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## Curtain raiser

Prime Minister Jhal Nath Khanal's long-awaited expansion of his cabinet has turned out to be a rocky affair. Three Maoist members refused to take their oath, one minister from the existing cabinet resigned, and the lineup set off storms of controversies within all three main parties in the coalition.

It took Khanal nearly 100 days, but the Maoists got their pound of flesh: the home ministry. The portfolio was given to a loyalist of Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Krishna Bahadur Mahara, leaving the hardline faction disgruntled. Another minister, Agni Sapkota who replaced Mahara in the information ministry, is blacklisted by most western governments for alleged war crimes.

Meanwhile, BBC Nepali Service on Thursday broadcasted a tape in which senior Maoist leader CP Gajurel tells the party's new People's Volunteer Bureau why the home ministry is important. "We need to control the APF and Nepal Police to help us in taking over total state power through a people's revolt," he is quoted as saying. Later, Gajurel told journalists his party's policy had changed since he gave that speech.

The resignation of Peace Minister Barsha Man Pun for being bypassed in the home ministry points to a growing rift within the Maoist party over the cabinet composition. The UML politburo meeting on Thursday grew acrimonious as members accused the prime minister of double crossing the party. How the leaders manage inter- and intra-party disputes in the next two weeks will determine the fate of the peace process. 



NSI

### Go west

Medical staff explain why they'd rather work in Achham than anywhere else.

p15

### Virtual Nepal

The most popular Nepali language blog site takes on the mainstream press.

p12-13



BIKRAM RAI

**STAGE MANAGED:** Prime Minister Jhal Nath Khanal emerges into the main hall at Shital Nibas for the swearing-in of his expanded cabinet on Wednesday. President Ram Baran Yadav can be seen waiting in the anteroom.

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# DELAYED CONSTITUTION BETTER THAN FLAWED CONSTITUTION

The most uncertain part of the uncertainty over 28 May is not that we won't have a constitution (we will probably have a stopgap draft and extend the CA's term by six months just to buy time). The real danger will be how to manage the expectations of people who are impatient for change and progress.

If you really get down to it, except for the politically-inclined in the capital and the district capitals, the majority of Nepal's couldn't be bothered whether a constitution is written by 28 May, or of what kind. Talk to the tens of thousands waiting cheek-to-jowl to apply for jobs in South Korea (see p2) and the common refrain is: "Who cares?"

What a majority of Nepalis want is to be left in peace, to earn enough at home so they don't have to sacrifice their dignity and pride to work in dirty, dangerous and difficult jobs in the desert. They want to earn enough to feed their families, send children to school and have affordable health care.

The delayed constitution-drafting process opens up a Pandora's box of issues from ethnicity-based federalism to state structure, and leaves them in open-ended limbo. Most countries have ethnic groups with grievances, but they have institutions to manage them and address long-standing injustices and discrimination. We are now having to deal with the demands of 103 ethnic groups and 93 languages at a time of acute political volatility, instability and public apathy.

The risk is that in a vacuum of a constitutionless polity, virulent multi-ethnic violence will replace the class war that ended in 2006. All the precursors are in place: political fluidity, the lack of visionary statesmanship, joblessness and dissatisfaction especially among the youth, lack of opportunities, cynicism and hopelessness about the future, and an unresolved peace process that is now just a ceasefire.

It is plain to see that power, resources and salaried government jobs are monopolised by a few ethnic and caste groups. The Maoists articulated the grievances of the marginalised and successfully channelled it for recruitment during the war. In the 2008 elections, they channelised it again, this time to get votes. Most Nepalis who don't know about how Lenin and Mao used ethnic autonomy not to devolve power but to centralise it through

totalitarian state systems were easily duped.

Now, identity politics has become too hot even for the Maoists to handle. All four militant-minded ethnically-defined groups that exist today splintered off from the Maoists because they didn't find the party radical enough. There could be more. The Bahun-dominated Maoist leadership can't put the genie back into the bottle and donor-supported ethnic pressure groups have replaced political parties as sabre-rattling agenda setters. A morally-bankrupt political class is swayed by those who have the most radical slogans. By default, the agenda for identity politics today is being set by NGOs not by the elected representatives of the people.

It is imperative for the main political parties to analyse where ethnicity-based federalism will take us. This needs to be sorted out in the Constituent Assembly, not in the streets with strikes enforced by violence and terror. Is the instability at the centre just going to be multiplied by 14 with added sectarian and communal flavour? Already, we see overlapping territorial claims over proposed provinces. Ethnic groups themselves have split into sub-groups, all clamouring for their own province.

Maybe it is just as well we don't have to decide all this in a hurry before 28 May. A delayed constitution is better than a fatally flawed and undemocratic constitution.



KQ

## ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

### ONE MORE MONTH

This country is far too important and unique and beautiful to be lost to the madness of a few megalomaniacs, murderers and liars ('One month to go', Editorial, #551). I oppose the events of the past few years, they will result in:

- Discredited leadership
- Destroyed credibility of the state
- Destruction of the basic faiths which forms the basis of a nation
- Bad precedent
- Destroyed momentum of economic growth
- Lost intellectual capital
- Muffled voices of reason against the overwhelming cacophony of populist intellectualism
- Quality of political participation is limited to hoodlums now
- The present system, and from the voices we hear, the coming system's inability to instinctively and reflexively adapt to change
- The lunatic fringe being goaded into the limelight because of the weakness of the gatekeepers of sanity
- Victimhood gaining currency as the symbol of new virtue and goodness, now there is a race to the bottom in claiming victim status by everybody

Soni

- I believe the editor is smoking something very strong. The writing of a new constitution has never been the demand of the people in any of the Jana Andolans. There are more important things concerning our country such as streams of young men and women leaving the country for work and in many instances, having the daily occurrence of their bodies returning in coffins from airports, the poor law and order situation, eroding freedom of expression,

democratic and human rights, the lack of electricity and resources leaving our people suffering. The NC and UML have exposed themselves foolishly to the Maoists and are now next on the chopping board after the monarchy.

Rishav

- Hail the editor! No doubt it is a milestone Pushpa Kamal Dahal and the Maoists crossed by going for peace and constitution. It is not the same Nepali politics now as it was one week before. With this decision, Nepal has moved very close to a democratic and pluralistic republic. Why do you want to cast a doubt on every positive move by the Maoists? Do I love them: No. Do I blame for the mess we are in today. Yes, 100 per cent. But do I congratulate them for this decision? Yes. It was Baburam Bhattarai who enabled and helped Dahal move in this direction, so kudos to him too.

Kamal Kishor

### GETTING NOWHERE

Its time to change the slogan of Nepal Tourism Year ('Getting nowhere', #551) to "I dare you to visit Nepal.", "Are you man enough to visit Nepal?"

Who Cares

- Really? The politicians gave assurances and the guys in the tourist industry spent money based on these assurances? I doubt it. If they did then they ought to know better.

Jange

### GROSS NATIONAL SHAME

Yes, Bhutan ranks first in terms of Gross National Shame. No civilised country has the right to disown one sixth of its population ('Gross National Shame', Anurag Acharya # 551 ). While third country

resettlement may be an unavoidable option for the individual concerned, it is a national shame for Nepal to seek that option. As a Nepali citizen I bow down my head in shame. Call a spade a spade. Shame on our spineless political leaders.

Divas

- The global media may have turned its back on the Bhutanese refugee situation, but the United States of America has not. After 15 years of Bhutanese government obstruction of the basic human rights of their Nepali-speaking citizens, the US led an international humanitarian effort that has led to third-country resettlement for tens of thousands of displaced Bhutanese, those who want to move on with their lives in a new setting. The vast majority of those resettlements have been to the USA. While it is very unfortunate that the government of Bhutan has refused to recognise their legal obligations to let their own citizens return, the American action means a new and hopefully brighter future for many who would otherwise still be languishing in refugee camps.

Concerned in California

### GET FACTS STRAIGHT

No point in blaming the president ('Get the facts straight', Ashutosh Tiwari, #551). When a researcher writes a paper, he believes the result of several other authors who he cites. The flaw of those papers, if there are any, often lies in the original authors, and not the person who cited. So, president did nothing wrong. If one can't believe the prominent media of the country, then who can be believed?

