


FURNITURE LAND



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



LAVAZZA
ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE

Hotel Clarion - Jawalakhel
Hotel Ganesh Himal - Chhetrapati
For Business Inquiry: 9841505390

HP Pavilion g4-1109TU Notebook

Brilliance Always Has A New Beginning

- Core i5-2410M (2.3 GHz)
- 2GB DDR3 Memory
- 640GB Hard Drive
- 14.1" WXGA Display
- DVD RW, BT, Wireless
- Intel Graphics Media
- Free DOS

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




Step in for more varieties at

LIFE STYLE

design & decor



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



Complete Bathing Solutions
Brought to you by

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


SOLAR ELECTRICITY CO. (P) LTD.

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

EverExceed®
SHARP
UNIKOR

SolarLand
SunLink PV
Kanena

Installing Solar PV Since 1991



All for one, one for all

KIRAN NEPAL

With less than two weeks to go for the CA to come to the end of its extended term, Nepal's politics is once again distracted by the need to find a new prime minister. President Yadav has given the parties till Sunday to come up with a new government, and the choice has narrowed down to the Maoist's Baburam Bhattarai or the NC's Sher Bahadur Deuba who wants to be PM for the fourth time.

The ideal solution would be for the big three parties and the UDMF to form a consensus government to push through last-minute agreements on the integration package for Maoist fighters. Only this would give the parties, the moral grounds to extend the CA yet again. But the gulf between the parties is still too wide to expect this to happen by 31 August.

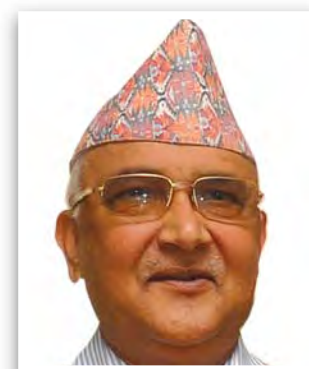
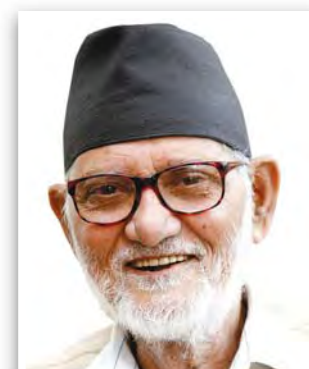
Since no one trusts anyone, how about a cabinet made up of all senior leaders? This way, the government doesn't have to keep referring to Paris Danda, Balkhu or Sanepa to decide on critical issues. They also won't need any high-level task forces and committees meeting in five-star resorts. The all-party cabinet can decide everything on the spot. It won't even matter who is the prime minister. But this is a final solution, after this there will be nothing to fall back on.

This deadlock has dragged on too long, it's time to think outside the box. Unless someone has a better idea. ■


Editorial p2

Descent into dystopia


Last ditch attempt to re-establish a stable state, eradicate impunity and decriminalise politics.



PICS: MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA



A FUSION SO EXQUISITE
IT'S ENJOYED BY BOTH BLENDERS
AND CONNOISSEURS.



UNITED SPIRITS NEPAL PVT. LTD.

USN/130668/11

DESCENT INTO DYSTOPIA

Few will be staying awake this time till three in the morning on 1 September to follow the cliffhanger of the Constituent Assembly extension. Most people are past caring, and will be trying to get on with their lives the best they can.

But the cost to the country’s economy, its development, the service delivery to people is incalculable. You can’t put a rupee and paisa price on all the patients who died because they couldn’t be taken to hospital because the budget to repair the road was plundered by a mafia composed of district office-bearers of the three parties.

Smelling weakness, everyone with a grievance is on warpath, punishing the people with strikes and extortion to get back at a feckless state. Eighty per cent of industries in this country have closed down, the latest this week is Surya Nepal’s Rs 700 million apparel export factory in Biratnagar. In the absence of a state, extortionists are masquerading as legitimate labour unions .

When elected leaders abdicate their governance role to indulge in endless intrigue and backstabbing, the leadership vacuum is filled by lawless gangs. Political parties that supposedly believe in the rule of law and peaceful democratic politics are coddling crooks. Gangsters have now become richer and more powerful than the party bosses who created them.

In the Maoist party, militant union chiefs have now amassed so much ill-gotten wealth that the party hierarchy is powerless to pull them up. The UML copied the Maoists, and it was Jhalanath Khanal who set up the Youth Force. Later it was



renamed the Yuba Sangh Nepal, but call it what you want, it was still up to its neck in crime. The little puppies have become snarling rottweilers.

The UML youth wing is now a powerful nationwide network of organised crime to complement the YCL. In many places, like in eastern Nepal, the two are partners in crime. It is only when there is disagreement about the division of the spoils that they carve each other up with khukuris. Then the media sometimes gets caught in the middle as happened to the Biratnagar

correspondent of Nagarik newspaper two months ago.

Khilanath Dhakal was forced to undergo a near-death experience when he reported on UML goons beating up a rival gangster inside a courtroom. The UML youth wing has since taken strong exception to Nagarik’s exposes on the range of its criminal activities in eastern Nepal. It all culminated this week in the mother party closing down Biratnagar for two days and the youth wing’s boss Mahesh Basnet threatening to jail Nagarik editor Narayan Wagle, shutting down his newspaper and threatening the Morang police chief and his family with bodily harm.

This has now gone beyond being just a threat to journalists and police, it is a direct challenge to the country’s interim constitution its guarantees of basic human rights and a democratic polity. And yet, the UML is so scared of the monster it created the party can’t even condemn Basnet for continued catch-me-if-you-can defiance.

All this got wide media play because a journalist was involved, but organised crime, local outlaws and gangsters have been abducting children, maiming, raping nuns and murdering citizens with impunity. The state’s inability or unwillingness to stop this has emboldened crooks who are protected by their political bosses. Saying this is normal in a state of political transition is no excuse.

There is only one way to address Nepal’s descent into dystopia: re-establish a stable state, eradicate impunity and decriminalize political parties by agreeing on a unity government ASAP.

ON THE WEB
www.nepalitimes.com

BABURAM FOR PM?

It looks like the Nepali media is obsessed with Dr Bhattarai. (‘A moment’s sanity for consensus’, #567). It is unfair to portray him as a Superman to rescue Nepal from its current mess. Even if he heads a unity government, people from his own party will ask for his blood within no time. So think about other options as well.

Pradeep Adhikari

- We need a national unity government with ministers who are professionals in their fields and not driven by the need to spread favours. It is a collective responsibility and individual integrity that builds a society, Dr Bhattarai.

Vija Shrestha

- There are no true ‘revolutionary forces’ in Nepal. The Maoists only seek to impose a variant of capitalism, and anyone who reads their official economic program can verify that. It should also be clear by now that any popular mandate the Maoists had or still have is for reform rather than revolution.

Deep

- Loved Diwakar Chhetri’s cartoon (‘What are they waiting for?’, #567) , so the threesome are in bed together. They need to agree on the CA extension so they’ll do anything.

KiranL

- Nepali politicians need to understand that the issues are about jobs for the unemployed, growth in economy and trade, creation of business, education, health and on and on. Lets see some real leadership, Enough corruption, enough shame. Its time for real change and real

leadership...are you up to the task, dear Dr Baburam Bhattarai, or are just like the rest of the pack?

Ram Prasad Sharma

- Is this a formal endorsement of Baburam as PM by the Nepali Times? It certainly reads like one. A few months or so in Baluwater should cure Baburam of his hideously undeserved rockstar reputation amongst the “campus clueless” contingent.

John Kelleher

- In ‘Another anti-climax’, #567 Anurag Acharya argues: ‘It does not require a herculean effort, just a bit of common sense and more assertiveness from a younger generation of leaders in all major political parties with a cross-partisan approach to nation-building.’ Been there. Done that. It was called Panchayat. Remember?

Jange

ELECTRIC FUTURE

Finally a breath of fresh air from a Nepali politician (‘Electric future’, Interview with Gagan Thapa’, #567). He has a practical plan that is the only way forward unless some greedy Maoist or elderly political has-been from the NC or UML tries to spoil it. Just hand over the country to Gagan Thapa and Gorakna Bista and people like them.

Jens

- Gagan Thapa doesn’t even mention the most important development. The World Bank’s \$100 million project for a 1GW transmission line for urgent import of 100 MW thermal from India to reduce load shedding and future hydro power exports

to India (and Bangladesh). This is sensible but directly opposite to the “priority” for meeting base load before exporting power.

Arthur

- All the best, Gokarna Bista (‘Things will change’, #567). Your words carry determination and you have taken steps none of your predecessors even thought of. But you may not be minister for much longer. Hopefully you can instill some decency and sense of urgency in your successor as well.

Funkybuddha

- A person like Gokarna Bista deserves the people’s support. What he has done recently should have been done a long time ago, but it is never too late to do the right thing. There are others like Sher Bahadur Deuba (god knows why he should be PM), Pushpa Kamal Dahal (what has he done besides war and lies?), Khanal (what a jerk), Ram Chandra Paudel (does he even have a vision?), Susil Koirala (a clean man but without a leadership ability) and they are the ones who keep negotiating and re-negotiating while the country is being pushed towards dark future. We need more people like Bista.

Sherpa

- Great Job. You are the first Nepali minister or politician that I have any respect for because you have done so much in such a short time. You need to destroy the mafia and hope that someday you will be the prime minister. Do not let us down.

Jonathan Sharma

is waning all around world. The next wave is the mobile Internet. Last time I was in Nepal, I was so proud that we had 3G. Why can’t I use my 3G to make calls, if using 3G was cheaper than, say, directly calling the number?

RJ

IMMORTAL MEMORY

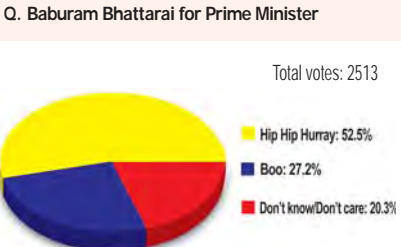
Very much appreciate the work of Dorji Tsering Sherpa in Makwanpur for the people of Sikharpur where his daughter’s plane crashed last year (‘Immortal memory,’ #567). Thank you for remembering us in spite of your loss.

Govinda Nepal

- Very sad, but the tragedy created a situation for the families to come together and build something useful for the village. DT-ji we all know that you have been the prime mover in this case and we all appreciate your effort in particular.

Hemant Arjyal

Times nepalnews.com
Weekly Internet Poll # 567



Weekly Internet Poll # 568. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com
Q. What do you make out of APECF’s Lumbini Development Project?



Taking the people for granted

Just because Anna Hazare can't challenge an elected government, doesn't mean Delhi can dismiss the anti-corruption activist



CHALO DILLI
Jyoti Malhotra

NEW DELHI -- Five years ago, Nepalis made their own tryst with destiny when they mounted a Jana Andolan to force an absolute monarch to restore parliament and install a democratic government. Since that peaceful people's movement from the streets, Nepal has seen four prime ministers in four years. As yet another prime minister resigns in Kathmandu this week, bemused Nepalis must be looking across the border to the snowballing anti-corruption street protests in India.

New Delhi is witnessing its own Jana Andolan of sorts. A 77-year-old Gandhian, Anna Hazare, announced he would fast unto death to protest corruption and black money. He was not just prevented from doing so but put behind bars. As the political establishment ordered a crackdown on the ageing activist, a wave of revulsion has swept the country.

