



**FURNITURE LAND STORE**  
 Show Room: Bluestar Complex, Tripureswor Tel: 4224797, 4228833  
 Bhat Bhateni Superstore, Maharajgunj Tel: 4016277  
 Maitighar, Tel: 2020126, 4100549

## Bogged down

In the run-up to the fifth prime ministerial election, the Maoists' last-ditch attempts will focus on the Madhesi alliance. But Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal appears to have conceded defeat already. Speaking at the Central Committee meeting on Thursday, he blamed the activity of national and international forces for the Maoists' inability to form a government.

The meeting concluded with a decision to continue dialogue with political parties, and the next meeting has been scheduled for 19 August, a day after the fifth round of voting. "We will hold talks with other political parties to form a consensus government within the current provisions," Maoist spokesperson Dinanath Sharma told reporters after the meeting. He added that they would also discuss amending the

parliamentary regulations.

The UML, on Wednesday, once again decided to remain neutral in the fifth round of voting, barring the possibility of a national consensus government. The meeting also endorsed a nine-point paper emphasising the need to detach the Maoists from their paramilitary structures as a basis from which to move towards a consensus. The UML has been urging both Dahal and NC's Poudel to withdraw their candidacies.

This is far from certain at this point. NC vice president and prime ministerial candidate Ram Chandra Poudel ruled out any possibility of backing out from the prime ministerial election, following a request from the Maoists for a joint withdrawal of candidacies.

Despite public statements on the necessity of a national consensus to move ahead on the

peace process and constitution writing, such stances are little more than strategic ploys for the Maoists, NC and UML: it really means government under one's own leadership. While the Maoists have decided to hold dialogue to push for a Maoist-led government, the NC and UML have made it clear they will not accept Maoist leadership unless the party is completely detached from its paramilitary wings. Given the Maoists' fundamental disagreements with the Madhesi alliance, not to mention the more royalist sections of the CA, such a consensus seems as far away as it was on 21 July.

THROUGH A GLASS  
 DARKLY: The Dattatreya temple in Bhaktapur, Monday

KIRAN PANDAY

**EDITORIAL** p2  
 Good guys  
 and bad gyys



**LAVAZZA**  
 ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE  
 Maya Pub - Pokhara, Bela Napoli - Pokhara  
 For Business Inquiry: 9841505390

Step in for more varieties at  
**LIFE STYLE**  
 design & decor




Show Room: SRD Building  
 New Plaza, Putalisadak, GPO Box: 3381,  
 Tel: 4425402, Fax: 00977-14437133,  
 E-mail: pujyata@wlink.com.np

Make sure your bathrooms have  
 Johnson Germ Free tiles.



**JOHNSON**  
 TILE | BATH | KITCHEN  
**NEPA MARBLE BATH HOUSE**  
 Dhumburahi, Ktm. Tel: 4431307, 2011841

**HP Probook 4420s Notebook**  
 Stylish With Advanced Multimedia Support



- Core i5 (2.26 GHz)
- 2GB DDR3 Memory
- 320GB Hard Drive
- 14.1" WXGA Display
- DVD RW, BT, Wireless
- Intel Graphics Media
- Free DOS

Thin to Fit your Life  
 Light to Carry your Moments!

**CAS CAS Trading House Pvt. Ltd.**  
 Address : Putalisadak, Kathmandu  
 Phone : 977-1- 4440271, 4440272  
 E-mail : amar@cas.com.np

**EverExceed SHARP UNIKOR**  
**Kaneka SOLARLAND SunLink PV**



Install Solar PV Before Loadshedding Starts

**Solar Complex, Bagbazar, Kathmandu.**  
 Tel: 4225253, 4227876, Fax : 4223851  
 Email : ises@vianet.com.np

Enjoy the moment  
 a swing at a time



**UB GROUP**  
 UNITED SPIRITS NEPAL PVT. LTD.

DRINK RESPONSIBLY



## GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS

The never-ending elections would be hilarious by now, if they weren't so deadly serious.

The political theatre of the absurd in parliament every week has turned people off the present crop of politicians, which may not in itself be a bad thing. But it is also making them cynical about democracy; citizens are not just blaming politicians, they are blaming the value system of democracy itself. This holds serious long-term perils for the country's future.

TV talk shows, radio studio discussions and the op-ed pages of newspapers can't get enough of politicians holding forth, mostly to blame everyone but themselves. Disagreeable politicians are all saying we shouldn't disagree. It is easy to be confused and tune out, and this is exactly what is happening to millions of people across the country. The latest ratings show a mass migration of viewers from the previously top-billed NTV evening news

to Star Plus.

One common refrain is that politicians are too crooked, too selfish and greedy, so the country may still not be ready for democracy. If we had trains, it is said, dictators would make them run on time. Nepal goes through cycles of distrusting regarding democracy every decade or so. While understandable, such a trend is disastrous for the kind of open society we are striving to build.

For those befuddled by the endless elections for prime ministership, for those who can't differentiate between the good guys and bad guys, there may be a few simple questions to help us make sense of the mess.

There are two kinds of political forces in this country: those that believe in the ideological doctrine of political violence, and those that don't. If we believe that killing and maiming people for political beliefs is not a desirable thing, then it should be pretty simple to agree that we are trying to build a society with a governance structure that abjures violence. At present this excludes the Maoist army and its paramilitary structures, and the quasi-political militias that operate in the Madhes and the eastern hills.

For this, the political forces that do not need violence to attain and remain in power must stick together. And there's the rub. The 'democratic' parties are so mired in individual

ambition, greed and one-upmanship they have not been able to rise to the occasion to break the deadlock. Our goal should be to help all parties in their transition to peaceful politics, and failing this, to convince the parties that believe in pluralism to rise over petty individualism to counter the totalitarians.

There are those who believe the Maoists can be reformed, and those that are convinced the Maoists will never abandon their end goal of establishing a one-party people's republic. Even within the Maoists, two schools of thought have emerged in the current Central Committee meeting, hence their contradictory statements.

Democracy can be messy, and elected politicians can be crooks. But it is a system we know how to fix without killing people. We've lived through various models of authoritarianism, and they have been even more disastrous. Grassroots democracy in the mid-1990s was beginning to deliver development; it proved accountability can improve lives. But that was before the war set us back two decades.

KD

# Patronising behaviour



PLAIN SPEAKING  
Prashant Jha

The alleged threats by an Indian embassy official against a TMDP-turned-Maoist MP have dominated the headlines this week. If true, it goes against the norms of diplomacy and the international system, not to mention civilised human behaviour.

It also provides an excellent opportunity to really think through the complex, multi-layered relationship between Indian officialdom and Nepali politicians. The case itself is a symptom of a much deeper malaise: flawed Indian policy, and a Nepali political culture with a shockingly high dependence on external patronage.

In mid-2009, India decided its security interests were at stake when the Maoists acted against the army chief. The Indians helped rally all the 'democratic forces' in an alternative alliance. Since then, the

core objective of Indian policy has been to 'keep the Maoists out'. Everything else is secondary. They have been aided in this task by the Maoists themselves, who have failed to assess the balance of power correctly.

To achieve this, India has had to engage in an almost unprecedented degree of micro-management. This has involved keeping the 'democratic' parties together, punishing those who do not fall in line, managing disputes, providing

out; Jhalanath Khanal thinks he would have been PM but India stopped Upendra Yadav from backing him; Yadav himself is upset with Delhi for helping split his party; MPs in parties whose leaders are well rewarded by India feel nothing trickles down. And even those who do India's bidding privately complain about limited dividends. Add to this the royalists convinced that India disposed of the monarchy.

A lot of this may be perceptual rather than rooted in reality, but it

costs being incurred, the tangible benefits, the degree of local politics they want to 'manage' or try to, and whether the leverage would be better used to get the peace process back on track.

But the other side of the story is the extreme hypocrisy of Nepali politicians themselves. Factions have long tried to use India against each other, going back to 1800 when the deposed raja Rana Bahadur lobbied the East India Company in Banaras against the Damodar Pande-influenced darbar. A little before that, in 1794, the regent Bahadur Shah responded to his sacking by Rana Bahadur by writing to Peking. Little has changed since then.

In the last five years, the Maoists and other political parties sought Indian political, moral, and financial support against the king. The Maoists courted the Indian embassy in their negotiations with Girija Prasad Koirala, and Koirala did the same, especially during the negotiations on arms and armies. The embassy helped Madhesi parties and the government reach a

deal during the Madhes movement. The Maoists then tried to get India to exert pressure on Koirala to resign and pave the way for a government led by them after the elections.

A section in Kathmandu has idealised last year's 'democratic alliance', but it was the Indian establishment that enabled this alliance. To do that, they used coercion, inducement, and persuasion, just as now. Those who supported the alliance cannot wash their hands of the tactics that led to its formation when such revelations come to the surface.

Individual politicians across the spectrum are deeply enmeshed in this network. They solicit funds regularly, ask for 'advice', try to use Delhi or a wing of the embassy to undercut their own rivals within their parties, and in return promise to play along with the larger Indian game. This allows bureaucrats to take the politicians for granted and treat them crudely when they step out of line.

At best, the present case may make Indian officials a bit more careful. But unless India feels the costs of its present approach are unacceptably high, or Nepali politicians develop a more sophisticated, and autonomous, way to deal with Delhi, the song will remain the same. 🇳🇵

## With Nepali politicians kowtowing to flawed Indian policy, it's no wonder we're not moving forward

regular advice to the government on how to deal with the Maoists, and in recent weeks, holding the Madhes alliance together.

