

coming up next...
something that
will put you
in...

top gear

VIJAY MOTORS PVT. LTD.
Naxal, Bhagwati Marg - I

Sole Distributor for Nepal

For queries SMS 'car' to 2426, Email: sales2@vmpl.com.np
Kathmandu Tel: 4425603, 4414625



BIKRAM RAI

CROSSROADS

And I'm standing at the
crossroads, believe I'm sinking
down: Tripureswor evening
rush, last Friday



Tibet Guest House- (Thamel)
Hotel Ganesh Himal- (Chhetrapati)

CONSTELLATION

THURAYA XT
The most rugged
satellite phone in the
World!

www.constellation.com.np
Tel: +977-1-5549252

Ultimate Decor
fine furniture

www.ultimatedecor.com.np • Tel: 4672997

HP Probook 4520s Notebook
Stylish With Advanced Multimedia Support

- Core i5 (2.67 GHz)
- 2GB DDR3 Memory
- 500GB Hard Drive
- 15.6" WXGA Display
- DVD RW, BT, Wireless
- Intel Graphics Media
- Free DOS

Thin to Fit your Life
Light to Carry your Moments!

CAS CAS TECHNO SALES PVT. LTD.
Address : Putalisadak, Kathmandu
Phone : 977-1- 4440271, 4440272
E-mail : amar@cas.com.np

Polaroid
Polarized Sunglasses

Durbarmarg • City Center • Bluebird Mall
4221451



trèsmode
JUST ARRIVED IN NEPAL

AVAILABLE AT

redefines
pulchowk.

TRESMODE STORE, GROUND FLOOR, LAXMI BANK BUILDING, PULCHOWK, KATHMANDU, TEL: 5524912



Only last week, we re-published an interview with Bob Parker, the Mayor of Christchurch in New Zealand. His city having come through unscathed (in terms of loss of life) in last September's quake, Parker reflected on the differences in the levels of preparedness between Christchurch and Kathmandu.

Tuesday's repeat quake in Christchurch, at the time of going to press, has killed 96 people. This doesn't of course mean that Parker was making empty claims. It does mean that no amount of preparation can guarantee that you are on safe ground when the ground beneath your feet moves.

In some sense this must be how it feels to be a dictator whose time is finally ending. You think you have all bases covered through your control of the organs of the state. But then the tectonic upheaval of people power blasts through the rotten edifice that you have set up, and before you know it you are calling in favours with friendly despots-in-arms ("Hugo? I gotta go"). Mubarak, Ben Ali, and now Gaddafi are finding out the hard way that hoarding unimaginable sums of wealth while the majority of your population struggles to even

No safe ground



KIRAN PANDAY

land a job is a slow train to nowhere. Dictator or no, revolution-weary or no, Nepal would have been a prime candidate for a similar upheaval had it not been the case that three million Nepalis have left the country for, ironically, the Middle East. But future rulers would do well to recognise the consequences of indulging in corruption, making a farce of democracy, and ignoring the difficulties the people at large are facing. By the same token, if our rulers can learn from what is happening across the Arab world, the brave citizens who have risen in protest there and here can learn from Nepal's example. Revolutions come and go, but it's what follows that matters more. Each of Nepal's revolutions – 1951, 1990, and 2006 – were realised through a combination of political and popular protest, and each subsequently fell prey to prolonged periods of uncertainty resolved (temporarily) by the reinstatement of autocratic rule. Whatever happens in the days ahead, we must keep our focus on thwarting attempts from any quarter – left, right or centre – to take back in the name of the people what the people have seized from the hands of despots.

ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

POWER GAMES

I cannot agree with Gyanendra Pradhan's "There is no other way to balance the trade deficit than to export power to India" ('No light at the end of the tunnel', Dewan Rai & Rubeena Mahato, #541). That is really myopic and ill-considered to put it mildly. Yes there is another way. A better way. You can cut the trade deficit by producing cheap and reliable electricity that attracts industries and manufacturing (local as well as foreign) that in turn can export finished products to India and the rest of the world. Surely this would be better than just exporting pure and raw electricity without any value addition. Today when labour cost is no longer our comparative advantage because of low productivity we could turn cheap and reliable energy into a world-beating comparative advantage. But industries and manufacturing are much more important than mechanisms to reduce trade deficits. Without industries and manufacturing we will never be innovative. There will be no R&D. We will never develop the skills for living, thriving and dominating in an integrated world economy.

With industries the government and society will have to improve infrastructure continuously. Schools will improve because industries demand ever increasing standards in education. Industries mean we will develop the management, technical and financial skills that Nepal sorely lacks today. With flourishing industries politicians will be less inclined towards destructive politics and concentrate on how to support the economy. That means continual reforms of our tax codes, labour laws, contract and company laws and so on. That means doing the hard and difficult but right things. Indeed the entire collective intellect of the country will be upgraded. China, Japan or USA did not become world powers by doing easy things like exporting hydropower and then sitting back and enjoying the revenue streams. They did the difficult things that attracted industries. Look where they are now.

Just exporting raw energy to India means we will surely become another Nigeria or Saudi Arabia and not Singapore

or Japan. Surely Nigeria and Saudi Arabia are not countries that we wish to emulate. Just imagine vast sums of money coming into government coffers without much effort. The mind boggles at the thought of all the prostitution of services, talents and offices that will come in its wake. Perhaps Gyanendra Pradhan forgets that once the hydro plants are set up, there is hardly any need for workers and managers. It is employment light. Perhaps he forgets that just depending on one item for exports will create havoc in rest of the economy by way of Dutch Disease. Perhaps he forgets that monopsony is as bad as monopoly: in this case economically as well as politically. Perhaps he has never heard of disruptive technologies. What will happen if suddenly solar energy's efficiency went up from 12% today to say 50% like silicon did in the late 20th century? Or if there is a sudden breakthrough in fusion technology? We will be faced with a situation with no takers for our hydropower and will go back to square one where we will have to start building our industries but this time without any comparative advantage. Finally there are those who will say we can export our surplus energy. Yes maybe a small fraction should be exported to keep us on our toes but let us also leave a whole lot of our rivers freely flowing for nature and for future generations. Let us not dam and divert everything and then regret it afterwards. We owe that much to our future generations also. So let us not be Bhutan. Let us be Nepal.

Lochan

NAYA RAJA

Brilliantly laid out how the so-called new politicians still continue to act like kings when they say that they have begun a new era of the democratic republic ('Straddling two boats,' Biraj Bahadur Bista, #541). I see the dual usage and maybe like Bista says the politicians cannot break free from the traditional way of doing politics. So if it is true it is better to bring back the monarchy rather than politicians who cannot decide which boat to straddle.

Social Misfit

DOUBTFUL BENEFITS?

Better let's ask ourselves -- what is my duty as a citizen, a journalist, a teacher, a lawyer, a

doctor, or a professional to the new Republic ('Same-same', Prashant Jha, #541)? Why not give the benefit of doubt to the new coalition? At least, after a mockery of more than 15 attempts, the CA members have demonstrated some wisdom to elect a new PM without a remote control from abroad. Bravo, guys!! Let's give them a chance to work, yet let's monitor their actions, do a proper follow-up by civil society and evaluate their performance. It is not a surprise that a privileged section of Nepali society (the 'sukila-mukila' class) has always been skeptical towards any sort of change; their level of cynicism was so high they could never imagine that the abolition of the feudal monarchy was possible in our lifetime, nor could they ever believe that the sovereign people of Nepal could one day elect their own representatives to the CA to write the people's first constitution in the history of Nepal. These are achievements of historic proportions by any standard of democracy! Despite all the constraints and stagnations, the Nation has come all the way to this juncture. If the current coalition could just provide stability and confidence to the people that we as a Nation can manage our own affairs and build our own destination I would give them high credit. This alone would be more than half of the job done. The other half is just a matter of technical details. Let's give them a chance with all sincerity!

Anonymous

LINGO, NOT JINGO

The best defense that our nation will have against invading forces is one of diplomacy, not that of warfare ('Jingoistic jerks', Rabi Thapa, #541). Jingoists, commies and wing-nuts aside, I am sure the rest of the populace understands that we need more daring scholars than sheep-daredevils.

