

Shikhar Travel Trip Insurance

Traveling Ahead ? Get relaxed.

Shikhar Travel Trip Insurance is here to insure your journey.

Shikhar Insurance

Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance

Shikhar Travel Trip Insurance covers the following:

• Medical and Emergency Expenses

• Personal Liability

• Loss of Passport

• Delay/Loss of Checked Baggage

• Personal Liability

P.O. Box : 11133, Naya Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal Phone: 4764014, 4764515, Fax: 4764513



Mangal Bajar on Tuesday as a slanting sun illuminated a monsoon shower to bring out a brief rainbow.

Rainbow nation

KIRAN PANDAY

Times

nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll # 364

Q. What do you think of the Maoists' 22-point pre-election demand?

Total votes: 3,913

• All Maoists should be killed (23%)

• Maoists should be killed (23%)

• Maoists should be killed (23%)

Weekly Internet Poll # 365. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Should the elections be postponed to April?

Dia Safe

Home & Office

Protect your valuables at Home & Office

HOME FURNISHERS

Tripurapath, 234 Tripureswar (way to Thapathali), Nepal. Ph: 4254601, 4252248, e-mail: bath@wlink.com.np

LaCie Mobile Drive

Hi-Speed USB 2.0 Hard Drive 128GB

• Hi-Speed USB 2.0 interface

• USB-powered

• NO AC ADAPTER needed

• Sturdy, metal body

• Weight 0.36 lbs

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@cch.co.np Web: www.castradinghouse.com

CLAIR BATH SUITE

CERA

CLIQUE

CLIQUE with Soft Close

NEPA MARBLE BATH HOUSE

Dhumbasahi, Kath. Tel: 4431307, 2011841

NEW ARRIVAL

GAP

BANANA REPUBLIC

OLD NAVY

CLICK!

Shop No.: 6, First Floor, Woodland Complex, Durbar Marg. Ph: 4233847

Ford

RANGER

BUILT Ford TOUGH

AUTHORIZED AGENT: Euro Gears Pvt. Ltd. Kat-75-2 Teku Road P.O.Box 4790 Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 4261235, 4371104 Fax: 4420677, 4262069, E-mail: eurogears@mos.com.np

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



editors@nepaltimes.com
www.nepaltimes.com

Published by Himalmedia Pvt Ltd, Editor: **Kunda Dixit**
Design: **Kiran Maharjan**
Director Sales and Marketing: **Sunaina Shah** marketing@himalmedia.com
Circulation Manager: **Samir Maharjan** sales@himalmedia.com
Subscription: subscription@himalmedia.com, 5542525/535
Hatiban, Godavari Road, Lalitpur
GPO Box 7251, Kathmandu 5543333-6, Fax: 5521013
Printed at Jagadamba Press, Hatiban: 5547018



The more things remain the same Changeless change

Towards the end of his life Josef Stalin famously remarked that revolutions were so cruel they never allowed the dead rebels to be buried with dignity. "They are put on pedestals, and then cast out into the streets," Stalin added.



GUEST COLUMN
Krishnrajwala Devkota

It seems the rebels of the April Uprising are also being thrown from their pedestals down to the pavement. Without even repairing or repenting for the 12 years of parliamentary malgovernance in the 1990s, they are now installing the same old regime in a loktantra guise. This synthetic democracy is about to run aground on the shoals of janajati, madhesi, indigenous, women, Karnali and the demands of the disenfranchised.

These groups have different histories, and the roads to their liberation will necessarily also be different. But there must be a common formula to address them. However, today the dalits couldn't be bothered about the janajatis. The janajatis don't care about madhesi demands. The madhesi isn't concerned about the Karnali. The Karnali activists couldn't care less about the indigenous struggle.

Civil society and the political parties have been unable to find the thread that runs through these struggles. Who will bring them all together? What is the national symbol that will unite these demands?

Last week, Badi women took their clothes off and climbed on the gates of Singha Darbar to expose the government's apathy towards their plight. Kathmandu was laughing, because it didn't get it: the Badi women were not exposing themselves, they were exposing the inertia and neglect of the government towards its citizens.

The end of the Maoist revolution is proof that political democracy is not possible without economic and cultural democracy. But the seven parties are not prepared to chart a political course for the future that will mark a new beginning.

The Nepali people were already let down once by the incomplete revolution of 1990. And today's dream of a New Nepal is afflicted with terrifying contradictions. Some pseudo-democrats seem to be for the constituent assembly elections because they see it as the vehicle to perpetuate the status quo. Their strategy is to pay lip service to change but prevent real change, accept the transformation of the state but keep it intact. For them, all this is just a charade.

The famous Indian magician P C Sorcar was asked whether he feared death. He replied: "Magicians don't die, they vanish." Nepal's ancient regime has carried out a similar

disappearing act. It's not visible, but it's still very much there.

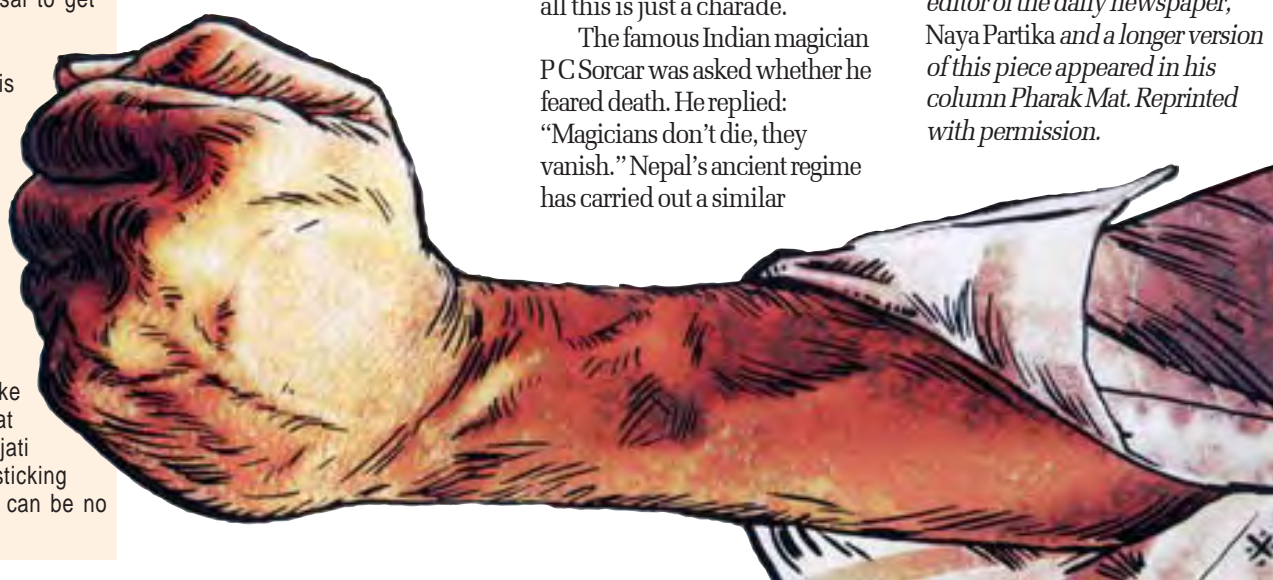
After years of slumber, the people wake up and topple a tyrant. Then the people go back to sleep for years. The people were victorious in their struggle but lost out when compromises are struck. At the rate things are moving today, history is repeating itself.

The Maoists must share the blame. They could have remained in their base areas and forced the government to change. In fact, they would have been more effective if they had carried on their struggle from Rolpa, than joining the government in Kathmandu.

You can't fight new enemies from old fortresses. How can we forge a new Nepal while the parties carry all the old cultural and administrative baggage? It would be foolish to expect these old wrongdoers to make the dream of a New Nepal come true with the present administration, present governance structures, present judicial system, present leadership and present mentality.

Nepal has returned to the period before Prithvi Narayan Shah created this country with his conquest. We have to reunify Nepal under a new paradigm. ●

Krishnrajwala Devkota is the editor of the daily newspaper, Naya Partika and a longer version of this piece appeared in his column Pharak Mat. Reprinted with permission.



LETTERS

MELTING POT, NOT THALI

Shashi Tharoor's column 'India's thali democracy' (#362) has simply the wrong lessons for Nepal. How India held together and still holds, is amazing. However, India is definitely in a category of its own with its billion plus inhabitants. Pluralism, India-scale, is not a transferable experience. Ethnic harmony in closer quarters is a different game. Harmony through assimilation, not seclusion, is the winning strategy for Nepal. The comfort-space needed for India-like parallel existence of ethnic islands and ethnic institutions does not exist in Nepal. Nepal has been viable mostly as a melting pot, not a 'thali'. Sure, there are ethnic grievances now reaching epic proportions, and they need

heard in earnest. But the surfacing of these grievances is not a signal that focussing on unity is the wrong course, as Tharoor implies. Nepal has many things going for it. Nepali is the language embraced by a big proportion of Nepali citizens, the same can't be said of Hindi in India. Nepalis don't need a lecture on religious tolerance, the largest Muslim shrine exists close to the house of the famed Hindu king and hardly gets noticed most of the time. Nepalis are far more open to cultural assimilation than Indian Brahmins, for example, readily shedding their ethnic taboos of alcohol and meat-eating upon arrival in Kathmandu, the seat of Newars. Nepali Hindus do not mind naming their kids Sameer or Sakila. And the list goes on. Nepal is a melting pot. It is just that the pot does operate

very well when firewood is pulled from under the stove, time and again, by gun-toters, delusional monarchs, and equally delusional revolving-politicians. If we direct our attention in the coming months to building and safeguarding democratic institutions rather than in the lip-and-ear service of democratic 'values', the fire will continue to burn under the pot, and continue to churn out this nice treat that is 'Nepal'.

