

NEPALI Times

#577

4 - 10 November 2011

16 pages

Rs 30

FURNITURE LAND STORE



Tripureswore:
4100549, 4224797,
4228833
Maitighar:
4266372
Maharanjung:
4016277



Shiva's Cafe Corner-(Bhaktapur)
Hotel Chautari, Paradise Inn-(Nagarkot)
For Business Inquiry: 9841505390

LACIE Rikiki Go, USB 2.0

Available Sizes : 500 GB / 1TB

- Ultra-small, huge capacity up to 1TB
- Embedded cable
- Resistant aluminum exterior
- USB Boost* and backup software included

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

Step in for more varieties at
LIFE STYLE
design & decor

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

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

EverExceed **SOLARLAND** **SunLink PV**
SHARP **KANAKA** **UNIKOR**

Installing Solar PV Since 1991

SHERA™
CHALLENGING POSSIBILITY

Valley Plus
Valley Plus Pvt. Ltd
Patan Hospital Road, Lagankhel, Lalitpur, Nepal
Ph:01 5548418

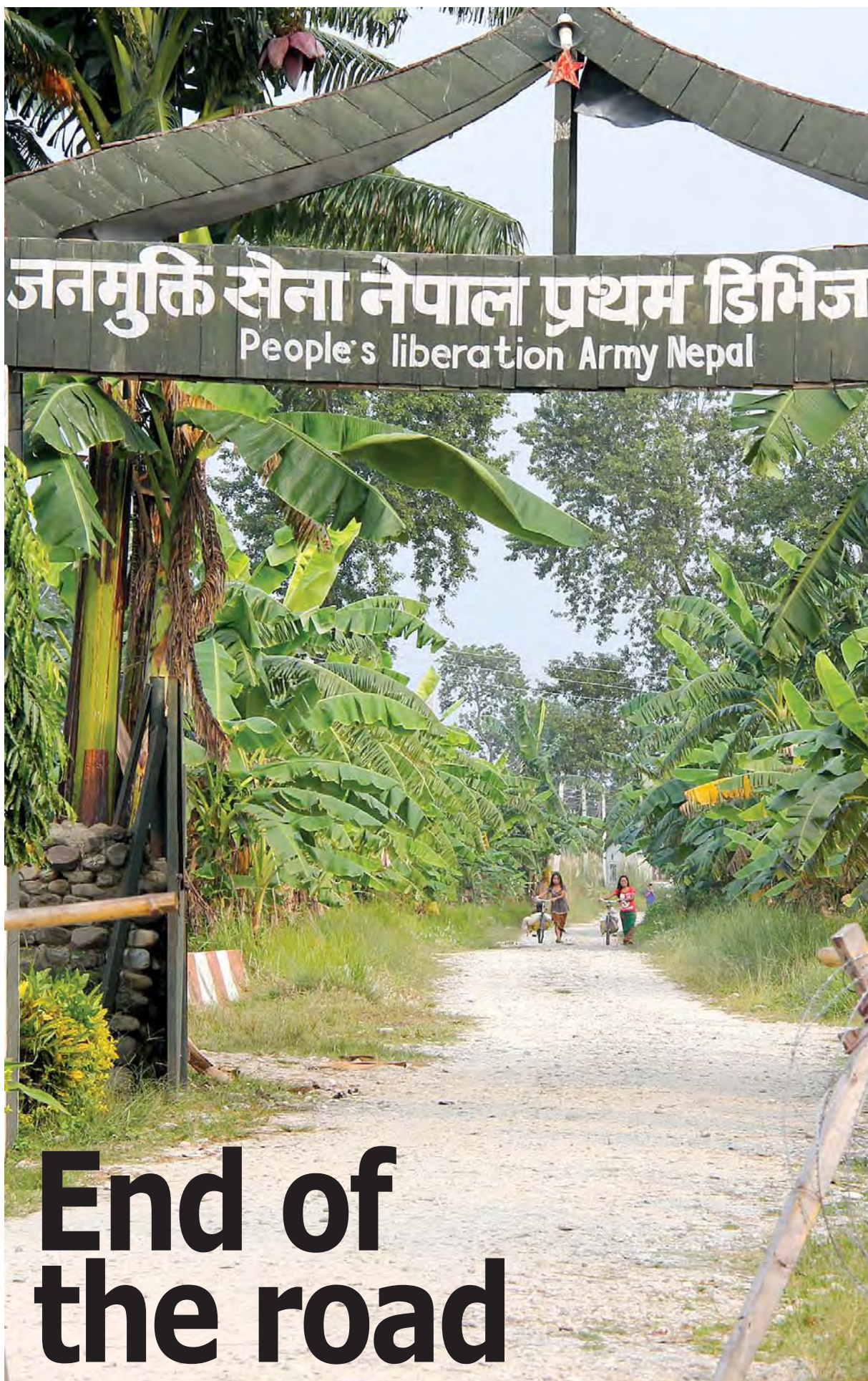
If all goes well, the seven-point deal is likely to see Maoist ex-fighters finally leaving the camps (like this one, right, in Chulachuli of Ilam) that they have lived in now for nearly five years. All Maoist commanders have cautiously welcomed the seven-point deal, and there isn't expected to be any major opposition to it. However, in Surkhet, deputy commander Durga Chaudhari held a press conference on Thursday denouncing the deal. "How is it suitable for a party that got to power by waging an armed struggle to suddenly be a representative of the Buddha and preach peace?" he asked.