For the first time in seven years that it has ruled India, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) coalition is looking nervous. It's no longer about Anna's blackmail tactics (he has threatened to go on hunger strike until his group's version of a bill for creating the institution of an ombudsman or Lokpal is accepted by the government) or about the fact that Hazare's 'movement' is restricted to a few thousand people. The issue has opened up a debate on whether civil society activists have the right to challenge parliament's exclusive privilege to make a bill.

If Team Anna, as Anna's people un-selfconsciously describe themselves, allow a vote to be taken on their bill, they might find to their surprise that there aren't many takers. Wearing a khadi cap and calling yourself a Gandhian hardly squares with implicit threats of blackmail.

But here's the thing: by disallowing Anna and his people to protest peacefully, limiting the number of people who could participate in the protest as well as limiting the number of days for which the protest was allowed, the Manmohan Singh government overplayed its hand.

The people wanted reassurance, they got a lathi charge. The people wanted the government to take action against the guilty and promise good governance. Several politicians and corporates were, indeed, thrown into jail, but it turned out the rot was deeper. On the backfoot, the government hoped to turn the tables.

Only, it has ended up with egg on its face. Whether or not Anna Hazare wins the right to fast as long as he likes in Ramlila Maidan, the fact is that the UPA government has never looked weaker.

There is no comparison between Anna Hazare's people and Nepal's Jana Andolan in April 2006. At the time in Kathmandu, there was a genuine outpouring of the people on the streets. Many tyres were burnt and the protests continued into the early hours of the night. Interestingly, the underground Maoists, who controlled the heart of the protests also ensured discipline. What the Maoists could not achieve in ten years of war was attained in three weeks of peaceful street protests.



That is why the democratic experiment, as it slowly implodes in Nepal, is almost too much to bear. There was so much promise in 2006, but it seems to have been frittered away by a combination of short-sightedness and overarching partisan and personal ambition. Although not in the same scale as in India, rampant corruption is also the focus of protests in Kathmandu as Nepalis organise Facebook rallies against malfeasance.

Is an all-party government the answer? Why can't Nepal's political parties get together and write a constitution? After all, that's what India's Constituent Assembly did for nearly three years after 1947, and its members weren't even elected by the people, unlike in Nepal.

The likes of Anna Hazare can never become a challenge to an elected government in India. But just because he can't, doesn't mean that Delhi can be dismissive about the yearnings of the people for clean and transparent government.

That's a lesson for both Nepal and India. In a democracy, you can't afford to take the people for granted.

HIMAL

KHABARPATRIKA

18 August - 1 September

COVER

Heads in the Head

EDITORIAL

Lead United

COMMENTARY

Ten questions to Chinese APECF
Social Democracy
Unnecessary burden

REPORTS

Power without Power
Flagged Appointments
Daughter's duty
Injected economy

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

Convenient – Consistent – Compatible – Connectivity

the Best

MPLS

Connectivity in Nepal

www.subisu.net.np

Lumbini as geopolitical ping pong

A mystery project to transform Buddha’s birthplace becomes even more mysterious



BY THE WAY
Anurag Acharya

The mystery over the plan by the dubious Asia Pacific Cooperation and Exchange Foundation (APECF) just seems to get shadier by the day.

What began as speculation by a skeptical media has now cast deep doubts about the antecedents of the proposed project, of procedures not followed and what seems to be a deliberate attempt to bypass prevailing laws of the land. Op-eds about the project’s attempt to “hijack Lumbini” are appearing thick and fast in the Nepali media.

In June, APECF signed an MoU with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in Beijing to develop Lumbini. But neither the Nepal government nor the UN seem to know anything about it. The agreement was in clear violation of Nepal’s domestic laws, and superceded long-standing cooperation with another UN agency, UNESCO, to implement a masterplan for Lumbini.

There is a glaring lack of transparency in the way this project has been conceived



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

and declared. It has tried to bypass the government to push the project through patronage of the influential chairman of the Maoist party and, initially, an ex-crown prince.

To be sure, the project’s stated aims and objectives to upgrade tourism infrastructure in Buddha’s birthplace could be in the long term interest of the country, particularly because Lumbini has languished as a backwater through the lethargy of successive governments. The project looks to boost government revenue, create jobs, build airports, railways and highways and help reduce poverty. Nowhere in the signed document or the official statement in the website is it stated that the area will be turned into a

“Disneyland” or anything of the sort.

A highly placed government official who did not wish to be named told us: “From whatever I have heard and read the project components are in line with the master plan except for the world’s tallest Buddha statue proposed inside the 3 sq mile of the heritage site.” The functionary feels Nepal could benefit the project, but is put off by the lack of transparency regarding its source of funding and its legitimacy.

The project has even been criticised from within Dahal’s own Maoist party where there is a feeling the chairman is trying to “NGO-fy” the party by secretly hobnobbing with questionable organisations. The APECF website introduces Dahal as

‘Prachanda, the ex Prime Minister of Nepal’ who co-chairs the foundation. It is not yet clear whether he is on its official payroll, but if he is, Dahal may even face personal legal problems for politically promoting a project for personal gain. Paras Shah’s involvement in the project remains a speculation, and his name has now vanished from the official website.

The vice chairman of the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT), the chief government body responsible for implementing any activity inside the 3 sq mile area of the Lumbini heritage site, says that the government has not heard officially from the foundation and is not part of the project.

So, we need to make

sense why the project has “officially” remained unofficial, if it has indeed been officially signed. Does it have something to do with the fluid political situation in Nepal and the long term benefit to be extracted out of the project? The political and economic brownie points for bringing in a multi-million dollar investment in the country seems to be too tempting for Dahal.

But he risks angering the New Delhi in the process. The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu is known to be taking a dim view of the goings-on and New Delhi has instructed its UN mission in New York to find out what is happening. There is speculation that this is Beijing’s way of having a forward-looking strategy to deal with a post-Dalai Lama Tibet. Lumbini could be pushed as an alternative to Indian plans to revive the ancient city of Nalanda as a Buddhist hub, or Bodh Gaya which has served as a meeting point for Tibetan monks.

All this could signal another facet in Sino-Indian geopolitical rivalry, this time for the heart and soul of Buddhism. The question for us is: do we want lumbini and Nepal to be dragged into a future flashpoint? 🇳🇵

In the land of the Buddha

Two weeks ago, Culture Secretary Modraj Dotel resigned from his post amidst speculation about a controversial Chinese-backed supposedly multi-billion dollar investment to develop Lumbini into a religious and cultural hub.

Dotel didn’t say so explicitly, but expressed dissatisfaction over political interference from his Maoist minister. The resignation coincided with intense pressure from the Maoist hierarchy to sanction the Lumbini project even though there were serious questions about its legitimacy.

“He must have known what was going on from the very beginning and resigned because he did not want to become a part of what followed”, a senior Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) member told us.

Over the decades many organisations have tried to pour money into Lumbini’s development, which is supposed to follow a UNESCO-backed masterplan sketched by Japanese architect Kenzo Tange, to have been completed in 1980. Successive governments have used Lumbini as a cash cow, and didn’t do much to further the masterplan.

The latest grandiose plan is the one backed by a Hong Kong based quasi-NGO called Asia Pacific Exchange Cooperation Foundation (APECF) with a slapdash way of functioning that has raised serious doubts about its authenticity. But the Maoist party, especially its chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal, seems to have fallen for it and even serves in its board.

In June, Chinese state media reported that APECF and the Vienna-based United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and its Investment and Technology



WWW.APECF.ORG

Promotion Office in China had signed an MoU titled, ‘Promotion South East Asian IPA Network’. UNIDO in Vienna has no clue about this supposed agreement, and the plan has raised alarm bells in New Delhi prompting its diplomats in New York to query the UN.

Nepali Times has obtained a copy of the MoU which specifies UNIDO’s role as a “consultant” and APECF as a “strategic development partner” of Nepal’s Ministry of Tourism. The document says the project has

been in effect since 15 July with support from the Government of Nepal. The only problem is the rest of the Nepal government doesn’t know anything about it.

APECF’s vice-chairman Xiao Wunan had led a four-member delegation to Kathmandu in May and signed a ‘framework agreement of Buddhist Special Cultural Zone of Lumbini’ with Tourism Minister Khadga Bahadur Bishwakarma (pictured above).

The MoU and APECF’s website raise

Maoist involvement in Chinese-backed plan to develop Lumbini raises suspicion

more questions than answers. The MoU does not specify committed budget amount or its source, raising questions on the intent and objective of the project and its protagonists. Clause 1 of Article 8 of the MoU, which specifically talks about financial contribution, states: ‘the implementation of activities and projects envisaged in the Memorandum will depend on the availability of the necessary financial resources.’

Further, the brief description of the project in Annex document IP/GLO/2011/008 states: ‘The program shall lead to billions US dollar investment in Lumbini area, about 171 Km southwest of Nepal’s capital Kathmandu.’ (sic) However, the same annex shows UNIDO project inputs amounting to 100,000 euros with actual breakdown of costs with a detailed ToR and timeframe.

Amidst serious doubts and misgivings the parliamentary committee formed to monitor the development of Lumbini has asked the government to declare its official position on the APECF project. The vice chairman of the LDT, Karma Syangbo Sherpa, told Nepali Times: “We have not signed any agreement with external bodies that I know of.”

Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Krishna Bahadur Mahara attended an APECF meeting in Malaysia last week and returned to Kathmandu with board members in the same aircraft from Bangkok. Dahal’s son, Prakash, was present at an APECF press meet in Kathmandu in which Xiao Wunan was unable to provide convincing answers about APECF’s funding, governance, or the agreements it says it reached with the government. 🇳🇵

Anurag Acharya with additional reporting by Dewan Rai

“We are still in a preliminary stage of the project and will officially approach the government after we have done our homework.”

Narendra Ulak,
Deputy Secretary, APECF

“The LDT is not aware about any project involving APECF currently working on Lumbini. We have our own Lumbini Master Plan and we have not signed any agreement with external bodies, not that I know of.”

Karma Syangbo Sherpa, Vice Chairman,
Lumbini Development Trust.

Not non-profit

Social entrepreneurs are businessmen with motives beyond money



MY TWO PAISA

Paavan Mathema

Thirty-year-old Ranjit Kanswar runs a unique organisation in Kalaya of Bara district which helps locals purchase their own rickshaws. Instead of paying Rs 60 everyday to rent rickshaws from businessmen, they set aside Rs 25 per day to eventually own it in two years or so.

Kanswar won seed money for his business plan in a competition and began with five families. Now, with the returns he is trying to work with 10 more families.

The enterprise is an example of an increasingly popular mode of doing business called social entrepreneurship. Traditional private sector or personal philanthropy can exist side-by-side, but many organisations are now adopting a formula that balances economy, ecology and social responsibility.

Contrary to traditional socially-driven organisations, social entrepreneurs use market-driven business models to address critical social and environmental issues. They don't measure returns in terms of shareholder dividend alone but aim for financial independence. Social enterprise is not just another fundraising strategy for non-profits, it is a long-term sustainable business that operates to redirect profits towards social and environmental goals.