In the process, India has alienated many actors, and generated enormous resentment. Pushpa Kamal Dahal is angry with Delhi for keeping him

shows that the present Indian policy has come at a high cost. Diplomats may be smug that they meet the policy bottom line, but if they want to avoid repeated embarrassment, a policy review in Delhi is well in order. They need to reconsider their medium to long-term goals, the tools at their disposal, the political

### ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

#### TRAILING DESTINY

The destiny of a country is in the hands of its people ('Tail between our legs', Publisher's Note, #514). And the best way to predict the future is to create it.

Sargam

#### HARD TRUTHS

The Forum's defectors happen to be *chor mathi chakar* ('Hard choices', Prashant Jha, #514). They were able to extract money from a party which collected money through extortion and levies from the PLA. The defectors voted UCPN in the 3rd round of voting, but did not in the 4th one. Hahaha!

bhaicha

- Is anybody among the 601 writing the constitution?

Thurpunsich

#### FOLLOWING UP

The issue here is much larger than any

one newspaper ('Following the paper trail', CK Lal, #514). It is the question of the rights of the citizens of one country to be able to govern themselves and preserve their sovereignty without direct interference from other more powerful neighbours. *Kantipur* could have presented the issue this way, but it did not.

So the readers are left with the impression that if only *Kantipur* is treated better by India, it may be a good thing for the country, and this should be the end of the matter. Actually, that may not necessarily be in the people's best interest; *Kantipur's* interests, that of a business corporation, may not exactly align with that of the larger interests of the nation.

Sadly, in Nepal it has become acceptable and almost a prerequisite for politicians, and also for many members of the media and intelligentsia, to seek approval and support from foreign sources. It is only when their personal

interests are adversely affected that you hear loud protests. Now that the establishment at *Kantipur* may have come to an 'understanding' with the Indians, it seems they could not care less about what the public thinks.

How long do you think the influence of others including India could last, were it not also for our self-centered complicity in perpetuating it?

Dev Batsya

#### DIY

I am all for public-private partnership or social initiatives taken at local levels but these can be no substitute for a proper government ('Nay to the government', Indu Nepal, #514). Governance is necessary, no country can do without it. There must be a system of various institutions assigned with different rights and responsibilities. That's what we really lack, we never really had any state institutions to look after public affairs. The politics of the country has always been

fluid and so-called representatives of the people have engaged in nothing more than a never-ending game of constructing and toppling the house of cards called 'Government'.

Anish

Times

nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll # 515

Q. Should MPs defy party whips and vote according to their conscience?

Total votes: 1,717

Yes 63.5%

No 26.2%

It depends 10.3%

Weekly Internet Poll # 516. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Should Dahal and Poudel withdraw their candidacies before Wednesday's election?





## Consumer Awareness Series-1

# Real & You The Healthy bond Naturally

# NEPAL'S No 1 FRUIT JUICE

Let us first thank all our discerning consumers for making Real the No.1 fruit juice of Nepal by patronizing it. We sincerely value this special bond with our consumers. We however request you to be a conscious consumer and keep in mind the following:

Please shake well before consuming



See the best before period & date of manufacture before buying



Do not buy if the pack is leaking, wet and soggy



Do not buy if the pack is puffed



Do not buy if the pack is torn or punctured



Do not buy if the pack seal is broken or tampered



Dear Retailers, we value your support in making Real the No. 1 fruit Juice of Nepal. You are our touch points with the consumers. We would, however request you to be a conscious seller and keep in mind the following:

Carry the cartons and trays carefully



Do not keep the cartons and trays on the ground



Store the cartons and trays hygienically



Do not sit or put anything on top of the cartons or trays



Do not expose the packs to direct sunlight and rain



Do not store in wet, humid & unclean place



**HACCP**  
CERTIFIED

Hazards Analysis Critical Control Point

"Good health begins with better nutrition"



Real juices are made using the best technology, delivering a safe and high quality product. Aseptic technology retains Real's wholesomeness and preserves its nutrition value.

The Company takes strong objections to the baseless allegations made on its high quality products.

**A Public Awareness Initiative by Dabur Nepal (P) Ltd.**



# Mega goes for megawatts

New bank targets everything from ploughshares to hydropower

Some banks outgrow their CEOs. But Anil Shah is the kind who outgrows banks. In the last ten years he has been in and out of big banks like Standard Chartered and Nabil, and he now heads the newly established Mega Bank.

"I need change, and I need challenges," says Shah in his well-appointed new office in the former British Council building on Kantipath. With its rural banking focus, Mega offers Anil Shah both of these.

Mega has 1,220 middle-class Nepalis from all over the country as promoters, and 14 partners. This is a bank with attitude: its ideology is to promote 'financial inclusion' among the three fourths of Nepalis who are not banking at present. The promoters are divided into six clusters named after Nepal's mountains and they elect directors to the board.

"People often ask me who owns Mega Bank, and my answer is: the people," says Shah. "With so many promoters and partners no one can say 'it's mine'."

Mega Bank is zeroing in on small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) as part of its mission to promote self-sufficiency and job creation, and bring value-chain dynamics into the economy. It all sounds too goody-goody to be true, but Shah is deadly serious and says a



## "Save for the future"

"The real challenge is to reorient ourselves from lending to deposits"

**Ajay Shrestha, CEO of Bank of Kathmandu, speaks to *Nepali Times* about the country's financial crisis, the prospects of recovery, and his own plans to increase deposits.**

***Nepali Times:* Is the worst over?**  
**Ajay Shrestha:** The liquidity crunch since December was a result of over-

aggression in lending, particularly in the real estate sector. Over-lending and all this was exacerbated by the shortage of currency notes, the withdrawal of deposits following the directive on declaration of assets. What is important is to learn our lesson from this. This wasn't an overnight phenomenon, the signs were there, and the banks were too late in reading it.

The Rastra Bank's intervention brought stability to the market by throwing a liquidity lifeline through REPO, but it isn't designed for long-term stability. In the long term we have to find ways to bring back deposits into the system and a more rational control over lending. After this year's rough patch we ourselves are in a consolidation phase, but we have a stable situation. Performance-wise it was never an issue.

**So there is a light at the end of the tunnel?**

We're not out of the woods yet. The core economic fundamentals are still not in good shape, there is a power crisis, GDP is stagnant, industrial production is not going up. The political fluidity is having a big impact on economic activity, the budget has not even been formulated. Government spending injects liquidity into the market.

**Any chance of a recovery in the real estate market?**

Real estate is stagnant, there is very little buying and selling taking place. There will always be a core demand for land and construction based on remittances. The inflow is still there, but it is being spent on assets, land and buildings. In the recent past it became a huge speculative bubble. Real estate was overplayed vis-à-vis demand. The only fear now is who will take that loss if the market comes back to its natural size: the seller, the buyer, the banks?





# and more



ALL PICS: KIRAN PANDAY

country like Nepal must have this banking model.

“All the stakeholders – the bankers, development bankers, Rastra Bank, the World Bank, IMF – have to get together and decide once and for all what the strategic goal of the financial sector in Nepal should be. Is it only to make money and share dividends among shareholders, or is there a higher calling?” It is clear he has made up his mind about what the real answer is.

“It can’t only be about profit,” he continues, warming to his theme. “Of course you have to make money, but there has to be a nation-level goal of wealth creation by enlarging the pie through long-term economic growth. Just making money isn’t enough for us.”

Shah admits he came up with Mega Bank’s slogan, which is now plastered across the country: ‘Halo dekhi hydro samma’ (from the plough to power). But no, he laughs, Mega isn’t short for ‘megawatts’.

It’s clear he’s been pitching his ideas to a lot of people in recent times. “It’s not enough in Nepal today to say we will do what everyone else is doing but better,” he explains. “That’s for when everything is fine and there is political stability and economic growth. But if things are difficult, you have to carve out your own niche. You have to do something different that makes a

difference.”

Shah says the overwhelming response within a month of the bank’s opening from small enterprises and agro-industries in the districts for loans proves that it is on the right track. He has just spoken to the Dairy Development Corporation about possibilities for expansion. This would fit the Mega model perfectly, he declares. Rural lending could finance an end-to-end value-chain to provide milk to the urban middle-class market.

Mega is nothing if not practical. “As the 28th bank in Nepal, we have no choice but to look at this model because the city is over-banked and three fourths of the market in the country has not been tapped,” Shah explains.

Shah is one of a new breed of Nepali bankers who see a role beyond banking, even beyond the economy. The financial sector has to play a part in investment, economic growth, and job creation, not just for the sake of it, but to tap the full potential of the Nepali nation.

“As long as Nepalis are hungry we will never have stability,” says Shah. “We now have political inclusion, but without economic inclusion there will be no future for this country.”

*Kunda Dixit*

## THIS WEEK



### NC convention postponed

The Central Working Committee meeting of the Nepali Congress on Sunday decided to postpone its 12th general convention from 26-30 August to a later date following the fifth round of prime ministerial elections. The new convention date has been set for 17-21 September.

### West Seti closes

The 750 MW West Seti Hydro Project has decided to close down as its promoter Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (Australia) has expressed its inability to continue funding for office operations. The company fired two thirds of its staff in February, and the project’s license expires in December.

### No bonus

The Ministry of Commerce and Supplies clarified on Wednesday that a bonus will not be distributed to employees of the Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) as the company is running at a huge loss. Earlier, the corporation announced a bonus to its employees based on profits from the preceding year. It withdrew its decision after separate government directives, following which NOC’s employees’ association halted supplies for three days. They returned to work only after NOC management assured them of the distribution of bonuses ‘as per the law’. “The agreement...was to provide bonus as per the law and the directives from the government and the CIAA are as good as laws,” said Purushottam Ojha secretary at the ministry.

