006**  
An Exclusive exhibition of Fair Trade products

**What is FAIR TRADE?**  
It's a world wide movement, that strives for aritsans/farmers rights & empowerment as well as it cares for quality & consumers.

**9 DEC 2006, SATURDAY**  
(23 Mangsir 2063)  
**10:00AM TO 5:30PM**  
**AT**  
Nepal Academy Hall,  
Pragya Pratisthan | Kamaladi

**Featuring Handmade**

- Christmas Crafts collection 2006
- Home decoration and furnishing
- Mithila and Batik paintings
- Fashion accessories
- Gifts , Toys & also
- Coffee, Tea and Herbal Products

**FREE Entrance**

Organized by:  
**Fair Trade Group Nepal**  
Kupondole | Lalitpur  
☎: 5549848, 5542608

Advertisement sponsored by:  
**FedEx**  
Express  
Everest De Cargo Pvt. Ltd.  
Licencee of Federal Express Corporation

**Live demo by artisans**



## ABOUT TOWN

## EXHIBITIONS

- ❖ **Nepal from the Sky** Exhibition of aerial photographs of Nepal by Captain Bed Upreti. Yala Maya Kendra, until 9 December
- ❖ **Black & White Wood Engraving on Tibet** Exhibition by Zhang Weiyuan from Tibet. 11AM-6PM daily until 15 December at Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revisited. 4438979

## EVENTS

- ❖ **Open Discussion** on 'Tourism Management and Marketing in Nepal: a study based on Manang Down the Annapurna Circuit'. 3-5PM at Martin Chautari on 8 December. 4107599
- ❖ **Christmas Market** 3-9PM at Summit Hotel, Kopundole Height on 8 December. 5521810
- ❖ **Jamaican Peace Party** at 1905 with reggae from Jerry Julian & the Power of Joy. 8 December, 6PM onwards, Rs 599
- ❖ **Shastrartha** at Martin Chautari by MAPS. 3-5PM, 9 December to discuss cultural ecology. 4238050
- ❖ **For Good** winter concert by The Kathmandu Chorale, 3.30 PM and 6PM on 9 December at The British School. Admission free.
- ❖ **Stories in Motion** with international storyteller Cassandra Wye until 10 December at the British Council
- ❖ **Sharing Mountain Knowledge** joint ICIMOD-IUCN Book and Technology fair, Rox Garden, Hyatt Regency. 11AM-4.30 PM on 11 December, 10AM-4.30 PM on 12 December.
- ❖ **Seven habits of highly effective people** 10-12 December, 9.30 AM-5.30 PM at Soaltee Crowne Plaza. 9851036719
- ❖ **Free Special Promotion** learn Tai-Chi and Qi-Qong from 13-15 December at the Self Awakening Centre. 4256618
- ❖ **British Film Festival 2007** 15-19 January in Kathmandu, 26-28 January in Pokhara. Free tickets distributed from 9 January.

## MUSIC

- ❖ **Live Music** by Rashmi Singh and group, 7PM onwards on 8 December at Absolute Bar, Pulchok. 5521408
- ❖ **Ramaila Saanjh** with Anil Shahi and groups, 6.30 PM onwards on 15 December at Dolma Café, Thamel. 4215069
- ❖ **Open Mic Night** at ViaVia Café, Thamel every Friday, 8PM
- ❖ **Nekyham Band** live at Shambala Garden Café, Shangri-La, Kathmandu. Wednesdays, 7PM onwards, Rs 600 with barbeque
- ❖ **Classical fusion music** at Jatra, every Saturday, 7PM onwards
- ❖ **Gaine (Gandarbhās)** perform at every lunch and dinner, Club Himalaya Nagarkot. 6680080

## DINING

- ❖ **Christmas Lunch** at Shivapuri Heights Cottage, 23 December. 9841371927
- ❖ **International Brunch** every Saturday and Sunday, 11AM-3PM for Rs 499 per person (Rs 299 for children) at Hotel Himalaya
- ❖ **Te** savour Tibetan delicacies at the new Tibetan restaurant and Nepal's first noodle bar, Bluebird Mall Food Court
- ❖ **Saturday Barbeque Special** at Le Meridien Golf Resort and Spa, Rs 1200 for adults, Rs 600 for children
- ❖ **BBQ Special** on Friday nights at Courtyard Restaurant. 4253056
- ❖ **Friday Evening BBQ Dinner** at Hotel Himalaya, Kopundole Height. 6-10.30 PM, Rs 599 for adults, Rs 399 for children.
- ❖ **Barbeque Ban-Bhoj** at Godavari Village Resort, every Saturday and Sunday. 5560675
- ❖ **Calcutta's famous** rolls, biryani, kebabs and Indian cuisine at Bawarchi, Bluebird Mall Food Court. 9741000735
- ❖ **Pork chops** and lamb steaks at Sports Bar, Kamaladi. 4438017
- ❖ **Theme Dinners** at Shangri-La Hotel. Sunday and Monday Nepali thali with cultural show, Rs 700. Friday Bhaktapur Nights with cultural show and Newari cuisine, Rs 900
- ❖ **Pizza** straight from the woodfired oven at Java's new extension, Thamel. 4422519
- ❖ **Happy Hour** buy one get one free at Lost Horizon Bar, Shangri-La Hotel from 5-7PM every evening
- ❖ **Woodfired Pizzas** at Roadhouse Cafe, Thamel, 4262768 and Pulchok. 5521755
- ❖ **Momo and Sekuwa Revolution** every Saturday at the Tea House Inn, Nagarkot. 6680048