For a PhD

SIGN NOW, ASK LATER

As with most other things our politicians have signed the treaty without considering what it says and what its implications are ('ILO 169: Nepal as a model', From the Nepali press, #541). It is not without reason that only 22 countries have ratified it so far. Especially

noteworthy is that none of the permanent members of the UNSC have signed it. The treaty essentially gives one set of people ADDITIONAL rights in addition to rights which they are already entitled to as citizens. As per the convention, everyone in Nepal could be classified as indigenous or, alternatively, no one. Another can of worms.

jange

WAKE UP, INDIA!

The threat of the Nepal-India border goes both ways: not only is Nepal concerned about Indian dacoits attacking the Tarai, but illegal trafficking of Nepali women and children for Bombay brothels and Indian circuses are well-documented ('The India factor', Pranab Dhal Samanta, #541). Finally, the link between the Nepali Maoists and China is tenuous at best. The fact of the matter is that much of their arms were provided by the Indians during the insurgency and not the other way around as widely stated in the Indian press. I have no love for the Maoists but India's view of Nepal and China is myopic at best; China is much more interested in economic expansion than entertaining Indian illusions of a 21st century 'Great Game'. Given that, perhaps Indians would be better served by remembering that India itself conducts a large portion of its trade with China. Wake up people: it's not 1962 anymore.

hange

Times

nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll # 542

Q. Do you believe in compulsory military service for all Nepali adults?

Total votes: 3,237

Yes we are Gurkhalis: 37%

No, no, no: 61.6%

Don't know: 1.4%

Weekly Internet Poll # 543. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Rs 1000 tickets for quick access to Pashupati on Shiva Ratri?



PLAIN SPEAKING
Prashant Jha

States often crave recognition. A visit by a leader of a more powerful state; a seat at the high table; an invitation to a summit; or an appointment in the global governance structure are all essentially symbolic – considered important by those who make it their business to conduct diplomacy. But why the Nepali state, or the earlier Madhav Nepal-led government to be more precise, thought it useful and necessary to back Kul Chandra Gautam in the UNGA presidential race at this juncture defies rational calculation.

There are essentially two arguments made by those who have been at the forefront of backing Gautam – it is Nepal’s turn, and Gautam is the best candidate Nepal could ever have.

Nepal is an old member of the UN; it has contributed a lot to peace keeping operations; and this is our chance to be recognised. All of this is factually true. But it is important to demystify this business about our ‘contribution’ and our ‘chance’.

The UN needs us and our armed personnel put themselves at risk to keep the peace in distant lands. But peacekeeping is a mutually

beneficial relationship. It is among the relatively low-risk, high-return options involving military operations. And for the Nepal Army, it is a crucial safety valve that goes a long way in addressing the growing aspirations of officers and soldiers. It adds to the financial muscle of the military, and it exposes our forces to military practices outside our borders, making them more professional. No one is doing the other a favour here.

But let us, for a moment, stick to the conventional parameter of seeing peacekeeping as Nepal’s contribution. Aren’t there other ways we could use that ‘bargaining chip’ to extract more than a UNGA presidency? Could we have used our claims of not having been represented to get a position in other bodies, or additional resources, which would have a tangible benefit for the Nepali people? And at a time of deep domestic crisis, is claiming the UNGA presidency really a national priority? In this case, the state invests scarce political capital and resources in the race, but only the individual benefits. He can do little to use the position for Nepal’s benefit, except by giving a sense of ‘pride’ to a few in the diaspora and a few of his friends back in Nepal.

And that brings us to Kul Chandra Gautam.

Gautam is a pleasant man, humble and polite with all irrespective of hierarchy. He was a successful

UN-Kul

international professional, and in a Nepal starved of icons, a section of the media played an instrumental role in portraying him as the pinnacle of Nepal’s achievement globally.

Since Gautam’s return to Nepal, he has wanted to

or being ambassador at large. Whether true or not, what was clear was his desire to cosy up to the powers that be. Just read his speeches introducing Pushpa Kamal Dahal in New York on different platforms, or look at the photographs

the polarisation in 2009-10, being one of the Madhav Nepal government’s key cheerleaders. He was also consulting and presenting papers on integration at conferences organised by an NGO, headed by PM Nepal’s foreign policy advisor. All of this obviously helped him build a political relationship with those at the helm of the Nepali state since May 2009. The government backed his nomination, and he was then appointed as an advisor to the PM to shore up his status. These details are important because it gives us the background to understand the political quid pro quo behind the nomination, and why the country is investing resources in this case.

Irrespective of whether Kul Chandra Gautam succeeds in adding another designation to his CV, there is little Nepal will gain out of this exercise. 🇳🇵

Kul Chandra Gautam’s candidacy for the UNGA’s presidency tells us more about the Nepali state than about the ability of the Nepali people

contribute to national affairs. This is laudable indeed, but the other way to put it is that he has yearned for a formal role. There was a campaign, which he did not inspire but was taken in by, to elect him as Nepal’s first president. The Kathmandu grapevine was then rife with rumours about his interest in heading a Peace and Reconstruction Commission,

where he almost looks like a supplicant to the Maoist supremo. But the politics here are more relevant than the person.

When Dahal resigned, Gautam was quick off the mark to praise the president’s action and hailed Ram Baran Yadav as the best thing to have happened to Nepali politics. He played a distinctly partisan role in

SALE !!!

UP TO 50% OFF

UNITED COLORS OF BENETTON.

PHANTOM / ICB206

*Conditions apply

Durbarmarg 4221454, Citi center,kamal pokhari 4011810

shop online www.benetton.muncha.com

Nepal Guest Year



GUEST COLUMN
Hans Hofer

Ever since my first visit to Nepal in 1967, I have been both a participant and observer of the tourism industry here. I have spent 35 years creating over 400 guidebooks for Insight Guides on 125 countries, published in 10 languages with sales of 40 million copies.

The Insight Guide for Nepal was first published in 1984 in collaboration with a number of Kathmandu-based writers and friends. In the process of researching the book I walked and photographed the Kathmandu Valley and visited many trekking regions, one of the greatest privileges of my life.

Tourism is first and foremost a social endeavour with economic consequences, and should not be mistaken as an economic endeavour with social consequences. If we realise that the most essential aspect of tourism is the fulfillment of visitor expectations, it is not a complicated business to understand.

A happy visitor will bring two more visitors, potentially doubling visitor arrivals in the next season

without a single dollar spent on promoting the country. A disappointed visitor will keep two visitors away. Nepal's unique scenic beauty and heritage can double visitor numbers, but how many do we disappoint with visa officers who lack manners, touts at tourist 'attractions', or youth who now ask for 'one thousand rupees' on the trekking trails?

The real test of NTY 2011 is not whether one million tourists visit Nepal, but how many days they stay, how much they spend, and where the money goes. Austria, with a population of just

8.3 million, gets 50 million visitors per year and they stay an average of ten days. That is 500 million room nights a year at an average of 300 euros per day. The country earns 150 billion euros per year from tourism. How much does Nepal expect to earn from 1 million visitors – time

to get out the calculators?

There is a need to integrate tourism with other sectors of the economy. It is absurd to have a Tourism Ministry. It should be a cross-cutting sector with focal points in each ministry. Is there a minister for the carpet industry? There isn't even a Ministry of Migrant Workers, although it is Nepal's biggest source of foreign income. If tourism is really important it should be factored into all aspects of the planning process, not treated separately.

The definition of tourism should be widened to

include long-term foreign residents who want to live here and own hilltop properties: the 'Grey Dollar'. Nepal's tragic misunderstanding is that a 'tourist' is seen as a fruit tree to be harvested. Even worse is that it's not just the fruits that are harvested, but even the trees are being chopped down.

It is a wonderful irony that the most useless agricultural land is often the best tourism property: sandy and salty ocean beaches in Sri Lanka, or arid hilltops in the Himalaya. Tourism has the potential to inject income into the economy, raise awareness about environmental issues among local people and bring sustainable development.

A place to start may be to replace the word 'tourist' with 'guest' in English and Nepali and recall Nepal's traditional, spontaneous hospitality. That image needs to be rescued from the impression that a tourist is someone from whom we need to wring out every last dollar. We need to create and manage expectations, and we need to be aware that tourists who see ugliness as soon as they get off the plane are not likely to come back, or tell others to come. 🇳🇵

Time to replace the word 'tourist' with 'guest'



Scare tactics spoil NTY

MICHAEL COX

Despite Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) claiming that foreign travel advice has been toned down in the last year, over-cautious warnings are still deterring tourists from visiting Nepal.