Chandra Gurung

- Yes, Nepal's media is not very unprofessional, even unethical. The media doesn't deserve the stature it is accorded

by our society. The media is responsible, in large part, for the mess that we are in today. It has played a big role in misinforming, misguiding and misleading the Nepali public, who as a result erroneously supported the 12-point agreement and the initiative to destroy the 1990 Constitution.

BB

- We should appreciate what Anuja Baniya has done for exposing the state of the media. Maybe that was her intention all along.

Jange

### ASS

What was that picture of poor chicken hanging upside down doing here? (Backside #551) It's not funny. Can we do something to stop this? I have been personally shouting whenever I come across such heartless person carrying live chicken upside down dragging their heads on the concrete road. Can we ask government to declare it criminal and punish whoever does this?

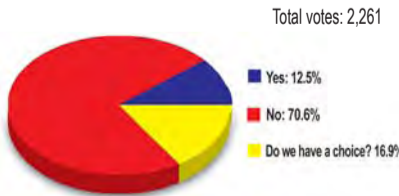
Sherpa Observer

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nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll # 552

Q. Should CA term be extended?



Weekly Internet Poll # 553. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Should Nepali Congress have joined the Coalition?

# Lost to the land

This nation survives on the money sent back by the same people whom it has failed to provide for



BY THE WAY  
Anurag Acharya



BIKRAM RAI

Thousands of Nepali men and women, youths and adults alike, flocked to apply for Korean language tests at three centers in the capital this week, in hopes of being recruited for South Korean jobs. An estimated 60,000 are applying for 7,100 vacancies from Nepal in the 3D category: dirty, dangerous and difficult.

The daily queues for passports at the Foreign Ministry and the huge lines of people at the four venues indicate that despite reports of exploitation, cheating by middlemen, low pay and hardships, Nepalis are more desperate than ever to get out of here.

“*Bideshinu rahar hoina, badhyata ho,*” sums up Surya Man Lama, 21, a private-college graduate. That is the general refrain up and down the line: we don’t like to go abroad, we are forced to. Lama says there is no reason to stay back because he sees his seniors loitering in the neighborhood unable to find jobs. Restaurateur Ganesh Lama, 34, and Tara Devi Khadka, 30, from Pokhara also say they have to find a job abroad to take care of their three children.

Over at the Labour Department, an official seemed encouraged that there were new job openings for Nepalis in South Korea: “The labour laws are better in South Korea than in the Gulf countries, which is why we have taken the initiative to provide youths with opportunities for employment.”

According to 2011 ILO report, almost 40 per cent of Nepal’s population will come of working age in the next 15 years. But the government looks more eager to drive them out instead of providing them with work and security at home. Article 18 of Nepal’s interim constitution defines rights to employment and social security for all citizens

as fundamental rights. It is ironic that this nation survives on the money sent back by the same people whom it has failed to provide for. The strategy of successive governments has been to manage Nepal’s growing unemployment with a mass exodus, not just of the working population but the critical mass that keeps a check on the political leadership.

From a carpet-exporting and rice-producing nation, we have become traffickers of our own people. Nepali women who go abroad to work as domestics are often subjected to abuse and forced into prostitution while young men recruited as security guards by “manpower” companies often find themselves smuggled into war zones in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Five hundred Nepalis fly out everyday from TIA to work in foreign countries. No one has ever counted the numbers who go overland to India. Around 20 per cent of Nepal’s population work abroad at any given time. Their meagre savings (because few earn what they are promised by the middlemen in Kathmandu) barely pay for the money they invested to go abroad. So they are forced to stay until they salvage their outlay.

It has become fashionable these days to talk of peace and the constitution, as if writing the constitution in time or finding a way to integrate the armies will resolve the problems that are forcing the tens of thousands of people in the queues to flee the country. The plight of Nepal’s youth is not just a result of existing political stalemate but a by-product of consistently bad politics in the last two decades of democracy.

Most of these young men and women are from the districts, farmers who till

recently were feeding Nepal’s urban population. The failure of the government to improve agriculture, spread irrigation, boost harvests and ensure fair prices for produce has forced them off the land. The fallow fields in the countryside are a testament to the absence of able-bodied youth to work the farms. Bad politics has held hydropower hostage,

investors are scared away by militant unions and extortion. Without new investment there are no new off-farm jobs being created.

We may yet get a new constitution by the end of this month. But what good will that do? Unless this haemorrhage of young people is reversed, there will be nobody left to lay

the foundation of the New Nepal that our political leadership has been ranting on about.

It’s tempting to say: last one out turns off the lights. But there are no lights to turn off. 🇳🇵

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BIKRAM RAI

# An investor-friendly Nepal


Suraj Vaidya was elected president of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) last month. Vaidya, whose slogan was 'Change for Prosperity', talked with *Nepali Times* on what changes he intends to lead in the private sector.

**Nepali Times: What are your priorities for FNCCI?**  
**Suraj Vaidya:** Our first priority is to develop a private sector-driven economic agenda within six months. The agenda will be approved by the political parties and then we will work with the bureaucrats to implement it. Secondly, we want to be pro-actively involved with the government in resolving the energy crisis. Regarding labour issues, we want to partner with the trade unions and develop on the recent landmark 11-point agreement. Our focus will be to look at productivity when deciding on wages and to provide social security with flexibility. During the three years' time we want to brand Nepal as an investment opportunity, especially for our growing neighbours. The bottom line objective will be for FNCCI to be of service to our members.

**How are you going to make Nepal investor-friendly with load shedding, militant unionism and extortion?**  
Opportunities for investment are greater because when things are tough, the government is more willing to cooperate and give incentives to investors. Our government needs to realise that we have to be more competitive than other countries in what we offer to investors. The trade unions are aware that everyday 500-1000 people migrate for employment and that the environment has to improve if they want to secure jobs.

**But what sort of investment incentives can we offer when things are so bad?**  
The government needs to look at the kind of incentives that south Asian countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India offer in terms of tax drawbacks, excise and VAT reduction. We have to put the nation first. We have to change our focus from short-term gain to long term benefits and make the risk worth it. The budget should be a development program rather than revenue driven program.

**What is the way out of this burgeoning balance of payments deficit with India?**  
India is growing at an enormous rate and our trade with India is large. We especially need to look at what we can export to India and focus on niche markets. Agriculture, herbal products, energy, water management are some of the areas that Nepal can be competitive in. We also have opportunities in developing the service sector for the Indian market. One area that Nepal has unique opportunity is in creating a trade route between India and China, we have to take advantage of our geographic position.



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**DRSP (District Road Support Programme)** has initiated Nepalgunj Green Project to plant one tree for every ticket sold in Kathmandu-Nepalgunj sector. Rs. 20 on one-way ticket on this sector will be set aside for the programme. Project areas include: Baitadi District.

**Tiger Mountain Nepal** has initiated Bardia Green Project to plant one tree for every ticket sold in Kathmandu-Nepalgunj sector. Rs. 20 on one-way ticket on this sector will be set aside for the programme. Project areas include: Bindrapuri Madhyawarti Samudayikban, Upavokta Samuha, (Bindrapuri Community Forest) in Bardia District.

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NEPAL TOURISM YEAR 2011

# More energy, please



MY TWO PAISA  
Paavan Mathema

Ramesh Shrestha, owner of a cyber café in Tahachal, has his shutters pulled down half the time even on a weekday. His generator sits silently in a corner: the petrol shortage has removed his safety net against load-shedding. He often uses the weekend to queue for petrol or search for cooking gas, but mostly returns home empty-handed as these too are running dry.

Shrestha is certainly not the only one whose business has been severely affected by the energy crisis. Major industries have experienced a hike in their costs of operation last quarter. Two out of 10 biscuit factories in Sunsari and Morang have closed due to the staggering cost of raw materials, while energy cuts have made it impossible for them to compete against cheap imports. Fuel shortages have curbed half of the city's public transportation. A manager of a five-star hotel in Kathmandu argues: "I cannot compromise the quality of our hotel's service even when there are 16 hours of load-shedding. And this in the end can increase our cost of operations by four times." His hotel spends Rs 7 million a month to buy extra diesel.

Business and consumer behavior is hit by a chain reaction of the electricity and petroleum crisis



Increasing costs could be managed if only companies were able to maintain their sales. But every seller is also a buyer, and with high costs eating away household income, consumers are only window shopping. Most retailers (except, perhaps, those selling batteries, inverters and generators) admit that sales have slid down by at least 20 to 30 per cent in the last few months. Why would anyone purchase a new

car knowing that it takes hours to fill a tank? And what's the point of television ads when viewers can't tune-in? The ripple effect on the purchasing pattern of the consumer has resulted in slumped sales, and a deep depression among traders and manufacturers.

