



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



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

HOLI WATER

WATER WEEK? A long wait at the communal taps in Nakabahil, Patan, Thursday.



LAVAZZA
 ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE

Everest Bakery- Namche
 Khumbu Lodge- Namche

Step in for more varieties at
LIFE STYLE
 design & decor



Show Room: SRD Building
 New Plaza, Putalisadak
 Te: 4425402

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



Complete Bathing Solutions
 Brought to you by **Jaquar**

NEPA MARBLE BATH HOUSE
 Dhumburahi, Ktm. Tel: 4431307, 2011841

SOLAR ELECTRICITY CO. (P) LTD.
 Solar Complex, Bagbazar, Kathmandu
 Tel: 4225253, 4227876, Fax: 4223851
 Email: ises@vianet.com.np

EverExceed **SOLARLAND** **SunLink PV**
SHARP **kanera** **UNIKOR**

Installing Solar PV Since 1991



Zen Nepal **No. 1 Student Travel Agency**



Special Discounted Student Tickets
 UK | Australia | USA | Canada | Germany | Denmark and many more




Now Available at Zen Nepal



Zen Nepal, Thamel, (Above Himalayan Java), Kathmandu Ph. No: 4413309, 4422712, 4436364, students@zenNepal.com, zenNepal.com

QUAKING

Of late, global events have resonated strongly in Nepal. The uprisings in the Middle East reminded some of our recent past; the earthquake in Japan would have reminded others of a possible future. Both kinds of upheavals, human and natural, also had a more direct bearing on members of the Nepali diaspora who live and work in these places, and their worried families.

There are plenty of Nepalis still stranded in Libya and Japan, but our government has done little to assuage their anxiety. Granted, Japan's Nepalis may still be better off where they are. But hundreds live in fear of their lives in Libya. Despite a cabinet decision to repatriate them at the earliest, Libya's Nepalis are largely dependent on the goodwill of other states to get home before they are caught in the crossfire.

Instead, the government appears to be focused on implementing measures that attract a lot of attention but mostly inconvenience the public that does live here. The decisions to outlaw digitally printed number plates and banknotes with likenesses of the Shah kings were both necessary, perhaps, but the hasty implementation betrayed the fact that this state is an adhocracy. The tragedy is that even when the correct decisions are taken, their implementation is bungled. Allowing both digital plates and kingly notes to be printed upto this point, then suddenly demanding they be withdrawn from circulation immediately only invites more problems. How will the majority of Nepalis, who can't just hop down to the neighbourhood bank to exchange what has been deemed illegal tender, conduct transactions in the meantime? The decision to revoke the withdrawal only confirms the muddled thinking of those expected to have the clearest vision for Nepal.

If the state does not take adequate measures to ensure its citizens are made aware in good time of changes that directly affect them – through the media – then the media must take the lead the best it can. Alas,



the media itself, obsessed as it is with the twists and turns of Nepali politics, only rouses itself to indulge in sensationalism that sells. Reduced to covering Khagendra Thapa Magar's public appearances, the media hit the jackpot in its coverage of the events in Japan. And in this respect, it followed the lead of media outlets across the world.

Earthquakes are big. There's something fundamental about the earth shaking that grabs the attention of all, even when it happens regularly. Tsunamis are bigger. Complete with terrifying visuals of giant waves rushing through coastal cities, they remind us that this earth we live on is an island. But nuclear disasters are the biggest fish of all: going all the way back to the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, they constitute the apogee of human technology gone wrong.

So you'd expect a lot of coverage when Japan was hit by all three. The problem lies in how the media covered the disaster. We don't yet know what the ultimate consequences of the nuclear accident at Fukushima will be. What we do know is that thousands of Japanese people have perished in the earthquake that triggered these events. Where is the concern for these victims when media outlets are busy fuelling panic about radiation clouds? Unless they are grounded in reliable sources, sensational coverage does not help; it stoops to the level of those who send out text messages warning people thousands of miles away from Japan to stay indoors. A word to the wise: don't believe everything you read.

ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

HIGHWAY TO HOPE

Very inspiring as well as enlightening ('Road to prosperity', Kunda Dixit, #544). I had no idea that the means by which roads are constructed can result in such different economics. Indeed, a road is not just a road if built correctly.

hange

- As a Bhojpure I think I have a right to ask a few questions – why was Bhojpur completely neglected by successive Panchayati governments and subsequently by Congress/UML governments for so long? Why didn't it deserve to be connected to rest of the country? Why this prejudice against the district of Ganesh Rasik, who has probably written more patriotic songs than anybody else? Why did Bhojpur have to wait for the UK to start building roads there?

Despite this, I am delighted to read that villages in Bhojpur are being connected with roads and people are benefitting in so many ways. I trust there will be many following Laxmi's and Bibas' steps. RAP is a total success. Thank you for yet another positive story – this time from my own district!

R Rai

CONSUMER RIGHTS

Loved the new article. Unaccounted for change may seem trivial but on an aggregate level it is substantial so a

great job pointing it out ('(Don't) keep the change', Paavan Mathema, #544). Also, we need to discuss what the next steps are to rectify the situation such as: a stronger enforcement of rule of law with retailers, a public feedback forum/platform (say a phone number that collects and publishes information from the public on which businesses engage in such practices).

Manish

- Would a business take a candy if you were short a rupee? I think the answer is no, so why let businesses cheat you openly?

Bipaswi

- We do not know the value of money. Last time I was in Nepal, I made it a point to ask for change from taxi drivers. When they would reluctantly hand me the change, I would hand it back, which surprised most of them. It was not because I did not want to tip them that I asked for change but to make them realise that it is their duty and my right to get the change back. I also made it a point to carry change around. All of this is to say that we as customers need to be smart about our money. It all starts with us, because they are doing business and if they can squeeze the extra paisa out of the customers why wouldn't they?

Krishna

CHANGE IN COURSE?

I think the article was interesting, but I seriously doubt Prashant's assumption that Indian intelligence had not thought of

such scenarios unfolding in Nepal ('Re-engagement', Prashant Jha, #544). The changes in leadership in Lainchaur which are soon to come and the invitation of Bhattarai to India were all preliminary steps to set up how things can be influenced in Nepal again. A country such as India with its diplomatic and military leverage in Nepal cannot be confused about the current situation. I am sure there was a contingency plan in place. I think by now India must have a set of plugs that they can pull based on what the issue is. If I were so concerned with security, I would have such policy tools to hand. So let's see how India's presence unfolds here.

Saroj

PROPPING UP CULTURE

Interesting piece. As usual for articles of this sort the most interesting questions are left in the air ('Whose heritage is it anyway?', Marit Bakke, #544):

- How is it that our ancestors, who were less numerous, had less technology and were generally less well off than we are, were able to create these things but that we are not?
- We are already abandoning the cultural basis and philosophy that produced these things. Is it worthwhile to preserve these artifacts when we have abandoned the roots that produced them? No problems with preserving them as historical and artistic curiosities. But then why

not simply build a museum to house them? Better and cheaper, and more honest.

- You cannot preserve culture. Culture is either dynamic and alive or dead. Only artifacts can be preserved. Therefore it is only natural that people who have loads of money should be the ones interested to keep them in good condition. This is much the same as the family which has fallen on hard times and wishes to sell some antiques that have been left rotting in the attic in order to buy the new car/luxuryholiday/prada shoes or whatever.
- Indigenous culture?? This is just something for the tourist sales talk. Glad you have fallen for it.

jange

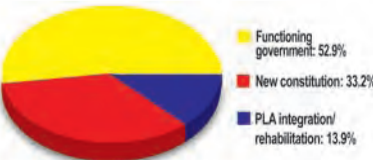
Times

nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll # 545

Q. What does Nepal need most now?

Total votes: 1,942



Weekly Internet Poll # 546. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Should 'kingly notes' have been ousted?

Dysfunction, Inc.



PLAIN SPEAKING
Prashant Jha

Among the multiple battles that play out every day in Nepali politics – between individuals, parties, identities, ideologies – few are as critical to our future as the relationship between state and capital, and capital and labour. Several incidents in the past few weeks reflect how Nepali capitalism and the broader political society in which it operates are struggling to find the right equilibrium.

