


**FURNITURE LAND STORE**



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



**LAVAZZA**  
ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE

Sundao Cafe - Jawalakhel  
 Shiva's Cafe Corner - Bhaktapur




**BOXLIGHT**  
TRAVELight3

Ultra Light with Enhanced Display & Color Adjustment

- 2500 Lumens
- 1028 x 768 Resolution
- 2500:1 Contrast Ratio
- 4:3 Aspect Ratio
- 3000 Hrs Lamp Life
- 3.2 lbs in weight

DLP 3 Years Warranty

**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**  
Too good to resist

**NEPA MARBLE BATH HOUSE**  
 Dhumbarahi, Ktm. Tel: 4431307, 2011841

Step in for more varieties at

**LIFE STYLE**  
design & decor



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



**SOLAR ELECTRICITY CO. (P) LTD.**

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

EverExceed SHARP Sunkor Kaneka SunLink PV

Installing Solar PV Since 1991



NIRANJAN SHRESTHA/KANTIPUR

## Getting nowhere

After a hopeful spring season, Nepal's tourism is headed for a slump as cautious tour agents cancel Nepal holidays for fear of politics spilling out into the streets ahead of the 28 May deadline for the constitution.

Hotels report cancellations of confirmed bookings and governments have started issuing travel advisories to citizens bound for Nepal. The tourism industry says it has been betrayed by the political parties on whose assurance they had spent millions in promoting 2011 as Nepal Tourism Year. Political

parties blame ethnic activist groups for the strikes. Meanwhile, hope is fading that tourism could help kick-start a stagnant economy.

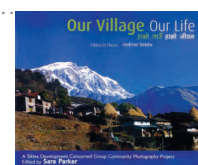
Wednesday's strike in the capital may have been a sign of things to come, and pundits expect tensions to escalate. Making things worse is the fragility of Prime Minister Jhala Nath Khanal's UML-Maoist coalition, which has fed the public perception that no one is in charge.

Yet, Nepal's tourism potential is vast and still untapped. Trekking and adventure tourism has been the mainstay of the industry and careful promotion for the autumn season could still make 2011 a bonanza year,

injecting tourism income directly into the village economy.

Says New Zealand professor of tourism, David Simmons: "Political stability is significant in providing a secure platform for tourism development, strikes like the one on Wednesday don't help."

[nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com)  
 Full interview with David Simmons



### Self-portrait of Sikles

A new photography book on the life and times of a Nepali village seen through the eyes of its inhabitants **p12-13**

### MY TAKE Damakant Jayshi

With one month to go for the constitution deadline, we are still discussing the nature of federalism. **p6**



I'VE MOVED UP TO PLATINUM. HAVE YOU?



Select Whisky - 100% Premium Grain Whisky



ONE MONTH TO GO

By this time next month, either way, the suspense will be over. But there are some damage control measures that need to be taken to prevent a dangerous political vacuum by midnight of the 27th. By then, the three main parties should have agreed to extend the CA's term, extend the deadline to write the constitution and start demobilising ex-fighters in the camps.

It's a tall order, but the about turn by Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal last week in which he rejected the "people's revolt" line, as the hardliners wanted, gives us reason to hope. One could argue that had Dahal agreed to this six months ago in Palungtar, he would have saved the country and his party a lot of bother. But at that time he did not dare antagonise the rank-and-file when he felt vulnerable to being outflanked by his deputy, Baburam Bhattarai.

Still, better late than never. There is really nothing else we can do but give the chairman the benefit of doubt. Dahal's biggest problem is that no one trusts him anymore. In fact, his inconsistency, unpredictability and irrational outbursts have become the butt of jokes even within his own party. Dahal needs people to trust him, and to do that he has to stick to do what he says and say what he does. The onus is on the Chairman to take the other parties

along in this final hour, and to convince everyone that this time he really is committed to a democratic constitution and dropping violence as his party's core value. We don't need another trial balloon or political signal, we need concrete action on the peace process and constitution.

Public opinion is turning nasty. One just has to tune into the call-in programs on FM radios where the audience ridicules and reviles the political leadership of all the parties, the CA, and its members. Some of it is unfair, but there is no doubt that our elected leaders and representatives are all lumped together and the public's perception of them has never been as low as it is today. This is serious because it renders ineffective the very people and institutions entrusted with finding a way out. Politics

is a mechanism of governance, and there is no other alternative.

At the launch of a biography of Girija Koirala last week, we saw on the stage three leaders: Baburam Bhattarai of the Maoists, Shekhar Koirala of the NC and Pradeep Gyawali of the UML. All three spoke logically and cogently about what needs to be done next to avert a crisis on 28 May:

- Forge a consensus government that includes both the Maoists and the NC that is based on mutual trust and a spirit of compromise
- Agree on a basic draft of a broad-stroke constitution to be passed on 28 May
- Explain to the people why it couldn't be finished in time and say sorry
- Extend the CA term and commit to a strict deadline for completing the rest of the constitution

The audience was left wondering: why don't we hand the government over to these three gentlemen instead of their bosses in each of the parties?



KUNDA DIXIT

ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

FRIENDS

A party which wants to reserve the right to revolt in its political paper is not a political party favouring the system, it's without doubt an anti-system party ('Friends again', #550). So, Baidya & Co better decide what sort of political party they want the UCPN (Maoists) to be called: an armed anti-system party or the largest political party of Nepal?

Nirmal

INCONVIENT TRUTH

Very nice and eloquent review of Kanak Mani Dixit's book ('Inconvenient truth', Kul Chandra Gautam, #550). Without even reading the book, I can agree with the criticism of the ICG, in particular, and specifically, of Ian Martin and Karin Landgren. On the issue of state restructuring, there is no doubt we can have any meaningful step taken unless a complete technical analysis is completed, the risk however is that in a politically muddled environment some groups will surely come out against this approach and stall it.

Anjan Panday

- Was Kanak Mani Dixit unaware of the Maoists' aims and ideals when he lost his voice screaming out for them? Was he ignorant of their "revolutionary romanticism", their violence and terror and authoritarian and illiberal ways? And yet he promoted them. He knew full well about the Maoists' program for ethnic federalism, yet kept mum about it. Instead he joined forces with the Maoists and welcomed them into our cities and government without first seeking any serious commitment from them to give up violence. This is the man who prodded us, Nepalis as well as foreign, to warm up to the Maoists, and sat quietly by even as the Maoists went into elections with full capability to intimidate and terrorise the electorate. And now it is all UNMIN's fault that the Maoists continue to be retrograde. The real inconvenient truth about Dixit is why he waited this

long to speak truth to power? Why wait this long to speak against the Maoists' belief in violence, non-pluralism and conservatism?

BB 2

- I always saw the international community in Nepal as a clueless, mealy-mouthed lot. But if people like Mr Dixit and Mr Gautam are so virulently against certain internationals (ICG, UNMIN, etc) then these organisations must have done something worthwhile. I already respect them for being in Mr Dixit's bad books.

Bikas T

- Kanak Dixit himself played an instrumental role in bringing the Maoists to power and government. This is the man who helped to "romanticise" the Maoist "undemocratic revolution", and make them palatable to an international community that, otherwise, was quite suspicious of them. This is the man who Robin Hood-ised the Maoists and legitimised their violence. And having succeeded at it very well, he now sermonises the international community to unlearn all that he himself taught them.

Budabaje

MIGHT IS NOT RIGHT

This is precisely what many find so irksome about the Naya Nepal daydreamers who populate the Nepali Times: they do not feel that they owe any explanations to their doubters, nor do they feel the need to explain the manifest failure of everything they've been supporting for the past five years ('Might is not right', My Take, #550). Even the unedifying realities of Nepali politics today isn't enough to convince some people that they've been horribly, disastrously wrong from the beginning. One does not need to be an "extreme rightist" to see that the NC made a disastrously self-mutilating mistake by abandoning the path set by BP Koirala and muddling its own platform to entice the Maoists into the mainstream. Nor does one need to be an invertebrate "skeptic" to perceive that the Maoists' own demands simply cannot be met within the context of a liberal multiparty democracy, and that there is little long-term hope for a "peace

process" which allowed an asymmetric preponderance of force to one side (the wrong one). Jayshi is naive to think that the "vast majority of people" still expect the parties to deliver. Three years ago, people were still willing to give this new settlement the benefit of the doubt and see where it might lead. That settlement's mandate expired a year ago, and was anti-democratically and illegally extended without public accountability. Jayshi is intelligent and erudite enough to realize that the present settlement has lost its public mandate, but is hesitant to pursue that line of reasoning into territory that may be uncomfortable for him and others of the same mindset.

John M Kelleher

VOIP

The only long term solution is to legalise inbound VOIP ('Bypassing the information superhighway', Rubeena Mahato, #550). This will kill illegal bypass business and increase competition, thereby reducing the costs for us all. It will also increase government revenue. The large telecom companies are crying foul only to secure their exorbitantly high termination rates. It is not correct to say that the government is losing Rs 160 million per month. Telecom companies claim that they are losing that much based on a really lopsided calculation. Even if their assumptions were true, the government would lose only a percentage of that, around 23%, which is around Rs 38 million per months. If inbound VOIP was liberalised, the government's revenue from inbound calls would certainly increase and most importantly, we would be able to call home for less.

GP Rai

LOVE FOR NEPAL

Just find one honest Nepali that can unite the nation ('Unintelligent Intelligence', Anurag Acharya, #550). Make a country out of the abused mess the current politicians and royalty have left for anyone to use as they see fit. We

lived in Nepal eight years and love your country, but the place is left to rot while the power elite shares the \$100 million in aid every year. Step up and keep the rotten bits out.

