

HAPPY VIJAYA DASHAMI 2068
TO ALL VALUABLE CUSTOMERS
 Come & visit our showrooms for great offers

FURNITURE LAND STORE
 Tripureswore: 4100549, 4224797, 4228833
 Maitighar: 4266372 Maharangunj: 4016277

LAVAZZA
 ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE

D Square Cafe - Patan
 Ambience Restaurant - Patan
 For Business Inquiry: 9841505390

BOXLIGHT

Festival Offer
 Price: \$540.00
 Ultra Light with Enhanced Display & Color Adjustment

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

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

EverExceed SHARP **SOLARLAND** **SunLink PV**
UNIKOR **KANENA**

Installing Solar PV Since 1991

Baleno S&K
I.P.ZONE

SALE

Durbarmarg • Baudha • Bluebird Mall
 4221451



SUNDAR LAMA

Coping the best we can

The run up to Dasain this year has been literally disastrous, with an earthquake, landslides and floods, a tragic air crash. Much of the loss of lives could have been prevented with better preparedness, a more responsive state, and if lessons had been learnt from past mistakes. Many like Bandana Dewan and her little

brother (pictured, above), in Lelep in eastern Nepal which was devastated by the earthquake, are still waiting for relief. The state's helpline has been slow, but people are coping the best they can.

On the political front, there is only one week to go for Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai's self-imposed deadline on concluding the peace process. He is

not going to have much of a holiday if he is going to deliver. The prime minister is hobbled by colleagues in the cabinet who don't share his reputation for integrity, and his own party colleagues, who are threatening a split. May the Dasain spirit provide them with the wisdom and foresight to work together for the sake of the Nepali people. 



Editorial p2
 Demography, democracy and demagogues

A shaken nation p6-7
 Exclusive pictures from earthquake ravaged eastern Nepal

HAPPY DASAIN

Himalmedia wishes readers and partners peace and happiness this holiday season.

Nepali Times is taking its annual Dasain break and will not come out on Friday, 7 October. The next hardcopy edition will be on 14 October, but you can follow us on www.nepalitimes.com without interruption.



UNITED SPIRITS NEPAL PVT. LTD.

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

Antiquity

USN/30068/11

DEMOGRAPHY, DEMOCRACY AND DEMAGOGUES

When the Central Bureau of Statistics released the preliminary results of the 2011 census this week, many of us were pleasantly surprised that the country’s runaway population growth rate has sunk dramatically to 1.4 percent per year. Nepal’s population, which we all expected to touch 30 million this time was “only” 26.62 million.

But analysing the figures further and speaking with experts, we now see no reason to rejoice. Apart from some doubts about the accuracy of the numbers, there are unmistakable trends that point to a dangerous demographic imbalance.

The most serious of these is a rapid depopulation of the hills nationwide. Twenty-three districts have negative population growth, with most of the people moving to the capital Valley and plains. At no time in Nepal’s history, not even during the state-sponsored transmigration from hills of Tanahu, Parbat, Kaski to Chitwan during the Mahendra years, has there been such a large scale movement of Nepalis within Nepal.

Manang has lost an astonishing one-third of its population in the last 10 years. Khotang, Terathum and Syangja are also suffering out migration of young men to the cities, to Malaysia and the Gulf. The mid-western hills have seen depopulation that hasn’t abated since the conflict years.

Higher birth rates in the Tarai, and migration from the hills and from across the border, means that the population of the Tarai grew by 20 per cent in the last 10 years so that more than half the country’s population now lives in the plains. It was induced migration due to conflict, or distress migration because of hardships of subsistence farming in the hills.

1.4 per cent, it has probably fallen considerably from the 2.25 per cent high in 2001. A more indicative figure would be the fertility rate. Falling birth rates and death rates will bring population growth down further in future. But what will our demographic transition mean for our democratic transition?

The baby boomer generation has created a huge youth bulge, adding 400,000 people to the labour force every year. Most are moving away from agriculture. Only half of them migrate every year for jobs abroad, what is the other half going to do? In New York last week, Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai committed himself to a “Marshall Plan” for decentralised job creation through massive investments in infrastructure. It is a noble thought, and probably the



BIKRAM RAI

All this puts tremendous pressure on the land and resources of the Tarai. Meantime, with few young men left, the hills are full of fallow fields. The CBS admits there are nearly two million Nepalis “missing” in the census, because those who have been away for more than six months were not counted. Our guess is that the actual total is nearly double that, if one counts seasonal migrants to India. Which means the real population of Nepal is probably closer to the 30 million we had projected all along.

But even if the population growth rate is not

only way to go.

But no prime minister of Nepal, however visionary or honest, can work on these long-term plans if he is so beset with short-term threats to his government’s survival. Prime Minister Bhattarai is on perpetual damage control mode, mostly trying to patch up the mess his colleagues in the coalition make every time they open their mouths.

We wish Bhattarai well this Dasain so he can address the twin challenges of keeping the country’s demography and democracy on track, and keeping demagogues out.

ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

THE CHINESE WAY

Unlike what the western media wants us to believe, many Chinese do not care about politics and are fine with CCP’s rule as it is making them richer. (‘Getting rich is glorious’ by Ashutosh Tiwari, #572) Maybe, freedom of this and freedom of that do not apply to China. Could it be that the Chinese see themselves as different and due to nationalism and other factors, the richer China gets, the more it wants to preserve its difference or, its essence? Although politically incorrect, I believe it is exactly what is happening there today. The more the West wants China to change, the more it wants to revert to its Confucian mode of governance, in which the ruler listened to all and made sure that the order was maintained in his realm. China’s transformation owes much to its leaders striking a balance between modernity and tradition and not blindly following Western ways. Mao’s failure was by and large due to his total disregard for the Chinese ways, and his successors’ success is pretty much due to knowing when to apply Confucianism and when to apply western economic theories.

Ram Prasad

- China doesn’t need lectures from pathetic creatures who thrive in stinking cities, whose leaders are puppets, and who make good case studies in politics and economics classes around the world in how not to run country affairs.

Funkybuddha917

- Chairman Mao came into power in the name of people’s revolution, with a slogan

of equality and liberation for all, all the poor working class people and the peasants in China supported him with much hope for better tomorrow. But in reality it ended up with a deaths of millions in prison and famine.

Tashi Lama

ANOTHER ‘PEOPLE WAR’

How did Simon Robins (‘The next People’s War’, ## 572) come to the conclusion that a ‘significant faction of the Maoist party remain committed to armed revolution’? Is he insinuating that everyone who came to see a free show believes in the content of the show? Did he conduct any poll to gauge viewers’ opinion? Or is his conclusion based on the fact that people were watching a show that glorified armed revolution? There have been other articles in Nepali Times which state that most PLA combatants want to go back home. Some are happy at getting a chance to compete for an opportunity to be included in the Nepal Army. I agree that commanders loyal to Kiran still may harbour plans to re-start the armed revolution, but I doubt most in the audience watching would be willing to pick up arms after the show was over.

ARP

PLANE SPEAKING

Capt Vijay Lama, your words stand for your actions. (‘Plane speaking’, #572) I remember being flown by you to Jumla for a health camp long ago. You have served country well with dedication. From distributing clothes in remote areas or flying the sick from Simikot, your help towards the people of the Karnali region is admirable.

Chandra

- The only way to save Nepal Airlines is by taking the following actions:

- Treat it as a no nonsense business sans politics and corruption
- Collaborate with international airlines
- Make it 100 per cent public.
- Rebuild the Nepal Airlines brand.
- Install some mouse traps, and stop making international headlines for goat sacrifices.

None of these are new and people can give a million reasons why we can’t meet it. But let’s think about how we can.

Shristi

- Thanks to Vijay Lama for another heartfelt article showing his dedication to his airline and nation. I divide my time between San Francisco and Nepal, and whenever I get to read Capt Lama, it makes my day.

Shrawan Nepali, Ama Foundation

- Vijay Lama is a true nationalist, much more than the politicians who never get tired with giving speeches on nationalism. I appreciate his selflessness and dedication to uplift our country. He could easily find a green pastures in foreign airlines as many Nepalis like me. We have to think what we as individuals can do to contribute to our motherland.

Ram Kunwar, USA

- If somebody else is paying you higher for your skills and knowledge, I suggest Vijay Lama that you go for it. There are many younger pilots within the ranks that can fill your spot. There could be other things like family that is holding you back, I don’t know. Don’t be too romantic. Nepal

Airlines needs to re-invent itself, its a wreck.

Arun

- Glad to see that we have someone like Vijay Lama who shows the gut to speak out his thoughts. There is no place in NAC for hardworking, well meaning, loyal and outspoken person like Vijay Lama. The politicians and bureaucracy have brought it to its present moribund state by using NAC like an ATM machine. There is only one way to save the airline: privatise it.

Jiwan Pakhrin

- I greatly appreciate what Capt Vijay Lama has written. At one time (R)NAC had 19 aircraft flying, look at it now. We all want others to change and never think about changing ourselves. Capt Vijay, please come forward and save our national flag carrier.

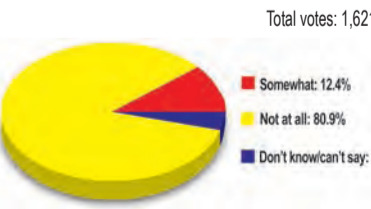
Dorji Tsering Sherpa



nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll # 573

Q. How prepared are we for a bigger quake?



Weekly Internet Poll # 574. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Will Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai meet deadline for the peace process?



Nepali Times on Facebook
Follow @nepalitimes on Twitter





BY THE WAY

Anurag Acharya

Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai's address to the UN General Assembly in New York on Saturday was among the rare moments in recent times when a Nepali national leader has actually presented what can be called a foreign policy statement.

Speaking for almost 20 minutes from the GA podium with its distinctive green marble backdrop, Bhattarai not only talked about the epochal transformations back home, but delved into the lessons others could learn from us. The quest for sustainable peace, he said, can only materialise if protagonists address inequality, deprivation and marginalisation within their societies. In a moment of irony, Bhattarai questioned the rationale for "war-mongering". He said: "How can one justify the spending \$1.5 trillion on war every year while more than two billion people across the globe lack basic necessities like food and medicine?"