Bankers are unhappy with central bank regulations. Lawmakers are unhappy with how banks are owned and run, and would like to redirect the economy, both in terms of nomenclature and policies. Businesses complain that the state does not deliver on its part of the bargain by providing infrastructure, electricity, security and stability, yet expects productive investment. Government complains that most businesses cheat on tax returns, engage in illegal practices, and undermine rules, making tighter control necessary.

Ministries point out how foreign investors use external influence to bend rules. Investors say

government agencies and parties make life miserable for them by using draconian laws despite inviting them to invest in the first place, and seek to extract benefits relentlessly. Labour is unhappy with pay in times of soaring inflation, and periodic outbursts through strikes and lockouts are fueled by unions. Capitalists say it is precisely these tactics that affects their bottom line even more adversely, diluting their capacity to create and spread wealth.

Add it up and it is indeed a mess, with direct negative consequences on revenue, employment, growth, social

Corrupt politicians grease the cogs of our dysfunctional political-economic system

harmony, and political stability. How does such a dysfunctional system – laced with all the ingredients of conflict – manage to sustain itself at all?

Counter intuitive as it may sound, it endures because of politicians and corruption.

Political leaders are the only ones who have a stake in and influence over the three elements that constitute our economic structure

– the state, businesses, and unions. They encourage conflict at times, for instance by encouraging unions to push aggressively for pay hikes, or when government tries to squeeze particular businesses. But they step in to prevent these battles from crossing a certain threshold because their interests are also tied to the private sector.

Capitalists fund their election campaigns, party jamborees, and personal expenses. There is a relentless stream of requests from politicians to big companies to provide jobs to their constituents. Key business leaders have links spreading across party lines, and play an active behind-the-scenes role in stitching alliances together. Many political leaders, including Maoists and UML stalwarts who are pushing for greater control of private capital, have invested their unaccounted for wealth in industries and the service sector, using other businessmen as frontmen.

Corruption undermines rules, but also mitigates conflict. Businessmen buy over key labour leaders in exchange for stopping protests. Ministers strike deals with new investors and go easy on rules or non-payment of loans by businesses to state institutions. In the districts, government budgets drive local economic activity across sectors, and politicians distribute funds to their favoured contractors in return for a cut – as we will witness in the coming months as money trickles down from the centre and the pressure to spend increases before the fiscal

year runs out.

This deeply distorted, ad hoc, and corrupt political-economic system has become normalised. It is these distortions and illicit networks that make it stable; otherwise there would be greater anarchy. Imagine if politicians and businesses were not collaborating in myriad ways; imagine if the rule of law was indeed strictly implemented – which politician or private company would escape unscathed and what would the implications on the national economy be; imagine if there weren't informal mechanisms and mediators to resolve capital labour disputes outside of tribunals. This is no justification of how things are, merely an attempt to show how the system hasn't broken down despite the weak fundamentals.

If lawmakers try to alter the balance too drastically in favour of the state, there is a danger that business confidence will be further shaken and we will inherit the worst features of the license permit raj killing the entrepreneurial energy that Nepal witnessed post-1990. But the private sector, which remains dependent on government in multiple ways, would do well to recognise the new political realities, wherein a large section of the political class is uneasy about 'neo-liberalism', and prepare accordingly.

For now though, the balance of power indicates that neither the state or the capital is powerful or developed enough to dominate the other. The uneasy accommodation will continue, till a systemic crisis breaks the compact.

THIS WEEK

Wagle convicted

The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the decision of the Special Court to convict former minister and Nepali Congress leader Chiranjibi Wagle on corruption charges. It announced an 18-month jail sentence along with a penalty of Rs 20.3 million, though in 2004 the Special Court had handed down a 30-month jail term and a fine of Rs 40 million. The Commission for Investigation of the Abuse of Authority brought Wagle to court in 2002, accusing him of amassing property by misusing his authority as a minister. An expert group's findings, quoted in the verdict, stated that Wagle had accumulated Rs 34.32 million between 1991 and 2002, when he assumed seven ministerial offices. Only Rs 14 million was deemed to have clear legal sources. Wagle is the first senior political leader and minister to have been convicted of corruption since the restoration of democracy.

Anandi Devi dies



Anandi Devi Singh, Patron of Nepal Sadbhawana Party (Anandi Devi), passed away in Rajbiraj on Sunday. She was 76 years old. Singh is the widow of the founding President of Nepal Sadbhawana Party, Gajendra Narayan Singh. Following the

demise of her husband, she became the President of the Party and then its patron.

Super YCL

The Maoists formally unveiled the 'People's Volunteers Bureau' on Tuesday, which aims to mobilise 500,000 youths. Standing Committee member and Bureau coordinator Netra Bikram Chand said, "The motive behind setting up the Bureau is not to support the party's strategy of a people's revolt, as some outsiders have implied." The party claims that the Bureau will work for peace, the new constitution, development works and public security. According to Chand, the Bureau will also be mobilised to rebuild physical infrastructure destroyed during the conflict.

exceeding expectations

"If best MPLS based connectivity is what you are searching for, Subisu Cablenet is where your search ends. Subisu is the pioneer ISP/NSP to implement MPLS technology and deliver MPLS based low latency, low jitter, secured and cost effective services at almost all places in Nepal."

Convenient – Consistent – Compatible – Connectivity

the Best MPLS Connectivity in Nepal

www.subisu.net.np

An ISO 9001:2000 Certified Company
SUBISU CABLENET
Business Solution Provider

Grounded too long

 **GUEST COLUMN**
Vijay Lama

Let's unshackle our national airline from the clutches of politicians once and for all

To plot the trajectory of the downfall of Nepal Airlines, you have to go back to the 1990 pro-democracy movement. People power may have been good for the country, but it spelt disaster for the airline. The two main political parties of the time competed to milk the cash cow until it ran dry. Nepali Congress was in power for longer, so it had more time for mischief. Corruption, mismanagement and interference destroyed a once proud airline that was known for its viable international service that subsidised domestic air travel. The list of scandals is long, but three stand out: the Lauda Air lease, the Dhamija scam, and the unfortunate sale of two perfectly good fully depreciated 727s that we hear are still flying in South Africa. UML learnt from NC and tried to get kickbacks on later aircraft deals as well. It got to a point where



KUNDA DIXIT

politicians, when they couldn't pocket kickbacks from inflated purchase prices, started skimming off the over-invoiced hourly lease rate of jets. Obsolete aircraft like 737-100s were leased just because the payoffs to politicians

were heftier. Today, the pickings have become so slim and the greed so insatiable that politicians and their appointees in the airline try to cheat even on engine maintenance contracts and other purchases. Just

this month, someone actually stole the Fly Away Kit that always has to be on board a 757. Nepal's flagship, which once had four jets and 11 Twin Otters, now has just two 757s and three airworthy Twin Otters, and even these are grounded most of the time. The four million Nepalis who work in India, the Gulf, Malaysia, Korea and Japan have to use the airlines of other countries to come home. While Qatar Airways has 21 flights a week between Kathmandu and Doha, Nepal Airlines can barely manage two to service the half a million Nepalis who live in Qatar. Nepal Airlines would be viable if it did nothing else but just flew Nepali workers back and forth. But because the airline was never allowed to grow and respond to that demand, Nepali passengers have to pay premium tariffs to foreign airlines. Most of the money our workers save through their blood and sweat doesn't even stay here with a Nepali airline. What could be more tragic than that?

Every time the airline has tried to add aircraft to respond to passenger demand, vultures have moved in to scuttle the deal. The current debacle over the Airbus purchase is a case in point. The Europeans removed middlemen, and offered a package deal on a 330 and 320 for 16 per cent off the rack price. What did we do? We hauled the CEO off to jail for transferring Airbus Industrie an advance for the two jets as per contract.


