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JANA ASEN BRENNEROVA

# New countdown

Like all other multiple-point agreements, the 5-point agreement was only useful in averting a constitutional crisis just before dawn on 29 May. No one is surprised it has already begun to unravel. The consensus everyone says is still elusive. Maoist hardliners disowned the agreement, the prime minister said he never meant he'd resign right away. And the whole thing is a mirror-image of last year's drama with Madhav Nepal. So, one week on and the clock is ticking again, and there is

no indication anything has changed on the political front for us to be optimistic about the 28 August deadline. Even if Jhal Nath Khanal resigns, it seems forming a new government will take longer than the three-month deadline for the constitution. The only opening is that the NC says it will agree to Pushpa Kamal Dahal as prime minister if he moves on decommissioning and integrating his fighters. But the Maoist chairman is under severe internal pressure not to do so, and also squeezed

by a newly-powerful Madhesi bloc in the house. Although the CA committees immediately resumed the task of a draft constitution this week, progress will be hampered by continued deadlock in power-sharing. What needs to happen is for the political

leaders to respond to a very negative public mood and prioritise the peace process and constitution writing in the coming weeks. If Nepal's leaders keep haggling over power, there will soon be no power to haggle over.  Dewan Rai



Editorial p2

What are we waiting for?

We don't need a new constitution to start working on governance.

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# WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

The failure of this country’s rulers to once more meet the deadline for a new constitution is not as great as their chronic inability in the past five years to meet the people’s needs for jobs and basic services. Somehow, the governance failure is eclipsed by their spectacular inability to frame a statute in time. In fact, it is looking like the constitution is holding development hostage.

A new constitution would lay down the rules of the game to govern a new Nepal. But of what use are rules if you are not going to follow them? In the past, this nation came to grief precisely because our feckless rulers forgot about the rules, they never bothered about implementing its provisions. The 1990 constitution was adequate for the times, and could easily have been tweaked with new amendments to make it more inclusive and include failsafe mechanisms for decentralised governance. But the war was fought for a new constitution, and without it those who waged it will feel their sacrifice was in vain. For most other Nepalis a piece of paper was never the priority, they just wanted a government that worked.



Perhaps we attach too much importance to whether or not a constitution is written, and not enough on whether we have the governance capacity to deliver services. Why should delivery await a new constitution, anyway? What is stopping the transition coalition from going ahead with a

national campaign to create jobs, improve health care, education and irrigation. The idea is not just to ensure Nepalis have a longer life-span, but also a better life.

We don’t need a new constitution to tell us that the state must provide equal opportunity for all. An accountable elected government must allow all boats to rise together, not just the boats that are better placed.

Why do we have to wait for a new constitution to start work on leveling the playing field? Income equality is going to take time, but it is the state’s responsibility to provide equal opportunity for all. It is criminal neglect of the state when family income determines a student’s SLC score, when a dialysis patients drop out of treatment because they can’t afford it anymore, when those with TB take only half the dose of expensive antibiotics.

Not equalising opportunity will be a perpetual cause of social unrest. You don’t need a new constitution to start working on it.

*KQ*

## ON THE WEB www.nepalitimes.com

### TRUTH PREVAILS

Ketaki Chester's candour and open transparency on the tragedy are, and always have been, much appreciated ('Dipendra kicked his father after he shot him', Ketaki Chester, #555). It is significant that her narrative of events has never changed on any single detail, nor have any of the other surviving witnesses to the massacre ever wavered in their version of events. Yes, Nepal's royalty has a history which is decidedly mixed, to say the least, and its track record has not always been glorious. That is not quite enough for some of us to write it off as a loss, or to deny the institution's utility as a custodian for a gradually-developing parliamentary democracy.

**John M Kelleher**

### 10 YEARS

My sympathy and thoughts are with Ketaki Chester and rest of the royal family for the unimaginable loss they have suffered. I hope prayers and time will help heal their pain and suffering.

**Sherpa**

- Very tragic and horrific account by Ketaki Chester of what happened during that night. It is very bold of her to give this account to the media, taking into consideration the current political climate. There will always be conspiracy theorists and you can't stop them, even if they sound the most bizarre. We continue to speak about the massacre even today because guess the royal family did mean something to us all whether positively or negatively. Mrs Chester's account has reconfirmed a lot of what I have always suspected. There are many accusations about various royals colluding with Crown Prince Dipendra but then you have to look very closely of what happened that night: who

was hurt, the events leading up to the killings, what actually happened and what has happened since, the core motives behind the actions of the Crown Prince to kill so many people and leave so many witnesses behind.

**Rishav**

- Ever since I had an opportunity to gain a firsthand peek of how the palace functions in conducting their own and the nation's affairs, and how the royalties in reality treat the common Nepalis, I was completely disillusioned. The palace was in the hands of a coterie with constant (unhealthy) competition among sycophantic advisers. This was about a decade before the massacre. Yet, I continued to be a supporter of the monarchy thinking that it would act as a strong unifying factor in the mosaic of various ethnic groups. Yet the palace did nothing to integrate my group into the mainstream. The palace had lost the support of a group which had remained loyal to them despite marginalization long before the massacre. Girija Koirala also does not deserve credit for snuffing off the monarchy, it fell from its own weight.

**Dhan B Tamang**

- Everything that has been published is not enough to point Dipendra as the one and only person involved in the incident.

**Bijay Silwal**

- Why is this retrospective with a clear leaning towards Gyanendra published now, when the political turmoil is at its peak?

**Sachchi Ghimire Karki**

- It would give Gyanendra far too much credit to say that he had somehow planned it ('Flash back', Kunda Dixit, #555). Also, eyewitness evidence confirms that Dipendra's actions were not planned but were, indeed, the actions of

a drunken and drugged rage fueled by an over-sized feeling of entitlement coupled with incredible hatred towards his mother. That Dipendra was spoiled was widely known and being prevented for the first time in his life to do something he really wanted to do (marry Devyani), he lost it.

**Hange**

- So, let me get his straight. You are saying that the monarchy was jettisoned just to keep the Maoists happy so that they wouldn't continue their murder, loot and extortion? ('A sad ending', Editorial, #555). That it was chucked out just because the Maoists threatened to continue their , loot and extortion unless they got their way? That the Maoists needed an "achievement" so that they would not continue with their murder, loot and extortion? That the monarchy was not abolished because of the will of the majority of the people but because of threats by the Maoists? That the ten years of war and the destruction of Nepal was a total waste of time and the Maoists knew it? Hence the need for a "substantive achievement"? But surely this is appeasement and you know that appeasement does not work and never has.

**Jange**

- Dipendra isn't here to contest the accusations hence it is easier for all concerned or rather involved to throw all the possible blame at him. ('Dipendra's troubled childhood', #555). But who are these people trying to blame him, and for what reason?