"The number of tourists could be much higher if not for the travel advice from foreign embassies," says Sarad Pradhan, NTB's media consultant. "Unforeseen things happen everywhere, everyday and Nepal is no different." He argues that there is no threat of terrorism in Nepal.

At least seven countries advise tourists not to travel to Nepal because it's too dangerous. "The US is always trying to link Nepali organisations with terrorism, but in my opinion this is not true. Like the Maoist Party, they're a political outfit, they're not a terrorist organisation," Pradhan says.

NTB recently wrote a letter to all western ambassadors in Nepal requesting them to review their travel advice and Nepal's Foreign Ministry was also copied in on the letter. Nepal's ambassador to the

US, Shankar Sharma, briefed the US State Department last January in an attempt to sway them to review their advice, which suggests that Nepal is a dangerous country to travel in (see box).

As part of their commitment to NTY 2011, all political parties signed an agreement assuring NTB that they would not disrupt 2011 with any strikes or protests that will affect the safety of tourists. NTB is confident

Embassies play it safe, but travel advisories are a risk for Nepali tourism

that this agreement will not be broken. "We believe the parties will stick to their word," Pradhan says. Another move by NTB was to put a crisis management and crisis tourism unit in place to further protect travellers in the event of any threat to tourism.

Most of the information that the US embassy uses to determine the security situation is drawn from public sources, including the media

and police reports. The US councillor for public affairs, Terry J White, says the US Embassy has an obligation to provide the American people with fact-based information. "This information is gathered, sifted and distilled into what we think would be useful to our constituents," White says.

President of the Tours and Travel Agents Association, Arjun Prasad Sharma, says this kind of travel advice is produced to prevent foreign embassies from being sued. "This is to protect the jobs of the embassy people and the government people," he says. "But the benefits of tourism go to the grassroots level people in Nepal, so the embassies have to support the people and stop this (travel advice). We don't need aid, we need business."

Sharma argues that Nepal is not linked with any terrorist organisations, but adds that Nepal isn't the only country that bears the brunt of foreign travel advice.

A British embassy spokesman says there is a general threat of terrorism in a country with any British and American ties. The UK advises all British citizens that there is a threat of terrorism wherever they choose to travel. He says they're not singling

out Nepal. "I think it's fairly balanced (advice), we have a duty to give advice. Travellers expect to know about potential risks," the spokesman says, "and travellers anywhere in the world should have their wits about them."

The Australian Embassy updates its travel advice every three months and its intelligence is based on anything that affects Australians. A spokesman from the Australian Embassy says, "I wouldn't say we're over-cautious, we're trying to be right on the money to reflect the situation." 🇳🇵

Travel advice from foreign ministries

United States:
"urges caution" www.travel.state.gov

United Kingdom:
"general threat of terrorism" www.fco.gov.uk

Australia:
"high degree of caution" www.smartraveller.com.au

Canada:
"should remain vigilant at all times" www.voyage.gc.ca

New Zealand:
"some risk...threat from terrorism" www.safetravel.govt.nz

THIS WEEK

Seven points, with changes

The central committee meeting on Tuesday endorsed the seven-point agreement signed between Party Chairman Jhala Nath Khanal and Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal. The politburo meeting on Monday decided to approve the agreement after several revisions, mainly to three points: the formation of a separate force for the PLA has been scrapped; government leadership will not be limited to UML and the Maoists; and the objective of a 'federal constitution' has been modified to a 'federal democratic constitution'. The party has delegated the task of recommending ministers for the government to the standing committee. However, it is highly unlikely that the cabinet will get full shape as long as the debate on who should get the home ministry remains unsettled.

Supreme orders

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the government to implement free education up to secondary level as per the provision in the Interim Constitution. A division bench of SC justices Balam KC and Bharat Raj Uprety ordered the government to make necessary changes in the laws and regulations to provide free education to everyone up to tenth grade. Currently free education is only available for students up to eighth grade, while free education in community schools up to the 12th grade is provided to students from the Dalit and other marginalised communities, as well as those in the Karnali region. The Ministry of Education estimates that it will cost Rs 13 billion to implement the court's order.

Khadka passes away

Constituent Assembly member Gaurishankar Khadka passed away at the age of 51 while undergoing treatment for cancer on Monday. Khadka, a central



committee member of the UCPN (Maoist), was elected CA member from Jhapa-2 under the first past the post system. He was also the secretary of UCPN (Maoist)'s Kochila state committee.

Nepalis leave Libya

Over 600 Nepali migrant workers have left Libya in the wake of the political strife that has wracked the country of late. Reports say Nepali migrant workers working



in a Korean construction company left in eight trucks to the Egyptian border. Officials of the Nepali mission in Cairo, Egypt, received the Nepali migrant workers at the Egyptian border. The Egyptian government is providing the workers with food and accommodation while they are in transit; the Foreign Ministry is preparing to bring them back to Nepal. The ministry is also working to rescue other migrant workers stranded in Libya.

Speed meter

WorldLink has partnered with Ookla, provider of internet speed measurement website Speedtest.net which allows internet users to accurately measure their internet speed. WorldLink is also hosting Pingtest.net servers, a free broadband quality analyser.

Credit partners

Kumari Bank and Oxfam in Nepal have signed an agreement for Credit Financing under Oxfam's Enterprise Development Programme. The bank will now provide a revolving credit facility, up to defined limits, to agricultural cooperatives identified by Oxfam.

International deal



South Korean SUV manufacturer Ssangyong Motor and India's Mahindra and Mahindra have signed an agreement whereby Mahindra and Mahindra will acquire a 70 per cent stake in the company but Ssangyong will continue to operate as an independent entity. Ssangyong is represented by Constant Business Group in Nepal for sales and service.

Fan club

Him Electronics hosted a Bajaj Fans dealers' conference last week at the Annapurna Hotel. Bajaj sells fans for industrial as well as personal use and plans to expand its current product line up for Nepal. The new proposed products to be introduced by Bajaj are Disney series fans, heavy duty fresh air fans and energy star rating fans.

Olympic fizz

Heineken has been confirmed as an official sponsor of the London Olympics and Paralympic Games – which will include pouring rights for its beer and cider brands at all events where alcohol is served. The deal will also give Heineken sponsorship and venue supply rights associated with the British Olympic teams.

LOSING HAIR / BALDING ?
www.proteinhairnepal.com



WOWZZAT!

हरैक LG TV को साथमा

DishHome DTH Offer सिस्तेमा

FULL LED 3D

INF)NIA
LIVE BORDERLESS

सिस्तेमा

LED LCD TVs



22LE5300 (22") 26LE5300 (26") 32LE5500 (32") 42LE5500 (42")

LCD TVs



22LD310 (22") 22LD330 (22") 26LD310 (26") 26LD330 (26") 26LD330 (32") 26LD330 (32") 26LD330 (32") 26LD330 (32") 26LD340 (22") 26LD340 (32") 26LD345 (26") 26LD345 (32") 32LD460 (32") 32LD460 (42") (Full HD)



LG Lifestyle Shoppe Pvt. Ltd.
(LG Exclusive Company Showroom)
Gorkha Complex, Minbhawan,
Kathmandu, Tel: 01-4106530, 01-6206462

CG Digital Pvt. Ltd.
(Multi-Brand Showroom)
AC Complex, Chabahil
Kathmandu, Tel: 01-4461234

Open 7 days a week 10:00 am - 7:30 pm





“Either
give us
back our
loved
ones or
tell us
what you
did to
them”

There seems to be a disconnect between the priorities of the victims' families and the donor and human rights communities working on this area. "We want information about our missing members; they (the donors and human rights community) focus on impunity and reconciliation," says Ram Kumar Bhandari of the Family Association of



Let's join the Fun to celebrate Tourism Year

1st INTERNATIONAL MEGA EVENT

MALE / FEMALE

Golden Cine PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING SHOW 2011

26th FEB

@ Dasharath Rangashala

4th MARCH

@ POKHARA

Tickets available on:

Dasharath Rangshala (Ticket Counter), Tripureshwor
 Delicatessen Center & Cafe - Durbar Marg
 Free Thinker Cyber - Putalisadak, 4413107
 Rose Merry Cafe - New Baneshwor
 The Toy Store, City Center 3rd Floor, Kamaladi - 4011799
 The Toy Store, Civil Mall, Sundhara - 9849080714

NC Advertising, Kuponhole - 5549880
 Samyukta Sahakari, Mahalaxmishan, Lagankhel
 Hearten Cafe, Mid Baneshwor
 Bajeko Sekuwa, Anamnagar
 Sharp Solution, Kalanki Chowk - 9841464172
 Prakash Book Shop, Tripureshwor - 9841244759

PROGRAM DETAILS:

Rangashala Open: 12:00 pm
 Program Start: 2:30 pm

Seat Plan
 Rs. 5000/- Around the Ring
 Rs. 2000/- VIP Parafit
 Rs. 300/- Normal Parafit

TICKET PRICE
 Rs. 5000/-
 Rs. 2000/-
 Rs. 300/-



DATE & VENUE: 14th Falgun, 2067 (26th Feb 2011) - Dasharath Rangashala, Kathmandu

20th Falgun, 2067 (4th March 2011) - Pokhara

Organized by:  Golden Cine Entertainers Pvt. Ltd.