The situation, coupled with political instability and expectations of *bandas* this month, dampens economic motivation in the country. Businesses lose incentive to compete when the state fails to provide and maintain basic infrastructure.

Precautionary measures must be taken before the country slips into a serious case of stagflation, when the rate of inflation exceeds economic growth. Within two months our 3-billion-rupee credit line with Indian Oil will be exhausted and we will be in the soup again. This winter, no new big power plants will be added and demand will have risen, so look out for only four hours of power a day.

Nepalis understand that a long-term solution lies in hydropower potential. But we also know that the government's ambitions to generate 2500 MW of electricity by 2015 can only be met with political stability and open investments in the sector. There are few signs of that happening. 🇳🇵

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### All in

Aliaster Timothy from New Baneshwor, has won the first prize of the 'AllOut Gharfull Offer' by SC Johnson, makers of AllOut, Baygon and Mr. Muscle products. Timothy is taking home a 21" television, a refrigerator, a microwave oven, a DVD player and a food processor.

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### Growing NMB

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# Who cares?

When those with responsibility behave irresponsibly



MARCHING TOGETHER: MJF's Bijaya Gachchhadar with underworld don Ganesh Lama



MY TAKE  
Damakant Jayshi

Just when one thought that our battered political parties could do without another round of unsavoury episodes, we have had more last week and the one before that. These come after the arrest of lawmakers from MPRF and Nepali Janata Dal on allegedly tampering and selling their diplomatic passports, the trial of a UML parliamentarian for taking bribe, the nabbing of an NC Constituent Assembly member in a gambling den

and the cheating by a Maoist lawmaker at the SLC exam by making her daughter write answers on her behalf. Enough eroding the credibility of the parties of all hues.

Of all the goings-on, two of the most glaring stand out. One is the politicking at the Bharatpur Cancer Hospital in Chitwan and the other unethical conduct of now recalled ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Hamid Ansari.

All services at the Bharatpur Cancer Hospital have been shut down for nearly a week now because the doctors close to the Maoists and the NC are jostling for control of the hospital, leaving patients in the lurch. There have been at least four deaths

in recent days due to lack of treatment and attention. This is not just irresponsible, it is criminal misconduct.

The dispute at the hospital is about who should be the next executive director of and have access to its resources (read: cash). Doctors came to Kathmandu to lobby for their appointment. The previous executive director, Bhakta Man Shrestha and the temporary incumbent Laxmi Narayan Singh are seeking, and getting, the blessings of their respective political backers- patients be damned. Both Shrestha and Singh should be removed.


Ambassador Ansari, a UML cadre, was already involved in allegedly cheating money from the widow of migrant worker Ramesh Subedi of Jhapa district who had

died in Saudi Arabia. The insurance company there paid the compensation but the ambassador, instead of forwarding it to Subedi's widow, kept it himself. The ambassador escaped any punishment from his party bosses, but now he has done it again. This time he allegedly kept a Rs 2 million compensation paid to the family of Reg Bahadur Budhamagar from Rolpa who too had died in the Gulf.

Former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal (UML) and former Foreign Minister Sujata Koirala (NC) during whose watch the first swindle occurred did nothing. Current UML Prime Minister Jhala Nath Khanal has done nothing over the second one. Foreign Secretary Madan Bhattarai who hasn't done much more than pay lip service. Shocking, but unfortunately not surprising, when culture of impunity and lack of accountability is so high.

You want to hear more? Maoist CA member Indramati Yadav was caught stealing electricity to power her water pump by making an illegal hookup to powerlines. She was let off after made to pay fine. Bijaya Gachchhadar, chairman of Madhesi People's Rights Forum (Democratic), has been sheltering notorious underworld don, Ganesh Lama. Some UML mid-ranking leaders and cadre are putting pressure on police to release the arrested criminal and notorious don, Dinesh Adhikari 'Chari'.

CA members Bishwendra Paswan, Rukmani Chaudhari, Buddha Ratna Manandhar and Sadrul Miya Haq have not only obstructed the meetings of the Constitutional Committee called to settle disputes on some of the fiercely-contested contents of the constitution, they have now held parliament's plenary itself hostage.

In addition to the failures on the constitution-drafting and peace fronts, the political parties are piling on the misery of the people and some of the recent events demonstrate these are not some accidental situations or something over which the parties have no control. On the contrary, these are full, on-your-face "we don't care" attitude and actions.  [damakant@gmail.com](mailto:damakant@gmail.com)





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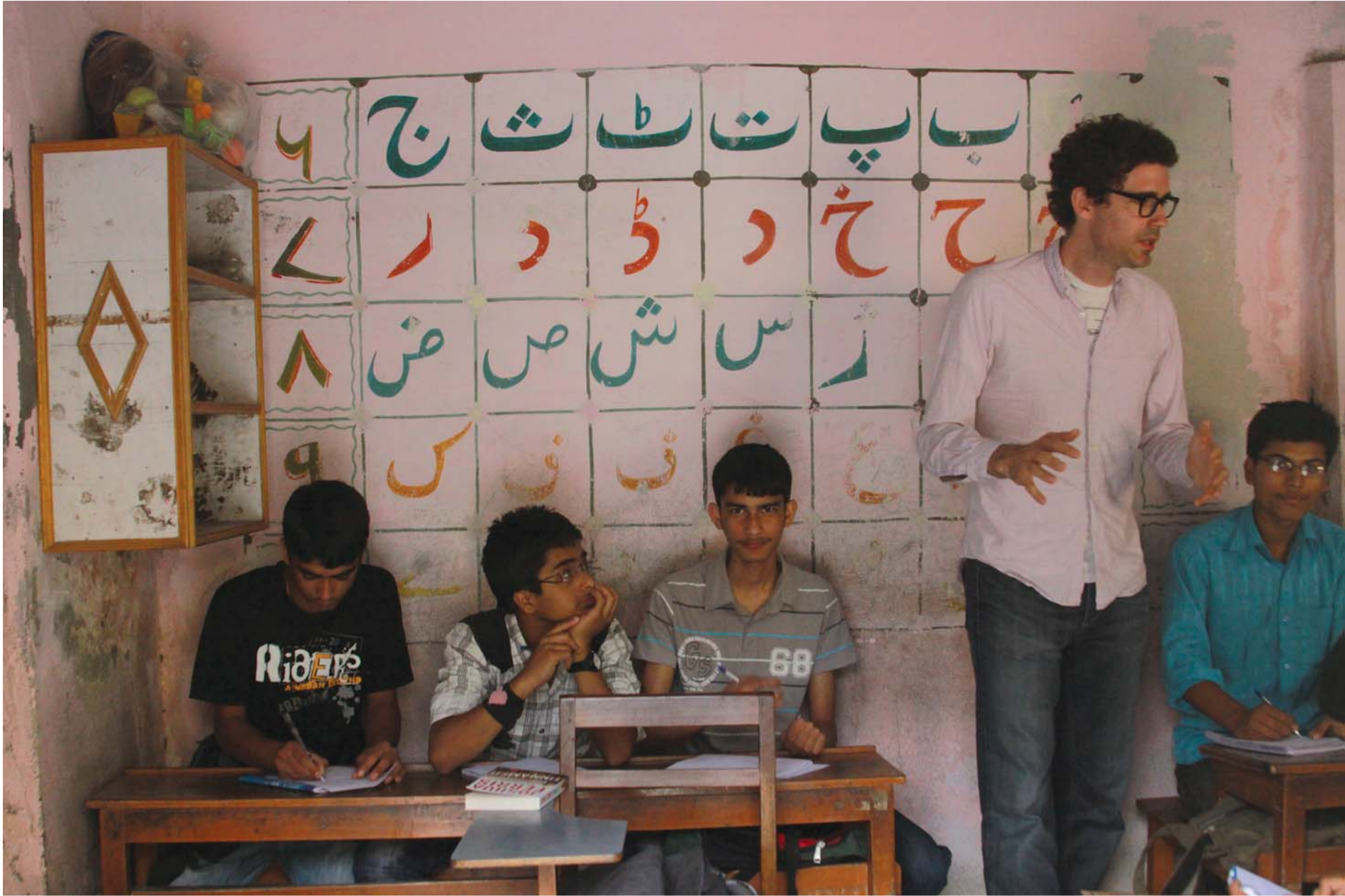
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PICS: MARCUS BENIGNO

# “Fümms bö wö tää zää Uu”

MARCUS BENIGNO

Visiting Americans promote the written and 'spoken word'

From Jatra Café in Thamel last weekend, a fusillade of sheer, nonsensical syllables broke the white noise of the city streets: “Fümms bö wö tää zää Uu!” American poet Bob Holman recited the opening line of “Ursonate” (or “Primeval Sonata”), a 24-minute sound poem by Dadaist artist Kurt Schwitters, who challenged conventional poetry in the 1920s.