Danish

HALT

The traffic jam that Kathmandu has is mainly due to two things -- 1) utter lack of traffic management, and 2) utter failure in urban (transportation) planning ('It's an expensive jam', Paavan Mathema, #550).

Where you have two-lane roads, you have traffic that never moves in just two lanes. It moves as if there is no lane, with the effect that a segment of road can have five vehicles going and another segment four, and yet another six. And, sometimes, one vehicle will decide to make a u-turn in the middle of that chaos. The traffic police will stand by (with a dusk mask on her face), doing nothing. You have intersections that cross not in 90 degrees but less or more than that, giving rise to the possibility of unnecessary accidents. You have intersections with no traffic lights. Drivers drive, but with great accidental risks.

You have roads that I don't think meet any modern standards. Shame on the local government agencies and shame on municipal governments. And shame on the central government.

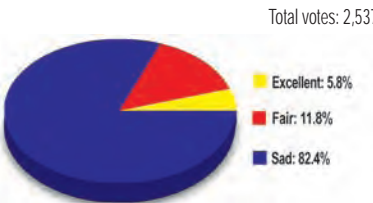
Thurpunsich



nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll # 551

Q. How do you rate Jhala Nath Khanal's 80 days tenure as the Prime Minister?



Weekly Internet Poll # 552. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Should CA term be extended?



29 APRIL - 5 MAY 2011 #551

# Gross National Shame



BY THE WAY

Anurag Acharya

It was business as usual when Bhutan's Prime Minister Jigme Y Thinley visited Nepal last week. Thinley's hosts, distracted by domestic political squabbles, expressed casual concerns and the guests gave half-hearted assurances prompting overly enthusiastic reporting in the mainstream media. But for thousands watching from rodent-infested refugee camps in eastern Nepal, it was just another sad week.

Two decades have passed since the Bhutan regime evicted 100,000 Lhotsampas, and Thinley's pre-departure press conference showed that his regime is still in denial about the massive violation of human rights of its citizens. Bhutan may now have a democratic façade, but it doesn't mask the regime's callous disregard for international humanitarian standards when it calls one-sixth of its original population "environmental and economic refugees".

The two-time PM who now leads Bhutan's first "democratic government" not only refuted their identity but also refused to acknowledge the results of the verification process in 2003 conducted by the Joint Verification Team. Contributing to Bhutan's obduracy is the spineless diplomacy of successive Nepali governments, which have over the years done little more than offer platitudes.

Nepal has neither been consistent nor insistent that people living in the refugee camps are Bhutan's citizens holding the right to return and that the Bhutan government is obliged to comply under Article 13 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. UN aid was sought by Nepal merely to exempt itself from the economic burden of the refugees through third country repatriation.



KRISHNA SINJALI

The Bhutan refugee crisis is not just any other bilateral issue. These are people living in limbo, denied their basic right of citizenship. Nepal says they are Bhutanis while Bhutan says they possibly migrated from India. India says, well, it doesn't say anything at all. New Delhi was complicit in the transfer of refugees from Bhutan to Nepal and has refused to be involved in resolving the misery of people disowned by Bhutan even though it seems to be up to its nose in our domestic nonsense. India is a part of the problem because it has propped a regime responsible for the worst ethnic cleansing exercise in recent world history in terms of proportion of population, and it must be a part of the solution as well.

After years of struggle for justice, refugee leaders like the former Amnesty International prisoner of conscience Tek Nath Rizal are thoroughly disappointed with the attitude of the Nepal government. "They tell us in our face that we are least of their concerns now," Rizal says, "what else can we do?"

US-based Bhutan activist T P Mishra says, "India, being the world's largest democracy, has unfortunately been supportive of the absolutist regime in Bhutan. So, there is no way for India to absolve itself from the present impasse." Mishra says New Delhi must first press Bhutan to be sincere in resolving the crisis but if it insists it has no role in facilitating repatriation, it should certainly not interfere in the process either.

The world has turned its back on the Bhutan's refugees, and so has the global media. Bhutan is neither Libya nor Afghanistan, where oil and geostrategic interests collide. But for a country that boasts of the gross national happiness of its citizens, the plight of the refugees will continue to be a blot on its 'democracy' unless it recognises the right to return of those who have opted for third-country resettlement.

The Nepal government has an abiding obligation to pursue this cause with the Bhutan regime, while India will do some good to its credibility if it does not persist in excusing its puppets in Thimpu, and ignore a potential future flashpoint in its northeast. 🇳🇵

See also:  
Dilmaya's daughter

p13

nepalitimes.com  
Gross national misery, #537



"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

# 2<sup>ND</sup>

ANNIVERSARY

**S.B. FURNITURE**

ON THIS OCCASSION  
WE ARE OFFERING SPECIAL PRICES  
ON ALL OF OUR COLLECTIONS.

Welcome to the world of S.B. Furniture.

**SALE**  
may 3<sup>rd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>

upto  
**25%**  
off



BED . WARDROBE . ENTERTAINMENT UNIT . SOFA . DINING ROOM

The expert for your ideal living form **THAILAND.**

Showroom hours:  
10:00 am - 7:00 pm . (Sunday - Friday)



**S.N.JOSHI & SONS COMPANY PVT. LTD.**

Lalitpur Showroom: Patan Hospital Road, Lagankhel, Lalitpur, Tel: 5004047, 5523864, Fax: 5524697  
Panipokhari Showroom: Near Japanese Embassy, Panipokhari, Kathmandu, Tel: 4006640, Fax: 4006643  
E-mail: sbfurniture@snjoshi.com.np





# “Nepal can push climate-sensitive tourism”



AVIA NEPAL

David Simmons is Professor of Tourism at Lincoln University in New Zealand where many of Nepal’s foremost conservationists were trained since the 1970s. He is delivering a keynote address to the Special Interest Tourism and Destination Management Conference on Friday in Kathmandu. Nepali Times caught up with him to assess Nepal’s tourism challenges.



**Nepali Times:** As a professor of tourism who knows Nepal well, how do you assess efforts that have gone into Nepal Tourism Year?

**David Simmons:** Nepal Tourism Year is a wonderful innovation and such opportunities are keenly sought after on the international tourism agenda. So far Nepal’s promotions, and the conference we are attending, appear to be proceeding very well. Such broad, image raising opportunities are best located within long term programs and hopefully this year will be part of a long term promotion strategy. Political stability is significant in providing a secure platform for tourism development,

and the remarkable resilience of visitor numbers in the recent past. Strikes like the one on Wednesday don’t help.

**How can projects like ACAP, Sagarmatha and Makalu-Barun meet the new challenges that roads bring?**

Tourism is one of many paths to development, and it certainly not a reason to ‘hold back’ other modes of development. And of course, in all places, but mountain areas in particular, the protection and enhancement of the environmental resources is the foundation for all that follows. A tourism destination and its attractions need constant innovation in product development as developments

occur. For example in the case of the Jomsom road which I last visited in 2009, the long walk across Throng La can now be augmented by mountain bike opportunities along the road.

**The poorest regions in Nepal are also the most scenic, what kind of policy priorities will help the two go hand-in-hand?**

Nepal has a great deal to offer in tourism, biodiversity and a variety of ways to raise living standards. There are three key principles of tourism that underscore successful long term development. The first of these is protection of the key resource the environment and local cultures. The second is to actively explore the ways in which local goods and services, and value added activities can be added into the ‘supply chain’. For example many trekking routes follow major valleys, but do they support adjacent villages with purchases of regular supplies for the tourism sector? This is a key step to balancing the local and regional effects of tourism. The wonderful apple treats around Marpha and Jomsom are a great example of this. A third key principle is to invest in training and education.

Tourism is labour hungry, and even if local capital is insufficient to meet all development requirements a direct path into the economy is via local wages.

**You have studied the energy implications of international tourism, what are ways that tourists visiting Nepal can make sure that the carbon they burn getting from, let’s say, London to Lukla doesn’t contribute to further melting the Imja Glacier?**

My conference paper is highlighting the relative competitive advantage that Nepal currently has in trekking tourism. Compared with other major trekking locations, such as New Zealand, it is closer to markets, and has a lower per day, in-country energy profile. Thus Nepal can promote such attributes to the increasingly carbon sensitive tourism market. Globally there is now considerable focus on the energy/carbon content of all that we do, and tourism is no exception. Nepal will need to be active in the political debate around reconciling aviation and tourism within the Millennium Development Goals, maintain its position as a low energy destination, seek value added opportunities at every point, and possibly develop carbon offsetting opportunities that allow tourists to travel guilt free. These would also generate great benefits for local conservation projects.

**New Zealand, and especially Lincoln University, have been helping build Nepali expertise in tourism and conservation since the seventies. Are there plans to extend this cooperation in coming years?**

We have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with many young Nepali men and women; and the University takes considerable pride in the numerous roles they now fulfil in Nepali society. Our graduates hold many senior positions in the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, numerous protected areas, WWF, Bird Conservation Nepal, the Department of Home Affairs and others. The University is a strong supporter of the Mingma Norbu Sherpa Memorial Scholarship which pays the University fees for one young Nepali each year to undertake postgraduate studies at the University.

[nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com)  
Full version of the interview



# उज्यालो 90 नेटवर्कमा

## आर्थिक खबर

हरैक दिन बिहान ७:०० बजे



**वस्तु र बजार**  
**मुद्रा र मौसम**  
**नयाँ र नौलो**  
**रोजगार र अवसर**



**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](mailto:info@unn.com.np), URL: [www.unn.com.np](http://www.unn.com.np)



# Get the facts straight



**STRICTLY BUSINESS**  
**Ashutosh Tiwari**

# When a story turns out to be false, is it only the media's fault?

**E**xhibit A: A young lady found more than Rs 9 million and a diamond necklace in a bag in a bus while she was travelling in Dharan. She contacted and returned the money to the rightful owner. Then, she reported her noble act to a reporter of Kantipur, a national daily. Based on phone conversations with the lady and her relatives alone, the reporter and his editor gave her story a prominent play in the front page of the paper.

Exhibit B: Using the Kantipur story as a peg, the BBC Nepali Sewa interviewed the young lady. The questions were light. It did not matter if the lady seemed to fumble on some questions, the tone was triumphant: Amidst all the tales of corruption and shadiness, this heartwarming story of a seemingly innocent village woman who returned an abandoned bag with bundles of cash inside, touched a deep public chord about the innate goodness of ordinary Nepalis.

Exhibit C: The only problem was that upon further scrutiny by other members of the competitive press corps, the young woman's act of honesty turned out to be false. The media, including Kantipur and BBC Nepali Sewa, and the president who had called to congratulate the young woman, had all been fooled. Oops!

Kantipur has since issued a  *mea culpa*, which blamed the young woman rather than its own apparent weakness in checking the authenticity of a story. BBC Nepali Sewa has moved on to other reports, while the president's office has stayed mum.

How did this reporting happen in the first place? And what does its aftermath tell us?

One-person reporting:  
The incident highlights  
a dirty little secret that's  
been open in the business  
sections of major media:  
that is, entire reports are  
often just based on press releases and  
a spokesperson's version of events.  
This practice is rife in more than one  
way in Nepali media.

The process of verifying assumptions, checking facts, triangulating with relevant information is not a common practice. This is partly because senior journalists are busy and do not have the time to train the young ones. It's



also because there is a shortage of editors who can provide appropriate skepticism and oversight to cool down a reporter's enthusiasm for a story. Used to writing reports based on one person's quotes, as is the norm when reporting about business, many young journalists develop a habit of reporting views as news.

views as another.

Competition: Those who blame the media do not seem to appreciate that it's due to the nature of competition in the media sphere that the veracity of a piece of news published in one newspaper can be challenged by another. Mistakes happen. But in the media, competition works as a force for everyone to come clean, and this competitive process can only aid a reader's understanding of the complexity behind any news.

The young woman's story was an attempt to influence the media, and at least for a while, she fooled us all. 🍷

## BIZ BRIEFS

## Women leaders

The Embassy of the United States of America, in cooperation with the Women Entrepreneurs and Professional Forum of the Confederation of Nepalese Industries and the Nepal-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industries, organised a panel discussion on Women in Business in Nepal. The program aimed at facilitating discussion among young entrepreneurs with established female business leaders. The participants also explored policy and institutional changes that the business community and other key stakeholders can take to support women leaders in Nepal.

## Birthday bash

The Thai furniture manufacturers, SB Furniture, is celebrating its second anniversary in Nepal. For the occasion SB Furniture is holding special promotions in its outlets in Lagankhel and Pani Pokhari from 3-15 May.

## Golf in

Pooja International, the authorized importer of Volkswagen automobiles in Nepal, has launched Volkswagen's Golf. The 1.6-litre engine hatchback has been customized for rough road conditions with stone guard, high ground clearance and suspension.

Hi-tech

Siddhartha Bank has installed Flexcube Universal Banking System, an IBM technology, to run its core banking software.

## Scratch offer

Shree Ganapati Jewelers is celebrating its 1st anniversary by giving away scratch coupons on every purchase. Buyers get a chance to win various home appliances and other products.

**CG ELECTRONICS**  
*imagination. unlimited.*  
**NEPAL'S NO.1 ELECTRONICS COMPANY**

**Kelvinator**  
 THE COOLEST ONE

**HAPPY Summer**

हरेक **Kelvinator** Refrigerator को खरिदमा 1Tray **Rio** सितैमा

**Free**  
 Rio नो खरिदमा लाग्दैन

Single Door Refrigerators

- KHP214-FB/FG
- KHP214-SR/SH
- KAL194
- KAP193
- KAE193
- KFE194
- KGE193
- KFL215

**Kelvinator Refrigerators with Power Cool Technology**  
 Endowed with a powerful compressor and efficient insulation, state-of-the-art Power Cool Technology in Kelvinator Refrigerators gives you the best cooling even at maximum temperature

POWERFUL COMPRESSOR

MULTI DIMENSIONAL AIR FLOW

THICK PUF INSULATION

EASY CLEAN GASKET

यो योजना वैशाल ४ गते देखि सित्त अवधिको लागि मात्र लागू गरिएको छ ।

**EOL PVT. LTD.**

**CHAUDHARY HOUSE, SANEP**  
 P.O. Box: 1073, Kathmandu, Nepal  
 Tel: 977-1-5525041, 5525169,  
 5534141 (D)  
 Fax: 977-1-5529270

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

**0% Finance**

**18 MONTHS WARRANTY**

TOLL FREE NO.  
**16600100211**



# Federalising Nepal



KIRAN NEPAL

One month to go before the constitution deadline we are still discussing the nature of federalism



**MY TAKE**  
Damakant Jayshi

What kind of federation Nepal should be and on what bases? Academics, activists, individuals with interest in the subject and a few politicians came together this week to share and exchange their views on this highly emotive subject.

'Ethnicity and Federalisation', organised by Tribhuvan University's Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology, was perhaps a year late. Ideally, this symposium should have been held soon after CA's term was extended by a year on 28 May 2010. Still, the effort is laudable since it attempts to engage people on a subject that has been, as usual, sacrificed on the altar of populism by a few political parties and activist organisations. The nation-wide debate and discourse that the department hopes to generate, and perhaps facilitate, could have created the necessary pressure on our politicians, donor-driven and I/NGO activists to treat the subject with the caution and respect it deserves had it began last year.

But better late than never. With the CA likely to be extended, the basis, nature, shape, nomenclature

and number of provinces of federal Nepal would attract more and more attention, discourse and heated debate. Rest assured, we are going to suffer numerous bandas like the one on Wednesday.

A few CA members who came for the symposium on the last day objected to 'interference' on their home turf, arguing that one of the thematic committees of the CA had already 'decided' on the issue. This is bogus since the full assembly is yet to take up the subject and decide on it. Moreover, it has to be debated and endorsed by the larger public as required by existing provisions. A thorough and broader engagement with people is needed on an issue that is likely to have far-reaching consequences for the future Nepali state.

It is clear that our politics and polity is always influenced by four issues: the future of ex-Maoist combatants, the electoral system, the governance system, and the shape, nature, name and number of federal units of the Nepali state. The last one is the most sensitive and fraught with danger since the emotions of marginalised groups have been fanned so high that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to have any meaningful and rational discussion. With the integration/rehabilitation and musical chair on governments taking up most of the last three years since the election of the CA, the federalisation of Nepal did not get the attention and the debate it deserved.

Almost all political parties for federation agree that identity has to be one of the basis for federalising Nepal. They disagree on how to determine that identity and what kind of identity should be considered. In addition to disagreements over the basis for federalising Nepal, there are two other issues that are sure to invite fierce opposition: *agradhikar* (privileged right) of the dominant community in a state and right to self-determination. The fear is this would create second-class citizens out of people who will be in a majority given the number and heterogenous mix of Nepalis in any future province.

Will identity alone ensure the right to local resources and livelihood? After all, once politics over creating a federal state is over, the question of employment and resource ownership will begin to dominate. What will be our model? India, which is federal in form but is unitary in spirit? The US, whose states have well-rooted democratic institutions and economy? Or South Africa, which has adopted a co-operative federation?

There's no way we can avoid federalising Nepal. But let us discuss it without recourse to populism and without baggage. [damakant@gmail.com](mailto:damakant@gmail.com)

**THIS WEEK**

**Early budget**

After three years of delay, the government's plan to present an early budget this year has been met by stiff opposition. Representatives of parties including Nepali Congress, Madhesi Janadhikar Forum-Loktantrik, Tarai Madhes Loktantrik Party, Nepali Janata Dal and Rastriya Janashakti Party handed over a memorandum to House Speaker Subash Chandra Nembang on Thursday in Singha Durbar, stating that government should focus on drafting the statute now given the approaching deadline. Earlier, the government's plan to bring a supplementary budget was aborted after strong protests from all quarters. The row over budget could fuel further dispute between Khanal government and its opposition. The president has called the budget session on 2 May.

**Elusive Khanal**






Prime Minister Jhalanath Khanal has come under fire for skipping a Parliamentary Party meeting on Tuesday in order to inaugurate a festival in Rasuwa. In the last couple of weeks, he had postponed party's Central Committee meeting, meeting of



the Constitutional Council and turned deaf ear to the directives of State Affairs Committee to appear and clarify the appointment of controversial Lyarkyal Lama as state minister for finance. He asked Lama to resign instead. Irate comrades have threatened to dislodge him from the post if he continues to fool around. KP Oil, who has been criticizing Khanal ever since he became the PM, even said that the parliamentary meeting could be called without him.

**Trade agreement**

Nepal-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCCI) and China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) Xiamen Sub Council on Tuesday signed a six point agreement to strengthen the trade and economic relationship between China and Nepal. Chinese investment in Nepal is not growing as expected. However, Chinese investors have shown interest to invest on hydropower, banking and tourism sector.