No other Nepali prime minister we can remember has given a speech at the UN that is such a cogent critique of the negative side of globalisation.

The chronic global economic crisis, he said, called for deeper soul-searching and the creation of a new, just and scientific economic order.

Being a PhD as well as the ideologue-in-chief of a Maoist party, our prime minister may have the tendency to lecture, but at least the speech at

The New School on Friday did not sound like a Marxist harangue. Some eyes rolled over when he used words like "imperialist capitalism" leading the world into a recurring global financial turmoil. But given the crises besetting the global economy there were quite a few takers. Bhattarai's "21st century Marxist model" explained the unbridled greed that is at the heart of global capitalism, and how the gap between the rich and the poor globally and within countries can breed conflict.

As the chairman of the Group of 49 'Least Developed Countries', Bhattarai's speech drew loud applause from member nations, who were clearly more impressed with him than the pro forma speech delivered by his predecessor in Istanbul in June. Bhattarai even had problems with the label "least developed" and suggested "underdeveloped".

Civil society groups and experts had termed the Istanbul declaration 'toothless' for failing to ensure adequate aid, reform unjust trade rules, and remove the burden of debt on the LDCs and subsequently came out with their own Istanbul declaration.

After joining the United Nations in 1957 and taking a proactive role in the Non-aligned Movement, what little international influence Nepal had has steadily eroded. Chairing the LDC group is seen as an opportunity for the country to find its foreign policy voice. But the conflict and protracted transition have not only weakened our national economy and polity, we have often found our foreign policy pragmatism at odds with our geo-political realities.

The failure to clearly negotiate border and security issues with India is a case in point. We have failed to convey urgency in our position on climate change and highlight the meltdown of the Himalaya. While other

BRB in NY

A PhD prime minister impressed internationals with his pragmatism, now for concrete action back home

countries took a stand, we kept quiet even after the Copenhagen Declaration was exposed.

We have betrayed the trust of 100,000 Bhutanese refugees, by getting rid of them in the name of third country repatriation, instead of voicing their cause strongly and pressurising the Bhutanese government to ensure their dignified return. Our foreign policy does not reflect the high sounding principles we tout when we tell Bhutanese or Tibetan refugees that their issue is not our foreign policy priority. And we readily undermine our democracy and international credibility by mistreating, prosecuting and deporting Tibetan refugees in the name of pragmatism.

It is not a surprise that in the last two decades of our

"democratic" foreign policy exercise we have somehow managed to balance the interests of our neighbours. And that may be the problem: our foreign policy reflects their interests, not ours.

Bhattarai's statement on "freedom of transit as the right of a landlocked nation" is therefore a refreshing departure from our previous wishy-washy stand. Is Nepal finally trying to get over the conventional mindset of a geographical handicap?

Bhattarai also met with Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh in New York, and got himself an invite to visit New Delhi in October. It may be in our national interest to be "pragmatic", but Bhattarai will be wise to remember that for our self-respect there are certain non-negotiables. 🇳🇵



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

Convenient – Consistent – Compatible – Connectivity

the Best MPLS

Connectivity in Nepal

www.subisu.net.np



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

Long journey home

Instead of being commended, rescuers of Nepali girls are condemned



After the rescue of 23 Nepali girls from an orphanage in Coimbatore in southern India two weeks ago and writing my report for Nepali Times (A far-away rescue, #571), I was following up to see how many of them had been reunited with their parents.

The girls, mostly from Humla, had been taken to Michael Job Centre (MJC) in Coimbatore when they were between three to seven by the infamous human trafficker, Dal Bahadur Phadera. Ten years later, the girls were found by the Esther Benjamins Memorial Foundation (EMBF) living in the centre as “orphans” of “Christian martyrs” killed by Maoists during the war. In all these years, the children except for those whose parents worked with the traffickers, had no contact with their families in Nepal.

When all girls were handed over and brought back to Nepal, we had expected this to be received positively back home and would spur up similar rescue efforts of other children sold and trafficked in India. But instead of being commended for the rescue, EBMF has been condemned in an orchestrated media



REUNITED: After ten years of search, Shangmo Lama finally meets her two nieces at Michael Job Centre in Coimbatore where they were kept as orphans. Lama had travelled with the rescue team to bring back her two daughters and her nieces from the school.

campaign. It has been blamed for forcibly bringing back the girls from a ‘good English medium school’. A television channel broadcasted footage of angry parents badmouthing the rescuers for endangering the future of their daughters. With their irresponsible and badly researched coverage, sections of the Nepali media ended up helping the trafficker.

They never bothered to check that in Bhairawa last week, when the children arrived, Phadera was there as well with the parents, most of whom are his relatives . A UML member, Phadera was convicted for human trafficking but used his political connections to get himself released after serving just three years. Now, he is

using all his influence to slander the rescue and sadly, many reporters have played along.

The Coimbatore school is supposed to be an orphanage, but the girls were no orphans. The girls were said to be Christian, they were not. They were said to be victims of Christian martyrs killed by the Maoists, they were not. At anytime, if the Indian authorities had closed down the centre, the girls would have been homeless.

The police here have also been trying to pass the buck to cover up their lack of action. DSP Puja Singh said this week that it wasn’t a big deal if the girls were falsely kept as orphans in India because “half the children in Nepal’s

orphanages are not orphans either”. Such comments prove how deep Phadera’s political connections are and how everyone from the police to sections of the media are complicit in this crime.

There is not a shred of doubt that the Humla girls were trafficked to India to make money for the Michael Job Centre. The people who have objected to their children being embarrassed in public by the rescue might do well to remember that their girls were being advertised globally as orphans in the centre’s website. The images and profiles of the girls were displayed online for sponsors to choose from. The centre has removed its website after being exposed.

Some parents were not

happy to get their children back, they would rather that the girls stayed in India without them having to worry about their upbringing. But many are happy to have their children back. (See box).

What has got lost in all this is that the presence of the girls at the centre in India was illegal. It is no longer the question of whether the girls or their parents want them to stay in the orphanage, they had to come back or face an even more uncertain future in India.

It is typical for the parents of girls rescued from circuses and brothels to disown them. Many Nepali parents also sell their daughters off. We could not help but wonder if some of those parents would have reacted as bitterly if the children were not girls but boys.

But most surprising was how the media chose to argue in favor of traffickers by implying that children of poor parents are better off in foreign orphanages.

After all it is often relatives who sell their daughters, sisters and wives to middlemen. Unless we stop, they won’t. The rescuing organisation is ready to take charge of the girls if the parents are not interested. Instead of making ruckus about the future of the girls which the organisation is willing to look after, we would do better to rally against dangerous people like Phadera and their political patrons who sell Nepali girls and get away with it.

nepalitimes.com

MJC's promotion video
MJC's archived webpage
Faraway rescue, #571



Sabita's homecoming

Sabita Kadel, 14, from Nawalparasi has finally came back home after five years of living as an orphan in Michael Job Centre in Coimbatore in India. After the rescue, her aunt Mina Paudel came to receive her in Kathmandu.

“I can’t explain my happiness. For five years, I looked all over for her, two years ago I travelled to Coimbatore but I was humiliated at the Centre and they refused to give me back my daughter.”

They did not even let Mina talk to Sabita over the phone for all these years. In the Centre’s newsletter, Tortured For Christ, July 2009 issue, Sabita aka Fay has been

mentioned as the child of a murdered Christian mother whose other relatives were also slaughtered in a killing rampage by Maoists. Mina says that her family is Hindu and that the child’s father died of kidney failure while the mother left when Sabita was young. “When we got to Bhairawa I saw parents refusing to take responsibility of their girls because they were hand-in-glove with the traffickers,” Mina told Nepali Times. “I felt so sorry for those girls.”

For her part, Sabita was ecstatic as she talked of her journey home: “I am so happy. I want to go places and be with my family and then continue school.”

News from Ujyaalo

Read while you listen
Listen while you read

Log on :
www.unn.com.np

You will be with Ujyaalo
Where ever you are...

Follow Us
www.facebook.com/Ujayalo90Network
www.twitter.com/ujyaalo

Ujyaalo Online
Ujyaalo Home Shanti Chowk
Jawalakhel-4, Lalitpur G.P.O. Box 6469 Kathmandu,
Tel: 977-15000171, Fax 977-1-5549357 Email: info@unn.com.np

Cashing it big on children

Adoption is just one part of the larger trafficking problem in Nepal

THOMAS BELL


Hundreds of orphanages in Nepal are being run as businesses, filled with children who would have been left with their families if orphanage owners weren't making money by keeping them in homes. Child rights organisations estimate that there are about 15,000 children in orphanages although the number is difficult to track because disreputable owners move children around to avoid scrutiny. Many have been lured away from poor families, especially in remote districts such as Humla (see overleaf), with promises of education in Kathmandu. That practice is familiar from the adoption racket, which saw fake "orphans" matched up with Western parents who paid thousands of dollars to adopt a Nepali child. Farid Ait-Mansour of Next Generation Nepal says: "Everything is linked. Adoption is just one part of the trafficking problem." Other children end up in prostitution, child labour or begging. "When there is no inter-country adoption the number of children [in orphanages] always decreases. They send the children elsewhere," says Dharma Raj Shrestha, Director General of the government's Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB). "Children who reached European countries may be lucky ones. Unfortunately, some children could have gone to India and Gulf countries. There is no proper record." With adoption currently frozen by a dozen Western countries due to rampant fraud, new revenue streams have emerged,