Arun Neupane, email

PASCOE

The UN Under-Secretary General Pascoe said last week elections could be held. He added: "Parties have to rise above their petty interests and fulfill their once in a lifetime opportunity writing a new history." What does this mean? That we need the UN to tell us whether elections are possible or

not? Why can't our election commission have the final word in this?

Name withheld, email

PANT

MP Raghu Pant is absolutely right in his Guest Column that the Maoists must be on the run ('Yes, yes', yes', #363). Dictators are always frightened when made to face the people as they will be seeing the faces of murderers. The Maoists are afraid to go to the people to ask for votes because they are used to ordering and treating them like slaves. Non-violence always wins in the long-run. But Pant's conclusion that the Maoists might not win even one seat may be an exaggeration. The UML now has started thinking that the CA election will make it the unchallenged leader. If true, then they should be doubly

serious about not bragging about it, otherwise the Maoists and the Girija group will not allow an election. So instead of daydreaming, it will be more useful for Pant and the UML to focus on issues that will make people hopeful about a better future.

Kamal Kishor, email

● Apropos Prashant Jha's reference to the counter accusation made by an ex-ambassador of India to Nepal for not keeping our own house in order when his attention was drawn to the safe haven currently being enjoyed by Goit and Jwala Singh in Bihar ('The view from New Delhi', #363). Mr Jha should now go back to the 'diplomat' and ask him if it would be okay for Nepal to provide safe haven to the



DIPAK RAUNIYAR

Political ecology of the madhes

Pay attention to the environmental crisis in the tarai

The Madhesi Tigers' five-day banda in central tarai has proved once again that callousness and criminality are the defining features of violent politics everywhere. Nothing else explains the cruelty of imposing a general shut-down on people struggling to recover from some of the worst floods anyone can remember.



STATE OF THE STATE
C K Lal

With farmland submerged, the poor and the marginalised were desperate for the work provided by commerce and transport. For them, this man-made disaster was even worse than the natural calamity. But there is more to the crisis in tarai than just politics.

The growing frequency of floods is the result of man's careless intervention in tarai's fragile ecosystem. Apart from global warming, four factors have played a role in the annual devastation.

- Extensive areas of the tarai wetlands, which once absorbed

much of the rainfall, have been drained for human settlement in the Bhitri Madhes.

- The vegetation of the Chure Hills, which used to slow the surface run-off and soak up the monsoon downpours, has been cut down and replaced by terraced fields of corn which are repeatedly washed away and rebuilt. The rivers downstream are now so heavily laden with silt and gravel that they burst their banks at the first opportunity.
- The once dense forests of Char Kose Jhadi, which trapped the silt in their tangle of roots and brushwood have now been thinned in the name of community forestry, with its neat and tidy plantations and cleared undergrowth.
- In the neighbouring downstream states of West Bengal, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh, lines of embankments have begun to restrict the natural flow of the larger rivers. The constricted waterways can no longer contain the swollen rivers of the monsoon season, and create a backfill of water in the upper reaches, where the river banks are

unable to contain such a vast volume. The levees may not have benefited Indian farmers much, but they have brought misery to the lives of people in the tarai.

There isn't much that can be undone on the Nepali side of the border to reduce the intensity of floods in the tarai. And we have even less control over the proliferating embankments and dams south of the Dasgaja strip in India, where growing prosperity will probably provoke our neighbours into erecting even higher structures. Catastrophe looms in Nepal's economic powerhouse.

The people of the tarai will have to learn to live with the summer dust bowl, monsoon deluge, and winter haze. We need to study further the processes of tarai's ecological degradation as we cannot deal with future challenges without understanding what has created this crisis in the first place. But there are certain imperatives for the stability of our national political economy that cannot be deferred any longer.

Traditional methods of rice, wheat and pulse cultivation in tarai will become increasingly difficult. Research must begin immediately to develop agricultural practices like the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) more suited to the alternately parched, and soaked landscape. The country's second east-west highway will have to connect the valleys of the Mahabharata ranges further to the north.

To the chagrin of madhesi politicians, industrial activity in Dhangadi, Nepalganj, Bhairawa, Simara, Lahan, and Biratnagar will move to Atariya, Kohalpur, Butwal, Hetauda, Udaypur, or Dharan. The demographic and political ramifications of this slow but massive shift will need to be carefully examined in advance. The warring political factions in the tarai are fighting ghosts of the past. More than fractious politics, it's the ecological crisis that will test the mettle of this country's future leaders. ●



architects of recent Hyderabad blasts and accuse India of not keeping her house in order. The extent of India's interference in Nepali affairs is also evidenced by the recent reported rendezvous of the Fierce One with the Indian intelligence sleuths in Silguri with the former apparently sneaking out of Nepal under the

cover of darkness. As a good neighbour, India must stop aiding and abetting destabilising forces from Nepal which always sought save haven since early days when she used to be known as (lawless) 'Mughlan' to common Nepali.

Name withheld, email

FOREIGN HAND

We need the likes of Foreign Hand back more often on this paper. Although we get to read some of his writing once in a while, they are an absolute treat to all of us without a doubt. Not only is it entertaining to read but the things the Hand says has to be by far the hardest hitting and to the point than anyone has bothered to state aside from the Ass, and even that is somewhat lacking at times.

J Smith, email

Show Room: Nag Pokhari, East Side of Royal Palace

KALINTA™

picture framing

Tel: 4442437
Open: 9am-6pm

Custom Framing & Imported matting
Italian Posters & Gift Objects
Mounting & Lamination
Italian style frames made by KALINTA

Map showing location near Royal Palace and Nag Pokhari.

www.subisu.net.np

true CABLE
www.truecable.net.np

Everyone Is Heading Towards Subisu's True Cable Broadband

Are You ?

MORE
Get Stable, Reliable & Secure Connectivity!

An ISO 9001:2000 Certified Company

SUBISU CABLE NET
Business Solution Provider

FIRST and TRUE Cable Internet provider in Nepal

P.O. Box. 6626, Baluwatar, Kathmandu, Nepal
T : +977 1 4429616/617, 4424862 F : +977 1 4430572
email info@subisu.net.np

The YCL are going after Pokhara's lakeside property owners

Demolition derby



SUDARSHAN RANJIT

JOHN NARAYAN PARAJULI
in POKHARA

Just as the tourist industry in Pokhara was gearing up for the new season that begins next week, the news dawned that most of the town's lakeside properties face imminent demolition.

The process has already begun. As one enters Pokhara, it is impossible to avoid seeing partially destroyed buildings.

These are not battle scars from the years of conflict but the result of peacetime Maoist activists. Not even the stadium wall has been spared.

A law here bans any private construction within 65m of Phewa Lake, but like many laws in Nepal, it has never been enforced. Now the Ministry of Local Development, under Maoist control, is setting out to make amends.

The Maoists' youth wing,

YCL, is leading the assault on the encroachers, supported by the Pokhara Valley Building Department which is also led by a Maoist appointee.

But many fear such wholesale demolition will have a disastrous impact on the tourist trade, leaving few hotels and restaurants unaffected.

"It will spell disaster not just for the owners but for a lot of people like me who depend on tourism for their livelihood," says

Krishna Rana, a taxi driver in Pokhara's Lakeside neighbourhood.

But YCL activists claim they are looking at the bigger picture. They admit there might be short-term setbacks but argue that in the long run it will benefit the town.

"We want to unmask the land mafias who have been illegally occupying a national treasure," says the YCL's Pokhara deputy, Suman Devkota. "If we manage to get Phewa on the world heritage



JOHN NARAYAN PARAJULI

ALL FALL DOWN: A house being destroyed on the Prithibi Highway in the third week of July. So far, 3,000 roadside homes have been demolished.

list, there will be more tourists coming."

Many property owners we approached seemed reluctant to talk, but were clearly worried that the demolition might go ahead. They mounted a sit-down protest and have asked the eight parties and the District Development Committee (DDC) to reduce the width of the banned construction zone to less than 65m. The DDC upheld the existing law, but ordered the concerned agencies not to demolish the structures immediately.

For now the business community is sitting tight. The eight-party representatives in the district have asked the local building department to come up with a plan to compensate the owners before enforcing the regulation.