**BRONCO BILLY**

Harihar Bhawan, Pulchowk, Lalitpur  
Phone: 5526212

**www.broncobilly.net**

**AUTHENTIC TEX-MEX CUISINE**



MANJUSHREE THAPA

In Toronto's edgy garment district stands 410 Richmond, a factory transformed into a multi-use art space. Here, at Gallery 44, Surendra Lawoti's work will go on exhibit next week as part of the Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival.

Born in Panchthar and raised in Kathmandu, Lawoti studied photography in Chicago and Boston. Upon moving to Toronto in 2008, he began to photograph local bodies of water, including the Don River, which once marked the city's eastern boundary.

## Photographer feels rooted in Toronto now, but says Nepal is still home

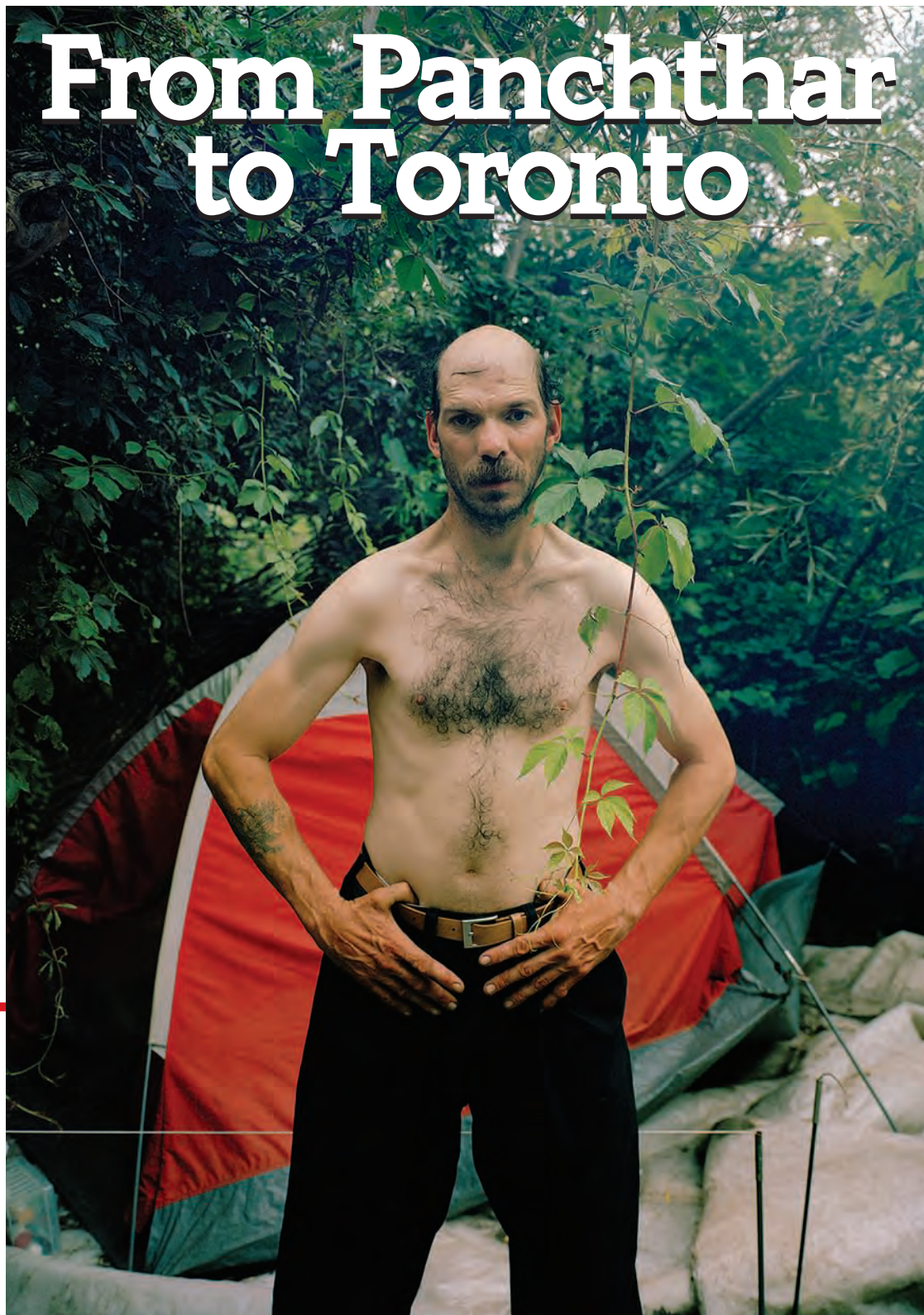
The Don River flows through some of Toronto's most developed, environmentally debased and also wealthiest neighborhoods. Its shores also host a homeless population whose numbers shrink or swell with the seasons and the world's economic fortunes.

Lawoti's photographs allow the viewer to get to know Don River through the people who come to it in search of recreation or shelter. The photographs are luminous, and remarkably detailed. Lawoti works with a 4x5 view camera on film, in a process that is slow and deliberate.

"With this format, you really need the cooperation of the people you're photographing," he says. The format suits him, as his work is about "looking closely, and intensely, at the world."

In some of the photographs, Lawoti closes in on people's faces, or on the telling details of the landscape. In others he draws back to meditate on the overall atmosphere of Don River.

Among the homeless he portrays are Paulie, who lived in a shelter built with 2x4's before moving to an apartment with his girlfriend; and Joe, who is shown, in a stance both vulnerable and challenging, in front of his tent. Those who come to the area for recreation include a father and son with their dog, and a runner.



SURENDRA LAWOTI

Exhibition Coordinator Alice Dixon points out that Lawoti approaches all his subjects with a respectful, full-frontal perspective reminiscent of August Sander's portraits of working people. "It's a way of democratizing the gaze," she says. The rest of the photographs focus on the landscape: a hemmed-in, urban wilderness besieged post-apocalyptic menace.

What emerges as a whole is a compelling portrait of an urban habitat as fragile and fleeting as the lives of those who move through it.

It is a mark of Toronto's cosmopolitanism to showcase artists such as Lawoti. It is also a mark of Lawoti's sophistication to have found a way to engage, and so deeply, with a land that he knew little about just a few years ago.

"When I started this project, I didn't know anything about Don River. It felt like going into the wilderness," he recalls with a laugh.

But he was determined, he says, to "ground" himself by getting to know this specific patch of Toronto. It was his way of engaging, and forging a link, with his new home.

"Working on this project helped me understand Toronto," he says. "Nepal is also home, of course. But I feel rooted here now." 🇳🇵

*'Don River' will be on from 30 April 30-4 June*  
[www.gallery44.org](http://www.gallery44.org)  
[www.surendralawoti.com](http://www.surendralawoti.com)

## YES TO PENSION NO TO TENSION

You are still young and might think it's too soon to plan for your retirement. But it's always wise to start early. After all, why would you ever want to lose your financial independence?

**2-in-1 offer : "Life Insurance + Pension"**

Pay Rs. 2,992/month for 15 Years and receive **Rs. 3,229/month for Life long.**  
(E.g. of Rs. 5 Lacs Insurance for 30-Year old person.)

**Call: 444 1414** (Ext: 229/236/207)

### FEATURES:

Age	You pay for 15 Years	You receive for Life Long
30	2,992/month	3,229/month

Note: The table is based on bonus rate assumption of 5% and subject to change if declared bonus rate varies.

- If insured dies before premium payment completion period, beneficiary will receive 5 Lacs + Bonus.
- In case of accidental death within Premium Payment Term, the beneficiary will receive 10 Lacs + Bonus.
- In case of Permanent Total Disability (PTD) within Premium Payment

Term, monthly premium payment is waived. Instead, S/he will receive Rs. 4,167/month up to maximum period of 10 years or completion of Premium Payment Term, whichever is earlier.

- Suppose insured dies after 2 years from the pension starting date, beneficiary will receive Rs. 3,229/month for remaining 13 years.

SUNYA Wa TEEN  
Bichar Gorau Ek Chhin

**PrimeLife**  
Pension PLAN

PrimeLife Bhawisya Britti Bhuktani Jeevan Beema

Hattisar, Kathmandu, Toll Free: 1660-01-44455, Email: [info@primelifenepal.com](mailto:info@primelifenepal.com), Web: [www.primelifenepal.com](http://www.primelifenepal.com)

BUSINESS ADVANTAGE 2011



THE WORLD'S  
NUMBER ONE  
INTERNATIONAL  
PREMIUM BEER



It could only be Heineken



enjoy responsibly



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

EVENTS



**Jewels of Newar Art**, Paubha art by contemporary Nepali artists. 26 April to 15 May, 5.30pm on inauguration day, gallery hours: 11am to 5pm, Saturdays: 12pm to 4pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babar Mahal Revisited, 4218048

**Inspirations from Nepal**, oil, acrylic and water color paintings by Mark D Vickers. Till 6 May, 4pm on inauguration day, gallery hours: 10.30am to 6pm, Saturdays closed, Park Gallery, Pulchok, 5522307, parkgallery.wlink.com.np

**The Revival**, works by artist Krishna Gopal Ranjit. Starts 29 April, 11am to 7pm, Fusion Studio, Sagarmatha, Mandala Street, 4700562

**Garden Symphony**, botanical art in water color and gouache by Canadian artist Emira Doric Muftic. Till 29 April, 5pm on opening day, gallery hours: 10.30am to 6pm, Park Gallery, Pulchok, Saturdays closed

**VrijMarkt Festival**, join the Dutch at the Queen's day free market, handicraft, food, games,deals and more. 30 April, 12pm to 5pm, Summit Hotel, Lalitpur, free entrance

**Social Science Baha Lecture Series XLIX**, Michael Hutt on **The Iconisation of Yogmaya Neupane**. 3 May, 5pm, Yala Maya Kendra, Patan Dhoka

Serindia Gallery, O.P. Garden, Soi Charoenkrung 36, Charoenkrung Road, Bangkok, 02236410, 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, ›nal submission deadline (for ›lms made after April 2010): 31 June 2011, Film Southasia Secretariat, Patan Dhoka, 5552141, www.filmsouthasia.org, fsa@filmsouthasia.org

MUSIC



**Nepalese Printmakers**, the Artist Proof Prints gallery organises it ›rst exhibition. Starts 29 April, 6pm, New Orleans Cafe, Pulchok

**Watercolour paintings of unique and exquisite orchids**, by Hemlata Pradhan. Till 1 May,



**Instrumental Gypsy Jazz**, Hari Maharjan and Duo playing live. Starts 29 April, every Friday, Dhokaima Cafe, Patan Dhoka

**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, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, 5521408, 5549504,abar@wlink.com.np

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.