The word "sustainability" may have become threadbare with overuse



PROUD OWNERS: Rickshaw pullers from Kalaya, Bara District, that have purchased their rickshaws through social entrepreneur Ranjit Kanswar's organisation.

and misuse, but is still very relevant in the Nepal context. Most non-government bodies here are supported by international donors and fold up when funds run out. How can an organisation benefit others if it itself needs help to sustain? Revenue-generating models could be the answer.

It is a fine line between having a social mission and financial viability, but it can be balanced. The Kathmandu-based store, EcoKendra, networks with farmers and producers in rural areas to market their organic food and natural fibre products. EcoKendra offers wares at affordable prices, keeps its margin to be financially independent, but helps farmers in the process with fair prices.

Social enterprises have an advantage over solely profit-driven ventures. Combining social objectives with business actually works as a

marketing tool and in brand-building. Knowing that what the money paid will trickle down to those who need it the most motivates consumers to pick such products and services over others.

Social enterprises have used social networking to bypass mainstream advertising and going directly to customers via Facebook, Twitter and blogs in direct

relationship-building, awareness building, attracting and retaining customers.

The government can help with incentives to encourage social entrepreneurship, and not bundle them with traditional businesses. There isn't a lack of motivated people with innovative ideas in Nepal, but they lack entrepreneurial skills that will assist in translating them to marketplace solutions. They need trainings to equip them with strategy-oriented plans.

Last week, Global Platform Nepal conducted a week-long training for young participants to help them apply business principles to organise and manage social ventures. The word 'social' and 'non-profit' often seem to tag along with 'donors' and 'aid' in Nepal. But social organisations must find a way to survive and thrive without waiting on handouts forever.

BIZ BRIEFS

Branded surfing

Nokia Browser has been launched to ease internet browsing in Nokia series 40 devices. The browser has been first launched in Nokia C2-03. This dual sim model is a touch and type based phone.

New accounts



Mega Bank has launched Mega Swabhiman Bachat Khata,

a savings account for senior citizens with interest rate at 10 per cent per annum, payable monthly. The bank has also launched Mega Nari Special Account for women, with interest rate 9.50 per cent per annum, payable quarterly.

Hi-tech alliance



Explore Asia Pacific, has been appointed

the authorised distributor of Genius products in Nepal. Genius is an IT peripherals company, based in Taiwan.

Celebrating Teej

Janta Bank Nepal is gifting a Teej hamper for the account holders of Smart Lady Bachat Khata. The women will also have the chance to get free e-banking service, cheque book, ATM card and a 50 per cent discount on locker service.

Shopping spree

John Players, Surya Nepal's line of men's wear, is offering up-to 40 per cent discounts in its products. This offer is available at all John Players brand outlets and selected retail outlets.

TOSHIBA
Leading Innovation >>>



REGZA
www.regza-asia.com

NOW WATCH TV
NONSTOP >>>
EVEN DURING **LOAD SHEDDING**

1ST
TIME IN
NEPAL

With the new Toshiba Regza Power LED T.V., you can watch your favorite program without any interruption.

PS1E 24 inch REGZA Power TV

(Rs. **51,550**)

Marketed By:
EOL PVT. LTD.

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

Available in three variants including LED screen.

12 Months
Warranty **True 0% Finance**

Upgrade Your Life

POWER TV

**BATTERY
OPERATED**



TBWA Benchmark 11



The Chinese are coming

CAI YUN

With rising affluence, Chinese are flying out on holidays in ever greater numbers with a spurt in arrivals in Nepal in the past year.

After roaming countries in the region with big overseas Chinese communities like Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand Chinese tourists are opting for adventure destinations like Nepal.

Indeed, in July alone the number of Chinese tourists coming to Nepal by air has more than doubled to 3,306 compared to the same month last year. This number does not include Chinese who traveled overland via Tibet. If this trend continues, the

INSIDE LOOKING OUT: A woman in Bhaktapur gives directions to a group of Chinese tourists sight-seeing in the historic town last week. there has been a surge of tourists from China this summer.

CAI YUN

The Tarai's tusker

KRISHNA SINJALI in JHAPA

The increase of transborder migration of wild elephants from across the Mechi river has jeopardised lives in six districts of eastern Nepal. Hundreds of elephants raid crops during harvest time, others rampage through thatch huts and trample people.

In the past 15 years, more than 100 people have been killed by elephants, and houses razed. Thirty attacking elephants have been killed by angry locals. The forest corridors along the elephants migratory path along the foothills of the Himalaya from Assam through West Bengal and Nepal have meant that elephants are in increasing conflict with people.

The elephant havoc has not just ruined the economy of areas of eastern Jhapa, outsiders fear to visit the villages and girls refuse to marry men from areas prone to elephant attacks. Sadly, the government's role has been limited to providing a compensation of Rs 150,000 for every person killed and the construction of 17 early-warning watchtowers. The locals are left to ward off marauding elephants using fire-crackers, sticks and lanterns.

The past efforts of the Elephant Disaster Mitigation Service Center (EDMSC) to use beekeeping, bio-fencing and chilly deterrence failed to keep the elephants away. Plans to implement solar electric fencing along the banks of Mechi never got off the ground.

The local group, Nature Conservation Society, has been trying to raise awareness among the communities in the affected area and four trans-border meetings have been held. The organisation even sent a delegation to the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu to seek help to deal with the problem since most of the marauding elephants come over from the Indian side.

Fifteen volunteer groups of local farmers patrol the river in the evenings with searchlights, firecrackers and cell phones. The society has also purchased sirens and vehicles fixed with floodlights to drive the elephants away. 🇳🇵



As their habitats shrink and human settlements expand, wild elephants collide with people in the eastern plains



There has been a sharp rise in the arrival of Chinese tourists to Nepal

Chinese could overtake Americans as the second largest source of visitors after India.

"We are really encouraged by the increase of mainland China travelers, especially because they come in the July-August lean season and this evens out arrivals throughout the year," says Prachanda Man Shrestha of the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB).

The Chinese seem to be attracted by the exotic Himalaya, Nepal's Hindu and Buddhist culture, its proximity and the increase in the number of flights.

"The fast rising numbers of Chinese visitors have filled up the tourist vacuum during the monsoon off season," says Suman Pandey of Explore Himalaya Tour and Adventure.

Chinese tourists can be seen on Sarangkot for

the sunrise view, dining in Thamel, packing the Mt Everest sightseeing flights and moving in groups in Bhaktapur Darbar Square.

"What attracts me most is the unique culture and religious practices," Zhang Liusha from Chengdu told us at Basantapur this week. "People here are so friendly, Nepalis on the streets even greet us in Chinese."

Zhang shows a necklace that she says she wanted to purchase from a sidewalk vendor, but after chatting with her for a while the shop owner gave it to her as a present. "Where else in the world does that happen?" asked Zhang, who intends to stay in Nepal for ten more days.

Zhou Lou from Chongqing is encouraged by how easy it was to get to Nepal. "I got my visa in Lhasa and it was all very smooth," she said.

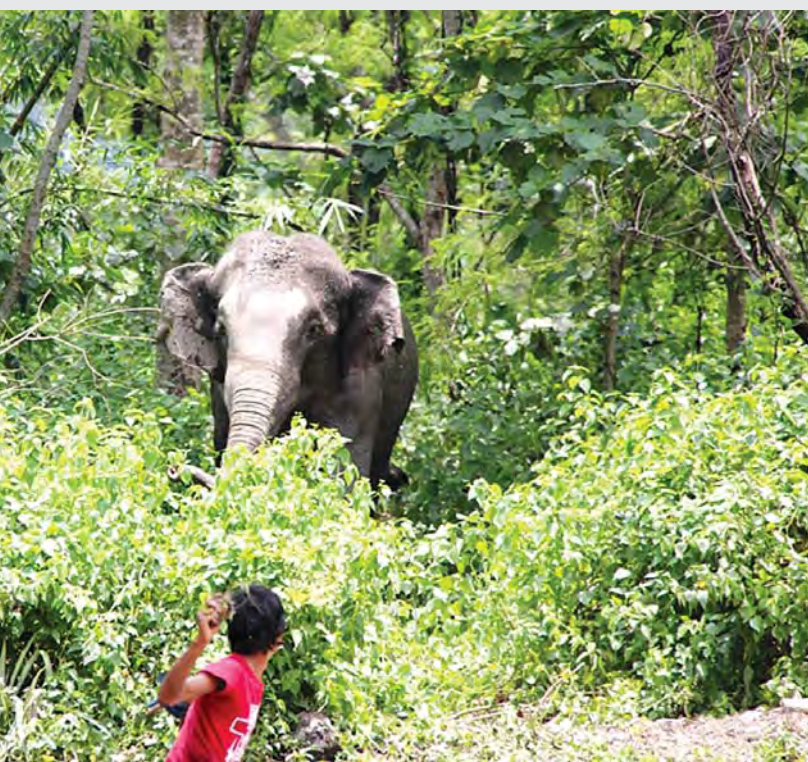
Unlike western backpackers who come to Nepal mainly for trekking, Chinese tourists are more inclined to cultural activities and soft adventures. Material comfort lists high in their consideration, and they are put off by Kathmandu's

daunting traffic and pollution. And although there are more flights, flights to Nepal from China are very expensive, sometimes it is cheaper to fly to Europe.

The NTB's Shrestha says the only solution is a strong national airline to tap the huge Chinese tourism potential. "Sadly, the priority for the government now is a stable constitution, rather than stable economic growth." Still, NTB is planning to open an office in Beijing and Shanghai, and Shrestha says extending the Qinghai-Tibet railway to the Nepal border would boost Chinese tourism even more.

Air China's Nepal manager, Wu Yong Qiang, is also enthusiastic about the growth in air traffic. From less than 3 flights a week in 2008, Air China, China southern and China Eastern now operate almost daily flights to Chinese destinations like Kunming, Lhasa, Guangzhou and Chengdu from Kathmandu. He says: "There is a big rush during Chinese New Year and the Golden Week period, tickets have to be booked way in advance." ■

terror



MAN AND BEAST: Herds of elephants moving through the jungle in Jhapa recently. Brave villager confronts bull, but often to no avail. A Jhapa farmer standing outside his broken home, and the army is called in to shoot the elephants, and one is downed.



ALL PICS: KRISHNA SINJALI

Family Day Out
@ **GOKARNA FOREST RESORT**

*There's nothing better than a scenic beauty and a swim to cool off in the summer followed by a yummy lunch at **Durbar Restaurant** & a can of **Heineken** to quench your thirst...*

Nrs. 1500 Nett
per person inclusive of
Swim, Lunch and 1
Can (330 ML) **Heineken**

Free Swim with Enticing Lunch & Heineken

Children of 3 ft and below entitled for 20% discount

Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday from 11AM to 5PM (5th to 31st Aug, 2011)

Supported by:

Heineken

GOKARNA FOREST RESORT
Rajnikunj Gokarna, Thali, P.O.Box: 20498,
Kathmandu, Nepal T: +977 1 4451212, 98010 51212
F: +977 1 455 0002 www.gokarna.com

DECC
SERVICE WITH HEART

Opens banquet services

wedding
birthday
corporate parties

business meetings seminars events workshops exhibitions

Direction Exhibition & Convention Center
t : 4117102, 4117135 f : 4117105, e : seminar@deconline.com
4th Floor, United World Trade Center, Tripureswor, Kathmandu

Element™
Auto-coding™
Blood Glucose Monitoring System

• Automatic code Setting (No manual coding required)
• Painless with only 0.3µl Blood sample
• Only 3 seconds measuring time
• Meal/Exercises/Medication Setting (Glucose control per daily routine)
• Alternate Site Testing (for frequent test user: Taken from Arm, Thigh, Palm...)