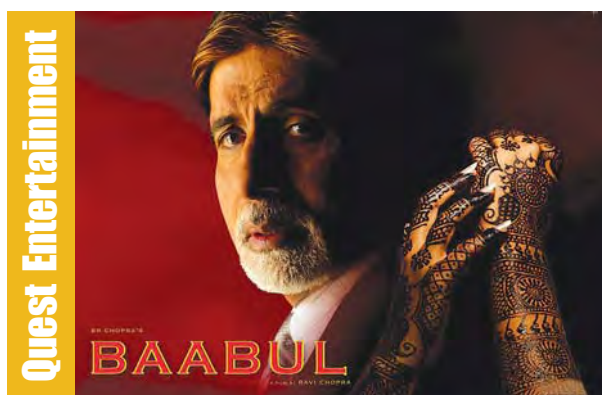
## GETAWAYS

- ❖ **Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge** special Christmas and New Years reservations. 4361500
- ❖ **Winter Package** three days and two nights at Shangri-La Village Resort, Pokhara. Rs 7,499. 4412999
- ❖ **Harmony** of the mind, body, and soul at Club Oasis, Hyatt Regency Kathmandu. 4491234
- ❖ **Yoga Camp** at Shivapuri Heights Cottage, 9 December. 9841371927
- ❖ **Xmas by the Jungle** with elephant safaris, dolphins, rafting and more at Base Camp Lodge, Bardia. 061-550398
- ❖ **Chiso Chiso Hawama Package** overnight stay with breakfast, dinner, and shuttle. Rs 1,700 for twin-share. 66800080
- ❖ **Dormitories** for up to 10 people at The Tea House Inn. Rs 450 per person, including bed, dinner, and breakfast. 6680080

For inclusion in the listing send information to [editors@nepalitimes.com](mailto:editors@nepalitimes.com)

## YAK YETI YAK

by MIKU



In a family drama that spans generations with love and tragedy, Balraj Kapoor (Amitabh Bachchan) is a doting husband to Shobhna (Hema Malini) and father to their son Avinash (Salman Khan). After Avinash meets with a fatal accident, Balraj sets out to find happiness for his daughter-in-law Millie (Rani Mukherjee) and grandson Ansh with painter Rajat (John Abraham).

Call 4442220 for show timings at Jai Nepal  
[www.jainepal.com](http://www.jainepal.com)



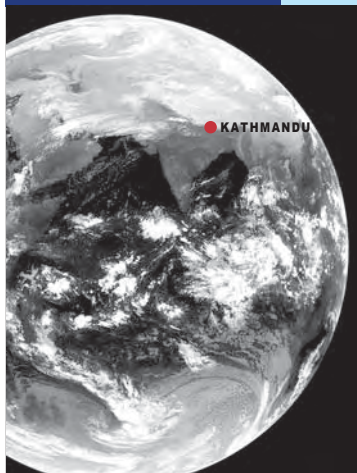
## TOP JOB in TOURISM

Person with exceptional drive for senior position with an already dynamic Trek & Tour Operator. You may not yet be in this industry but you passionately believe in the potential for tourism in Nepal? You are genuinely self motivated, have good command of English (written & spoken) have good IT skills? Then you should contact us at once.

Tel: Balram/Niraj on 4700426/335  
or email (max 2 pages) [balram@himenco.wlink.com.np](mailto:balram@himenco.wlink.com.np)

## NEPALI WEATHER

by NGAMINDRA DAHAL



If you're planning a trekking trip to higher altitudes, you may want to rethink that idea. A strong westerly is approaching from the western side of the country and the system is likely to hit during the weekend. Chances of snowfall and brief showers over central Nepal are high. A pressure system centred over China and extending into Nepali skies adds to the intensity of the westerly. In the Valley, the trends of the previous week will continue. Temperatures will drop further, and mornings will remain hazy, with the faintest sunlight shining through. This is winter, so bundle up.

