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DESTINATION UNKNOWN



KIRAN PANDAY

A young woman looks out uncertainly from the window of a bus. It is not known where she is headed. She could be the Nepali nation itself.

But the uncertainties we all face as we approach the May 28 deadline for the constitution are already a reality for other stakeholders in the peace process. There was much speechifying at the Maoist cantonments once the long-anticipated discharge of

disqualified combatants began in January this year. Many others have left the cantonments, through compulsion or choice, in the last couple of years. While government nags UNMIN for actual figures, those who have left are adjusting to life on the outside, with or without Maoist support.

Full story p4-5



CK Lal finds fault with the Patna panegyric

p3

Rabindra Mishra deplores junk journalism

p12

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TICKING AWAY

Nearly four years into the ceasefire, Nepal's peace process is stuck. Constitution-writing has ground to a halt. There seems to be a real danger of democratic reversal and backsliding. The political stalemate has brought about a state of national paralysis. Everything is on hold, and we're all waiting to see what happens next. The economy is stagnant, the country is literally in darkness. Lawlessness and crime have got worse, journalists are self-censoring and corruption doesn't even make the news anymore. The republic is on autopilot.

Things are a mess, but no one expected this to be easy. Is four years enough to expect a country to go through such wrenching change, and in all the chaos

hope to write a new constitution?

There are major disagreements. But why are we surprised? In fact the big surprise is that the whole process hasn't unraveled in the past four years. There is some uncertainty about what will happen after May 28, but it's not going to be the end of the world.

What is holding things up is a power-sharing deadlock within the leadership trinity. The Maoists won't let things move until they are in government and the other two parties are adamant about not letting them in. There is consensus on the need for a political consensus, but that is about it.

We are tantalisingly close to our goal. Once a political accommodation is agreed, a lot of other things will fall into place. The external factor is important. The regional powers are not fighting a proxy power struggle in Nepal. Other external actors (the bilaterals and the UN) have to be very clear on basic values like democracy, pluralism and non-violence. You can't ban the use of political violence in your

own country and tolerate it in another. You can't be democratic and excuse totalitarian tendencies. When a party (whichever party) in a post-conflict situation is actively using violence, threats and intimidation it has to be made clear that it won't be tolerated. Often, there is an attempt to look the other way to "protect the process" or the international community's need for a success story.

In the midst of all this, the people's real needs are more basic: jobs, food, schools and hospitals, clean government, law and order. The real threat to peace is a stagnant economy, lack of jobs, development at a standstill, and the people's rising frustration with this. Just this should be warning enough to the political leadership that time is of the essence.



Undermining UNMIN



PLAIN SPEAKING
Prashant Jha

Don't fall for the simplistic and deceitful government propaganda of 'UNMIN is not co-operating with us'. The issue is a lot more complex, involving Nepal's requests to the Security Council, peace agreements, inter-party divisions, the UML-NC combine's shifting goalposts, and Maoist mischief.

The government wants to know how many people are present in cantonments, though it has never asked UNMIN officially to count the numbers. A second though not necessarily related aspect is the government's formal request for combatant data (name, gender, date of birth, photograph, and address).

Based on the fact that only 2400 out of 4000 disqualified combatants were present during the discharge, Madhav Nepal claims 60 per cent of the verified combatants (around 11,500) remain in the cantonments. Privately, Maoist leaders admit that the numbers have dipped but say it is closer to the 16-17,000 mark. Add to this the

widespread belief that a part of the money meant for the former combatants goes to the party.

Is the government right in demanding to know who it is paying and how much? Absolutely.

The problem is they are asking in the wrong places. The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction pays the verified combatants on the basis of identity cards and barcodes. If the government feels not everyone is in the camps, who has it been paying all this while? Have 'fake' combatants using 'fake' ids been taking money? If so, what does it say about the bureaucrats responsible?

Even if we were to give credit to the government for waking up to the issue now, the point is the PLA remains under the Maoists. If anyone can answer how many are present in the cantonments, it is the Maoist party. And they must be pressurised to do so.

UNMIN is not responsible for the management of either of the two armies. With 73 arms monitors, it is at best monitoring the management of these armies through regular visits to the NA barracks and PLA cantonments, with an eye on the arms containers. It has been regularly informing the Joint Monitoring



KIRAN PANDAY

Government should know better than to blame UNMIN for sticking to agreements it signed itself

Coordination Committee (JMCC) about its findings and concerns.

If UNMIN has not alerted us to a mass exodus from the cantonments despite knowing about it, then it has to be held accountable. But UNMIN says it doesn't know how many people are there. In fact, it has continued to ask the Maoists (and the NA) to provide updated figures on troop strength, which is the maximum the Agreement on the Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies (AMMAA) allows it to do. The perception is

that UNMIN should know the numbers. But the reality is that the government or JMCC or the Special Committee never requested them to do a fresh count, an elaborate exercise requiring time and resources.

On the data, UNMIN's case is even stronger. Paragraph 2 of the AMMAA says, "The parties will report detailed information about their troops and this information will be treated with appropriate confidentiality by the United Nations."

The government is acting all

righteous and pretending it is an affront to sovereignty that UNMIN is not providing the information it has requested. What is forgotten is that the government is only one part of the peace process. The NC-UML combine should have thought twice before allowing the Maoist army to be given equal status with the NA when they were signing the AMMAA. If the government can ask for data about the Maoist army, the Maoists can ask UNMIN to give them data on the Nepal Army. Surprised? Blame those who signed the AMMAA, not UNMIN for adhering to it.

Unless there is a request by the Special Committee or the JMCC or separate letters by the government and Maoists giving their assent, UNMIN cannot share specific data.

The government wants to marginalise, downsize and emasculate UNMIN. Yet it wants them to perform maximum responsibilities. UNMIN has barely any substantive role in the peace process, except being a symbolic deterrent against large-scale resumption of violence. They are blamed for all the problems we face. Nothing could be more hypocritical and intellectually dishonest. 🇳🇵

ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

LORDS OF POVERTY

I work in the development sector, for an INGO that is working for 'inclusive democracy and peace' in Nepal ('No land for us', #492). I am their project manager and am based in the Tarai. In the last three years, we have held close to a score of conferences on 'inclusive democracy' in two fancy hotels in Kathmandu, published quarterly progress reports, liaised with government secretaries and politicians, taken them abroad on fact finding and observation visits, and published two research books that I have not bothered to read. I feel sick that I am working in this sector, trying to please donors while grave issues

are blatantly ignored and Nepalis like Jaga Majhi continue to live wretched lives. I've felt like quitting so many times but when I come home and look at my 9-month-old daughter I lose my resolve.

The Development Slave

POLITICAL JOURNALISTS?

I concede that unless you are a robot, you have a bias ('Junket journalism', #492). The reason you become interested in a story is because of a bias – the fact that you find it interesting. What is important to clarify is whether you give all sides equal hearing, which is what it means to be impartial. However, you fail to mention how almost all journalists in Nepal are affiliated to a certain party through their membership in certain unions. How

journalists outside Kathmandu practically work as Masters of Ceremony at political rallies, and fawn over the leaders of their parties! How can we trust them to write impartially about other political parties and leaders?

Journalist

SCALING UP

You are absolutely right: often small and simple changes are more important simply because they are not only relatively easily achievable but often lead to bigger changes ('Small help', #492). All the staff of Lunch for Nepal – you are doing a great job. Best wishes. Hope your idea and deeds will not only be appreciated but spread into other districts of our country.

R Rai

On the blogs

nepalitimes.com/blogs

The Brief

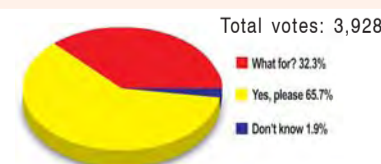
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Weekly Internet Poll # 493

Q. Do you think Nepal should be declared a Hindu State in the new constitution?



Weekly Internet Poll # 494. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. What is the significance of International Women's Day?

Patna panegyrics



KIRAN PANDAY



FOURTH ESTATE
C K Lal

The meeting last month between prominent Nepali politicians and some of their previous or future Indian handlers in the capital city of Bihar seems to have gone rather well. Not a day passes without a laudatory mention of the achievements of the Bihari state in the Nepali press. From noted UML propagandist Pradip Nepal to *Nepali Times* columnist Prashant Jha, every participant appears to have returned with a positive take on the transformation taking place in what was once known as the badlands of the Indian republic.

The credit for assembling political heavyweights in Patna in the middle of multiple crises back home must go to the Indian Embassy here. In fact, Pradip Nepal admitted publicly that he agreed to attend purely because the plenipotentiary of the host country made it an issue during his tête-à-tête with Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal. Several others who have been less forthcoming about their reasons for attending may have also found it difficult to refuse.

The meeting was probably a publicity stunt, something that media theorists call a pseudo-event, where nothing need happen to make the news. The importance of such hyperreality has to be understood

from the kind of media coverage it generates. Clearly, the main purpose of the Patna get-together was to expose Nepali participants to the developmental politics of Nitish Kumar.

In the current chief minister of Bihar, the mercantilist-military alliance of metropolitan India has found a willing accomplice, a poster child for the Indian model of capitalist development. But Kumar has a political interest in hiding the failures of his government behind the glamour of the flyovers being built in his capital city.

Has Bihar changed for the poor people who live in it?

The numbers that Bihar has produced of its achievements await independent corroboration. The Directorate of Economics and Statistics in Patna boasted that the gross domestic product (GDP) of the state grew by 11.44 per cent during 2008-09, a figure that the Central Statistical Organisation reproduced on its website without verification. But Manas Chakravarty of *Indian Wall Street Journal* questions the authenticity of the claim that Bihar has begun to industrialise. When neither bank deposits nor lending rise, it's difficult to be too sure about economic vibrancy. And a high growth rate from a very small economic base isn't the

kind of miracle it's often made out to be.