If the deal had gone through, Nepal Airlines would by now be flying 320s on our India and Thailand routes, and the 330 for the Gulf, Malaysia and Japan. It would have been a big boost to NTY 2011. But we bungled it, and even if we decide to revive the deal now it will cost us Rs 2 billion more, not counting the opportunity cost.

To be sure, it is not just the politicians to blame. Nepal Airlines management has allowed itself to be manipulated and divided by political factions in government. The internal polarisation in the airline today reflects the country's political polarisation.

Look at how the private domestic airlines in Nepal have grown and prospered and see what we could do if the politicians left us alone. We need a CEO who is not the puppet of the minister of the moment.

Domestic private airlines pay Rs 600,000 per month to a captain, but the allowances and salary of a jet captain on NAC is barely Rs 130,000. Experienced NAC captains are now flying for foreign carriers and earning \$10,000 a month. The crew exodus is now so serious that even if the airline buys new planes, there will be no one to fly them.

People ask me why I still stick with Nepal Airlines. I reply that I will only quit when it is flying high again, or when it has to close down.

When I joined Nepal Airlines in 1988 I made a silent promise to myself that I would proudly wear my uniform and fly my country's flag around the world. There are many motivated staff like me in Nepal Airlines: pilots, flight attendants, managers, ground staff. And that is what gives me hope for the future of Nepal Airlines. 

Vijay Lama has been flying Twin Otters and Boeing 757s for Nepal Airlines for the last 24 years.

QUALITY HEALTHCARE IN SINGAPORE

PARKWAYHEALTH OPENS A PATIENT ASSISTANCE CENTRE IN NEPAL

ParkwayHealth is one of the leading providers of private healthcare services in Asia. We operate three Joint Commission International (JCI) accredited hospitals - Gleneagles Hospital, Mount Elizabeth Hospital and Parkway East Hospital, and several medical centres in Singapore, where specialist care is effectively administered in one place. Our medical services and facilities house more than 3,400 beds and 1,200 accredited medical specialists. To reach out to an international pool of patients, we also operate more than 35 ParkwayHealth Patient Assistance Centres (PPAC) worldwide. ParkwayHealth seeks to be the global leader in value-based integrated healthcare.

YOUR ONE-STOP PROVIDER FOR SEAMLESS PATIENT CARE

- Medical referrals and appointments
- Evacuation and repatriation assistance
- Travel-related assistance (flight reservation / confirmation, or visa application / extension)
- Accommodation (hotel / service apartment)
- Airport meeting services / transfer arrangement
- Direct admission arrangement
- Assistance before, during and after hospitalisation
- Multi-language translation / interpreter service
- Billing and financial enquiries
- Sightseeing in Singapore
- General enquiries



ParkwayHealth Patient Assistance Centre (Nepal)
24-Hour Helpline : 422 2908

Mobile : 985 1 117 408 • Fax : 422 6792
Email : ppac@parkway.com.np
Website : www.ppac.sg

Our ParkwayHealth Patient Assistance Centre (PPAC) provides a seamless and one-stop 24-hour service to our patients, connecting them to a comprehensive choice of medical services and doctors across ParkwayHealth's hospitals.



(Best Healthcare Experience)



Gleneagles Hospital • Mount Elizabeth Hospital • Parkway East Hospital

18 - 24 MARCH 2011 #545



Business talk

Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, Ex-President of FNCCI, led an 11-member business delegation to the 25th Conference of Asia Pacific Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) Conference in Istanbul, Turkey. The conference was attended by more than 400 delegates from 27 Asia-Pacific countries. Shrestha was nominated as one of the three executive committee members.

Milky deal

Bank of Kathmandu (BOK) and Dairy Development Corporation (DDC) have signed an agreement whereby BOK will grant loans to cooperatives recommended by



DDC. Three-year loans will be granted for the purchase of livestock, dairy equipment and the establishment of dairy chilling plants.

All new

Nabil has launched China Union Pay (CUP), a bank card association similar to VISA. The card will be

accepted by Nabil ATMs and POS network. Nabil has also opened its 47th branch in Gorkha.

Hi-tech

Teletalk, distributor of Spice Mobile phone, has launched the Android 2.2 based touch phone, Mi-310. The phone is equipped with wi-fi, AGPS and GPS. The screen has a resolution of 320 x 480 pixels and comes with a 2MP camera.



Keeping time

Him Electronics has opened the first exclusive Timex outlet, The Time Factory, in Civil Mall, Sundhara. The store showcases international watch brands under the Timex Group. Timex was launched in Nepal a year ago.

New ride

CG Automobile, the sole authorised distributor of TVS motorbikes, has introduced Wego, a two-wheeler scooter. The 4-stroke 110cc scooter has wide tyres to enhance balance. Available in black, white, brown and gold, Wego is priced at Rs 149,838.

Healing hands

Hotel Shangri-La, Kathmandu, has opened Spa By Healing Hands on its premises in Lazimpat. Operated by Malaysian spa professional Donald Cha, the spa offers traditional therapies. It also provides parlour services, nail art, yoga, meditation, massage therapy, body treatments, shirodhara, facial treatments and hand/foot treatments.

Vacancy

Film South Asia

Biennial festival of Southasian documentaries, organised by Himal Southasian.

Co-director

Key Responsibilities:

- Head and oversee strategies for the FSA festival, touring festival (Travelling Film South Asia) and Clearinghouse of South Asian Non-Fiction Films
- Research films made in and about Southasia, procure films for the biennial film festival, establish links between FSA and Southasian filmmakers
- Organise and be an active member of the selection committee that watches over 400 films every festival year
- Fundraise for the festival internationally, oversee ad-revenue generation within Nepal
- Oversee the design and chart out the media strategy for the festival
- Work to increase visibility of the festival in the region and internationally
- Reach out to national, regional and international organisations and film clubs to promote the production and screening of documentaries
- Promote and market non-fiction films through the Clearinghouse of Southasian Non-Fiction Films

Desired skills

- Excellent events management skills and the ability to multitask and oversee the team
- Appreciation for non-fiction films and interest in promoting Southasian documentaries
- Experience in/and/or understanding of Southasia as a region
- Strong communication skills; fluency in English is a must
- Experience in events management is a plus
- Willingness to travel in and outside Nepal

The position is part time and Kathmandu-based; salary commensurate with experience

Application process

Send CV, cover letter and current salary to fsa at filmsouthasia dot org before **10 April 2011**. Send in a one-page essay on the title "The Southasian Documentary Film: The Way Ahead."

Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview.



HIMAL KHABARPATRIKA 15-29 March 2011

COVER

Economic Transition
Liquidity tensions
Transcript of Himalmedia
interaction with bankers and
Nepal Rastra Bank Governor
Yubaraj Khattiwada

EDITORIAL

Government should inspire
economic confidence

PROFILE

Tributes to KP Bhattarai
Purshottam Dahal: The road
ahead for Nepali Congress
Dipkumar Upadhyay:
Memorable Kishunji
CK Lal: A radical
Nepali Congress

REPORTS

Lessons from Japan for Nepal
The politics of media in
the Madhes

www.himalkhabar.com



LG

Life's Good

ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM

Explore the accurate & fast
WIFI connection

optimus GT 540



- OS: Android 2.1
- Quad-Band GSM and Dual-Band 3G (with HSDPA) Support
- 3" Resistive Touchscreen of HVGA Resolution
- Social Networking Service Integration
- Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g and GPS Receiver, Digital Compass
- 3 Megapixel Autofocus Camera
- DivX/XviD Video Support

BEST BUY 22,499 FREE 2 GB Memory Card

new chocolate BL40



- 4" HD Full Touchscreen LCD with Tempered Glass Finish
- Wide Screen with 21.9 Display Ratio
- Dual Screen UI
- Dolby Mobile Enhanced Sound
- Bluetooth & Wi-Fi
- 3.5G & 5.0 MP Camera

BEST BUY 30,999 FREE 2 GB Memory Card

Cookie MAX T325



- 2.8" 94 Touch Screen
- Dedicated Social Networking Features
- Embedded Windows Live™ 99 Messenger
- Multimedia Widgets
- 2MP Camera
- 3G and Wi-Fi Connection