For free demonstration and home delivery call: 4436928/29/30 Rajeeva/Sunita or mail at meditron@srd.com.np

Available at:
R.K Pharmaceuticals
SRD Building, New Plaza, Putalisadak
Tel: 4415227
and leading Chemist Shops

Marketed By:
Meditron International
Putalisadak, Kathmandu,
Tel: 4436928/29/30
E-mail: meditron@srd.com.np

MBL Mobile Money

Simply send sms from your mobile and use the facilities

- Fund Transfer
- NTC Postpaid Mobile Bill Payment
- NTC Prepaid Recharge Card Purchase
- NTC CDMA Recharge Card Purchase
- NTC Landline Telephone Bill Payment
- Merchant Bill Payment
- Account Balance Inquiry
- FCY Exchange Rate Inquiry
- Last 5 Transactions Inquiry
- Banking Hour Inquiry
- Transaction Alert Message
- School / College Fee Payment *

Facility Available from all MBL Branches

Service with a personal touch

Machhapuchhre Bank Limited
माछापुच्छ्रे बैंक लिमिटेड
कार्डरिट अफिस: लाजिम्पाट, काठमाडौं, कोस: ४४२०२५६

Download Application
www.machbank.com

Baraha Jewellery Industries Pvt. Ltd.

Head Office: New Road Gate, ktm
Tel: 4232964-65, Fax: 01-4233511
Pipal Bot: New Road, Pipalbot, Tel: 2190004, 4266799
Dharan: Bhanuchowk, Mahendrapath, Tel: 025-526777, 520056, Fax: 025-522412
Pokhara: Sabha Griha Chowk, Pokhara, Tel: 061-206570
U.K.: Aldershot, London, Tel: 0044-7824332127, 1252409272
E-mail: info@barahajewellery.com/www.barahajewellery.com

Trusted for purchase & selling of jewelleryes



INDIA - AN INCREDIBLE DESTINATION



COMPUTING THE FUTURE OF COMPUTERS

Morphing Machines has produced the World's first multi-tasking chip, a much awaited technological breakthrough that will take computing to the next level.



THE FUTURE OF AUTOMOBILES

Harley Davidson, Hyundai, Suzuki, Ford, Volkswagen, General Motors... The world's best known automobile companies have made India their design hub to produce next-generation automobiles.



THE BOSS OF BIOTECH

India is ranked among the top-twelve biotech destinations in the world and stands third in the Asia-Pacific region in terms of the number of biotech companies. Indian biotechnology industry is expected to increase its turnover base by over five times by 2012.



MICROSOFT'S WINDOW TO THE FUTURE

All tooling work for Microsoft's software for mobile devices is carried out in India. The Microsoft India Development Centre has a dedicated team that drives key aspects of Microsoft's global delivery model.



HIGH ON HI-TECH

The National Electronics Mission estimates the current demand in the Indian electronics industry stands at the US\$ 45 billion by 2020. End to end product development and rapidly expanding markets are drawing more investments from global majors.



IT GLOBAL POWER

The US\$ 60 billion industry employs 2 million engineers and scientists and runs the IT backbone of 275 Fortune 500 companies around the world. India has emerged as the largest developer location for companies such as Oracle and Nokia.



THE RESEARCH HUB

The research, product design and development programmes of over 100 Fortune 500 companies are powered from India.



ROBUST ECONOMY, CONSISTENT GROWTH

India's GDP has grown at an average 8.4 per cent per annum during FY 2006-10. The consistent growth of its robust and resilient economy has played part in the resurgence of the global economy in recent years.



THE GOLDEN SKY LINE

India is the leading investment market in Asia. The margins in India are among the highest in the world. The combination of the world average growth rate and the most profitable construction sector in the world.

ALL ROUND DEVELOPMENT WITH INDIA'S COOPERATION

The programme of India-Nepal economic cooperation was launched in 1951 and the objective of this programme was and remains to supplement the efforts of the Government of Nepal (GoN) in Nepal's national development.

EDUCATION

School/College/Library buildings

The Small Development Projects Programme of the Government of India (GoI) has so far covered almost 70 districts by constructing 190 schools/multiple campuses at a cost of more than NRs. 500 crores since 2003. Around 1800 scholarships/seats are provided every year by GoI to Nepali nationals for undergoing various courses at the Ph.D /Masters, Bachelors and Plus-two levels in India as well as Nepal in wide spectrum of studies ranging from engineering, medicine, agriculture, pharmacology, veterinary sciences, computer application, business administration, music and fine arts, etc. Since 2005, more than 10,000 scholarships have been provided to Nepalese students by GoI.

Manmohan Memorial Polytechnic

It is the first polytechnic of its kind in Nepal providing diploma level technical education in three engineering streams and several vocational courses with a capacity of providing education to almost 500 students at a time. The polytechnic was constructed at a cost of NRs.50 crores and was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Nepal on 2nd November 2009.

Polytechnic at Hetauda

India is going to construct a government polytechnic at Hetauda with an estimated cost of NRs. 41 crores to impart mid-level technical courses in four engineering field.



HEALTH

Bir Hospital

Five-storied OPD complex of the Bir Hospital at Kathmandu was constructed with the GoI assistance in year 1984-85 with a capacity to accommodate 2500 out-patients and is equipped with sophisticated facilities. An ambulance is being gifted to the hospital on 15 August 2011.

Trauma Centre at Bir Hospital, Kathmandu

GoI on the request of GoN has built the Trauma Centre which is a super specialty hospital and first of its kind in Nepal and the second in South Asia after the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi for the treatment of trauma patients with a cost of NRs. 150 crores, fully equipped with modern medical equipments. The medical professionals of this hospital will get specialized training in India for the successful operation of the centre.



Goitre Control Programme

GoI has provided assistance of NRs.46.69 crore to GoN till 2010 for the programme of control of Goitre and other iodine deficiencies in Nepal.

Assistance to Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh (NNJS) for Cataract and Trachoma Surgeries Programme

With the assistance of GoI, NNJS holds every year approx. 400 free Diagnostic Screening & Treatment (DST) camps and surgery camp for Cataract in about 50 districts and for TT in 14 districts. More than 4.25 lakh people have been screened in about 1600 camps organized in over 400 VDCs of 51 districts. More than 87,000 cataract patients and 3900 Trachoma patients have been cured. GoI has provided assistance of NRs. 13.81 crores to NNJS from 2001 to 2010 for holding diagnostic and surgical eye camps in Nepal.

School Eye Health Care Programme

Since 2007 GoI through NNJS holds eye camps in schools in remote areas and provide free of cost 9,000 optical dispensing device to 'Vision Impaired' children and 300 Low vision dispensing device to children in Nepal every year at a cost of NRs. 2.69 crores. A mobile eye care van costing NRs. 21.63 lakh has also been provided to NNJS for holding eye camps in schools.

BPKIHS

B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences at Dharan is the biggest hospital-cum- medical college outside the Kathmandu Valley which was constructed with GoI assistance of NRs.192 crores. GoI is also providing medical faculty support to the medical college by deputing expert faculty from reputed institutes of India. A college block is currently being constructed at BPKIHS with GoI's assistance of NRs. 10.97 crores.

Hospitals and Maternity Centers under SDP

Several health posts, nursing campuses maternity centres, eye hospitals, naturopathy hospitals are being constructed under the GoI's Small Development Project Scheme. Infrastructure of 21 hospitals is being created with GoI's assistance of NRs. 47 crores in 17 districts of Nepal.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- GoI provided an assistance of NRs. 118 crores for the laying of 904 Kilometres Optical Fibre cable along the East-West Highway and setting up of 80 stations of SDH equipment.
- The fibre optic cable forms the backbone of telecommunication network of Nepal and has transformed the lifestyle of Nepali citizens.



ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS

- GoI has provided assistance of NRs.15 crores for electrification of 31 villages through NEA grid and NRs. 33 crores for solar electrification of 7 villages.
- During the visit of External Affairs Minister of India to Nepal in January 2010, MoUs for electrification of five VDCs in five different districts at a cost of NRs. 10 crores were signed.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

- GoI has constructed 807 Kilometres out of the total road length of 1024 Kilometres of the East-West Highway from Mahendranagar to Mechi (Mahendra Raj Marg) which is today a life line of Nepal.
- Twenty two bridges were constructed by GoI on Kohalpur-Mahakali section of the East-West Highway and handed over to the GoN in 2001.
- In recent times, 17 villages and urban roads and 3 bridges have been constructed/being constructed with GoI assistance of NRs. 48.79 crores under SDPs to provide easy access to the people of remote villages.



Terai Roads Projects:

- During the visit of the External Affairs Minister of India to Nepal in January 2010, both the Governments signed a MoU for construction of Terai roads in Nepal.
- First phase of the project covers development of 19 link/postal roads in 13 Terai districts with a total length of 605 km being constructed in phase-I with Indian assistance of NRs. 1100 crores will provide easy access to about 88 lakh people.
- Phase-I will be followed by Phase-II covering about 900 kms.

WATER RESOURCES

- India-Nepal cooperation on the hydroelectricity projects on Koshi, Trishuli, Gandaki and Mahakali rivers account for the major portion of Nepal's country's electricity output.
- A 20 MW powerhouse was constructed as a part of Trishuli Hydropower Project in the 1970s.
- The Devghat Hydropower Project (3x5 MW) has been rehabilitated by BHEL in 2011 and was handed over to the GoN on 13th July, 2011.
- The Surajpur Power Project, Kataiya Power Project and Pushrekhol Project have received assistance as well.
- The 1990s saw the signing of the Mahakali Treaty, which involves the integrated development of the river Mahakali, the Sarada Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Project Cooperation and is also focusing on projects on the Budhi Gandaki River.



DRINKING WATER

- GoI has provided assistance of NRs. 26 crores for drinking water projects in more than 200 villages in recent years.
- An ambitious project to provide drinking water facility at Khumjung and Kunde VDC's in district Solokhumbu is being undertaken by GoI.

DEPENDENCE OF INDIA



- **Total outlay: Over NRs. 6,300 crores annually**
- **No. of projects: 411**
- **No. of districts covered: 75**
- **Pensions worth NRs. 1,900 crores distributed to ex-servicemen**
- **More than 1,800 scholarships provided to Nepalese students annually**

STRENGTHENING OF CROSS-BORDER LINKAGES



GoI is providing assistance to GoN for establishment of Integrated Check-Posts (ICPs) at four major points along the India-Nepal border namely:

- Raxaul (India)- Birgunj (Nepal)
- Sunauli (India)- Bhairahawa (Nepal)
- Jogbani (India)- Biratnagar (Nepal) and
- Nepalgunj Road (India)- Nepalgunj(Nepal)

Work has started on Raxaul Birgunj with an estimated cost of NRs. 392 crores. The check-posts will have state-of-the-art infrastructure, facilitating integrated customs and immigration for smooth cross-border movement of people and goods. Home Minister of India laid the foundation stone of ICP at Raxaul on April 24, 2010 while the Minister of State for Home Affairs laid the foundation stone of ICP at Jogbani on 24 June 2010. Work is underway on both the sites on the Indian side.