### "Deport him"

On Tuesday, the Parliamentary Committee on International Relations and Human Rights instructed the government to initiate a probe into the alleged threats to Maoist lawmaker Ram Kumar Sharma by an official of the Indian embassy. Lawmakers at the meeting said the accused embassy official should make an apology and should be deported if found guilty. Sharma had on Friday disclosed that he received a death threat from an official at the Indian embassy for lobbying with Madhes-based parties for the prime ministerial election. Sharma submitted a letter to the CA Chair Subas Nemwang requesting arrangements for his security on Sunday.

### Oberthur wins

The Supreme Court has refused to instruct the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to halt the process of awarding the Machine Readable Passports printing contract to Oberthur Technologies. A joint bench of Justices Khil Raj Regmi and Krishna Prasad Upadhyay ruled it was not necessary to halt the process. Nar Bahadur Khatri and Hem Mani Subedi had separately filed a writ petition before the apex court saying the government decision was flawed.

# Glass half-full

**Is it going to be the survival of the fittest, then?**

Survival now will depend on holding capacity. There will be growth and selling pressure and in the near future prices may appreciate. The realty market is caught between a demand-side push and supply-side push.

**And other sectors?**

The service sector is not doing too badly. Health, education and tourism require less capital and there is earning capacity. But industrial production has suffered because of the power crisis and labour problems. Infrastructure has potential but it has a lengthy gestation period. Hydropower projects are suffering from the interest rate hike because it was not a risk factor during the feasibility studies. With the power purchase agreements done, and only a fixed revenue source, it is a Catch-22 situation. Projects already in the pipeline will probably go through but new hydropower projects will be delayed. Bank of Kathmandu doesn’t have much exposure in the real estate market, it is lending mainly to the service sector, and it was one of the first to lend in hydropower as part of a consortium supporting the Piluwa project.

**What is your future strategy?**

The real challenge now is reorient ourselves from lending to deposits. The strategy has to be to bring the households outside the Valley into banking and turn them from consumers to savers. We launched our ‘Save for the Future’ campaign five months ago.



Are we beginning to see the end of Nepal’s crippling liquidity crunch?

The Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) governor certainly seems to think so.

Yubaraj Khatiwada said at a seminar last week that depositors were returning to banks, attracted by higher interest rates. This has reduced the inter-bank lending rate by up to 3 per cent, and on T-bill rates, which could also translate into a lowering of interest rates on loans.

“The rise in interest rates on deposits is one of the main factors for the favourable cash situation,” Khatiwada said. He was also encouraged by Nepal’s healthier balance of payments, and now wants to achieve an ambitious BoP surplus of Rs 9 billion. He thinks this can be done because of

healthier tourism receipts, and a firming up of remittances following a slowdown in growth earlier this year.


Although the banking sector is encouraged by these trends, they are hedging their bets, and there is residual nervousness in the market. Banking sources estimate that deposits in banks have soared by Rs 40 billion in the last three months, but half of this is said to be the result of government spending ahead of the end of the fiscal year.

Many smaller private banks are still reeling under a decline in profitability caused by the drop in loans due to the higher interest rates. The liquidity crunch also affected their loan disbursement portfolios. “Any lowering of lending rates by private banks is not going to happen before Dasain,” confided one bank executive.

Most businesses have failed to be enthused by the Monetary Policy and early signs of recovery. The main reason is the political instability that has delayed the budget and the laying out of the country’s fiscal policy.



www.buddhaair.com




Tiger Nest, Bhutan



**Buddha Air's**  
*first international destination*

**PARO**  
B H U T A N



**Flight begins from**  
**23 August 2010**


**Carrier Aircraft**  
BEECH 1900 D

**Weekly 4 flights**  
MON / TUE / THU / FRI

**Flight Departure Time:**  
KTM - 10:00 | Paro : 11:55

In near future daily 1 flight  
and additional flights  
as per requirement

for more information  
please contact

 **5547522**  
email : reservation@buddhaair.com

# Changing inheritance laws



**ECONOMIC SENSE**  
**Artha Beed**

Initiatives are finally being taken to scrap the age-old inheritance laws that make children automatic heirs to their parents' property. A panel led by Justice Khil Raj Regmi this week submitted a report recommending a change in the law so an inheritance becomes something bequeathed through a will rather than through birth.

The automatic transfer of property from parents to their children, especially given the rocketing prices of land and gold, has secured earnings for some people whether they have earned it or not. It has perpetuated 'rent-seeking behaviour' among Nepalis, wherein people do not feel the need to think of how to make money or pay their bills. Why take the risk of entrepreneurial pursuits when one can be content living off the rent from ancestral properties? This attitude has led to the mushrooming of the 'shutter' culture: people simply open retail stores on their ground floors, rent them out, and secure a monthly cash inflow without working at all.

In many corporate entities, the scions of the family automatically become shareholders and directors irrespective of their competencies. Ancestral land is often sold to finance lavish desires for these fortunate young people, be it the latest motorbike or resources to record an album or music video.


In a country where there's no state-instituted social security, surely having parental property provides a necessary cushion? However, this legal provision is usually taken as bait to ensure a good after-life than to face challenges post-retirement. The inheritance law stems from the Hindu principle of chain of command, where it is deemed necessary to hand over one's mantle (and property) to the eldest son in exchange for smooth passage after death. As Dor Bahadur Bista said, we are more concerned about the dead than the living.



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

## Rich parents don't have to mean rich children

We are a democratic republic now, but we are yet to become a real democracy, stuck as we are in a feudal mindset. We say we have become a secular country, but electricity subsidies are only available to temples. When we light lamps at inaugurations, idols belonging to specific faiths guard the entrance. The seating arrangements at conferences are still the same as they were during the monarchy. The king has been substituted by a head of state, but he still spends much of his time attending religious functions. It may be a transitional period, but if we are to evolve as a democratic society that is secular and equal, we need to ring in the changes.

A real democracy talks about equal opportunities and helps to foster a society where there is a level playing field. The challenge is to build a society based on merit and deeds rather than who your parents were. An inheritance law that is based on wills rather than automatic inheritance will definitely help us move towards a meritocratic society. Will-based inheritances will also minimise reckless investments in the non-productive sector. The need to draft a will should force people to plan for their properties and investments, and convince them to put their money to productive use rather than just buy land or hoard gold. But the most important side effect of this change might be that people will begin to think about how much property they should actually transfer to the next generation, and how much they should set aside for philanthropic purposes. This could usher in a new era of private philanthropy in Nepal, where people make social investments in schools, hospitals or old age homes. 

www.arthabeed.com



### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The World Bank Nepal Office in Kathmandu

The World Bank Nepal Office in Kathmandu is seeking qualified candidates for two positions within the South Asia External Affairs Department to assist the Bank's program in Nepal.

These are country office positions in Nepal subject to local recruitment under the Nepal compensation plan. The World Bank offers a locally competitive package and is committed to attract and maintain a diverse, highly qualified and dedicated workforce. Equally qualified women and members of disadvantaged groups are encouraged to apply. These are Extended Term positions for one year but extendable for another year depending on business needs and candidate's performance.

The details of the individual positions are available at [www.worldbank.org/jobs](http://www.worldbank.org/jobs). Qualified candidates **should apply on-line referring to job # as specified against each of positions by August 31, 2010.**

- **Communications Associate (Job# 101665) on Extended Term Consultant appointment:** Minimum Masters degree or equivalent, and preferably two years of relevant professional experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Will participate in the design and implementation of effective communications and outreach strategies to raise awareness and understanding about the World Bank and its programs in Nepal.
- **Office Assistant (Job# 101664) on Extended Term Temporary appointment:** Minimum High School Education and at least one year of relevant experience. Will contribute to smooth running of the daily operations of the Public Information Center of the Nepal Office.

*Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview.*





# For the love of books

PAAVAN MATHEMA

Regardless of how much technology has changed the way we use information, you cannot deny the joy of holding a book in your hand as you read it. The reading culture in Nepal may be in a preliminary stage, but is growing as people explore writers from home and abroad and in fiction as well as non-fiction genres.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Nepal Education and Book Fair kicked off last Friday at Bhrikuti Mandap. The 10-day fair houses 75 stalls put out by publishers, booksellers and education related organisations. The result is a one-stop shop for a whole range of literature, sure to appeal to everyone. What's more, there are discounts and deals available.

It's not just a family affair. Along with local stalwarts such as Ekta, Educational Book House, Mandala Book Store and Ratna Pustak Bhandar, international publishing houses such as Sage,

## The 14<sup>th</sup> Nepal Education and Book Fair has a little something for everybody

Rupa & Co. and Penguin have also put up shop. There are also a fair number of stalls run by colleges and educational consultancies.

"The book fair has had a very encouraging response," says Keshab Chettri, Manager at Global Exposition and Management Services, co-organiser of the event. "The number of visitors increases every year and compared to last year we have a few new

publishers as well." A profile of the visitors indicates that a majority of the visitors are young people and students. Although the fair had a slow start, the organisers say that there are now more than 8,000 visitors a day.

In addition to the book exhibition, events such as book launches, signings, readings, interaction programs, quizzes and workshops have been organised everyday. Friday will showcase the book launch of *Mangaliko Adhuro Ka*, a collection of children's stories by Khagendra Sangraula, followed by a dramatic presentation by Actor's Studio.

"This year's book fair is more interactive," says Chettri, "and we think it has helped attract additional visitors." However, some exhibitors feel that if promotion of the book fair and the events had been more extensive, many more people would have showed up. For those who haven't made it down to Exhibition Road yet, the great minds of the world are just waiting to be picked up. 🇳🇵

# The bestsellers

### Nepali reads

Khagendra Bhattarai of Pairavi Prakashan says, "There has been an increase in readers of Nepali books as well as writers." Jhamak Ghimire's *Jiwan Kada ki Phul*, Tara Rai's *Chapamar Yuwati ko Diary*, Devendra Bhattarai's *Registan Diary*, Hari Bhaka Katuwal's *Yo Jindagi Khai Ke Jindagi*, Narayan Wagle's *Mayur Times* and Yug Pathak's *Urgen Ko Ghoda* have been listed as the most popular buys. But older favourites such as Laxmi Prasad Devkota and BP Koirala still have a loyal readership.