The claim of the Kumar administration that law and order in the state has improved also needs to be taken with a drop of holy Gangajal. It's true that reports of high-profile abductions have decreased. Freed of political interference, the police now enforce property rights with more vehemence. But the terror of the uniform in any democracy can't guarantee a sustainable peace, and in fact the backlash from repressed violence can be cataclysmic.

Kumar is an engineer and predisposed towards increasing investment in infrastructure, and the middle class salivates at the prospect of better facilities that attract organised businesses and multinationals with higher compensation packages. But the poor don't always benefit from the decimation of the informal sector of the economy. It's a bit early to draw any conclusions from the road-building spree in Bihar.

What Nepal really needs to learn from Kumar's various experiments in Bihar is that the state must spend more on education and health to earn credibility and be accepted by wider society. Massive investment in the creation of modern infrastructure becomes meaningful only when the masses benefit and have a vested interest in their uninterrupted operation. When all the people want is to obstruct traffic to gain small favours from government, it doesn't matter whether the road is a single-lane track or a six-lane highway. 🇳🇵

THIS WEEK

Non-representative government
Minister of State for Home Affairs Rijwan Ansari, the only elected representative of the 43-member cabinet, resigned on Wednesday citing moral responsibility for the deteriorating security situation in the country. Ansari had publicly accused Home Minister Bhim Rawal of incompetence in maintaining law and order. His remarks earned a rebuke from the prime minister who then asked him to step down. "I wanted to resign on moral grounds as I could not do anything in the capacity of State Minister. The Home Minister restricted me from carrying out any duties," Ansari said after his resignation. "I don't know why the PM asked for my resignation at a time when CPN-UML's leaders demanded the resignation of the Home Minister at the party's central committee meeting."

Koirala's wish
United Nations Under Secretary General for Political Affairs B Lynn Pascoe arrived in Kathmandu on Wednesday to discuss the peace process and UNMIN's role. He made his first call at Girija Prasad Koirala's residence where the octogenarian leader, who is suffering from chronic bronchitis, was reported to be feeling less well than usual. Koirala talked of the need to forge consensus among various political parties and said his only wish before his last breath is to see the promulgation of the new constitution. On Wednesday evening, Koirala's doctors said his condition was stable.

Unwanted help



KIRAN PANDAY

The YCL announced on Tuesday that it will help the government arrest criminals, as part of its wider campaign to create a peaceful environment for the writing of a 'pro-people constitution'. It said it would expose those involved in "murder, kidnapping, prostitution, women and drug trafficking, gender violence, anomalies in society, caste-based discrimination, inflation and black market, artificial shortages of commodities and help the administration book culprits involved in murders, corruption and other criminal activities".



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Brave new world

KIYOKO OGURA in DANG

Nabina and Samjhana, who live in a village close to Ghorahi bazar in Dang district, have a few things in common. Both are originally from Pyuthan district and joined the Maoists' armed forces at almost the same time. When the two joined the district-level squad, they were the only female members. They spent most of the insurgency as part of the military front, participating in many military actions together. Both had husbands who were killed in the insurgency, and both remarried other comrades. Samjhana has a six-month-old daughter and Nabina has a two-year-old son (*pic*).

Nabina *aka* Horika K.C. is now brigade vice-commander of the Fifth Division. She is the eldest child of Deepak K.C., an elected Maoist member of the Constituent Assembly. She was convinced to join the party by a senior Maoist who used to visit her house and became a whole-time worker after she passed the SLC examination. After working in the cultural front for six months, she joined a squad in April 2000, where she met Samjhana. Soon, she fell in love with Bamdev Adhikari, a commander in her squad. The two married in 2001. But seven months later, Bamdev was killed in a raid on Shitalpati police station. "When we married I was prepared for the possibility of his being killed in battle. But I was deeply hurt and cried," Nabina remembers.

Samjhana *aka* Sheeta B.K. left

home during Dasain in 1999, without informing her family, to become the first whole-time Maoist worker from her village. From the beginning, she had no illusions about her intention to work in the armed front, and asked to be part of


a frontline assault group. "As a woman commander, I had to work harder than the men to earn trust. I was fit enough to do so, but there's no doubt women suffered more in the field," she says.

While her platoon was traveling

in eastern Nepal to participate in a series of military raids, Samjhana became close to Hira Chaudhari, who was in her group. The two fought many battles together and married in 2004. But as with Nabina, her marriage was not to last.

Hira was killed in a major raid on an army camp in Khara of Rukum district in April 2005. Both Samjhana and Hira had been leading their own assault groups. Despite her grief, she consoled herself with the reality that many of her comrades too had lost their loved ones.

When the Maoists entered the peace process, both Nabina and Samjhana were commanders in the Fifth Division of the PLA, quartered in cantonments in Rolpa. But when Samjhana was appointed a member of the Interim Legislature in January 2007 and left her cantonment the two began to walk different paths. Once the Interim Legislature was dissolved, Samjhana became the Pyuthan district in-charge of the YCL. Nabina, however, had to leave Dahabang cantonment with her son after her division ruled last September that Maoist mothers had to live outside until their children reached the age of three. Nearly 250 women combatants, despite their protests, had to leave and many moved to neighbouring Dang district.

"I wanted to work in the army my whole life but it wasn't to be," Samjhana says. She and her husband have now decided to have another child. Nabina, however, is still hoping to be integrated into the Nepal Army and is waiting on the decision of the Special Committee. She is adamant: "All mother combatants should also be integrated into the national army." But she is not optimistic. "Seeing the present political situation, I don't believe that the integration of the two armies will happen." 



KIYOKO OGURA

Life outside the cantonments is no walk in the park. Disqualified combatants as well as those compelled to leave for other reasons are finding that the new Nepal they were promised looks very similar to the one they left behind when they joined the Maoist Party.

KUMAR LUITEL in DAMAK, JHAPA

Krishna Rajbanshi from Gauradaha-1, Jhapa, was discharged from his PLA cantonment on 26 December. His sudden independence is a far cry from the rigid discipline he endured there. He has a family and must work odd-jobs to make ends meet. "Past is past. I have a family to look after now," he says.

Rajbanshi works as a labourer, earning Rs200 daily, in Gauradaha and Lakhanpur, and helps out on his in-laws' farm. He says, "After all, you should do what you know. When I was in the cantonments, I would do many different kinds of jobs. But most of the time I was in training."


As a disqualified combatant, he knows he is entitled to receive free vocational training. But he is reluctant: "I don't want any kind of training. I'm making a decent living as a daily-wage labourer." Rajbanshi has lost touch with his former cantonment since being discharged, although he has contacted the local Maoist party office. Rajbanshi would like to go abroad but doesn't have enough money.

Muna Dhakal of Baigundhara used to belong to the Pratham Division of the PLA. She returned home after being discharged from the Mukhyalam cantonment. Her husband Dharma, who is from Taplejung, is still there and is confident he'll be integrated into the army. After it was



KUMAR LUITEL

confirmed Muna would be discharged, they went to her parents' home, where they stayed for a few days. "We got married in the cantonment so he never got a chance to visit my parents before," Muna says.

Muna was in the cantonment for three years and now takes care of her parents and helps with farm work. She has a brother and sister, both of whom are in school. She wasn't aware that disqualified combatants are entitled to receive free vocational training. "My husband is in the cantonments. I don't know, he must be happy. If there's time, I'd still like to go to school." 

SITA MADEMBA in DHARAN

"I was disappointed when they took our weapons and uniforms. I was used to living in a group. I am feeling lonely but I am trying to get used to an ordinary lifestyle," laments 24-year-old Gobinda Ghimire *aka* Biswas. He was discharged from Chulachuli camp last month.


Before joining the PLA, Ghimire was a management student at Mahendra Morang Campus. He was involved in the Maoist party's student wing and went

underground in 2004 without completing his studies. He left student politics and joined the PLA in 2006. However, he was disqualified by UNMIN. "I don't know why I am disqualified," he says, "I am good at using weapons."

Ghimire is not currently affiliated with any Maoist organisation and lives with his family. He aspires to resume his studies but the government has only offered support for education up to grade 12. Ghimire says, "The government should give support for education up to a master's degree. I don't care about vocational education."

He thinks the disqualified PLA have been tolerant of the government's indifference so far, but warns that this may not last. "It is not time for the government to relax. Instead, it should be worried about the possible negative consequences especially after having kicked people out of the PLA. If we are ignored, we might even launch a revolt."

Ghimire is upset that he has been asked to leave the PLA despite having devoted his youth to its cause. "I never thought things would come to this, not even in my wildest dreams," he says. However, he says he doesn't bear a grudge against the party.

Ghimire would have graduated by now. He quit his studies, calling it a 'bourgeois education'. But without marketable skills, he's now facing the toughest fight of his life. 

Buddha is back

DEWAN RAI

The Youth Communist League have quietened down considerably. Back when the Maoists were in power, they were effectively a paramilitary force, publicly shaming allegedly corrupt officials and intervening in such high visibility arenas as traffic control. When the Maoists left government, the YCL withdrew from the limelight, busying itself behind the scenes in party protests to reinstate civilian supremacy and national independence.

Nine months later, the YCL is back, though thankfully not with a bang. They are launching a 'national youth campaign', a peaceful program aimed to draw the attention of concerned stakeholders for the completion of the peace process and the writing of a pro-people constitution by the May 28 deadline.



The Youth Communist League has a friendly side

"The YCL has always been a social campaigner," says YCL coordinator Ganesh Pun. He says they are prepared to do whatever it takes to take the peace process to a logical conclusion.