Nepal Player & Instructors Association (NPJA)

Professional Wrestling Entertainment Championship Association Nepal (PWECAN)

Sponsor: 

Co-Sponsor: 

Supported by: 

TV Channel Partner: 

Print Media Partner: 

Radio Partner: 

Media Partner: 

काम सानो ठुलो भन्ने
हुँदैन । पसिनाको कुनै
रङ र जात पनि हुँदैन ।
काम गरेर खान लजा
उनु पनि हुँदैन । चोरेर,
ढाँटेर, छलेर, लुटेर
खान पो लजाउनुपर्छ ।
जो जहाँ रहेर जुन काम
गर्छ ऊ त्यसैमा र
माउनुपर्छ 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

THE WORLD'S
NUMBER ONE
INTERNATIONAL
PREMIUM BEER



Heineken

It could only be Heineken

the event designer...

DIRECTION NEPAL

t : 4117101-4 f: 4117105
e : info@directionnepal.com
w : www.directionnepal.com

seminar AGM workshops banquets exhibitions

#DECC
SERVICE WITH HEART

Direction Exhibition & Convention Center
4th Floor, United World Trade Center
Tripureswor, Kathmandu

STANDARD
COLLECTIONS FOR
SUMMER, WINTER,
DESIGNER &
CASHMERE



LET THEM FEEL
HOW *Special* YOU ARE!

There is no one who doesn't turn to your irresistible beauty & style

At NPI, our designers create extraordinarily trendy pashmina products that fits any of your character, style & mood.

Express Your Style, Let Them Follow.

NPI
NEPAL PASHMINA
INDUSTRY

OUR EXCLUSIVE SHOWROOMS:

Soaltee Mode, Kalimati, Kathmandu
(way to Soaltee Hotel)
Tel. 4283 644, 4277 023

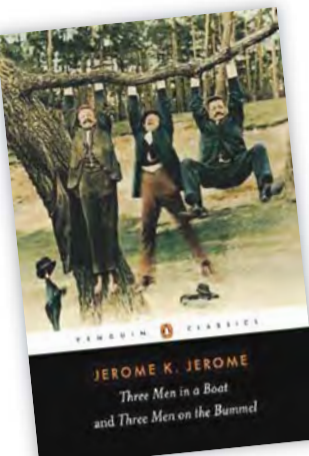
Thamel, Kathmandu
(opp. Sanchayakosh Building)
Tel. 4410 947

Soaltee Mode, Kalimati, Kathmandu
(Soaltee Hotel Compound)
Tel. 4270 947

Thamel, Kathmandu
(Close to Sanchayakosh Building)
Tel. 4264 775

www.npi-nepal.com

EVENTS



Book discussion on 'Three men in a boat', a novel by Jerome K. Jerome. 28 February, 3pm to 4.30pm, British Council, Lazimpat, send an SMS to 9851076996 for registration

Avatars and Interpretations, an exhibition of mixed media works by Erina Tamrakar and Asha Dongol. 13 February to 10 March, opening at 5.30pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babar Mahal Revisited, 4218048/4438979

Capture to Archives, photography workshop organised by the School of Creative Communications on ways to improve the efficiency of digital photographers. 3 to 7 March, 7.30am to 9.30am, SCC, Kupondole, Fee: Rs 5,500, ten seats only

Culture Studies Group of Nepal presents its monthly lecture, "The tangled web of human trafficking in Nepal", by Helen Sherpa. 25 February, 10am, Shankar Hotel, Lazimpat

Disguised Harmony 2, exhibition of paintings by Vijaya Maharjan. Starts 27 February, 4pm, Park Gallery, Pulchok, Gallery hours: 10.30am to 5.30pm, closed on Saturdays, 5522307, parkgallery@wlink.com.np

Call for entries for Film Southasia, a festival of South Asian documentaries.



*Beauty,
Health &
Well Being*

Midas Services:
Luxury Facials from O3+, Mezo Facials by Sara, Midas Facials, Facial Top-Ups, Manicure & Pedicure, Waxing, Hair Services, Hydrotherapy, Ayurveda, Reflexology etc.

Midas Medi Spa
recently opened inside Norvic Hospital for in patient care and staffs.



MIDAS DAY SPA~SALON
transform yourself...

Ph: 4230677, 6922436
Yak & Yeti Road, Durbarmarg, Kathmandu, midas2008@live.com
www.midasspa.com

29 September to 2 October, early submission deadline: 31 May 2011, final submission deadline (for films made after April 2010): 31 June 2011. *Film Southasia Secretariat*, Patan Dhoka, 5552141, www.filmsouthasia.org, fsa@filmsouthasia.org

The New World Rhizome, exhibition of paintings by Indra Raj Subba 'Soshu'. Till 1 March, 5.30pm, Kathmandu Contemporary Arts Centre, Jhamsikhel, 5521120, www.kathmanduarts.org

College Theatre Festival, plays staged by students from eight colleges. Till 27 February, 5pm onwards, Gurukul, Old Baneshwor

Death, Bardo and Rebirth, one-day program by Geshe Thubten Sherab from Kapan Gompa. 26 February, 10.30am to 4.30pm, Rs 2,000 inclusive of lunch, tea and handouts. Himalayan Buddhist Meditation Centre, Ekantakuna. 9808891048, hbmcmprograms@gmail.com, www.fpmt-hbmc.org,

MUSIC



Musicology presents 'Back in Town: Mukti 'N Revival. 25 February, 7.30pm, House of Music, Thamel, Entry: Rs 200 and **Songs of Freedom with the Joint Family Internationale**. 26 February, 7.30pm, Moksh, Pulchok, Rs 100

Ke-sang on acoustic guitar and vocals. Every Saturday, 7pm onwards, New Orleans Coffee Shop Garden, 5522708 for reservations

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

Absolute Live Music, by Rashmi & Kitcha Band every Friday and performances by Shabnam & Cannabiz Band every Wednesday. 7.30pm onwards. *Absolute Bar*, Hotel Narayani Complex, Pulchok, Lalitpur, 5521408, 5549504, abar@wlink.com.np

DINING

Krishnarpan, a specialty Nepali Restaurant at The Dwarika's Hotel, 6 to 22 courses, an authentic Nepali meal. *The Dwarika's Hotel*, Battisputali, 4479488

Jazoo, a quiet place ideal for beer and relaxing conversation. Bring a friend and enjoy their special barbeque set for a mix of everything, Jawalakhel, 5538321

Mike's Breakfast, huge breakfasts and a never-ending supply of



coffee amidst a lush garden setting characterise this café, popular among tourists and locals alike. *Naxal*, 4424303

Sandwiches and Crepes promotion at The Lounge everyday from 11am to 6pm, **Vegetarian Buffet at The Café** every Tuesday from 6.30pm, and **Arabian Nights at The Café** every Friday from 6.30pm at *Hyatt Regency*, Boudha, 4491234, 4489362

Lhasa Bar, enjoy a beer or a splash of cocktail at this springboard for excellent young musicians starting out on the Thamel circuit. *Thamel*, 985101043

Buddha Bar, has been an establishment since the days of the hippies and offers a warm and cozy space for intimate conversations over a large selection of drinks. *Thamel*, 9851053235

The Kaiser Cafe Restaurant & Bar, enjoy a pleasant BBQ lunch in the ambient settings of The Garden of Dreams and a glass of wine or beer. Every Sunday, 12pm to 3pm, *Kaiser Mahal*, Thamel, Rs 1,300 per person, 4425341, operated by The Dwarika's Group of Hotels & Resorts

Station BBQ, don the chef's hat, make your own BBQ. *Jhamsikhel*, 5522083

Aalishan, serves a mix of both Indian and Chinese cuisines. *Jawalakhel*

GETAWAYS

Overnight Package at The Dwarika's Himalayan Shangri-La Village Resort, for local residents, package includes accommodation in Himalayan room, dinner and breakfast. *Dhulikhel*, Rs 4,000 (Single), Rs 5,700 (Double). The package rates are subject to a 10% Service charge. For more information/reservations call 4479488 *Dwarika's Hotel*, Sales & Marketing Department.