JAGADAMBA PRESS

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

Want to help Nepal?



Can you sacrifice a plate of momos, a bottle of beer, or a carton of juice a month?

Donate Rs 100 a month to help a fellow Nepali with education and health projects.

Nepali Times supports the HELP NEPAL Network. 100% of donations used to directly benefit communities in remote parts of Nepal, none spent for overheads.

**Dikshya Singh**  
Programme Coordinator  
HELP NEPAL Network, Kathmandu  
+ 977 1 4498328  
www.helpnepal.com

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

नेपाल सरकार  
सूचना तथा सञ्चार मन्त्रालय  
सूचना विभाग



DINING



**Bronco Billy**, a new restaurant in town offering Tex-Mex and Indian dishes. They make their own corn tortillas, which gets a big thumbs-up. But really, we can't wait to try their Margaritas. *Pulchowk opposite Namaste Supermarket*

**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*

**Lhakpa Chulo**, try the tender steaks and Thai-style salads. Jhamsikhel Alfresco, for homemade pasta and other lip-smacking delights. *Soaltee Crowne Plaza, 4273999*

**Boudha Stupa Restaurant & Café**, enjoy wood-fired pizza with a superb view of Boudha stupa and free Wi-Fi, candlelight dinner options are also available for the romantics every full moon night. *Boudha, 2130681*



**Dhaba**, for an excellent range of North Indian delicacies, try their unbeatable Kashmiri Gosht. *Thapathali*

**Jatra at Bu keba**, authentic Newari cuisine in the city's newest organic eatery, all through May. *Sanepa*

**Dechenling**, the place to head for Bhutanese and Tibetan cuisine, their pleasant and spacious garden is ideal for big gatherings. *Thamel*

**Cosmopolitan Café**, located in the heart of Basantapur, this cozy café offers arguably the best chicken sizzler in town. *Basantapur*

**Casa de Cass**, out-of-Kathmandu dining in cosy surroundings with attentive service, what more could you ask for? A martini, of course. *Hariharbhawan*

**Comfort Zone**, expansive restobar that needs to be full to come into its own. A decent range of cocktails and barbequed meats should keep you glued to the massive screen at one end. *Comfort Zone (rooftop of Bank of Kathmandu), Thamel.*

GETAWAYS



**The Dwarika's Himalayan Shangri-La Village Resort**, overnight package with accommodation, dinner and breakfast. *Dhulikhel, Rs 3500 (single), Rs 5000 (double), 10 percent service charge extra, call 4479488 for reservations*

**Park Village Resort**, Saturdays and Sundays combo package with swimming, lunch and a bottle of beer. *Budhanilkantha, Rs 990 for adults and Rs 800 for children, call 4375280 for reservations*

Sixth Sundance Music Festival

Moksh and The Last Resort are organising the sixth Sundance Music Festival at The Last Resort. The festival brings together musicians from around the world fostering exchange of ideas, techniques and styles. This year Smriti, Allap and six other bands will be performing at the event. Enjoy a weekend full of music and adventure with more dance performances, bungee jumping, canyoning and rafting at Bhotekoshi. *30 April to 1 May, The Last Resort, Tatopani, Rs 3000 for transportation, four meals and accommodation, tickets at The Last Resorts Sales Office, 4700525 and Moksh, 5526212*



Café Hessed



SOMEPLACE ELSE

What would happen if one could live on sugar, and sugar alone? The whole of the Kathmandu Valley would converge on Jhamel's Café Hessed and demand doughnuts and cake until supplies or the Korean proprietors' reserves of 'hessed' – roughly translated from the Hebrew as grace or compassion – gave out. Fortunately I was able to restrain myself from ordering one of everything. It helped that as we stepped into the light, cleanly furnished interior, with walls adorned with charming line drawings, the trays below the counter

hadn't yet filled up. Without an array of doughnuts running circles around us (we were informed they would make an appearance at 10.30am), it was easier to settle for cupcakes and coffee. I chose a perfectly dusted Tiramisu, my friend went for a chocolate cake with what I thought was an excessive whorl of dark cream on top. Now if you're looking for real Tiramisu, this is not it, but a yummy, light cupcake remix. The chocolate was uneventfully reassuring, but the coffees were more

intriguing. Both the iced and hot Green Tea Lattes were superb – the creamification of the distinctive flavour of green tea has to be one of the more successful café trends of the last few years. Watch out if you think your Caramel Macchiato needs a supplementary sugar cube or two though, and I'd recommend the Pumpkin Latte only for the adventurous. By this time the doughnuts were being laid

out, tray by tray. For those accustomed to our chiya pasal ko doughnuts, Hessed is a revelation. Take your pick from rows upon rows of doughnuts glazed with dark and white chocolate (with multi-coloured sprinkles), doughnuts armed with choco-chips, strawberry jam-filled doughnuts, and more. I could only look on, wondering if I might turn diabetic within the day, but finally asked for one. All things considered, it was fairly light, in stark contrast to the greaseballs that

masquerade as doughnuts in the aforementioned teashops, and perfectly executed. Prices are reasonable too, at Rs 45-55 per piece, compared to other 'fancy' coffeeshops about town. Most of what's at Hessed is consistently good rather than exceptional, which probably suits cupcakes and doughnuts just fine. Hessed's ideal for coffee dates, or simply to bring your laptop and work without the distraction of restobar tastes in music. Hang on, I think my sugar rush has faded. It's time to reach into that takeaway box. ☑

*Towards the near end of Jhamel's Restaurant Lane, on the right before New Orleans.*



BIKRAM RAI





# Bar-headed geese



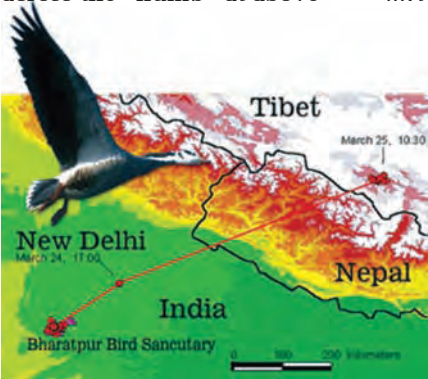
**DHANYANTARI**  
**Buddha Basnyat, MD**

Bar-headed geese that fly across the Himalaya in long-distance migrations every year have been the focus of attention for high altitude scientists who have wondered how come they can fly over the mountains with almost effortless ease with so little oxygen while humans are so completely exhausted while climbing.

The geese start their journey from Siberia and fly into Mongolia after which they wing their way to the Qinghai Province, in the northern part of the Tibetan plateau where large flocks can be seen in the high altitude lakes. From here they fly south over the Himalaya and reach Rajasthan, some flying down as far as Tamil Nadu. Recently these birds have been known to carry the deadly H5N1 Avian influenza virus.

In 2000, scientists attached a radio collar on a bar-headed goose and tracked

it via satellite as it flew from the Bharatpur Wildlife Reserve in north India, across western Nepal up to the Tibetan plateau, crossing three countries. The bird rode the jetstream, flying more than 500km from near New Delhi, overflew Dhangadi, Jumla, across the “hump” at above



7,000 m to lakes in Tibet: a non-stop night flight lasting 16 hours and 30 minutes.

What is known about the ability of the geese to fly at extremely high altitudes is that their haemoglobin (the protein that carries oxygen in the blood) is built more efficiently for oxygen carriage at very high altitudes. In addition their blood flow to the muscles is characterised by a dense network of capil-

laries that is conducive to better oxygen delivery to the tissues.

Much of their efficiency in flying over these extreme altitudes is shrouded in mystery. Besides efficient oxygen usage and energy expenditure, do they have a unique genetic advantage that explains it all? Correctly interpreting the physiological mechanisms that help these birds deal with low oxygen environments may in the long run help human beings in intensive care units who suffer from diseases like COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and ischemic heart disease that lead to similar hypoxic (low oxygen) conditions. Finally, understanding their efficiency at high altitude may also give us some important clues about better ways to utilize oxygen while climbing in the high Himalayas.

[nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com)  
Feathered friends, #423  
Bird country, #131



**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

No, these are not yet the pre-monsoon showers. Those won't happen till early June. What we are getting now are localised updraft systems in which the hot moist winds from the plains rise up along the mountains and fall as rain, hail or snow, usually in the afternoon or night. The moisture content of the air being sucked up will determine the amount of precipitation. Expect some isolated hefty storms over the midhills on weekend afternoons, with bright hazy mornings.