BEST BUY 14,399 FREE 2 GB Memory Card

optimus ONE P500 with Google™



- 3.2-Inch HVGA (320x480) Capacitive Touchscreen
- OS: Android 2.2 (Froyo)
- Fast Web Browsing and Smooth Application Switching
- Effortless Searching Using Voice Search
- 3 Megapixel Autofocus Camera
- Email: iMAP4/SMTP/POP3
- G Sensor/Proximity Sensor
- Standby Time: Up to 770 Hours (2G)/550 Hours (3G)
- Wireless LAN Wi-Fi b/g
- External Memory MicroSD up to 32GB

BEST BUY 24,499/- FREE 2 GB Memory Card

Cookie GX 500 Dual SIM



- Dual SIM Dual Standby
- Display ~ 3-Inch Touchscreen
- Wi-Fi / Bluetooth / Social Networking
- Seamless Design with 12.9mm Thickness
- MP3, AAC, AAC+, WMA, AMR
- MPEG4, H.263, H.264
- 3 MP Camera / Mini USB
- 40 MB Internal Memory
- Expandable Memory

BEST BUY 15,999 FREE 2 GB Memory Card

LG Mobiles are made in Korea . Marketed in Nepal by CG Impex Pvt. Ltd. All prices are Inclusive of VAT.

CG ELECTRONICS
imagination. unlimited.

LG Lifestyle Shoppe Pvt. Ltd.
(LG Exclusive Company Showroom) Gorkha Complex
Minbhawan, Kathmandu, Tel: 01-4106530, 016206462

CG Digital Pvt. Ltd.
Multi-Brand Showroom) AC Complex
Chabahil, Kathmandu, Tel: 01-6205707, 4461234

LG Mobile Concept Store
Civil Mall, Sundhara, Kathmandu
Contact No. 4254025, 4253974

12 Months Warranty

6 Months

HOUSES CHANGE
AS NEEDS CHANGE
AND WE BRING
THE CHANGE TO
MAKE YOUR HOME
BETTER!

HomeAutomation
Safety&Security
EnergyManagement
Surveillance
Entertainment
AccessControl
Interfaces&Software



bipassana International

Bipassana International Pvt.Ltd.
5th floor, Ambe Complex
Teku, Kathmandu
Tel: +977-1-4259717 / 4258342

Student discount, please!

A student identity card is a highly valued asset in Nepal. So much so that even those who haven't stepped into a classroom for years bribe the local photocopy guy into attesting one for them. Flash your student ID and the microbus conductor is compelled to charge you less, you get to see the zoo animals for cheap, and get discounted entry at many shows and exhibitions.

Things are set to get even better for students here. With the introduction of the International Student Identity Card (ISIC), held by over 4.5 million in 120 countries, Nepali students will now be able to extend discounts received to participating restaurants, clothing outlets, and bookstores.

Zen Nepal introduces the International Student Identity Card




Zen Nepal Tours and Travels, which introduced ISIC to Nepal, is upbeat about its prospects. "We thought it was a great opportunity to help students access more services," says Mitali Ghosh, manager of Zen Nepal. The card is issued only to full-time students, aged above 12, at a cost of US\$22. It is valid for a year and can be reissued at any ISIC provider around the world. In operation since January, Zen Nepal has already issued 125 ISICs.

A majority of the clients that visit Zen Nepal's office for the new card are those who have been accepted into foreign universities. "Most issue this card for the discounts it provides on airfares," explains Ghosh. "But there are even more benefits once they arrive at their destination." Worldwide, 41,000 merchants accept ISIC.

Bhumi Puri, who has been marketing the ISIC card in Nepal, asserts that the card is not just for those about to leave the country. Zen Nepal has involved 150 local merchants in the ISIC discount program, and expects the number to reach 200 by the end of the month. "Students living here can avail themselves of 7-25 per cent discounts at participating stores," says Puri. "And we have carefully selected businesses that are appropriate for students."

It's a win-win situation for the businesses too because it opens them to a pool of Nepalis who otherwise might not be able to afford their products as well as foreign students with ISIC cards who may visit Nepal.

For the same price, non-students can apply for a youth card for similar benefits, and teachers can also sign up for a special International Teacher Identity Card.  zennepal.com



EPSON
EXCEED YOUR VISION

OFFICE AND HOME
PROJECTORS

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

Convenient Connectivity for any Projection Environment



Small, Smart and Stylish

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

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

EASY & SPEEDY USB DISPLAY FUNCTION
Simple Connectivity
Instant projectin 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 Pulchowk, 5543562

OUT SIDE VALLEY
Birat Infotech Biratnagar 021-538729, Megatech Biratnagar 021-532000, Enet Solutions Chitwon, 056-572096, 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

Aghori, 2000 ➤

The Aghori sub-sect of Shaivas most closely resembles one of the earliest organised groups of Hindu ascetics, the Kapalikas or 'bearers of skulls'. Like the modern-day Aghori, Kapalikas worshipped the terrifying manifestation of Shiva, Bhairab, and were known to perform human sacrifice. Though these extreme practices have evolved into symbolic acts today, the Aghori still use human skulls, as seen here. By drinking out of a skullcup (kapala) the sadhu partakes of the deceased's life-force.



Sadhu Friendship, 2002

Mundane motives often mix with spiritual aspirations when a person decides to join the brotherhood of sadhus. These young sadhus may have done so to be adventurous, or simply to be practical, with few other options if they were orphaned or impoverished.

Sadhvi, 2000 ➤

Though the vast majority of sadhus are men, women too renounce the worldly life for spiritual practice. Sadhvis, like the Vishnu devotee in this portrait, typically enter the ascetic life when they are older, usually widowed or still unmarried. Not all sects accept women, while a few are composed entirely of sadhvis.



ALL PICS: THOMAS L KELLY

BODY LANGUAGE



Textual Tilaka, 2002 ▲

While some sadhus value a more energetic and impressionistic approach to tilaka, others value precision and complexity in their body art, such as this Vaisnavite ascetic, who has written sacred text across his face.

THOMAS L. KELLY

Sadhus are an enigma to me, living the mystery of ancient questions that have no answers. Tricksters, derelicts, madmen, charlatans, wanderers, mystics and yogis, their boldly painted bodies confront us with the essential questions at the heart of existence. Like walking mysteries of the human soul, for me, sadhus provoke the question, who am I?

In my adopted home of Kathmandu, some sadhus survive primarily off alms from tourists allowed to photograph them, considered a form of darshan. They are a spectacle and love to play their assigned role in the illusion or drama of society. Sadhus have formally abandoned conventional time; their world is dense with its own complex politics, social hierarchy, taboos and customs, often making access challenging.

Volatile and unpredictable as they are, spontaneous photography of sadhus can be dangerous. You can easily be trampled or attacked if you immerse yourself in a naga baba procession after a mass Kumbha Mela bathing. There's no such thing as achieving photographic acceptance within the Sadhu mandala. For me, photographing at ritual time is always the most dynamic and fluid. Once rapport has been established, a camera is tolerated, often with a sense of *lila* or *maya*, play and illusion.

My initial inexplicable attraction to the Sadhu world was mostly visual. As a photographer, I loved how they allowed their bodies to become symbols of the sacred from walking around naked to remind us of our naked selves, to wearing ash to remind us what are bodies become, to dreadlocks to remind us of our natural wild natures devoid of social convention. Their bodies are texts

that speak volumes. A sadhu's body is a map of the Hindu universe, for the body is a microcosm of the cosmos.

As a photographer, I try to be as invisible as possible. Yet for sadhus, it is their very outlandish visibility, the powerful symbols of the divine they paint on their bodies, which help them not to become invisible, but to transcend self. Disturbing, annoying, inspiring, exasperating, irrational, wise and powerful, sadhus are a living question that people have forgotten to ask. 🇳🇵

Thomas Kelly came to Nepal as Peace Corps Volunteer in 1978 and has lived here ever since. These photos are part of the exhibition 'Body Language: The Yogis of India and Nepal', currently showing at the Rubin Museum of Art, New York.

www.rmanyc.org
www.ThomasKellyPhotos.com

THE WORLD'S
NUMBER ONE
INTERNATIONAL
PREMIUM BEER



It could only be Heineken

the event designer...