Charikot Panorama Resort, enjoy mountain views and local culture at the historic town of Charikot. Special packages on offer. *Charikot*, Dolakha, 5529463, thapamaag@gmail.com

Weekends Treks Out Package, for expat and locals, 3 Days Kathmandu Valley Cultural Trek (Kathmandu/Lankuri/Balthali/Namobuddha/Kathmandu), includes 2 overnight stays in Lankuri and Balthali with meals, guide and drop & pick-up services. *Hima Nepal Tours and Treks*, Lazimpat, info@himanepaladventures.com, 9841766561, 012081099

SOMEPLACE ELSE



If you know Jhamel, you'll know Singma, the no-frills Singaporean-Malaysian eatery that's now branched out into Bhatbhateni. And if you've exhausted that menu, head to its companion venue Momotarou, near Sanepa Chok. Itself a branch of an original in Thamel, Momotarou draws you with fairy lights past the chilly outdoor seating into a solidly residential building with an unpromising tube-lit interior. But never fear: as you warm up with some Japanese tea and a heater, the thumbnail menu will open up the possibilities.

The combination of Japanese, Chinese and Tharu cuisines may seem odd; the fact that the Tharu owner spent some time in Japan and opened Momotarou with Tharu employees from his own district goes some way to explaining this. Chances are you won't combine the two in one sitting anyway. Our token attempt will be improved on in future sessions.

Faced with an array of Tharu thalis (chichar, poka and dhikari), we ordered the Haas ko Timura (pic, right). No prizes for guessing this is duck seasoned generously with timur. A bit bony, we thought, but tasty...this ain't the land of the lardy Beijing Duck. And so we moved on to the meat of the menu (Statutory warning: the following dishes were not consumed in a single sitting).

The Donburi dishes come highly recommended if you like your cheap eats hearty. For less than Rs 300, then, take your pick of a meal-in-a-bowl, with rice topped with the seasoned meat, veg



MOMOTAROU



and egg of your desire. My favourite has to be the Mabo Don: rice with mince pork and tofu. We steered clear of the sushi, as we didn't fancy the mostly vegetarian offerings and tuna out of a can wrapped in fancy seaweed, but couldn't resist a brace of udon soups. The Suki Yaki (pic, top) with raw egg on the side was humongous, with beef, greens, and tofu delicious in a sweetish broth.

The Nabe Yaki, with prawn tempura, mushrooms, and fried egg, looked promising but fell flat in a dull stock. The Tofu Ankake - tofu topped with mince chicken - looked pallid relative to its menu avatar, but lived up to its billing, while a variety of cold viggie pickles kept us occupied in between mains and cups of tea. We didn't venture all that much into the Chinese

menu dominated by glutinous looking splats, and the Takana to Butaniku Ankake slush of spinach and chunks of meat was, in sated retrospect, mediocre. Momotarou will win no Michelins, but it's sure to draw the masses for its pitch perfect presentation of price, taste, and variety. It's too close to my sluggish kitchen for me to keep away. Nepalikukur

From Sanepa Chok, head towards Gyanodaya Bal Batika and screech to a halt halfway on the right.

Space	★★★★
Bread 'n water	★★★★↓
Service	★★★★★
Deal-icious	★★★★★↓
Rep-eat?	★★★★★



Oh, that hurts!



DHANVANTARI
Buddha Basnyat, MD

Thirty-eight-year old Ram Bahadur woke to find his big toe red, tender, swollen and excruciatingly painful. Even the weight of the sheet covering his foot seemed intolerable. Thinking he might have stubbed it somewhere, he tried to ignore it and left for the hotel where he worked. As the day progressed, so did the throbbing pain in his foot, so much so that by lunchtime he was hobbling in agony and had to go see a doctor. The doctor examined his foot, ordered some blood tests and declared that Ram Bahadur in all likelihood had gout.

This vignette happens all too regularly here. Gout (sometimes non-specifically called ‘baath’ in Nepali) is a very painful type of arthritis which often starts at night, probably due to a lower body temperature, and is caused by high levels of uric acid in the blood that crystallise and are deposited in the joints, tendons, and surrounding

tissues. Although not always a reliable test, uric acid in the blood is often checked to diagnose gout. Certain foods such as red and organ meat, fish, ‘geda gudis’, alcohol and sugary soft drinks increase the risk of gout and eliminating most high-protein food from the diet usually helps. But this is not always practical. Many gout sufferers also avoid tomatoes and spinach, but science has dismissed this belief as baseless.

Some medicines like diuretics, commonly used to treat hypertension, and even low-dose aspirin, can increase uric acid levels so avoidance of these medicines can help. Certain diseases and conditions make it more likely that you’ll develop gout. These include untreated high blood pressure and chronic conditions such as diabetes, high levels of fat and cholesterol in the blood, and kidney problems.

Although the exact number of gout sufferers in Nepal is not known, gout attacks are common and seem to afflict us at a younger age (less than 40 years) than what is usually noted in Western medical textbooks (over 60 years). The reason for this predisposition is not known.

Just avoiding certain types of food and alcohol may not be enough to avoid the type of acute gout attacks that Ram Bahadur suffers from. If you get more than two or three such painful attacks a year, it may be prudent to consider taking medicines long term to prevent gout and other related complications such as kidney stones. Effective drugs like Allopurinol that have been tried and tested over many decades are available, but they need to be used under the proper supervision of a competent doctor. 🇳🇵



GREEN ACT: Bodh, a play on climate change, being performed at Basantapur Darbar Square on Wednesday. The initiative was part of the British Council international climate change champion project.



TRICKY SKATES: Artists from the Zhejiang Acrobat Troupe from China perform at the Nepal Academy Hall on Wednesday for a show organised by the Chinese Embassy to mark the beginning of the spring festival.



FRESH INTERNS: The Police’s Sniffer Dog Squad with their latest new recruits, Bathi and Tathi, black Labrador puppies donated by Rato Bangala School, on Sunday. The puppies will start training when they are three months old.

The Human Touch



As Nepal’s most-modern printing facility,
Jagadamba Press
is known for its state-of-the- art equipment.
But we never forget the human touch.







5250017-19 | fax: 5250027 | japray@mos.com.np | www.jagadambapr.com

WEEKEND WEATHER

by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

Ever since the sun marched into the northern hemisphere early this month, the Himalaya has been receiving a series of low pressure troughs. This has resulted in waves of rain-bearing clouds heading towards the region. The Valley saw record-breaking levels of rain this month, at 55mm against the monthly average of 17mm. The heavy rains have compensated for the deficit of the last three months. The satellite picture of Thursday afternoon shows advancing westerly fronts bringing fresh clouds to a larger section of the Himalaya. For the weekend ahead, expect passing clouds, sunny intervals and isolated brief showers in the western and central hills of Nepal.



FRI	SAT	SUN
		
23-5	24-6	26-5



NAYAN POKHREL

Violence as a virus


Dilip Simeon's debut novel *Revolutionary Highway* charts the course of a group of students at Delhi University in the late 1960s. Inspired by what appears to be the global pulse of revolution, they become involved in the Naxalite movement taking root in their own countryside. To the dismay of their middle-class, conservative parents, Pranav, Mohan, and Rathin drop out to taste revolution for themselves. The result is both a serious reflection on how individuals decide what makes for (and what can make, including violence) a just society, and a light-hearted evocation of the often absurd everyday of young urban idealists faced with the reality of the rural populations they aspire to liberate.

The novel reads like something of a pastiche, combining as it does frequent (sometimes inexplicable) temporal leaps within the lives of its characters, as well as short case files on various revolutionaries through India's twentieth century history. Simeon, a former professor at Delhi University himself, is clearly trying to draw a thread through the loops of revolution past and present against the backdrop of Indian history, but here the chunks of blocky explicatory text inspired by a professorial

instinct to edify jar with the more lively characterisations of his novel's protagonists. But *Revolutionary Highway* is a spirited portrayal of troubled times that does succeed in illuminating a somewhat forgotten history, and delving into the motivations of the people who were involved.