FRI	SAT	SUN
30-12	30-12	30-14

**RANGOLI EASY CLEAN**

NO दाग  
NO धब्बा

**Exclusive  
Berger  
RANGOLI EASY CLEAN**

No Daag - No Dhabba, Only Beautiful Walls



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

**BACK DOOR ENTRY:** A car owner fills petrol in extra jars at a petrol pump in Basbari on Tuesday.

**Empowering Technology**

**Rs.36,000/-**  
~~Rs.42,000/-~~

**Aspire M1830 Desktop**

**FEATURING Intel Dual Core Processor E5800 3.2GHz**

**2GB DDR II RAM / 320GB HDD with**

**18.5" wide LCD Monitor**

**1 Year Warranty**

**Also Available with:**

Acer 15.6" LCD, 18.5" LED, 20" LCD, 20" LED and 23" LCD Monitors

**Available Through All Our Dealers**

**MERCANTILE**  
OFFICE SYSTEMS

Hitti Pokhari , Durbar Marg , Kathmandu , Nepal  
Tel: 4440773, 4445920, Fax: 977-1-4437088  
Email:market@mos.com.np

**Outside Kathmandu Dealers :** Himalayan Office Automation, Pokhara-061-525300 / ECSC Group, Butwal -071-542699 / Birat Infotech, Biratnagar-021-538729 / E-Net Solution, Chitwan-056-572096 / Advance Computer & General Suppliers, Banepa-9851081595 / Ugratara Trading House, Dhangadi-091-523601 / Dinesh Computers, Dhangadhi-091-521392 / Manakamana Hi Tech, Nepalgunj, 081-521473 / Smart Link, Dang-082-561022 / Ugratara Technical Goods & Suppliers, Mahendra Nager-099-523872 / Gagan Enterprises, Birgunj-9855022388 / 9725141388 / Mega Tech, Biratnagar-021-521794 / Quality Computer, Birtamod-023-540150, 9852672548 / Dinesh

**Kathmandu Dealers :** Star Office Automation, Putalisadak-4266820 / Max international, Putalisadak-4415786 / Interactive Computer System, New Road-4227854 / The Waves Group, Lazimpat-4410423 / Click Solution Center, Lalitpur-5536649 / Virgin Mobile, New Road-4260173 / Flash International, New Road-4222384



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

**SAME SAME:** A monkey sits atop a Hanuman idol in Swayambhunath temple premises on Sunday, mimicking the stance of its divine manifestation.



# The bhabuk Nepali

Our national obsession with poetry may distract us from reality



KALAM  
Rabi Thapa

Everyone's a poet in Nepal, or so they say. It's no secret that poetry holds a special fascination for many Nepalis, thanks to such luminaries as Bhanubhakta, Laxmi Prasad Devkota and Bhupi Sherchan. And as the recent success of slam poetry in English indicates, this is not the preserve of the Nepali language either. If the corpus of prose that currently exists in Nepal is fairly limited and uneven, poetry appears to be in rude(r) health.

Why should this be so? Is the Nepali soul (let us imagine that there is such a thing) especially poetic? Is it that we have more to express in these times of transition? Is it that the overlap with the romantic sentiments of ghazals appeals to every thwarted lover (and there are many in Nepal)? And speaking of romantics, could it just be the superabundance of natural beauty to be found through the country that inspires us to speak in verse?

It's certainly not because poetry's easy. Last Sunday, several well-known intellectuals held forth on the difficulties of writing poetry at the launch of Buddhisagar Chapain's latest collection of verse.

Novelist Khagendra Sangraula conceded that he couldn't write poems, that it was something one couldn't force out like one might with prose. Columnist CK Lal delineated the composition of both prose and poetry. The first he termed an additive activity, placing brick upon brick of ideas joined together with the 'masala' of words. Poetry by contrast is a subtractive endeavour, he reminded us, a paring down akin to sculpture, till only the essential remains.

One can quibble with such definitions or limit the metaphor of construction to the process of writing a



column such as this one. Yet it cannot be denied that poetry is less about moralistic platitudes or revolutionary rhetoric than allowing the reader to access the poet's distillations of experience.

So let us for the sake of argument accept that Nepalis have poetic souls. If we also hold that it involves both inspiration and the ability to focus on the essential, Nepalis should be adept at sorting out such problems as...well, electricity, water, fuel and that irksome matter of peace and the constitution. Oh but they are, you may say: in the absence of government, the Nepali people have managed admirably in doing it for themselves.

But is it perhaps that our national obsession with poetry has become a way not to focus on the essential, but to distract oneself from it? That in seeking to express our frustration with the clogging of our mental and physical

spaces, we turn to pastoral imaginings of full moons rising over rice paddies? What, then, is the value of poetry, if we don't want it to furnish us with moral instruction or fire us with revolutionary fervour?

There are many reasons to believe we should all be poets, or respectful of them. Poetry is a way to keep our souls tender and minds receptive to the connections between the ugly and the beautiful, the good and the bad. It allows us to feel more keenly the specificity of the places we are in and the people we know, to thereby scrape away the globalising, dehumanising crust that threatens to envelop us all, while recognising the common ground we share. It helps us become better people in the broad sense of the word. Surely, this nation of poets will need such redeeming qualities in the days to come. ■

## Getting A NEW LEASE OF LIFE With Transplantation

Transplantation has been known to save lives. It brings hope and life for those suffering from end stage organ failure, blood disorders and blood cancers. Continuous involvement in research and pharmacology has now opened doors to transplantation which provides better and longer quality of life.

At ParkwayHealth, we believe in providing our patients a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach to the clinical treatment and management of their conditions. Haematopoietic and stem cell transplant, living donor kidney and liver transplants form the pillar of our Transplant & Cellular Therapy Programme; and they bring hope and provide life-saving therapies to patients in the world.

**Haematopoietic and Stem Cell Transplant**  
We provide comprehensive transplantation care from infants to adults with both malignant, benign, genetic and/or blood disorders. This treatment procedure is applicable alone or in combination with other treatments for conditions such as leukaemia, solid tumours, thalassaemia, sickle cell anaemia, metabolic diseases, immune deficiencies and autoimmune diseases.

**Living Donor Kidney Transplant**  
Our multi-disciplinary team of specialists offers a complete range of medical and surgical interventions to treat patients with kidney diseases including acute and chronic disease management, end-stage disease management and kidney transplantation. We adopt the latest medication and quality care to undertake complicated transplantations for blood group incompatible and crossmatch positive (sensitised group) patients. ParkwayHealth is the first in offering such solutions to patients in Southeast Asia.

**Living Donor Liver Transplant**  
ParkwayHealth is the first hospital in Asia to perform a Living Donor Liver Transplant in 2002. With the first fully integrated centre for liver transplant and treatment in Asia, ParkwayHealth's Gleneagles Hospital is the only private hospital in Singapore with a dedicated liver Intensive Care Unit (ICU) within the ward. The liver ICU is equipped with sophisticated equipment, liver dialysis machines, monitoring devices, ventilators to ensure that every patient receives the best treatment for his specific liver condition.

**ParkwayHealth Patient Assistance Centre (Nepal)**  
**24-Hour Helpline : (977) 1 422 2908**

Mobile : (977) 985 111 7408 • Fax : (977) 1 422 6795 • 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.

**Gleneagles Hospital • Mount Elizabeth Hospital • Parkway East Hospital**



(Best Healthcare Experience)



# One school

RUBEENA MAHATO

Twenty years ago, after seeing the dilapidation and neglect of schools in rural Nepal firsthand, ex-Gurkha officers Tom Langridge and Chandra Bahadur Gurung were resolved to rehabilitate them. They opened their first school in Pokharithok, Lamjung, in 1991. Since then, their organisation Pahar Trust has founded 49 schools and village improvement schemes across Nepal. “The initial idea was to involve ex-Gurkha officers in the development of villages back home,”

chairman of Pahar Trust, Howard Green says. But now it has gone beyond that. Green is a native of the Isle of Man, a self-governed British island in the Irish Sea with just over 80,000 inhabitants. Thanks to private donations made by Isle of Man citizens, schools in remote Nepali villages have been built and renovated, classes enhanced and added, and solar panels and computers purchased. Over a hundred students and their families are sponsored under a scholarship scheme. The Isle of Man government has also directly contributed to 25 projects. Students

Isle of Man residents help rebuild schools in Nepal



# Self-portrait of Sikles

Life and times of a Nepali village seen through the eyes of its inhabitants

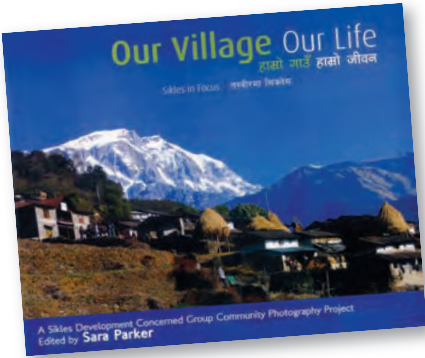


PhD theses are usually dry and academic, but Sara Parker, a geography lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University, has built on her dissertation to get the entire village of Sikles in the Annapurnas involved in a photography project. Parker first came to the scenic Kaski village in 1992 to teach English, and researched the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP). She knew well the founder of ACAP, Chandra Gurung who was also a native of Sikles. In 2009, she started working on a photo documentation

project, under which she distributed cameras to the men and women of Sikles to take pictures of their everyday lives. A selection of some of the 5,000 images they took was exhibited in Sikles itself earlier this month, and the book, *Our Village Our Life: Sikles in Focus*, will be released in Kathmandu on Friday. The book is unique because the pictures in it capture the sense of community of the stunningly beautiful Gurung villages that are going through tremendous

transformation. This is not a coffee table book by some famous western photographer, these are images of Nepalis as they see themselves. “There was very little training. We wanted the villagers to tell their own stories and started with teaching them just the basics but when the first pictures came out, we were amazed,” Parker told Nepali Times, “in between the extreme portrayals of Nepal, their images have beautifully captured the reality of village life.” The project aims to involve the villagers in documenting their

culture, rituals and traditions in pictures and to use them for the promotion of Sikles as a tourist destination. Parker got local organisations like the Madhi Khola Women’s Organsation, the Sikles Youth Group and the Annapurna High School involved in the project. Using donated digital cameras, 15 villagers took pictures over a two-year period of festivals, rituals, farming, herding, honey-harvesting and other everyday activities. Proceeds from the sale of the books, the national and international exhibitions, will go to support schools in Sikles, the local youth club and the healthcare and other activities of the ACAP. It will also help the Chandra Gurung Foundation, named after ACAP’s architect who died in the tragic helicopter accident in Ghunsa in 2008. 🇳🇵





# at a time



HUM BAHADUR GURUNG

**DHANYABAD: Sikles school children greet their benefactor, Howard Green and his wife last week.**

in the Isle of Man have raised thousands of pounds through concerts, parties and other fundraisers.