DIRECTION NEPAL

seminar AGM workshops banquets exhibitions

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

DECC
SERVICE WITH HEART

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

MILK

Coffee & cocktail

Durbarmarg



Friday ladies Night
Buy one get one free for ladies
98511 29 306

काम सान्तो ठुलो 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
स्वचना तथा सञ्चार मन्त्रालय
स्वचना विभाग

EVENTS



Chobi Mela VI: International Festival of Photography, selection of works showcased at the Chobi festival in Dhaka this year. 18 to 19 March, 6pm to 7.30pm, Bakery Cafe, Sundhara

Lives and Faces, pictures from the Maoist insurgency in India by Mustafa Quraishi. 17 March to 17 April, 11am to 4pm, closed on Tuesdays, Shanti Sangrahalaya, Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, Patan Dhoka, 5549948

Mithila Cosmos: New Narratives, an exhibition of Mithila paintings by SC Suman. Till 5 April, Siddhartha Art gallery, Babar Mahal Revisited, 4218048



Screening of Once, directed by John Carney. 19 March, 4pm, Docskool, Kathmandu Academy, Mahendra Bhawan premises, Naxal, 4471104

Retrospective, 1970 to 2011, selected works by Birendra Pratap Singh. Till 24 March, Chai Chai Gallery and Cafe, Pulchok, 9808580436, 5528258

Rato Ghar Documentaries and Film Show, screening of Aakrant (based on the Maoist conflict in Nepal) followed by a brief talk on the film. 20 March, 4pm, Rato Ghar, Ravi Bhawan, 984172009, birkha.aid@gmail.com, Rs 10 for students, Rs 20 for others



Watercolour paintings of unique and exquisite orchids, by Hemlata Pradhan. 17 March to 1 May, Serindia Gallery, O.P. Garden, Soi Charoenkrung 36, Charoenkrung Road, Bangkok, 02 2386410, serindiagallery@gmail.com

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

Artists in the city — Urbanization and Urban Culture, presented by Social Science Baha and the Interactive Mapping and Archiving Project. 20 March, 5.30pm, Patan Museum (book launch, music and theatre), 21-22 March, 9am to 7pm, Basantapur Darbar Square (3 installation art pieces), 23-31 March, 4.30pm, Nepal Art Council (theatre, art exhibition, documentary)

MUSIC

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

Ke-sang in 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

DINING



Forever Café, specialising in a variety of steaks and stroganoffs, the café offers carnivorous affairs you'll not forget. Thamel, 470078

Milk Coffee 'n Cocktail Cafe, coffee house during the day and a cozy lounge serving cocktails at night, try their yarchagumba and molecular cocktails along with the famous Starbucks. Woodland Complex, Durbar Marg



Splash Bar and Grill, continental and Mongolian BBQ. Till March end, every Wednesday and Friday, 5.30pm to 9.30pm, Radisson Hotel, Lazimpat, 4411818, Rs 1,500 nett per person, includes BBQ platter, snacks and a bottle of San Miguel



Bronco Billy, offers Tex-Mex and Indian dishes. They make their own corn tortillas, which get a big thumbs-up. Pulchok opposite Namaste Supermarket

New Orleans, offers a wide variety of western dishes that are scrumptious yet healthy. We got hooked on the rosemary chicken and hamburgers. Jhame!, 5522708

Waffles promotion at The Lounge from 12.30pm to 4.00pm every day, **Vegetarian Buffet at The Cafe** every Tuesday from 6.30pm, and **Arabian Nights at The Cafe** every Friday from 6.30pm at Hyatt Regency, Boudha, 4491234, 4489362

1905 Restaurant, feast on roasted delights within this converted aristocratic residence. Walled ambience and green surroundings make it an oasis within the city, Kantipath, 4215068

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

Aqua Java Zing, soar high on a low budget, buy one cocktail, get one free, buy two hookahs, get one free, only during happy hours from 2pm to 6pm. Ganesh Man Singh Road, Thamel

GETAWAYS

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

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.

Happy Holi at Shivapuri Heights Cottage, Holi celebration, delicious Nepali and western food and a spectacular full moon view. 19 March, at the edge of Shivapuri National Park, Rs 1,800 per person, half price for children and overnight package for Rs 2,500 and Rs 3,500, 98510122455, info@shivapuricottage.com

Nepali films in...Toronto

SURENDRA LAWOTI

The Second Toronto Nepali Film Festival took place on 12 March this year, and drew over 300 film lovers from the Greater Toronto Area. Nine Nepali films were screened, comprising documentaries, shorts and experimental films. Jimmy Ghimire, a Nepali realtor based in the Toronto suburb of Mississauga, said, "The program had a good mix; some films were funny, some intense, and some made you think."

The festival kicked off with The Last Race, a short fiction feature filmed in the Manang Valley. As Anjan Chettry, a TNFF director put it, "The film was so beautiful, just like a postcard." David Dunne, a Professor of Marketing at the University of Toronto, commented on In Three Years: "What started as a



YouTube-like video proved to be a really funny, moving and profound film." There was plenty of praise for Forgive! Forget Not! as well, an experimental documentary by Pranay Limbu

based on a Nepali journalist's 15-month detention in Kathmandu's Bhairabnath barracks. It was awarded the Jurors Choice Award.

Krishna Gaudel, an accountant who lives in downtown Toronto, said of Kesang Tseten's In Search of the Riyal: "In many ways I felt the story paralleled my own migratory experience." The film documents the exploited lives of Nepali migrant workers in Qatar and won one of the Audience Choice Awards. Sherpas: The True Heroes of Mount Everest won the other audience award. Boyan Mihaloyv, a Bulgarian student, wondered why it was that "the western climbers pay \$60,000 but the Sherpas only get \$5,000?"

The festival was also a world premiere for Vancouver-based Pradeep Kumar Sharma's The Rat Hunters. After a day of intense viewing, then, the festival closed with a story-telling dance performance by Kalimpong-born Deepali Lindbloom, and an energetic dance performance by Toronto's very own Swechcha Pokharel.

The author is the curator of the Toronto Nepali Film Festival. 🇳🇵



SOMEPLACE ELSE

For me, Jhamel arrived not when St. Mary's Lane was overwhelmed by the attack of the restobar clones. It happened when trendy Black Pepper Cafe & Pub opened shop just around the corner from my phuphu's dowdy residence, joining the lane hitherto dominated by local stalwarts Greenwich and Summit.

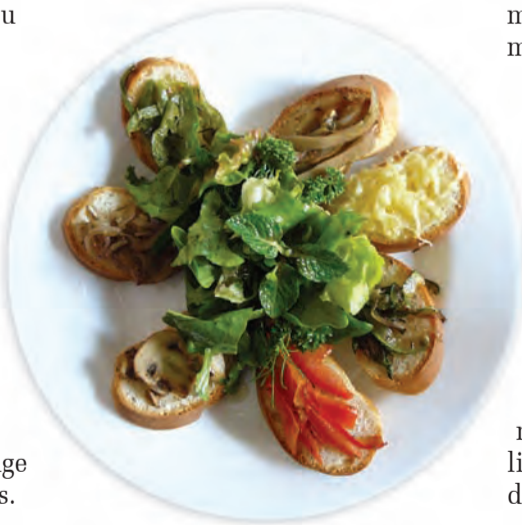
It's clear Black Pepper is serious about the competition. There's a nice open courtyard (with retractable roof) framed with carved wooden pillars, though you can choose loungier chairs or an inner sanctum if you don't fancy the sun.

Mains start from Rs 250 for lunch and Rs 450 for

dinner, with some expensive items that tempt then deter. Given that it was lunch, I reluctantly ordered a mocktail – a Topsy Guava – and was impressed enough by the combo of unReal juice, ginger slices and lemon to want to dunk a shot of vodka into it (I didn't). With some trepidation, then, we tried the Bruschetta.