SAM KANG LI

like luring foreign volunteers to work in fake orphanages over the Internet. "It seems like a big source of income is foreign volunteers," said one diplomat. "If it wasn't for this income they would probably have been left with their families." According to another international: "You've got foreigners flying in, volunteering for short periods, sometimes with the best of intentions, sometimes with other intentions." There is no vetting or background checks of volunteers. Shrestha of the CCWB said that he is aware of cases of sexual abuse by "volunteers". Next Generation Nepal has evidence of children sometimes kept in abject conditions to maximise donations from foreigners. Orphanage owners sometimes sell

gifts of clothes and toys after the volunteer has left. Sometimes the children do not even receive the education which their parents were promised. Several NGOs have withdrawn funding from the orphanage sector over fears that children are being unnecessarily institutionalised in money-making schemes. But a Google search reveals many private tour companies offering volunteering holidays in Nepal. The volunteer ends up paying thousands of dollars after arriving. Several Thamel travel agencies have murky links with children's homes in the capital. The CCWB has a list of 454 orphanages, most of them in the Kathmandu Valley, although they admit there could be

many unregistered ones. "Pokhara and Chitwan are also dangerously populated by child care homes," says Shrestha, whose agency grades homes A-D for their standard of care, and most of them fall in the C and D categories. He says influential orphanage owners have good contact with the donors in Europe, a steady flow of funds, and want a loose easy-going policy from the government. Nepali businessmen often roam through Europe making contacts with potential donors for their fake orphanages. The government has no effective policy on children's homes. There is no proper method of assessment in cases where a child may actually need to be put in an orphanage. No orphanages in Nepal, including Bal Mandir, receive any government funding so they are forced to look elsewhere to raise cash. Shrestha says that some of the most abusive orphanages urgently need to be shut down the CCWB rarely acts because they have no-where to put the rescued children. "There are some good orphanages," admits Shrestha. Asked what happens in the bad ones he reels off a list: physical punishment, torture, sexual abuse, begging duty on the street, one meal a day, no treatment when they fall sick, no schooling.  nepalitimes.com

On sale, #339
Cinderella children, #490
Children trapped between supply and demand, #558



01 110 101 011 010110

Empowering Technology



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

Aspire M1830 Desktop
FEATURING Intel Dual Core Processor E5800 3.2GHz
2GB DDR II RAM / 320GB HDD with
18.5" wide LCD Monitor
1 Year Warranty

Also Available with:
Acer 15.6" LCD, 18.5" LED, 20" LCD, 20" LED and 23" LCD Monitors

Available Through All Our Dealers

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

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

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

STANDARD COLLECTIONS FOR SUMMER, WINTER, DESIGNER & CASHMERE



Festive Greetings

Our products come in a wide range of colors, textures and designs – an overwhelming collection at NPI promises a shopping experience that can only be fun.

Go. Gift it.

NPI
NEPAL PASHMINA INDUSTRY

OUR EXCLUSIVE SHOWROOMS:

<p>Soaltee Mode, Kalimati, Kathmandu (way to Soaltee Hotel) Tel. 4283 644, 4277 023</p>	<p>Soaltee Mode, Kalimati, Kathmandu (Soaltee Hotel Compound) Tel. 4270 947</p>
<p>Thamel, Kathmandu (opp. Sanchayakosh Building) Tel. 4410 947</p>	<p>Thamel, Kathmandu (Close to Sanchayakosh Building) Tel. 4264 775</p>

www.npi-nepal.com

Nearly two weeks after a strong earthquake devastated Sikkim, eastern Nepal, China and Bhutan, the known death toll is approaching 100. The relatively low casualty rate has been attributed to the light population density in the remote regions of all four countries. However, not all the information has come in, and the low death toll masks massive damage to infrastructure. Rescue efforts have also been delayed by unseasonably heavy late monsoon rains in the area.

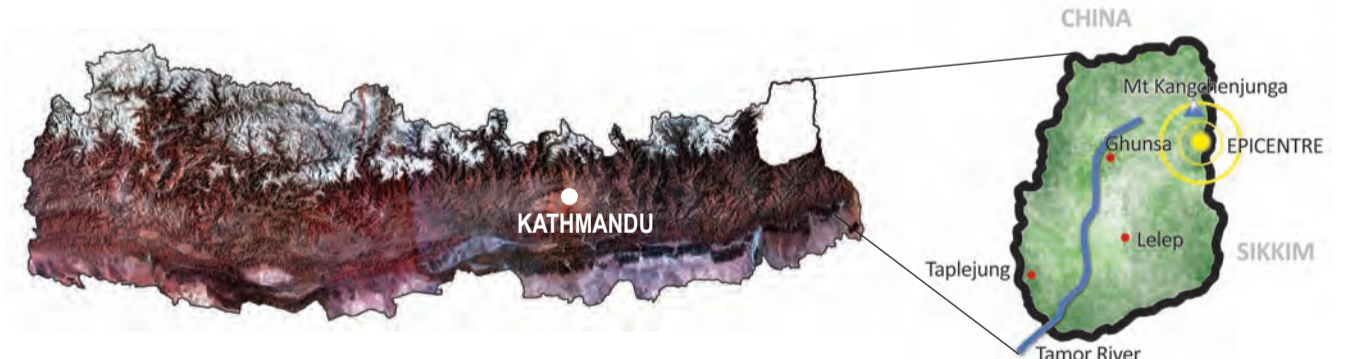
There have been no reports yet from several settlements in and around the village of Ghunsa near the epicenter of the 18 September quake, and no relief yet in the north of Lelep in the Tamor Valley and in Olangchungola on the border with Tibet. Heavy landslides have blocked trails and thousands of people are still sleeping in tents or overhangs and caves.

A large-scale rehabilitation effort needs to be launched to rebuild schools that have been destroyed, and also to repair buildings severely damaged. Had the quake struck during school hours, hundreds of children would have been killed, as these pictures show.



A SHAKEN NATION

If the slow pace of rescue and relief is any indication, rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure in eastern Nepal will take decades



KHEM RAJ NIRLA



KHEM RAJ NIRLA



SUNDAR LAMA



2



3

KHEM RAJ NIRAULA



5



4

SUNDAR LAMA

1 Bandana Dewan peers from alongside the badly damaged classroom in Lelep the day after the earthquake.

2-3 The mountain north of Lelep before the earthquake and in a picture taken on 19 September with a huge landslide scar. Locals said there was a thunderous sound as huge rocks rolled down the mountain.

4-5 Grade 3 student Arina Anbuhang and her sister of Nangkholang recount the terrible night, and the ruins of Laxmi primary School where Arina and her sister studied.

6 The newly constructed classroom of the Sideshwor Secondary School of Phejung of Panchthar district.

7 This school toilet in Lelep collapsed completely, with only the doors standing.

8 Families whose houses were destroyed have been spending nights in tents.



6

HIT NARYAN SHRESTHA

Annapurna flying

Nepal’s pioneer sports aviation company marks 15 years of service to the tourism industry

Natasha Shrestha married her doctor husband when both were studying in the former Soviet Union. The couple returned to Nepal and Natasha started working at the Bureau of Statistics in the computer department. After helping out with a

Russian ultralight expedition, Natasha decided to buy one of the aircraft to use it for sightseeing flights. Buying the plane was the easy part, it took two years of lobbying to get the necessary permits from the Ministry of Tourism. In 1997, Avia Club Nepal was established in Pokhara.

Since then, the company has flown 21,000 tourists on sightseeing flights of the Annapurnas and Machapuchre from its base at Pokhara airport. Avia Club Nepal has become the pioneer in air sports activities and has put Nepal on the international

adventure tourism map. “It’s not enough to get tourists to Nepal,” says Praveen Gauchan of Avia Club Nepal, “it is important that once here they have something to do.” Indeed, flying and Nepal’s Himalayan scenery go hand-in-hand, and the mountains



Natasha Shrestha founded Avia Club Nepal in 1997. In a talk with Nepali Times on its 15th anniversary, she recounts her long struggle to make the business work.

“I just kept going”

Nepali Times: How did you end up in Nepal of all places?
Natasha Shrestha: My husband is a Nepali and I've come to love Nepal as my own country. As citizens we must all ask ourselves what we have done for Nepal. The satisfaction you get from working for your country is immeasurable.

And how come you chose to start an ultra light club in Pokhara?
I am a computer engineer by profession, but had to give up my job because of an eye problem. I then started working with Russian tourists. In 1995 a Russian expedition on Everest brought an ultralight with them. I was curious and learnt about the aircraft. I instantly saw the opportunity for it in Nepal's tourism industry.

With all the bureaucracy, it must have been really difficult to get the initial permission.
Yes, the bureaucracy can kill your enthusiasm. But you must be very patient and persistent. My strong desire and passion kept me going and I eventually broke the bureaucratic hurdles.

What kept you going when anyone else in your place would have given up?
I believed that if I succeeded in starting an ultralight company, it would begin a new era in aviation sports tourism in Nepal. I was deeply motivated because I felt I was making a contribution to the country and the people. Then during the most difficult times, when anyone else would have given up, I kept going because I had burned all the bridges of retrieve. I had invested everything I had, all of my property and my youth, so it was do or die situation. So I just kept going on.

Your company has placed Nepal on the map as an adventure destination, what are your future plans?
I plan to develop air sports activities, other than ultralight and paragliding. This will put Nepal even more strongly in the international aviation sports map. Ultimately it will help build Brand Nepal.

What for you was the most fulfilling part of running Avia Club Nepal?
The most fulfilling part is to see the happy eyes and excited faces of our passengers after a flight, and there have been 21,000 of them from 58 countries in the past 15 years. It is fantastic hearing their enthusiasm and admiration of seeing Nepal's beauty from the air.

provide a whole new dimension from up in the air as thousands of tourists in Nepal have found.

Avia Club Nepal started out with a couple of delta-wing ultralights with open cockpits ideally suited for aerial photography. Today, the fleet has grown to four ultralights, one fixed wing light aircraft, six paragliders and four motorised paragliders.

The company offers special ultralight flights over Pokhara Valley and flights up the Seti and Mardi to the

glaciers below Annapurna. It also conducts paragliding tandem jumps and special aviation services like banner towing, flower showering, aerial filming, mountain search and rescue as well as scientific research. The club also conducts Avia Club Nepal Flight Training School.

Avia now wants to try amphibian ultralight operations from Begnas Lake, offer cross country flights to Chitwan and para-trekking which combines paragliding with Himalayan hikes.

Avia Club Nepal's pilots include Capt Alexander Maximov, a Russian pilot with 4,000 hours of flying experience, and Nepal's first licensed ultralight pilot, Stephen Shrestha.

Says Natasha: "You really have to believe in what you are doing, you have to keep trying to overcome obstacles that come along." 🍷

nepalimes.com

Feeling high, #491

THE WORLD'S
NUMBER ONE
INTERNATIONAL
PREMIUM BEER



It could only be Heineken



enjoy
responsibly

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

"We specialize in Handmade Nepali Jewellery"

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



AUCMA



ICE MAKER



HARD TOP (100-610 LT.)