### Nepali English reads

Books like *A Journey to Kathmandu* by Laurence Oliphant and *Maoist in the House* by Tom McCaughey have been picked up at least in part because of their familiar sounding title. But there are also a handful of Nepali writers who write in English. "There have many inquires about Nepali writers who have English publications," says Raman Raut of Educational Book House. Manjushree Thapa's *Seasons of Flight* as well as her earlier publications, Samrat Upadhyay's recently launched *Buddha's Orphans* and Narayan Wagle's *Palpasa Café* have received an encouraging response at the fair.



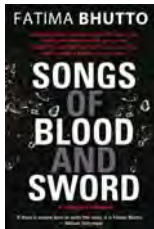
### Young blood

Young readers have boosted sales for international authors, and no surprise, the Twilight series is very popular. Nicholas Sparks, Sidney Sheldon, Chetan Bhagat, Paulo Coelho and Cecelia Ahern are bestsellers, and the older goldies are making deals to go home with readers.



### No tall tales, please

Nepalis like their reading plenty serious too. Fatima Bhutto's *Songs of Blood and Sword*, *The End of Poverty* by Jeffery Sachs, and *Freakonomics* by Stephen Dubner and Steven Levitt are doing well. Nepali readers also have a taste for autobiographies and self-help books.



### Kid-lit

"Parents need to encourage reading habits in their children, and not limit them to coursebooks," says Suvani Singh of Quixote's Cove. They have brought in children's books from international publishers Scholastic, Usborne, and Tick Tock, and the kids are loving it.



The 14<sup>th</sup> Nepal Education and Book Fair will conclude this Saturday

16 Years PHENOMENAL PERSONALITIES

Nepal's most inspiring men & women come together to celebrate WAVE's 16th anniversary

LOOK OUT FOR A NEW WAVE





**closeup**

**HITS FM MUSIC AWARDS**

CO - SPONSOR

**PEPSI**

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS

**ACE** DEVELOPMENT BANK LIMITED

**MEGA** BANK NEPAL LIMITED

**Machhapuchhre Bank Limited** माछापुच्छ्रे बैंक लिमिटेड

**PRITHIVI** **REMIT** NEPAL INVESTMENT BANK LTD.

**PrimeLife Insurance** Secured Future

**NOMINATION FORM**

**www.hitsfm.com.np**

**SMS 9120**

HMA <space> category no. <space> song title <space> artist

For Example: HMA 09 Wari Jamuna Khemraj Gurung

**FIND CATEGORY INFO BY SMS**

Categories 01 to 09, type M A and send to 9120

Categories 10 to 19, type M B and send to 9120

**Hits FM 91.2**

FOR ARTISTIC FREEDOM

Are you planing to buy an

**Automobile?**

Wait till you read the Nepali Times issue of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2010



**Times**

*Transcontinental*

Pass parenth interna crime,

It's been a while since I've read a novel that's warranted notice for the sheer volume of its subject matter. Pradeep Swar's *Beautiful People* should be commended for its ambition. The author traces the lives of three sets (and more) of characters simultaneously mired in the complications of parenthood, familial estrangement, terrorism, and prolonged captivity. The action transpires in different locales, and different time periods too – I had to do a double-take to ensure that my mind wasn't still in Moscow when the plot had already moved on to an arms deal in Iran... or was it an all-out mafia war in Italy?

Yes, *Beautiful People* deals with quite a lot. But it leaves a fair amount to be desired too.

In spite of his imaginative capacity, Swar falls short of doing justice to his characters and plot. His writing lacks adequate insight into the intricacies of the characters' relationships with one other and their entanglements in



EVENTS

**Traffic Smart**, a traffic education program run by experts with lessons on safe driving and license preparation. *From Sunday 15 August to 17 August, GAA, Thamel, 4414785*

**Kathmandu Valley Down the Ages: depicting life in ancient and medieval Kathmandu**, a painting exhibition by veteran artist Hari Prasad Sharma. *Till 21 August, Art Council Gallery, Babar Mahal, 9841269959*

**Root Periscope**, a group art exhibition by celebrated artists along with a lecture by art critic Mukesh Malla. *Till 24 August, Sattva Art Gallery, Kupondole, 9841241790*

**Propagation**, a collaborative painting exhibition showcasing the works of Korean and Nepali artists. *Till Wednesday 18 August, 11am to 6pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babar Mahal Revisited, 4218048*

**Lazimpat Gallery Cafe**, screening of *Before Sunset*. *Friday 13 August, starts 6.30pm, Lazimpat Gallery Cafe, Lazimpat*

**14<sup>th</sup> Nepal Education Book Fair**, a must attend for all book lovers. *From Friday 6 August to 14 August, 11am to 6pm, Bhrikuti Exhibition Hall, Tickets: Rs 20, Rs 10 for students*

**Weekly Farmers' Market**, a market like no other with organic and gourmet food, healthy breakfasts, fresh coffee and lots of socialising. *Saturday 7 August, 9am to 12pm, 1905, 4215068*

**8th Annual Wine Festival**, be there at Kilroy's for the best place for a great value wine in Kathmandu. *Kilroy's, Thamel, 4250440*

MUSIC

**Sunday Jazz Brunch**, enjoy a relaxing Sunday in The Terrace at Hyatt Regency with barbeque and live jazz music by Inner Groove. *Every Sunday from 12pm to 3.30pm, Hyatt Regency, Boudha, 4491234/4489362*

**House of Music**, Robin and the New Revolution performing live. *Friday 13 August, from 7.30pm, House of Music, Entry: Rs 200, 9849243807*

**Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory**, KJC brings renowned German musician Rainer Pusch to town to share his knowledge. *From Wednesday 21 July to 20 September, KJC, Jhamsikhel, 5013554, info@katjazz.com.np*





# mental express

sion,  
ood and  
ational  
oh my!



international crime, and his text is fraught with structural and syntactical inconsistencies that undermine the ambition of the author. It's only in the final third of the novel that the writing gains momentum.

Though Swar's treatment of his subject matter and characters is inadequate, he does show promise as a creative writer. Considering there are so few Nepali novelists who write in English, the fact that Swar has published a novel at the tender age of 19 speaks volumes for his future. Provided, of course, that he is not overwhelmed by superficial local acclaim, and is able to access guidance to better contour his work and lend coherence to his ideas.

Supriya Sharma

*Beautiful People*  
Pradeep Swar  
Pilgrims Publishing, 225 pages  
Rs 520 (paperback)

## DINING



**Pumpnickel Bakery**, get an early breakfast or brunch with interesting choices of bread and sandwiches. Experiment with their goat cheese or yak cheese sandwiches, or have a sip of coffee in the classy indoor dining area. *Thamel, 7.30am-7pm, 4259185*

**Saturday @ Hyatt**, take a refreshing dip in the pool and sample the delicious barbeque in open air. *Every Saturday from 12.30pm to 4pm at the poolside, Hyatt Regency, Boudha, 4491234*

**Olive Garden**, mediterranean food fest. *Everyday, 6.30pm to 10.30pm, till 31 August, Radisson Hotel, Lazimpat, Price: Rs 1200 plus taxes for veg. and Rs 1500 plus taxes for non veg. call 4411818*

**Splash Bar & Grill**, great weekend BBQ dinner, *Fridays and Saturdays, 6pm to 9pm, Radisson Hotel, Lazimpat, Rs 1200, 4411818*

**Yin Yang Restaurant**, east meets west as you choose from a variety of Thai and continental dishes. Get a little spice in your life with their pad thai or green curry. If you can't handle the heat, fall into the safety net of their western dishes. *Thamel, 10am-10pm, 4701510*

**Forever Café**, nestled inconspicuously along the Thamel streets, one might easily miss out on their hidden treasures. Specialising in a variety of steaks and stroganoffs, the café offers carnivorous affairs you'll not forget. *7am-10pm, 470078*

**Himalayan Java**, one of our favourite places for coffee, just got bigger, with a new branch deeper in the heart of Thamel. Expect the same excellent service and quality food and drinks with a change of scenery. *Food Bazaar, Thamel.*

**Koto Restaurant**, the first Japanese restaurant in Kathmandu, serves up 25 years of history. Whether it's the fresh sashimi, sushi, sukiyaki or tempura, their experienced Japanese and Nepali chefs are sure to impress. *Darbar Marg, 11.30am-3pm and 6-9.30pm, 4220346*

**Café de Newa**, won't be surprised if there is a Newari mama in the kitchen churning out chhoila, sukuti, kachila and bara in this restaurant right amidst the bright lights of Thamel. Try Newari delicacies like deep-fried buffalo tongue, brain and intestines. You will be blown away. *Next to Kathmandu Guest House, open everyday*

**Aalishan**, a newcomer to the Jhamel scene, serves a mix of both Indian and Chinese cuisines. The posh interior can be a bit intimidating, but don't let that put you off the food. *Jawalakhel (near the roundabout)*

## US MODELED MEDICAL DEGREE

BS leading to Doctor of Medicine (MD)

BS at GEMS and,  
MD at Angeles Unviersity Foundation, Philippines

GEMS, in collaboration with Angeles University Foundation (AUF), the Philippines announces **admission open** for the third intake in Bachelor of Science (BS) leading to Doctor of Medicine (MD), which is equivalent to MBBS. Upon completion of BS at GEMS, students will continue their studies in Doctor of Medicine (MD) at Angeles University.

### Features of BS/MD Programme

1. Approved by the Ministry of Education, Nepal.
2. Quality and world-class education supported by state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.
3. Affordable tuition fees and living costs.
4. Highly experienced and qualified faculty from home and abroad.
5. Easy payment scheme.