**G Tamu**

- It seems Vivek Shah is convinced Dipendra was responsible for the killings. If he had such strange personality, as Shah describes, why didn't he try to warn us beforehand? We only hear about his distorted personality after he published his book. Thousands of people like me are not

in a position to believe what you say about him because he was an educated, humble and intelligent prince. Paras is much known for his notoriety in public even if he is assumed to have a normal personality. If Dipendra was indeed what you say he was, why didn't more people know about this?

**Milan Amar**

- Baburam Bhattarai reaffirming the conspiracy theory he first espoused 10 years ago is ridiculous, but also brilliant. It takes the loss of a much loved king, spins it with Mahendra-style nationalism, sprinkles some communist anti-imperialism and creates sympathy for his own party. The manner in which the GPK government bungled the aftermath only led credence to Bhattarai's position. As a very naive and scared 14-year-old I remember agreeing with every word of that piece. The Maoists used the tragedy as a very effective propaganda and recruiting tool. Bhattarai's contention that RAW designed a conspiracy against Nepal in consultation with the CIA (through the FBI!) is, well, absurd. But Bhattarai knew his audience well, he knew that a lot Nepalis would believe every word of it.

**Battisputali**

Times

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Weekly Internet Poll # 556

Q . What do you think about the SC's decision regarding the extension of CA ?

Total votes: 1,746

Proactive: 48%

Politically unviable: 42.1%

Don't know/can't say: 9%

Weekly Internet Poll # 557. To vote go to: [www.nepalitimes.com](http://www.nepalitimes.com)

Q . Who should lead the new consensus government ?



# People, not power

The Madhesi alliance could end the dictatorship of the Big Three, but what does it mean for Madhesis?



BY THE WAY

Anurag Acharya

One of the main fallouts of the 28 May brinkmanship is that the Madhesi alliance established itself as the kingmaker party. But will that translate into welfare for the Madhes, or welfare only of the Madhesi leaders?

After being backed by the JP Gupta-led Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (Republic) with 13 lawmakers, the United Democratic Madhesi Front (UDMF) now has 71 members and has become the fourth largest political force in the country. But it seems to be just another collective platform for power bargaining.

Whenever questions are raised about this, the Madhesi alliance usually takes the moral high ground and accuses the non-Madhesi political elite and the media of not being sympathetic to "Madhesi aspirations". Once in a while you will see a Madhesi leader getting emotional over being unfairly branded "pro-Indian anti-national".

The popular public sentiment and the strong rhetoric by the parties



BIKRAM RAI

has meant that nobody has dared to ask what is included in the "Madhesi aspirations" and what it chooses to exclude. But using this term in a mainstream political sense, one is still tempted to ask the Madhesi political elite who they actually represent.

JP Gupta's emotionally-charged speech in the CA on Sunday would have given some hope to the people he claims to represent. The only tragedy was that his eloquent speech on behalf of people of Madhes delved neither into the

socio-economic insecurity under which they are forced to live nor the physical insecurity people they face every day. So one wonders what sort of pressure Gupta and UDMF were trying to exert on the three parties and the CA ahead of the extension.

As a Madhes-basi I would have been more thrilled if Gupta had pressurised his counterparts over the economic abuse an underpaid daily wage laborer faces in Tarai everyday. The landless farmers of the western Tarai

and the factory workers of the eastern Tarai would have been more impressed if he had demanded farmer's rights and fairer working conditions. The students from Morang and Sunsari to Kailali and Kanchanpur would have applauded had he included even a sentence about how they are forced to go across the border to study because our education has neither granted them quality nor respected their right to be schooled in their mother tongue. Nepali Muslims and the Madhesi Dalits rank at

the bottom of the Human Development Index, and are almost invisible in our education system or civil service.

But all Gupta seems to care about is how few Madhesis are there in the Nepal Army. One is tempted to ask Madhesi leaders if in their visit to New Delhi last month they brought up the matter of the widespread daily abuse Nepalis have to face along the border at the hands of the BSF. Well, we'll leave that to some other visit, but this is the one single most important factor in wrecking bilateral relations between Nepal and India today Beyond the sugar coated lip service to the "Madhesi cause", the UDMF has failed to acknowledge the real aspirations of the Tarai-Madhes who do not want to be a vassal state ruled by the local elite. They want to be integrated in the social, cultural, political and economic mainstream of the heterogeneous mix that is Nepal. If the UDMF wants to establish its credibility in the Tarai-Madhes, its agenda should include the people and not power in Kathmandu. People will support their agenda for power sharing only if they see themselves as a part of that agenda. ■

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छलेर, लुटेर खान पो  
लजाउनुपर्छ । जो जहाँ  
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# The village of the kidneys

SUNIL NEUPANE in KAVRE

More than 300 people from one village have sold their kidneys to organ traffickers

While the trade of human organs is a crime in Nepal, widespread poverty and a lack of education mean it is an everyday reality. The practice is so common in one village close to Kathmandu that the area is known as the “Kidney Bank.”

Three years ago, 24-year-old Kanchha Budhathoki was working at a garment factory in Kathmandu when a fellow worker promised him a better job.

“He said he would find me a good job in India. When we reached New Delhi, we went to a hospital and they tested my blood. Another day they gave me alcohol then they gave me an injection. I became unconscious and when I woke up I was in hospital and they had already taken one of my kidneys,” says Budhathoki.

Kanchha's mother Lalkumari Budhathoki says she is deeply upset that three of her sons have sold their kidneys. “If they had told me earlier, I would have stopped them. They told me that they wanted to earn more money. I never take one cup of tea from that money and in future I won't take anything from that money because it comes from organ selling,” she says.

Badri Prasad Dhungana is a teacher at Kavre, and is trying to raise awareness against the growth of organ



trade in the village.

“This is a serious problem in our village. Six years ago only four people had sold their kidneys in this place, but now I have recorded that 95 people have sold their kidneys in my village and close to this area. In some families there are four or five members who have sold their kidneys,” he says.

There is no exact data on the numbers of people in this district who are engaged in the organ trade, but the estimate is more than 300 people have

sold their kidneys here. Most Kavre residents are Dalits and Tamangs and live in abject poverty. Many are illiterate, so it's easy for the kidney brokers to take advantage of them. Gyan Bahadur Tamang unknowingly sold his kidney in India last year.

“Everyone was talking in Tamil so I didn't understand what they were saying,” he recalls. “The next day I was taken to the same hospital and they gave me an injection. I became unconscious. When I woke up, they had taken my kidney

without telling me.”

The broker had taken him to Madras, India's kidney capital where the organs sell for more than \$7,000 dollars on the black market. Gyan Bahadur received \$900.

Selling human organs is a crime under Nepali law and those found to be selling human organs or aiding the activity can face up to 10 years in jail and a fine of \$7,000. The law only allows for a blood relative to donate a kidney to an ailing family member. Local Journalist Bhim Gautam says the illegal kidney trade is booming, and the local government is not serious about controlling it. In 2008 a notorious Indian kidney broker, Amit Kumar, was arrested in Nepal. In May this year a Nepali man was arrested in New Delhi for trying to sell his wife's kidney. The two arrests however, have not affected the trade in Kavre.