Even the YCL says it will respect the decision of the eight parties. Nevertheless, there is fear among those in the tourist trade that the young activists will be up in arms again, sooner rather than later. ●

Loving our little Ganesh

Nepali surgeons are ready to tackle cleft lips, but there is little money

Surely everyone loves Ganesh, the friendly-looking elephant-headed god of auspicious beginnings.

Well, apparently not. In many rural areas the arrival of a 'Ganesh' in the family is not a reason to celebrate, but something to fear, with the family facing ostracism in the village.

When Tirtha Magar was born to his family in Bhojpur, the first thing his father said to his mother was, "Go, dump this Ganesh in the fields."

Ganesh is the cruel nickname people often give to a baby born with a cleft lip, which they claim resembles an elephant's trunk.

It is not life-threatening but can affect the child's speech and cause dental and eating problems as well as attracting the sort of unwelcome attention facing anyone with an unattractive disfigurement.

Tirtha's father hated the child, ignoring him for long periods at a time, not really caring whether he lived or died, all because of a disfigurement. It was only after months of protest that he agreed to take Tirtha to the local hospital in Biratnagar.

Upon arrival, he saw that Tirtha wasn't the only Ganesh around. Many other children and even adults with cleft lips were



BEFORE AND AFTER: A seven-month old Palpali girl before her operation, and the same child, at one-and-a-half years, with no visible scarring.



present. A simple operation later, he was no longer a Ganesh, and there was no longer a reason for his father to hate him.

"There have been documented cases where fathers have left their families moments after they saw the deformed baby," said Kiran Nakarmi, a doctor at the Interplast Surgical Outreach Program (ISOP) which provides reconstructive surgery. "Mothers have been known to dump their babies in the fields."

Health researchers estimate one Nepali

child in every 700 has a cleft lip at birth, with at least 30,000 untreated cases across the country.

The problem occurs when the tissues of the upper lip fail to develop properly in the womb, often the result of folic acid deficiency in the mother or caused by her smoking or drinking during pregnancy.

ISOP, headed by plastic surgeon Shankar Man Rai, is the Nepali branch of an American organisation, Interplast USA, providing free surgery for cleft lips and

palates, burns and for those children born with extra or conjoined fingers and toes.

Rai's teams of surgeons, nurses and speech therapists have carried out more than 7,000 operations on cleft lips and palates since he set up ISOP in 1999, and now operate outreach camps across 60 districts each year from their base at Kathmandu Model Hospital.

Another doctor who has been working on cleft lip surgery in Nepal for the past 26 years is Narayan Bahadur Thapa who has carried out 4,000 cleft lip surgeries, first at Kanti Children's Hospital and later at the Council for Cleft Lip and Palate Centre in Banepa.

Thapa and other doctors even raised money by organising annual Volkswagen Beetle rallies through ANBUG, but lately funding has dried up.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) helped by supporting more than 1,100 operations for 12 years.

There are costs for surgical material, but Thapa offers his surgical skills for free. He hopes to set up a Cleft Centre in Nepal, and says: "We are looking for any donations, even the smallest amount will be welcome. All I need is the chance to help." ●

Pranaya SJB Rana

Ten for Laxmi

Laxmi Bank's fourth branch in the Valley has just opened at New Road. The 'New Road Business Centre' offers a full range of personal and business solutions and will serve as a full-fledged branch. Laxmi Bank was established in 2002 and has a total of 10 branches around the country.



Yamaha in Itahari



Yamaha has a new branch in Itahari. The Tirupati Auto City is a showroom-cum-workshop and offers Yamaha motorcycles, spare parts, and a care unit. Yamaha motorcycles include the Crux, G5, Enticer, Gladiator, and the Gladiator Black. Morang Auto Works is the sole distributor of Yamaha.

Economic telecom

Thuraya is introducing ThurayaECO in Nepal, a new prepaid telecommunication service that offers special discounted rates. Thuraya offers the same rates as in CDMA phones. International calls are at \$0.4 per minute. All incoming calls on Thuraya are free, and users can send SMS to Thuraya phones for \$0.25.

E-ticketing

Nepal's first e-ticket is now available through Amadeus. The first e-ticket was printed for Qatar Airways through Osho Travels. For airlines, e-ticketing provides a savings cost from upto \$7 per ticket,

Global Nokia

JWT has been chosen as Nokia's global network marketing agency. In July, Nokia announced Wieden and Kennedy as their global lead agency for mobile phones. Nokia Multimedia will continue to use Interpublic Group for the Nokia NSeries creative support. The new marketing mode from JWT will become fully operational by 1 January, 2008.

NEW PRODUCTS



PRIME: AVCO International, the distributor of Hyundai vehicles in Nepal, has launched the ATOS Prime. Priced at Rs 1.1 million, the ATOS Prime is a 999cc car and comes with a three-year or 36,000km warranty. The car is equipped with large boot space, a lidded glove compartment, two cup holders and a plastic storage tray under each front seat.

DISHWASHING: IFB has launched the IFB Industrial Dishwasher in Nepal. With the capacity to wash 10,000 dishes per hour at a running cost of Rs 0.10-0.15 per dish inclusive of electricity, water, and washing material, the dishwashers are marketed by Sagtani Exim, the sole importer of IFB home appliances.



New Nepal Dictionary

The faulting and the defaulting captains of our industry are not known for their sense of humour. Because of bandas, forced donations and agitating labour unions—the three headaches of New Corporate Nepal—they only complain about the growing size of their financial tumor. But this *Gai Jatra* week



STRICTLY BUSINESS
Ashutosh Tiwari

allows all to decode what's happening in Nepal so that there's learning about how to talk the jargon of New Nepal with relevant stakeholders.

Here, then, is an extract of a glossary—custom-made for our corporate busybodies.

Chha.lang : A 'can do' word, this refers to the scientifically proven process whereby a monkey who builds neither his house nor lets others build theirs becomes a double-tongued *Homo comradus* overnight. Chhalang, with Indo-European roots, comes from the marriage of *chhal* and angst. Forget slow and steady hard work. Forget iterative learning from mistakes. With force, violence, and threats, you can *chhalang* your way to anything you want in New Nepal.

Feudal mindset: What you do not have, but those who disagree with you or your party display. You can use this phrase as an excuse for everything that went wrong in Old Nepal.

Gana.tan.tra: In the absence of any due legal process, this is a method to replace one despot with a few quarreling warlords, with each asking, "what's in it for me?"

Kathmandu elites: Those

who have built fancy new houses and bought new cars in Kathmandu in the last 10 years.

King G: The face which, when put on magazine covers, reduces newsstand sales! Everyone's favourite punching bag.

Labour unions (revolutionary): Underpaid huddled masses who, because of their sheer numbers, will not rest until you become as poor and desperate as they are.

Mao.badi: Enlightened souls who have seen the Last Truth about the nature of man in this universe, and thus have no desire to find out anything new that might contradict what they know for sure.

Raja.badi: Folks you do not like for whatever reason in Nepal and among Nepalis.

officer who earns a piddling 30 lakhs. And so it goes, up and down and left and right in our Nepali societies to label all your friends and enemies in Nepal.

Sa.manta.bad: A samanta is always bad. This weighty word refers to the lifestyle led by a samanta's family using its own money. Children attending Kathmandu's most expensive schools? Do you take vacations in the Maldives? Own houses in Baneshwor, Gwarko, Sunakothi and Syangja? All remnants of samantabad! The best way to be a certified anti-samantabad is to enjoy the same lifestyle and more after getting a clean bill of moral health from the CIAA.

Sam.bhidan Sab.ha: The formal name the present parliament with the same members is going to have in a few



KIRAN PANDAY

Calling someone, in private or public, a rajabadi is the easiest way to destroy their reputation, authenticate your own loktantrik credentials while silencing discussions on topics you do not like.

Sa.manta: Your wife's best friend's husband who makes more money than you do. It does not matter how that guy earns his salary. That he has visibly more than you do makes him a *samanta*. For example, a banker who makes 95 lakhs a year is a *samanta* in the eyes of a loan

months. Think about this: Why go through the song-and-dance routine of having elections when appointments of one's MPs have worked so well to decide everything that the Sabha was originally meant for?

Truth & Reconciliation: The truth is that the poor, in large numbers, did the dying in the 10-year-old civil war, and the survivors, now in power, reconcile with that fact, while going about their lives by promising more violence if their wishes are not met. ●

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

Customer care @ 5547002

DIRECT LINE

Himalmedia Pvt. Ltd.
Hatiban Lalitpur

STAR CRUISES VACATION FROM SINGAPORE

50% Discount for companion

Hurry!