### Eligibility

Plus 2 - Science / I. Sc. (Biology) or an equivalent degree with at least first division marks, and need to pass the entrance tests.

Application forms are available from the office. Students may attend an on-going counseling session for detailed information between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sunday through Friday.



**GEMS Institute of Higher Education**

Khumaltar, Dhapakhel, Lalitpur  
Phone: 5003060/ 5003111

THIRD  
INTAKE

## HP Pavilion dm4 Entertainment Notebook PC



### All the performance you need for a powerful PC exper

- Latest Intel Core i5 - 430M Processor for the fastest processing power
- 500 GB SATA Hard Drive lets you take it all with you
- Built in HP ProtectSmart Hard Drive protection
- Norton Online Backup & HP Recovery Manager
- Powerful ATI Mobility Radeon HD Discrete Graphics
- Internal DVD+/-RW Optical Drive to enjoy Movies Anywhere

### An Ultra Thin & Light Notebook that keeps you constantly Connected

- Measure 2.5 cm tall and Weighing 2Kg with long battery life that lasts up to 6.5 hrs

### A Notebook with Style & Substance

Ex-Stock

1  
YEAR  
WARRANTY

## HP OfficeJet J3608 All-in-One Printer

### FAX, COPY, SCAN & PRINT - In full Color

- Don't Settle for a standalone Fax machine. Stay productive with Full Color Fax features together with built-in Phone, Copy & Scan Fuctions - All in a single device.
- Enjoy Fast Print & Copy speeds upto 20 ppm Black, 14 ppm Color, and Full Color, High-quality Scans with 1200 dpi & 48 bit Color.
- For added convenience, the built-in 20 pages Automatic Document Feeder allows unattended Printing, Copying & Faxing of Multiple page documents.



**CAS Techno Sales Pvt. Ltd.**

ComputerLand Building, New Plaza, Putalisadak, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Phone: 4440271, 4430858 Fax No : 4430641  
Email : sales@cth.ccsf.com.np





# Gosainkunda’s highs and lows

**DHANVANTARI**  
**Buddha Basnyat, MD**

On Aug 23, Janai Purnima eve, Gosainkunda Lake (4300m) will witness the climactic enactment of one of the greatest Puranic traditions. Before we discuss the health issues of ascending to Gosainkunda for a sacred dip in the lake, a word about the origin of this magnificent ritual.

In their quest for *amrit* (the elixir for spiritual immortality), the demons and the gods collaborated to churn the milky

ocean. Mount Mandara was selected as the churning stick while Vasuki, the king of serpents, was the churning rope. Vishnu himself took the form of a tortoise and dived into the ocean to support with his back the base of the mountain. After Vasuki had been wrapped around the mountain, the demons laid hold of one end of the rope and the gods the other. They churned the ocean for a thousand years.

But the first thing to rise from the murky depths of the ocean was Kalakut, a deadly poison. This had to be disposed of before the churning could proceed. Lord Shiva, sitting aloof at a distance, was approached. He shook

himself out of his deep meditation and surveyed the scene. Then he swallowed the poison in one gulp, and his throat promptly turned blue (earning him the moniker Nilkantha, or Blue Throat). Shiva needed to cool off the immense heat generated by Kalakut, so he dived into Gosainkunda Lake. In the memory of this selfless act by Lord Shiva, pilgrims take a holy dip in the lake and wash away their sins. But just like for the great Shiva, this pilgrimage is not risk free.

Starting from Dhunche in Rasuwa district, it is best to take four to five nights to reach the lake so you are properly acclimatised. You need to listen to your body and not push ahead relentlessly, disregarding the symptoms of acute mountain sickness (AMS), chiefly headache and nausea. If you don't have a sulphur allergy, diamox will help prevent and treat AMS.

You should also drink about two litres of clean water (boiled or treated with chlorine/iodine tablets) per day to avoid dehydration. Proper rain gear and a supply of table salt to deal with annoying leech bites will come in handy. The lake area is completely packed during Janai Purnima so being psychologically prepared for some of the hardships will help. But you will be amply rewarded for your efforts. 🇳🇵



KIRAN PANDAY

**LIGHT ME UP:** Locals of Bhaktapur set fire to an effigy of demon Ghantakarna to symbolise the destruction of evil as they celebrate the Gathamangal on Sunday



KIRAN PANDAY

**MOST WANTED:** A man shows off a tattoo of Osama Bin Laden during the National Tattoo Conference in Kathmandu on Saturday. Over 32 tattoo artists took part in the event.

# We Fly With You too

Our dedicated team of professionals come together to make sure you get the best services, on the ground and on board.

Corporate Office: Tilganga, Kathmandu  
Tel. 4465888 Fax 4465115 Reservations 4464878 (Hunting Line)  
Kathmandu Airport 4493901  
E-mail: [reservations@yetiairlines.com](mailto:reservations@yetiairlines.com)

Nepalgunj 081 526556   Bhairahawa 071 527527   Pokhara 061 464888  
Biratnagar 021 536612   Bhadrapur 023 455232   Janakpur 041 693360  
Dhangadhi 091 523045

max L'agence/10



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

**HAPPY HARVEST:** Women of Pakhel, Lalitpur, gather the season's cabbage harvest on Wednesday prior to its transport to markets.

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

Customer care @ **525 0002**

DIRECT LINE

### WEEKEND WEATHER

by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

Currently we are passing through the most active phase of this year's monsoon. Usually we get four or five active cycles of rains in a four-month long monsoon. We're now in the second cycle, albeit in rather intense form. This means August is going to be the wettest month again this year; this is the third year in a row August has trumped July for rainfall due to the late onset of the monsoon. The satellite pictures show fresh clouds marching towards us from both arms of Monsoon - the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. A persistent low pressure trough is sitting along the foothills of the Himalaya, attracting these clouds. Expect another round of heavy rain in the weekend along the foothills, midhills and valleys, mostly during the nights.

FRI	SAT	SUN
30-21	29-19	30-20

Himalmedia Pvt. Ltd.  
Hatiban Lalitpur





**KALAM**  
**Rabi Thapa**

This summer, there have been several high-profile book launches in Kathmandu, in both English and Nepali. Readings and creative writing sessions in English are now a feature of the capital's cultural circuit rather than the exclusively expatriate activity of the past. This year's 14<sup>th</sup> Education and Book Fair, while not quite a roaring success, expects upto 50,000 visitors through the week, up from 35,000 last year.

Are they long gone, those days when your uncle would sidle up to your father at a family gathering and press on him two copies of his latest literary effort? When English-language literature was the Hardy Boys, then the latest pulp from Stephen King, and eventually Gabriel Garcia Márquez? The advent of the Salman Rushdies and the Vikram Seths meant little to the average Nepali reader back then, and homegrown English-language prose fiction was mostly limited to children's books and vanity ventures. At a time when Nepal was slowly but surely moving into the slipstream of globalisation, it was yet to find its voice on the international literary stage.

Then along came Samrat Upadhyay. With the 2001 publication of *Arresting God in Kathmandu*, the Indiana-based creative writing professor became the first Nepali writer to be published in the West. Accolades flowed even as some Nepalis feigned horror at his earthy descriptions of small-town love and despair. Earlier that year, to less fanfare, Manjushree Thapa had published *The Tutor of History*. Local compilations such as *Crow* and *An Other Voice* seemed to hint at the talent bubbling below the surface. For young aspiring writers in Nepal, it was as if the floodgates had opened.

Except it was something of a false dawn, despite the assertions of the maturing Nepali media and arts scene. In most of the decade that followed these breakthrough publications, no other Nepalis Writing in English (NWEs) made a splash abroad. The scene wasn't dormant; Sushma Joshi, Sheeba Shah, Ajit Baral and Manan Karki came out with short story compilations and novels with publishers Nepali, Indian and Irish (!). Nepali-language literature, too, was undergoing something of a renaissance in production and marketing. But the combined impact of this late flurry at the end of the decade was not in the same league as the



KIRAN PANDAY

# A season to write

## Nepalis writing in English have much to cheer, but need editorial and critical support

debuts by Thapa and Upadhyay. Rupa's championing of Nepali authors improved their distribution, but little more. A lack of editing was starkly evident in its highly uneven shorts collection *New Nepal*, *New Voices*, and 2010's novels from Sheba Shah and Upadhyay.

There's no doubt an international readership, through the proxy of publishers based in

India, is slowly discovering NWEs. If Rupa's approach has been flawed, at least it is based on a genuine belief that NWEs are marketable. Publisher at Penguin India, Ravi Singh, maintains it's not just Nepali writers and the places they write about that are attractive to Indian publishers, it's also the economics, stupid: they are more likely to make their money back on a Nepali author

than a midlist Indian author.

But are we jumping the gun to say that NWEs have come of age? Nepali readers may be more forgiving of poorly edited works, because their hunger for Nepali prose fiction in English overrides an undeveloped critical instinct. International readers will be less patient, especially with a ready supply of polished subcontinental fiction at hand.

So while a push to publish NWEs at minimal cost and effort might have immediate benefits, in the long term it will stymie the growth of the industry and limit the development and reach of literature from Nepal.

It's not as simple as hiring an editor or two, or convincing Indian publishers to make better use of editors. Until the media and publishers understand how a lack of content editing, copyediting and proofreading can completely undermine the integrity of a project, authors will continue to fall short of the best they can be.

Nepal's literary circles, in both Nepali and English, compound the editorial black hole by too often refusing to take or provide constructive feedback. The wholesale exaltation of patently mediocre works reveals an ignorance of what counts as quality, and perhaps also masks insecurities about one's own work. If the energy and imagination of Nepali writing in any language is to get the attention it deserves, it has to earn it through the hard graft of editing.