Chuchhe Damia, a 49-year-old construction worker from the village, sold his kidney nine years ago for \$850, but says he regrets the decision.

He says, “At that time I was in danger of losing my land and my house. So I gave my kidney and I did it knowingly, but now I think it would have been better to sell my land and my house instead of selling my kidney. So I want to tell other people please don't sell your kidneys.” [www.asiacalling.org](http://www.asiacalling.org).

## Take care

ELIPHA PRADHANANGA

Preventing kidney failure is better than expensive dialysis or transplants

Rabis Nyachhyon, 45, owns a small costume jewelry shop at Lagankhel. He is a thin man and speaks with a soft voice.

At first glance, it is hard to tell that he is critically ill from kidney failure. The only visible symptom is his dark skin from the buildup of toxins. Nyachhyon requires a four-hour dialysis at the hospital twice a week costing him Rs 20,000 a month.

The only option left for him and thousands of others is a transplant, but by law only relatives can donate kidneys. None of his relatives have a match. “I would rather have done the transplant in Nepal where it only costs around Rs 400,000 but going to India would mean I have to get a kidney from the black market and I can't really afford that.”

Dialysis is the only option for now. At the government Bir Hospital, it costs up to Rs 10,000 a month, but the machines are in heavy demand. At the National Kidney Centre it is double



ELIPHA PRADHANANGA

that and private hospitals charge more.

Arjun Raj Satyal, 59, has been under dialysis for 10 months. He used to go to Nepal Medical College, but shifted to Bir because he couldn't afford it any longer.

Kon Bahadur Thapa, 55, comes to Bir Hospital for a checkup every three months. His wife donated a kidney 12 years ago

and he had the transplant done in Lucknow. “Transplant is a better option,” remarks Thapa, “it is more expensive but after a transplant you can lead a more normal life.”

But transplants are not for everyone. Factors to consider include age, donor compatibility and cost. For the poor dialysis, as expensive as it may be,

is their only hope. Even a transplant is not the end of a patient's problems. After the transplant is complete, the patients need to take medicines through out their lives to maintain a healthy kidney. The medication can cost from Rs 20 to 25 thousand per month.

Patients must continue their regular dialysis once they opt for the procedure. “I tried to skip dialysis once,” recalls Satyal, “but immediately I had difficulty breathing. One dialysis can keep me comfortable for three days, fourth day and I'm already having trouble.”

Ideally patients should have dialysis every day, but most Nepalis can't afford it, says nephrologist Kalpana Shrestha at the National Kidney Centre. She says people in Nepal underestimate the need to take preventive measures to stop kidney degeneration (*see box*).

“You don't realise how valuable each part of the body is unless something like this happens,” says

Satyal's wife Sabita Satyal. “People at the hospital treat patients like us with extra kindness maybe it is because they know that we are financially burdened.”

Dialysis that started at few centres in Kathmandu is now available at several hospitals and clinics like Manimal, Charak and Gandaki hospitals in Pokhara. Dialysis centres are also available in Bharatpur, Biratnagar, Birganj, Dharan and Nepalgunj. [www.asiacalling.org](http://www.asiacalling.org).

### KIDNEY CARE

Preventive measures to avoid kidney malfunction is cheaper than treating damaged kidneys.

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3. Reduce weight
4. Stop smoking
5. Special care if there is family history

[nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com)

Staying alive, #290





# Ecology is economics

Green jobs is a hybrid answer to economic and environmental sustainability



## MY TWO PAISA

Paavan Mathema

Sunday 5 June is World Environment Day, and to mark it there will be a rush to organise neighbourhood cleaning campaigns, tree plantations and numerous seminars and conferences. But hanging the 'green' tag needs to go beyond 5 June, it has to be year-round way to thinking. Sustainable lifestyles and an ecological conscience doesn't just save the planet, it also makes business sense. Being ecological is economical.

The best way to do this is to promote green jobs: work opportunities that explore ways to preserve and restore the environment and at the same time are economically viable. Green jobs offer a hybrid solution to address problem of unemployment and environmental sustainability, linking the twin goals of reducing poverty and protecting the environment.

The transition to a low-carbon economy presents employment opportunities by opening new markets, and by stimulating eco-innovation and investment in more efficient production techniques. Prospects for creating green jobs can be developed in entirely new ideas or in finding ways in which the existing businesses can be made environmentally friendly.

The power crisis in Nepal is hurting the economy, but could have the unintended side benefit of spurring the manufacture of alternate energy systems.

Investment in the solar industry has seen tremendous growth in the last few years as people began to seek alternative renewable sources of energy for their homes and workplace. Necessity becomes the mother of invention, and helps the economy over the long run.

Green businesses can inspire innovation not just in energy sources, but also construction, transportation and agriculture. The green job industry is growing in Nepal with people exploring environment-friendly business ideas. For example, organic farming is catching up, with even restaurants showing off organic vegetables, fruits and coffee in their menus.

Recycling is another sector where investments can be made, as done by Jamarko, a paper recycling company.

Job opportunities can also be developed in helping people design green buildings and technologies. The regular 'Green Scene' section of *Nepal Times* profiles such green business ideas that are actually working.

The green tag can be useful in attracting customers, but more importantly can help a business become cost-effective. Being green focuses on cutting consumption of raw materials and energy, and production of waste through high-efficiency strategies, which in turn



increase productivity and decrease cost. Even a simple change such as replacing the bulbs with CFLs, and installing solar panels, can help a business cut electricity bills. Such practices also help the business become socially responsible.

Last month the Ministry of Labour and Transportation and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) organised a national conference on Climate Change and Green Jobs' in which plans to make government policies support green jobs were discussed.

The Geneva-based ILO began its Green Jobs Program in 2008 and has worked in several countries in the Asia-Pacific region including India, Bangladesh, China, Thailand, Philippines and is now launching the initiative in Nepal.

The need now is to help develop and empower with entrepreneurial skills as well as technical know-how for green jobs. The private sector can take a lead in 'greening' its practices and move beyond tokenism.

As a ratifier of the Kyoto Protocol and for being part of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and the Clean Energy Development Path, the government has to play its part in facilitating green jobs. It needs to encourage investments in environment-friendly practices with clear policies that support and reward sustainable economic activities (and penalise those that aren't). Green jobs promise triple return in form of sustainable enterprises: poverty reduction, and economic development.

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3-9 JUNE 2011 #556

# Head first into the Bhote Kosi

TEXT and PICTURES by JANA A SEN BRENNEROVA





The early morning four-hour ride from Kathmandu to the Last Resort, is bumpy and full of hairpin bends. From the edge of the Bhote Kosi gorge the passengers see the reality of what they are about to do: freefall 160 m from the bungee bridge.