Offer valid for bookings from August to October 2007

Sailing period: 2nd Sep to 11th Nov 2007

Tel: 4444 076
Email: Info@zets.com.np

Let's do federalism right

Arun Baral in *Jana Astha*, 22 August

We have to be careful when renaming the new proposed federal units. To foist names for these provinces from above, without consultations with local inhabitants smacks of bahunism. In fact if all the ethnic groups in the mosaics that will be these provinces are to be fairly represented, the naming should not be ethnically-based so that all groups feel like they are a part of it. All the new federal provinces should have names that have geographic, historical or natural nomenclatures. Within those provinces, one can always have ethnically-demarcated autonomous sub-units. If that is not done and the federal units are named after a particular ethnic group, the others who are left out will not feel ownership. Even Gopal Gurung, who has been one of the earliest supporters of ethnic federalism has warned about disturbing communal harmony if the provinces are named after ethnic groups.

Recently, however, the Maoists have named 11 national committees of which all except three are ethnically-named. For example the eastern tarai, where bahuns are in a majority, has been named 'Kochila National Committee'. If these committees are going to be the names for the federal units to be set up after the constituent assembly is elected then we have to think very carefully before doing it. Or take the Maoists' 'Newa National Committee' in Kathmandu where 320,000 people are Newar, 424,000 are bahun chhetri. In Dolakha's 'Tamasaling' 27,000 are Tamang and chhetris alone number 59,000. It is a similar situation in Ramechhap or Dhading. Even in 'Tamuwan' 64,000 are Gurungs while bahun chhetris number 85,000. There are similar ratios in Tanahu, Syangja, Kaski and Parbat. Take Baglung in the Maoists' 'Magarat' region, only 74,000 are Magars there while bahuns and

chhetris make up 110,000 and there are another 59,000 dalits. The numbers are similar for Argakhanchi, Pyuthan. Even in Ilam of 'Liumbuwan' there are 40,000 Limbus while bahuns make up 42,000 and chhetris 41,000 and Rais 68,000. It's the same picture in Dhankuta, and in Sankhuwasabha dalits outnumber both Limbus and bahuns. How will these new 'nations' safeguard the interests of other groups within their boundaries who are actually in the majority? How wise is it to give ethnic names to these federal units?

Fine, we want to change the names of areas which were named by bahuns in the past, but let's not repeat bahunism by allowing a bunch of high priests in Kathmandu to christen them. The right to name their own province should be left in the hands of the inhabitants of those provinces. The best option is the demarcation of geographical federal provinces with autonomous sub-units. Political representation can be then ensured with bicameral legislatures: one elected through free competition and another nominated on the basis of ethnicity.



MIN BAJRACHARYA

Free-for-all

Editorial in state-owned *Gorkhapatra*, 28 August

Since CA elections are a common agenda, media persons have to play an effective role in creating an atmosphere for elections. From creating awareness to guarding it, each media outlet has a role. In this transitional phase, media from centre to the local level have to be active, balanced, and responsible. The press continues to enjoy public support as the fourth organ of the state based on its factual reporting and impartiality. But at this historic juncture, the responsibility of the press is even more important. The Election Commission wants the media to set the agenda for

elections. The eight party leaders continue to blame each other for not being serious about holding elections. The Freedom of Information Act and the Working Journalists' Act have been passed, and the Maoists have expressed their commitment not to interfere with press freedom.

The press has to be responsible and investigate the truth about Prachanda's statement concerning elections. Prachanda has said he has been misreported and that he intended to garner support for elections not postpone it. Biased reporting will only jeopardise the credibility of the press. There is no room for doubts and unhealthy competition. Only in such a situation transformation of this nation and its inhabitants is possible.

Bhutani Maoists

Interview with general secretary of Bhutan Communist Party Marxists-Leninists-Maoists (BCP-MLM) Biklab in *Nepal*, 25 August

Nepal: Tell us about the objective of your organisation.

Biklab: We want to return the sovereignty to the people from the hands of a few feudals who have been ruling Nepal by dint of their foreign patrons. Our party has an iron discipline. The head of our party is also the head of our military. We have

SELECTED MATERIAL TRANSLATED EVERY WEEK FROM THE NEPALI PRESS



THT Live

अब उत्कृष्ट नेपाली र हिन्दी गीतहरूको रिङ्गटोन्सका साथ

नेपाल टेलिकम

मेरो मोबाईलमा

27221
thumb to thumb thumb
रिङ्गटोन्स

म नेपाली

NEPALI RINGTONES		
Ringtone	Album	RT ID
Chiso Pani Ma	Saroj Dutt	N2110
Maryo Ni Maryo	Cobweb	N2133
Haata Bandi	Mohan Bhusal	N2115
Suneko Kura	Seasons	N2089
Ekanta Bato Ma	Kalind	N2055
Chankiyo Haat Ma	Rama Eli	N2108
Timro Adhar	Nalina Chitrakar	N2149
Jai Hos Pashupatinath	Daya ka Sagar	N2123
Jay Jay Bholenath	Sai Bhajan Vidhi	N2124
Jay Jay Shiva	Diya Bhajan Sagar	N2125

For example to download "Jay Jay Shiva"
Type RT <space> N2125 & send to 27221

For NTC & Mero Mobile

To get list of more Nepali Tones
type RT<space> NEP & send to 2722

HINDI RINGTONES		
Ringtone	Album	RT ID
Meni Zindagi Me	Armaan	1025
Yeh Hawain	Bas Itna Sa Khwaab Hai	1041
Chahat Na Hoti	Chahat	1071
Tum Dil Ki Dhadkan	Dhadkan	1115
Tujhe Dekha	Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge	1156
Ek Dil Hai	Ek Rishta	1175
Pari Pari	Hungama	1266
Chot Dil Pe	Ishq Vishk	1289
Jab Koi Baat	Jurm	1336
Bhigi Bhigi	Kabhi To Nazar Milao	1349

For example to download "Bhigi Bhigi"
Type RT <space> 1349 & send to 27221

For Mero Mobile only

To get list of more Hindi Tones
type RT<space> BOL & send to 2722

Only compatible with sets that support **RTTTL Format**.

In association with



THT Live Customer Care: 9805002722
Web: www.thtlive.com, mail to : thtlive@thethtayantimes.com,
*Each download will attract Rs. 10/- plus all applicable Govt. Taxes per SMS.



some old homemade weapons. We believe in learning from the battle field.

When are you launching your people's war?
That's a technical issue. You will know when we do it. We have been preparing for it. We will launch it soon.

Is your organisation only composed of Bhutanis of Nepali origin?

No we have a big following among Drukpas too. We believe in regional ethnic autonomy for all groups.

What is your relation with Nepali Maoists?
They are inspiration for not just us but all the revolutionaries around the world. We have moral support from them. That's the only relation between us.

What's your take on America's resettlement offer?
There has been a dramatic change in the outlook of the US, India, and even Bhutan after the formation of our organisation. America's offer is a conspiracy. Local and global feudals are hand-in-glove in this conspiracy.

Haunted prison
Rajdhani, 29 August

Nuwakot—On 10 January 2000, the Maoist attacked a police station

14km from Bidur. The post was restored in May this year, but since then strange things have been going on. At midnight an invisible force enters the station, says constable Tikaram Thapa, and people feel a pressure around their necks like someone is trying to strangle them. Some policemen have become unconscious.

When the Maoists attacked the station, there were 10 policemen inside and three were killed. Their spirits of those who died still roam around the station and come back to haunt the living, the policemen believe. They have asked for a transfer, but permission has not been granted.

Nuwakot's Superintendent of Police Dhiraj Pratap Singh says "necessary steps" will be taken. "Either a puja will be performed," he said, "or the station will be moved somewhere else."



समय Abin Shrestha in Samaya, 30 August

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“The chairman is right. We seem to be weak in government.”

Maoist leader Barsaman Pun ('Ananta') in Buddhabar, 29 August

Bad behaviour

constitution provides for the overthrow of the monarchy, the Maoists have not registered a single motion in parliament to do away with it.

3. Democracy means the rule of law. However, the Maoists have chosen not to use legal channels, preferring instead to take to the streets. Although they say their new program of protests is designed to ensure elections, others cannot understand how that translates into support for the elections. Even the leftist parties seem fed up and clueless about the Maoists' plans.

4. The Maoists are saying November 22 is not conducive for them, and April would be best. But what if tomorrow another party feels the same about April? Prachanda and Madhab Nepal proposed November 22. What kind of message would another

deferment send?

5. Prachanda even claims he feels singled out in Eight-Party meetings and says many agreements were made under pressure. It is unbecoming of a top party leader to make such statements.

6. It seems that every agreement Prachanda had with other leaders is being termed as a mistake. So why does he keeps on making these mistakes, if in fact they are mistakes?

7. The Maoists are in power now and their decision to take to the streets is not acceptable behaviour. Even if they have made mistakes, it is only human to do so. In any case, talk of postponing the elections should cease. It is not in the interests of society. Holding timely elections should be the priority.



Editorial in Pokhara's Adarsha Samaj daily, 27 August

Postponing elections again would seriously undermine the credibility and commitment of the eight parties.

1. Dark clouds are gathering over Nepal following Prachanda's call to delay the elections from November to

April, coming as it does in the wake of the Maoists' complaints over lack of progress in implementing the 22-point agreement.