Cross-border Railway Links

GoI has accepted the request of GoN for establishment of cross-border railway links at five locations on the Indo-Nepal border:

- Jaynagar in India to Bardibas in Nepal
- Jogbani in India to Biratnagar in Nepal
- Nautanwa in India to Bhairahawa in Nepal
- Rupaidiha in India to Nepalgunj in Nepal, and
- New Jalpaiguri in India to Kakarbhitta in Nepal

Work on the Jaynagar-Bardibas and Jogbani-Biratnagar rail links is being taken up in Phase I with an estimated cost of more than NRs. 1040 crores.

FLOOD CONTROL AND RIVER TRAINING

- India has been providing assistance for strengthening and extension of embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers for flood protection worth NRs. 2754.90 million.
- India is also providing assistance for river training works along Gagan, Trijuga, Lakhandei, Sunsari, Kankai and Kaligandaki rivers in Nepal amounting to NRs. 231.29 million.
- A project for river training works on Banganga River in Kapilvastu District has been initiated at a cost of NRs. 40 million.

India remains committed to continue working closely with Nepal for further development of cooperation in the field of Water Resources so that these contribute to development and prosperity of the two close and friendly neighbouring countries.

WELFARE OF EX-SERVICEMEN



- Presently about 40,000 Gorkha soldiers are serving in the Indian Army and paramilitary forces.
- More than 1,24,000 Indian ex-servicemen get pensions in excess of NRs. 1900 crores annually.
- Welfare schemes amounting to more than NRs. 11 crores executed every year.

- More than NRs. 25 lakh spent on educational scholarships for approx. 300 students.
- 1,24,000 medicine packets worth NRs. 1.824 crores distributed this year.
- 17 solar projects costing NRs. 33.25 crores have been executed benefitting around 1.5 lakh people.
- 1033 drinking water projects are functional. 16 projects are being executed this year costing NRs. 3.64 crores benefitting 72,000 people.
- Medical grants worth NRs. 37 lakh disbursed this year.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- Sabha Griha at Birgunj- Estimated Cost NRs. 40 crores
- Mahendranagar-Tanakpur Road link: Estimated Cost NRs. 40 crores
- Polytechnic at Hetauda: Estimated Cost NRs. 41 crores
- Science Learning Centre at Khumaltar, Kathmandu: Estimated Cost NRs. 25 crores
- Eye Hospital at Kapilavastu: NRs. 13 crores



Chargé d'affaires
Embassy of India
Kathmandu



On the occasion of India's 65th Independence Day, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to the Indian community and our friends in Nepal.

The saga of our Independence involved the sacrifices of many freedom fighters - the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, many other stalwarts as well as countless ordinary men and women inspired by the dream of an Independent India. On this day, we rededicate ourselves to strive to make our country the India of our dreams.

Today, a youthful India is surely and steadily taking its place on the world-stage. In a world that depends more and more on knowledge creation and innovation for improvement in standards of life, India has demonstrated key strengths to ride the crest of this new wave. Our entrepreneurs are surging ahead with fresh self-confidence and Indian corporates have made bold forays into global markets and in international corporate acquisitions. There has also been commendable progress in social and economic indicators. And yet, much remains to be done and 'inclusive growth' is not merely a mantra but a growth model that we recognize as essential if we are to maintain our development trajectory.

We can be justifiably proud that the development of our nation – a nation of more than a billion people – has been within the framework of a secular democracy. Fostering equilibrium in the midst of diversity is the strength of democracy. What distinguishes our nation is that despite plurality of cultures, languages, religions, customs, faith and traditions, our people are bound together by a deep-rooted secular, democratic identity. Evolution through synthesis and inherent respect for pluralism has bound our millennia old civilization together. Non-violence, tolerance, acceptance of all religions and different ways of life, compassion and search for truth are cherished values that have become the cornerstone of our growth as a nation.

Even as India strives to better the lot of its citizens, we are ever mindful that peace, stability and prosperity in our immediate neighborhood are of prime importance. At the same time, the growth of India is an opportunity waiting to be tapped to propel growth in the entire region. India's high-growth economy, world class institutions and its expanding market are an opportunity for the people of South Asia, none more so than for the people of Nepal which shares a special civilizational and fraternal relationship with India.

India has been a longstanding partner of Nepal in its quest for development and progress. Soon after Independence, even with meager resources at our disposal, India strongly supported Nepal's desire for transformation into a modern welfare state and began contributing significantly towards the development of infrastructure and human resources in Nepal. For the first two Five Year Plans of Nepal, India was the only foreign country involved in Nepal's development. Today, India continues to be the largest development partner for Nepal, steadfastly committed to Nepal's economic development and institutionalization of democracy that is so vital for building a peaceful, stable, prosperous Nepal.

This is also an occasion to express our gratitude to the brave personnel of our Armed Forces whose eternal vigil and protection of our borders, seas and skies under challenging circumstances have enabled us to plan the path of future progress and development of the nation. Our special gratitude also goes out to more than 1.2 lakh ex-Indian servicemen in Nepal, whose service to India and loyalty are cherished by us.

Fellow citizens and all our friends in Nepal, on this very special day, I wish you, health, happiness and prosperity.

Jai Hind !

15 August 2011

Jaideep Mazumdar
Jaideep Mazumdar

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GROWING INDIA-NEPAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Small Development Projects (SDPs):

- Cover wide ranging infrastructure development and capacity-building projects costing less than NRs. 5 crores
- Cover all districts of Nepal; Over 12 million beneficiaries
- Approved by GoN and executed by its local agencies
- Hugely popular and end-user friendly
- Under this programme, India has built: Schools, Multiple campuses, Specialized training institutes, Libraries, Primary health posts, Maternity centers, Hospitals, Rural/urban roads and Bridges, Canals, Drinking water projects, Cold storages, River training projects, apart from training of senior GoN officials, organisation of Eye Care Camps.
- 190 school projects ongoing or completed
- Since 1994, India has gifted 302 ambulances and 58 school buses covering 68 districts in Nepal. 20 more ambulances and 4 school buses being gifted on 15 August 2011
- Eye care camps organized by Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh through funding by the GoI: Since 2001, a total assistance of NRs. 16.50 crores extended by the GoI, 4.25 lakh patients examined, more than 87,000 surgeries performed, more than 27,000 students have been provided with optical devices under School Eye Health Care Programme launched in 2007



RINGING IN PROFITS

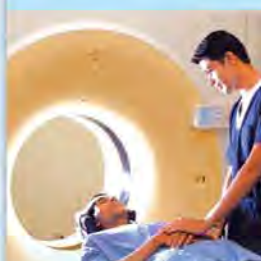
India's telecom sector garner
US\$ 55 billion in investments by 2015.



BREAKTHROUGH SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Chandrayaan-1 Mission to the Moon

10 Satellites Launched in 1000 seconds



A GIANT LEAP FORWARD

India's healthcare sector is expected to
grow at 23 per cent annually to become
a US\$ 77 billion industry by 2013.



REVOLUTIONISING TELECOM

12-14 Million Subscribers Added
Every Month



ENGINEERING GROWTH

India's engineering process outsourcing
business would grow 10-fold between
2007 and 2014 to touch US\$ 30 billion
thus making the country a major player
in the segment.



PHARMACY OF THE WORLD

3,500 Indian drug makers export
medicines worth US\$ 10 billion to over
100 countries.



A WELL DRAWN FUTURE

The Indian animation industry is
projected to touch US\$ 1.03 billion
by 2014. A large pool of talented
manpower, growing foreign investment
and integration with the Indian cinema
industry augur well for the future.



DRESSING UP THE WORLD IN STYLE

India's talented designers together
with its abundant raw materials and
skilled manpower are transforming
India into a global textile hub. The Indian
textile industry is expected to reach
US\$ 110 billion by 2012.



GLOBAL AUTOMOBILE HUB

India's automobile exports grew 33 per
cent in financial year 2010, with 'Made
in India' vehicles being exported to
over 90 countries.

EVENTS



Cine Saptaha, screening of short films, *Forgive, Forget* by Pranay Limbu and *Watcher* by Pranaya Rana and another undisclosed film. 21 to 27 August, 4.30pm onwards, Docskool Film Centre, Gaurighat, 44471104

Khumbaya Rain Dance, a fun family evening with food stalls, live D.J, discounted rate for swimmers and rain dance. 20 August, 4pm onwards, International Club, Sanepa Rs 400/- (Adults), Rs 325/- (Kids), Free entrance for children below 3 yrs, discounted swimming rate @ International Club for the day: Rs 150/- (Children) Rs 250/- (Adults)



Himalayan Enfielders Reloaded, city ride starting from Enfielders Workshop, Lazimpat to thier new

workshop in Jhmsikhel. Party at Peri Peri, Jhamsikhel. 20 August, 3.30pm, 9841251636, himalayanenfielders@gmail.com

Kathmandu Blogs, Bloggers' Mela organised by the Himalayan Book Reader's Club. 20 August, 3pm to 4.30pm, The British Council, Lazimpat, SMS 'attending' followed by name to 9849100300, or email at himalayanbookclub@gmail.com



Lyrics from the Junkyard, junkyard sculptures by Meena Kayastha. 19 August to 9 September, 11am to 6pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babar Mahal Revisited

Education Fair, organized by Educational Consultancy Association of Nepal. Till 21 August,

11am to 6pm, Bhirkuti Mandap Exhibition Hall, Exhibition Road

Nepal Literature Festival, organized by Ncell. 18 to 21 August, 11am to 1pm, Gyan Mandala, Moksh Restaurant & Bar, Jhamsikhel

Nepal Gem & Jewellery Expo 2011, organised by Nepal Gem & Jewellery Association(NEGJA). 19 to 21 August 2011, 11am to 6pm, Soaltee Hotel, Megha Malhar Hall, Soalteemode

Bagmati River Festival, water sports, river clean-up, heritage walk and live concert. 20 August, Kaalmochan, Chobhar, 4244048

Staging of Bukhyacha, a Nepali adaptation of Italian play About Face. Till 3 September, every day except Mondays, 5.30 pm, Arohan Theatre, Gurukul, Old Baneshwor

Faces, a portrait photo workshop conducted by photographer/filmmaker Gorakh Bista. Till 20 August, 11am to 3pm, Fee: Rs. 1500, Sattya Media Arts Collective, Jawalakhel

Organic Farming Training, training on bio intensive farming, organized by Eco Organic Nepal. Till 4 September, 10am to 4pm, EON farm at Mahankal, Fee: Rs. 4000, 9849685808, dipu_al@yahoo.com

Nepal Real Estate Expo 2011, organized by Nepal Land and

Housing Association of Nepal. 25 August to 28 August, 11am to 6pm, Bhrikuti Mandap, Kathmandu

South Asia and China Trade Fair 2011, with Dashain Bazaar. Organized Nepal China Executive Council. 15 to 19 September, 11am to 6pm, Bhrikuti Mandap, Kathmandu

MUSIC



Streetlife Collective live at House of Music, don't miss out on a Friday full of grooves stretching from funk, town, soul to RnB. 19 August, 7.30pm onwards, House of Music, Thamel

Yalamaya Classic, an event organised to appreciate classical music, every second day of the Nepali Calendar. 19 August, 5pm onwards, Baggikhana, Yalamaya Kendra, Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur, 5553767, 5522113, free entrance



August Rush @ Attic, month long musical treat with artists like Sabin Rai, Robin and the New Revolution and Albatross. Till 17 August, Attic Bar, Uttar Dhoka, 9808011015

Upper Crust, featuring artists like Kristina Allen, Space Cake Break and Outrage Us. 20 August, 1pm to 10.30pm, Krishna Villa Resort, Budhanilkantha Heights, 984905459, Ticket: Rs 999 inclusive of two complimentary drinks

An Evening with Kutumba, fundraiser for the Namche community health clinic, a great initiative by the villagers of Namche to maintain their own health services. 3 September, 5.30pm onwards, Shangri-La Hotel, Lazimpat

The stuff of intellectual life

Nepal now has a literature festival, and not just one



COMMENT
Manjushree Thapa

Last January, the Jaipur Literature Festival saw a convergence of some of the movers and shakers of Nepali letters. Among them were Suvani Singh and Pranab Singh of the bookstore Quixote's Cove, host of some of Kathmandu's hottest books events, who were there in force with Penguin author Sujeev Shakya, a delegate at the Festival, and Rabi Thapa, whose short story collection was due out from Penguin. Ajit Baral of the bookstore Bookworm, who is also the publisher of Fine Print, was also there, as was Buddhisagar, one of his best-selling authors. Kiran Krishna Shrestha of Nepalaya was accompanying his best-selling author Narayan Wagle, also a Festival delegate.