The conversation Simeon had with Manjushree Thapa a fortnight ago, organised by Patan's Quixote's Cove, was equally, if

not more, absorbing. The audience had the opportunity to get beyond the fictionalisation of history to hearing it from the horse's mouth – Simeon was also involved in the Naxalite movement in his youth, after all. Perhaps it worked for those present because he is one who has renounced their violence yet remains critical of the state. In between readings both hilarious and sombre, Simeon provided eloquent accompaniment to the themes of his novel. He spoke forcefully against the use of violence as a means to an end, and particularly against the glorification of violence – by revolutionaries and the state – that justifies its reproduction, even when the ends are not so clear.










For those in Nepal arguing for or against the use of violence to achieve a better state of affairs for more people, and those who wonder how ideals accommodate realpolitik, the session with Simeon was thought-provoking. What would our own revolutionary students have made of it? 


Rabi Thapa





Your City, Your Airline





Flight Route J-41

Everest Express

We operate 7 Jetstream aircrafts to the following sectors on time, every time.

Kathmandu - Pokhara - Kathmandu	Daily 8 Flights
Kathmandu - Biratnagar - Kathmandu	Daily 7 Flights
Kathmandu - Bhadrapur - Kathmandu	Daily 3 Flights
Kathmandu - Bhairahawa - Kathmandu	Daily 2 Flights
Kathmandu - Nepalgunj - Kathmandu	Daily 2 Flights
Kathmandu - Janakpur - Kathmandu	Daily 2 Flights
Kathmandu - Dhangadhi - Kathmandu	Daily 1 Flight
Kathmandu - Bharatpur - Kathmandu	Daily 1 Flight

Yeti Airlines Domestic Pvt. Ltd.
Corporate Office: Tilganga, Kathmandu
Tel. 4465888 Fax 4465115
Kathmandu Airport 4493901
E-mail: reservations@yetiairlines.com

Bhadrapur 023 455232 **Biratnagar** 021 536612 **Janakpur** 041 520047
Bharatpur 056 523136 **Pokhara** 061 464888 **Bhairahawa** 071 527527
Nepalgunj 081 526556 **Dhangadhi** 091 523045

Booking tickets are now easier with our hunting line: 4464 878
Clients of Everest Bank Ltd., Nepal Investment Bank Ltd., Global Bank Ltd. and Bank of Asia Nepal Ltd. can now book their flight-tickets online, just log on to www.yetiairlines.com

NEPAL TOURISM YEAR 2011



OFFICE AND HOME PROJECTORS

EXCEED YOUR VISION

'EPSON BEST SELLING PROJECTORS IN THE WORLD', ACCORDING RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY PACIFIC MEDIA ASSOCIATES 2007

Convenient Connectivity for any Projection Environment

Multimedia Projector
EB-S9 SVGA / EB-X9 XGA / EB-W9 WXGA



Small, Smart and Stylish

USB 'Plug and Project' connectivity for quick projection on the spot.

EASY & SPEEDY USB DISPLAY FUNCTION
Simple Connectivity
Instant projection is possible by simply connecting the projector to a PC using the USB cable, included with the EB-S9/EB-X9/EB-W9

Support for Smoother Presentations
Control of the mouse and/or "page control" function can be achieved easily with the remote controller that is included with the EB-S9/EB-X9/EB-W9

Front Exhaust
The exhaust is intelligently positioned in the front so that it will not affect the audience at the side of the projector.

EB-S9: SVGA
EB-X9: XGA
EB-W9: WXGA

A highly versatile schools and business projector
White Light Output 2500 lumens,
Colour Light Output 2500 lumens



MERCANTILE OFFICE SYSTEMS
Hiti Pokhari, Durbar Marg
Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 4440773 / 4445920
E-Mail: market@mos.com.np

KATHMANDU VALLEY
Star Office Automation Putalisadak 4266820, Max International Putalisadak 4415786, Interactive Group Newroad 4227854, Flash International Newroad 4222384, Click Solution

OUTSIDE VALLEY
Birat Infotech Biratnagar Biratnagar 021-538729, Megatech Biratnagar 021-532000, Enet Solutions Chitwan, 058-572096, Computer Service Center Butwal 071-542699, Himalayan Trading House / HOA Pokhara 061-521756, Smart Link electronic suppliers Dang 082-561022, Manakamana Hitech Nepalgunj 081-521473, Ugratara Trading House Dhangadhi 091-523601, Dinesh Computers Dhangadhi 091-521392, Dinesh Trading house Nepalgunj 081-527092, Ugratara Technical Goods Mahendranagar 099-523872, Advance Computer Banepa 011- 660888, Star Computer System Hetauda 057-523333, Gagan Enterprises Birgunj 051-531921, Quality Computer Birtamode 023-540150



Professor Jim Fisher and Fulbright Scholar in Residence Dr. Navin Rai at Carleton College, 1987

USEF@50

One can imagine the scene, on a dusty pre-monsoon day in June 1961, in one of the ornate halls of Singha Darbar. Vishwa Bandhu Thapa, then Nepal’s 33-year-old Minister of Education, received the American Ambassador, Henry Endicott Stebbins. No doubt there was diplomatic small talk and tea before they got down to business at hand – the signing of the Bilateral Agreement that established the Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States of America and Nepal.

2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the Bilateral Agreement. Over the years, the Commission became better known as the United States Education Foundation in Nepal (USEF), or the Fulbright Commission. Funded by the US Congress, its stated mission is to promote “mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States of America and Nepal by a wider exchange of knowledge and professional talents through educational activities.”

I recently met with former Education Minister Thapa at his home in Gairidhara. Still vigorous and engaged at 84, he had fond memories of the early 1960s, when Nepal had just begun to march upon the world stage. At the same time, the Government of Nepal also invited the American Peace Corps to start a program in Nepal. While at the UN, Thapa had witnessed the beginnings of John F. Kennedy’s presidential campaign and had been impressed by his energy and vision. The establishment of USEF and the Peace Corps, Thapa told me, seemed to offer opportunities to both share that energy, and to open Nepal up to the world in new ways.

The broad language of the Bilateral Agreement has spawned an impressive range of educational and exchange programs, which have benefited thousands of Nepalis and hundreds of Americans since 1961. USEF is best known for the two program areas that constitute the core of its mission in Nepal:

MICHAEL GILL

The Fulbright Program has been an ‘asha kendra’ - centre of hope - for thousands of Nepalis for half a century

US Government-funded scholarships and Educational Advising.

The scholarship programs include the flagship Fulbright and Humphrey Fellowship programs and the East-West Center programs of the University of Hawai’i, offered to Nepalis for the pursuit of post-graduate education, post-doctoral research, or teaching in the US. In recent years, USEF’s scholarship study opportunities have been further expanded to allow Nepali students to pursue undergraduate study in the US through the PLUS and NESA UGRAD programs.

I served as Executive Director of USEF from 1998 to 2005. My favourite part of the job was contacting the Nepali students and scholars nominated by the Fulbright Commission board to inform them of their selection as Fulbright Scholars or Humphrey Fellows. Once I reached a young woman by phone who was so overcome by emotion at the news that she fainted. I thought the line had gone dead until her mother picked up the

phone and asked me to call back later, after her daughter came to her senses.

Why are these programs considered so prestigious and what have they meant for Nepal? To win a Fulbright, Humphrey or East-West Center grant means that one has survived a rigorous, nationwide application process and entered an elite international group of students, scholars, journalists, artists and other professionals. Nepalis who apply for grants through USEF can be confident that the selection process will be strictly merit-based. Perhaps it is for this reason that some referred to USEF as the Asha Kendra. USEF scholarships provide a fully funded educational opportunity at the best American colleges and universities. What people choose to make of that opportunity is entirely up to them.