The French bread on which it was served could hardly compete with Bu Keba's corn, olive and buckwheat, but the zucchini, tomato, capsicum, mushroom and onion toppings were superior. What's more, the Bruschetta was accompanied by a tartly dressed salad mix, with mint, rocket, chives and lettuce supplying a range of flavours and textures.

The Charcoal Jalkapur Fish with lemongrass sauce was generously presented, and the white flesh was firm, tasty, and offset perfectly by the browned crunch of the exterior. The buttery herbed veggies weren't just an afterthought either, and my only complaint would be that the luridly yellow sauce, while an interesting variation, was a bit too much on the



lemony side – less would have been more.

The Grilled Pork Chops (with mash and mixed salad) didn't disappoint either, with a creamy apple sauce that lent the juicy, savoury meat a sweetish tinge. The measly portion of the Tom Yum soup, on the other hand, was tasty but had little in common with the fiery original. The overly sweet and messy looking Flambe Crepe Suze de Orange, too, didn't quite come together.

Black Pepper, like many of its compatriots, has a solid line in thalis, momos, fried rice and the like. Now all they need to do is match the music with



the consciously cool posters on the walls – a three-hour wifi session with Chris de Burgh, Cliff Richards and The Carpenters on loop just about did my head in. 🇳🇵 <http://blackpepper.com.np> Nepali Kukur

Head south from the Summit Hotel, pass Greenwich, then a junction, and Black Pepper is on your right.

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



Riding up a storm



KALAM
Rabi Thapa

When I purchased a mountain bike a year ago, I didn't really see myself hurtling down hills and through forests, threading narrow paths demarcating fields, and protesting the calls of 'Kuire! Kuire! Kuire!' flung our way by irrepressible village brats. I didn't see myself somersaulting through the air to land in a jumble of bruises, cuts and snapped bike chains either. Yet all of the above eventuated last weekend on a trip to Nirakar Yakthumba's cycling resort across the Rapti from Hetauda.

I'm an inveterate walker, and love nothing so much as a wander in the hills of this country nature has blessed and cursed in equal measure. Walking clears the mind: not so much to work through one's issues as to simply clear the mind of mental furniture, and luxuriate in the sensation of being, in an environment.

I bought the bike to

commute, thinking I might venture out on longer trips when the occasion presented itself. But apart from one flying downhill ride from Dhulikhel, I was pretty much just shuttling from home to work, braving the mad micros and bastard buses, smug in the fact that I was only ingesting and not producing smoke, and smugger in the face of petrol queues.

Then the occasion presented itself, and I loaded my bike onto one of two pickups heading to Hetauda, not knowing quite what to expect. It was only when my travelling companions began pointing out what to me were



RABI THAPA

Nirakar Yakthumba's cycling resort outside Hetauda is a call to arms for all those Nepalis with bikes that don't see the mountains

the ubiquitous cattle and walking trails with cries of "Check out that single track!", and trading stories studded with a jargon wholly alien to me (pump track, free ride, bunny hop) that I realised I wasn't just going to be easing along country roads, stopping

to admire the scenery every now and again.

Off-road cycling is not for the faint-hearted. Connoisseurs of the sport will take almost any trajectory to get where they want to go, and whether there is a track to follow or not is immaterial

(though it might be quite material if you 'biff' or do a 'superman', also known as an 'involuntary dismount'). Of course, if you do feel faint-hearted, you simply walk or lug your bike up and down the impossible bits (to the amusement of village boys turned out to see you do stunts). But once you feel confident enough to look up and away from the ground beneath your feet, you can't help but begin to see the

villages, their inhabitants, and their surroundings. In the relative ease of the Chure, mountain and Tarai come together most perfectly.

In the mornings, we beheld the glassy flats of watered fields dotted with farmerfolk looking up with a smile and a remark, as the morning mist cleared across the river. In the evening, as the huge orange disc of the sun sank below the treeline, we wound weary and sated through quiet sal forests. And in the heat of the day? We put the 'resort' into the owner's vision, and resorted to cold beer by the pool.

Nirakar Yakthumba has a vision beyond the celebrity afforded him by 1974AD, one of Nepal's most loved and durable rock bands. It involves transforming a few bighas of land into a resort, complete with rooms, tented camps, a fish farm, piggery and yes, a 'pump track', to attract cyclists keen to explore the countryside around Hetauda. "I just want people to cycle, to get out of the city, to exercise, to have fun," he says. "I want Nepalis to come here for the weekend, with their families." For now, it may well be 'kuires' who will heed his call. But soon, one hopes, the village boys will be compelled to change their tune. 🇳🇵



Meet Nirvigna Thapa,
an avid Explorer

who frequently visits incredible places of the world like Amazon Jungle and interacts with tons of birds, animals and plants. Every day is exciting for him at FasTrackKids.

Welcome to our superlative infrastructure where our unique classrooms with interactive learning stations allow your child to discover a love of learning in a fun and interactive setting. It's the way classes are conducted here at FasTrackKids, and over 300 centers around the world.

ADMISSIONS OPEN
(Playgroup, Nursery, LKG, UKG, Grade I, II & III)

- Unmatched Infrastructure
- Dedicated Teachers
- Superlative Atmosphere
- Exceptional Facilities
- Incomparable Teaching Methodology



Lazimpat (Opp. to Everest Bank), Kathmandu, Nepal • Tel: 4416719, 4428810
E-mail: info@iwschool.edu.np • www.iwschool.edu.np

Headquartered at Denver, Colorado USA, FasTrackKids runs its franchise operations in over 300 centers around the world. In Nepal FasTrackKids is franchised by Imperial World School in Kathmandu.

MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA



VONBERGES.NET

A group of 16 senior Afghan government officials, conservation leaders and private sector operators from

Foladi says that the tour has allowed the group to understand that development of tourism with the involvement of

In Pokhara, the group attended workshops by Nepali tourism entrepreneurs and the Three Sisters Trekking Company. “The sisters explained to us how women can also be a

In Kathmandu, the group studied the workings of the Nepal Tourism Board so that a similar institution can be established in Bamyan to market its potential. Says Foladi: "Our group is taking a pool of ideas from Nepal, and we hope to implement those ideas back home to develop Bamyan's tourism." 🇦🇫

GREEN SCENE



अब हुन्छन् सबै दंग



प्रथम बम्पर उपहार

एक जनालाई काठमाडौं नयाँ बानेश्वर नजिक बाग्मती अपार्टमेन्टमा २ बेडरूम अपार्टमेन्ट



दोस्रो बम्पर उपहार

एक जनालाई Perodua ViVA 660cc

FEATURES & FACILITY

- Factory-fitted Air Conditioning
- Easy Drive Steering
- Keyless Entry System
- Central Door Locking System
- Rear Defogger
- Rear Wiper
- Factory-fitted CD Player with FM Stereo
- Cigar Lighter, Genuine Boot Tray
- Genuine Foot Mat
- Body Coloured Bumper Door Handles
- Best Claimed Mileage in Nepal 23 Km/Ltr



तेस्रो बम्पर उपहार

३ जनालाई 32" Sony Bravia LED TV

Key features

- Fully Loaded - Stronger WiFi, Stylish look
- Sleek & Light weight, Easy to carry
- Robust - for Rough & Tough use
- 320GB HDD, 2GB DDR-3 RAM
- 14" Screen, 3.5 hrs Battery

Key features

- Edge LED
- Full HD 1080
- BRAVIA Engine™ 3
- Intelligent Picture Plus
- MPEG Noise Reduction
- USB Photo/Music/Video



चौथो बम्पर उपहार

५ जनालाई Hasee i3 Laptop



वार्षिक ग्राहकलाई एउटा Steam Iron



अर्धवार्षिक ग्राहकलाई एउटा FM / LED Rechargeable Torch



३ महिने ग्राहकलाई एउटा LED Rechargeable Torch



हरेक साता २ जनालाई Lemon Mobile Phone

हामी आउँदैछौं तपाईंको घरदैलोमा फेरि एकपटक

थप जानकारीका लागि नेपाल रिपब्लिक मिडिया प्रा. लि. ने. डि. ए. कम्प्लेक्स, बागदरबार, काठमाडौं, फोन: ०१-६२०२६८१, ४२६४१०० (Ext. २०४/२०५), ईमेल: circulation@nagariknews.com

नोट: बम्पर उपहार योजनामा वार्षिक ग्राहक मात्र सहभागी हुनेछन्। *शर्तहरू लागू हुनेछ

Quakes and nukes

JEMIMA SHERPA in HACHINOHE, JAPAN

When the magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck in Hachinohe in northern Honshu Friday afternoon, the shaking seemed to go on for an eternity. Despite the panic, I thought, “I’m so glad this is happening in Japan and not back home.” In my eight months in Japan, earthquakes have been frequent and often strong. During a 7.2 the previous Wednesday, my Japanese co-workers seemed unfazed, merely standing up on the alert rather than ducking for cover.