DUAL CHAMBER



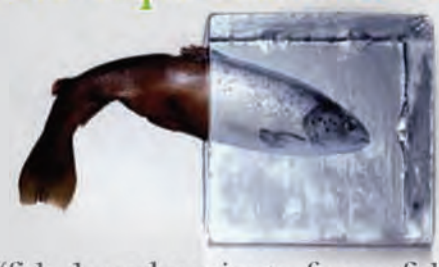
CURVE GLASS SLIDING



UPRIGHT SHOWCASE (230-1209 LTR.)



your expert in Freezing



"fish decay by minute, frozen fish dont"



GAUTAM ELECTRIC AND ELECTRONICS CENTRE

Head Office: B. P. Chowk, Pokhara, T: 061 533529, F: 061 551682

Corporate Office: Bluestar Office Complex, 503, Thapathali, Kathmandu | T: 01 4230908, F: 01 4230893, e-mail: info@gapl.co



GAUTAM ASSOCIATES

EVENTS



FSA Southasia 2011, screening 36 outstanding films. *29 September to 2 October, 12pm to 7.30 pm, Kumari Cinema, Kamal Pokhari*

Cycle 6: Life, a nature and wildlife photograph exhibition by Om Yadav. *19 August to 30 September, 10am to 5pm, Galleria CUC, Maharjagunj*

Student's Art Exhibition, the fifth batch of group painting exhibition. *28 September to 2 October, Newa Chen Art Gallery*

Changa Chait, live performances and a corporate kite flying competition. *28 September and 1 October, 11am onwards, Club Himalaya, Nagarkot, 4410432, 4419432*

Dasain Mela, celebrate Dasain with b-boying, slam poetry, BMX bike stunts, musical

performances, food stalls and game stalls. *Tickets: Rs 500 (for children) & Rs 1000 (for adults), 1 October, 10am to 5pm, Shuvatara School, Sanepa*



World Animal Day, photo contest with the theme of street animals. *1 October, 3pm to 6pm, Sattya Media Arts collective, Jawalakhel, 9813485716*



Photography Workshop, a special digital photography workshop for young aspiring photographers. *1 to 11 October (No classes on 4 to 9 October), Artudio, Jyatha, Cost: Rs 2000, 9841240341*

Shanti Jatra, alternative lifestyle, music and arts at the Shanti Jatra Organic Festival 2011. *11 to 13 October, Kathmandu Valley, info@shantijatraorganicfestival.com*

Youth for Culture, a candle walk to celebrate the Nepal Era or the Newari New Year. *26 October, Patan Durbar Square, rac. lalitpur@gmail.com*



MUSIC



Rainbow Music Festival, music from classical fusion to funk, soul, jazz and blues. *30 September, Electric Pagoda, Thamel*

Oktoberfest, guzzle as much beer as you can with various artist along with a tribute to U2. *1 October, 11am to 1pm, Moksh, Jhamsikhel*

DINING



Buddha Bar, has been an establishment since the days of the hippies and offers a warm and cozy space for intimate conversations over a large selection of drinks. *Thamel, 9851053235*

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

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

Documenting Nepal

While Film South Asia (FSA) brings stories from around the subcontinent, it is the Nepali entries that usually appear to attract the most attention. The audiences, however, are not only acting on their loyalty. Nepali documentaries have risen above their commercial counterparts, and excel in their subjects, storytelling style and quality.

This year, FSA '11 is showcasing 36 documentaries, out of which four tell stories from Nepal.



Out of the Darkness (73')
Nepal, 2010, dir - Stefano Levi
1.30pm , Friday, 30 September

Cataract disease, a clouding of the clear lens of the eye that causes blindness, is curable but the treatment is too expensive for the rural mass. Sanduk Ruit from Nepal and his American partner, Geoff Tabin, are in a mission to offer affordable cataract surgery and have developed a potable low-cost surgical procedure to restore sight to cataract disease victims. Filmmaker Stefano Levi follows the two doctors as they trek to Nepal's remote northeast, carrying an entire hospital on porters' backs.

Saving Dolma (62')
Nepal, 2010, dir - Kesang Tseten
5pm, Friday, 30 September5

The film trails the story of Dolma, a Nepali maid sentenced to death for allegedly killing a fellow Filipino domestic worker in Kuwait. As the film searches for truth in the event, it provides a rare glimpse into the fractured lives of ill-prepared women migrant workers in the Gulf states. Kesang Tseten is the director of numerous documentaries such as Hami kunako manchhe, On the Road with the Red God: Machhendranath, In Search of the Riyal.



Journey to Yarsa (55')
Nepal, 2011, dir - Dipendra Bhandari
1.15pm, Satuday, 1 October

The opening film of this year's festival, Journey to Yarsa, follows the family of Punimaya as they join hundreds of others to collect yarsagumba, the Himalayan caterpillar-fungus that is worth its weight in gold in China for its supposed aphrodisiac properties. The whole village is padlocked for two months as the families travel to high mountains of Nepal. Filmmaker Dipendra Bhandari walks along Punimaya and her family to understand the ordeals they go through to find the prized yarsagumba.



Aadesh Baba (77')
Nepal, 2011, dir - Aurore Laurent, Adrien Viel
3.45pm, Sunday, 2 October

In Kathmandu, Tiger Baba has become an aghori sadhu, a holy man. With a dark look, painted face and almost naked body, Baba fascinates some and frightens others. Aadesh Baba is the story of the sadhu's quest for the divine. Between alcoholic drifts and holy life, will Tiger Baba succeed? Filmmakers Aurore Laurent and Adrien Viel try to find out.





Cafe Hessed, for those with a sweet tooth, offers a delicious range of cupcakes and doughnuts. *Jhamsikhel*



Black Pepper Café & Pub, cosmopolitan dining and drinking in a traditional style courtyard, try the apple sauce pork chops and enjoy the good service. *Kopundole Height, Lalitpur, 5521897*

Lazy Gringo, fail-safe Mexican restaurant. The lemonade with refills is what won us over, but the food is mighty fine. *Jawalakhel*



Upstairs Cafe, a delicious range of Vietnamese cuisine to sample. *Maharajgunj, near the US embassy*

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

Irish Pub, for the simple reason that the place actually feels like a bar. Don't miss out on their Irish coffee. *Lazimpat, Ananda Bhawan, 4416027*



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*

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*

Dashain at Borderlands, celebrate Dashain with a five day package of trekking, rafting, and canoeing. *3 October to 7 October, Borderlands Eco Adventure Resort, 4700894, info@borderlandsgroup.com, www.borderlandsgroup.com*

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

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. *Budhaniikantha, all 4375280 for reservations*

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

नेपाल सरकार
सूचना तथा सञ्चार मन्त्रालय
सूचना विभाग



SOMEPLACE ELSE

What was once a den for freelancers and laptop users alike, Café Kaldi in Thamel leaves us unplugged. Its long, lounge corridor of podlike table settings is conducive to long hours of solitary work. But the uneven ratio of high wattage consumption to minimal coffee purchases per hour has forced the shop to cut down on its hours and bar customers from plugging in. Without energy access, cafes pivoted on free Wi-Fi like Kaldi need to primp up on its offerings or risk losing clientele.



MARCO POLLO

Café Kaldi

Since 1983, Café Kaldi, with a seasonal selection of coffee blends and original roasts, has been a household name in Japan. In 2009, the franchise opened shop in Thamel and recently a second outlet in New Baneshor across from the Everest Hotel.

Its extensive list of beverages reflects Starbucks's sway on the modern-day coffee shop, complete with


sugary creations like the Caramel Macchiato, Café Mocha and Iced Chiya.

But down to basics, the espresso was flat in flavour and stretched a tad too long leaving an acrid aftertaste. The Kokuto Latte, served iced or hot, is the menu's sweetest concoction: a latte floating over a heavy layer of liquid raw sugar—cavities beware! Sadly, among its original

specialties, the Azuko Green Tea (an iced green tea over red bean) and the Coffee Jelly Smoothie (a blended iced latte over coffee gelatin) have been discontinued. The coffee smoothies, seasonal fruit smoothies (mango, papaya, strawberry) and green tea smoothie (made with or without milk) are a hit.

When it comes to grub, Kaldi's palate lacks sophistication. Its dishes are merely cosmetic, clean but plain. So, if you must eat something and are too

bothered to traipse down to any of the other proper restaurants in Thamel, the chicken burger and the spicy momos are the only dishes worth sampling. The cakes and desserts are fluff.

These days, due to cutbacks, Kaldi's customers could easily find themselves drinking or working in an empty café. But as a silver lining, compared to other coffee parlors, its WiFi is still free (come fully charged!), prices (tax included) are decent, and service is impeccable.  Marco Pollo

Turn into Mandala Street from Thamel Chowk and head to the end of the block, and before the turn look right and up the stairs.

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



A virtual response to a real disaster in Nepal

Overseas Nepalis simulate an earthquake emergency in Nepal to coordinate global rescue and relief



SAPANA SHAKYA in OAKLAND

“An 8 magnitude has just hit Kathmandu. There is utter chaos, fires are raging and there is a communications blackout,” announced Suresh Ojha into the phone on a real-time simulated conference call on 25 September, exactly a week after an earthquake devastated eastern Nepal.

In Oakland California at the Community Health for Asian Americans (CHAA) there is silence on the line. It is clear that the participants of this mock crisis response exercise are unsure where to start.

“This is exactly the situation, we’re hoping to avoid,” explains Ojha, “in the case of an actual crisis we have to be up and running.” He rattles off a list of things to be done if this was a real emergency, starting with hotlines for information from Nepal.

With Ojha are Nisha Thapa and Bijay Niraula, who lead the Disaster Preparedness Committee of

the Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) which for this exercise calls itself the Global Nepal Professional Network (GNPN).

Thapa is a nurse and was motivated by the 18 September earthquake in Nepal to host a ‘Hackathon for Nepal’, a web portal that will function as a go-to place for anyone needing information on the situation in Nepal.