Is it possible that the characterisation of the YCL as obsessed with violence is unfair? When a YCL cadre died in Surkhet this week, the group kept mum. "YCL ran artillery, assault and logistical units during the insurgency but we also initiated talks," Pun says, "We never were violent."

Pun also claims it was the YCL who lobbied for the National Youth Policy and the Youth Self-employment Program. "We are ready to support any government if they have a program to fight social inequalities and injustice," he says. It plans to invite the youth wings of other parties, with whom they have lingering disagreements, to participate in their campaign.

According to Pun, the YCL has one million general members from across the country. "We don't need to say what we are capable of doing in one whistle," he says. In a public address in March 2008, Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal urged YCL cadre to become like Buddha. No one listened. Now, it seems, Buddha is back.



RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION FUND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Head Office, Kathmandu

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(WITH AMENDMENT)

(First Date of Publication 03 Mar, 2010)

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board (the Board) is an autonomous body, established on March 14, 1996 under the Development Board Act, 1956, is implementing demand- led community based rural water supply and sanitation programs with participatory approach to bring about fundamental changes in the conventional supply oriented approach in water supply and sanitation sector in the country. The Board successfully implemented First Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (RWSSP-I, 1996-2003) covering 49 districts which benefited about 0.6 million population through the construction of 887 schemes under direct involvement of the community in scheme implementation and management.

Currently, the Board is implementing Second Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project(RWSSP-II, 2004-2010) funded by International Development Association (IDA) and Government of Nepal (GoN) as a follow- on to the RWSSP-I. The Government of Nepal has expressed its long-term commitment to the Board as a sector institution and to the RWSS sector as a top government priority.

The Board has adopted the general principles and approaches of RWSSP-I with some improvements in working modalities especially in some norms/criteria based on the lessons learnt in the past. RWSSP-II aims to raise the living standard of rural people by: a) Improving sector institutional performance and mainstreaming "Fund Board" approach in the Government's system, and; b) Supporting communities to form inclusive local water supply and sanitation user groups that can plan, implement, and operate drinking water and sanitation infrastructure that delivers sustainable health, hygiene and productivity benefits to the rural households.

The Board invites qualified Nepalese citizens individuals to apply for the following post:

1. Post: Executive Director - 1

Duties and Responsibilities:

The Executive Director is the chief executive officer of Board's Office. The ED will be responsible to operationalize, manage, and implement the policies and decisions of the Board so as to fulfill its mandate. The ED will have overall responsibility of the management of the Secretariat of the Board, its staff and overall operation. The ED provides active support to the Board, providing the Board with information needed and recommendations for appropriate action. The ED is also responsible for ensuring greater coordination with the stakeholders of Board in relation to the operation of the Board and contributing towards an effective and efficient RWSS sectors development. This position is expected to provide leadership in the operation of the Board and creates a dynamic scenario where the plans and policies of the Board are effectively, efficiently and timely implemented. The specific responsibilities are as follows:

- Execute the policies, annual programs and budgets as approved by the Board.
- Oversee for the timely planning and execution of the plan of the FB and monitor progress of the overall portfolio against the set achievement targets in terms of time, quantity and quality.
- Manage the overall program of the Fund including the supervision of TA, DED and all the Divisions of the Fund's Office and their related operations and provide necessary technical inputs as needed.
- Represent FB and promote its approach, modalities and achievements nationally and international among sector stakeholders,
- Keep linkage and coordination with the SOs, SAs in all matters pertaining to solicitation, contracting and completion of schemes and provision of related services to communities through the executives and professional staff of the FB,
- Oversee the overall knowledge management function (analysis of outputs and achievements, lessons drawn from various research and studies, analysis of MIS data etc) and related processes, and provide direction, suggest mechanisms, tools and systems to further utilization of the generated knowledge.
- Liaise with all sector related agencies, and help evolve appropriate policies and support for the development and strengthening of rural water supply and sanitation programs.
- Ensure that the FB professional team are providing appropriate and timely technical and advisory support to the SOs, WUC as per the need,
- Make sure that the completed schemes are properly evaluated and lessons are used in the next planning process.
- Be overall responsible for recruitment of qualified staff for FB, Apprise their performance and take necessary to make sure that the Personnel Policy of the FB is properly followed.
- Chair the TAC meetings and submit review reports to the Board
- Perform other tasks as laid out in the Act, Sub-Rules, Manuals and Fund's directives.
- Support the Board as a secretary to the Board, provide professional advice to the Board and report progress of the operations of the Secretariat,

Educational Qualification:

Masters degree in social science or civil engineering from a recognized national or foreign university

Work Experience:

at least ten years work experience in community based rural development or drinking water supply and sanitation related activities

Applicants must not be convicted of any criminal case of moral turpitude and must not be directly affiliated with any political party. They must not be a relative of any of the Board members and the Board employees. They must include a statement to these effects in their applications. Those who are Government employees and civil servants of government-owned universities, academic and research institutes and any other government organizations will not be eligible to apply.

Terms of Employment:

The initial term of employment will be 4 (Four) years on contract basis (including probation period of first six months) with possibility of extension on another 2 (two) years on satisfactory performance. Other terms and conditions of employment will be as per the Board Rules. The candidate selected for appointment must submit a letter of approved resignation from the previous employer if the individual is employed at another organization.

Duty Station:

The post is Kathmandu Valley based. The post holder will be required to undertake time to time traveling to districts outside Kathmandu Valley.

Application Procedure: Eligible candidates are required to apply with a succinctly written application along with a CV, copies of citizenship, academic & training certificates, employment records and a recent passport size photo by **23 March, 2010** to.



The Chairperson of the Board

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board

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Phone No. 977-1-4003010, 4003012, Fax: 4003011

Email: khaskosh@rwss.org, Website: www.rwss.org

The CV should distinctly show the number of years of previous relevant experience and the tasks performed emphasizing the applicants' own contributions/achievements. Documentary evidence of the relevant experience is must essential.

Selection Procedure: Only responsive candidates, meeting the minimum qualification and experience, will be evaluated applying a marking system weighted according to the importance or the experience relevant to the assignment. A limited number of candidates will be short-listed based on the evaluation rank order and invited for an interview. At the time of interview, short-listed candidates will be required to write a short note on a given topic or to perform practical test in order to assess writing skill. Based on the interview evaluation, a candidate will be selected for appointment.

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board encourages competent Women, Dalits and individuals from marginalized/ disadvantaged communities to apply.

काम सानो ठूलो भन्ने हुँदैन । पसिनाको कुनै रङ र जात पनि हुँदैन ।
काम गरेर खान लजाउनु पनि हुँदैन । चोरेर, ढाँटेर, छलेर, लुटेर खान
पो लजाउनुपर्छ । जो जहाँ रहेर जुन काम गर्छ ऊ त्यसैमा रमाउनुपर्छ गौरव
गर्नुपर्छ र समर्पित भएर गर्नुपर्छ । काम नै शक्ति हो, भक्ति हो र मुक्ति हो ।
कामको इज्जत गरौं, पसिनाको सम्मान गरौं ।

नेपाल सरकार
सूचना तथा सञ्चार मन्त्रालय
सूचना विभाग



MAKAR SHRESTHA

Whose law is it anyway?



ECONOMIC SENSE
Artha Beed

Good things never seem to last long, especially in Nepal. Just as the Beed was noting how quickly road construction has progressed during a drive to Dhulikhel on Sunday, he came by a gang of residents obstructing construction work. It's another example of might translating into right in Nepal. During the Panchayat era, people advertised their connections to the palace by showing off their electricity and water connections. So what's the point of having laws governing how construction contractors behave? We have never been tuned to respecting what the law actually says: people do whatever they think the law means.

Law in Nepal is just a suggestion: red lights have become a suggestion to stop and 'No Parking' signs are put up to prove that what is written in the driving lesson book is not false. If one watches an altercation between microbus or cab drivers and a cop in the streets, it takes a while to figure out who is trying to book whom. Of late it is becoming more and more difficult to understand who is

trying to enforce the law and who is trying to break it.

These issues are starting to affect all sectors. Let's take the Beed's Chartered Accountant fraternity. Suddenly, the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAN) decided that it would take action against auditors empanelled with Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) without ICAN's approval. Auditors doing audits of banks and financial institutions have to get


People are making up laws that suit them

themselves enlisted with NRB as per the Bank and Financial Institutions Act. But ICAN insisted it, and not NRB, had to determine who would be listed. How can one bunch of people tell the other bunch that you cannot follow the law, and we make our own laws?

The politics of organisations plays its own role in such shenanigans whereby laws are rewritten or broken. For instance, how many auditors that ICAN has legally taken action against have been disqualified over the past decade? ICAN's leadership needs

the votes of its members, so ultimately, it will not go too hard on them, just as politicians are incapable of making unpopular decisions. Look at how much tax is being paid by the leaders of various apex bodies. Do they represent the firms that actually pay huge amounts of tax? What does the law mean to them?

The way our laws are written is far from ideal, based as it is on the advice of parachute consultants from abroad. Therefore we have a tax law that can never be accurately translated into English or we have a new Banks and Financial Institution Act. Those who failed in government become consultants to bilateral and multilaterals and write laws that are sure to fail during implementation.