Added to this mix was the journalist Amish Mulmi, who went on to join Hachette. The Pulitzer Prize winning author Kai Bird, then a resident of Kathmandu, was also there as a delegate.

I was there as well as a delegate, and every now and then, I would run across one or all of those mentioned above, and there talk would inevitably turn to the question: isn't it time Nepal had a literature festival of its own?

It is time, and now it does have a literature festival: and not just one

either. In August, the Nepal Literature Festival hosts Indra Bahadur Rai, Mark Tully, and many Nepali writers, including Momila and Nayan Raj Pandey. This festival is sponsored primarily by Ncell.

And in September, the Kathmandu Literary Jatra hosts Patrick French, Tarun Tejpal, Mohammed Hanif, William Dalrymple and a mix of other international and Nepali writers, including Yug Pathak and Sharada Sharma. This festival has a consortium of sponsors, including Yeti Airlines, Real Fruit Juice, and Gokarna Forest Resort.



This is all very good news for the intellectual life of Nepal. Till now, the biggest book-related event here was the annual Book Fair in Bhrikuti Mandap each May. Though in recent years some publishers have held readings and book signings at the Book Fair, the primary focus of a fair is not on engaging the individual reader, but on stimulating the book business by creating new links for publishers, bookstores, and distributors.

Book festivals, by contrast, focus

squarely on the individual reader. They connect readers and authors through books, and encourage debate, and an exchange of worldviews. They are mainly about ideas.

Over the years, the Jaipur Literature Festival, directed by Namita Gokhale, William Dalrymple and Sanjoy Roy of Teamworks, has inspired a host of other festivals around South Asia. There are literary festivals, now, all over India, as well as in Pakistan, where free expression is fraught with danger, and in countries that officially enforce censorship: Sri Lanka and Bhutan.



With its intellectual hunger, its love for debate and deliberation, and its drive to forge a connection to the wider world, Nepal offers fertile grounds for literary festivals. Indeed, if in these rudderless times there is one thing that Nepalis can take pride in, it is the robustness of Nepali public discourse.

Since 1990, the country has been in intellectual ferment. In terms of literary output, there has been an excavation of the past and recent

history; a flowering of bhasa and English literature; an outpouring of testimonials; the writing of novels along social realist (Maoist and progressive) lines, traditional 19th century (bourgeois and centrist) lines, and postmodern (whatever and everything) lines. There is propaganda here, there is poetry. There are schools of thought, there are drinking groups. There are academies, official and unofficial. There are even cabals, and rivalries.

(Even between the two upcoming festivals, there is a productive rivalry: despite the Jatra's entreaties, the Festival refused to collaborate.) All this is the stuff of intellectual life. There can be no robustness in public discourse without multiple, strongly held, sharply expressed, and even fractious points of view. What a gift when they can come face-to-face thanks to the (tireless and exhausted) organisers of literary festivals.

It is a huge act of generosity to organize a literary festival. To the directors of the upcoming festivals, and to anyone else who wants to direct another one, we readers-and writers-can only say thank you. Thank you, and please, please do this every year from here on. Please. 🇳🇵

Kathmandu Literary Jatra
www.litjatra.com

Nepal Literature Festival
www.litfestnepal.org

DINING



Sundae Café & Bar, enjoy the Sundae Special Ice-cream with a homely place for private gatherings and comfy couches to relax. *7am to 9pm, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur*

Chopstix, savory Asian food cooked in true Chinese fashion sure to charm and impress. Begin your feast with the Dragon Chicken; it is one-of-a-kind. *Kumaripati, 5551118*

Attic, newly transformed lounge/bar ideal for Friday night drinking before hitting the dance spots. *Ut-tar Dhoka, Lazimpat, 984161476*



Vesper Café, has quaint outdoor patio good for leisurely weekend brunch. Serves good salads, and steak-wraps. *Jhamsikhel*



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*

Alfresco, for homemade pastas and other lip-smacking delights. *Soaltee Crowne Plaza, 4273999*

The Factory, a trendy restobar for a refreshing stopover in the chaos that is Thamel. Great food and drinks, with zesty music. Don't miss out on their cheesecake, it's a must. *Mandala Street, Thamel*

Délices de France, special menu with duck 3 courses, including Duck jambonet with its vegetable garnish or Duck breast with its mangogarnish. *Friday 12th, Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th August, dinner @ Rs 1400 plus taxes, Ganesh Man Singh Building, 2nd floor (above Illy Galeria Cafe), Booking is necessary (limited offer), call 4260326*

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



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. *Pulchok, 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*



GETAWAYS

Overnight Package at The Dwarika's Himalayan Shangri- La Village Resort, for local residents, NRs. 4000/- (single), NRs. 5700/- (double). *Dhulikhel, contact 4479488 for reservations*

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



Ahaa Daman Package at Everest Panorama Resort, for expats and Nepalis. *Daman, 4412864, info@everestpanoramaresort.net*

Grand Norling Hotel, countryside weekend package offering suite room, swimming, gym, massage, and discounts on other facilities. *Gokarna, 4910193*

SOMEPLACE ELSE

What do Charlie Chaplin, tapas, siu mai, and Thai food all have in common? Manoj Basnet, better known as Manny, leaves us stumped. His newly opened, self-dubbed restaurant in Jawalakhel is an ambitious eatery and tapas bar with just too much on its plate.

Divided into four sections: 1) an outdoor garden with a big-screen projection for silent films and sports, 2) a formal dining area, 3) a coffee terrace and 4) lounge and dance floor, Manny's resembles a hotel lobby and

MARCO POLLO

MANNY'S

an executive member's club designed without a general theme. As for its menu, Manny's eclectic tastes carry through.

The concept of tapas is not foreign to the Nepali palate. Tapas are snacks that dance well in a chew-and-quench number. Manny's

For repast, the tequila-marinated chicken is a letdown. The idea of meat simmering in an intoxicating sauce sounds exotic and appealing. But like the vodka shrimp penne at Roadhouse Café, it's a foolish faux pas. The chicken, presented like lamb-chops, was dry and overcooked. Shame on me.

The highlight on the menu, which miraculously summons back to last week's request, is the Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich. Done right, but needs just a tad more cheddar, the sandwich is a toasty, buttery baguette (so rare) lined with perfectly cooked strips of steak and is definitely worth the visit.

For now, the desserts are bleak with no options listed. Curd was offered, however,

which was politely denied. Ultimately, the ragbag of 'Continesian' options at Manny's renders more confusion than 'non-fusion'. The trend in the dining industry to go international is an unfortunate one and should be left up to food courts and IHOPs. With Chinese, Mexican, Spanish, Thai, Japanese, Italian, American, and French dishes to choose from, Manny's is overwheming. At the very least, as Manny says, the menu is momo-free (but like any 'good business', they're flexible, he adds). 🇳🇵

Marco Pollo

South from the roundabout in Jawalakhel turn right into Shaligram Hotel and Apartments

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

Join The V Generation

RUSLAN VODKA

100% Pure Vodka

Drink responsibly

The Big C



DHANVANTARI
Buddha Basnyat, MD

When we were studying medicine we referred to cancer as the “Big C”. Recently the New Delhi-born Siddhartha Mukherjee’s debut book ‘The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer’ (Scribner) has galvanised international attention on the Big C. The good doctor author practises oncology in New York, and writes magnificently. Egyptians knew about tumours and the Greeks even differentiated benign tumors (oncos) from malignant ones (carcinomas). Similar to Vedic thinking, Galen in the second century AD, proposed that poor diet (probably non-vegetarian)

and environmental factors triggered malignancy. In the past we only suspected people had cancer, but now with imaging techniques (x-rays, ultrasound, CT, MRI scans) we can see the actual, sinister growth. In 1970 in America, President Nixon was feeling tired of the Vietnam War and realised how much the war drained away the mental and physical resources of the country, not unlike the present effect of the Afghan War in the US. However “Tricky Dick” as Nixon was known, had a plan: he declared war on cancer in the hope that this would be a more popular move that could result in an unambiguous victory, compared to the other war he was faced with. Nixon’s war against the dreaded disease pushed it into the limelight and provided more political and financial support for research, diagnosis, and

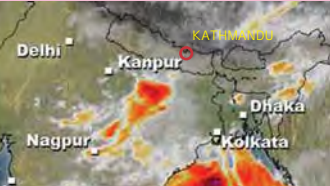
treatment with a universal impact. Treatment of cancer boils down to burn (radiation), slash (surgery), or poison (chemotherapy). But over the years, research has made it possible to deploy highly targeted relatively non toxic-chemotherapy guided by genetics. Gleevec (imatinib is the pharmacological name) used against a special kind of leukaemia called chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) is the poster boy for cancer medicine. Gleevec’s working mechanism is genetic based, so that unlike other cancer drugs which indiscriminately kill off all dividing cells (hence people on chemotherapy may go bald), gleevec targets a particular cancer cell. Gleevec is free for patients in Nepal.

Many doctors are pessimistic about the war on cancer partly because thousands of symptom-free people have to be screened with attendant anxieties, costs, and risks to prevent even one death. However, it is reassuring that Mukherjee allows himself hope. He should know because as a cancer doctor, and has the inside track. His book is a biography of cancer itself, tracing its history that is almost as old as human history. He narrates the stories of cancer patients, how they deal with the diagnosis and treatment. He was inspired by a patient with stomach cancer who asked him to give it to her straight: whether it was worth the trouble and pain of treatment. Mukherjee also delves into the new treatments that are in the pipeline, and how fast research is moving parallel at many levels. The book is a doctor’s eye view of the disease, with both the sadness and triumphs of treating the afflicted.



WEEKEND WEATHER
by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

With one more month to go, the monsoon seems to be giving us all it’s got before it starts retreating. This week saw a phenomenal 500 mm of rain in a 24 hour period in far western Nepal. Heavy precipitation right across the midhills and into the high mountain valleys triggered landslides in the saturated top soil. A huge monsoon trough is making its way slowly westwards from the Bay of Bengal, bring in more moisture. Expect moderate to heavy showers throughout the day and night through the weekend, with some thunder activity. The rain will ease early next week.