“I’ve been working on disaster preparedness in Nepal and when the earthquake hit, I really did not know where to turn,” Thapa said. “This is why we need to move fast, no one knows when the next big quake will hit and we can’t waste any more time not knowing.”

The Hackathon took place all day Sunday and there is a ‘Himalayan Disaster Response Portal’ up and running. The portal team of ten software engineers led by Niraula tapped into the rich computer talent among the Nepali diaspora across North America.

Software engineers Nabin

Acharya and Kumar Pandey worked on the overall design and structure of the portal while Santosh Aryal, Puran Singh and Leon Smith volunteered to bring the site to life.

The team sourced elements from portals like Ushahidi which was used in Haiti with tools like reporting and mapping from the immediate quake zone, customising it for Nepal by integrating features like People Finder and the Donate from Google App engine.

Pandey explains that the true value of the site will start to become clearer once there are actual members on the ground in Nepal that can populate the portal with crowd-sourced information.

While the Hackathon was going on in cyberspace, Ojha was holding townhall style discussions in a separate room to brainstorm on topics like medical needs, media relations, telecommunications infrastructure post earthquake.

After the initial hesitance in response to Ojha’s

earthquake scenario, the network was soon humming with issues: who will be the contacts in Nepal, how will they communicate if lines are down, how will the response be relayed?

Smriti Gurung a nurse from Oakland with experience in Haiti suggested: “It would be great to have doctors in Nepal telling folks coming in what type of specialties they needed.”

Archana Kayastha from Mountain View suggested: “We must have on hand a list of medical supplies we will readily have access to and a team of medical professionals, physicians, nurses and others who can and will be able to fly out as soon as necessary.”

The conversation seemed to gravitate naturally towards Nepal’s readiness to deal with the situation as what happens on the ground will most likely affect the kind of information any portal will be able to have. CAN-USA has links to NSET (National Society for Earthquake Technology) in Nepal.

Rob Rowlands, who runs a school and health

project in the Kanchenjunga region, and was personally impacted by the recent quake suggested tooling hospitals with a way to communicate their needs through the portal. “We could set up something simple like a webcam with a whiteboard where hospitals can write down what their needs are for the portal viewers to see,” he said.

One big problem would be a complete telecommunication breakdown in Nepal. In this case, ham and amateur radio enthusiasts would have to step in. Ojha and Rowlands are trying to set up a ham radio model with NSET in Kathmandu.

An enthusiastic Ojha summed up the day’s exercise: “With no funding and in less than a week we delivered a prototype disaster response web portal and successfully mobilised diaspora Nepalis. Global Nepalis have a passionate interest in assisting Nepal to prepare for a future disaster.”

Prototype portal: www.himalayandisasterresponse.org



Get a lucky draw coupon on every purchase of John Players worth Rs. 1,000 and above and win exciting prizes.*

Offer Valid from 20th September to 31st October 2011.

Vacancy: Earthquake Inspectors



MY TWO PAISA
Paavan Mathema

Watching cockroaches and flies infesting kitchens of many sweet shops in the capital, following the raids last week by the Department of Commerce, most of us are probably off gudpak and pustakari for good.

It wasn't that we didn't doubt the quality of food that these shops or restaurants sold. But in absence of hard evidence, we chose to ignore the health risks because out of sight is out of mind. It is a similar story with the buildings that we live or work in.

Matchbox structures, buildings with unnecessary ornamental columns and cantilever appendages, and alleyways from which you can't even see the sky because of buildings on either side. We've heard the scare stories: given a replay of the 1934 earthquake there will be upwards of 100,000 deaths in Kathmandu Valley alone. Most of them will be buried in the rubble of collapsed buildings. There are over 6 million buildings in the valley.

Why can't there be a repeat of the gudpak raids, but this time inspect how resistant buildings are to earthquakes. After all, both are hazardous to health.

This is a country where people actually bribe officials so they can build unsafe houses for themselves and their families. The first place to start quality control of buildings is at the municipality where the permits are issued. Kathmandu's 1994 building code is one of the best in the region and just ensuring that engineers and construction companies follow these rules can make them quake resistant. There must be a strict



BIKRAM RAI

Why wait for an earthquake to determine how strong our homes or offices are?

quality check of the quality of cement, steel rods and building materials. The construction process itself needs monitoring. People have to realise that if they cut corners, they are not building a house but digging their own graves.

Taking the cue from Department of Commerce, the Department of Housing and Urban Planning or Department of Town Planning could start assessing existing buildings, starting with public structures housing schools, hospitals, malls, cinemas. Other critical infrastructure also needs assessment: roads, bridges, telecommunication towers, water and electricity supply. Government offices should also be checked so that they can function and deploy emergency services and relief during an earthquake.

Buildings that fail the test can be put on a list for demolition or retrofiting. There is a donor consortium for disaster preparedness that is setting aside money for schools and hospitals, the government should do its bit for other infrastructure. Technologies for seismic retrofiting are available in the country and

cost Rs 1000 per sq ft. That is not a lot, considering the lives that can be saved. If one cannot afford retrofiting, seismic aspects may be incorporated in the house to minimise the effect of a quake.

We know the government doesn't have its act together. So why wait for a raid to tell you your house is unsafe? Every individual, family or community has to work on its own preparedness. Groups like NSET-Nepal can help in assessment and advice on retrofiting.

Commercial buildings, corporate offices, even hotels, can start tagging themselves as earthquake resistant. The tag will also bring in more business. For example, a tourist is more likely to choose an earthquake resistant hotel to an unsafe one. If one hotel shows commitment to earthquake safety, others will follow suit. This will be a CSR of a greater social and business value than most of their so-called "socially responsible" projects.

Kathmandu is sitting on a seismic bomb that might go off anytime. If 18 September's earthquake was an alarm bell, it is about time we wake up.

BIZ BRIEFS

Qatar's Dasain gift

Qatar Airways has announced the addition of a fourth daily flight to Doha from Kathmandu starting 1 October. The airline, which flew in 100,000 tourists into Nepal this year, says the new flight will make connections easier to all parts of the world from its Doha hub. "The increase in frequency will put Kathmandu as the second airport after London with the most connections from Doha among



non-Gulf countries," said Qatar's country manager for Nepal, Ramdas Shivram while announcing the additional flight which he called a "Dasain Gift" to Nepal. The airline is also lobbying for 24-hour operations at Kathmandu airport to meet the increase in future traffic. Being the biggest passenger carrier in and out of Kathmandu, Qatar says it is investing heavily on improving the navigation and safety aspects of Kathmandu airport. (See p 15). Qatar currently employs 1,500 Nepalis, of which 120 are flight attendants. The airline is also offering an astonishingly cheap \$346 roundtrip promotion for its new Oslo connection from Kathmandu if booked before 18 October.

Gift of sight

The Chowdhary Group and the HelpAge International have partnered to provide free cataract surgeries to more than 1000 patients in rural areas. They will also provide basic eye care to 4500 people.

Free trip

Carlsberg announced the winners of its 'Win a luxurious trip in Cannes, France' promotion 2011. The four winners will along with their friends have left for Cannes, France. The campaign was conducted in over twenty six hundred stalls all over Nepal.

रु. २५,०००/-

सम्पन्न जित्ने मौका

महान चाड **दशै-तिहार - २०६८** को शुभ अवसरमा **American Technology** द्वारा निर्मित **Kelvinator** को ग्राहक योजना अन्तर्गत खरिद गर्नुभएको कुनै पनि रेफ्रिजरेटरको साथमा पाउनुहुनेछ स्क्र्याच कार्ड र तपाईंले **रु. २५,०००** सम्पन्न जित्न सक्नुहुनेछ ।

KGE193 180Ltr Rs. 15,590/-	KAE193 160Ltr Rs. 16,290/-	KFE194 190Ltr Rs. 16,590/-	KAP193 180Ltr Rs. 17,140/-	KAL194 190Ltr Rs. 17,900/-	KHP214-SR/SH 215Ltr Rs. 17,990/-	KHP214-FB/FG 215Ltr Rs. 18,290/-	KFL215 230Ltr Rs. 18,990/-

POWERFUL COMPRESSORMULTI DIMENSIONAL AIR FLOWTHICK PUF INSULATIONEASY CLEAN GASKET

FROM THE BLOGS

www.nepalitimes.com/blogs/kundadixit

KUNDA DIXIT

Yet another crash. More tv visuals of police and army searching wreckage strewn across a forested hillside. Once again, bodies being unloaded from army choppers at the airport. Reporters interviewing grieving family members yet again. Breaking news was beamed worldwide: ‘Another air crash in Nepal’.

Then the predictable deluge of next day analysis: why is aviation unsafe? How could this happen yet again? Inevitable speculation about causes: pilot error, aircraft malfunction, lax enforcement of aviation rules.

Up on the ridge of Kot Danda on the eastern rim of Kathmandu Valley on Sunday morning, the clouds hung low and those questions sounded banal, almost callous. The lifeless forms of passengers with horrific bruises were being ferried in stretchers to a waiting helicopter. Amidst the wreckage, a lady’s shoe, a camera lens, bits of clothing, shredded seats, blood smeared on the crushed cabin panels.

The army rescue helicopter had finally landed on a nearby ridge after circling to find a gap in the clouds. Hundreds of people from Lamatar and Kot Danda gathered immediately, trampling over the wreckage and sometimes blocking rescue vehicles with their motorcycles on the access road.

The Buddha Air Beechcraft 1900D with 19 people on board, including three crew, was returning halfway from a Mt Everest sightseeing flight on 25 September because the



BIKRAM RAI

Once is not enough?

mountains were covered up by late monsoon clouds. The plane was flying lower than it should have been probably to keep below the cloud ceiling. It also strayed too far to the east, probably to keep distance with preceding traffic.

On the terrace farm there is a long scar ploughed by the right wing of the plane. The gash is at an incline, indicating the crew may have been trying to pull up at the last moment. Another 20 m away, the plane hit the ridge wall, its fuel tanks exploded and the cabin was catapulted up the slope beyond a road. Part of the tail and left wing disintegrated and fell into

trees. The starboard engine was hurled 40m to another side of the mountain.