Taking all of USEF’s scholarship programs together, it has funded US graduate study, research and teaching opportunities for approximately 650 Nepalis in more than 60 different





USEF STAFF AT HANUMAN DHOKA 1975:
L-R Haribol Thapa, Dipak Mathema, former
Director Gabriel Campbell, S.B. Subba and
Shyam Shrestha

Fulbright and Nobel

The list of Fulbright scholars includes such American and international figures and leaders as Craig Barrett, former Chairman of the Board of Intel Corporation, Derek Bok, former President of Harvard University, John Atta Mills, former president of Ghana, and Javier Solana, EU High Representative for Foreign Policy. Fulbright artists, actors and writers include John Steinbeck, Aaron Copland, Chuck Close, John Lithgow and John Updike. Nobel laureates such as former World Bank chief economist Joseph Stiglitz and Muhammad Yunus, Bangladeshi economist and Grameen Bank founder were Fulbright scholars, too. In fact, more Fulbright alumni have won Nobel Prizes – 43 so far, including two in 2010 – than those of any other academic program, making a Fulbright one of the most reliable ‘predictors’ of an eventual Nobel Prize.



academic disciplines. Over the last 50 years, almost all USEF grantees – approximately 90 per cent – have permanently returned to follow their professions in Nepal. A quick glance at a list of prominent Nepalis in any field of endeavour reveals hundreds of Fulbright Scholars, Humphrey and East-West Center Fellows whose opportunities for American study were launched at USEF. USEF’s second core activity – which has arguably had an even wider impact – is its Educational Advising Center (EAC). For 50 years now, the EAC has provided Nepali students with free, accurate and unbiased

information on studying in the United States. Currently, at least 10,000 Nepali students use the EAC’s resources annually. The EAC’s library contains comprehensive resources to assist a student’s search for US colleges and universities, scholarship information, as well as free Internet access. USEF is also the only test centre in Nepal for GRE, GED, and USMLE. Despite the proliferation of ‘education consultancies’ in Kathmandu, USEF remains the most objective and reliable source of information about educational opportunities in the US. It is not surprising that

Graduates of USEF’s PLUS scholarship program in 2010. L-R Moksheda Thapa, Raju Kandel, John Narayan Parajuli, Program Officer Ajaya Shrestha, Ramesh Deshar, Safala Shrestha and Nirmal Gyawali.

the 11,333 Nepali students who are currently enrolled in US colleges and universities make up the eleventh largest group of international students in the US. These numbers attest not only to the quality of American higher education and the value Nepalis place on education, but also to the effectiveness of USEF Nepal in publicising that resource. 🇳🇵

Who’s Fulbright?

In 1926, James William Fulbright graduated from the University of Arkansas and was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to attend Oxford University. Two years later, MA degree in hand, Fulbright returned to the US, determined to see that such educational opportunities be made more widely available. By 1944, he had been elected to the US Senate, where he served until 1974, becoming one of the most influential senators in US history. In 1946, the legislation he authored, now known as the Fulbright Program, established a new bilateral scholarship program. It drew strength from America’s post-World War II commitment to engage constructively with the community of nations and from Senator Fulbright’s long-held dream of creating a program that expanded upon the opportunities offered by the Rhodes Scholarship. Under the new program not only would more Americans have the chance to study abroad; it also enabled students from all over the world to study in the US. Senator Fulbright summed up the program that now bears his name this way: “The Fulbright program aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship.”



Senator J. William Fulbright

“Maoists will join the government”

Interview with Pradip Gyawali, UML politburo member, in *Karobar*, 20 February

कारोबार

Why shouldn't the Maoists be given the Home Ministry?

The Maoists still have a war mentality. Having concluded that the constitution will not be written on time, they have made the necessary preparations for revolt. What the leaders say is not an issue but revolt is their declared goal. They want to utilise or neutralise state security in the course of achieving their set goal. Besides, impunity is rampant. The Maoists have repeatedly taken the law into their own hands even after the signing of the CPA. Political cadres, journalists and commoners have fallen victim to their violence over this period. To give the Maoists the Home Ministry is to promote impunity.

But the prime minister is willing to give the ministry to the Maoists.

I don't think the prime minister has agreed on this. The party standing committee has named a candidate for the post, concluding that the Maoists should not be given security-related ministries until the peace process is completed. The decision was taken under the chairmanship of the party chair Jhala Nath Khanal. I don't think he will override his own decision.

It is the opposition that criticises the government in parliamentary practice. Why is it that the UML government

has come under fire from within the party before the cabinet has even been finalised?

That's not true. Some comrades have only raised concerns over issues that contradict past understandings. It is just that Khanal should have informed the party before signing the seven-point agreement, which has far-reaching implications. The next thing is for the decision of the standing committee to be implemented.

When will we have a full-fledged government?

After the central committee meeting, the party will come up with a clear stance. I am sure that a complete cabinet will be announced by Saturday.

The majority in your party is not willing to give the Maoists the Home Ministry. With the Maoists out of government, how will the government run?

The Maoists will join the government. They supported UML out of compulsion as their prospect of leading the government waned. They won't stay out of government for not getting the ministries of their choice.

Will we get a new constitution on time?

We still can complete the constitution within the scheduled date. We will have to skip some tasks, though, like taking the draft to the people for opinion. Seven months were wasted in forming a government. If the political parties seriously work on it, we still can bring out a constitution in time.



BIKRAM RAI

Act soon

Editorial in *Rajdhani*, 23 February

राजधानी

The Constitutional Committee has still not been able to resolve controversial issues in the statute due to the apathy of party leaders. The committee has already completed a round of discussions on all six reports presented by the Constituent Assembly and garnered consensus on 130 contentious issues. But more than 80 issues still remain unresolved mainly because party leaders don't care to attend the meetings. The parties still haven't formed a common view on what the governance system, the electoral system, and the mode of cabinet formation will be, let alone decide on complex issues like state restructuring.

The main reason party leaders have not shown interest is because they are obsessed with power politics. Little do they realise that constitution writing and power politics need to be kept separate. If the parties don't write the constitution in three months how are they going to face the people? It will not be easy to extend the deadline this time. The party leaderships have to rise above petty ambitions and work towards the national interest if they are to fulfill the people's mandate. Otherwise nothing will save them from the public outrage that will follow.

Solar Darbar

Gokarna Awasthi in *Kantipur*, 23 February

कान्तिपुर

With no extra power likely to be added to the grid, the government has sought an alternative to supply power to the government administrative centre, Singha Darbar, by installing 1MW solar panels.

“The power will be supplied to Singha Darbar within this fiscal year,” says Narayan Prasad Chaulagain, executive director of the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC). According to him, it will take three months to install the solar plant. Besides Singha Darbar, the prime minister's residence and Bir Hospital will be supplied with alternative energy in the first phase. Surplus power will be distributed elsewhere.

The estimated generation cost is Rs 220 million, while the cost for 1MW of hydropower will be between Rs 150-200 million, though costs often increase with increasing interest rates and local disputes.



BIKRAM RAI

The demand of power in Singha Darbar is 500KW. “Solar is the best option for Singha Darbar as there is workload during the day,” says Chaulagain. “The surplus energy will be added to the grid.”

The government has decided to proceed with the plan as the current power deficit is 430MW in the country's central region, including the Kathmandu Valley.

“This can be a stopgap solution to loadshedding, if we can expand the service,” says an official at the AEPC, which currently subsidises solar power in remote villages.

The private sector has been asking the government to install multi-fuel plants or whatever is necessary so industrial operation can continue. The Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), in a recent meeting with the finance minister, declared that they were willing to pay Rs 15 per unit of electricity.



नागरिक Deven in Nagarik, 22 February

Tea history erased



BHIM CHAPAGAIN

Bhim Chapagain in *Naya Patrika*, 22 February

नयाँ पत्रिका

Ilam: Nepal's oldest tea factory, in Ilam, is close to ruin due to lack of care. Its crumbling walls and broken windows can be seen from a distance.

Situated near the district headquarters, the building of the Ilam Tea Factory was in use until 2000, but following the purchase of a 50-year lease by Tribeni Shanghai Group, its equipment was removed and entry to the factory was prohibited.

Set up in 1878, the factory is believed to be even older than Biratnagar Jute Mills and Juddha Match Factory. The genesis of tea plantations in Ilam goes back to 1863. The Chinese government had offered then Prime Minister Jung Bahadur Rana tea saplings, which were planted in Ilam. In the beginning, the plantations were spread over 135 acres of land. "That's how the factory was established," says historian Yuddha Prasad Baidhya.

After Ilam Tea Factory was privatised 10 years ago, its machinery was relocated. "There is nothing left in the factory but we don't know where the equipment was taken to," says a woman who worked in the factory for 28 years. Loknath Dangal, chief administrator of Tribeni Shanghai Group in Jhapa, confirms that the machinery was relocated to factories in Kanyam.