Last Resort’s Sunil Lama goes over the rules of jumping. “You have to keep your mind outside of the bridge, that is the thing,” he tells us, “even after hundreds of jumps I am still scared. That is normal.” That doesn’t assure us one bit.

Bungee Master Prakash Pradhan tells everyone everything will be fine. He stands on the edge, double checks the harness of each jumper and counts until three before he lets go of their ropes he holds on to until last moment.

“Jumping is not natural to your brain like eating or drinking, so the brain tries to keep you safe, resists jumping,” he explains.

There are two jump options offered at Last Resort. One is the regular ‘head first’ bungee jump which is done on rubber rope and provides about 2 to 2.5 seconds of free fall. The second is called swing, which is ‘legs first’ and secures about six seconds of free fall at a speed about 150km/h, and you end up swinging like a pendulum. At 65 euros per jump, it is steep but worth every vertical metre.

Nick Scott, the group’s entertainer from the U.K., is ready for his jump. After his previous bungee adventures in Costa Rica and Zimbabwe, Scott says he’s ready, even though this would be his highest jump so far. “I’m not scared anymore,” Scott says. “I’m addicted to it.”

Scott sits down on the bridge while one of the crew members puts the ropes and safety

carbines on him. He lifts his head towards the sun and closes his eyes. “I’m a little scared now,” he

admits. As the bungee master counts to three, Scott lifts his heels and allows his body to fall forward. Over the edge, his body races toward the ground, his arms flailing.

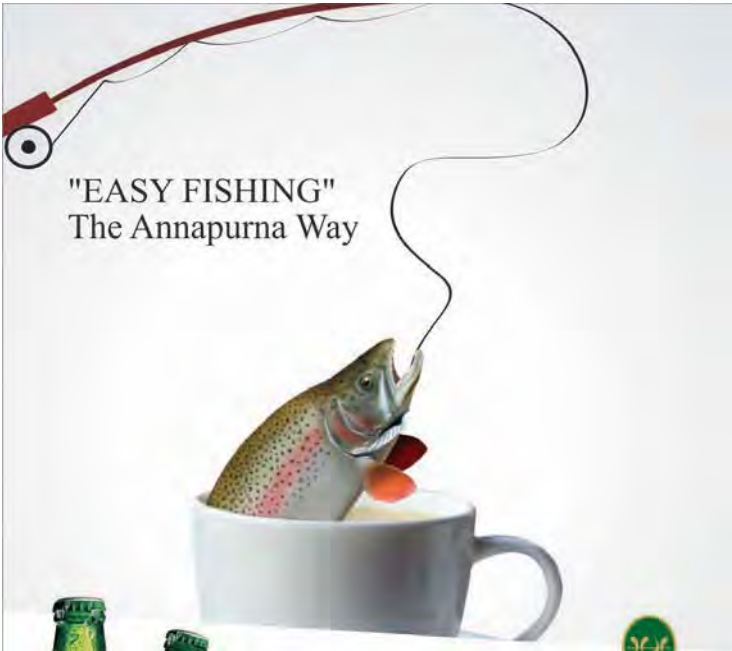
Just when it looks like Scott’s body will smash into the frothing grey waters of the Bhote Kosi, the rope yanks his body up and away from danger. It’s Coco Sandtner’s turn. “I hope it’s fast,” she says. “I really need to pee.”

Sandtner bites her lip, the Austrian is suddenly not so sure she wants to go through with it. Pradhan holds her ropes on the back, moves her feet towards the edge of the bridge and starts counting down from three. Sandtner’s scream resonates across the gorge as she falls towards the river.


After being pulled up, her face flushed, Sandtner announces: “I’m going to jump again, this time I will go head first.” 🚫







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**EVENTS**

**THE GLASS MENAGERIE**  
By Tennessee Williams  
"The Glass Menagerie and A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams"

**THE GLASS MENAGERIE**  
DIRECTED BY EELUM DIKTI  
"The Glass Menagerie and A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams"

11<sup>PM</sup> AND 12<sup>PM</sup> JUNE  
TIME: 5:30 PM | VENUE: KAMALMANI THEATRE, PATAN DHOKA | TICKETS: Rs. 1000  
NORTH KATHMANDEU (KATHMANDEU)

The Glass Menagerie, a play written by Tennessee Williams brought into production by actor/director Eelum Dikti in support of the Spinal Injury and Rehabilitation Centre. 11 to 12 June, 5.30pm, Kamalmani Theatre, Patan Dhoka, tickets are priced at Rs 1000 and are available at Dhokaima Café and the venue, 5522113

Bird Painting and Photography Exhibition, organised by Bird Conservation Nepal June 1 to 7, 2.30 to 5pm on the opening day, 10am to 5pm, Nepal Art Council, Babarmahal

Rooftop comedy, a screening of stand-up comedian Russell Peters organised by Sattya Media Arts Collective. June 2, 6 to 9pm, Sattya Media Arts Collective, Jawlakhel, Suggested donation Rs100 Stories from the locality and



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**E- car Rally**

After the success of last two years' Spinal Injury Electric Vehicle Rally, the third E-car rally is going to be held on 18 June 2011. With the aim of supporting two important causes – electric vehicle promotion and spinal injury treatment, the rally will start from Matighar Mandala and travel to Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre (SIRC) at Saanga. Along with 59 Revas that are running in the country, the rally also seeks participation from other electric vehicles – Safa Tempos and Chinese electric scooters. All the proceeds from the event will go towards supporting indigent patients who will receive free and discounted rehabilitation services at SIRC.

To register your electric vehicle contact:  
Uday Adhikari  
Mobile: 9841595707  
011660848/7  
infosirc@wlink.com.np  
[www.sirc.org.np](http://www.sirc.org.np)



Fantasized idea, an exhibition of paintings by Himan Guxung and Laxman Kamacharya. Till 5 June, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revisited

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

Environment Film Festival, a three day film festival to mark environment day. 3 to 5 June, 6pm, Patan Durbar Square, Lalitpur

Wemay allend up in the same boat, installation art by Michelle Hall. 5 to 12 June, 5.30pm on the opening day, Sunday to Friday 11am to 5pm, Patan Museum, Lalitpur

Charya Dances, performance of a traditional genre of mediated dance and music by Rajendra Shrestha and Kala Mandap. 10 June, Durbar Hall, Bal Mandir, Naxal, Invitations only

Documentary Film making, a six-day course on documentary film making organised by Sattya Media Arts Collective. 5 to 10 June, 10am to 5pm, Sattya Media arts Collective, Jawlakhel, Application can be downloaded from the website [www.sattya.org](http://www.sattya.org) and sent to [collective@sattya.org](mailto:collective@sattya.org), fee Rs 3000