The International Iowa Writers Program, organised by the US Embassy and Quixote’s Cove, hosted workshops by contemporary big wigs of the American literary scene like Holman. Part cultural exchange, part mission empowerment—the Iowa Writers did more than share tips on their craft, they discussed current movements reshaping self-expression in the US—namely, ‘spoken word’ and ‘transmedia’. The workshops also revealed a need to preserve minority languages and the dearth of opportunity in the literary arts in Nepal.

‘Spoken word’ or ‘slam poetry’ began in Chicago in the mid-1980s. Typically, poets perform their pieces before an audience in an Olympic-style competition complete with judges and eliminations. Mirroring the Dadaists’ return to oral traditions in its most primitive form, ‘spoken word’ stresses the poet’s sound and body as part of the poem.

Nepali writer Yuyutsu Sharma,



who dubs Holman ‘the king of slam after Allen Ginsberg’, joined the workshop and drew comparisons between ‘spoken word’ and *asu kabita*, the Nepali tradition of spontaneous poetry.

A specialist on endangered languages, Holman encouraged participants to use poetic tradition to preserve the 100 or so languages in Nepal. “Half of the world’s languages will be lost in this century. And when you lose a language you lose a system of consciousness, a whole way of thinking,” he says.

At a screening of his web series VERSE: A Murder Mystery at the Bakery Café in Sundhara, American

documenter Ram Devenini discussed a new age of mass media where technological innovations are democratising filmmaking and giving voice to the wider public.

Devenini says that his digital SLR camera, a Canon 5D, is “revolutionising cinema, and the use of web series is allowing a lot of filmmakers to subvert traditional distribution and go directly to their viewers.”

A group of middle-school students from the Madrasa Islamiya School surprised the Iowa Writers and attended the second day of workshops. The day before, the troupe took a detour from the official program to the

**CRUSADERS:** American writer Joshua Ferris gives a crash course this week on fiction writing at the Madrasa Islamiya School in Ghantaghar (top) and ‘king of slam’ Bob Holman listens to an aspiring poet at Jatra Café in Thamel.

local school giving lessons on prose and poetry. Students created acrostic poems with Holman and poet Nathalie Handal and learned about plot and character development with author Joshua Ferris. The visit at the Madrasa formed part of the English ACCESS Microscholarship Program, a seven-year-old initiative by the US State Department that facilitates afterschool classes for underprivileged, ‘non-elite’ adolescents in over 70 countries.

“English is a tool that provides access to better living conditions,” explains Regional English Language Officer at the US Embassy, Fife MacDuff, and says that literacy in English allows access to “information, better jobs, communication, and negotiation.”

Until an even-playing field is realised, English will continue to dominate global commerce and culture, a fact that serves an ironic note for Holman: “On the one hand, I’m working on endangered languages, but I’m doing it by using the bully language, the language of the oppressors.”

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EVENTS



**Kalashaktishwari**, painting exhibition organised by Centre for Health, Education, Training and National Advocay (CHETANA). 8 to 18 May, 2.30 pm on inaugural day, gallery hours: 10am to 5pm, Newa Chen Art Gallery, Kobahal Tole, Lalitpur, 5533532, 9841224753

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

**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

**The Revival**, re-exhibition of paintings by K.G.Ranjit. 13 May to 3 June, 5 to 17 June, Weekdays: 11am to 7pm, Saturdays: 12pm to 4pm, Fusion Studio, Mandala Street, Thamel, 4700562

**Culturally Enlightened**, a cultural festival organised by Om Mahakal Film Production. 2 to 5 June, 11am to 6pm, Tundikhel Ground

**Stories in Photos**, photo exhibition of submissions for a competition organised by the Photo Journalist Club. 12 to 14 May, 11am to 6pm, Nepal Art Council, Baber Mahal, 420735

**For the Supreme Right**, a discussion on social and political

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problems organized by Youth today. 14 May, 8.30am to 10am, In front of Constitution Assembly building, New Baneshwor

**Outdoors Grind**, a pool side dance party organised by Party Nepal Outdoors. 28 to 29 May, Riverside Spring Resort, Kurintar, Rs.3500

**The Conference of the Birds**, a play by Studio 7 Productions. 13 May, 7.15pm, Naga Theatre, Hotel Vajra, Bijeshwari, Swayambhu, Rs.700, 4271545



**Launch of Nothing to declare**, a collection of short stories by Rabi Thapa and book launch of artist and RJ Chirag Bangdel. 8 May, 5pm, Ramalaya, Pani Pokhari, Kathmandu, 5536974

**Global Accent Training**, a program to help non-native English speakers better their English. 15 May, 5pm to 6.30pm and 6.30pm to 8pm, Edusol Nepal, Baluwatar, 4412606, 9849452929

MUSIC



**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

**KJC Faculty in Concert**. 13 May, 6pm, Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory/ Moksh auditorium, Jhamsikhel, 5013554, info@katjazz.com.np

DINING



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

**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

**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 surrounds 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.

काम सानो 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 ।

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# Kicking it in Nepal

Nepali footballers pull their socks up as Richmond Mavericks FC, a semi-professional football team from the northeast of England, arrives this week for plays offs against local teams. The tour is being coordinated in Nepal by nepa~laya in collaboration with Kathmandu Khel Mandal (KKM).

“We are glad to welcome the Mavericks to Nepal,” says Binay Pradhan of KKM. “I am confident that our players in Nepal will enjoy playing and interacting with the visiting players.”

The Richmond Mavericks’ squad is aged between 20-29. Star players include the two centre-backs, Dan Johnson and Jason Newall, and former Middlesbrough FC youth player, Adam Dunwoodie. While in Nepal, they will play four matches, two in Kathmandu and one each in Butwal and Pokhara.

“We’re aware the standard in Nepal is very strong. We’ve been following the AFC qualifiers in Kathmandu and its clear there are some outstanding players in Nepal,” says Owen Amos, the tour manager. The team was scheduled to come to Nepal last year but the trip was cancelled because of the Icelandic volcano.

It’s not the first time the Richmond Mavericks have played in Asia. In 2007, the team toured Sri Lanka, where they played three Premier League sides.

The team will also run open training sessions, which local youngsters are welcome to attend. The Mavericks squad includes a number of FA- qualified coaches and one UEFA 'B licence' holder.

*All games start at 3.30pm*  
*Binay Singh Pradhan, 9841200755*  
*Arpan Sharma, 4412469*



Date	Game	Venue	Local Organiser
12 May	NRT vs. Maverick	APF Ground Halanchowk, Kathmandu	Kathmandu Khel Mandal (KKM)
14 May	Rupandehi XI vs. Maverick	ANFA Academy Ground, Butwal	District Football Association – Rupandehi
16 May	Kaski XI vs. Maverick	Pokhara Stadium, Pokhara	District Football Association – Kaski
19 May	APF vs. Maverick	APF Ground Halanchowk, Kathmandu	APF Club

SOMEPLACE ELSE

I hate to generalise, but Thamel’s charms have faded somewhat for me. This is less to do with the plethora of establishments that populate it than the noisy, narrow streets infested with peddlers of all varieties. Truth be told, Thamel has long ceased to be the place for food. But one shouldn’t generalise, after all. Quite apart from fancy new bars, there are still a few unexplored corners worth dropping into. The problem with the delightfully named Newa de Café is that you might end up staying the whole night there while the party you came down for runs its course across the street.

Let’s be clear, this is no boutique purveyor of Newari tidbits. The straight-up table-and-chair on concrete tableau will earn no accolades for ‘ambience’, either. But for the range of its snacks and the value of money it offers, Newa is a real haven within the overpriced milieu of the tourist district, and it’s a few cuts above your average *bhatti* in terms of fare, service, and hygiene.

Maheshwor Dai and his boys are happy to serve up the usual fried rice et al, if the usual is what you want. But it’s the unusual that intrigues.