Pahar Trust continues to strengthen friendship links between its established schools and schools in the UK, facilitating an exchange of ideas and resources between them. Because a majority of the staff at the schools are volunteers, money raised goes directly to fund activities. “No one in the UK is remunerated for the work they do for Pahar Nepal,” Green says.

Four ex-Queen’s Gurkha engineers aided in the design and construction of the schools. The local community has participated as well, providing free labour for construction, while

carrying building materials to manage the schools and its resources. So a strong sense of ownership exists in the community.

“It is not often just a school that we leave when we go back. These villages are too far and too less a priority for the government to take any notice of. But when the villagers realise they can do something meaningful like building a school, they are encouraged to take up other projects,” Green says.

Pahar Trust used to focus on school buildings, but is now shifting to improving the quality of instruction. By moving from hardware to software, Pahar Trust aims to involve students from Nepal itself to help out their less-privileged counterparts.

Green says: “If children from Isle of Man can work for children in Nepal there is no reason why better-placed students at city schools can’t do the same.”  [www.pahar-trust.org](http://www.pahar-trust.org)

## Debimaya’s daughter

**T**wo-and-half years ago, at dusk, two young women came into the hut of Debimaya Sarki. One of them, who looked barely 14, was carrying a newly born baby. They said they were from Ilam and had come down to Jhapa for medical treatment, they needed somewhere to stay for the night. Debimaya willingly took them in, and since she had to cook for her two children anyway, she added extra rice for the guests.

The next morning, the women were nowhere to be seen, and their newly-born baby was crying in the cot. Debimaya waited for the women to return, but they never did.

The 43-year-old Debimaya is a refugee from Bhutan along with her husband, Omnath, and two children, 10-year-old Jibesh and four-year-old daughter Apsan. They have been living in one of the tiny bamboo huts within the Timai Refugee Camp in eastern Nepal for the past 20 years ever since the couple was forced out of Bhutan.


Debimaya named the abandoned baby Angela, and she treats the two-and-half year old girl as her own. “Angela is mine now,” she says, “I don’t know who they were, but they left their baby with me, it is my duty to take care of her.” Neighbours and others have come to ask Debimaya

**MATERNAL INSTINCT: Debimaya with Angela, the baby she adopted after she was abandoned in her refugee camp two-and-half years ago. But because of Angela, Debimaya’s acceptance for third-country resettlement is being delayed.**

for the baby, but she refused to give her away.

The irony of the story is that instead of being praised and rewarded for giving refuge to an abandoned child, Debimaya’s family is being punished. The fact that she has an adopted daughter for whom she has no papers is delaying her family’s processing for third-country resettlement.

Of the 94,000 Bhutan refugees eligible for third-country resettlement, 44,000 have already been sent, mostly to the United States but also to Australia, New Zealand, Norway, the Netherlands and Canada. But there are families like Debimaya’s facing delays due to adoptions, marriages to Nepalis or lack of proper documentation.

Says Debimaya’s friend and neighbour, Rannmaya Darji: “She loves Angela like her own children, it was fate that brought this child to Debimaya’s family.” 

*Gopal Gartaula in Jhapa*

*Read also: Gross National Shame, p3*



GOPAL GARTAULA



# Learning lessons



BIKRAM RAI

Kedar Sharma in *Sikshak*, April-May 2011

शिक्षक

It's about time parents asked themselves why they want to educate their children. Is education about gaining knowledge or is it simply about earning a degree? Based on their

own experiences, parents expect their children to gain the practical know-how that would secure their children a decent living and prepare them for life's situations. But a growing number of unemployed graduates indicates failure in the education system. Thousands of educated youth have been forced to seek semi-skilled or

unskilled jobs abroad because their certificates and degrees are deemed worthless. Besides lagging behind in technical education, most schools fail to teach basic skills and etiquette such as applying first aid to an injured person, maintaining clean public spaces or abiding by traffic rules. Our education system has failed to teach our children the value of labor and instead has contributed to the misconception that only desk jobs are respectable. Often, children are ashamed of the work their parents do, especially if it involves manual labor. Schools need to reorganise and revise their curriculum in a way that will allow students to learn beyond the textbooks. But it is also up to teachers to impart useful skills through innovative instruction. This will not only bring about positive change in their lives but also contribute to building an empowered society in the long run.

# Do not forget

Editorial in *Naya Patrika*, 25 April 2011

नयाँ पत्रिका

The royal regime ended on 24 April 2006 and the House of Representatives was reinstated, following the people's movement. On that day, the Maoists entered mainstream politics, which paved way for the Constituent Assembly (CA) elections. The subsequent political developments that led to the declaration of Nepal as a secular republic hold a deep significance in the country's history. The epochal changes that the nation witnessed that day continue to inspire us as we celebrate Loktantra Day every 24 April, and remind us that the significance of the day lies in its immortalisation of an empowered people who changed the course of history.



But the political parties that fought hand-in-hand and led the nation through those times of great change are now pitted against the other. Has something changed in them, or have they shunned the people's aspirations for greater changes? One does not need to be a political expert to see a clear polarisation among the parties, evident in the politicisation of the Loktantra Day celebrations in Kathmandu. The parties issued statements of good wishes, but they were empty words. The day was observed in an environment of disappointment. The very parties that combined forces until the CA was formed are now divided on whether to retain or dismantle it. There is conflict even within parties on the issue. No party is stable right now but within each party there exists a strong determination to uphold the integrity of the CA. On this Loktantra Day, let us hope that the political parties will do justice to our historical achievements and to the assembly that institutionalized these achievements.

# War or Peace

Interview in *Kantipur*, 24 April

कान्तिपुर

As the standoff continues between Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal and senior vice chairman Mohan Baidya on the official party line, another vice chairman, Baburam Bhattarai, has said that the party should come together in favor of peace and constitution while giving space to Baidya's dissenting voice.



**Kantipur:** How will the party decide on the contending proposals by the chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal and the vice chairman Mohan Baidya? **Baburam Bhattarai:** Discussions on both of the proposals are going on. We will look at both proposals in positive light. If there are contending issues, we can move ahead after giving space to the note of dissent.

**How will the contending issue be resolved?**

First, consensus will be sought through discussion. If that is not possible, the chairman's proposals may be amended to incorporate genuine concerns expressed in the vice chairman's proposal. But if there is no consensus at all, voting will be conducted on the proposals.

**Isn't the party in danger of splitting after this rift has surfaced?** I don't think so. We have resolved such ideological struggles within the party before. Our party leadership has worked together for a long period and we understand each other's concerns and sensitivities very well. We have seen ups and downs in the past so I don't think anybody will be in favor of splitting the party. We have to give due respect to the dissenting voice while moving ahead with the one that the majority has favored. But we have to work together.

**Why is 'People's Revolt' (Baidya's proposal) not a favorable strategy in current situation?** If you look at the present situation, achievements like republicanism and secularism have not been institutionalized and aspirations for changes in social and economic structure especially with regard to land reforms have not been met. So theoretically speaking, we cannot say that the relevance of people's revolt is over. But if we look at the political ground realities, they are not in our favor. The geo-political condition of Nepal is such that if we act against these conditions and risk our political integrity, the country might slide into another conflict and become a playground for foreign powers. So, in the present context, completing the peace process and drafting the constitution are the most practical options.