Exposure to the wider world, of not only English-language authors but also those working in Nepali languages (through translation), could compel a more reflexive attitude towards one's own work and that of others. But there will also have to be a conscious attitudinal shift, whereby healthy competition becomes the order of the day, both within and outside of Kathmandu's small English and Nepali literary clique. Only then will the promise hinted at in the novels of Upadhyay and Thapa come to fruition. 🇳🇵



**TRANQUILITY SPA**  
*Balancing Body, Mind and Soul*

## Tranquility Spa & Tranquility Beauty Academy

Don't know it? You will soon.





**The Spa: Tranquility Spa,**  
**Balancing body, mind and Spirit**

Established in 2007, Tranquility Spa is totally dedicated to health and wellness industry with one unifying focus: to create a new standard of excellence of spa therapy and wellness education. To know more about our spa services please contact us today.

LAZIMPAT <b>44 20 424</b>	KUPONDOL <b>55 28 125</b>
THAMEL (Chaksibari) <b>42 60 850</b>	THAMEL (Serenity Spa, Z-Street) <b>47 00 248</b>

Email at [spa@tranquilityspa.com.np](mailto:spa@tranquilityspa.com.np)



**The Education:**  
**Tranquility Beauty Academy (TBA), School of spa therapy**

We are, most probably Nepal's first in introducing a comprehensive spa education program. Our dynamic curriculum composite of science and best practices. Through which we prepare our graduates to become a confident workforce in Spa and wellness industry. We offer you state - of - the - art education and training in spa therapies. Our diploma course is highly career specific and effective to current industry demand. Job is 100% guaranteed upon successful completion.

To become a Beauty Therapist, Contact us today at  
**44 30 255 ( LAZIMPAT )**

Email at [academy@tranquilityspa.com.np](mailto:academy@tranquilityspa.com.np)  
Note: No formal qualifications are required to enroll on to the courses



**The Social Responsibility:**  
**Equal Opportunities for all**

We prioritize social issues. We have been collaborating with many INGO's and NGO's to bring social changes in lives of many. Special groups like, minors, dalits, and underprivileged groups from such organizations are mostly eligible. We already have been educating needy women and these fellow students have become professional colleagues after graduation.

We welcome your recommendations, too. Therefore, if you are willing to support such groups; we are ready to collaborate with any individual or organization to work towards the same goal.

Email at [info@tranquilityspa.com.np](mailto:info@tranquilityspa.com.np)



**BUSINESS INKJET**  
Epson B510DN

**EPSON**  
EXCEED YOUR VISION



**High-speed, quality printing**  
at a fraction of the cost

**MICRO PIEZO™**

- Approx. Rs. 00.70 Per Page Print Cost (Black & White Printing)
- Photo Quality Color Printing
- Standard Ethernet Network and Duplex Printing
- Print Speed up to 37ppm

**MERCANTILE OFFICE SYSTEMS**  
Mercantile Office Systems,  
Naryanhati Pokhari  
Naryanhati Path  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 444 0773/ 443 708  
E-Mail: market@mos.com.np

Star Office Automation Putalisadak 4266820, Interactive Computer System Newroad 4227854, Birat Infotech Biratnagar 9852027264, Enet Solutions Chitwon 9855056309, CESC Butwal 071-542699, Himalayan Trading House / HOA Pokhara 061-521756, Smart Link electronic suppliers Dang 9857830392, Manakamana Hitech Nepalgunj 9858021293, Ugratara Trading House Dhangadhi 091-523601, Dinesh Electronic Dhangadhi 9858420415, Ugratara Technical Goods Mahendranagar 9749008344, Advance Computer Banepa 011-660888, Star Computer System Hetauda 9845031582, MAX International Pvt. Ltd., Putalisadak 4415786, 4420679, Waves Group. Lazimpat 4410423

# Who implements?



SUBRATH SHRESTHA

Discussing the motherland is a favoured topic for intellectual Nepalis living in North America. Being Nepali is clearly a strong identity we carry with us wherever we go, so it's only natural that we discuss the political deadlock New Nepal has been experiencing. Most often, we talk of the absence of good governance and leadership.

But when these same intellectuals decide to return home, for whatever period of time, most choose to work as researchers or consultants to the Government of Nepal, or with international organisations. As specialists from various walks of life, they make policies and plans for the development of the country. But who implements these policies? Is it the same government that they deride as incompetent?

This reminds me of a story told by Nanda Raj Shrestha in his book, *In the Name of Development*. One day at a cocktail party, so the tale goes, a couple of development advisors thought about doing something about the low milk production of Nepali cows. They decided to invite an animal husbandry expert to evaluate the situation. The expert concluded the organisation should fly in a few foreign bulls to cross breed with the local cows. Accordingly, a bull was shipped in and taken to a village, and farmers were invited to bring their cows around.

## Plans and policies aside, development is really about action

The villagers and the advisors gathered around, anxiously waiting for the bull to begin mating with the cows. But hours passed, and nothing happened. The bull didn't show any interest in the cows. The advisors got frustrated, the villagers found it funny, then got bored and began to leave. Finally, a villager muttered to the advisors that there was a sage in the village who could communicate with animals. Desperate, the advisors summoned the sage to ask the bull what was wrong with it. The sage arrived, and whispered a few words to the bull, which seemed to shake its head. When asked what the bull had said, the sage responded, "Well...the bull says it's here to advise – not to work."

Why is development and growth so limited to planning and policymaking? The convenience of being a consultant aside, isn't development really about action and implementation? Why can't intellectuals or educated specialists be implementers, frontliners, and grassroots workers? Why can't they work to implement their own research? If they are to count on the incompetent government to act on their plans and policies, then a better Nepal is still out of reach. 🇳🇵



**WWF** for a living planet®

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

WWF Nepal, the global conservation organization leading international efforts for a living planet seeks applications from qualified Nepali candidates for the following full time position.

If you think you are an achiever and willing to work within a diverse team in a multicultural environment with commitment and passion for what you believe in, you are highly encouraged to apply.

#### EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

**Major Responsibilities:** Coordinates and manages the overall functioning of the Director's office. Provides administrative support to the Senior Management by using extensive knowledge of organisational policy with a high level of technical skill. This position operates with considerable independent judgment and initiative. Maintaining a high degree of confidentiality is a requirement of this position.

**Qualifications:** A Bachelors degree in any field with at least three years of experience in a similar position.

**Key Competencies:**

- Excellent English and Nepali language
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Strong analytical skills
- Outstanding public relation skills
- The ability to take initiative, prioritize, complete work with minimal supervision, and meet deadlines is also required
- Maintaining a high degree of confidentiality is a requirement of this position

If you want to realize your passion and reverie of working with the best in the business, WWF is the place for you to be. You are encouraged to apply with an updated resume that responds to the Position Description and the competencies required and a cover letter stating why you feel you are suitable for the job.

Applications should reach the **email address** below by August 25, 2010. Please mention the position you are applying as the subject. Emails without an application letter will not be entertained. Only short listed candidates will be informed. Detailed TOR for the above mentioned positions can be downloaded from our website <https://www.wwfnepal.org>

**Human Resources**  
**WWF Nepal Program Office**  
**Baluwatar, Kathmandu**  
**Email: [hr@wwfnepal.org](mailto:hr@wwfnepal.org)**

WWF is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and Ethnic Minorities are encouraged to apply.  
Please join us in our mission to save life on Earth.

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**

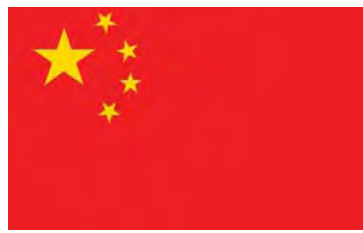




GUEST COLUMN  
Alok Bohara

## A trilateral agreement with India and China may be the only way to move forward together

# Win-win-win



While we were busy with our endless PM electioneering, an Indian journalist was paying attention to the Chinese decision to invest \$200 million to upgrade a dry port in Gyirong, a Tibetan town not far from the central part of Nepal's northern border. Calling Nepal a basket case incapacitated by political infighting, this *Times of India* journalist chastised his own government for not paying attention to these huge opportunities in the north.

Nepalis are well aware of the rising economic prowess of China and India on the world stage, and we love to talk about our strategic location. But to translate our rhetoric into reality, we need to have a strategic vision, followed by a set of doable policies.

For such a vision, we need to make sure our regional politics are tied to our economic development strategies, and that we can promote interests that are mutually beneficial for all parties involved. To that end, Nepal needs to persuade its two neighbours to sign a tri-lateral agreement – Trans-Himalayan Economic Cooperative Agreement (THECA).

With rising economic trade between China and India to the tune of \$60 billion per annum (more than Indian trade with SAARC countries combined), a peaceful trade corridor in the middle would be a welcome relief for the two aspiring superpowers. Numerous Indian banks are already operating in China; English-speaking Indian MBAs and engineers are penetrating Chinese markets in an unprecedented way. And the idea of a trans-Himalayan highway is not confined to romantic, visionary rhetoric, more than 80 per cent of goods in the US are transported over land after all. Such an arrangement will be a necessity within a decade or two for the two Asian giants.

Also, the Chinese decision to move south-westward through the Tibetan plateau is highly strategic. In addition to having an eye on the southern Asian market, China is interested in integrating Tibet and its vast western front, Xinjiang, with the east coast. In particular, the sparsely populated but resource-laden Tibet Autonomous Region, the size of the Western Europe landmass, can play a vital role in China's continuous economic drive.

China plans to build 100 dams on the Tibetan plateau. It has also built a network of 25,000km of highways in Tibet, a spectacular 4000km railway line linking Beijing to Lhasa, a 1,000km oil pipeline, and there's

more to come. This infrastructural development in Tibet also holds strategic value for India.