The crash had all the hallmarks of what aviation safety experts call Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT). Nearly all the crashes that have occurred in Nepal in the past 60 years have been CFIT (see list since 1990 below). Even in good weather, Nepal’s rugged Himalayan terrain is difficult to fly in, during the monsoon with the mountains covered in clouds it becomes even more hazardous.

Pilots being trained in Nepal are told “Never fly into clouds unless you know exactly where you are because clouds have rocks

SAME REASON

Nearly all air crashes in Nepal since 1990 occurred when planes flew into mountains in cloud during the monsoon.

Date	Airline Equipment	Fatalities	Location
30-07-92	Thai Airbus310	113	Langtang
30-09-92	Pakistan Airbus310	157	Lalitpur
24-08-93	Lumbini DHC-6	18	Kaski
31-08-97	Everest Do228	18	Bharatpur
06-09-99	Luftansa Boeing727	5	Kathmandu
25-12-99	Skyline DHC-6	13	Makwanpur
05-10-98	Necon Air HS748	15	Kathmandu
27-06-00	Nepal Air DHC-6	25	Dadeldhura
22-09-02	Shangri La DHC-6	18	Kaski
25-05-05	Yeti DHC-6	3	Lamjura
23-09-06	Shree Air MI-17	24	Ghunsa
08-10-08	Yeti DHC-6	18	Lukla
24-08-10	Agni Air Do-228	14	Makwanpur
15-12-10	Tara Air DHC-6	22	Okhaldhunga

Flight Rules.

Datta Tray Roy, ex-ATC

If the Beech 1900D had been equipped with an Enhanced Ground Proximity Warning System (EGPWS) instead of the older GPWS the accident might have been avoided since it is more accurate and does not shut off on flaps and wheels down configuration. For smaller aircraft such as the Twin Otter there are new FAA approved stand alone GPS systems that give visual terrain warnings suitable for such aircraft flight routes. Used correctly these aids can easily eliminate CFIT accidents.

New GPS units with TAWs are not expensive anymore and quite suited for Nepal operations. A good, functional second hand unit is available for around \$6,000. Any airline can afford it.

Airline Professional

nepalitimes.com

For more feedback

FEEDBACK

Pilot qualification, certification and recertification should be looked into. A pilot’s mental and physical conditions are important. Should you go to fly in the morning after all night partying? I would not even trust few pilots I know with being my chauffer on the ground, much less in the air. The key point is: when will we put into practice the lessons learnt? We must not wait until another disaster happens.

Ashok Bal Tamang

I agree with Kunda Dixit. We are experts in the blame game, we don’t see the human error, and blame the weather. We make the same mistake over and over again.

Mustafa Wiki

‘Once is not enough?’ covers all the relevant issues related with air accidents and the aviation business. Accidents are caused by a series of mistakes that multiply. Another investigation committee is formed consisting of the men who are and were in the MOTCA or CAAN. How can

you expect such an investigation team to properly accomplish their duties? There is a conflict of interest. The independent Nepal National Aviation Council (NNAC) may be an alternative.

Another thing to keep in mind is cockpit teamwork. In the Skyline Airways crash in December 1999 the roster overlooked that the captain and the co-pilot had problems regarding seniority. In the Lumbini Air crash in August 1993 the captain and the co-pilot had a heated argument before takeoff from Jomsom.

Dorji Tsering Sherpa

You are completely right about the commercialisation of pilot recruitment. Pilots are not only to blame. Thank you for telling it like it is.

Niroj

Buddha Air has developed a good reputation as a company over the years. But then again, the management may have been distracted due to current

growth, so less incompetent individuals maybe making crucial decisions. I have flown on mountain flights, and think they should not operate in the monsoon.

William B Henderson

As pointed out in this well-written piece by Kunda Dixit, CFIT is the reason for most accidents in Nepal given our terrain and weather conditions, especially during the monsoon. They can be prevented with GPS-based TAWS (Terrain Awareness & Warning System) equipment on board. Such systems contain a database of the terrain which allows pilots to “see” mountains even during white-out conditions.

Hange

From this article it is clear that there was miscalculation of the geographical location-altitude, terrain altitude and flight level. Such accidents have occurred previously due to negligence of not following the flight rules: Instrument Flight Rules and/or Visual



in them”. It is not supposed to be a joke. Too many lives have been lost to preventable crashes. Too many lessons have been not been learnt. Too many investigation reports have just gathered dust.

Air crashes rarely have one reason, it is usually a combination of factors. In Nepal it can be weather, terrain, lack of training, pilot error and the lack of equipment. State-of-the-art GPS-based Terrain Awareness and Warning System, Enhanced Ground Proximity Warning System (EGPWS) or the new RNP-AR (see box) approaches to airports in mountainous terrain would make CFIT less likely.

The human factor doesn’t just have to do with pilot error, it is also about airline recruitment policy that only takes pilots who can afford to pay up to Rs 2.5 million for simulator training and conversion. Salaries and poor pay mean the best pilots migrate to work in foreign airlines.

There will be another investigation report in a few weeks that will recommend better monitoring of crew training, spot checks, review of approach procedures. Then everyone reverts to vapid complacency again. Until the next time. 🇳🇵

Safer, smoother navigation for Kathmandu airport



Qatar Airways is teaming up with Airbus Industrie and the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) to improve safety at Kathmandu airport, which has difficult approach and departure because of surrounding terrain.

Airbus’ Quovadis subsidiary has a new satellite-based navigation procedure called Required Navigation Performance with Authorization Required (RNP AR) that are used in many airports around the world with similar terrain.

It allows aircraft to fly precisely

along a predefined route using on-board navigation systems and the GPS-based global navigation satellite system, enabling higher efficiency and enhanced safety. It makes the approach track more flexible, allowing aircraft to fly around bad weather and in between mountains with greater precision. It will also make the approach into Kathmandu less steep, and smoother.

Qatar and Quovadis have collaborated to remove obstacles in the vicinity of the airport. Qatar Airways, which is the largest carrier of passengers into Kathmandu, paid for the replacement of Radio Nepal’s shortwave transmitter mast at Khumaltar near the airport. Quo Vadis, in turn, is training Nepali air traffic controllers for the introduction of the new system that is to go on trial later this year.

“As a major player in Nepal’s airline industry, we felt we had to invest in improving the civil aviation infrastructure at Kathmandu airport,” the Qatar Airways country manager for Nepal, Ramdas Shivram, told Nepali Times. “It will improve safety, reliability and operational cost not just for us but for all operators flying into Kathmandu.”

HIMAL

KHABARPATRIKA

3 October – 1 November

- DASAIN SPECIAL

Nepal’s culinary diversity

From Dal Bhat to Momo, from Gundruk to Dhido

International Cuisine in Kathmandu

Healthy Eating

Restaurant Entrepreneurs

Politics

No Deadlock after Dasain

Congress fasts

OPINION

Purshottam Dahal on the rift within the Maoist party

Jainendra Jiwan on the prime minister’s Mustang gimmick

Report

Earthquake Aftershock on Society

Air Crash Post Mortem

Catching the Small Fish in Drug Trafficking
- Himal 52-page LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

SCRATCH & GET
DIRECT CASH
THIS DASHAIN

TIMEX

USA. SINCE 1854

OUTDOOR AND TECHNOLOGY

Style

Fashion

Sports

Time is here to celebrate

Celebrate this festive season of Dashain & Deepawali with joy and happiness. And also win loads of CASH on every purchase of your favorite TIMEX watches.

Marketed in Nepal by:

Kathmandu: Subhechha Dept. Store; Namaste Super Market; Saleways Dept. Store; Smriti; Micro Time Centre; Join Electronics; Jimee Grocer; Bhatbhateni Dept. Store; Jayanti Emporium; Puja Electronics; G Time Corner; Lamichhane Time; Patan Variety; Bon Ton; Shaktiya Watch Shop; Home Electronics; R.M Watch Center; Giri T.V. World; Sunrise Watch; Time Center; Jaya Watch Center; Time Gallery; The Time Factory

Biratnagar: Alankar Watch Surkhet; New Ramesh Watch Pokhara; City Center; Goshali Dept. Store Pvt. Ltd.; Twins Digital Lifestyle

Nepalgunj: S. Kumar Watch; Dinesh Trading Mahendranagar; Bhageshori Trade Center Dhangadi; Dinesh Electronics Dang; Banjade Electronics Rajbiraj; Khan Elec. and Auto mobile Itahari; Navarang TV Center; Gorkha Dept. Store Janakpur; S.K. Watch Narayanghat; Bahnu Watch Butwal; Butwal Electronics Shinduli; Kahlizi Electronics Ilam; Govinda Electronics Biratnagar; Vahni Electronics

Unity in diversity

Krishna Khanal in *Himal Khabarpatrika*, 18 September



There are 101 ethnic and caste groups in the country. At a time when ethnic sentiments are on the rise, the Maoists have added fuel to fire by declaring an ethnic front of the Khas community, the largest group comprising of Brahmins and Chhetris. This community makes up 40 per cent of the total population and if it opens a political front to 'preserve' its own interests, there will be further ethnic polarisation in the country.

Those who see the Khas community as politically and culturally dominant group fail to appreciate the fact that only limited section of this population enjoyed political clout in the past regimes. To be sure, the adoption of Nepali as an official language favored their academic and personal development. Undoubtedly, present ethnic movements in Nepal seeks to make up for the historical marginalisation of the minorities and preserve their religion, language and culture, in order to establish their distinct identity.

Ideologically, there might not be any room to doubt that Maoists want a united and inclusive Nepal. But the modality of state restructuring that they have proposed will ultimately lead to separatist tendencies because legal provisions will stand at odds with cultures and traditions that is proposed as the basis of ethnic states.

But distinctiveness need not necessarily call for division. Unity, even in diversity has been the hallmark of Nepali society and it must be preserved. The most effective way of doing this is to adopt a multi-ethnic basis to federalism. Nepal can perhaps learn from experiences of countries like Ethiopia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. While we must appreciate the ethnic and cultural diversity of our land, there is no mistaking that if badly managed, it will lead to disintegration.