The power outage was the first indicator of the seriousness of Friday’s quake. Here in Aomori prefecture, damage seemed minimal – my telephone fell off its perch and danced across the floor, and spice boxes tumbled across the countertop. While dire predictions of what will happen when even a modest earthquake hits haphazard, overcrowded Kathmandu have been around for decades, Japan is lauded for its meticulous disaster planning and strict building codes. Even my second-floor apartment is constructed to sway accommodatingly during seismic activity, and every neighbourhood is close to at least one school or public building that doubles as an emergency contact centre and refuge.

As an island nation, tremors were only the beginning of the crisis in Japan. Heeding a tsunami warning, a friend and I evacuated to the school I work for to spend the night. Despite strong aftershocks, the atmosphere was surreally calm. We cruised through the city towards the hills, the legendarily courteous Japanese nodding and bowing their way through intersections with defunct traffic lights. Stopping at convenience store, we grabbed junk food off emptying shelves before joining a snaking but orderly queue to pay. “Anywhere else we could have just been looting by now,” we



DZEMU

joked feebly.

The school was stocked with emergency lights, battery-powered radios, kerosene heaters, and a varied selection of instant ramen and energy drinks. Other evacuees arrived with well-packed emergency bags, putting our hastily assembled jumble to shame, and were duly documented. Teachers even had hand-powered dynamos to recharge their mobile phones, which are built to pick up television signals – we watched news being broadcast by presenters in hard hats under lights swaying from aftershocks. The electricity and high-speed internet services were off for less than 36 hours in some neighbourhoods, and water supplies unaffected. Cell phone reception was patchy but often still serviceable. Even amidst reports that this was Japan’s biggest earthquake on record, for many people in Hachinohe the conditions were arguably an improvement on your average winter Friday evening in Kathmandu.

Only when driving through the devastated port areas the next day did the extent of the damage become apparent. Fishermen were surveying beached shrimping boats and smashed trawlers. Cars were tipped over and lodged almost comically against buildings, and the

streets were full of debris and a thick sludge. When power was gradually restored from Saturday evening on, news footage showed that Aomori had been extremely fortunate in comparison to neighbouring prefectures to the south.

Worse, the initial explosion at the Fukushima reactor was dominating coverage even as rescue and recovery workers scrambled to find survivors. Further explosions, venting of radioactive material and fires plagued the plant, until Tuesday the government announced radiation in the area had reached levels dangerous to human life. Japan began producing nuclear power in the 1960s, and the country’s enviable infrastructure and status as the world’s third largest economy depends on its thermonuclear power program. Speculation is rife that officials may

Japan's natural disaster preparedness was offset by man-made perils

be downplaying the risk involved, as the over 50 other plants must continue to function for the Japanese economy to recover.

In Japan, the national propensity for pragmatism, preparedness and social order greatly reduced the impact of the actual earthquake and the aftershocks, and precluded mass hysteria, looting and price gouging. However, the geographic realities of living in islands with volatile tectonic plates

along the eastern coast make the tsunami risk something essentially impossible to guard against. It is hard to say if the combined earthquake-tsunami-nuclear trifecta of threats will prove more deadly than the poverty, poor construction and lack of disaster preparation that marked the Haiti quake in 2010. Certainly, when a major quake hits Kathmandu, the aftermath will have more in common with the latter than with Japan or the recent Christchurch earthquake.

Most worrying of all, the Nepali public is woefully unaware of how best to prepare for and react to an emergency situation. Japan’s devastation would undoubtedly have been much, much worse without the years of earthquake preparation and drills that preceded it. Still, the steam and smoke billowing from the reactors have something in common with the deadly rubble of massive ‘tofu’ buildings in China’s Sichuan and even the horror of the BP oil spill.

As the world continues to move towards high-density urban living with ever-increasing energy demands, avarice and hubris prompts us to build systems and structures that ultimately prove as destructive as nature’s worst. In Nepal’s desperation to join the charmed clique of developed countries, too often we unsuccessfully chase their dreams without learning from their mistakes. Japan teaches us that it’s always worth preparing for the worst, and that includes keeping our consumption in check. 🇳🇵

NEPALI
Times

is
looking
for a...

Desk Editor

Do you have an extraordinary flair for the English language? Are you a naturally inquisitive person? Are you detail-oriented? Do you work well in a team?

Infographics/Web Designer

Have you had training in computer graphics? Can you do web design? Are you creative?

If the cap fits, send your resume, a sample of your work, and a 300-word statement on why you are interested in joining us to:

ed@nepalitimes.com



उज्यालो 90 नेटवर्कमा

आर्थिक खबर

हरेक दिन बिहान ७:०० बजे



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



Madhes media politics

Navin Jha in *Himal Khabarpatrika*, 15-29 March



Rajendra Mahato, president of Sadbhawana Party, has built a small media empire in the Madhes. He publishes the daily Madhes Post from Malangawa and Janakpur. Now he is set to launch FM radios in these districts. The Mahato-run Radio Madhes will also be aired from Rautahat. However, Mahato is not the only Madhesi leader running media outlets for politics. TMLP Vice President Brisheshchandra Lal

leader Kumar Sharma runs Radio Jaleshwarnath. MJF(D) leader Ram Aadhar Kapadi is the promoter of Appan Mithila. Unity Centre (Mashal) leader Chakradev Kamati runs Salahasah FM in Siraha. UML leaders run Samagra FM in Siraha. Analysts say the involvement of the Madhesi leaders in FM radio will prove disastrous as they are primed to promote their own political interests. Bijay Mishra, who did his PhD on the Madhes movement, believes that conflict is imminent. “Initially, they invested in the media at the local level as they felt excluded by the Kathmandu-centric media. But unhealthy competition has cropped up that will lead to a conflict,” he says.

TMPL president Mahendra Yadav, for instance, was transferred to Local Administration from the Ministry of Commerce and Industries when the previous government reshuffled its cabinet. Radio Madhes of Sadbhawana Party subsequently aired the news that Yadav had been demoted. Mishra says this kind of propaganda will instigate an internal conflict in the Madhes Mahottari-based reporter Dasarath Bhandari says, “The media has been used as a tool to hide the weaknesses of leaders and criticise their opponents.”



runs Janaki FM in Janakpur. TMLP leader Bijay Kumar Singh owns Janakpur FM. Maoist leader Subhash Yadav runs Bhorukwa FM in Saptari. Mai FM of Sarlahi district belongs to TMLP (Nepal) leader Mahendra Yadav. Sadbhawana leader Anil Jha runs Sanskriti FM in Rautahat. Spokesperson of Sadbhawana Party Ram Naresh Raya runs Radio Rudraksha in Mahottari. Maoist

Off to the villages

Bharat Sharma in *Rajdhani*, 14 March

राजधानी

The Health Service Department is sending out 72 doctors to district hospitals and primary health care centres in areas where there is a shortage of medical officers. These medical students, who completed their medical studies on scholarships, have to practice in government hospitals for two years for their degrees to be recognised. Dr Yashovardhan Pradhan, General Manager of the Department, says that the department has a strict policy not to send doctors to areas that already have one. In order to ensure that rural areas benefit from the presence of doctors, the Department has focused on the far west and some districts of the Himalayan region. Rolpa, Rukum, Doti, Bajhang, Bajura, Kalikot, Jumla, and Humla are some such districts without doctors. Each student has been personally interviewed by Pradhan and though female doctors were allowed to choose a district, five still opted to go to the far western rural areas. The doctors will be paid Rs 25,000 per month.