Rule of law is as important to getting things going in the country as is the constitution-building process. Yet implementation and enforcement of the rule of law doesn't offer as many perks as many useless programs do. The cracks are growing wider and the list of deprived people is getting longer. Private armies and private laws have never been an option. Government should remember that we pay tax to ensure that it provides law and order. Please wake up! 

www.arthabeed.com

Economy check

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff mission was in Kathmandu recently to conduct 2010 Article IV Consultations. The mission took note of declining remittances, decelerating GDP growth, interest rates and the risks in financial sectors. "The macroeconomic outlook is challenging. After expanding by 4.75 percent in 2008/09, real GDP growth is expected to decelerate to 3 percent in 2009/10", the IMF statement said. The mission also took issue with Nepal Rastra Bank's (NRB) liquidity management, the poor business climate, power shortages, weak governance and labour issues as hindrances to economic growth. Chief of mission Laura Papi explained, "Risks in the financial sector have been building up and need to be addressed urgently. Political stability and improved security are necessary conditions."

The mission also conducted discussions on a possible IMF-supported macroeconomic program, and suggested the authorities appoint a new NRB governor, pass the revised Banking and Financial Institutions Act, and focus on productive sectors to counter the slowdown of remittance growth.

New phones

Teletalk, the sole authorised distributor of Colours mobile phones now presents two new models in its Atom and Star range: G215 and G-200. The G215 model, with multimedia, touch, key pad, dual GSM SIM and up to 2 GB expandable memory is available at Rs5450. The G200 smartphone, with up to five hours talk time, 180 hours standby time, stereo FM, torch light, music player, speed dial, universal battery and memory expandable to 2GB costs only Rs2399. Both come with a one-year warranty.



Play on



The new Nokia X6, the flagship music device from Nokia, is available in Nepal for Rs36,150. The set, with a slick 3.2" finger touch interface and a 16:9 widescreen, is capable of playing up to 35 hours of music and storing up to 5,500 tracks. It also offers easy access to social networks like Facebook and Twitter. The entertainment experience is completed by three embedded games, Spore by EA, Asphalt4 and DJ Mix and a 5 megapixel camera.

Safe deposits

Ajay Shrestha has been appointed the Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Kathmandu. He has been associated with the banking industry for more than two decades. Under its campaign 'Save for Future', the bank has introduced new deposit products - Laghu Bachat Khata and Laghu Muddati Khata - with the intention of encouraging saving habits. The first scheme requires a minimum Rs1000 balance and provides up to a 7% interest rate, the latter can be opened with a minimum of Rs10,000 with an interest rate of 9.5%. The Bank of Kathmandu has 33 branches, 6 extension counters and 37 ATM terminals.

Year old

Laxmi Intercontinental, the official partner of Hyundai Vehicles in Nepal, celebrated its first anniversary on 26th February 2010 at Soaltee Crown Plaza. The anniversary program was attended by around 2000 guests. Laxmi International's official website www.laxmihyundai.com was launched during the event, and its tie-up with the A division football team Manang Marshyangdi Club was announced.

e-ticketing

Yeti Airlines and Global Bank have agreed to allow customers of the latter purchase Yeti



Airlines tickets online. The airline says the initiative has been launched to make optimum use of technological advances. Yeti has entered into similar agreements with Nepal Investment Bank and Everest Bank. Members of Yeti Airline's Sky Club can also open accounts with Global Bank with a zero balance and obtain discounts of 50 per cent on debit cards, free of cost internet banking services, and discounts on air tickets.



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रेडियो तरङ्ग १०७.६ पोखरा



रेडियो चितवन ९४.६ रत्ननगर

अब सधैँका साथी



Call of the wild

Two movies to bring out your inner child? Inner animal, more likely

Asked by a reporter whether the movie adaption of his children's book *Where the Wild Things Are* was too scary for children, Maurice Sendak responded, "If they can't handle it, go home. Or wet your pants. Do whatever you like. But it's not a question that can be answered." An enticing recommendation for a movie (and just the kind of response anyone might be tempted to fling at doubters and detractors). Of course, venerated authors such as Sendak can afford such barbs. But his response shouldn't be mistaken as his dismissing children's taste – rather, it is an unabashed endorsement of Spike Jonze's adaptation and a dismissal of sentimentalised and sanitised notions of childhood.

Sendak's endorsement problematises the accusation that Jonze has desecrated what some argue is a straightforward story of the power of imagination. In the swift strokes oft-employed in children's books, a young unruly Max, banished to his bedroom, whisks himself away to where the 'Wild Things' are. The Wild Things, ferocious creatures perhaps much like himself, have outsized appetites and compulsions. Staring into their eyes, Max commands their respect and obedience, and so awed are they with this little creature that they crown him their king. Of course, Max's first order of business as king is a 'wild rumpus', depicted by Sendak's illustrations in eloquent wordless spreads of bacchanalian abandon before the comforts of home draw Max back to where his hot supper awaits him in his room.


It may be difficult to believe, but Jonze maintains in the main the spirit, sensibility and narrative of his source, and uses the capacity of his medium to personify the Wild Things and explore the world they inhabit. *Where the Wild Things Are*, all fur, feathers, claws and maws, wisely chooses a tactile aesthetic that matches not only the feel of Sendak's book, but also that quality of undiminishing interest.

Just like Sendak's book, Jonze suggests, but in this case also expands, tantalising reflections between Max's internal conflicts and the outlandish landscape he finds himself in. The Wild Things are not mere nameless monsters, but realised characters with human needs and fears. Yet Jonze disallows pat reduction or explanation. It's easy to forget that Sendak's work wasn't initially received well by adults, perhaps because it was so

keyed into the uncomfortable corners of our psyche. The rage, hostility and lonely resentment that simmers beneath the raucous exuberance that carries the narrative is successfully transferred to the movie.


Puppets on a far more diminutive scale feature in Wes Anderson's *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, a stop-animation that also sources the work of a celebrated children's author. Anderson's Mr. Fox, however, makes a far less recognisable transition. Anderson creates a baroque and detailed world where Roald Dahl's characters are elaborated on and assigned more complex motivations than the simply wrought, if clever, original. The most drastic departure from Dahl's story lies in the protagonist and his community's delightfully anthropomorphosised suburban life. Viewers familiar with Anderson's work will note that his well-worn themes, humour and aesthetic are revitalised and well-suited to this, his first animation. The opening scene is classic Wes Anderson, introducing as it does Mr. Fox as a rascally, charming and perhaps restless father figure. Fatherhood and a promise elicited from Mrs. Fox (also recognisable as a Wes Anderson cut-out as the long-suffering wife) has him foregoing his daring life of risk and excitement to settle down, a commitment that contravenes his very nature, as subsequent shenanigans involving three unsavory farmers prove.

If *Wild Things* explores the wilderness of the interior psyche, Mr. Fox probes into the stifling civility that boxes in our inner animal. The Wes Anderson signature marks meticulously designed sets and costumes, quirky and vaguely retro, that echo earlier works such as the *The Royal Tenenbaums*. Anderson casts a certain gentility over his characters, as they conduct their business, go home to their families and raise their kids. But he playfully reminds us that his characters are wild animals in wolfed-down meals and disagreements among friends that draw out claws and snarls, neatly bracketed by the niceties of social convention. There's something not quite human in the unnatural bipedal gait of the foxes that makes one feel they are on the verge of scampering off.

Adult audiences might feel sheepish about enjoying – or even defending – films ostensibly for children. But past the elevated appreciation some might relish, it is your inner animal, not your inner child, whose answering howl you'll hear. 

A. Angelo D'Silva





Paranormal Activity

86 minutes | 99 minutes (extended version)

The premise of this low-budget horror film from director Oren Peli is nothing new – a young couple, Micah (Micah Sloat) and Katie (Katie Featherson), move into a suburban house and encounter a supernatural presence intent on disturbing the peace.

What makes the movie work however is the raw homemade footage created (in the vein of The Blair Witch Project) when Micah decides to document every second of their time in the house in hopes of capturing the paranormal occurrences, which increase in frequency and intensity towards the film’s violent denouement.

The increasing strain on the couple’s relationship is also recorded, and it is the performance of the actors here, including their often banal interactions, that grant the film its believability.

Having grossed about US\$150 million at the box office, Paranormal Activity looks set to take its place among horror cult classics. Just don’t watch it home alone. 3.5/5

FCC

Video night



When the sun goes down, no life or light in town, it’s time to boot up that laptop and slip in a DVD. Life Times lights up the dark hours with a few staff picks.

The Informant

The Informant is a true story about a corporate whistle-blower named Mark Whitacre (Matt Damon). He is an executive at a company called ADM that is involved in an international conspiracy to fix the price of Lycine, a corn extract. As an executive member of the firm, Mark is not only privy to all the details but is also a major stakeholder. When the FBI begins snooping around, Whitacre decides to tell all in order to save himself. But it soon comes to light that Whitacre isn’t quite the White Knight he pretends to be.

The filmmakers do a tremendous job dramatising the unmasking of Whitacre, an endearing if quirky family man who seems to have everything. As wry humour gives way to a darker side, Matt Damon pulls off a tight-rope act with finesse. Excellent screenplay. 4.5/5

SP



District 9

Peter Jackson of LOTR fame provides the backing for Neill Blomkamp’s District 9, a documentary-style feature on prawn-like aliens stranded on earth once their mothership runs out of gas above Johannesburg. When Multinational United (MNU) begins to evict the 1.8 million aliens interned in the slums of District 9, ostensibly in response to public demand, newly appointed relocation chief Wikus van de Merwe (Sharlto Copley) finds he’s bitten off rather more than he can chew.

The film’s messages are clear – the eviction of aliens has precedents in apartheid and Jo’burg’s District 6, and MNU provides an easy target as the unscrupulous corporation willing to sacrifice anything in the pursuit of filthy lucre. But even without the moral message, District 9 is an absorbing, refreshing take on the alien genre, and you may be surprised who your sympathies lie with by the time the shooting starts. 4/5

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EVENTS

She first captivated Nepali audiences in the winter of 2009, and Emma Ponsart is set for more of the same with her second exhibition, Remanences.