2. So far the Maoists have blamed the palace for the postponement of the elections last June. They claim that as long as the monarchy exists, elections are impossible. Although the interim

SELECTED MATERIAL TRANSLATED EVERY WEEK FROM THE NEPALI PRESS



WANT MORE
Sip
MORE

Original Goodness

१६/- रुपैयाँमा रियल म्याङ्गो नेक्टर पायो भने अरु ड्रिंक किन पिउने ?

Now we know why cowdung is holy

GOBAR!

DUNG POWER: In villages like Dumartoka, Ilam cowdung is not only sacred but is also becoming increasingly valuable as more people use biogas as their primary resource.



ALL PICS: NARESH NEWAR

NARESH NEWAR in SUNSARI

The unbeatable combination of cow dung and sunshine has made Jit Narayan Chaudhary a happy farmer. In the four months since he installed his biogas plant, he has seen his household running costs fall dramatically. He is saving Rs 60 each day that he used to spend on firewood for his family’s cooking needs. The residual slurry from his biogas digester is far superior to the urea and potassium fertiliser he used to buy for nearly Rs 10,000 each year.

Jagita, his wife, is smiling too. She no longer has to spend hours fetching firewood, then more hours struggling with the cooking over a smoking, temperamental fire.

Thanks for overwhelming response

Honouring the tremendous requests

UTL extends the scheme till **TODAY**

- Slim & Elegant Handset
- Colour Film Display Screen
- Polyphonic Ringtones
- 200 x 7 Phone-Book Memory
- Weight-80 gms
- Talk Time-Up to 2 Hours
- Standby Time- Up to 130 Hours

ALL INCLUSIVE NO INSTALMENTS

Please bring copies of valid driving license and citizenship certificate to avail this scheme.

USING PHONE WHILE DRIVING IS UNSAFE

Hurry ! This offer is now valid for August 31, 2007

Affordable & Reliable

United Telecom Limited

Thakuri Complex, Putalisadak, Kathmandu, Tel: 2222222, Fax: 2499999

- Shanti Marg-1, Hattisar, Tel: 2002704, 2002705
- Machhapokhari, Baitasi, Tel: 2006401
- Chuchepatti, Chubani, Tel: 2003301
- Haldibi Chowk, Lalpur, Tel: 2000501
- Suryamoyel Chowk, Bhairahat, Tel: 2000001
- Gadhagar, Thimi, Tel: 2003701

Himalayan Blue Festival

For more information ion on to www.himalayanbluefestival.com

Contact : 2313997 9841243044 9841243044

Supported By:

WAVE Times

She longer faces the bother of having to clean the grey wood ash and smoke residue from the inside of her neat and tidy home.

Such stories about biogas are already old hat in Nepal, but the consistent success of this simple technology, and its popularity among users, continues to inspire more people to build their own biogas plants from the sweltering tarai to 3,000m up in Solukhumbu.

One of the leaders in this energy revolution has been Biogas Sector Partnership-Nepal (BSP), which works with the government's Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) to promote biogas.

BSP says there are now more than 170,000 households using this technology in Nepal, making the country a world

model for successful biogas programs. (See: 'Nepal's future is in the dung heap', # 167)

Each family switching to biogas saves 15 to 20kg of firewood every day, AEPC estimates. While this is great news for the trees, it is also starting to earn Nepal big money through carbon emissions trading.

"The key aim of biogas has always been to prevent the exploitation of forests, and this is the reason that agencies working in this sector need to help the poor to build their own plants," says Dilip Kumar Bhandary, a 30-year veteran of biogas technology in Ilam district.

BSP now plans to work with other communities to help poor farmers buy livestock, from which an important by-product is the dung needed for the biogas plant. ●

Still too costly



The almost-free energy from biogas technology is wonderful if you've got cows, but for the poorest households the initial capital investment is still far beyond their means.

"Even if they try hard to get loans to pay for at least half of the construction cost, they still can't afford it all," says Tilak Shrestha, manager of Kantipur Gobar Gas in Mahottari, where his company has built over 500 plants in the last three years.

But it is possible to make the technology accessible to the poorest groups, who of course are the ones most likely to be using forest resources such as firewood.

The cost of a complete biogas plant and cooker is more than Rs 30,000, but the farmers can receive a government subsidy for half that, funded through German and Dutch aid. For the balance of Rs 15,000, most farmers turn to Grameen Bank for low-interest 50-week loans. But they still need

to provide sufficient property as collateral, which is beyond the means of some. The World Bank-supported Poverty Alleviation Fund can help with barely Rs 1,000, but there are other options.

Some biogas users have formed their own credit groups and help their poorer neighbours like Chandralal Chaudhary (pictured) by providing loan guarantees that are acceptable to the Agricultural Development Bank or Grameen.

Community forest user groups are also getting involved. The Parsahi Arne Bhulke group in the village of Parsahi in Mahottari district has built plants for nearly 60 families. Saroj Raj, managing director of Biogas Sector Partnership-Nepal, would like to see commercial banks showing more interest in helping poor households adopt biogas technology, because in the long term the benefits will be not just for the users but the nation as a whole, especially in helping conserve Nepal's forests. ●

Carbon cash

In Kathmandu and other urban centres we pollute the environment and emit ever-increasing amounts of carbon dioxide while our rural neighbours like Narayan Chaudhary (pictured) are switching to biogas are doing just the opposite.

A family converting from firewood or kerosene to biogas reduces its carbon emissions by an estimated 7.4 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year, helping Nepal increase its carbon-trading credits. So far, more than 170,000 households have made the switch.

Since January, Nepal has been selling spare carbon credits through the World Bank for \$7 per tonne of carbon dioxide, and now the government's Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) has negotiated a price rise to \$10.25 per tonne.

The AEPC has been working with Biogas Sector Partnership-Nepal, WWF Nepal and the Gold Standard, a Swiss-based non-profit foundation, to develop income generation through carbon trading. The government estimates that Nepal will have traded about 96,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2012.

Nepal is already earning over \$600,000 per year through its Voluntary Emissions Reductions, which unlike the Compulsory Emissions Reductions of the Kyoto Protocol are not bound by any UN convention. Direct trading deals can be made between the country and a private company, which wants to buy the carbon credits to offset its own emissions. If this year's Kyoto Protocol conference in Bali accepts that countries protecting forests would be eligible for carbon credits, Nepal will benefit further.

But it remains uncertain if this idea will win approval, given that industrialised countries without forest reserves oppose the idea of rewarding forest-rich countries like Brazil, Indonesia, Argentina or even Nepal, where biomass is renewable and thus not contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions.

"Whether biomass is renewable or not depends on each country and in our case, our depleted forests are not able to be restored," says WWF Nepal's Sandeep Chamling Rai. Until now, China, Brazil and India have been the biggest sellers of carbon credits, with nearly 62 percent of the trade going to China, 12 percent to Brazil and four percent to India. ●

High on methane

Households in the mountain districts of Solukhumbu and Rasuwa are already using biogas up to an altitude of 3,000m, but supporters of this renewable energy source would like to go higher.

"We want to go all over the country, even to the high mountains," said Saroj Rai, managing director of Biogas Sector Partnership-Nepal (BSP), an NGO that is implementing the fourth phase of a 15-year-old biogas support program.

Rai acknowledges this will take time, and there are technical problems to overcome, mainly because methane bacteria can't survive in colder regions. BSP-Nepal is trying to overcome this by placing compost heaps on top of the digester to provide insulation. But even this is not enough and a pilot project is trying to graft solar water heaters to biogas plants to keep the digesters at about 25 degrees Celsius. ●

Rock Mandu Music Festival 2007
5th to 9th September
"a voice for unity"

Venue	Date
Palace Restaurant & Bar	5th Sept
Bhrikutimandap Ground	6th Sept
1905 Restaurant	8th Sept
Men - The Organic Bistro	9th Sept

www.rockmandu.com
03036240 2318205 for more details

Hits FM
ISS
1905

CHEVROLET

Spark
a revolution.

Now in Nepal.

WARRANTY
CHEVROLET SMILES FOR MILES
3 YEARS OR 1,00,000 KMS

Vijaya Motors Pvt. Ltd.
P.O. Box 5063, Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal.
Tel: 4433205, 4414625, 4425603, Fax: 4433294
e-mail: sales@vijaymotors.com.np, marketing@vijaymotors.com.np
Kantipath: 2032022, 01-6206623 Thapathali: 4230008, 4244672
Butwal: 071-542648 Pokhara: 061-531206, 524848 Bhatnagar: 021-691444

TEST DRIVE and get a **FREE GIFT.**
Book your **SPARK** now
and take home an **i-Pod**
Offer valid till the 15th of Sep. 2007

NEW PREPAID SERVICE
FOR
THURAYA SATELLITE PHONES

The New
— **"Thuraya ECO"** —
is NOW AVAILABLE

Calling Rate:

- Only RS.14* per minute THURAYA TO THURAYA
- Only RS.26* per minute worldwide**

Incoming free

Brought to you by
CONSTELLATION PVT. LTD.