Stop the anarchy

Laalrakshak, 25 September

लालरक्षक

The onus for Nepal's peace process undisputedly rests on the Maoists. But the irresponsible activities of a faction within the party, led by vice-chairman Mohan Baidya has led to a public speculation that the party does not fully appreciate this fact. At the last factional gathering in New Baneswor, Baidya not only declared the formation of a parallel party structure but also rejected the Madhesi-Maoist alliance in the government as 'anti-national'. The meeting is said to have chosen Mohan Baidya as the party's 'trustee' while nominating Ram

Bahadur Thapa as the chairman. After the news of the gathering reached the party establishment, party chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal asked Baidya for a clarification. He maintained that the gathering was for 'political training' of the cadres. The faction tried to win over the support of the combatants, inciting fear over the uncertainty, as well as called on the families of the injured and the martyrs of the conflict to protest. While the commanders cleared their stance by expressing their solidarity with the party decision, even the others are distancing themselves from the faction. A member of the association of

injured combatants from the third division in Jutpani said: "Earlier I got carried away by their rhetoric. But now I realise, they have no vision. Their entire philosophy is rejectionist." The failure of the Baidya faction to logically back its criticism against the party's decisions and its alliance with the Madhesi front not only proves that it is ideologically bankrupt but also exposes its anarchist tendencies. More importantly, the rhetorical similarity between the Baidya faction and the NC-UML opposition indicates growing convergence between two extreme points in Nepal's political landscape.



Rope: Four-point agreement
Boat: Country

कान्तिपुर Dipak Gautam in *Kantipur*, 27 September

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“If the wrongdoing is proven, nobody will be spared.”

Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai in BBC Nepali Service interview when asked about his wife Hilsa Yami asking for government SUV.

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



“Evaluate me through my performance”



BIKRAM RAI

Interview with Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai by Rabindra Mishra on *BBC Nepali Service*, 28 September



BBC Nepali: Previous prime ministers could not move the peace process forward. How can we believe you when you say you can?

Baburam Bhattarai: The government led by Prachanda had a chance, but we missed it. The other two governments that followed were ad-hoc, we couldn’t expect much from them. The current government is led by the largest party, that is positive, now we need the NC to be on board as well.

You keep harping on consensus government, but you are no different from Jhalnath Khanal.

I took the biggest risk of my life. Either I had to quit or content the election. Maybe an individual taking risk could move the peace process and constitution writing forward. So, I took the risk.

You proclaimed zero tolerance on corruption but your cabinet is made up of tainted ministers, and even one accused of murder.

I have no answer to that. You have to evaluate it through my performance. But I have adopted a ‘zero tolerance’ policy on corruption. I have not done anything wrong since I came to office.

Then you had said you wouldn’t interfere with the civil service, but the home secretary was transferred by a minister in your cabinet.

That was an exception. Except for that, we have not interfered. I have kept my promise. It is a coalition government and we have to make compromises. I hope people will understand that.

Defence Minister Sarat Singh Bhandari set off an uproar with secessionist remarks. Can we relate this issue with the four point deal?

No. I talked to the minister. He has already clarified that this was not his intention. This government

is committed to national sovereignty and integrity.

There are reports of your wife asking for a government SUV.

I have talked to her about it, she has clarified her point of view. If it is proven that rules were violated, no

one will be spared.

Are seized properties ever going to be returned to their owners?

Let’s not talk about who gained and who lost. During the insurgency, there were instances when there was a transfer of ownership of property. Ownership of such land will be finalised only through the land reform commission.

What about the withdrawal of cases for wartime atrocities?

It is part of the CPA to withdraw political motivated cases. It is the responsibility of the government to implement the CPA.

Will the constitution be written by 20 November?

The first draft will come out by then.

Will the mandate of the CA be extended?

It should be extended until the constitution is written.

But the SC has said it is not constitutional

That’s not true.

By how long should it be extended?

It might take six months more, maximum

Will your party remain intact until then?

Don’t worry our party is not going to split.

Who made you the PM? Some say India did.

It is people who make the PM in a democracy. I won the election with 82 per cent of the votes cast in Gorkha district and secured 340 votes in the parliament. If

some see unknown forces behind it, I have nothing to say.

The rumour has it that you met representatives of RAW just before the election.

That is nonsense. Nepali politics is determined within the country. To blame foreign hand is to hide your weakness. It is a sign of incompetence. I have no comment to make.

What will be your agenda of India visit?

We have been doing our homework.

Some are concerned about installing air marshals and the extradition treaty?

Let’s not run after rumours.


bbc.co.uk/nepali

Full interview:



In Loving Memory of

Drs. Pankaj & Chaya Mehta




The ill-fated air crash on 25 September 2011 in Kathmandu took the lives of our dear colleague Dr. Pankaj Mehta (57) and his beloved wife Dr. Chaya Mehta (54). Dr. Mehta had been working with UNICEF in Nepal for five years, first with the Regional Office for South Asia, and then in the Nepal Country Office as the Chief of the Health Section. He was set to leave for his new assignment with UNICEF Philippines next week.

UNICEF Nepal and its partners in the health field will always be grateful for Dr. Pankaj's contributions to promote the health of Nepali children, adolescents and women, as well as for his push for a blend of facility and community-based care for newborns in the country. He also leaves behind a huge gap amongst development partners whom he rallied to promote Nutrition as a multi-sectoral issue in Nepal.

Dr. Pankaj lived his life according to Jain philosophy. He was humble, soft-spoken, and never wanted to hurt a soul. He was a caring son and son-in-law, a loving husband and doting father of the couple's two sons—Keyur and Dhaval. Dr. Chaya, an ophthalmologist who was locally affiliated with the KIST Medical College, was known for treating patients for free.

Before leaving the country Dr. Pankaj had wanted to fly once more past the hills and mountains he loved so much along with his wife. Although he was looking forward to his new assignment, he often repeated, "My heart will be amidst these hills of Nepal."

*Drs. Pankaj and Chaya, may your souls rest in peace.
Your spirits live on in Nepal's valleys and hills.
UNICEF Nepal Family*

unicef 

Acupuncture for pain



DHANVANTARI
Buddha Basnyat, MD

The treatment of physical pain is big business. There are pain clinics, especially in the western world where individual clinics just focus on headache, back ache, leg pain, shoulder pain etc. Acupuncture has been a treatment for pain relief, and many in Nepal as elsewhere will swear by the effectiveness of this form of therapy in relieving pain. If you are one of those who are reaping benefits from this form of therapy, this article is not meant to discourage you from acupuncture. Please continue acupuncture.

Recently as reported in a prestigious journal called Pain (what else?), E. Ernst and colleagues carried out a review of published articles on acupuncture to ascertain if indeed acupuncture alleviated pain and if there were any risks involved. The final conclusion was not clear cut, at best the evidence for the effectiveness of acupuncture for pain is mixed,



according to this review. This study was a 'mega' review, a review of reviews, if you will. It covered a range of pain syndromes. Of the 36 reviews rated as good or excellent quality, 13 (36 per cent) reached a positive or tentatively positive conclusion, 14 (39 per cent) failed to show effectiveness and 9 (25 per cent) were inconclusive. In short, the results provided meager

evidence that acupuncture is generally effective. In the 36 per cent who felt that acupuncture worked for them, there was one factor that may have helped, that is the placebo effect, which is not easy to measure to begin with. This placebo effect could possibly be attributed to a

consultation with a sympathetic doctor. Many think that health professionals in the 'alternative' branch of medicine (which includes acupuncture, homeopathy, ayurvedic medicine etc) in general better empathise with patients and treat them with a greater degree of compassion than practitioners of Western medicine. The alternative medicine doctors probably realise more clearly that the internal fear and pain of patients may be decreased with the doctor's voice, words, and smile. Perhaps the value of acupuncture is also attributable to the sympathy of the acupuncturists, rather than to their manipulative skills with needles. By the same token, devising trials to meet the standards of modern scientific medicine using double blind controlled trials to observe the true efficacy of acupuncture may not be practical or possible. Importantly, at a minimum, because acupuncture primarily deals with needles which can potentially spread diseases, it is crucial to make sure that aseptic precautions with clean needles are practiced. 🇳🇵



WEEKEND WEATHER
by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

The monsoonal fronts from the Bay of Bengal have now retreated, chased back by the westerly jet stream which now active over most of Nepal. However, because this year's rains have been so heavy it has left a lot of residual moisture and transpiration which will translate into afternoon buildup and night rain into the weekend. Not quite a "hiley Dasain" though because the dry westerly should establish itself in earnest by next week.



FRI	SAT	SUN
26-13	25-13	26-11





WEATHERCOAT

All Guard

WEATHERCOAT All Guard Truly Durable Exterior Paint



BIKRAM RAI

WATER WATER EVERYWHERE: After two days of incessant rain, the Bagmati River overflows into the slum settlements on its banks at Thapathali on Monday.



BIKRAM RAI

IN REMEMBRANCE: Prem Lata, wife of late industrialist Mohan Gopal Khetan, accepts the Nepal Agrawal Tesajwi Ratna award on behalf of her husband from Raj Kumar Agrawal, chairman of Agrawal Sewa Kendra at the President's office on Wednesday.



SANJOG MANANDHAR

DASAIN AYO: Nepal Army cleans up the Taleju Temple, Basantapur, on Thursday, preparing it for Dasain, the only time in the year it is opened for public.

UPSTAIRS IDEAS PRESENTS



20th-25th October



neighbourhood | SWEDEN

cuban league | USA

nick aggs | AUSTRALIA

cadenza | NEPAL

window seat | INDIA

bconnected | SWITZERLAND

kjc faculty | NEPAL

MUSIC FOR PEACE & COMPASSION

EVENT PARTNERS



U.S. Embassy, Kathmandu



B.R. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation



GOKARNA FOREST RESORT



SHANGRI-LA KATHMANDU



Times



JOHN PLAYERS



The Himalayan



MERCANTILE COMMUNICATIONS PVT. LTD.



WAVE



2011



JAZZ UPSTAIRS



JAZZ

Tickets available at respective venues, Jazz Upstairs, Lazimpat | Moksh, Jhamsikhel | Nepa Music Outlets, Thamel | For Bookings Call: 9803516450

Award for Banskota

Ashok K Banskota is the doctor better known for being the founder of B&B Hospital that specializes in orthopedic care. But there is a philanthropic side to him that few know about. It was for this that he was honoured recently with the World of Children Award for Health which he will receive in November in New York.