## KATHMANDU VALLEY



# BBC नेपाली

Daily 20.45-21.15 on 102.4

Radio Sagarmatha  
P.O. Box 6958,  
Bakundole, Lalitpur, Nepal  
Tel: ++977-1-545680, 545681,  
Fax: ++ 977-1- 530227  
[radio@radiosagarmatha.org](mailto:radio@radiosagarmatha.org),  
[www.radiosagarmatha.org](http://www.radiosagarmatha.org)



## Steamed American Corn



## TO-LET

From 16th December  
Building for office Use

10 rooms,  
1 conference hall with  
5 attached bathrooms,  
8 car parking capacity

Behind Sajhayatayat,  
way in through the  
adjacent road of local  
development office.

Contact  
9841349450 | 5520528

नेपाल कृषिप्रधान मुलुक हो। यहाँका ८० प्रतिशतभन्दा बढी जनता कृषि पेसामा आधारित छन्। कूल राष्ट्रिय आयको रुन्डै ४० प्रतिशत हिस्सा अहिले पनि कृषि क्षेत्रले नै ओगटेको छ। सिङ्गो मुलुकको आर्थिक, सामाजिक मेरुदण्डको रूपमा रहेको कृषिक्षेत्र उपेक्षित हुनु हुँदैन। कृषकहरू देशका वास्तविक नायक हुन्। उनीहरूलाई सम्मान र कदर गर्नुपर्छ। कृषकहरूले पनि आफ्नो पसिनामाथि विश्वास गर्नुपर्छ। नयाँ नयाँ कृषि प्रणाली अवलम्बन गर्नुपर्छ। पढ्दैमा खेती गर्नु नहुने होइन। कृषि क्षेत्रलाई आधुनिकीकरण गर्न शिक्षित र सचेत कृषकको खााचो छ। त्यसैले कृषि पेसालाई आदर गरौं, कृषकलाई सम्मान गरौं।

नेपाल सरकार  
सूचना तथा सञ्चार मन्त्रालय  
सूचना विभाग





KIRAN PANDAY

**STONED:** A woman turns to hurl a stone while pursued by riot police on Monday at Mahendra Ratna Campus in Tahachal. Students and unions were protesting against provisions in the Education Bill to make temporary teachers permanent staff members.



KIRAN PANDAY


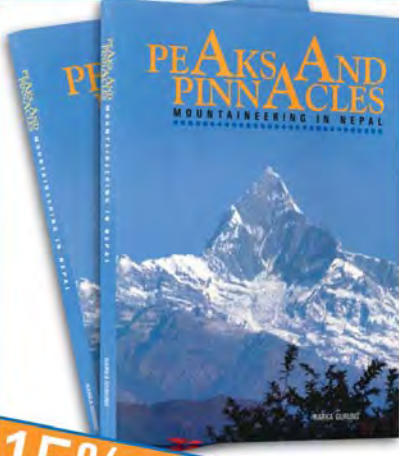
**GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD:** Executive Director of Himal Association Basanta Thapa welcomes Nazir Sabir, the first Pakistani to scale Everest, as chief guest at the fourth Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival at Russian Cultural Centre on Thursday.



JIGGY GATON

**ROOTS, RHYMES, CONDOMS:** The World Aids Day concert at Birtamod High School on Saturday featured a performance by reggae group Jerry Julian and Power of Joy as well as HIV counselling and testing stations.

**A tribute to Dr. Harka Gurung**



**15% Discount**

Call us for **FREE** home delivery

Discount available at:  
**Ultimate Marketing (P) Ltd.**  
Ranibari, Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 4352223 Fax: 4365195  
info@marketingultimate.com

Inside Kathmandu Valley

[ also available in all leading bookstalls ]

**LAKMÉ**



*Say Goodbye to Dry Skin*

Lakme Winter Care Moisturiser is a perfect balance of Cold Cream & Moisturiser - giving you soft skin without stickiness. Its rich, non-greasy formula is easily absorbed to soften and moisturise dry skin quickly and effectively. Its unique Active Moisture Replenishment System relieves, restores and revitalizes dry, rough skin.

120 ml



Special Bundle Price !  
**Rs. 64,990**  
Inclusive of VAT



Offer valid till stocks last

**acer** TravelMate Notebook  
Latest Intel Celeron Processor, 533MHz FSB

**EPSON** Stylus C67 Colour Printer  
INKdividual DURABrite™ Ultra Ink Cartridge

**MERCANTILE OFFICE SYSTEMS**

Available at:  
Mercantile Office Systems, Durbar Marg, 4243566, 4220773  
Star Office Automation, Putali Sadak, 4266820, 4244827



# The National Anathema

It is when soldiers padlock the gates of the Supreme Court and threaten to expand their agitation until all their demands are met that we know we are heading **Ass-first** into the new loktantra.