*Calling rate estimated at current exchange rate for USD 0.39 & USD 0.20 respectively.

**Calls to all over the world except hard to reach destinations. For details visit our website.



CONSTELLATION PVT. LTD.
P.O. Box : 8975, EPC 2277
Lalitpur -3, Kathmandu, Nepal
Ph. No : +977 1 5548836, 5549252
Fax : +977 1 5548879
www.constellation.com.np



Australian Government
AusAID

Vacancy for Health and Education Sector
Manager with the Australian Agency for
International Development

The Australian Government, through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), is seeking to fill a new position of Health and Education Sector Manager at the Australian Embassy in Kathmandu to assist in the development, implementation and monitoring of Australian support in the health and education sectors to Nepal. The placement will be made as early as possible.

The position will be focused on ensuring effective planning and delivery of Australian support in the health and education sectors. This includes pipeline development, risk management, and monitoring and reporting on program performance.

The occupant will represent AusAID to other donors, multilateral agencies, the NGO sector and local communities on sector related development issues.

Applicants must refer to the duty statement and selection criteria at www.nepal.embassy.gov.au prior to applying for this position.

AusAID is the implementing agency for the Australian Government's development cooperation program (further details at www.ausaid.gov.au).

AusAID is committed to the principles of workplace diversity.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 12 NOON
14 SEPTEMBER 2007**



WANT TO INSTALL
RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEM
AT YOUR PLACE

but don't know how to even get started?

Get expert advice on RWH designs
Free technical guidance

Call us at 2042122

or

Visit us: Monday-Friday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm



"I weep

The relatives of those killed in the
Kotbada massacre never got help
and are still grieving



ALL PICS: MOHAN MAINALI



TIME DOESN'T HEAL: The front page of Nepali Times on 9 August 2002 with the photograph of Syani (left) and Kaman Maya Praja with her baby who were widowed at 15 after their husbands were killed by the army in Kalikot in February 2002.

Kaman Maya married her brother-in-law and lives in Jogimara, this picture of her (above) was taken two weeks ago in Jogimara. Syani Maya married again and has moved out.

MOHAN MAINALI
in DHADING

A terrible helplessness hangs over the village of Jogimara in Dhading district more than five years after the army massacred 17 of its men in an attack in Kalikot, an incident that the government has never properly explained.

The bewildered relatives still have no clear idea why the soldiers killed their sons, fathers, husbands, and brothers, and they do not have the political clout that is needed to get their questions

answered. Most of Jogimara's men were killed, leaving their families destitute.

"The wound is still fresh but we don't know whom to meet, we don't know where to go, we can't read or write" said Gyan Bahadur Chepang who lost two sons, Sanu and Tek Bahadur, in the assault.

In May 2006, the army finally accepted that those killed were innocent, but said they may have been killed in the crossfire, and recommended the payment of compensation. But the government has not paid out a single rupee, and some villagers

are bitter.

"Many organisations have helped us," said Sukmaya Chepang, a widow whose 60-year-old husband, Chitra Bahadur, was the oldest person killed in the attack, "but the government we elected killed our relatives and declared them terrorists."

Another villager, Gobinda Chepang, is equally disgusted. "The government may not be able to give us our relatives back, but it could at least compensate us and punish the killers," he said. While most families have now accepted their men will never

at night”



Moved by the tragedy of Jogimara, overseas Nepalis donated money and the families who received help posed for this group picture in 2002. Since this photo was taken, five of the widows have married again, two families have moved out, one father and one mother of Jogimara victims in this picture have died.



come home, and have performed the required funeral rites, some cannot lay their anguish to rest. Sukmaya Chepang can still convince herself at times that her husband might still walk through the door. “I hope he will come home one day with the money he earned,” she said, “I’m looking forward to his arrival.” He left home with 19 other men from the village in November 2001, attracted by the chance to earn some desperately-needed money building an airstrip at Kotbada in Kalikot district, more than 500km away in western Nepal. Tensions were running high in the area after army bases in Achham were attacked and helicopter-borne commandos were in hot pursuit of the guerrillas who had fled north. The Maoists had passed through and had demanded food and shelter from the contractor. Three of the Jogimara men thought it was too dangerous and had headed home. On the morning of 24 February 2002 the army attacked the construction workers’ quarters, killing 35 people,

including 17 from Jogimara. Rumours of what had happened trickled back to their families. (See: www.nepalitimes.com/issue/106/) First they heard in the news that 67 ‘terrorists’ had been killed in Kalikot. Then they heard their own relatives were among the dead. “Some said they were massacred, some said they were lined up and shot, some said they were killed by bombs dropped from the air, and some said they were in hiding,” recalls Shankha Bahadur. Jean-Paul Corboz, protection officer with the ICRC who recently visited Jogimara, says the government of Nepal has not fulfilled its international obligations by failing to look after the victims’ families. “The government is obliged under international law to tell all families, not only the families of Jogimara but all families whose relatives have disappeared during the war, what happened and to recognise that those people died,” Corboz told us. The impact on the village has been devastating. The 17 dead included nine under the age of

Sukmaya Chepang and her daughters earlier this month. Sukmaya’s husband Chitra Bahadur was the oldest person from Jogimara to be killed in the Kotbada massacre.

21 who were among the strongest in the village. The attack also left 18 children without a father and created 10 widows. There has been a ceasefire now for more than a year and the Maoists are in government, but aside from a letter of gratitude from the Maoists, the relatives of the Kotbada massacre have got nothing. They have found different ways to deal with the deaths. Man Bahadur BK, who lost a son, sold up and left the village for good. “That won’t solve his problem,” said his brother, Gyan Bahadur, who lost two sons. “How can he erase the memory of his son?” Gyan Bahadur has taken a different approach. “It’s not that I’ve forgotten my sons,” he said. “I won’t be able to do that for the rest of my life. But I’ve stopped showing my suffering to others. I weep at night.” ●

The comrades are their own worst enemy

Payback time

Watching the tables turn in Nepali politics is one of our few pleasures these days and last week we got lucky. The sight of PK Dahal shooting himself in the foot was priceless and provided much needed comic relief to an exhausted nation. Last we heard, the Maoists were threatening mass uprisings and the end of the world should the CA polls be delayed, so seeing Supremo try to weasel out of his own demands and plead for a postponement was as astonishing as it was amusing. Dahal’s surprising admission that support for the party has collapsed was possibly his first truthful public statement ever, marking a refreshing change from rhetoric and deception that we’d like to see more of. Historically, communists have always been good at denying reality, proven by the fact it took the comrades this long to figure out what everyone else has known for months: their version of ‘Support Us or Else’ democracy is about to be massively rejected by the people they claim to be liberating. If you ask the Hand, the party’s first mistake was adopting a violent, totalitarian, bankrupt ideology, but even that isn’t what dooms them now. Since few in the isolated districts have a clue about world trends, Nepal is one of the few countries on earth where they could get away with such nonsense. Though this may be slowly changing (a valley villager recently told me he’d heard even China is run by kangresis nowadays) the Maoists have exploited this ignorance with remarkable success. It is their second big mistake they are paying for now. By not changing their violent ways after signing the peace agreement the Maoists exposed an abiding contempt for the people’s aspirations that has left everyone feeling betrayed. The initial relief brought on by the end of conflict was so great that many were willing to overlook Maoist war-crimes if only they started behaving like responsible, civilised democrats. Noone expected them to continue waging war on a government they were a part of and it came as a rude shock when violent extortion and kidnapping actually increased after the Maoists entered parliament. By the time the YCL were attacking district offices and beating whoever got in their way the people realised they’d been tricked yet again. Ideologues always fall into the same trap of intolerance and insisting they have all the answers, which not only makes them look foolish in the long run but leads directly to their downfall. Those who have been pushed around by arrogant party cadre will take their revenge when they can, and the polls offer a golden opportunity.

Whatever one’s political beliefs, certain natural laws are bound to prevail. In the real world impunity does not exist, the law of action/reaction is inevitable, and sins end up being paid for one way or another. Democrats understand this to the degree it keeps them in line so they can win the next election, whereas totalitarians tend towards the ‘action/crush-reaction’ approach that includes banning elections and jailing opponents. As history is witness, such defiance of natural law never lasts long.