The government has leased out Kanyam, Tokla, Baradasi, Barne, Chilimkot and Soktim Tea Estates along with Ilam Tea Factory to the private sector. Machinery was auctioned off at a low price.

Despite its state, the factory building has historic value. "This history," says local Bimal Baidhya, "has been erased with the leasing out of the factory."

Stand by your words

Suresh Gautam in *Janadisha*, 21 February

जनदिशा

Jhala Nath Khanal, the president of a party known for its wobbly nature, has finally become the prime minister. When India pushed Bijay Kumar Gachhadhar's candidacy to ensure that a leader it favoured would win, Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal withdrew from the election and supported UML's Jhala Nath Khanal. Although a note of dissent was filed against the decision, all the members of the Maoist party voted for Khanal. This shows party unity in action.

But Khanal is the same person who betrayed the Maoists during the Katawal affair. Chairman Dahal did not want to be deceived again, so he made Khanal sign a written deal before supporting him in the election. But as soon as he became the prime minister, Khanal started changing colours again.

If Khanal chooses to flow like driftwood on the signals of our southern neighbour, like Madhav Kumar Nepal and KP Oli, and not stand by the seven-point agreement, his future is not bright. Though he announced that he would not nominate leaders who had lost during the CA elections as ministers, two out of three of his cabinet appointees were defeated in 2008.

It is important to consider whether someone who cannot even stand by his word for two days is capable of

running the country, concluding the peace process, and drafting the constitution. Khanal signed a written deal with Dahal and became the prime minister. But leaders of the same party have been declaring that a certain ministry should not be given to the Maoists. This makes UML appear less like a party and more like a mob.

Just a week after Khanal became PM, rumours have been circulating that he might break the record for the shortest period in office. We hope that Khanal can prove the rumours wrong.



BIKRAM RAI



DAMBAR KRISHNA SHRESTHA

Pokhara flies

Santosh Pokharel in *Nagarik*, 21 February

नागरिक

Air traffic to and from Pokhara was at a record high last year. Narendra Bahadur Thapa, chief of Pokhara Airport, says that 2010 has been the city's best year for travel, with 25,500 flights taking off from Pokhara, up from 22,700 in 2000. This is despite the fact that traffic actually went down after 2000 due to the insurgency.

"The number of flights hit the lowest point in 2002, when it was just 16,200. After 10 years, 2010 has set a new record," says Thapa. "Increase in the number of foreign as well as local tourists has fueled the demand for flights."

Even compared to 2009, there was a 20 per cent increase last year in the number of air passengers. While 301,091 passengers used the airways during 2009, this number jumped to 360,100 in 2010. Thapa explains that the popularity of ultralight aircraft has also contributed to the rise in air traffic.

October to December is the best season for tourist arrivals in Pokhara, followed by mid-February to May. On an average, 70 flights take off from the airport daily. On a busy day, this can be as high as 130. Says Buddha Air's station manager Gautam Baral: "If there is peace and stability in the country, this number will definitely rise."



उज्यालो 90 नेटवर्कमा

आर्थिक खबर



Communication Corner Pvt. Ltd.
Kupondole, Lalitpur, Tel: 5546277

Ujyaalo 90 Network
Sanepa, Lalitpur, Tel: 5551716

Fax: 977-1-5549357, P.O.Box: 6469, E-mail: info@unn.com.np, URL: www.unn.com.np

हरेक दिन बिहान ७:०० बजे



Political wrestling

Civil servants, led by the secretary of the PMO, are off to climb Mt Everest this season. Can't blame them, they probably got bored waiting for a new government to be formed and needed some excitement in their lives. Also, they must want to get as far away from politicians as possible and to a place where the muntris can't bother them. The North Pole must have been their first choice, but why go there when we have Mt Everest right in our backyard? The Donkey's best wishes to Team Leader Lilamaniji and his mountain goats.



And over at the Constant Assembly, the Speaker seems to have given up on the constitution being written by 28 May even though his yar, Com Root Canal, is now PM. He is spending his entire day cutting ribbons, putting in some karate practice and watching rose petals being dropped from helicopters. So when the Nashnul Colishun on Rashial Dishcrimination wrote a **dummy constitution**, the Speaker was more than happy to give a speech



and release it at a function attended by, among others, Com Yummy. If you can't write a real constitution, a pretend constitution will have to do.



Despite promoting political wrestling as a tourist attraction, here comes news that there are stern new travel advisories about the dangers of visiting Nepal during Nepal Tourism Year 2011. Good timing. Which leads the Asinine One to suggest that our **Foreign Ministry should retaliate immediately** by also posting warnings to Nepalīs about visiting Bahrain (could get maimed in

a jana andolan), Libya (could be shot at from helicopter gunships), UK (all non-essential families of Nepalīs to leave because of the danger of random attacks on public transport), Thailand (Nepalīs are warned that whatever they do they should not go to Bangkok wearing a red shirt), US (Nepalīs working as gas station attendants are warned that there is a fairly good chance they will be shot at without warning), Australia (Nepalīs should exercise extreme caution because they could easily be mistaken for Indians).



Instead of moaning and

groaning about Americans declaring Nepal a No-Fly Zone, we should turn that into catchy slogans for our Tourism Year. Three creative jingles immediately spring to ass:

1. Nepal Airlines: No Plane, No Problem, No Fly
2. Visit Nepal, No Flies Above 3,200m
3. Visit the Land of Suruwals: Look, Ma, No Fly



Which brings me to the news item in the Indian press about Nepali Maobaddies extorting the brother of a former Communications Minister in Himachal. The comrade must have thought, it is standard operating procedure back home, so why not extort the Injuns too and make them share some of the 2G scam loot? **Our latest item of export: extort.**



Chairman Awesome thought he'd pulled a really fast one by withdrawing his candidacy and making Jholanath PM to thumb his nose @ India. What's he doing, then, meeting Amresh Bhai every day at the premises of Sumargi & Son, Pvt Ltd? And if you think UML is having problems over portfolios, you should wait for the mother of all bandfands within the Baddies. The Pistachio Palace erupts

every night with booze-ups led by Com Awesome, with Com Horrible, Com Hit Man and Com Ugly (btw: what is Com Sapkota doing heading the Tamang Autonomous Council?) in attendance. Com Napoleon is determined to keep Com Snowball out. PKD must have been scorned once more because he went to Bardiya and lashed out at the revisionists who were trying to keep him out of power, naming a large country to the south whose name begins with 'T'. After being heckled by families of martyrs, Fearsome did what he always does at times like these, blame the devil: "We aren't sheep, but we have been forced to behave like sheep. I assure you comrades, we will roar like a lion again."



Two papers are tied for the Headline of the Week Contest.

'UML Headed for Splitsville'
'JN-Oli Talks Come a Cropper'

The consolation prize (the Ass' favourite) goes to: 'Mule Spills Beans on Fake Notes'



200 plus Business Gurus & Strategist

at 1st International Management Conference
at The Yak & Yeti on 10-12 March 2011



Revisiting the existing paradigms and exploring new frontiers.



- A grand International Event
- 100 plus International Delegates from 30 plus Countries
- Event for Business Leaders, Entrepreneurs, Managers and Management Fraternity.



Prof. Dr. Garry D. Bruton
Neely School of Business
Key Note Speaker



Prof. Dr. Chris Brewster
Hanley Business School
Key Note speaker



Prof. Dr. Barbara Gastel
Texas A&M University
Key Resource Person

Focus On:
Corporate Innovation | Business Process | Organizational Leadership and Change | Knowledge Management
Strategy and Entrepreneurship | Corporate Social Responsibility | Human Resource Management

Enroll For:
CEO Forum | Entrepreneur Forum | MBA Forum | Managers Forum | Author Aid Workshop



For registration contact:-
Kishu Jha, e-mail: kishuj@kfaltd.com
Tel: 449 1414 / 9801014872 (Mob)
Website: www.nam.org.np
Program Briefing at 5 PM Today

Media Partner:
THE KATHMANDU POST
अभियान



Vacancy

Rato Bangala School seeks the following teachers for primary level (I - V):

Computer Teacher and Grade Teachers

Applicants must have fluency in English, an ability to relate to children and a willingness to learn.

Interested candidates are requested to collect application forms from the school office or download it from www.ratobangala.edu.np and submit it as soon as possible.

Rato Bangala School
Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur
Phone: 5534318, 5522614, 5542045



ISSN 1814-2613

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