Photographs have always served as a means to reconstruct and remember the world gone by. Emma Ponsart sets off on journeys with nothing but a set of photographic archives in her possession as a guide. One such journey commenced when she discovered a collection of photos belonging to her father that preserved a Nepal two decades in the past.

Using her body as an instrument, Ponsart goes from place to place, trying to interpret the worlds she has encountered. Her show, which seeks to engage the audience in uncovering such perceived worlds, promises to be an adventure.

Remanences, ‘Worlds in essence’, video installations by Emma Ponsart, 14-20 March, Sun-Fri, 11am-6pm, Kathmandu Contemporary Arts Centre, Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur, 5521120.



Exhibition of Tibetan Authentic Traditional Thangkas, traditional art created by renowned artists following the true teachings, 9.30am-7pm daily, Pathibara Art Gallery, Thamel, 4256004.

Poet’s Corner, send in and vote for your favourite piece of poetry at Lazimpat Gallery Café. Open entry until 21 March. **Movie screening of Precious** at Lazimpat Gallery Café, 16 March, 6pm. Timing may change due to load-shedding. 4428549 or lazimpatgallerycafe@gmail.com

Tasafu-Kathmandu Scrolls, Alliance Francaise presents an exhibition of paintings by Julien Sole, 26 Feb-19 March, Siddhartha Gallery, Babar Mahal.

Himalayan hash house harriers, a running club with a drinking problem, meet every Saturday to run a course around the Kathmandu Valley, aponarch.com/hhhh/

Annapurna Ultra Trail Race, start training for the 4th Annapurna Ultra Trail Race, 35km and 71km routes (mostly trails), starts 27 March, Barahi Hotel, Pokhara.

People After War, permanent photo exhibition, every day 11am-4pm, Madan Puraskar, Patan Dhoka, for bulk school bookings call 5521393

Himalayan Buddhist Meditation Centre, Tai Chi 10-11.30am Saturday, Yoga 8.30-9.30am and meditation 5-6pm weekdays, Keshar Mahal Marg, Thamel, 4410402

MUSIC



Music by the Museum, enjoy performances of local music by accomplished artists such as Manose Singh and 1974 AD, 12 March, 6.30pm, Patan Museum, Rs999, 4780534.

Inner Groove, Hyatt Regency Hotel, relax with jazz music on Sundays, 12-3.30pm, 4491234/4489362.

Live music, drop by at Jazzabell Café every Wednesday and Friday, from 6pm onwards, Jhamsikhel, Patan, 2114075.

Filipino fusion band performing live at Bugles & Tigers Bar of The Everest Hotel, 7-10.30pm daily except Mondays. For reservations, 4780100, ext: 7711/7811.

Bottles n Chimney, feel the blues on Mondays with Nevkham, 7pm onwards, 2123135.

Fusion and classic music by Anil Shahi, Wednesdays, Absolute Bar, Hotel Narayani Complex, Pulchowk, 8pm onwards, 5521408.

Rudra, immerse yourself in soothing Nepali music every Tuesday and Sunday, 7-11pm, Comfort Zone (rooftop of Bank of Kathmandu), Thamel.

JSC Jazz Quartet, every Saturday 8pm at Upstairs Jazz Bar, Lazimpat, 9803160719

Chillout Lounge with DJ Miriam, every Friday at the Bourbon Room, Lal Durbar Marg, 4441703

Saturday African Nite, with African food and music from 8pm at Jazzabell Café, Jhamsikhel, 2114075
Robin and the New Revolution, every Tuesday 7pmat the Bamboo Club, Thamel, 4701547

Live band every Friday and rooftop BBQ everyday at Kausi Kitchen, Darbar Marg, 4227288

Some like it hot, every Friday BBQ and live music by Dinesh Rai and the Sound Minds, Rs899 at Fusion, Dwarika’s Hotel, 7pm, 4479488

Happy cocktail hour, ladies night on Wednesday with live unplugged music at Jatra Café & Bar, Thamel, 5-7pm

Nepali Ghajals at D’Lounge Beijing Duck Restaurant, every Thursday 6.30pm, 4468589

Rudra Night live fusion music by Shyam Nepali every Friday, 7pm at Gokarna Forest Resort, 4451212

Jazz evening at Delices de France restaurant every Wednesday, 11am-2pm, 4260326

HyJazz at the Rox Bar every Friday evening and **Sunday Jazz Brunch** at The Terrace with live music from Inner Groove, Hyatt Regency, Boudha, 4489362, 4491234

Basement Jam, live music every Friday at Bourbon Room, Lal Darbar Marg, 4441703

DINING

Casa Toscana, for all things Italian, from pasta to confectionery delicacies, Pulchowk, 5537775.

Tom & Jerry Pub, happy hour from 5-8pm with free popcorn, Thamel.

Ghangri Café, for their signature *open su mai momos* and special fried rice, Pulchowk.

Hankook Sarang, to satiate your appetite with delicious Korean food, Thamel.

The Irish are at it again! Lots of balloons, crazy hats and free 2 for 1 deals at the bar at the only Irish Restaurant in Nepal. Kilroy’s of Kathmandu, Thamel, 4250440/41.

Boudha Stupa Restaurant and Café, for wood-fired pizza and free wi-fi Internet, 012130681.

Famous stews of the world, enjoy famous stews of the world at the Rox Restaurant, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 6.00PM onwards, Hyatt Regency, 4491234/4489362.



Strawberry High Tea, 4.30-6.30pm, The Lounge, Hyatt Regency, 4491234/4489362.

Vegetarian Buffet, every Monday, **Oriental Nights**, flavours and specialities of Asia every Wednesday **Arabian Nights** for Middle Eastern specialities every Friday, 6.30pm at The Café, Hyatt Regency, 4491234/4489362.

Chez Caroline for French and Mediterranean cuisine, Babar Mahal Revisited, 4263070.

Live continental BBQ Fiesta, exclusive BBQ Dinner at Splash Bar & Grill, Radisson Hotel, 6.30-10.30pm everyday.

The Corner Bar, 5-7pm, 3-11pm, Radisson Hotel Kathmandu, 4411818.

Lavazza Coffee and Baskin - Robbins, at Blue Note Coffee Shop, Lazimpat, 4491234.

A cafe’s café, Dhokaima Café, Patan Dhoka, 5522113.

Jazzabell Café, TGIF, 10% discount all day, happy hour 6-8pm, Jhamsikhel, 2114075.

Al Fresco, for homemade pasta, steak and freshwater trout, **Kakori**, for biryanis, curries and kebabs, 7-10.45pm, Soaltee Crown Plaza, 4273999.

Teppanyaki meat items and garlic rice at Le Restaurant, Gairidhara, 4436318.

Reality Bites, The Kaiser Café, Garden of Dreams, operated by Dwarika’s Group of Hotels, 9am-10pm, 4425341.



Starry night barbecue at Hotel Shangri-La with live performance by Ciney Gurung, Rs 999, at the Shambala Garden every Friday 7pm, **Plat Du Jour** at Hotel Shangri-La, Lazimpat, Rs 600, 4412999.

Himalayan Rainbow Trout at Hotel Yak and Yeti, Darbar Marg, 4248999.

Tiger for Breakfast, breakfast everyday at 1905, Kantipath, 4215068.

Gokarna Forest Resort for a variety of sizzlers at Tripti bar, 44512126.

Mexican Sojourn, mexican dishes and tequilas every Friday 7pm, Hotel himalaya, Kupondole, 5523900.

Experience the Gyakok (hotpot with T-momos, meats and more) for lunch and dinner at the Shambala Garden Café, Hotel Shangri-La, 4412999 or at Royal Saino Restaurant & Bar, Darbar Marg, 4230890, 4239077

Pipalbot, lunch and dinner, Babar Mahal Revisited, 4267657 or 9721331390.

GETAWAYS

Tiger Tops: Special Re-opening Offer, 3 Nights/4 Days at Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge & Tented Camp, with one night at Tiger Tops Tharu Lodge. Enjoy safari, nature walks, bullock cart rides. Experience the rich Tharu culture. US\$534 per person inclusive of all taxes. Offer valid until 28th February, 4361500, reservations@tigermountain.com, www.tigermountain.com



Dwarika’s Himalayan Shangri-La Village Resort, Dhulikhel, 4479488, Overnight Package and Great Escape Package (locals).

Chiso Chiso Hawa Ma Special Package, Club Himalaya, Nagarkot, 4410432/4414432, locals and expats.

Godavari Village Resort, 5560675, 5560775, special packages for locals and expats
Shangri-La Village Resort, Pokhara, 4435741-44, Kids Break Package, couple with two children below 12 years sharing parents room complimentary.

Mirabel Resort, Special Package Rates for locals and expats, Dhulikhel, www.mirabelresorthotel.com, 011 490972-4.

Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge, food, yoga, massage, meditation, walks, pool and more. 01 4361500 reservations@tigermountain.com

NexGEN Adventure Programme, rock climbing, daily departure, 016914541, 9841283385, www.canyoninginnepal.com





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KIRAN PANDAY

MESSENGERS OF PEACE: United Nations Under Secretary General for Political Affairs B Lynn Pascoe arrived in Kathmandu on Wednesday to assess the state of the peace process.



KIRAN PANDAY

UPRISING: Tibetan activists protest in Kathmandu on Tibetan Uprising Day on Wednesday, marking the day Chinese troops entered Tibet in 1959.



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

EMPOWERMENT? Majhi women in Taulihawa marked the 100th International Women's Day on Monday doing what they usually do—fishing.



KIRAN PANDAY

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE: Bulgarian dancers perform at the fifth International Folk Cultural Festival at Nepal Academy on Saturday.