So what should Nepal do? First, our politicians need to drop the China versus India rhetoric from their political vocabulary and begin a fresh dialogue to design a new strategic vision for Nepal. We already know of our potential in cash crops (coffee, spices, tea, herbs, biofuel), tourism, manpower, and the importance of our Himalayan water towers. By investing in fiber optics and IT parks equipped with water, electricity and tax breaks, we can also attract

outsourcing ventures from India and China. The THECA doctrine should spell out these collaborative ventures. Our thousands of MBAs and IT engineers will find well paying jobs and will learn entrepreneurial skills from Indian and Chinese partners. Multi-lane highways and railway lines through the Himalayas could link the two economic giants. Our banking sector is already poised to be a regional financial capital, and our private colleges will be reinvigorated by linkages with educational institutions north and south of

the border.

In return for these economic opportunities and infrastructure development in Nepal, and as an integral part of the THECA doctrine, Nepal should not hesitate to offer some peace of mind to China and India. Growing anti-China political activities in Nepal are cause for concern for Beijing. Peaceful demonstrations in some designated areas should be tolerable to the Chinese, whereas the Nepal government should also make sure that the monasteries in Nepal do not violate their spiritual sanctity by

being centres of political activism.

Likewise, Nepal should assure India that its land and government apparatus will not be used to aid and incite Maoist unrest on Indian territory. A similar assurance will have to be extracted from the Indian side.

Of course, in order to get Nepal on track for economic prosperity, the Maoists must be completely assimilated into our political spectrum. Given the way things are going at present, this will require some more time. But while the politicians are distracted, the groundwork for the THECA doctrine should begin.

**Have you taken a stand?**

**Against added Sugar**

| Against added Colour | Against added Flavour |  
| Against added Preservatives |

"Hi, I am Divya. Part homemaker, part professional and a full time multi-tasking expert. Being constantly on the move, I'm always hard pressed for time and end up compromising on my food habits. I never realized the effect it had on my health till my body started complaining. I knew I couldn't change my lifestyle but I decided to take a stand against unhealthy and artificial things that were making me unfit.

That's when I introduced Réal ACTIV juices in my life. Made from select fruits and vegetables, Réal ACTIV juices are **'PURE and NATURAL'** as they have NO Added Sugar, NO Added Flavour, NO Added Colour and NO Added Preservatives. They rejuvenate my energy and replenish my body with vital Nutrients and Antioxidants.

So, pick up a pack today and **LIVE ACTIV- LIVE HEALTHY.**"

**ANTIOXIDANT-RICH JUICES**  
Activ Orange Carrot 1 Glass = 100% RDA of Betacarotene\*  
Activ Orange 1 Glass = 100% RDA of Vitamin C\*

**REFRESHING COOLER**  
Activ Apple 1 Glass\* = Juice of 4 Apples

**0% ADDED SUGAR  
100% TASTE**

**Apple | Orange | Orange Carrot | Cucumber Spinach | Beetroot Carrot**

\* 1 Glass = 250ml. RDA = Recommended Dietary Allowances. The % RDA are approximate values. The comparison here is made with -Woman, moderate work.

For more information, log on to [www.dabur.com](http://www.dabur.com)



# Free of bondage

Shanta Chaudhari in *Nayapatrika*, 6 August

माया पत्रिका

My parents were *kamaiya* bonded labourers. In fact, all 11 family members worked as slaves at our landlord’s house from dawn to dusk, starved and neglected. Our parents used to collect *gava* (young taro leaves) from the wild on their way back home from work for stew to feed us and they would sleep hungry. We would often take gruel with a lot of salt as dinner and sometimes went without any food.

I was born in 1980, in Laxmipur VDC, Dang. The western Tarai districts had a custom of trading Tharu people, like animals, as *kamaiya*. We had a makeshift hut in Dandagau. I had six sisters and three brothers, who were already working as *kamaiya*. My sisters lived at the landlord’s.

Maghi is the biggest festival of the Tharus, in mid-January, but it’s only for the rich. It was the end of life for poor people, as landlords would come and buy poor Tharus like people buy goats during Dasain.

I was bought at the age of eight. While other children were celebrating Maghi, I was being separated from my parents. It was painful, because even if I had had many nights without food, I’d never been without my parents.

I never had rest at the landlord’s house. The landlady would pull me by my hair



NUCHHE MAN DANGOL

and wake me up at 4am. I used to start by cleaning up cow dung, worked in the fields, and ended by cleaning utensils at 11 pm.

I was once asked to fetch water in an earthen pot that was way bigger than myself. I could never refuse orders. I couldn’t lift the pot, and it fell on the ground and broke into pieces. The landlady took a piece of the pot and drove it through my skull. I was completely drenched in blood. My stories scare people and they wonder why the landlords were so brutal and barbaric toward us. Even a convict is treated more humanely than I was – I fell

unconscious many times because of my landlady’s torture – but I got used to it as I was subjected to it from the age of eight.

I never knew childhood and adolescence. I never knew about love. I was locked within the walls of my landlord’s house. When I was married off at the age of 16, all I knew was that I had become the wife of somebody.

Immediately after the *kamaiya* system was abolished in 2000, my husband lost his job. We then moved to a jungle, built a makeshift hut, and started living there. It was just a day before Dasain and I had a nine-day-old child in my lap when so-

called respectable people came with the police and set fire to our hut, saying it was on public property. All our food and clothes were burned. I lived on water for five days, I was so worried about my child.

But the abolition of the *kamaiya* system gave us new hope. I joined the Dang Women’s Centre and saw the world gradually. I also joined the National Land Rights Forum. My landlord did not like it. Even my parents thought that if we revolted, things would get worse. My understanding was that we had already hit rock bottom, and we had to fight for our rights.

I quit my landlord’s house in 2006 after 18 years of service. It was the ultimate emancipation. I felt like a warrior who had won a battle.

More revolts followed in Dang district, and Laxmipur VDC was finally declared *kamaiya* free. In 2007, I became the vice president of the National Land Preservation Forum, and now I am a CA member.

Life is as challenging now working as the president of the Natural Resource Committee in parliament as it was to work as bonded labour. Only the form of struggle has changed. To become a CA member was never my dream but I do want to help the landless. My dream will be fulfilled only when bonded labourers get the land they work on and do not have to stay hungry.

## Death threats

Sanghu, 9 August

साँघु

A gang of swindlers recently issued death threats against the prime minister, the president, the justices of the Supreme Court, government officials and the media. But it seems contempt of court on the part of Charles Sobhraj’s defense team has received more attention.

A while back, Unity Life International operatives were detained by the police, though some of the main players involved, including Kasi Prasad Gurung (*pic*) and Bishnu Kshetri, remain at large. On 22 July, a joint bench of the Supreme Court ruled that the company had been operating illegally, and instructed the concerned authorities to take necessary action. Unity’s appeal was subsequently struck down.

Two weeks ago, an organisation named the Nationalist Unity Front issued a press statement physically threatening a whole range of individuals involved in the exposure and closure of Unity Life International. The Nepal Bar Association strongly condemned the Front, noting that “death threats against Chief Justice Ram Prasad Shrestha and Justices Balaram KC, among others, have ridiculed the idea of rule of law, basic human rights and civil liberty.” The association has demanded immediate action against the Nationalist Unity Front and urged the public, intelligentsia, and civil society to defend the independence of the judiciary.

Unity Life International is alleged to have duped up to 366,000 people, and the Nationalist Unity Group has now has blacklisted 500 individuals, including journalists from Himalmedia, Kantipur Publications and Republica. The Federation of Nepali Journalists appears to be indifferent to threats against its members.



## Dreaming for others

Birendra KC in *Kantipur*, 7 August

कान्तिपुर

A four-storey old age home is being built in Chutrabasi, Argakhachi. The investor, 29-year-old Narayan Prasad Khanal, is building this home for elderly people who have been abandoned by their families, using the money he earned from working in Qatar.

“Even as a child I wanted to do something for old people who are deserted by their childern and left at the mercy of the roads,” says Khanal. He is glad that he can finally do something for them with the money he has earned abroad. Khanal has been working in Qatar for 13 years. After a couple of years of work, he started a

company of his own. Now his company, Alkhanic Technical Training, employs 80 Nepalis, including 20 from Argakhachi.

Khanal is from a simple family but has decided to use half of his savings to build this old age home. He will spend about Rs 15 million for the purpose. The 30-room building has provisions for eating, studying, playing and a room for religious purposes as well. The expenses of the home will be managed through a trust. The building is now almost complete.

Khanal has been donating his earnings for other social purposes as well. In addition to giving scholarships to students with financial problems, he has helped build a school and a temple.

## Dalit disgrace

Manika Jha in *Rajdhani*, 11 August

राजधानी

Janakpur: The people of the Dom community of Hariharpur-3, Dhanusa district, are prevented from using water sources as they are considered lower caste. Surprisingly, they are not discriminated against by non-Dalits but other Dalit communities.

The Chamar and Mushahar communities consider Doms to be lower caste and have prevented them from accessing water sources in the village. This has made the life of the Dom community very difficult.

There are two wells here, but Doms are beaten up if they even touch them, says Surendra Malik, a member of the only remaining Dom household in the village. Two years ago, there were five Dom households in the village. Members of two households died due to lack of water and two

households were displaced. The sole household left is also planning to migrate soon.

Birendra Malik recalls how his father died due to lack of water. “It is unfortunate that villagers still do not have pity on us,” he says.

Dhaneshwari Malik, the eldest member of the family, said she went to Janakpur and complained to officials about how they were being deprived of water from the public wells. “Later, officials came to the village and instructed people from other communities to give us access to wells,” she recalled. Since then, the villagers have started giving Dhaneshwari two buckets of water every day, for cooking, cleaning, bathing, and drinking.