FRI	SAT	SUN
25-15	26-16	29-16

RANGOLI EASY CLEAN

NO दाग
NO धब्बा

No Daag - No Dhabba, Only Beautiful Walls



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

SHOW STOPPERS: The contestants of Lux Hidden Treasure Miss Nepal 2011 with their choreographer Rachana Gurung Sharma during a training session at International Club, Kathmandu, on Monday.

OFFICE AND HOME PROJECTORS

EPSON
EXCEED YOUR VISION

Best Selling Projector* 2001 to 2010 Consecutively!
*Based on Futuresource

Convenient Connectivity for any Projection Environment

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

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

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

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

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

Small, Smart and Stylish

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

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

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

KATHMANDU VALLEY
Star Office Automation Putalisadak 4266820, Max International Putalisadak 4415786, Interactive Group Newroad 4227854, Flash International Newroad 422384, Esquire TV, Newroad 4242727
OUT SIDE VALLEY
Birat Infotech Biratnagar 021-538729, Megatech Biratnagar 021-532000, Enet Solutions Chitwon, 056-572096, Computer Service Center Butwal 071-542699, Himalayan Trading House / HOA Pokhara 061-521756, Smart Link electronic suppliers Dang 082-561022, Manakamana Hitech Nepalgunj 081-521473, Ugratara Trading House Dhangadhi 091-523601, Dinesh Computers Dhangadhi 091-521392, Dinesh Trading house Nepalgunj 081-527092, Ugratara Technical Goods Mahendranagar 099-523872, Advance Computer Banepa 011-660888, Star Computer System Hetauda 057-523333, Gagan Enterprises Birgunj 051-531921, Quality Computer Birtamode 023-540150



BIKRAM RAI

COSTUME CUSTOM: A child, dressed up as a cow, participates in a Gai Jatra procession at Basantapur Darbar Square on Sunday.



KUNDA DIXIT

PRESS UNDER ATTACK: Narayan Wagle, editor of Nagarik, at an interaction program organised by FNJ in Biratnagar on Monday to draw attention to increasing cases of attacks on journalists.

Little big ones

Tata Nano, the world's cheapest car, was recently launched in the Nepali market. Although the tax rate increased Nano's 'one lakh' tag by more than seven fold here the Nano took Nepal by storm. Within the first ten days after the bookings opened, more than 350 cars had been reserved.

Sipradi Trading, the authorised dealers for Tata vehicles in Nepal, tested the car's ability to handle Nepal's rugged

roads by taking them on a nationwide tour. "The Nano is superior to its competition when it comes to space, features, safety and fuel efficiency," says Shawant Jung Sijapati, Deputy Manager at Sipradi. "And all this at a lower price."

Two weeks ago, Sipradi handed over the keys of the first 100 Nanos in Nepal. *Nepali Times* spoke to three families which now have the cars in their garages to gauge how they rate the Nano's performance.

Pustun and Jebin Pradhan

Fifty-six years old Pustun had enjoyed the luxury of a car in the house when his father was employed in civil service. However, when his father retired, the family didn't buy a new car. Pustun says: "I was busy and hiring a driver would've been expensive". Pustun is an associate professor at Tribhuvan University while his wife Jebin takes care of the house. Their only son and daughter-in-law are living abroad. The couple now lives by themselves with a dog and a Nano as pets. "Getting a car became a necessity," explains Pustun. "Taxis are too expensive and it's uncomfortable to always ask for a lift." The couple has bought a red Nano CX. "The car is comfy and has the basic facilities, what more do you need anyway?"



Toran and Tirsana Chaulagain

Toran and Tirsana migrated from Kabhre to Kathmandu after their marriage 11 years ago. Toran runs a catering business while Tirsana is a housewife. The family photo is complete with two sons, Tiroj and Tonas.

And now a Nano. "We wanted a car, but the parking space in our house is very narrow," says Toran. "The Nano was a perfect fit." The family has bought a yellow Nano LX. "The car's pick up is good, but the brakes are a little stiff," comments Toran. Tirsana feels this is a good investment. "A car is important when there are two kids," says Tirsana. "Especially, when we have to go out at night or when it's raining."

Naresh and Sudhi Lamichhaney

"We didn't really have plans to purchase a car," says Naresh. "But Nano came by and it seemed like a good deal." Naresh is a financial auditor and Sudhi is an architect. The two have been married for eight years and have a seven-year-old son, Nripesh. Naresh and Sudhi live in a joint family and although the family already had a four-wheeler, this was their first personal purchase. Now a red Nano CX is parked in front of their house. "My husband and I use two-wheelers to get to work, but family outings were difficult," Sudhi says. "With a car at home, it will be easier for all of us to go out together."



PICS: BIKRAM RAI



उज्यालो 90 नेटवर्कमा

आर्थिक खबर



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

Ujyaalo 90 Network
Sanepa, Lalitpur, Tel: 5551716

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

हरेक दिन बिहान ७:०० बजे





RAJU SHRESTHA



RK PATEL

From poppies to paddy

Farmers in Parsa have found better cash crops than opium and marijuana



RUBEENA MAHATO in PARSA

‘Nepal is turning into Afghanistan’ read the headline of a magazine cover two years ago. It wasn’t talking about a return to war, but the trend among farmers to grow opium poppy. Even until a year ago, Parsa district was regarded as a centre for cannabis and opium production, which was sold across the open border in India. They were openly cultivated right next to government offices and under the very noses of the police. Many marijuana farmers had graduated to opium, and there were even heroin processing factories in the jungles of Parsa. The local economy used to run on the drug trade, with the related rise in organised crime and addiction. Elections were financed with drug money, and Tarai militant groups bought weapons with cash from smuggling opium to India. Dowries for daughters depended on the cannabis harvest. From farmers to teachers to the police and government officials, everyone was in it. Sixty per cent of

the arable land in Parsa was under cannabis and poppy. What a difference a year makes. Travelling through Bara and Parsa last week, the fields were gone. Poppies had been replaced with paddy and the marijuana with vegetables. This was a result of political will, strong and clean policing and effective coordination within government to support alternative crops. “You will not see a single cannabis plant in Parsa now,” asserts Ram Chandra Prakash Kurmi, former DDC member and himself cannabis farmer. Locals give a lot of credit to the leadership taken by former Parsa police chief, Rajendra Man Shrestha. Back in Kathmandu, we caught up with Shrestha who has been reassigned to head the peacekeeping wing of Nepal Police. “When I started, everyone warned me that stopping cannabis cultivation in Parsa was impossible,” he told Nepali Times. “they said everyone was involved and it would lead to unrest.” (See box) It was not an empty threat. Drug cultivation enjoyed political protection and wide local support. Cannabis cultivation had always

existed in Parsa and was used to generate support for the Panchayat in the 1980 referendum. When the Birgunj Sugar Mill was closed down ten years ago, farmers switched from sugarcane to cannabis and poppy. Police were attacked when they tried to destroy crops. In Bhauratar two years ago, villagers set fire to a house with policemen inside. In the ensuing violence, three people were killed as the police opened fire. In Subarnapur, most homes still have tightly sealed plastic drums full of unsold marijuana. The price of cannabis went down sharply after the crackdown and farmers switched to vegetables. A kilogram of ganja which used to sell for Rs 900 till two years ago now fetches barely Rs 200 from Indian wholesalers. “No one grows cannabis here anymore. But there are still stocks like this in every home,” explains a Subarnapur resident, “the police have made selling almost impossible and there is more profit in vegetables anyway.” In the beginning of 2009, Shrestha launched a crackdown against cannabis farming with a carrot

BEFORE AND AFTER: Opium fields being destroyed by police in Parsa last year (left) and a farmer who has switched from poppy to paddy sprays chemicals on his fields last week in Subarnapur.

and stick approach. Working with the local group, Sano Paila, police showed documentaries about the dangers of drugs and also about alternative crops. After a few months, it was the farmers themselves who informed the police about cannabis fields inside the forests. Shrestha also forged a partnership with Indian police across the border to stop drug mafia seeking sanctuary there. Recalls RK Patel, a Birgunj journalist: “As soon as the police stopped protecting the drug trade, production went down. It took just a few months of SP Shrestha being posted here that we could see dramatic changes. Indian buyers were no longer willing to risk buying Nepali drugs.”  nepalitimes.com  Opiate of the masses, #496

“I was determined to do it” -Rajendra Man Shrestha



My first priority on being posted to Parsa in 2009 as SP was to control the drug trade. Police in Parsa had a bad reputation for protecting the production and smuggling of cannabis and poppy. I was determined to change this. My resolve grew when I ran across a field of white poppies inside a jungle where we had gone to intercept stolen logs. I was shocked to find that farmers there had moved on from cannabis to opium cultivation. We started destroying cannabis and poppy grown in public land first. We had to take about 500 policemen when we went to clear fields because villagers used to chase police away to save their harvests and have their women and children as human shields. That made us rethink our approach and we decided to start when the farmers begin to plant cannabis. In the 11 villages that we initially selected, we did not let anyone plant cannabis at all. Any police who allowed marijuana to be grown was suspended. Cultivation dropped by half. We

did not let anyone go off the hook: drug peddlers or the police. We held an all party meeting to garner political support and worked with local NGOs, community activists and government offices. The District Agriculture Office pitched in with vegetable seedlings and extension support. Often, it is the village elders and political leaders on whose patronage cannabis farming is done. The police alone couldn’t stop it, we needed local support. We argued that if cannabis farming was as lucrative as they thought it was why were Parsa farmers so poor? We told them you still live in mud houses and the middlemen and Indian businessmen have got rich. I am glad to say that by the time I left in May, cannabis and opium cultivation had gone down by 95 percent in Parsa. If we can control cannabis and poppy cultivation for one more year, drugs will never be grown there again. (As told to Rubeena Mahato)

“Looks don't
count...”

“...but good
looks attract
attention.”

JOHN PLAYERS Premium men's wear from Surya Nepal
gift voucher on yearly subscription of Nepali Times.
We know, you sometimes like the attention.

TERM	YOU PAY	YOU SAVE <small>on newsstand price</small>	+ YOUR ASSURED FREE GIFT
1 Year	Rs. 1,350	Rs. 210	John Players gift voucher worth Rs. 500
2 Year	Rs. 2,500	Rs. 620	John Players gift voucher worth Rs. 1000
3 Year	Rs. 3,500	Rs. 1,180	John Players gift voucher worth Rs. 1500

For subscription, SMS: 9818476422 or call 977-1-5250845, 5250333 to have
our subscription agent visit your home/office.



+



ASSURED SUBSCRIPTION GIFTS

A planet for all apes



ONE WORLD
Peter Singer

Two new movies released this month, one a science-fiction blockbuster, the other a revealing documentary, raise the issue of our relations with our closest non-human relatives, the great apes. Both dramatise insights and lessons that should not be ignored.

Rupert Wyatt's *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* is the seventh film in a series based on Pierre Boule's 1963 novel, *Planet of the Apes*, about a world populated by highly intelligent simians. Performance capture technology, originally invented for the movie *Avatar*, enables a human actor, Andy Serkis, to play the role of the chimpanzee Caesar, not by dressing in a chimp suit, but by having every gesture and facial movement, even the twitch of an eyebrow, transformed into the movement of an ape.