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EH-DM3 All-in-one Home Cinema Projector that also has a integrated DVD player at the IFA 2009. The EH-DM3 is based on 3LCD technology and boast a 940 x 540 resolution, 2000 lumens brightness and 3000:1 contrast ratio. The integrated DV Player will play your favorite DVD and also your DivX files. Specs notable on the Epson EH-DM3 are the Auto Color Optimizer, E-TORL lamp system, USB connections, HDMI, built-in 2x10W stereo speakers and a microphone input.

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WEEKEND WEATHER

by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

Days have grown warmer beginning early this week while morning temperatures remain stable. That will change this week as a fresh westerly front enters the Himalayan region from the Mediterranean Sea. However, it's still too early to predict just how strong this front is and how much precipitation it will cause. According to satellite pictures, this weekend we should expect partly cloudy skies and afternoon thunderstorms, with a few showers in the western mountains and only traces in the Valley. Conclusion: don't pack up your winter clothes just yet.



FRI	SAT	SUN
		
28-8	26-10	24-11

Public enemies



KALAM
Rabi Thapa

Nepal is ranked 143 out of 180 by Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2009. This will come as no surprise to anyone who lives here. We all know how things work (or don't) in Nepal, at all levels, in all walks of life. Corruption is a many-splendoured thing in this country – could it be so pervasive, so integral to the Nepali way that we don't even notice it anymore... it comes as naturally as drinking water to a fish in the sea?

It's not entirely true that we have become oblivious to corruption, but perhaps we too often focus on the big fish – most notably those netas who trample on our trust. This may be because the headlines tend to focus on the more spectacular cases, such as those taken on by the failed CIAA and those deplored by donors of late. There seems to be a perception that curbing corruption, like economic growth, can really have a trickle-down effect.

But what of everyday, run o' mill corruption? As we cuss out Ram Chandra Kushwaha for singlehandedly threatening a \$2.6 billion education sector reform programme through his cackhanded exploits as Minister of Eejitification, do we even stop to explore the significance of *afno manche*, *source-force* and *ghus*? Close to everyone in Nepal is implicated in this game. If poorer, less connected Nepalis don't possess the wherewithal to move events in their favour, it's not for lack of trying.

The more prosperous are most implicated, clearly. Employment, school admissions, bank loans, administrative fixes, you name it, they'll be kow-towing and cowing and straight-up palm-greasing to get what they want. The inefficiencies of the Nepali bureaucracy encourage some forms of corruption – a quick bribe to expedite land sales or visa applications, for example. But there are other corruptions that directly undermine the creation of a merit-based society, and their consequences are far more significant.

Such behaviour on the part of the Nepali elite quite naturally encourages the have-nots to indulge in the same to the extent to which they are capable. Entire generations of Nepalis grow up with the expectation of benefiting from peer-to-peer relations or patronage networks. At best, we can extol the realities and benefits of social capital and note that so-called developed



KIRAN PANDAY

Next time you call your cuz to expedite your flight, you might want to consider your kinship with disgraced minister Kushwaha

countries get along quite fine with nexuses of old-boy networks. At worst, we have the wrong people in the wrong places, while the brightest cannot be their best. And this plays a key role in resentment on the part of communities who

don't have an in on the system. The results are plain to see.

What can be done to stem the rot? Institutions such as the CIAA may not be working now, and a whole raft of anti-corruption legislation is yet to be implemented, but they remain essential if we are to address corruption in Nepal. But the first steps must be taken by each one of us, and this is the most difficult thing to do, given how corruption is indeed a matter of perception. We are embedded in a society largely accepting (and even admiring of the fruits) of corruption.

So dare to allow your children to make their way through life on the basis of merit, and merit alone. This does not of course mean you should not support them emotionally and materially the best you can – but this should not be at the expense of someone more deserving. Be patient and resist the bureaucrat's demand for a bribe, even in the face of inefficiencies and inconveniences that seemed designed to encourage fast-tracking. Face up to the consequences of your actions next time you get stopped for a traffic offense...or something more serious.

This may sound ridiculously impractical, and as a member of the Kathmandu elite, I risk being dubbed a hypocrite. But even if one chooses to keep the focus on the real criminals, it's worth considering if your actions have a wider moral significance. Just remember that the big fish all started as small fry like you and me. And as Prithvi Narayan Shah declares via a notice in Morang district's Land Revenue Office, 'Those who take and give bribes are the great enemies of the nation.'

Not so hip

RANJAN ADIGA

When I was a St. Xavier's student in the early 90s I looked forward to our English classes but hated Nepali.

One reason was that English was taught by Americans, some soberly clad Jesuits, others younger, flashier volunteers who had taken a year off from their otherwise hectic lives to come and teach in third world countries. Few doubted, or doubt, the noble intentions of these young teachers, but thinking back, it seems they might have unknowingly conspired to lure us away from boring Nepali classes.

When a twenty-something white American walks into a classroom with a guitar and some Springsteen songs, the old-fashioned, topi-wearing 'Sir' of *Mahendra Mala* is destined to fall out of favour with most students. No wonder Nepali teachers devised their own theatrical performances while teaching – teary recitals of passages, exaggerated flourishes of the hands while rendering Devkota verses – but despite their efforts, *Mahendra Mala* always looked like the poor unwanted cousin when the next class promised renditions of "Born in the USA" and viewings of *Dead Poets Society*.

At school, Nepali always seemed the poor cousin of English

Nepali was not hip. If you did well in Nepali, you were viewed with some suspicion by other students: "he must be a pujari's son, or a closeted, pure bahun", as if those categories had a unique claim over the language. Today, though I don't have the figures to prove it, conversations with batch mates the world over indicate that almost eighty per cent of those who graduated from St. Xavier's with me reside in the western world. From doctors to engineers, software pros to scientists, STX '92 occupies some of the most lucrative positions abroad.

Occasionally, we meet for drinks and pride ourselves on our Xavierian heritage; we riff on Hollywood and hip-hop; our children speak in 'pure' American accents, and a mere mention of Devkota, never mind Rajesh Hamal, elicits the obvious shrug or sneer. Many foreign-born children, on their part, grow up with little appreciation, or knowledge, of any Nepali language. They rattle off English more naturally than their Xavier's educated parents, and while the parents half-heartedly bemoan this eventuality, I can't help but notice the unavoidable glint of pride in their eyes. Sadly Nepali, it seems, has become even less hip than it ever was.

Junk journalism

 **GUEST COLUMN**
Rabindra Mishra

The idea of public service in journalism deserves deeper scrutiny

Celebrated commentator CK Lal's column in the last issue ('Junk journalism', #492) must have been an interesting read for students of journalism like myself. Lal's comment that this author "unabashedly promotes causes close to his heart" through the use of media has a wider relevance to the practice of journalism.

I have been arguing lately that the core value of 'public service' in journalism needs a radical redefinition. After studying journalism and working as a full-time journalist for nearly 18 years, I have been left wondering whether what I have been doing all these years has actually served the public.

Philanthropy is the cause that I have been "unabashedly" promoting through the use of media and that is what seems to have irked Lal. Through my various articles in the vernacular press, I have explained why I have been doing so.

First, the type of journalism practised around the world, which primarily revolves around politics, conflict and disasters, may not actually be enough to do justice to the fundamental objective of the profession we are in – public service. Day in and day out, we hear about the violence in the Middle



KIRAN PANDAY

East and poverty and conflict in Africa and Asia. Has the coverage changed anything? It seems clear the gap between the rich and the poor has widened, environmental degradation is increasing, public insecurity is high, and the list goes on.

The continuous flow of negative news and commentary seems, rather, to have desensitised society to human misery. I have realised however that many people find positive news refreshing and inspirational amidst the all-pervasive gloom surrounding society. Coincidentally, this weekly has been at the forefront in Nepal in promoting


positive news, which has brought about visible change: Bhairab Risa's 'Sun light in Humla' (#245) and Captain Vijay Lama's 'Nyanopan' campaign ('I'm a Nepali first', #328) are a couple of examples. I doubt if the scores of columns on political punditry I've published in local and international media have had as much impact as those two features on life-

changing noble acts. They have directly benefited some of the most vulnerable communities, who struggle to feed themselves every day and can't even imagine engaging in moral discourses in the national press as I am doing now.

Second, apart from the positive news, I have also concluded that the media's core value of public service would be served better if it were to be used to promote philanthropic causes. There is a strong complementary relation between the idea of public service in journalism and philanthropy that has remained largely unexplored. The question is, if politicians

and many politically biased commentators constantly harp about their political beliefs in the opinion pages of newspapers, television and radio interviews, what is wrong in promoting philanthropy through the use of media? If Lal can support and promote 'lok tantra' (democracy) and a highly controversial GP Koirala, why can't one promote 'lok kalyan' (philanthropy) and the likes of Uttam Sanjel and Dr Upendra Mahato? Eighteen thousand poor Nepali children are getting a relatively good education for just 100 rupees a month because of Uttam Sanjel. And through Dr Mahato's support, at least another 18,000 poor children will also benefit. Who should be "mindful of the principles and personalities" they promote – those who support abstract political views and some of the most loathed politicians in the country, or those who support solidly result-oriented social agendas and real change-makers?

We are so used to politico-centric journalism that one hardly questions it when Lal promotes GP Koirala, Hari Rokka promotes Prachanda or Bishnu Rijal promotes Madhav Nepal. However many people, like Lal, are uncomfortable with the idea of a philanthropic agenda being promoted through the press. It is ironic that the obsolete and recycled views of the same politicians get so much coverage every day in the press while the uncountable excellent initiatives undertaken by so many people throughout the country are underplayed or entirely ignored.