Bhola Sada, a member of the Mushahar community, claims that they cannot allow the Dom community to touch the wells because it contaminates the place and angers the gods.



# Milking it

Bhim Chapagai in *Naya Patrika*, 8 August

ढाउँ पत्रिका

The milk farmers of Ilam have earned more than Rs 1.8 billion this fiscal year. They have sold 90,267 metric tonnes of cow and buffalo milk. Forty per cent of the total milk production for the eastern region comes from Ilam.



More residents of Ilam have taken up this occupation because there is a lucrative market for milk. Dhak Bahadur Karki of the Regional Directive of Animal Services says, "5001 people are currently involved in this profession from 247 animal husbandry groups." In addition, there are another 33,000 farmers who operate independently. Those involved commercially in this sector sell milk at collection

centres set up by the Dairy Development Corporation (DDC), while the Milk Distribution Project in Biratnagar refrigerates the collected milk.

The many government and private cheese factories, confectionaries and private dairies are also buyers of the milk produced. While the local price is Rs 12 per litre, the collection centres and the factories pay a rate of Rs 30 to the farmers. Nirmala Adhikari of Panchakanya VDC has one cow, and she sells 25 litres of milk a day. She says that her income from milk is higher than that from ginger, broom grass, potatoes or tea farming. She has been using the money to educate her children. Farmers in Ilam sell on average between 5 to 40 litres of milk a day.

The DDC has announced prizes to encourage the collection of high quality milk. Birkha Bahadur Tamang, one of the winners, says that investment in high quality of food for cows is worth the quality of milk produced.

DDC has six milk collection centres in the district, which collect 40,000 litres of milk everyday.



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

Interview with Baburam Bhattarai in *Nagarik*, 10 August

नागरिक

**Nagarik: What is the reality of your meeting with Indian emissary Shyam Saran?**

**Baburam Bhattarai:** He was the foreign secretary of India when the 12-point agreement was signed and the Indian ambassador to Nepal before that. It's natural for him to meet those he knew then. I played an important role in the peace process and interim constitution writing. Chairman Prachanda was at the centre of leadership but I used to lead the talks team in practice. Although Saran came on the eve of the PM election, his concern was the peace process. He expressed his concerns about the peace process with me, and then separately with chairman Prachanda.

**Did the party arrange separate meetings with Saran?**

That's right. It was the party's decision, and I

# In line

briefed them afterwards. I was taken aback by the comments made by an individual; it is also against party discipline.

**Are you saying the party should take action against Barshaman Pun?**

Naturally, it is a subject of discussion in the party. It is vicious to speak like that, I call it an infant child disorder, like Lenin used to say. I don't want to give it much importance. What could be more childish than distorting the truth?

**Your chairman is running for prime minister under a majority system while you support a national consensus government. But your meeting with Saran has been viewed as an attempt on your part to become prime minister.**

This is a false and baseless allegation. Peace and the constitution are the needs of the hour. All energy should be concentrated on constitution writing and institutionalising past achievements; for this a consensus government is inevitable. As the biggest party, we should get the leadership of a national unity government. The process now is a majority system but the ultimate goal is a national consensus government. I am in line with the party line.

**What is the way out then?**

With the failure of the fourth election, we have decided to initiate an attempt for consensus. We proposed the withdrawal of our candidacies to the NC on Monday morning.

**What did the NC say?**

Ram Chandra Poudel did not really respond; he gave us a wishy-washy answer.

www.informatics.edu.np

## Confusion Creates Chaos. Plan with the Best

The only International college in Nepal with accreditations and affiliations of 40 ranking Universities from UK, USA, AUS and NZ

**Bachelor's Degree in Business Admin. (BBA)**

**Specialization**

- Finance | Accounting | Marketing | Management
- HR Management | Event Management
- Intl. Business & Entrepreneurship

**Bachelor's Degree in IT BIT/B.Sc (Hons.)**

**Specialization**

- System Development Mgmt. & Database Engineering
- Network Engineering & Critical Network Protection
- Digital Media Technology
- Mobile Engineering

100% Credit Transfer to Universities in UK, USA, Australia and others.

College & Courses Approved by Ministry of Education, Nepal

Best College among Informatics Network of 23 countries and 140 colleges.

Practical exposure through 100% research and project based assessment system

Global partnership of 40 Universities and Institutions around the globe.

13 Years of Academic Excellence

Awarding and Validating Bodies.



Kamal Marga, Kamal Pokhari, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel. +977 1 441 2929/ 4420054  
E-mail. info@informatics.edu.np



# Nothing happened this week

News channels broadcasting the PM elections live from the **Great Hall of the Pipal**, four times in a row, have decided to ignore future rounds and switch back to their regular programming of music video call-in shows. At this rate, no one is going to give a dam. The elections will go on for the next 15 years, and the 2,717th round will be the last because by then both candidates will have died of old age.



Anyway, as a service to its loyal readers and royal leaders, the Ass has here a brief summary of the strategies of the main parties as of presstime Thursday:

**Kangresis:** Try to woo the UML under the banner of a 'democratic front', failing which call everyone an 'obstructionist'. NC is too busy with preparations for its district party convention anyway to worry about something as inconsequential as prime ministerial elections and every kangresi neta worth his salt is shooting his mouth off. Funnily enough, it is Chakra 'Revolver' Bastola who has come up with the idea of a revolving prime ministership. Meanwhile Lionheart is licking his chops because Poodle doesn't stand a chance. The Kangresis have a cunning plan: they have no plan. The Ass' prognosis is that RCP will be so bored he will fall asleep and forget to vote for himself on Tuesday.

**Baddies:** PKD is still gunning for a majority by hook or by crook (mostly by crook). But he is realistic enough to know it may not happen. He is now settling for 'Plan D', which is to convince RCP to jointly withdraw their candidatures, then nominate Jhallu Kamred for the post. This way he assassinates two birds with one stone: gets his lapdog to be PM and bags key ministries, but (much more important!) he sabotages BRB's chance of being a consensus candidate in a Maoist-led govt. Which is why PKD is busy trying to cajole, arm-twist, sweet-talk, seduce RCP to step down with him. Ass' prognosis is that **PKD is headed for the Gulag**.

**Eh-maleys:** The CentCom is veering towards backing JNK's consensus candidacy if for no other reason than the fact that key netas will get to be ministers. The Oily faction has been reduced to writing notes of dissent. The eh-maleys know their party is in a heads-we-lose-tails-they-win situation: the party



will be ripped apart whether it joins the Baddies or the Kangresis. Ass' prognosis: who gives a rat's butt?



Now that New York's bars have started serving celebrity cocktails named after Mel Gibson and Lindsay Lohan, a local barfly proposes the following cocktails for Kathmandu's watering holes:

Awesomene Bipolar (Mao Tai + tomato juice + Tabasco, stirred with a dynamite stick)

Suzie Sling (jigger of arrack + schnapps, shaken, not stirred)

Cuba Libre Baburam Slammer (seabuckthorn + Marmelos + Coke)

Floor Crosser (arrack + nimbu pani + cocktail onion)

Royal Sunset (Famous Grouse + kalo pad-art)



Just when Kingji thought he had laundered his image and regained his popularity, both his son and son-in-law are causing him grief. Sonny boy is back from 'Spore and following Daddy's footsteps to Birganj and other places, undoing many **regained royal brownie points**. Then he gives a no-hold-barred interview to a UML mouth-organ in which he calls for 'new thinking' about the country's future. If this was still a monarchy the Ass would have said the young clown prince is in a hurry to be king. Then, in true royal tradition, both father and son were embarrassed by Raj Budder joining the Junta Dull and the very next day spending the night in the can after a drunken brawl at the Hack & Yeti.



So the two presidents never did get to meet. Bureaucrats at the MoF put in a request for the visiting president of the Asian Development Bank to meet President Ram Baron last month, but it was shot down by none other than the Financial Minister Com Suren, who said "there was no need" because it would "supersede" his meeting with a lameduck prime minister.



A news item buried in the inside pages of a daily this week that read 'Judge grilled' got the Ass thinking about various ingenious ways to actually grill a judge. The Donkey risks a contempt of court suit by printing the suggestions received from friends:

- judge skewered horizontally over a simmering charcoal bed
- judge grilled a la shwarma
- judge coated lightly with bhatmas ko tel and turned slowly as flames leap up and sizzle the skin



ass(at)nepalitimes.com

## Apple's Entire Range at EvoStore.



### Make the ultimate upgrade. To a Mac

A Mac is easy to use, powerful, compatible, and highly secure.

New processor architecture.



More powerful graphics.



Big LED-backlit displays.



Two ways to Multi-Touch



New Intel Core i5 and Core i7 processors.



Precision aluminum unibody enclosure.



Next-generation NVIDIA graphics



Up to 10 hours battery life.



#### iPods



**iPod Shuffle**  
2 GB & 4 GB



**iPod Nano**  
8 GB & 16 GB  
(with Video Camera / FM / Speaker)



**iPod Classic**  
160 GB



**iPod Touch**  
8 GB, 32 GB & 64 GB

#### BOSE

Better Sound Through Research



**SoundDock Portable**  
Digital Music System



**SoundLink®**  
Wireless Music System



**Companion 5 Multimedia**  
Speaker System



**SoundDock 10**  
Digital Music System



Authorized Reseller



**EvoStore**  
Sherpa Mall, Durbar Marg  
4225486, 4220659



**EvoStore**  
Kumaripati, Lalitpur  
Ph: 5008646



**Trade Link International**  
Khichapokhari, Kathmandu



Authorized Service Provider



**1 YEAR**  
INTERNATIONAL  
WARRANTY

CDO Regd No 194/056/57 Lalitpur, Central Region Postal Regd. No 09/066/67