Tongues, lungs, marrow and brain, stewed or fried, accompany heartier fare in the form of baras, as well as juicy sekuwa, fiery sukuti, spreads of samay baji, and tart tama. Offal is a staple of Newari cuisine, although it is yet to be more widely accepted. But if your average Nepali doesn’t blink when faced with a plateful of fried intestines or liver, why stop there? Jibro tareko (fried tongue) is slightly chewy but goes wonderfully with a squeeze of lemon; phokso (lungs) are crunchy and soft when done just right; and the creamy texture of tishyo



BIKRAM RAI

# Newa de Café

(bone marrow) is unique. It’s more difficult to describe the taste of these buffalo parts without counterparts from other animals, but save for the tongue, they are neither dark nor strongly flavoured. Perfect for the adventurous non-Newar.

If you look beyond the beer then you’ll find aila works doubly well at a fraction of the price, and if your spirit quails then try

mixing with lemon soda. I hereby dub thee Cocktail.

Newa is also happy to cater for anyone deterred by the cost of providing for those fussy things called events. That is, if your invitees can be cajoled into sampling aila over Red Label, baras over roomali rotis, and buff chwoela over chicken manchurian. I know I would.

*Nepali Kukur*

*Coming into Thamel, pass Kathmandu Guest House on your left and stop short. Newa’s at the back of the open area next to the gate.*

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

# Typhoid season



PRADEEP KAFLE



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

In the latest online issue of the Lancet Infectious Disease, our team from Patan Hospital working together with Oxford University published an article based on the findings of a randomised controlled trial of two drugs in typhoid fever. Typhoid, which is spread by fecal oral transmission is rampant in the developing world, and there is an ongoing problem with drug resistance. This study was the largest clinical trial ( 844 patients

were recruited over a period of three years) on typhoid fever to date. Appropriate dosage of Gatifloxacin was administered for seven days in a once day dosing for patients suspected to have typhoid fever. Gatifloxacin in the study was compared with the oldest drug used in the treatment of typhoid fever, chloramphenicol. There was no difference in the efficacy of these two drugs in the time taken (four days) to bring the fever down. However, unlike cholramhenicol which needs to be taken four times per day for 14 days, gatifloxacin needs to be taken only once a day for seven days. Clearly most people will favour taking a drug once a day for seven days rather than four times

a day for 14 days. Our conclusion was that gatifloxacin should be the preferred drug in the treatment of typhoid fever in the developing world. Gatifloxacin attracted attention several years ago when in an elderly Canadian population, who were administered the drug for an infection, it was shown to increase or decrease the blood glucose, thus causing some patients to have symptoms of diabetes or low blood sugar (hypoglycaemia). As a result in North America, this drug was removed from the market. However in our Nepal study the average age of our patients was 16, and unlike the elderly Canadian population our patients did not have any co-morbidities ( that is, accompanying medical problems like kidney disease). Furthermore we tracked the blood sugar very closely in our population cohort; and there was no obvious blood sugar problem as noted in the elderly Canadian population. This story of Gatifloxacin is a good example of how a useful and affordable drug should not be discarded just because it is found to have side effects in a completely different patient population in another part of the world. Indeed we are running out of antibiotics to treat life threatening infections like typhoid fever in tropical countries. 🇳🇵



**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

High moisture content in the westerlies in the past week turned into convection storms all over Nepal, just ahead of the planting season. But as the heat bakes the Indo-Gangetic plains, there appears to be less water vapour in the air. Still, afternoon updrafts along the mountains will bring isolated thunder and wind storms over parts of Nepal during the weekend. The temperature will also pick up, with the maximum being the seasonal highs of 30 degree in Kathmandu.



FRI	SAT	SUN
31-15	30-16	31-15



BIKRAM RAI

**SHINY LEADS:** President Ram Baran Yadav, Prime Minister Jhala Nath Khanal and other political leaders head towards the refreshment area, after the oath taking ceremony for the 14 newly appointed ministers, Wednesday evening.



BIKRAM RAI

**EYO EYO:** Applicants for the Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK), a mandatory test for employment permit in South Korea at the ANFA stadium, Balkumari, Kathmandu, on Monday. More than 60,000 aspiring workers applied for the test.



BIKRAM RAI

**WHAT'S HAPPENING?** A child looks on as the RPP-N holds a mass meeting at Khula Manch, Kathmandu, on Friday.



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# Mind your Ps

Poverty, politics, power, petrol, *pani*, *pakhes*



**KALAM**  
**Rabi Thapa**

**P** is for People, right? Poetry? No. Nepal has plenty of both, but this week I'd like to look at the Ps that make living here a Phew! at the end of the day.

There's Poverty, of course. Be you in the city or in the sticks, no amount of natural or cultural beauty can long distract you from the depressing realities that the majority of Nepalis have to face everyday. Those who think they can insulate themselves from the poor people around them are deluded; until they take an active interest in improving the lot of those less fortunate, their comfort zones are mere eggshells. Poverty in Nepal has been the breeding ground for much of our latter-day...

...Politics, which too has come to define modern-day Nepal. We've moved on from court intrigues for aristocrats into parliamentary and backroom shenanigans that only represent an improvement in that there are more holders of sharpened stakes at play. Politics in Nepal fascinates and repels at the same time; in the last two decades no other activity has been the repository of so much hope and so much despair, yet we (no thanks to the media) continue to obsess over it as if everything else were incidental or dependent upon it. The inability or, indeed, reluctance of our politicians to move beyond grasping, self-referential endeavours has meant basic services have been chronically neglected. Far from freeing Nepalis from poverty, politics has condemned us to a lack of...

...Power, Petrol and *Pani* (excuse the stretch). Without electricity to work by, never mind enjoy the quality of life one expects of the 21st century, or even alternate sources of fuel, how can we ever hope to move out of the dark ages? The irony of course, lies in Nepal's unmentionable reserves of hydropower potential and the fact that the Himalaya

are referred to as the 'water towers' of Asia. Faced with such difficulty in securing what people take for granted in the West, no wonder then that from the beatific inhabitants of a mythical land of never-ending peace and love, we have degenerated

into veritable...

...*Pakhes*. Yes, this is true of half of us in a literal sense, living as we do in the corrugated half of the country. But a *pakhe* is not just a country bumpkin who knows not what to do with the bright lights of the

city. Transplanted or born and bred in our cities, he is the everyman *pakhe* who makes a ticker-tape parade of something as humble as a chewing gum wrapper, the neighbour (and his dog) who thinks nothing of blasting his *bhajans* (and

barks) around the hood at 6 in the morning, he is the jam in the traffic, the anti-samaritan who laughs at your misfortune, and yes, even the sophisticate who lives in Osamaesque seclusion from the community around him.

Poverty, politics, power, petrol, *pani*, *pakhes*, all feed off each other today. Tomorrow, we may untie the knot of one or the other, freeing us up to deal with the rest. Until we do, deal with the Pressure. Time for some *Pranayam*? 🇳🇵

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# Online censorship on the rise

WASHINGTON -- In the midst of a street uprising that was blogged, YouTube'd, and Twittered in minute-by-minute cyber blasts the Egyptian regime tightened controls on the Internet in late January in an attempt to choke the revolution.

Egypt's Internet Service Providers (ISPs) finally restored the Net, but Hosni Mubarak's desperate deployment of information control adapted to social networking sites is part of a growing global trend. Efforts to control and censor the cyber commons, from blocking Web sites to imprisoning bloggers, is used by a growing number of even democratic governments around the world.

"In authoritarian states, such efforts are partly rooted in the existing legal frameworks, which already limit the freedom of the traditional media," says a recent study by the US-based Freedom House. China, with the world's most sophisticated state censorship apparatus, Iran, Venezuela, Egypt, and Tunisia, are among those fingered as guilty.

"But even in more democratic countries such as Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey, and the United Kingdom Internet freedom is increasingly undermined by legal harassment, opaque censorship procedures, or expanding surveillance," the study adds.

On Monday, the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists released a report on the "Top 10 Tools of Online Oppressors" in commemoration of World Press Freedom day on May 3.

"These techniques go well beyond Web censorship," said Danny O'Brien, CPJ Internet Advocacy Coordinator and author of the report. "Combined, these digital attacks undermine our universal right to seek information."