Until and unless we come out of this pit of politico-centric junk journalism and try to see the wider world, we will fail to understand the core value of the profession we are in.  rabindra.helpnepal@gmail.com

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AGE NEPAL

Coming of AGE

CLARE HARVEY

The difficulties of caring for a disabled child are compounded in Nepal, but some are making a genuine effort to help

Finding out your baby has a disability is always going to be heart-breaking. But when you live in a culture where many believe that being born disabled is a direct result of misdeeds in a previous life, the outlook can be overwhelmingly depressing. This is the case for parents of children with Cerebral Palsy (CP) in Nepal.

About one in 400 children are affected by CP in the United Kingdom, and this figure may be higher in Nepal, where there is less pre-natal care. CP is caused by brain damage prior to birth. Children with CP have problems with movement and balance, struggle to speak clearly, and may have problems swallowing and difficulties with spatial perception.

Although some children with CP have learning difficulties, many may have average or above average intelligence. And whilst there is no cure for CP, it is not a

condition that gets worse over time, so with early intervention (primarily physiotherapy), the outlook can be quite positive.

In Nepal, however, there is a paucity of support for children with CP, partly due to lack of resources as well as the stigma attached to having a child with CP. Outreach workers report that children with the condition are often locked away from the prying eyes of judgmental neighbours, and relatives will deny there is a disabled child in the family. It's a situation that has been aptly described as Nepal's 'hidden catastrophe' by the Self Help Group for Cerebral Palsy Nepal.

But there are glimmers of hope in the form of determined charities working tirelessly to improve the situation of Nepali children with CP. One of these is A Genuine Effort (AGE) Nepal, based in Kupondole in Lalitpur.

AGE was founded six years ago by three young physiotherapists – Jeena Shrestha, Arati Singh and Bimala Shrestha – with the aim of improving quality of life for children with neurological disabilities.

The day care centre, which employs six full-time staff, a part-time accountant and a volunteer occupational therapist from Switzerland, caters for the needs of 17 children between the ages of 3 and 12. AGE offers multi-disciplinary care, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, play therapy and informal education. The idea is that through sustained stimulation and support these children can enjoy some of the things that 'normal' children take for granted, like sitting up, playing with a musical toy, feeding themselves, or learning to read.

The charity also offers support to parents by providing care and counselling. An additional goal is to educate the broader community about neurological disabilities.

"Here, society blames you for having a disabled child, so we want to help the parents and change the way our community views disabled children," says Bimala.

Jeena, Arati and Bimala would love to do more, but as AGE Nepal runs entirely on private donations, it is very difficult to expand or plan ahead. "Just a small contribution can make a big difference in the lives of these children," says Arati Singh. "Let us join hands to take these children out of their misery and give them a dignified life."

AGENepal: www.agenepal.org.np
Self Help Group for Cerebral Palsy Nepal: <http://cpnepal.org>



Rose & Babu

I have three children. My youngest, Rose (*pic*), is now four. She has cerebral palsy, diagnosed at the age of two when we realised she wasn't hitting her developmental markers (she still wasn't walking at the age of two and a half). As soon as we realised there was a real problem, we were offered physiotherapy, speech therapy, play therapy, and put in touch with a welfare advisor to help us access state benefits. As a result, her prognosis is very good: she can now walk, talk and feed herself – feats that seemed impossible just two years ago – and has started at the British School in Kathmandu.

What struck me when I arrived in Nepal from the UK a year ago was how incredibly lucky Rose was to have been born in the developed world, with all the financial,

medical and cultural benefits that entail for the disabled. There is very little available for Nepali families in this situation.

Seven-year-old Babu Shrestha lives with his family in a one-room rented apartment in Kathmandu. His father is a bus driver and his mother a housewife. He has athetoid cerebral palsy, which causes lots of involuntary movements. This makes his voluntary movements jerky and uncoordinated, causing difficulties with feeding, dressing and using the toilet.

When he is at home, Babu needs round-the-clock care. This is tough on his mother, who has a one-year-old baby to look after as well. She freely admits that she only chose to have another baby because of the stigma attached to having a disabled child in Nepal.

She felt she had to have a 'normal' child just to prove that there was nothing wrong with her.

Babu is an extremely sociable child. He loves the company of his friends and family, and adores his baby brother. He has been coming to AGE for the past five years for physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy and informal education. His condition is such that physically there will probably be little progress. However, during his time at AGE he has learned to respond, speak a few words, and let his care-givers know when he needs to use the toilet. Whilst these may not seem like much, they are huge achievements for a child who faces so many physical challenges.

Chemonics International Regional Program Manager

Chemonics International seeks qualified candidates for following position. This is a one year, full time position on the USAID-funded Nepal Transition Initiative (NTI) program which seeks to support Nepal’s political transition. This fast, flexible program is designed to bolster the current peace process; strengthen governance mechanisms; and support positive, non-violent community engagement in the country’s political, social and economic future.

Regional Program Manager

This position will be located in Janakpur and requires significant travel in and around the Terai. Local expatriates encouraged to apply.

The Regional Program Manager (RPM) is responsible for oversight of the field office in Janakpur and all related grants and activities in the eastern and central Terai region, ensuring smooth implementation and adherence to USAID rules and regulations. The RPM will oversee the staff and office in Janakpur and will manage all financial, administrative and programmatic issues. The RPM will oversee the identification of potential grantees and the development and implementation of small grant activities, primarily in-kind, that support the ongoing transition to peace and democracy in Nepal as well as oversee programmatic and implementation monitoring of each grant activity in coordination with other staff members. S/he will advise on the evolution of the local political, legal and economic situation and on how to continuously adapt the regional NTI program to ensure that it remains relevant and effective. The RPM will report directly to the Chief of Party and advise him/her of program and administrative issues related to the field office.

- Strong written and spoken English language ability is required, Nepali or other local language a plus.
- Knowledge of USAID rules and regulations, especially financial.
- Experience conceptualizing, implementing, and monitoring small grant projects.
- Experience overseeing projects and project budgets.
- Minimum of two years experience working in a complex and challenging field operation in unstable developing countries with preferably at least one year in a supervisory capacity
- Desire and willingness to live in Janakpur

Please submit CV and cover letter to operations@chemonics-nepal.com and write the position you are applying for in the subject line. The deadline for applications has been extended to **Sunday, March 21**. Only short listed applicants will be contacted. Position is subject to available funding and USAID approval.

“Winning an election a disadvantage”

Interview with former state minister at the Home Ministry
Mohammad Rijwan Ansari in *Kantipur*, 11 March

Why did you resign?

I’ve wanted to resign as minister of state at the home ministry for four months because of the worsening security situation. I hoped to focus on my work in the CA. However, I was told by the prime minister and party leaders to be patient. But the security situation only got worse. I felt morally obliged to submit a letter of resignation.

Why did the prime minister ask you to resign when the public’s ire was directed at the home minister?

I’m surprised as well. I’ve had my letter of resignation in my pocket for four months. I would’ve submitted it if he hadn’t asked for it. On the other hand, everyone’s been asking the home minister to resign, including the public, party leaders, businesspeople and other officials. In this context, why I was asked to resign now is a mystery to me.



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

The prime minister didn’t dare ask the state minister who slapped a CDO to resign. Why did he fix on you?

I don’t know. The prime minister has been meaning to ask either the state minister or the home minister to resign for a while since they couldn’t get along. I guess he picked the easier path.

You are the only UML member in government who was elected. Perhaps the elected and unelected have different mindsets?

When the government was formed, there was talk that I would be named the home minister. However, I was worried that I was underqualified, although I won the elections. Could it be that winning an election is politically disadvantageous?



Call for Expressions of Interest Nepal Program to Promote Demand for Good Governance State and Peace-building Fund

The World Bank Office, Kathmandu

The World Bank intends to finance the assignment described below under the State and Peace-building Fund (SPF), a trust fund financed from the Bank’s administrative budget and the governments of The Netherlands and Norway.

The assignment requires an eligible Nepali civil society organization (CSO) to serve as a national capacity building institute (NCBI) of the *Program to Promote Demand for Good Governance (DFGG)* in Nepal (PROD). The World Bank will award the contract for one year, renewable annually for up to another 2 years, based on performance. The PROD is a US\$3 million World Bank initiative to enable non-state institutions to help improve governance and institutional performance in Nepal, as well as transparency and risk mitigation in World Bank-financed projects via social accountability mechanisms (SA). For the first year of operations, the institution will receive US\$ 145,000 to perform these services.

Tasks to be undertaken will focus on *training, mentoring and awareness raising*, and include the following: SA capacity assessments of Nepali civil society organizations (CSOs), (and other constituencies, e.g. government (GoN) media and Constituency Assembly); Identifying target beneficiaries of training; Identifying international and national training partners and organize their provision of training to target groups; Preparing a detailed one year plan, and a 3 year indicative SA capacity building program, and progress reports; Organizing training in SA techniques through: ‘DFGG schools’ and distance learning; on-the-job mentoring and coaching; exchange/orientation visits to other countries; scholarships for formal instruction; customized training for specialized constituencies (e.g. media, government, research institutions); and the training of potential trainers; and, Developing a PROD practitioners alumni network.

The successful applicant will have: an established presence in Nepal, and sound professional reputation among development constituencies; proven track record in delivering training programs – to state and non-state actors; capacity to manage different and simultaneous training activities; experience with Government-civil society partnerships; experience in working with national and international partners; capacity to comply with standard fiduciary regulations and accounting systems; a cadre of staff with core competencies in SA; experience in implementing capacity building programs on SA is an advantage.

The *World Bank* now invites eligible Nepali organizations to indicate their interest in providing the required services, with an operating plan and budget for the first year. Applicants must provide information indicating their qualifications for this assignment that includes: past experience of training of CSOs – notably SA practitioners; CSOs needs assessments; management of training programs at an international level, experiences in similar conditions to Nepal, organizational charts and core skills of available staff, most recent audited accounts, and testimonials from previous clients. Applicants may associate (in the form of a Joint Venture or intended Joint venture) to enhance their qualifications. Organizations may collaborate if needed to meet these qualifications.