Will Rodman (played by James Franco), is a scientist seeking a cure for Alzheimer's disease who experiments on apes. Many films would have glorified a scientist seeking such a goal, and treated the use of animals for that purpose as obviously justified. *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, however, portrays Rodman as, in Franco's words, "a cold, isolated person".

Only when Rodman's superiors



Our closest relatives could serve to bridge the moral gulf between humans and other animals

cancel his experiments and he takes home Caesar, an infant chimpanzee, does the scientist begin to care about others. The plot then takes another turn when Caesar becomes too big and aggressive to live in a human home, and is taken to what is supposed to be a primate sanctuary, but is in fact a dumping ground for unwanted apes, run by humans who display cruelty to the captive animals.

Project Nim, a documentary based on Elizabeth Hess's book *Nim Chimsky: The Chimp Who Would be Human*, is about Nim who was born in 1973 in a primate research facility in Oklahoma, and was taken from his mother when he was only ten days old, to be used in a sign-language experiment.

Reared as part of a human family,

he learned to use more than 100 signs from American Sign Language. But Nim was taken from his first human family and handed over to other teachers with whom he did not have the same kind of bond. He grew stronger and more aggressive and began biting his teachers.

Herbert Terrace, the Columbia University psychologist who was directing the project, decided to end it and sent Nim back to the primate facility in Oklahoma. There, the pampered chimpanzee, who, when asked to sort photos of humans and apes, put his own photo among the humans, was locked in a cage with other chimps. Nim narrowly escaped being infected with hepatitis as part of a medical experiment, until he was eventually released to an animal

sanctuary, where he died in 2000. In 1993, Paola Cavalieri and I founded The Great Ape Project, an organization dedicated to the idea of recognising that great apes have a moral status befitting their nature as self-aware beings who are capable of thought and have rich and deep emotional lives. At a minimum, they should have the rights to life, liberty, and protection from torture that we grant to all members of our own species, regardless of their intellectual abilities.

Since 2010, the European Union has essentially banned the use of great apes in experiments. Experiments on great apes are now either banned or severely restricted in New Zealand, Australia, and Japan. In the United States, a bipartisan group of members of Congress is supporting legislation to end the use of chimpanzees in invasive research. Our closest relatives could serve to bridge the moral gulf that we have dug between ourselves and other animals. 🇺🇸

Peter Singer is professor of bioethics at Princeton University. His books include *Animal Liberation*, *Practical Ethics*, *The Ethics of What We Eat*, and *The Life You Can Save*.

nepalitimes.com

Export of Nepali rhesus Monkey business, #440
Year of the monkey, #180

📺 Rise of the Planet of the Apes

See the world differently this morning.

The best global and local news, in one simple package.

Subscribers will get free access to NYTimes.com

Call : 4268656 subs@myrepublica.com



Elusive consensus



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

Interview with CA chairman Subhas Nembang in *Kantipur*, 14 August

कान्तिपुर

Kantipur: Where has the Constitution drafting process reached?
Subhas Nembang: All sub-committees have submitted draft proposals to the constitutional committee. From there, the proposals have been forwarded to dispute resolution sub-committee. Many disputes have been resolved. But there are still 25 contentious points on issues of state restructuring, governance and electoral system, currently under consideration in the sub-committee.

What is delaying the process then?
Lack of progress in the peace process has hindered constitution drafting.

Besides, government formation and power sharing has largely affected the statute drafting process.

What happens if there is no progress by 31 August?
If the 5-point deal is not implemented, the nation will slide into uncertainty. The crisis was averted last time, but it cannot be avoided forever. It has to be addressed and resolved. All the parties agree on this in principle, but fail when it comes to creating a consensus to address it.

Does this mean that CA will cease to exist after the 31st?
Question is not just about CA. When 5-point deal was signed, everybody was clear on how the nation would move ahead in the coming days: completing the major tasks of the peace process, preparing a single draft of the constitution and a national unity government to oversee this process. Question is why it was not implemented.

Amidst such distrust are you confident that the first draft will be prepared by 31 August?
If the parties seriously engage in the process in the remaining days, I am hopeful they can save the nation from stalemate and uncertainty. There is no alternative to taking the peace process to its logical end and preparing the first draft of the constitution by the stipulated deadline.

If that does not happen, will the CA term still be extended?
I hope it will not come to that, but if it does the parties are responsible to steering the nation out of the crisis. That would still need consensus.



Hands: Political party
File: Tender
Table: Local bodies

नागरिक Deven in *Nagarik*, 16 August

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

We have our eyes on senior police officers and where their wives and children live. They had better watch out. - Youth Force Nepal

President Mahesh Basnet quoted in *Nagarik*, 14 August



BIKRAM RAI

Where is the leader?

Purshottam Dahal in *Himal Khabarpatrika*, 18-31 August

हिमाल

Whatever happens, a democratized Maoist party must be a part of a future coalition. At a time when King Gyanendra is making fun of the disarray and disunity that followed his rule, it is more than ever necessary for the parties that believe in democracy to defend its tenets. This is the only option, and it is the last chance. Now that Jhalnath Khanal has resigned,

the only option is for the NC and the Maoists to work together to form a consensus government. The NC has already made Sher Bahadur Deuba its candidate, he must convince the smaller parties and the Madheis to join a coalition. If he can't he has to accept the Maoist candidate for prime ministership. Otherwise the anti-democratic forces will feel the door is open for them to make their move. That will be unfortunate because it will take the country away from peace and democracy.

Farewell Subhash Darnal

Baburam Biswokarma in *Himal Khabarpatrika*, 18 August-1 September

हिमाल

Sushash Darnal was 18 when he came to Kathmandu for his higher studies from Mujhung, Palpa. In the 13 years that followed, he rose as a fervent defender and promoter of the dignity and rights of the Dalits. The way he heightened issues of the marginalised in such a short period was probably because he had to do it all in his short span of life. This fervent activist died tragically in a car accident in Washington DC on 14 August. He was in America for a Stanford University's Dropper Hills Summer Fellowship.

In 2009, Darnal had spent six months in the US under a National Endowment for Democracy fellowship. He set up the Jagaran Media Centre to train Dalit journalists and also worked at the the NGO, COCAP and later Samata Foundation. But, highly acclaimed tele series *Dalan* and his two books *Adhikar* and *Arakshan ko Raajneeti* are Darnal's most valued contribution to the field.

After being trained in media studies at the Nepal Press Institute, Darnal worked for a while at *Himal Khabarpatrika* covering Dalit and social justice issues. He later served as vice chairman at Action Aid Nepal. Darnal died at age of 31 and leaves behind his wife, Sarita Pariyar and a two-year-old daughter.

Economic progress

Nepal, August 16-21	नेपाल	
	1995/96	2010/11
Per Capita Income	Rs 7,690	Rs 41,659
Families receiving remittance	22 %	53%
Primary level education	34 %	78 %
Annual expenditure per person	Rs 6,802	Rs 34,829
Families who use cylinder gas	14.7 %	21.3 %
Families with electricity	14.1 %	69.9 %
Lavatory in household	21.6 %	56 %
Road access within 30 minutes of dwelling	24.2 %	51%



Commitment leads to action,
glitter it bright

asianpaints

ROYALE Glitter be committed

For more information email us at royal.play@asianpaints.com.np

You scratch my back, I'll scratch your eyes out

One of the many indications that Nepal may be headed the North Korea way besides the fact that we now call ourselves a **Democratic People's Republic** is that the Department of Mines has announced that it will start prospecting for uranium in Mustang. Better late than never to have our own plutonium enrichment program so we won't be kicked around by Big Brothers, hoina?



There is so much back-stabbing going on that no politician trusts anyone anymore even if they have a total of 250-point agreements in writing with thumb prints duly attested by witnesses and a public notary.

The latest major falling out is between JNK and PKD with each accusing the other of being a dirty



BIKRAM RAI

double crosser. Neither had any intention of delivering on promises, they were just using each other to get to Balua Water, or to keep someone they hated even more out of the **House Built on Sand**. They were so clever by half with the you-scratch-my-back-I'll-scratch-out-your-eyes-out principle that the two inevitably parted ways last week.



PKD was mad at JN for offering to resign without his permission and, even worse, tabling an ultimatum on progress in the peace process. ("No one gives **Unser Führer**

ultimata and that sort of thing, get that?") So, Awesome leaked to the press that he had another **"breakthrough"** proposal up his sleeves, and the press duly reported this as **"breaking news"**. The breakthrough was PKD's agreement to integrate only 7,000 PLA, give the rest a 5 lak golden handshake, make four senior gorillas colonels in the Nepal Army, etc. But, as with umpteen proposals before this, Comrade Lotus Flower suddenly went cold on the breakthrough plan. JN felt betrayed and trotted off to Shit-all Nibas to tender his resignation to the prez.

Whatever he may say in public about backing BRB as PM, that is the last thing PKD would like to see. He would rather have Lion Brave as PM, and has the NC's four-time PM wagging his tail and waving his paw. Till press time on Thursday it was looking like **Share Bahadur** was in no mood to share the PM-ship, especially if BRB got the job first. The question on everyone's mind now is whether Dahal will do to B Bhattarai what Girija did to KP Bhattarai way back when. Never know with these bahuns.



So it looks like the black plate wallahs have declared a nationwide transporters strike if their 41-pt demand is not met. Among the demands is that the constitution be written on time, so we can safely conclude that there will be no public transport for the next decade or so. But the main gripe of the microscopic bus owners is that the Badis are getting to import taxis duty free. "If Badis can have tax-exempt taxis, we Mao-badis should also have them," they say.



And finally, @anqrs just tweeted: "When asked who should be next candidate for PM Prachanda said **"BRB"** (Be Right Back) but everyone confused it for Babu Ram Bhattarai.



SALE UP TO 50% OFF

Starting from: 19th August 2011

Mens wear, Ladies wear, Kids wear & Accessories



UNITED COLORS OF BENETTON

Durbar Marg: 4221454, 4241902 • City center: 4011810

GREEN KATHMANDU CLEAN BAGMATI

the festival of a 21st century bagmati RIVER FESTIVAL

finale: 20.08.2011

AWARE-AWARE-ACTION

LITERATURE (POETRY, ART, ESSAY) COMPETITION AMONG THE STUDENTS OF PLANTATION WORKSHOPS, HERITAGE WALK AND BIRD WATCHING

CLEANUP

IDEA OF PROTECTING AND IMPROVING OUR CONCERNS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF KATHMANDU VALLEY INSTEAD OF DESTRUCTIVE PROTEST.

WATER SPORTS

ECO CHALLENGE, SCHOOL AND MEDIA CHALLENGE, CORPORATE CHALLENGE AND DUNGA DIPLOMACY

JAL JATRA

FRIENDSHIP FLOAT BAGMATI LIVE AID, STALLS TO DISPLAY THE WORK ON BAGMATI, PLAYS BY THE CHILDREN ON BAGMATI, LIVE MUSICAL CONCERT.

We welcome any kind of contribution and partnership for more info contact: Mausam 9841 264561/424 4048 nrcf@wink.com.np www.nrcf.com.np

Organizer: 

BAGMATI MOVEMENT...