Celebrating Fulbright in Nepal, an exhibition of artworks and photographs by US and Nepali Fulbright grantees. 7 to 21 June, Opening day 5.30pm, weekdays 11am to 6pm, Saturday 12 to 4pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babar Mahal Revisited, 4218048

Know your DSLR: Digital SLR Photography, a photography workshop organised by Sattya Media Arts Collective. 28 to 29 June, 11am to 3pm, fee Rs 1000, forms are available at [sattya.org](http://sattya.org)

Cine-Saptaha: series III, a week long screening of independent and non-commercial Nepali films. 3 to 9 June, 4.30pm, Docskool Film Centre, Gaurighat, Ticket Rs30, advance

booking required, 4471104  
White Party, Launch of What Next. June 11, 7pm, Cube, Kamaladi, Rs 700 (in advance) Rs1000 (at door)

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](http://www.filmsouthasia.org), [fsa@filmsouthasia.org](mailto:fsa@filmsouthasia.org)

**MUSIC**

Golden Moments-Tribute to Rock, a second series of Golden Moments featuring artists Prism, 3 June, Bhumi Restro and Lounge, Lazimpat. Ashesh and the Nekhvam, 10 June, Cafereena, Durbar Marg, Abhaya and the Steam Injuns, 17 June, Moksh, Jhamsikhel, and the grand finale with Soaked, 24 June, 1905, Kantipath

AFK Music Contest, an open music contest to young musicians below 25. Interested ones can download the forms at [www.alliancefrancaise.org.np](http://www.alliancefrancaise.org.np) and submit it at Alliance Francaise, Tripureshwor, Last date for submission 10 June

Fashion and Music fest, fashion show by students of IEC with musical performance by Naren Limbu, Srisht Thapa, Bijaya Guxung and Shadows. 11 June, 6pm, 1905 Restaurant and Bar, Kantipath

International Music Week Concerts, an unique outdoor concert organised by Alliance Francaise in Kathmandu along with Service Civil International featuring students of AFK, Kathmandu University School of Music and Manandhar Cultural Group. 21 June, 3pm, Dattatrya Square, Bhaktapur

Betty Argo in Kathmandu, popular French band live in concert. 26 June, 6pm, Nepal Academy Hall, invitations only



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# An honest drama

MARCUS BENIGNO

At the pit of his affliction with AIDS, Prior wrestles with his ancestral ghosts, who torment and invite him to dance. Louis, a neurotic, gay Jew and Prior's estranged lover, appears and walzes him away into an impassioned embrace. The frank display of affection and despair between the two men elicited giggles from the audience during a preview of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* at the Nepali Tourism Board last Wednesday.

"The audience will likely be shocked," says director Deborah Merola, who has staged several productions in Kathmandu. "But the play is not trying to convince people of a lifestyle. It's a play about loss, recovery, healing. It's a universal play."

Set in New York City at the height of the Reagan presidency and the emergence of the AIDS epidemic, the critically acclaimed play portrays a cross-section of a society in flux. Through comedy and dark humor, *Angels in America* broaches the sensitive subject of homosexuality at a formative stage in its popular perception.

After Louis learns of Prior's illness, he cowers and abandons him. Meanwhile, Roy Cohn, a closeted gay lawyer also diagnosed



MARCUS BENIGNO

with AIDS, offers a promotion to Joe Pitt, a devout Mormon and Republican law clerk. Soon after, Joe's pill-popping wife, Harper, confronts him and his repressed homosexuality. The ensuing conversations produce a raw depiction of the human relationship.

Tangents into the supernatural enrich the epic drama as well as biblical allusions. In one scene, Harper, played by Samana KC (pictured), finds herself in Antarctica with her imaginary companion, making snow angels, and in others, apparitions and angels descend

on Prior and Roy, symbolising their slow and eventual decline.

Political overtones suggest the faded hopes of American exceptionalism and the collateral scapegoating of minorities, an inportant relevant to the times. At the moment, the evolving LGBT rights movement in Nepal has been muddled and overshadowed by the larger political situation.

Merola's direction delivers an incendiary performance evenly dispersed among its collaborative cast of local university drama

*Angels in America* stages in Kathmandu

professors and debut and professional actors from Nepal, US, and France. While the minimalist set, Brechtian aesthetic and intentional role reversals and crossovers reinforce the play's powerful dialogue and tightly woven narrative.

During a Q & A session, a spectator expressed concerns that the play revealed nothing positive about homosexuality and that all he saw was its negative portrayal namely the travails induced by AIDS and reactionary groups.

Brent Rose (pictured), who plays Prior, answered: "The point of the play is to show how similar homosexual relationships are to that of heterosexual people. It's not about making them the other or about them being fabulous or 'look how it's great to be gay!' It's about being human. These characters represent Americans, and they represent human beings." 🇺🇸

*Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*, 3 - 8 June, 5:30pm at the Nepali Tourism Board. Mature Content. Advanced Reservations: [angelsinkathmandu@gmail.com](mailto:angelsinkathmandu@gmail.com)



## Peri Peri

Thamel finally keeps it simple: chicken. Amid the fancy fare of courtyard dining along the upscale eatery row, the five-month-old Peri Peri is a spinoff from Nando's, a famed casual franchise operating in 30 countries, and is fast becoming Kathmandu's premier purveyor of poultry.

From chicken nuggets, livers and wings to wraps, pitas and plain-old, plated chicken, the menu is almost entirely, exclusively chicken. There's no going wrong.

Whether shredded, quartered, halved, or whole, every serving of its legendary Portuguese-Mozambican barbecue is marinated for 24 hours, char-grilled then lathered in a tangy concoction with just the right amount of kick. Tempered according to your buds' requirements, the dipping sauces, straight from South Africa, make up a matchbook of lip-smacking heat and tartness: mainly lemon and herb, medium, hot and extra hot.



MARCO POLLO

Cutlery is provided, but is readily ditched for a hands-on, mouth-slobbering feast fit for a medieval court. Large helpings of spicy rice, reminiscent of Cajun pilaf, or fries compliment the carnage.

The full platter meal, a whole chicken with one large side, is more than ample for a small family of four, running a fair Rs 900 (surcharges excluded). And a bottle of brew falls mid-level on the Beer Index at Rs 280 for a San Miguel.

If you're looking for a good wrap or pita, head to Chick 'N' Felafel in Thamel instead for a tastier and more filling version at Rs 190. The occasional bone or cartilage in Peri Peri's shredded pita with cheese (Rs 340) made for an unappetizing surprise.

But for a well-cooked and flavourful chicken spread in a cozy environment, roost yourself at Peri Peri's where all that's missing is a complimentary bib. 🇺🇸 *Marco Pollo*

*Facing the Army Camp entrance in Jhamel, do an about-face, and the chicken marks the spot.*

Space	★★★★
Bread & water	★★★★
Service	★★★★
Deal & bus	★★★★
Rep-eat?	★★★★





# DalBhat diet



DHANVANTARI  
Buddha Basnyat, MD

For overweight people losing even small amounts of weight and increasing physical activity can prevent plenty of medical complications. Overweight is defined as a body mass index (BMI = kg/m<sup>2</sup>) of 25 to < 30 and obesity is defined as BMI of 30 or more.