Banskota set up the Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children (HRDC) in Banepa 27 years ago as a world class centre for quality health care. Thanks to HRDC's reconstructive surgery thousands of children with deformities and disabilities live improved lives. The hospital, which doubles as a rehabilitation centre, has treated 43,000 children.

"Thirty years ago when I returned from the US, it was impossible not to be affected by the plight of children suffering from disabilities," Banskota told Nepali Times this week. "Poverty and social ostracism compounded their suffering, and that is how the idea for HRDC

came up."

He had left his career option in the US to return to Nepal and do what he always desired: make use of his expertise to serve ordinary Nepalis. "We can either turn our backs to the country or



use our skills to enhance the health care system here. The second road was more difficult but it was worth pursuing," he said.

With support from the Swiss-based Terres De

Homes, a hospital was first established in Jorpati. Funds were always short and patients too many, but the hospital continued to treat patients free of charge for many years. The 72-bed hospital at Banepa today serves as a referral centre for disabled children and offers the best medical service in the country at subsidised rates. It runs outreach centres in 40 districts to cater to patients who can't come to the hospital.

The hospital has found a workable sustainability model and finances its treatment through the sale of artificial limbs. It also plans to set up a trust fund to cover running costs.

The hospital now has eight fully equipped departments, well-trained doctors and a tie-up with Kathmandu University to run a 3-years MS program in Orthopedic surgery.

Says Banskota: "Ultimately the challenge is to continue what you start. We have trained many doctors to take our work forward." 🇳🇵

Rubeena Mahato



BIKRAM RAI

Long-lost classmates

They had last met together 39 years ago while in boarding school in Scotland, but when Ashoke Rana, Stephen Russel and Stefan Kosiuszko met again in the village of Thak in Kaski recently it was a moment to cherish.

Rana is now CEO of Himalayan Bank, Russel is a professor of molecular medicine at the world-renowned Mayo Clinic in the United States and Kosciuszko is the Asia-Pacific adviser with the London-based business services company, Praetoria. What brought the three to the tiny town north of Pokhara is Kosciuszko's daughter's fondness the place and the fact that Rana is Nepali.

Russell is involved with cutting edge research into virotherapy treatment of multiple myeloma at Mayo, and used his first visit to Nepal to stop by at the Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital and to drop in to see President Ram Baran Yadav for a doctor-to-doctor chat.



BFF: Ashok Rana with Stephen Russel at Thak in Kaski

at Bhaktapur were not working because of the depletion of radioactive cobalt-60, and he was told there was no money to replace it.

Kaski had just been declared an open-defecation free district when Rana, Kosciuszko and Russell were in Thak, and they noticed that most village homes now had latrines. Russell admits prevention is important in a country where most diseases are infections, but one can't forget treatment. "You get more bang for the buck if you get preventive," he said, "but you still need to treat sick people."

And he did get a chance to treat a patient in Thak who had severe chronic headache and numerous doctors hadn't been able to diagnose it. Russell examined him and suspected that he had temporal arteritis, which inflames the arteries supplying blood from the neck to the head.

While in Thak, the three school mates had a chance to talk about Nepal and catch up with their careers. Russell left his job with the British Medical Research Council in Cambridge to join Mayo. Kosciuszko keeps his ties with Nepal because of his daughter's love for the country, while Rana says the trio's friendship could be used to help Nepal.

Says Russell: "I want to explore the possibility of an interface between the Mayo Clinic and the health system here."

While traveling from Kathmandu to Pokhara, the visitors said they were struck by the highway, and how it is a river of life with everything going on along the road.

They also noticed Kathmandu Valley's malignant growth and how it depends on one crumbling highway for its supplies. Says Russell: "One gets the sense of it all being very precarious, things feel like they are on the brink, that something has to give."

"Coming from a very privileged medical environment, I was amazed with the dedication of doctors in Nepal who have to improvise, work with rudimentary equipment, it ends up being a labour of love," Russell told Nepali Times.

Russell noticed that the radiation therapy equipment

The Best College in Nepal

Internationally recognised IT Degrees

Islington college
(इस्लिङ्टन कलेज)

formerly known as
informatics college

Enrol Now

Industry Ready

Bachelor Degree in Computing
(3 or 4 Years Track)
Career Prospects
Professional Programmer | IT Consultant | Project Manager
Software System Developer | Web Application Developer | Database Designer
System Administrator | System Analyst

Bachelor Degree in Computer Networking and IT Security
(3 or 4 Years Track)
Career Prospects
Networking Engineer | Planning Analyst | Network Administrator
LAN/WAN Specialist Network and Security Engineer | Network and Security Designer | Network Consultant | Project Manager

Bachelor Degree in Multimedia Technologies
(3 or 4 Years Track)
Career Prospects
Video Producer | Multimedia Designer | Game Designer | Visual Architect
Web Designer/Developer | Web Content Producer | Project Manager
Interactive Writer | Web Content Producer

All courses approved by Nepal Government, Ministry of Education

Entry Requirements
10+2 (Any Stream) or Equivalent

Intakes
September/October January/February

Degree Awarded by **London Metropolitan University, UK** Credit Transfer to UK, USA & Aus.

The Only UK UNIVERSITY affiliated College in Nepal

www.facebook.com/islingtoncollege

info@islington.edu.np

441-2929
442-0054

Islington College (इस्लिङ्टन कलेज)
Kamal Pokhari, Kathmandu, Nepal



Winning starts with a risk

ROYALE PLAY win big

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

asianpaints

Gandhian Maoist and a minister on the runway

Comrade Awesome made himself the laughing stock when, soon after becoming prime minister in 2008, he said he was a man of compassion and peace and compared himself to Gautam Budhha. Taking his cue from that, protégé Com Horrible Gajurel told fellow Maoists this week: “I used to be a Gandhian.” We are now waiting for Comrade Hitman to declare himself a Shakyamuni and Comrade Bigplopp to liken himself to Nelson Mandela.



At least BRB doesn't try to be what he isn't. Still, if he really wants to fulfill the people's hopes he will have to rein in the 3Ms: Madhesis, Maoists and the Missus. After the 'Mandu Post this week exposed Com Yummy bossing people around and trying to forcibly requisition a Prado, Comrade Hubby had a man-to-woman chat with her that evening. By Thursday, she had reduced the demand from Prado to Bolero. And if there are any other follow-ups to that story, she'll probably have to settle for a Nano. With all the stolen SUVs in Maoist possession (one



NAVESH CHITRAKAR

can recognise them on the street by their diagonal yellow-green license plates and kamikaze drivers) why does Yummy insist on a govt vehicle anyway? Whatever the case, BRB needs to have another pillow talk with his not-so-better half.



So the entourage arrived at the VVIP lounge at TIA for the prime minister's departure to New York. He didn't take up the Ass' humble suggestion to stand in the one hour queue at immigration with fellow-outbound Nepalis, it has to be said. The airline offered BRB a free upgrade which the prime minister politely declined. Eye-witnesses reported that Com Yummy and Deputy PM Kazi Narayan were visibly crestfallen on economy bulkhead seats. By

the time the group got to Doha for the seven-hour layover, they were sulking because the prime minister refused to go to the Business Lounge. At JFK, BRB appeared none the worse for wear since he is acclimatized to sleeping only four hours a day. But Kazi looked wilted. Which must be why he decided not to fly back with his boss, and postponed his return by two days so he could upgrade himself.



The Indians are always saying the Buddha was born in India, but now they have even laid claim to the Sept 18 earthquake. Why is it called the “Sikkim Earthquake” when the epicenter was located 5 km inside Nepali territory? The student wings of some parties may want to stage a

protest outside the Indian Embassy, or even go into an indefinite and/or fast-unto-death (whichever comes first) to lay Nepal's rightful claim to the epicenter.



If you think KTM Incontinental Airport and there is a crisis like a cracked runway, an earthquake or a bomb scare all hell really breaks loose. When the earthquake struck and the control tower started swaying, our intrepid ATCs apparently abandoned their stations, leaving planes circling in the air without instructions. It's now become commonplace to have monkeys on the runway, but there was a new twist recently when a flight had to go around because the Right Honourable Tourism Minister decided to do a surprise inspection of the runway cracks just as QR351 was on final approach.



While the Parsa police frantically looks for Com Godman in connection with murder of a fellow Godman in Parsa one year back, the Minister-at-large was

seen posing with Kamred PM at a function on Monday. When mule's correspondent took it to a bigwig in Nepal Foolish, he said the warrant is yet to make it through Naubiseko ukalo and is hoping that the heavy Dasain traffic will delay it until it is no longer warranted.



And, last but not least, we have three quotes of the week:

“I will not criticise anyone for three months. Anyone who takes that as a sign of weakness is a running dog lackey of imperialism.”

- PKD

“We didn't loot property during the war, we transferred their ownership.”

- BRB on BBC

“Our torch rally was called off because of bad weather. We took a rain check.”

- Comrade Cloud



GET DRIVEN BY PERFORMANCE
RATHER THAN FREEBIES THIS DASHAIN & TIHAR.
DRIVE A KIA AND EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE.



KIA MOTORS

We are open on Saturdays also.
Sole Importer and Distributor:
CONTINENTAL ASSOCIATES PVT. LTD., Continental Center, Garidhara, Tel: 4426465, 2054000, 9841232739. KIA PLAZA, Tinkune, Kathmandu, Tel: 977-1-2054003-4-5, 4111776, 4111616, 9851030932.
Regional Dealers:
Auto Village, Ratopul, Tel:01-4461794 | Everest Auto Mart, Banepa, Tel: 011-662609 | A & D Auto House, Pokhara, Tel:061-522094 | Auto Mart, Biratnagar, Tel:021-533154.
New Sakura International, Butwal, Tel: 9857029499 | Ratnalaxmi International Pvt. Ltd., Nepalgunj, Tel:081-551075 | Right Trade Link, Narayanghat, Tel: 056-522781.
*Accessories shown in above picture may not be the part of the standard equipment.

2011 GOOD DESIGN Award Winner (Transportation)
red dot design award winner 2011
EURO NCAP
product design award 2011

The Power to Surprise™