Dr Shanti

Barun Paneru in *Nagarik*, 11 March

नागरिक

Despite living in the jungles of Sirsha-6, Rajaydaka, the Raute rush their sick directly to health centres, pregnant Raute women get pre- and post-natal care, and they are all aware of family planning methods. At the forefront of this positive development is Shanti Shahi, the village's only Raute female health volunteer.



BARUN PANERU

Although illiterate, Shahi has been actively contributing to health awareness for 13 years. Everyone in the community calls her ‘doctor’. “When I was 30 years old, my first baby died because he could not get medical treatment,” says Shahi. “We didn’t know about hospitals or health centres then. I work like this so that there is awareness and everyone has access to health care.” Earlier, many female health volunteers from outside the community had attempted to serve the Rautes but with little success. “It was important to involve a Raute to provide access to health services to the community,” says Bir Bahadur Dhami, a health worker. “Shanti has helped minimise health problems in the Raute community.” Shanti was recently recognised for her contribution by the Dadeldhura Trade and Commerce Association. Says Shanti: “I am happy that I have been able to do something for my community and will continue to serve them.”

Kids launch book

Dambar Krishna Shrestha in *Himal Khabarpatrika*, 15-29 March



Achham: 13-year-old Jauwa Khanal recently shared a platform with UML CA member Bhaire Kami, Maoist CA member Sarad Singh Bhandari, and John Brittain, Chief of Communication for UNICEF Nepal. Jauwa was chairing a program for the launch of ‘The State of the World’s Children 2011: Adolescence – An Age of Opportunity’, which took place in Mangalsen, Achham district, on 11 March.

Jauwa walked for two days from Rama Roshan-4 to Mangalsen to take part in a two-day workshop conducted by the NGO Coordination Committee for UNICEF, on the problems faced by and opportunities for adolescents. The youngest of 28 participants, she jointly released the report and concluded the launch. Participants also staged plays followed by a cultural show. The report examines the condition of 70 million children across the globe. Saying that children’s issues should be taken seriously, Brittain said, “Providing education and health facilities is not enough for adolescents. We should listen to them and consider what physical and psychological discomforts they may be suffering from.” Third grader Jauwa tops her class even while helping out her mother at home, and has seven siblings. Her father rears goats. At the start of the workshop, she was understandably shy. But two days wrought a transformation. By the end of the program, she was addressing a public gathering.



Man: Trade Union Board: UCPN (Maoist)

क्रान्तिपुर Abin in Kantipur, 17 March



ALL PICS: MUSTAFA QURAISHI

Images of the **other** Maoist war

Lives and Faces

Images of the Indian Maoist War
by Mustafa Quraishi

17 March – 17 April, 2011

Shanti Sangralaya

Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya

Patan Dhoka

11am- 4pm, except Tuesdays



Mustafa Quraishi is a noted Indian photojournalist and his images have been published widely around the world. After being assigned to Hyderabad, he started documenting the Indian Maoist insurgency by travelling frequently into the hinterland. In doing so he delved into the other side of India: not the gleaming glass blocks of multinationals and the call centres of 'Cyberabad', but the tribal areas where state neglect has fed a violent uprising.

Quraishi's photographs will go on display for a month on 17 March, alongside an exhibition of images from Nepal's own Maoist war at the Shanti Sangralaya in Patan Dhoka. The pictures depict the reality of everyday life for Naxalite guerrillas: women fighters lay down their guns to cook, read, hold babies; guerrillas stand on patrol as villagers look on; a police officer in the city exhibits criminals posing as Maoists wearing black hoods to the media. For Nepalis, these



pictures are particularly striking because they could have been taken during our own 1996-2006 insurgency. Andhra Pradesh could very well be Dang.

India's Maoist conflict has been described by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as the country's "biggest internal

security threat". Spread over 200 districts in 20 of India's 28 states, covering 40 per cent of the country's area, the Maoists now control 92,000 sq km of territory, mostly forests. About 10,000 people have been killed in the last 30 years of low-intensity conflict.

"This is a social movement

that has acquired terror ramifications and the only way to deal with it is to understand the socio-economic roots, which is what I have tried to portray in my work," says Quraishi, who was in Kathmandu for the launch of his exhibition. 🇮🇳

Here today, GON tomorrow



This is also the season to travel and see the world. A delegation of Madhesi parties is in Delhi to meet mentors about forming a united centre-right front. Almost-PM Dahal has been invited once more by the non-existent Asia-Pacific Foundation to Singapore but the bet is he is meeting his uncooked handlers again, and stopping by at the bank as long as he is there. But soon after he returns, Fierceness is preparing to visit India, even ahead of Jhola Nath who can't seem to wangle an invite.



Headline we'd have liked to see this week: 'BAFIA To Tackle Mafia'



All this week, Speaker Name Bang must have felt like a school principal. Out of the 597 members in his august house, a head count showed that **attendance of CA members was an average of 62**, like 10%. Where are all the others? One CA member was traveling to Australia on some other CA member's passport (Only in Nepal: "In an emergency the passport of one legislator is endorsable to another legislator provided the two bear a photographic resemblance."). Others came to BICC just to collect their allowances and slipped out to do some moonlighting on secondary jobs.



Will someone explain this to me? Maobaddies and the Eh-Maleys are both in the coalition, right? Both have affiliated trade unions and student unions that they use to spread mayhem when necessary. So far, so good. But even though both parties are in government, their student unions have taken turns in shutting down Kathmandu University for more than two weeks now because of an election wrangle. No sooner had the Cranticurry

withdrawn its strike than the eh-Maley union shut down the college. Bravo! Yay! Then down in Hetauda, the FNCCI was negotiating a salary increase with the unions of all the three big parties. Agreement had been reached with one wing of a government-affiliated party when another wing of another govt-affiliated party decided to continue with the strike. A baddie is the labour minister but his union strikes against his own party? Bravissimo!



Just to make things more exciting, the Cranticurry trade union is now split three ways, which means extortion has increased three-fold and negotiations with the Jamcuttle factions is not acceptable to the Budgegain faction, and both are not valid for the Limbo-led union. Fissures are appearing all over the place. Comred Red Flag was humiliated in his own home district, and not allowed to speak by Awesome's sister's nephew, who wanted to show him who's boss. That's when BRB gave his 'Bhimsen Thapa' speech. (Actually Bhimsen Thapa did become PM before he died.) Then Rain Man agrees to sub-

cantonment supervision in a meeting of three leaders on integration at the PM's office, and then goes right off to his Peaceful Ministry to tell the Special Committee no such agreement was reached. Something going on here we should know about, like bad blood between Pun and Deb?



The Mau Mau have finally responded to the universal demand to dismantle the YCL by creating a **Super YCL** that they have inventively called the 'People's Volunteer Bureau'. It will include guerrillas in cantonments, disqualified fighters, baddie students and workers. Just proves what the Ass has been braying about for three years now, that whatever name they go by (PLA, YCL, ANASFU-R, UNCPM, Khaobuddies, SNAFU-R) they are all baddies at heart. The new vanguard Bureau is being led by none other than Comrade Netra, an acolyte of Com Kiran himself. The Bureaucats will be deployed if all hell breaks loose on 28 May and the Baddies need to unleash a Red Oktober kranti. That is the plan, anyway. 'Tis the season to be restless,

and with the coming of spring **everyone is on the warpath**. Jumla airport has been closed for two weeks by women protesting air fare hikes, and the party front organisations are all coming out of hibernation to compete with each other to declare rival bunds next month.

United we rainbow.
Divided we dye.

ROYALE Luxury Emulsion | Astute Choices

asianpaints