Thankfully, Nepal does not have obese people, but we together with the rest of South Asia are sure set to be an overweight nation. Forget

about having rippling, abdominal muscles. Just keep your weight in the normal range. Unfortunately, once the weight is gained, losing it is a difficult proposition.

Patients on a diet generally lose about 5 percent of their body weight over the first six months, but by 12 to 24 months they are back to 'normal' (square one). The long-term ineffectiveness of weight reduction diets may be due to compensatory changes in energy expenditure that oppose the maintenance of a lower body weight as well as genetic and environmental factors. Here are some common diets used for weight loss:

The Atkins diet, which lets you

eat fat and protein to your heart's content with very low carbohydrate, is probably impractical in Nepal because of the lack of variety of meat and fish.

The LEARN (Lifestyle, Exercise, Attitude, Relationships and Nutrition) diet is based on intensive lifestyle modification and may be too 'idealistic' for many, but very beneficial if you can bring about these changes in your life. The Zone diet comprises of 40 percent carbohydrate and 30 percent each protein and fat.

My favourite, however, is the Dal Bhat diet also known as the Omish diet after Dr. Dean Omish, a professor of medicine from the University of California in San Francisco. But I think even the good doctor would be stunned at seeing the mountain of rice that many Nepalis consume here twice a day with a minimal exercise plan. Probably the only group of people in Nepal that can efficiently deal with this vast amount of rice-eating are porters along the Himalayan trails.

The Omish diet is vegetarian based and fat restricted. A modification of the Omish diet with controlled rice consumption but plentiful dal and vegetables with a tasty *achar* to boot may be a very suitable and practical option for the Nepali palate. 🇳🇵



WEEKEND WEATHER  
by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

The official date of the monsoon onset (10 June) is only a week ahead but the driving force of ongoing wet pre-monsoon is the westerly front pegged by giant low pressure positioning over the eastern Himalaya. Unless the southwesterly monsoon wind advances with enough strength to drive away the westerly front, we won't be able to receive the monsoon rains. A break from the regular showers can be expected in the coming week. Expect hot and humid days ahead in the weekend.



FRI	SAT	SUN
29-17	30-18	31-19



BKRAM RAI

**WHATCHA READING:** A local observes the street art on the walls of Hotel Himalaya on Sunday morning. This is part of Artudio and In ageschool's initiative to create street art on empty walls of the city.



BKRAM RAI

**SHOPLIFTERS:** The Municipality police confiscate properties of street vendors in Basantapur on Wednesday.



BKRAM RAI

**BURNT:** The local police examine the salvaged goods at a garment store in Narsingh Chowk, Thamel, where a fire broke out Wednesday evening.



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# Sex and surveillance

Public figures now have a higher chance of being caught on candid camera in compromising positions



ONE WORLD  
Naomi Wolf

It is impossible to hear about sexual or sex-crime scandals nowadays, whether they involve Dominique Strauss-Kahn or Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, or the half-dozen US congressmen whose careers have ended in the past couple of years, without considering how they were exposed. What does it mean to live in a society in which surveillance is omnipresent? Like the heat beneath the proverbial boiling frogs, the level of surveillance in Western democracies has been ratcheted up slowly, but faster than citizens can respond. A concerted effort is underway in the US and UK to brand surveillance as positive. New York City subway passengers are now advised that they might experience random searches of their bags. Activists in America assume their emails are being read and their phone calls are monitored. Telecom companies Verizon and AT&T have established areas on their premises for eavesdropping activity by the National Security Agency. The spate of sex scandals is a sign of more serious corruption and degradation than most commentators seem to realise. Yes, sex criminals must be punished, but political careers are ending because of consensual affairs. Consensual sex between adults is no one else's business. But now that public figures, especially those deemed to be 'of interest' to intelligence agencies are susceptible to being watched three-dimensionally, the chances of being compromised high. And there is no end to this crash-and-burn surveillance strategy, owing to the nature of the information that is caught in the net. After all, the human sex drive, especially if it compels risky or self-destructive behaviour, has held appeal for dramatists since the ancient Greeks, who originated the story of Achilles and his vulnerability. And, because sex scandals are always interesting to read about, certainly compared to yet another undeclared war, they will always be useful diversions. Citizens' attention can



UNDER WATCH : MF chief  
Dom inique Strauss-Kahn appears in Manhattan Crim inal Court for allegations of sexual assault.

be channeled away from, say, major corporate theft and government malfeasance toward narratives involving two hapless individuals (and their wives and children, who are usually suffering quite enough without the media's heavy breathing). Another reason to mourn the normalisation of a surveillance society lies

in the link between sexual privacy and other kinds of psychological liberation. That is why closed societies monitor their citizens' sexual lives. The combination of sexuality and privacy has an anarchic, subversive effect on citizens. Connecting with another person in an unscrutinised, uncivilised, unmediated, unobserved way inevitably reminds people that there are aspects of the human soul that cannot and must not be subjected to official control. For this reason, closed and closing societies have always feared sexual liberationists, and have sought to link political dissidence with sexual anarchy. A surveillance society falls softly into place,

and people realise too late that everyone has secrets. Think about your own privacy and secrets. Official surveillance has been marketed as a national-security imperative. In fact, it gives the state the power to blackmail anyone it wishes. Consider the official US diplomatic cables released by WikiLeaks that revealed that State Department employees were asked to obtain biometrics on public officials at the United Nations. Are we entering an era of geopolitics by blackmail? Naomi Wolf is a political activist and social critic whose most recent book is Give Me Liberty: A Handbook for American Revolutionaries.



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# Remote control for prosperity

Despite messy politics in Kathmandu, Darchula finds its peace dividend



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ALL PICS: RUBEENA MAHATO

RUBEENA MAHATO  
in DARCHULA

As the farthest district in Nepal's far-west, Darchula is the last place one would find stories that would be inspirational for the rest of the country. Yet, in the past five years with the end of the war and the arrival of the road, communities in this remotest region of Nepal are changing for better. The first sign of change is access: a district that one had to travel to via India is now a rough 9-hour ride from Dadeldhura.

The contrast between Darchula and the namesake Indian district of Dharchula across the Kali River couldn't be starker. On that side, smooth roads, a bustling market, developed infrastructure and on the Nepal side, it is still dust and squalour.

Despite the bumpy ride, most Nepalis prefer to travel from Dadeldhura rather than face hassles at the Indian border. And now, farmers have a market within Nepal for their produce. For a place that has long been synonymous with food deficit, farmers here are producing a surplus of vegetables. Vegetables used to flow in from India, now it is going in the opposite direction.