The list includes such good old-fashioned tactics as imprisonment and violence against independent and opposition journalists, to high-tech methods of censorship like Denial of Service cyber-attacks and so-called Internet "kill switches" similar to Egypt's.

More than two billion people have access to the Internet, a number that has doubled since 2006, so once well-defined journalistic lines between spectator and contributor, source and correspondent are blurring, equally amplifying the threat of online censorship to press freedom.



This overwhelming number of active voices contributing to the dissemination of news, some with questionable intents or identities, has also demanded a re-evaluation of the profession of journalism itself, with some arguing that crowd-sourcing can muddle the quality and accuracy of news.

"We have an influx of material – videos, photos, testimonies and tweets – and we can weave a story on the ground just from people who are breaking this curfew and risking everything they have to tell their story," North Africa and Middle East editor for Global Voices Amira Hussaini said.

In this new model of participatory journalism, where the inputs of citizens can be as important as those of veteran reporters and traditional agenda-setters, the impact of increased online censorship is thus multiplied, as it can affect the layperson casually tweeting about the day's events as much as the prolific opposition blogger.

"The ability to hear from participants in a people power movement is a massive improvement from how we've generally covered public uprising, where we hear primarily from government spokespeople and professional talking heads," Ethan Zuckerman, senior researcher at the Berkman Centre for Internet and Society at Harvard University, told IPS. "You want biased coverage from elites – there you have it."

Indeed, as the Internet and other ICTs are ostensibly lauded for their potential to democratise the processes of news-making and news-gathering, technology can equally be harnessed for repression, as the Freedom House and CPJ publications illustrate.

But as creative and inspiring as Internet circumvention methods may be, the sobering reality is that they shouldn't be necessary in the first place, says Zuckerman.

"Circumvention tools can be helpful and valuable," Zuckerman said, "but the shutdown of the Egyptian Internet shows that a truly determined government can always 'pull the plug'."

Aprille Muscara/IPS Washington

# Bloggin' bout

DEWAN RAI

Credited for sparking the Tunisian Revolution and bringing down the Mubarak regime in Egypt, 2011 has been the Year of the Blogger. In Nepal, blogs are transforming the way urban Nepalis get their information.

Nepal's blogging era has officially kicked off with king Gyanendra's coup on 1 February 2005. Newspapers were under direct military censorship, FM radios were not allowed to broadcast news, so bloggers stepped in to fill the information gap even while the ISPs were still closed.

Nepal's most popular Nepali language blogging site, *My Sansar* (www.mysansar.com.np), began at that time and has grown into a citizen journalism aggregator. Blogs usually have a credibility problem because of anonymous postings and gossip, but *My Sansar* is seen by many as an antidote to a mainstream media which are compromised by political and corporate bias.

*My Sansar* recently exposed the newly-appointed State Minister for Finance Lyarkar Lama, who turned out to be of Tibetan origin holding fake passports from three different countries. The mainstream media followed up on the news, and Lama was forced to resign.

# The Nepali tweetosphere

RUBEENA MAHATO

"Obama says Osama Dead," someone tweeted, and instantly there were hundreds re-tweeting the news. There was still nothing on local tv breaking news yet, and not a peep on the newspaper websites. Welcome to the world of tweeters.

Last month, social media in Nepal was abuzz with messages demanding the reinstatement of the finance secretary who resigned due to political pressure from Finance Minister Bharat Mohan Adhikari. The social media campaign embarrassed the finance minister, prompting him to call a press conference in his defence. Social networking has arrived in Nepal, with Facebook subscribers now exceeding 1 million and the number of those tweeting rising exponentially with the spread of smart phones.

The community of Twitter users in Nepal tweet anything from usual ramblings to profound political commentaries and hardly anything of national and global importance escape the lively discussions on twitter timelines.

Although the number of people who say they regularly use the Internet is still below 10 per cent, the large diaspora population and the spread of 3G phones is suddenly making the technology cheap and accessible to many.

Language used to be a barrier because of Roman Nepali typing, but use of Devnagari keyboards is spreading. Aakarpost (@aakarpost), a regular tweeter says, "If I get confused about something, I post it on Twitter and then often someone from the community tweets back the solution." Nepali tweeters have also become an alternative and timely source of "breaking news" for peers living abroad. Last week's *banda*, for instance, was discussed all over



Nepali tweetosphere with updates from people across the country.

Twitter has become a venue to initiate social work and jumpstart robust discussions. "Tweet for Cause Nepal" (@tfcNepal) recently raised funds among Twitter users to donate food, stationery and clothes to the orphanage Pabitra Samaj Sewa. Similarly, Tweetdebate, an initiative by Twitter users in Nepal, hosts weekly discussions every Saturday, the topic for which is decided from among the participants themselves.

"We are also planning to set-up an after debate support group, for specific topics, if required," Anand Nepal (@anandnepal) told us. "In the early days, I used to tweet about 'what I was doing', but these days I generally tweet about 'what I think'," Abish Adhikari (@abishadh), a doctor at BPKIHS, Dharan says.

While the new media is giving activism a new shape, the conflict between alternative and mainstream media is becoming only more apparent. Recently, there was a huge uproar in both media about a national daily that published unsolicited tweets. Twitter users argued passionately about the violation of private space and the dangers of being quoted out of context.

And this time around, it was bloggers and tweeters who advocated for values and ethics in journalism.

# a revolution

The balance is tilting away from mainstream media to citizen journalism

“I wasn’t sure if the issue would be taken seriously,” admits *My Sansar’s* reclusive founder, Umesh Shrestha (*below*), “but we see the established press taking their cue more and more from the blogosphere.”

Shrestha has earned a reputation for his nocturnal working habits, but says there are no time zones in cyberspace. He started blogging in 2005, when he was laid off from his job in Channel Nepal Television after the king’s coup. Initially, he maintained personal musings on politics and current affairs under the nom de blog, Salokya, which he still uses.

Despite his non-technical background, Shrestha quickly established a Nepali niche on the Net.

The number of unique visitors of *My Sansar* grew exponentially, reflecting the hunger in Nepal and abroad for a different perspective on current affairs. On a good day, these days, *My Sansar* gets 60,000 visitors.

He skipped his exams to webcast from Narayanhiti as king Gyanendra held a press conference before leaving the palace in June 2008. He introduced live blogging during the five-day Maoist strike last May.

Shrestha has also used his blog for rendering charitable services. Donations collected through his blog have been funding the education of a girl from Parbat district, and library projects in four districts.

Young Nepalis prefer the immediacy and spicy content of blog sites, and traditional media has been slow to pick up on this trend. “I prefer reading blogs because they give me the missing links in the story ignored by the mainstream media and they do it with wit and style,” says Sandip Pokhrel from New Baneshwor, who follows blogs regularly.

Shrestha has his finger on the pulse of readers like Pokhrel, and says: “A little more analysis and playful language are what attract readers to blogs.”

Blogger Ujjwal Acharya says the mainstream media is given too much credit for credibility. “News in the mainstream media is not always true

either,” he says, citing the example of the Anuja Baniya story last week. “When you read a blog, it is in the back of your mind that you are reading a blog and you don’t fully believe the post. Mainstream media holds the authority that everything they say is true.”

Taking their cue from *My Sansar*, many young Nepalis have started their own blogs. But there are challenges because with wider access, the long tail of individual blog sites is just getting longer and longer. 🇳🇵



## Top Ten

1. mysansar.com
2. meroreport.com
3. ushaft.wordpress.com
4. dautari.org
5. blog.com.np
6. nepalivoices.com
7. madhesi.wordpress.com
8. hamroblog.com
9. aakarpost.com
10. guffadi.blogspot.com

(Top ten blogs from Nepal ranked in order of visits.)