Applicants will be selected in accordance with Selection Based on Consultant’s Qualification method as per the procedures set out in the current edition of the World Bank’s *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers*.

Interested organizations may obtain further information at the address below, between 09:30AM and 5:00PM.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by April 1, 2010.

Attn: Sulochana Nepali; World Bank, Nepal Country Office; Yak & Yeti Hotel Complex, Lal Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal.
Tel: (977 1) 4226792 Ext. 148 Fax: (977 1) 4225112; email: snepali@worldbank.org

“I’m not a royalist”

Interview with NC leader Khum Bahadur Khadka, *Nagarik*, 11 March

नागरिक

Did you talk about politics when you met the former king recently?

Not really. I heard the king saying to Kali Baba, “the law and order situation in the country is deteriorating, please bless Nepal so that we can overcome it.”

Do you have close relations with the former King?

I have met him three or four times. I am not a royalist. When I was home minister under Surya Bahadur Thapa, I put a proposal to the central committee to reconsider the role of the king. Later general secretary Basu Risal told me, “We have had a long journey with him. If you talk about dethroning him, you will regret it.”

How could the corruption case against you be biased?

It was a joint effort to charge me on corruption, as designed by the palace.

Why are you lobbying for a Hindu kingdom?

Nepal was declared secular without discussion. Leaders got money to declare it a secular country.

You were also there in parliament when it was declared, why didn’t you speak out?

The situation was such you could not oppose anything. Even Girijababu could not.

Is it a secret party line to make Nepal a Hindu kingdom?

It is an individual campaign, though many friends have joined me. I am not talking about religious extremism, I am talking about the country’s identity.



VIJAY RAI

Never too late?

DEWAN RAI

Amidst growing public conviction that the deadline will be missed, the CA amended its schedule on Tuesday for the tenth time, while reasserting the need for a timely constitution. With just 11 weeks left, the CA took a shortcut by pushing the deadline for the submission of the first draft of the constitution to 16 April, while retaining 28 May as the final deadline.

A political mechanism comprising parliamentary party leaders from all parties will work towards finding common ground on a range of still contentious issues. The Constitutional Committee (CC) has not yet started its task of drafting the preliminary constitution as it has received only 2 of 11 draft reports. There are

political issues to be resolved in the remaining 9 draft reports.

The leaders of all political parties attended Tuesday's meeting of the committee and agreed to resolve differences on genuine issues that have obstructed the constitution-writing process. It is yet to be seen if the promise will be kept. "We have no option but to believe them," said Kul Bahadur Gurung, NCCA member, who is also a committee member. "They have committed to completing the task in time. It is too early to predict the fate of the constitution."

Another committee member and Maoist CA member Hari Raj Limbu says if the political parties keep their commitment, Nepal will get a new constitution on time. "It is time for the political parties to show honesty towards the task assigned to them," he said. The entire process now depends on how they translate their commitment into action.

If the political parties act on their commitment to resolve contentious issues, Nepal can still have a new constitution on time

To start drafting the new constitution, there has to be agreement among political parties on fundamental issues such as state restructuring, forms of governance, modality of federalism, constitutional bodies, state organs, and fundamental

rights, among others. "The issues are where they were months ago," said constitution expert Bhimarjun Acharya. "The political parties should resolve their differences and help in drafting the constitution."

Acharya accused the political parties of knowingly delaying the constitution-writing process. "They have not exhibited the political will required to write the constitution on time," he said.

As the deadline draws nearer, some argue it's technically impossible to meet the deadline. The latest rescheduling of the CA calendar was an attempt to avoid a constitutional vacuum come May 28. But the CA will now have to skip certain constitutionally mandated steps of the writing process. Of 17, only six steps have been completed till date. Crucial steps that remain include: discussing the first draft in a CA full session, taking the draft

constitution to the public, interacting with experts on the draft, distributing it to CA members to study, and discussing each article and passing it by two thirds in the CA.

Acharya noted the thematic committees have already prepared the preliminary drafts and it won't take much time to compile and prepare a final draft of the constitution. "Political consensus is all we need," he said.

He also argued that if the parties agree on the fundamental issues, the country can adopt a concise constitution, though this does not mean an incomplete constitution. "We can discuss minor issues later but extending the tenure of the CA is a completely illegitimate move," he concluded.

If the deadline to submit the first draft of the constitution is missed this time around, this may be an inevitable consequence. 🇳🇵

"Six-month extension possible"



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

Nilam Verma, MJF-Republic CA member, Rautahat

Will the constitution be written by 28 May?

If the politicians remain stubborn the constitution won't be written on time.

If not, then what?

According to the interim constitution, the deadline can be extended by six months, within which time the constitution must be completed. There's no alternative to that.

But isn't that only possible during an emergency period?

If the constitution isn't written by the deadline, then it will be an emergency. That's why when that situation arises, political understanding and consensus will be necessary. Otherwise we will be in dire straits.

"Tough to meet deadline"

Chabilal Vishwakarmi, UMLCA member, Rupandehi

If the constitution isn't written by 28 May, what will happen?

Hypothetical questions like that are hard to answer. There's no alternative to writing the constitution even if it means extending the deadline.

How much extra time would be necessary?

That depends on how efficiently the CA works.

Suppose it continues working at its current pace.



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

Look, in order to complete the constitution, parties much reach consensus on a couple of key issues: federalism, state restructuring and PLA integration. The parties must work hard to find common ground.

But even if they did reach an agreement, isn't there simply insufficient time?

It will be tough to finish the constitution by the deadline. Many subject

committees still haven't submitted their drafts. Once they do, even if the Constitutional Committee spends only two days on each draft, it will take a further 22 days to complete the constitution. So it will be tough.

%\$#@& country!

Last week's Cursing Festival in Parsawa has put Nepal on the [expletive deleted] world voodoo map. News that villagers gather around at holi to curse the [%\$#@&] living daylight out of each other [foul language] has gone around the globe and made us the [PG18] laughing stock of the world [hee-haw]. All this bodes very well indeed for **Visit Nepal Ear 2011**.

Any publicity is good publicity, especially if it is free, in our goal of bringing in one million visitors. Also from next year we can start marketing the Cursing Festival as a major tourist attraction for the Tarai, in addition to Lumbini, Janakpur and Chitwan. Slogan: **'Visit Nepal and Curse All You Want'**.

The way it's done is this. Villagers gather around and start casting serious aspersions about each others' mothers. They also put spells on their neighbours' livestock by shouting: "May your buffaloes die of diarrhoea." To which the neighbours reply: "Your son looks like a donkey." Ahem, that should be a compliment. There are other Adults Only curses that can't be printed in a family periodical like this, and



we hear the denizens of Parsawa are already practicing for next year's festival with some choice hitherto unused epithets like [deleted by moderator]. Our advice to the Aguwas of our Civilian Society is to bring the Cursing Festival to Kathmandu and stage a noisy rally in front of Singha Darbar.



Speaking of NTY 2011, congratulations to the **Nepal Tourism Bored** for getting the leaders of all 16 main political parties to sign a pledge not to have strikes and other disruptions in the runup to next year. Now if the parties could only show the same solidarity to write the constitution, we'd be home free. The Baddies were the last to sign because they were

apparently haggling over the wording of the draft as if it was a binding international treaty. The comrades wanted to remove all specific references to "strikes, bandas and chukka jams", then finally relented, but wanted the exit clause "except in special circumstances" added. NTB, to its credit, stood its ground and the **Prachanda & Prachanda** negotiations dragged on into the night with a final agreement on a compromise wording: "principally we will not affect tourism and tourism related activities during the campaign". That saved the day and Awesome signed the document, shaking hands with his namesake. For such mediation skills, the Ass would like to nominate Prachanda Man Singh the Chief Negotiator to

end the current political deadlock as well.



What's with this gate-fetish of us Nepalis. Awesome goes all the way to Dang to inaugurate a new gate, every VDC and DDC now sets aside enormous amounts of money to build gates, and the **Ugliest Gate in Nepal** at TIA needs a major demolition job if we are to give a good first impression to visitors. In fact, if we had erected schools and health posts instead of gates, this country would be well on its way to meet the Millennium Development Goals.



Kalibaba organised a nine-day yagya to restore the Hindu kingdom. The former physics

teacher of ASCOL said he would self-immolate if Nepal didn't revert back to a Hindu kingdom. As usual, our current and erstwhile leaders all trooped off to be blessed: KP Bhattarai, Makunay, ex-kingji, but conspicuous in his absence this time was Awesome. Probably because kingG's supporters were chanting "raja au desh bachau" outside the temple while Khum Budder was offering a garland to **His Ex**.



The stress of his job is showing on the prime minister. Inaugurating a handicraft fair at the mandap the other day Makunay addressed the defensive minister as education minister, but the Ass can't figure out why the PM should mistake Bidya didi for Kusawahahaha. And our **Quote of the Week** is from MKN himself at the function: "Women are not breeding machines, men should also demand that right." Could these gaffes have been the result of his speechwriter being on a UK junket?



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FasTrackKids is a Proven Innovator in International Early Childhood Education.

ADMISSIONS OPEN
(for children between the age group of 18 months to 8 years)



Lazimpat (Opp. to Everest Bank), Kathmandu, Nepal
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Headquartered at Denver, Colorado USA, FasTrackKids runs its franchise operations in 50 countries with over 300 centers around the world. Nepal is the 51st country to start its operation and is franchised by Imperial World School in Kathmandu.



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