"This is a changed place," says farmer Hari Singh



Mal from Gokule village, "I couldn't have imagined a few years ago that I would be supplying vegetables to the Indian market." (See box). Local communities are now setting up technical schools and colleges. Just across the river in Baitadi is the only other college in Nepal besides Rampur that offers a BSc in agriculture. The campus feels like an oasis of learning (See box).

More than anything else, locals say, it is the improved security situation that has enabled change. During the war, Darchula was a restricted area. The Maoists required "visas" for villagers to travel to another VDC, the military harassed any visitors. Development agencies all needed permits and had to pay "donations" to the Maoist parallel government. The ruins of the airport building in Gokule is still a testimony to the violence of the war years.

Narayan Joshi of a community organization, Sankalpa, remembers being banished to a Maoist labour camp for travelling without a permit, and being regularly interrogated by the army. "There was no development for many years, we were pushed back decades," says Joshi, adding that aid groups now venture to the most remote parts of the district running health, sanitation and education projects, collaborating with women's groups to build schools, toilets and drinking water systems.

And there are roads being built everywhere. After the completion of the road from Darchula to Tinker at the Tibetan border, this will be the shortest route to Mansarovar. "There is a great potential for developing this place," adds Joshi, "people suffered so much during the war. There is new hope now." 🇳🇵



## Down on the farm

At just 30, Hari Singh Mal of Gokule (pictured) has achieved more than most Nepalis his age. In a place where there was no culture of growing or eating vegetables, he started farming tomatoes and spinach after bringing seedlings from Delhi. Thanks to road connectivity, he now has a much bigger market than he could ever imagine. Today he grows all kinds of vegetables and fruits and supplies them to as far as Baitadi, Dadeldhura, Nepalgunj and Pithauragad in India. Other farmers, encouraged by his example have followed suit and now Gokule, lying along the fertile Chamelia river basin is largely self-sufficient in vegetables. "I earn Rs 200 thousand a year staying in my own village," says Hari Singh, "it is this road which has made this possible. I just hope there weren't all these bandhs."

Another farmer Dharam Singh Joshi earns Rs 500 a day after the road opened up new markets. He is upbeat about Darchula's future, all the district needs now is irrigation. "If the government just chipped in, we could grow even more food," he says.

## Sowing seeds of change

The last place you'd expect to see an agriculture and veterinary college in Nepal is in a remote township the far-west. Yet, there it is: the Gokuleswor Agriculture and Veterinary Science College across the river from Darchula in Baitadi (pictured below). When Parmananda Joshi, the college's principal and other like-minded people decided to open a college in the middle of nowhere, their peers scoffed.

A year later, this community-run and managed college is looking forward to its first batch of 21 students. The remoteness of the place means retaining qualified teachers is a challenge, but the road will hopefully change that.

At Rithha Chaupata VDC, the community

has set up another agriculture training centre. The Latinath Higher Secondary School now runs a CTEVT-accredited course for 40 students. "We wanted to run a technical course that could be of use to this place," says Suresh Bista (pictured below), who returned after graduating in Sydney to uplift his home district with what he believes is the only way to make Nepalis prosperous: agriculture. Bista divides his time between working in his farm, helping local farmers and supporting the school.

"Now that there is peace, there are lots of possibilities here," says Bista, "if we can tap the Indian market alone, we will be prosperous."





# The CA on trial

Editorial in *Kantipur*, 30 May

The political parties have accepted the need for a consensus to move the peace process and agreed to form a national unity government. A short deadline of three months means that there is no time to waste on bickering political gains.

The people have tolerated this extension only because their aspirations for peace, prosperity and progress of the country are greater than their dislike for those they have trusted this task with. But if the political parties interpret people’s tolerance as support for their ugly politicking, they are seriously mistaken.

Inspite of their solemn promise to mend their ways and work in the interest of the people after the extension, they have not shown any urgency or sincerity in their actions. The need of the hour is to focus on forming a national

कान्तिपुर



unity government and begin the task of peace process and constitution writing. The parties must immediately decide on the new leadership and size of the cabinet.

Despite flaws, Nepali leaders possess a special characteristic: they come to table talks to resolve their differences. They agreed for a way out of the deadlock, even at the eleventh hour. But when it comes to implementing those agreements, they have miserably failed.

Considering the amount of work to be done, it is already late and parties should immediately implement what has been agreed upon. Madhesi parties who have so far been excluded from the major negotiations should be also included in the process. The leadership should understand that unless they deliver on their promises to complete the major task of peace process, they will lose the legitimacy and mandate to write the constitution or ask for another extension if need be.

## No smoking

Lokendra Kumar Shrestha in *Nepal Samacharpatra*, 31 May

समाचारपत्र

Every second, smoking kills one person in the world. According to a WHO report published in 2000, 15,000 people die every year in Nepal because of cigarette smoking. Nepal stands ahead in countries with female smokers. The world celebrated anti-tobacco day this week and while various anti-smoking awareness programs have been conducted in Nepal as well, the impact remains limited.

The Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital was established by Nepal Cancer Relief Society and the state runs the BP Memorial Cancer Hospital in Bharatpur. But these two institutions are not enough to combat the impact of smoking. The society has been conducting awareness programs in 42 districts through its branches, and plans to establish cancer hospitals in all five regions. Operations have already begun in Lagankhel and Butwal.



A fund has also been established for anti-tobacco activities whereby one paisa from every cigarette is contributed to the fund and so far Rs 450 million has been collected. Ironically, the government recently provided Rs 270 million to support Janakpur Cigarette Factory. The state has to shun this duplicity and look to provide alternate employment to the people involved in the tobacco industry.

In the long run, we need to move towards being a tobacco-free country. Bhutan has set an example by implementing strict anti-smoking laws. We need to raise awareness, prohibit sale and distribution of tobacco and take action against cigarette manufacturers. A bill for tobacco control is expected to be implemented next month but the strength of the tobacco mafia preventing its implementation cannot be underestimated.



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The mission of Equal Access Nepal (EAN) and its international affiliate, Equal Access International (EAI), is to create positive change by providing critically needed information and education to millions of needy Nepali people. EAN achieves this through: production of locally designed and targeted media programming; innovation in the cost-effective use of emerging communication technologies; and linking of media programs with ground-level partnerships and community engagement activities. EAN produces some of the most popular radio and new media programming in Nepal, addressing issues as diverse as youth life skills, health, governance, conflict transformation, gender, and education. Equal Access Nepal is seeking applications from dynamic, creative, and experienced candidates for the following positions based in Kathmandu:

### Executive Director

The Executive Director (ED) will provide overall strategic and managerial leadership for Equal Access Nepal and will represent EAI in-country. The ED will lead members of the senior management team in achieving the objectives of EAN’s programs; will oversee the general administration and financial management of the Kathmandu and field offices; develop and maintain key partnerships among donors and stakeholders; ensure performance-based, motivating team management of all staff; and lead resource development efforts. The ED will have a passion for and experience with creative uses of communication to empower communities and to strengthen national programs aimed at reconstruction and long-term development in Nepal.