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स्टेट अफ विस्कन्सिन	सर्किट कोर्ट परिवार कोर्ट शाखा १४	डेन काउन्टी
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प्रकाशनद्वारा सम्मनहरू (Summons by publication)		
<b>दि स्टेट अफ विस्कन्सिन</b> माथि उल्लेखित प्रतिवादीको लागि:-  यसमार्फत तपाईंलाई सूचना दिइन्छ कि माथि उल्लेखित वादीले तपाईं विरुद्ध सम्बन्ध विच्छेदको मुद्दा दर्ता गर्नु भएको छ । तपाईंले 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.  तपाईंले मद्दत अथवा प्रतिनिधित्वको लागि वकिल पाउन सक्नुहुन्छ ।  तपाईंले ४० दिन भित्र यस फिराद पत्रको प्रतिलिपि नमाणेमा अदालतले तपाईं विरुद्ध निर्णय गर्न सक्नेछ जसको परिणाम तपाईं विरुद्ध जरीवाना वा फिराद पत्रमा माग गरिएको अरु कुनै कानूनी कारवाही गर्न सकिनेछ र तपाईंले फिराद पत्रमा उल्लेखित कुनै पनि मागदावीको प्रतिरक्षा गर्नेअधिकार गुमाउन सक्नुहुने छ । अदालतको निर्णय कानून बमोजीम लागु गरिनेछ । जरीवाना वा कुनै रकम तिर्नु पर्ने गरी अदालतबाट निर्णय भएमा तपाईंको जस्तो सुकै निवर्तमान वा भविष्यको सम्पत्तिमाथि दावी बन्न सक्छ र जबरजस्ती मासिक भत्ता तिराउन सकिन्छ वा सम्पति जफत हुन सक्छ ।  साथै तपाईंलाई यसमार्फत सूचना दिइन्छ कि परिवारकोर्ट कमिश्नरको अफिसबाट Wis. Stat. § 767, 105 मा तोकिएको जानकारी उपलब्ध छ ।  मिति: ११ फेब्रुअरी २०११		
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The Gajurel tape

BBC Nepali Service, 4 May



Voice of CP Gajurel speaking to a cadre training session in eastern Nepal. "We will join the government to prepare the ground for a people's revolt. We will take the ministry that helps us fulfill these objectives. I can tell you that the home ministry is more important than the defense ministry at the moment because we are preparing for state capture. As we launch the fight for class struggle, it is the police who could create barriers. The army is not the issue now, we will take it on at the end. The Nepal Police and Armed Police Force are the first security agencies we will have to confront. Therefore, we concluded that the home ministry would be crucial in achieving our goals. That's why we have been insisting for home ministry. We have not specified it in our agreement, even our enemies have not understood this. But RAW and CIA have figured it out and you can be sure they will get the NC and UML to oppose us."

Politicised FNJ

Nagarik, 5 May

नागरिक

The convention of the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) concluded with the most of the old faces back in office. The showdown at the Nepal Academy on Wednesday exposed the politicisation of the journalist profession. From the onset, there was a clear division among the journalists affiliated to the Maoists, UML and NC. Sushil Koirala is said to have personally suggested a panel take on the UML and Maoists. Ironically, they were all running the election with the same slogan: free, fair and professional journalism. The voters from the districts, camped at various guesthouses were supplied with delicacies and liquor by the parties. The filthy amount of money spent by candidates has ensured that journalists no longer have the moral ground to write about corruption among politicians. Unless FNJ is made in to a common forum for all the journalists, it will become a political club without professional integrity.

Death of terror?

Editorial in Naya Patrika, 4 May

नयाँ पत्रिका

After eluding the world for 10 years, Osama Bin Laden has been killed by American forces in Pakistan. American President Barak Obama in his address to the nation called it victory over terrorism. But instead of celebrating his death, people in the West should ask themselves difficult questions like why Osamas of the world are born? And for what vested interests are they created? The people in the West should understand why an ally of the Cold War became a foe in its aftermath. What forced this man to turn against those who trained, armed and mobilized him. Bin Laden killed a lot of people in the name of *jihad*, for which he was condemned and hated all over the world including Muslims. But Americans and their allies who trained him and his *mujahidin* have a share of guilt to own. His death might have brought relief to the governments around the world, but the world has yet to see the death of terror.

Not against peace: Kiran

Mohan Baidhya interviewed by Ganga BC in Kantipur, 30 April

क्रान्तिपुर

**Kantipur: Your proposal has been sidelined by majority in the central committee, what is your take on the decision?**  
Mohan Baidya: Although Chairman Dahal’s proposal has been passed by majority, we have agreed on incorporating the main theme of both the proposals in line with constitution drafting and integration of the PLA.

**What was your note of dissent then?**  
Chairman Dahal has mentioned in his proposal that we have to complete the peace process and draft the constitution in order to defeat the counter-revolutionary forces. My insistence is that there are other ways to defeat counter-revolutionary forces.

**How will you carry your note of dissent ahead?**  
We have already developed a mechanism to take any note of dissent to the party’s grassroots. So it will move ahead accordingly.

RUMA RAJBHANDARI  
in ACHHAM

In 2007, after a long flight to Nepalganj, a 16-hour drive over muddy and rugged roads, and a two-hour hike, we arrived at the Bajhang district hospital only to find no doctors; the only staff nurse was preparing to quit.

The entire hospital was run by village health workers and auxiliary nurse mid-wives. A middle-aged woman with three children stood at the hospital entrance.

“Where were your children delivered?” I asked.

“In my *goth*,” she answered. (“Where else do you think, lady?” was her tone.)

“Did anyone assist you—a midwife, your mother-in-law?”

“No.”

“How did you cut the umbilical cord?”

“With my *hasiya*, of course.”

She had had enough of my silly questions and hurried off.

Since 2007, there has been progress in maternal health in far western Nepal. In Bajhang, the Nick Simons Institute (NSI) supports the district hospital through the Rural Staff Support Program, providing an MDGP doctor who can carry out caesarian sections, training for anesthesia assistants and skilled birth attendants.

On 29 March, the first caesarian section ever was carried out in Bajhang, saving the life of a mother who would otherwise not have made the journey to the closest operating room in Dadeldhura.

In Achham, the group Nyaya Health runs the Bayalpata Hospital as a public-private partnership with the Ministry of Health. In a district where there were no doctors in 2007, there is now a hospital where services for



HAPPY MUMMY DAY: A mother and child at Achham’s Bayalpata Hospital, which is run by the charity, Nyaya Health.

RUMA RAJBHANDARI

# Every day is Mother’s Day

Throughout the world, mothers are strong, but Nepali mothers are in another league altogether

hundreds of patients everyday are all free.

Mothers and children, who account for nearly three-fourths of the patients, walk for over two days for treatment. Since the government’s Safe Motherhood Program started paying women Rs1000 for in-hospital deliveries, monthly deliveries have more than doubled.


There are huge challenges due to the backlog of neglect over the decades. Achhami mothers try to leave the

hospital two hours after delivery. “I must get back to my children and animals,” one of them told me.

Motherhood connects women all over the world. The joy and exhaustion of holding a beautiful newborn for the first time is shared universally, from Bajhang to Boston. But for women in far-Western Nepal, the stakes are far higher. Bayalpata still lacks an operating theatre, requiring dangerous transfer across mountain roads for more than seven

hours for a caesarean section. It’s not surprising then to hear of pregnancy still referred to as a ‘gamble with death’.

NSI has recently pledged \$75,000 in matching funds to support the construction of Bayalpata’s surgical center to provide life-saving caesarean sections and other essential surgeries by late 2011. 🇳🇵 [www.nyayahealth.org/donate](http://www.nyayahealth.org/donate)

 Ruma Rajbhandari is a physician at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston and volunteers with NSI and Nyaya Health in Achham.

[nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com)  
Resurrection Achham, #528  
Unwanted in Achham, #479



THREE SISTERS: Krishna Khadayat and Sarita GC (above) and lab technician Rajani Shah (right) say they find more fulfillment working in their native Achham than in a city hospital.

PICS: DAMBAR KRISHNA SHRESTHA

# The power of three

DAMBAR KRISHNA SHRESTHA  
in ACHHAM

In terms of human development indicators, Achham is one of the most deprived districts in Nepal. When they come up for transfer, It is the last preference for civil servants, teachers and doctors.

Yet, three young Nepali women say they wouldn’t work anywhere else. Krishna Kadayat, Rajni Shah and Sarita GC work in healthcare here in Achham, a district where up to three-fourths of all children are undernourished.

Rajni works for the government hospital in Mangalsen, and says traveling to remote areas of the district is difficult, and she doesn’t get to eat or sleep properly, but that is where her services are required the most.

“But it is the look of gratitude on the faces of the village mothers that makes us forget our own hardships, it is really fulfilling,” Rajni explains.

Rajni travels to 12 health posts and two primary healthcare centers in various parts of the district, treating pregnant women under a community based health program that aims to prevent the transfer of HIV/AIDS from mother to child. Rajni’s family has tried to convince her to quit such a difficult job and return to Dhangadi. But she is determined to stay on.