MIN BAJRACHARYA

Though a Maoist change of heart now would be too little too late and seen as highly suspect, the least we can hope for is the leadership realizes their coercive ways have backfired and start behaving themselves. If it took them this long to figure out crime doesn’t pay so be it, but we fear they may have learned all the wrong lessons from their brief fling with democracy and will fall back ever harder on the only strategy they know. The people, meanwhile, have learned enough from recent experience to know who can be trusted (nobody, of course, but some less than others) and those who would trick and threaten them will soon pay the price. If and when the results are ever in, we can look forward to fault being piled on all the usual suspects (Royalists, Feudalists, Foreign Hands etc.) but everyone knows the Maoists have no one to blame for their fall from the heights but themselves. ●

Wrought Iron | Cane | Wood



Quality Sofas from

KARSHAN INTERIORS

Kupondole, Lalitpur
Ph: 5545055
email: akarshanint@wlink.com.np



Weaves & Blends

cashmere accessories • home • knitwear

showroom: tel: 2121200, kumaripati, jayashakti, lalitpur factory: tel: +977 1 4495599 fax: 5533337
email: weavesb@gmail.com.np OPEN SUN - FRI 10AM - 7 PM

Also available at: GALERIE BOUDHA,
sflowerson tel: 2140702, boudha, kathmandu, fax: 5533337 email: galeriesboudha@netcity.com.np
OPEN: ALL DAYS 10am - 7pm

YAMAHA MAW
Mastering Audio Works

MASTERING THE QUALITY OF SOUND SINCE 1887...

Speaker Packages	Keyboards
Amplifiers	Drums
Cinema Station	Acoustic and Electric Guitars
Home Theater System	Pianos and Portable Grand

0% Finance Under InstaBuy scheme for Visa and MasterCard cardholders of Standard Chartered

Visit our showroom at:
Kantipath, Mountain Plaza, Tel: 016212509, 9841258392, 9841233235
Beats International Pvt. Ltd., Tripureshwor,
(Next to Blue Bird Mall), Tel: 4245775
www.global.yamaha.com

The cost of the gender gap

Reducing inequality is not just a question of justice, it makes economic sense

Working women throughout the world have long complained of the unfairness implied by lower pay than what men receive. But the wage disparity between men and women is more than unjust. It is also economically harmful.



WORLD IN WORDS
Heleen Mees

Economists at the IMF have calculated that the gender gap costs the world billions of dollars in economic growth each year. A cross section of 40 poor and rich countries shows that there is a strong relationship between women's economic and social status and overall

spend more money on food, medicine, and educating children. But what UNICEF suggests as the solution for developing nations: that women be made responsible for the household and childrearing, is in fact the cause of the problem.

Indeed, the double dividend is a curse rather than a blessing, because it confines women to the home. Policy measures that cultivate traditional role patterns should be abolished. Instead, one must promote the economic empowerment of women to help generate economic growth.

Evidence for this can be found in Western Europe. The early break with patriarchy in Europe in the late Middle-Ages (1200-1500) accounts for the rise of capitalism and growing

women have to offer than Europeans do.

In Asia, more women work, they work more hours, and they advance on the corporate ladder much faster than European women. In the Philippines, 89 percent of companies have women in senior management positions. China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Taiwan, and Singapore follow closely in terms of women in top jobs. Even in India, where more than half of girls and women are illiterate, more women hold senior management positions than in countries like Germany and the Netherlands.

In Europe, women long ago bridged the education gap with their male peers. Still, they occupy a mere 8.5 percent of corporate boardroom seats. Except for



NARESH NEWAR

economic growth. Women's lack of education, health care, and economic and social opportunities—both absolutely and relative to men—inhibits economic growth. By contrast, economic growth ameliorates women's subordinated condition.

In *The State Of The World's Children 2007*, UNICEF reports that gender equality renders a double dividend: healthy, educated women rear healthy, educated children. Women feel greater responsibility than men for the household, and they

prosperity in the Western World. Girls were no longer married off, but selected their own spouses. Thus, it became worthwhile for parents to invest in girls' education and wellbeing.

As a result, Europe's economy advanced much more than China's over the next five centuries. However, the tables have turned. As *The Economist* pointed out last year, women have become the engine of global growth, especially in China and other Asian countries. The Asian economies seem to make much better use of the resources that

Scandinavia, the number of women on Europe's top company boards is stagnating.

In part, this is a classic insider-outsider tale. Male dominance in the marketplace works like a cartel, barring talented women from top jobs. On average, women's take-home pay is half that of men. Reducing the inequalities that exist between men and women is not only a matter of justice, it also makes economic sense. ●

Project Syndicate

Heleen Mees is an economist and lawyer living in New York.



Feel-good nationalism

Chak De India makes you laugh, it makes you cry, it makes you proud (to be Indian)

For decades now, intellectuals from all schools—Marxists, Feminists, Fascists, Postmodernists, Liberalists, or Hayekianists—have struggled with understanding and explaining the global phenomenon of nationalism. This bogeyman of a concept may baffle the scholars,

CRITICAL CINEMA
Diwas Kc

but for the makers of *Chak De India* there is nothing less convoluted and ambiguous. In fact, not only *Chak De*, but scores of Indian films have brandished nationalism as if it's the most uncontroversial thing. By now, Bollywood has mastered the craft of making nationalist flicks. It knows from inside out the formulas that are needed and the exact emotions that are to be played with. *Chak De*, like its forerunners, is a perfect feel-good movie. It makes you laugh, it makes you teary, and most of all, it makes you proud. So mechanical are the functions of nationalism that you don't even need to be an Indian to gloat over the histrionic victory of the girls in *Chak De* who bring India the much coveted title of a World Cup winner. The sport in question is not cricket but hockey. Lest you forget, the filmmakers will remind you that hockey is after all the national sport of India and deserving the deference of all other games. One captain of this sacrosanct sport, Kabir Khan (Shahrukh Khan), has been defamed for losing a final of the World Cup. He returns seven years later to vindicate his patriotic ambitions as the coach of the hopeless women's team. Director Shimit Amin and co-writer Jaideep Sahni seem to think that internal differences are simply to be jettisoned if India is

to make it in the global arena, ignoring how specious national unity often is in reality. Coach Kabir Khan has no desire to celebrate the diversity in his team and sees vernacular identities of the girls as the major impediment to the eventual success. Oddly enough, it is precisely the spunky array of female characters that makes the film most enjoyable. There is a special pleasure in watching the motley charms of bullish girls that will make you forget all you grievances. So what if it appears that non-traditional roles for women are to be tolerated only when it is in the service of the nation. So what if only the grandest conquests will stave off the pull of conventional gender roles for them. So what if it seems that women will only emulate machismo and militarism when they enter male-dominated fields. And so what if

homophobic slurs can't be avoided even when muddling gender boundaries. Bollywood's churning of patriotic films has always been an indication of India's postcolonial mentality. And the idea of the underdog has worked fascinatingly in its insistence that India can 'do it alone'. *Chake De* preserves the same outlook, but in a way it also adjusts the genre to the changes wrought by the forces of globalization. You may find it ironic that the girls in the film consolidate their team spirit for the first time at McDonald's. But really, newer narratives of nationalism may simply have to be supported by multinational product placements. ●

CHAKDEINDIA
Dir: Shimit Amin
Cast: Shahrukh Khan, Vidya Malvade, Sagarika Ghatge.
2007. 148 min. In Hindi.

Equinox

Just how high is Mount Everest exactly? 8,848 or 8,850m? Or perhaps just 8,844.43m, as a Chinese official survey found in 2005? The arguments should be finally over when the European Space Agency launches a spacecraft early next year to measure the Earth's gravity field and its geoid, the shape formed by the planet's mean sea level and its imagined extension beneath land. The glamorously named Gravity Field and Steady-state Ocean Circulation Explorer, better known as GOCE, will allow scientists to measure and compare more accurately than ever before mountain heights across the globe, however remote. From September the sky moves into its autumn phase, providing ample opportunities for us to observe the arcane beauty of autumn stars and constellations that, for a few months, were hidden behind the glare of the sun. As night falls, the captivating zodiacal constellations of **Pisces, Aquarius, Capricornus, and Sagittarius** are visible across the sky from east to west. Sagittarius the Archer is a happy hunting ground for astronomers, lying as it does at the very heart of the Milky Way. To locate this constellation, first find the Milky Way band overhead and follow it towards the southern horizon until you arrive at a group of stars that look like a teapot. In the northern part of the sky are the constellations of **Andromeda, Pegasus, Cygnus, and Hercules**. Don't miss the chance to view Andromeda through binoculars. Can you spot a misty patch of light in the northern part of this constellation? This is the Andromeda Galaxy, our closest galactic neighbour and also the most distant object visible to the naked eye, lying a mere two million light-years away. Planet-hunters are well catered for this month. **Jupiter** will be hanging high in the western sky during the evening, and I can assure you that viewing its four Galilean moons through a telescope is an experience of a lifetime. Pre-dawn sky-watchers can look forward to the appearance of **Mars** and **Venus** in the constellations of Taurus and Cancer respectively. Conditions are not good for observing **Saturn** this month as it sits close to the Sun. Even **Mercury**, at its greatest elongation east of the Sun on September 29th, is difficult to see as it sets within an hour of sunset. Those of you wishing to celebrate the arrival of autumn should prepare for the autumnal equinox, when the Sun crosses the celestial equator on September 23rd, and night and day briefly become of equal length. Now here's the coolest news ever. Google Earth engineers have flipped the software inside out, letting you travel the universe like you travel the earth. 'Sky in Google Earth' allows you to zoom around the heavens with various Hubble Space Telescope images highlighted. You can click on specific objects, like the Orion Nebula, and then see the Hubble photograph of the region. And finally, science students at Trichandra College have recently formed the Nepal Astronomical Society (NASO). At a time when the government's planetarium and observatory project has stalled because of bureaucratic bungling, nothing gives me more pleasure than to see the energy of these young astronomers who want to do something on their own. ●

STARGAZING
Kedar S Badu

Everest height puzzle, Google Sky and Nepal's young astronomers



Freedom from
Dandruff



Anti-dandruff Hair Oil
with Vitamin A,C & E Nourishment

New Clinic All Clear Total with unique Vita-ACE formula fights dandruff gently and effectively. It also nourishes and strengthens hair from the scalp, keeping your hair totally dandruff-free and healthy.