### Qualifications/Essential skills

- A minimum of seven years of experience in a senior-level management position in international development.
- Advanced university degree or commensurate experience in communication, social sciences, business, or a related field.
- Energetic, decisive team leader with a particular interest in evaluation and measurable results.
- Good listener and participatory, motivating management approach.
- Experience working with international donors and other external stakeholders at a high level.
- Demonstrated track record at resource development for development programs.
- Background in media and NGO governance is highly desirable.
- Excellent Nepali and English written, oral, and presentation skills required.

### Program Director

The Program Director (PD) will lead EAN’s program teams focused on project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and excellence in reporting. These responsibilities also include on-time program management; quality, results-driven programming content; and innovations/new program development. The PD will be a member of EAN’s senior management team and, as such, will be involved in strategic and operational decision making for the organization. She/he reports to the Executive Director and works closely with Directors for Finance and Operations and Strategic Partnerships. The PD will be a leading representative of EAN among external stakeholders, including current and potential donors.

### Qualifications/Essential skills

- A minimum of five years of experience in a supervisory position related to programs in international development.
- Advanced university degree or commensurate experience in communication, social sciences, research and data analysis, or a related field.
- Significant experience in media production and management.
- Motivating, organized team leader known for using a participatory management approach.
- Demonstrated experience with evidence-based decision-making, monitoring, evaluation and achievement of measurable results.
- Experience working with international donors, partners, and other external stakeholders.
- Excellent Nepali and English written, oral, and presentation skills required.

Please submit: a cover letter clearly stating your reasons for applying and a summary of relevant skills; contact information for three referees; and salary requirements. Please include an updated CV/resume and send to the following address or email, no later than 7th June 2011.

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# Save Everest

Editorial in *Naya Patrika*,  
2 June

नयाँ पत्रिका

Fifty eight years has passed since Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Sir Edmund Hilary conquered Everest. Thousands have reached the peak since. Conquering the highest peak in the world is a dream of all daring mountaineers. With different world records, Everest has attracted a lot of summiteers in recent times.

Everest raises Rs 2.5 billions in revenue yearly for the government. The contribution it makes to the economy of the nation can hardly be overstated.

A recent study put Everest region as the fourth best destination in the world. Every year over 30 thousand tourists visit this area, many of them specifically to ascend to the summit. But, the rise in temperature worldwide, in recent times combined with the human encroachment has taken a toll on it. Global warming is causing the Everest snow to melt and the waste piling up due to irresponsibility of the climbers and their support teams is making Everest uninviting.

As a result of awareness campaigns, climbers and their support teams have started bringing back the waste, but there are trashes that has been piling up for years. This has not only made the mountain unattractive but has polluted the Everest region and contributed to raising global temperature. It is also assumed that the bodies of estimated 150 climbers who died on their way to the summit are still in the area.

The government is happy to get royalty paid by the climbers but has done nothing for its improvement, cleanliness

and management. If the government wants to save Everest for the future generation, it has to urgently introduce and implement eco-friendly

expedition policies.

We can not just make Everest a source of revenue, we should also shift our focus to conserving it. Immediate attention is imperative.

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## 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 evolution 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.

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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.

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### 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.



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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.



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# Take your time

So now that it has been established (just as a wise ass prophesised last week) that in Nepal the **new day begins at 6AM** and not midnight, a precedence has been set for future constitution-writing and Nepal’s politicians can all sleep soundly for another 90 days. This is also because a perfectly acceptable new constitution has already been drafted and just needs the John Henry of 601 sabasads. Anyone wishing to have a dekko should go to: [www.onlineconstitution.net/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://www.onlineconstitution.net/index.php?title=Main_Page) and send comments to [ass@nepalitimes.com](mailto:ass@nepalitimes.com).



The floor of the August house was something to behold last Saturday as we approached the stroke of the midnight hour. The loud snoring from the back benchers threatened at one point to halt the proceedings and the Speaker told the Snorers to cut it out. CA members then went off to brush their teeth and came back in their pajamas.

Now that he is not PM anymore, Makunay looked like he didn’t have a care in the world. Comrade Cloud was nodding off, Comrade



Newly designed reclining seats for Constituent Assembly members so they can work day and night to finish the constitution in time.

Yummy threw back her head and was fast asleep with her mouth open, and Low Minister Prabhu Sah (also known as the “**Domestic Prabhu**”) slinked off to a sofa in the chambers after tabling the government proposal. But poor **Jhol Gnat** couldn’t rest in peace because, JPTG kept asking him to step down when all he wanted to do was lie down.



Learning from this experience, and since CA members will have to work day and night to finish off the

constitution in the remaining 83 days, it is important to make the Constituent Assembly/Parliament conducive to deal-making in the wee-wee hours. Which is why the Assembly Secretariat has fast tracked the proposal to upgrade the floor for nocturnal deal-making with the following design and procedural changes:

- International airlines have been asked to bid for the supply of **601 Slumberettes** which look like normal CA seats in the daytime but

can be transformed into a reclining bed at the touch of a button. Vibrator massage for the lower backs can also be fitted if requested.

- Each CA member will also be entitled to a Good Knight Kit which includes a tooth brush, shaver and foam, contoured eye mask, ear plugs, iPod that plays lullabies like “*Aija Nidari Chhunumunu Chhunumunu...*” and pills for CA members with acute sleep disorders.
- Lights in the Plenary Hall will be equipped with dimmers so as to make it easier for members to drift off when The Speaker announces a cat-nap break.
- Workaholic CA members who are too stressed to sleep will need stronger remedies, and the services of a team of hypno-therapists has been acquired to hypnotise members.
- Members who talk in their sleep will have microphones fitted into their lapels that feed the words into the public address system for the benefit of fellow members as well as to be broadcast live on national television.
- Members who sleep walk will be encouraged

to go up and down the aisles to prevent Deep Vein Thrombosis, but floor-crossing will not be allowed.

- Keeping in mind that there are quite a few conjugal CA members, twin beds will be provided and can be curtained off for privacy, if so required.
- CA members who are in the habit of downing a chhota or bada peg at bed-time can visit a special mini-bar below their desks which is also well stocked with midnight snacks
- Bed tea will also be provided in the morning
- To cope with the morning rush hour to the loo, existing urinals will be augmented with arsenals



Comes news that left baddies are going after rights baddies. Minister for Disinformation, Comrade Conflagration is fending off attacks from Adhikar Baddies who want him out of office. Fireball actually went by the nom de guerre of Comrade Kanchan, but looks like even **Mahara Bhisap** (try as he might) can’t clear his name now. But the Homework Minister did manage to frame the police chief and replaced him with his own “ho manchhe”.





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