Last week alone, the streets of the capital were simultaneously closed off by agitating teachers, agitated students, ex-servicemen from the Nepal Army, ex-Gurkhas of the British Army, the Condom Parade on World AIDS Day, the handicap rally on World Handicapped Day, a protest march by Maoist victims, and a counter march by Maoist victimisers. Tyres are in such great demand that there is now **a dealership in Kalanki**.

The sole intention of all these demonstrations of street power was to create awareness by bringing vehicular traffic to a standstill at the centre of political authority in the country which is a 500m radius around Singha Darbar. So, the Ass's free advice to all of you is to **call 103** before heading out anywhere in the unforeseeable future. Or just **take a walk**.



The reason people spill out into the streets to be heard is because we have such a pathetic parliament building. The former nautch ghar of the Sri Tin Maharaj that looks like a cross between a **Mormon church and a Tsar-era railway station** is not befitting of the New Nepal. Imagine, there will be 450 MPs crammed like gundruk inside. And smelling like it too. Imagine the aroma of pheromones when one-third of the House raises the Red Salute, thus exposing their **honourable sweaty armpits** to all and sundry. We know that CCTVs have been installed so the Speaker can spy on interim MPs who are eclipsed by the fourth pillars of democracy inside the August House, but is that a way to run a National Legislature? We suggest moving parliament to BICC, or why not have it outdoors in the sun in the National Stadium?

Ever since Comrade Dahal was **thinking aloud** last week about how Deb Gurung would make an excellent Speaker, the man has been rehearsing for the post by cracking the Whip.

Deb sir should also take a **crash course** in monitoring security cameras because that is what he'll have to be doing most of the time to figure out which backbencher is hitting whom over the head with a microphone behind the pillar.



The national hue and cry over the proposed national anthem has got more column inches than any other subject in recent weeks, even more than Ian Martin's commutes to New York. **Byacool Maila** is probably ruining the day he submitted his lyrics because he's had to bear more public scrutiny than a candidate for the **US presidency**. Someone has dug up a preface he wrote for a book in which he sings undeserved praises for G Shah's poetic abilities, thus raising serious doubts about his **loktantrik credentials**. Looks like the Mailas get along like a house on fire, and that includes the enigmatic Maila Baje ([www.nepalinetbook.blogspot.com/](http://www.nepalinetbook.blogspot.com/)).

Otherwise the only thing we can really say about the poem is that it is pretty bland and glorifies the **blood spilt** in past wars. And some of the words are so awkward, one wonders how they will ever be set to music, even by Ambar Gurung. Speaking of whom why not just turn 'Naulakha tara udaye' (Maybe replace nau lakh with tin karod) into the anthem of not just a New Nepal, but a **Greater Nepal**?



The Ass hears James Moriarty was a **hit** when he spoke in Nepali with a twang in Pokhara last week. The ambassador seems to have put in a lot of work on his spoken Nepali, and even mastered such **Sanskrit mantras** as "shanti punarsthapana" and "balik matadhikar". Alas, the Ass's Pokhara informant couldn't figure out whether the ambassador was reading from Nepali or Romanised text. Either way, a well-deserved **A-minus to the ambassador** in his orals. Now for the written exam.

[ass@nepalitimes.com](mailto:ass@nepalitimes.com)




Exclusive Nike Showroom,  
Durbar Marg  
4229835



**PRESIDENT**  
TRAVEL & TOURS










Tel: 4220245, Fax: 4221180  
E-mail: [preinti@mos.com.np](mailto:preinti@mos.com.np)  
[www.president-nepal.com](http://www.president-nepal.com)

## YOUR TRUST, OUR SUCCESS!




Your trust in us and unstinting support have made your bank **"The Bank of the Year- 2006, Nepal"** adjudged by **The Banker**, a publication of Financial Times, London.

With this accomplishment, we reiterate our commitment as partner in your progress towards **"Enriching Your World, Fulfilling Your Dreams!"**



 **एभरेष्ट बैंक लिमिटेड**  
**EVEREST BANK LIMITED**  
(A Joint-Venture with **punjab national bank**, India)  
...the name you can **BANK** upon!

Head Office EBL House, P.O.Box 13384, Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: 977 1 4443377 Fax: 977 1 4443160 E-mail: [eb1@mos.com.np](mailto:eb1@mos.com.np)



talkin'  
about  
our  
generation

December Issue of  
WAVE

**NOW ON  
NEWSSTANDS**

ISSN 1814-2613