<p>Moondance Restaurant & Bar</p>  <p>Great Food, Coffee & Music Lakeside, Pokhara (61) 530935</p>	<p>New Orleans Café</p>  <p>Coffee Shop, Restaurant & Jazz Bar In Patan <i>Behind Satsangya pulchok, tel 0522 708</i></p>
---	---



MIN BAJRACHARYA

TWO HEADS BETTER THAN ONE: Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Baburam Bhatarai listening to what a gathering of intellectuals had to say at a roundtable at the Hyatt Regency on Friday.



MIN BAJRACHARYA

FRUITY GIRLS: A Gaijatra troupe from Bandipur pause for refreshments during a procession at Hanuman Dhoka on Wednesday.



MIN BAJRACHARYA

THE THIRD AGE: Trikaal perform at the Nepal Tourism Board on Sunday, before departing for a concert in Austria.



SRINKHALA SHARMA

SNOW WHITE: The normally bare and rocky summit ridge of Annapurna II wears a thick blanket of fresh snow above monsoon clouds in this picture taken from the Kathmandu to Nepalganj Buddha Air flight 403 on Sunday.



SURYA

LIGHTS

BRAIN STORM

boss corporate quiz

at Soaltee Crowne Plaza on Friday, August 31st, 2007

Let Barry
pick yoUr bRains

A cartoon illustration of a man's head with a large brain. A character named Barry is shown picking brains from the head. Various business terms like 'SUCCESS', 'STRATEGY', 'ORGANISATION', and 'BUSINESS' are floating around.

A pack of Surya Lights cigarettes.

FREEDOM OF LIGHTS

official host

BOWNE PLAZA
KATHMANDU
THE PLACE TO MEET.

co-sponsors

VODKA

asianpaints

JOHN PLAYERS

طيران الخليج
GULF AIR

EVEREST BANK LIMITED

official media

Perspectives

STATUTORY DIRECTIVE: SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

VINYL

TEXTILE

TEXTILE / VINYL

RIDDER
SHOWER CURTAIN & ROD
MADE IN GERMANY

HOME FURNISHERS

High Utility Value and Quality in European Design

Tripureswor, Nepal. Ph: 4254601, 4262240

Beautiful
at any Age

Three women are shown in elegant black and green dresses, standing next to a large stack of folded pashmina shawls.

NPI

Nepal Pashmina Industry

Main Showroom: Soaltee Mode (On the way of Hotel Soaltee) | Tel: 4273292, 4277023, 4283644
Thamel Showroom: Opposite Sanchoykrish Building | 4264775, 4410947
Fax: 977 1 4270092 | Email: npi@mes.com.np | Web: www.npi-nepal.com

ATOS PRIME

- Body Color Bumpers
- Internally adjustable ORVMs
- Defogger
- Minimum turning radius-4.4 m

HYUNDAI

Drive your way



Introducing the

Atos Prime.

Starting at

Rs. 11.15 Lakhs only.

Hurry! This offer is valid exclusively till stocks last.

HYUNDAI www.hyundai-motor.com

For a Test Drive visit:

AVCO INTERNATIONAL (P) Ltd.
Sole distributor of Hyundai vehicles for Nepal

Authorized Service Centre: Avco Service Centre Pvt. Ltd.
Ph: 4413086/4421353, Fax: 4438741
Hyundai Mobile Service: 9851047300 Open 7 days a week.

3-year Warranty • **3 years Free Servicing** • **Warranty on Genuine Hyundai Spare Parts 3 Months or 5000 Kms** • **Exchange Facility**

4414281, 4425538, 98510 47600 (Sunil), 98510 47100 (Yogain), Nagpokhari, Naxal, Kathmandu.

DEALERS: Kathmandu: Deep Laxmi Intercontinental Pvt. Ltd. 4785181, 4782847, 9841206182 (Saket). Pokhara: Jonchhen Traders: 061-528589, 530131, 9856026840 (Dipendra). Butwal: Amrit International Pvt. Ltd.: 071-549704, 9847047992 (Anil). Narayanghat: United Motors: 056-526562, 9855055449 (Rajan). Biratnagar: Auto Centre: 021-530301, 9842028510 (Jigyasu). Birgunj: National Mart: 051-528874, 528876, 9855020090 (Surendra). Janakpur: Paras Traders: 041-525962, 9854020789 (Pawan).

www.avco.com.np

Red herrings in New Nepal

Looking at the final list of ambassadors it would be natural enough for people to ask: "We waited 16 months for this?"

It is the Maoists who have come out smelling like roses from the process: not that their candidates are scintillating in any way, but at least they're not **Khaobaddies**.

Except for Pampha Bhusal (old flame of the Cloudy One who was sidelined from the hierarchy and therefore had to be appeased by being kicked upstairs to Paris) the others are non-cadre. His Awesomeness snuck in his buddy from Chitwan Campus, Rishi Adhikari (PhD in agro-economy as ambassador to Malaysia) after his original candidate, loyal royal career dip Hira Bahadur Thapa, was shot down by the UML. Our media colleague Vijay Karna has been justly rewarded as the Maoist candidate for Nepal's first ambassador to Denmark, where the English prof is probably going to find out where the phrase 'red herring' comes from. The Maoists have been careful not to put

forward names whose accreditations would be rejected by, say, the Australians.

And couldn't the NC find anyone better, fitter, than Shailaja Dijju for Delhi? What is Murari going to do in London, sell off the 12A Kensington Palace Gardens property? The list has obviously been drawn up as an eight party compromise, and from the looks of it the political appointees will largely be a waste of money.

The cabinet also finally got around to appointing new secretaries. Bravo. Nearly all are **NBCs** and all except the very capable Brinda Hada are men. So much for inclusiveness in the Renewable Nepal.

According to the Ass' back-of-the-envelope calculation, the national exchequer saved \$15.5 million by not having ambassadors for the past 16 months. In fact, one could say that the biggest accomplishment of loktantra so far has been that we've managed to save all this money. We can now put the moola to

other use, like making a down payment for a new plane for the national airline.

It's time to put 'Royal' back on the Nepal Airlines. Removing it has brought nothing but bad luck. Never, not even during the worst years of absolute monarchy, has the airline been so completely grounded. In the past month, there have been no international flights for three weeks. How can a **SPAM** government that can't even run a national airline be entrusted with more important things like restoring peace in the tarai, is what the Ass wants to know.

At present NAC has the largest glider fleet in the world because its jets have no engines. The Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) has been chasing the paper trail on the Lauda and China Southwest scams to finger those responsible for destroying the airline. The Ass had a peek and the list includes all prominent names from the NC and UML. In fact, if the findings of PAC on NAC are

right half of the central committee of both parties would have to go to jail.

About the only thing the SPAM has taken a concrete decision on seems to be on nationalising the king's palaces. But why take over palaces that are already yours? Most of the palaces are World Heritage Sites, while others have always been crown property. And didn't king Mahendra sell off the new **Naryanhiti Eyesore** to the government even before construction was finished in 1975?

So Gyanendra thumbed his nose and took his family to Nagarjun, ostensibly nationalized the previous day. **Punters** are already busy betting on whether kingji will make an appearance at Krishnasthmi (September 4) and Indra Jatra (September 25). Send all wagers to the Ass.

ass@nepalitimes.com





HIMAL SOUTHASIAN'S SEPTEMBER ISSUE IS NOW ON STANDS!

COVER FEATURE:

In the Shadow of the Dam
An in-depth exploration of what's been learned and what's been forgotten over the decades of big-dam construction in Southasia, including in Nepal, India, Pakistan, Burma and Tibet.

ALSO IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE:

Nepal's missing 'peace money' – **Binod Bhattarai**
No jirga like a peace jirga – **Aunohita Mojumdar**
Democratic hiccups in Male – **Aishath Velezinee**
N Ram: China's India PR guy – **Tenzing Sonam**
Relearning to live with rivers – **C K Lal**
India-Bangladesh enclaves photo feature – **Andrew Biraj**
Ladakhi education reform, interrupted – **Justin Shilad**

Thoughtful – Irreverent – Cohesive – Regional

www.himalmag.com, subscription@himalmag.com