स्टेट अफ विस्कन्सिन	सर्किट कोर्ट परिवार कोर्ट शाखा १४	डेन काउन्टी
निम्नलिखित बिहेको विषयमा: शेरिड ग्वारेक 810 Gannon Ave. Madison, WI 53714, बादि		मुद्दा नम्बर 11FA0269 सम्बन्ध विच्छेद: 40101
—र—		
पासाङ टि. लामा Mahakal 6 Boudha Kathmandu, Nepal, प्रतिवादी		
प्रकाशनद्वारा सम्मनहरू (Summons by publication)		
<b>दि स्टेट अफ विस्कन्सिन</b> माथि उल्लेखित प्रतिवादीको लागि:-  यसमार्फत तँपाईलाई सूचना दिइन्छ कि माथि उल्लेखित वादीले तँपाई विरुद्ध सम्बन्ध विच्छेदको मुद्दा दताे गर्नु भएको छ । तँपाईले मिति २२ अप्रील २०११ को दिनदेखि ४० दिन भित्र फिरत पत्रको प्रतिलिपिको लागि लिखित रुपमा माग गर्नु पर्नेछ ।  सो निवेदन (मागपत्र) यस अदालतको निम्न उल्लेखित ठेगानामा पठाउनु पर्ने छ जसको ठेगाना यस प्रकार छ: Clerk of Circuit Court, Dane County Courthouse, 215 S. Hamilton Street, Madison, WI U.S.A. 53703, र सो निवेदन (मागपत्र) फिराद कर्ताको कानून व्यवसायी विलियम डुसोको निम्न ठेगानामा पनि पठाउनु पर्दछ, जसको ठेगाना यसप्रकार छ: 7130 Valhalla Trail Madison, WI U.S.A. 53719.  तँपाईले महत्त अथवा प्रतिनिधित्वको लागि वकिल पाउन सक्नुहुन्छ ।  तँपाईले ४० दिन भित्र यस फिराद पत्रको प्रतिलिपि नमाणेमा अदालतले तँपाई विरुद्ध निर्णय गर्न सक्नेछ जसको परिणाम तँपाई विरुद्ध जरीवाना वा फिराद पत्रमा माग गरिएको अरू कुनै कानूनी कारवाही गर्न सकिनेछ र तँपाईले फिराद पत्रमा उल्लेखीत कुनै पनि मागदावीको प्रतिरक्षा गनेअधिकार गुमाउन सक्नुहुने छ । अदालतको निर्णय कानून बमोजीम लागु गरिनेछ । जरीवाना वा कुनै रकम तिर्नु पर्ने गरी अदालतबाट निर्णय भएमा तँपाईको जस्तो सुकै निवर्तमान वा भविष्यको सम्पत्तिमाथि दावी बन्न सक्छ र जवरजस्ती मासिक भत्ता तिराउन सकिन्छ वा सम्पति जफत हुन सक्छ ।  साथै तपाईलाई यसमार्फत सूचना दिइन्छ कि परिवारकोर्ट कमिशनरको अफिसबाट Wis. Stat. § 767. 105 मा तोकिएको जानकारी उपलब्ध छ ।  मिति: ११ फेब्रुअरी २०११  द्वारा /s/ Willim Dusso विलियम डुसो फिराद कर्ताको वकिल स्टेट बार संख्या: १०१३२१८ (1013218)  7130 Valhalla Trail Madison, WI 53719 फोन नम्बर: 01-608-277-0853		



NEW YORK – Al Jazeera correspondent Ayman Mohyeldin (*pictured left*) is on a victory lap in the United States – or rather, Al Jazeera is sending him on its own victory lap. After all, Mohyeldin is a modest guy, despite being one of Al Jazeera's best-known reporters – and clearly a rising international media star.

Al Jazeera has good reason to gloat: it has new cachet in the US after millions of Americans, hungry for on-the-ground reporting from Egypt, turned to its online live stream and Mohyeldin's coverage from Cairo's Tahrir Square.

The network has been targeted by the US government since 2003, when former Vice President Dick Cheney and former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld described it as tantamount to an arm of Al Qaeda. Two of its reporters were later killed in Baghdad when a US tank fired on the Hotel Palestine, where, according to US officials, it was believed that a spotter directing fire at US troops was located.

And, to this day, Al Jazeera, which, together with BBC News, has become one of the premier global outlets for serious television news, is virtually impossible to find on televisions in the US. So Al Jazeera is sending its news team around the US in an effort to “mainstream” the faces of this once-demonized network. The station’s US push could hardly be more necessary – to Americans. By being denied the



# I Want My Al Jazeera

NAOMI WOLF

right to watch Al Jazeera, Americans are being kept in a bubble, sealed off from the images and narratives that inform the rest of the world.


Consider the recent scandal surrounding atrocity photos taken by US soldiers in Afghanistan, which are now available on news outlets, including Al Jazeera, around the globe but have not penetrated the US media stream. And the images are so extraordinarily shocking that failing

to show them – along with graphic images of the bombardment of children in Gaza, say, or exit interviews with survivors of Guantánamo – keeps Americans from understanding events that may be as traumatic to others as the trauma of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. For example, the leading US media outlets, including The New York Times, have not seen fit to mention that one of the photos shows a US soldier holding the head

of a dead Afghan civilian as though it were a hunting trophy.

So, for America's sake, I hope that Al Jazeera penetrates the US media market. Unless Americans see the images and narratives that shape how others see us, the US will not be able to overcome its reputation as the world's half-blind bully.

Indeed, Egyptians are in some ways now better informed than Americans (and, as Thomas Jefferson often repeated, liberty is not possible without an informed citizenry). Egypt has 30 newspapers and more than 200 television channels. America's newspapers are dying, foreign news coverage has been cut to three or four minutes, at most, at the end of one or two evening newscasts, and most of its TV channels are taken up with reality shows.

Americans have a hunger for international news; it is a myth that we can't be bothered with the outside world. Maybe Americans will rise up and threaten to boycott their cable and satellite providers unless we get our Al Jazeera – and other carriers of international news. We would then come one step closer to being part of the larger world – a world that, otherwise, will eventually simply leave us behind. 

*Naomi Wolf is a political activist and social critic whose most recent book is Give Me Liberty: A Handbook for American Revolutionaries.*

अब हुन्छन् सबै दंग

प्रथम बम्पर उपहार  
एक जनालाई काठमाडौं नयाँ बानेश्वर नजिक बाग्मती अपार्टमेन्टमा २ बेडरुम अपार्टमेन्ट

दोस्रो बम्पर उपहार  
एक जनालाई Perodua ViVA 660cc

FEATURES & FACILITY

- Factoryfitted Air Conditioning
- Easy Drive Steering
- Keyless Entry System
- Central Door Locking System
- Rear Defogger
- Rear Wiper
- Factoryfitted 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

- 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

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

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.  
जे.डि.ए. कम्प्लेक्स, बागदरबार, काठमाडौं, फोन: ०१-६२०२६८१, ४२६५१०० (Ext. २०४/२०५), ईमेल: circulation@nagariknews.com

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





Royale Play adds colour  
to a rather dry life.



ROYALE PLAY ▶ Let's Play

asianpaints

# The stench is getting unbearable

Things are so bad, they can't get any worse, right? Um, not really. **Beware of the month of May.** Everyone and their grandmother will be out on the streets, so maybe it is time to bug out and do the Mansarovar pilgrimage that you always wanted to do. The Prime Minister is getting the hell outa here, too, to attend as special invitee at the International Conference of the World's Worst-governed Countries in Turkey just so that he can pop in on Manmohanji on the way back. JN figures that if he only gets to kowtow at the Delhi Darbar, it will ensure his longevity back home.



He should be worried because the buzz is that Jhol Nut's days are numbered, and the Kangresi plus Eh-maley dissidents are massing at the gates and licking their chops. If, as Comrade Top Budder has been publicly insinuating, his mentor Com Babura is going to lead that consensus govt, JN could find the rug pulled from under him. Meanwhile, PKD is convinced it's his turn if JNK is ousted because

that is what the fine print in the 7-point agreement said.



The Mule's mole at the Pistachio Palace, however, confirms that Com Awfulness summoned Biglop over to smoothen Baidya Kaka's feathers. PKD's tack was to assuage the hardliners that his switch to "peace and constitution" and abandoning "revolt" was a **flanking maneuver** to trick the Indians and to pave the way for total takeover. Don't think Biglop bought that, especially since Baidya told the Centcom just the day before that he was sick and tired of Chairman Fearsome saying one thing and doing another.



Even the Prime Minister's friends and allies now admit that Comrade JN is hopelessly disaster-prone. The man has **broken all records** in the number of crises unleashed during the three months after he took office. No other prime ministership, not even during the intriguing period of hereditary Sri Tin Purdan Muntris, has been as eventful as this honeymoon period. The stench

is getting overpowering, but look at it this way, there hasn't been a dull moment since Jhal Gnat took over. The story so far:

- A media mogul is shot inside prison by a hitman
- Another hitman shoots a diplomat in broad daylight
- Businessmen and traders are mowed down @ one/day
- Abductions and extortion don't even make it to the news anymore
- Tea estates have been captured by striking workers who (no kidding) want to get back to work
- The capital and surrounding 10 districts is closed down by those who want to



- support Nepal Tourism Year by forcing tourists to begin their trek from Tribhuvan Interminable Airport itself (pencil in nudder bunned on May 3)
- The prime minister is in power in a powerless country
  - Minister of Power suffers knife attack, assailant is caught but he is too hot to touch because he is a UML aparatchik from Dhading
  - He appoints a state minister of finance who resigns after it is revealed he is a Chinese undercover spook with five names and three passports

- He appoints another state minister who resigns because she isn't given full ministership
- Mr Alam sits at home in his daura suruwal for Baluwatar to call him for a swearing-in that never happens, he is so angry he is staging a mutiny
- Turns out many more CA members have slyly sold red passports to highest bidders
- Four CA members force the adjournment of parliament when they noisily gherao the rostrum
- Meanwhile, we neither have a Domestic Minister or a Foreign Minister, not that anyone has noticed
- The Finance Secretary resigns accusing the Finance Minister of being a crook
- A good Samaritan in Dharan turns out to be a crook too, but only after the prez and justice-in-chief both fall for the hoax



**Headline of the week:** 'Bandh Peaceful: Drivers Beaten Up, Taxis Vandalised'.



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA



With your trust, support, confidence and loyalty, we've traveled a year long journey together. Come let's celebrate our ...

*Relationship*

Presenting you a week-long celebration offer from April 26 - May 2, 2011.

Scratch & Win\*



Presenting Celebration Collection



Symbol of Purity



Shop no - Annex II, Bishal Bazar (Adjoining Bishal Bazar Garden) New Road, Kathmandu T: 4221565 / 4221492 email : ganapati@wsn.com.np

destiny/04/2011

ISSN 1814-2613