Many of Rajni’s and Krishna’s classmates and families have moved to the cities or abroad, but the two decided not just to stay in Nepal but to return to their native district.

Three young city-educated medical workers prefer to work in remote Nepal



“I decided to come back because I feel my own people need my service more than those in the cities,” says Krishna, who now works at Chandika VDC, near her birthplace.

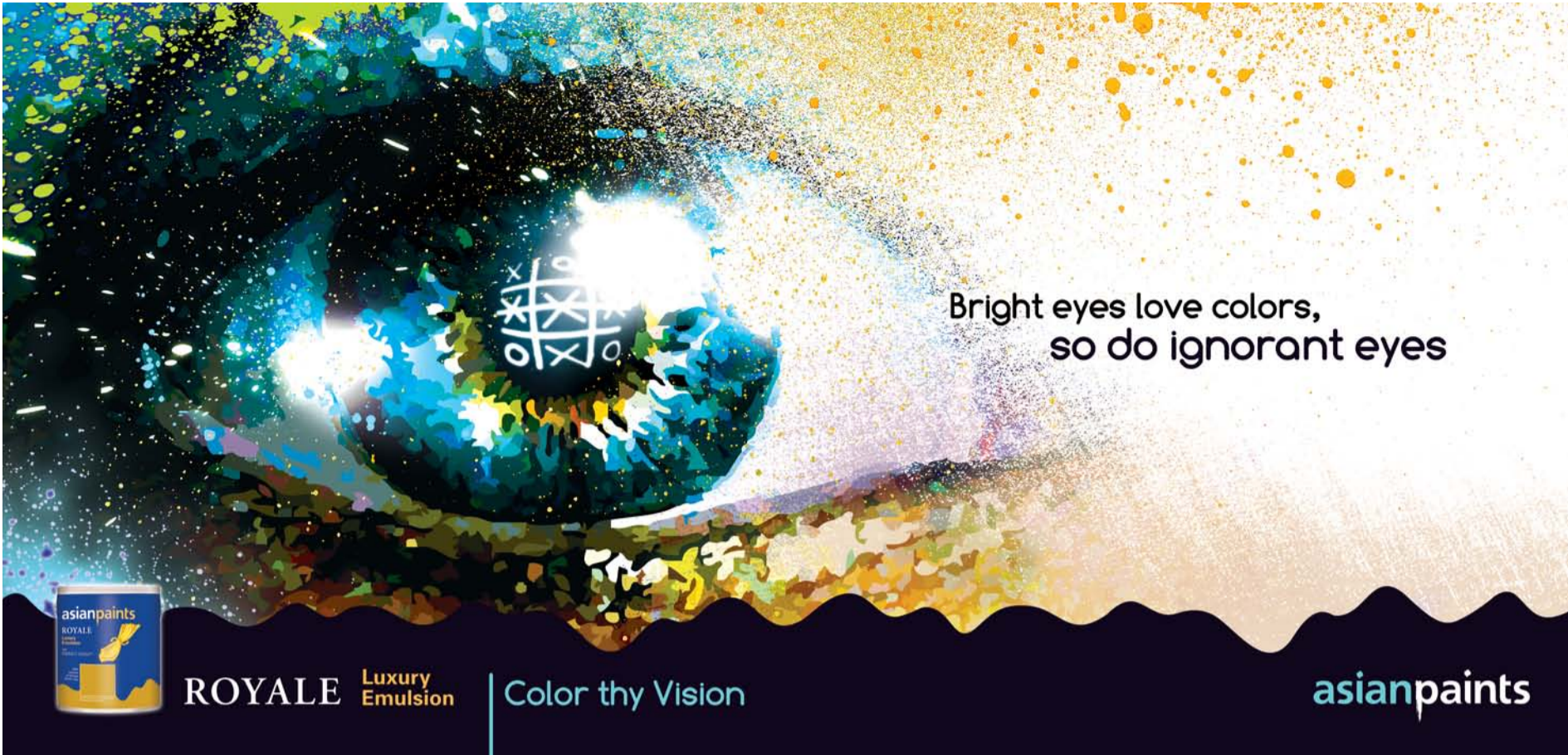
Krishna works for a UNICEF-supported program to get communities to reduce malnutrition and looks after three VDCs. For two weeks in a month, she trains women volunteers and treats children stunted by malnutrition.

She is moved by the heart-breaking poverty, illiteracy and discrimination in Achham’s outlying villages, but says she is glad to be doing her bit. “Of course, life is hard, but that is a given. It is what I do that gives me real self-satisfaction,” she says.

Sarita GC is from Palpa and works with Rajni. She graduated in nursing and public health, and has worked in many of Nepal’s least-developed districts. She was inspired to take up public health after seeing the condition of children there.

Sarita’s sister is in Australia and has been trying to convince her to move. Her brother is in Canada and her friends all have comfortable jobs in Kathmandu.

Asked what keeps her going in Achham’s dirt-poor villages, Sarita replies: “Using my skills and knowledge to help save the lives of fellow Nepalis gives me a feeling of tremendous fulfillment. I don’t think I would get that in any other job anywhere else.” 🇳🇵



Bright eyes love colors,  
so do ignorant eyes

asianpaints ROYALE Luxury Emulsion Color thy Vision

# Home away from home

Yay! We will only have 11 hours of power cuts from tomorrow. FNJ office-bearers (right) will be happy they can keep phones charged. Others, like baddie CA member Indramati Yadav, will be happy she can steal more electricity for her irrigation pump in Saptari. There is just so much we can do with five extra hours of power, if we let our imagination run wild:

1. We can now pump more water directly from the mains and suck the whole tole dry by depriving everyone else of their fair share of H<sub>2</sub>O.
2. Watch five more hours of junk tv every day to take our minds off politics.
3. The 45 megawatts produced by household and office generators all over the country will have five extra hours of power, this could be hooked to the grid and exported to India and we can use the money to pay IOC for continued diesel imports to power our generators during load-shedding. (Editor's note: This Brilliant Idea has been already nominated for



4. Buy things you hadn't because of excessive loadshedding: electric toothbrush, electric cigarette, electric blanket, rechargeable vibrator.
5. Attach two hooks to the powerline below your balcony and sell the power to the neighbourhood for five more hours every day
6. Kathmandu Metropolitan City can finally revive plans for an electric crematorium.
7. The new constitution can reinstate capital punishment and start electrocuting all those caught red-handed selling red passports.
8. Organise more bands in May so we can save on petrol imports and splurge that money on extending the life of the CA.

World Challenge 2011). It looks like your name needs to begin with the Nepali झ for someone to give you a jhapad. Rumours abound that after seeing Jhal Nath Khanal elevated to prime minister soon after receiving a tight slap on his gala in Sunsari, Baddie CA member Jhakku Subedi convinced the Teen Kune coffee shop owner to slap him twice and leaked that to the press. Com Jhakku was, however, disappointed not to see his name on the list of the expanded cabinet. He was overheard saying: "What does one have to do these days to land a juicy ministry, get lynched?"

Com Jhal Gnat may have thought he pulled off a coup by expanding the cabinet before jetting off to Istanbul by snaring the Baddies their

promised home ministry and handing over the Foreigner Ministry to Upadro Yadav. But the move has stirred a hornet's nest within all three parties of the coalition. The breakthrough was initiated in Janakpur last week when the PM shared the podium with KPO, the two met again in Balkot in the evening, downed an entire bottle of Johnny Walker and came to a compromise on giving the Baddies home in exchange for a promise from PKD to demobilise his fighters. JN then popped in to see Makunay who he claims was ok with the idea. (Both MKN and KPO now say they agreed to no such thing.) The question the Baddies are asking Chariman Awesome is who got him to make Prabhu Sah law minister. Is he a double agent too?

And over at Paris Danda, all hell has broken loose over Com Mahara being transferred to home away from home. Annual Man was so miffed he even resigned from the Peace Ministry. Com Deb had steam coming out of his ears, and got three other baddie ministers to refuse to take their oaths. PKD must have known what a bad idea it was to get his henchman, **Com Ugly Sapkota**, to be info and communication minister in Mahara's place. If his intention was to get the internationals to trust him, nominating someone accused of war crimes was not the way to do it.

CP Sir has done his own **Skahtikhor Tape**. Speaking to People's Volunteer Bureau training in Dharan recently, he said the reason the Baddies desperately wanted the APF and the Nepal Police was to "facilitate a people's revolt and takeover of state power by force". Ahem.





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