Across the political spectrum, there was a surprising new unity of purpose to see the deadlock ended. Some NC leaders raised doubts about implementation because of the ambiguity in Tuesday's agreement about returning seized property by 23 November. Nevertheless, such is the overwhelming public pressure on the politicians to end their bickering and deliver on peace and the constitution that they have finally acted, even though it took them three years to do what should have taken six months. ■

Editorial p2
The mother of all agreements



BOLLYNATYAM
p6-7



End of the road

KRISHNA SINJALI

UNITED SPIRITS NEPAL PVT. LTD.

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

Antiquity™

USN1300608/11

THE MOTHER OF ALL AGREEMENTS

On the face of it, there is little new in the agreement that was signed by the main political blocs on Tuesday night at Baluwatar. It was the mother of all agreements that agreed to implement past agreements. The seven-point agreement is just a rehashing and reiteration of some of the four-point, five-point, 12-point and even the 40-point agreements of the past. But, as Pushpa Kamal Dahal said with only a hint of irony after the deal was done: “This is the beginning of a new beginning.”

Indeed, the euphoric tone of some of the reaction nationwide to the deal brokered by Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai stemmed more from a sense of desperation that after a slumberous holiday and with another Constituent Assembly deadline looming, the leaders had nothing to show Nepalis. The netas must have had the sense that the public perception of them was at a nadir. Now, they can safely extend the CA deadline again without major public backlash.

This agreement was actually negotiated and brokered during the tenure of Madhav Kumar Nepal, two prime ministers ago. So there was no reason it couldn't have been signed last year. The only argument that could be made was that Pushpa Kamal Dahal hadn't yet seen the light, and perhaps the terms of integration and compensation weren't yet “sold” to the fighters in the camps. So what happened at the Radisson on Tuesday afternoon while the tea party at Baluwatar was going full swing, was just a continuation of the Gokarna lunch with a gap of about 12 months.



BIKRAM RAI

We don't yet know what the fine print is on this week's agreement. But there is rumoured to be a power-sharing rider about who gets to lead the next government and when. In fact, despite all the leaks about haggling over the numbers of Maoists to be integrated and the compensation

package for those opting for rehabilitations, the really contentious issue seems to have been bargaining over future leadership.

Whatever the case, we can all breathe a sigh of relief that the leaders have for the first time in a long time risen above their selfishness and partisanship to show some accountability to the people who elected them. To call it “statesmanlike”, as some commentators have this week, would be hyperbole. They just did what they were supposed to do four years ago. Still, better late than never.

The next step in the mainstreaming of Maoists in Nepali must be for them to abjure violence once and for all. Baburam Bhattarai, the ideological architect of the wasteful 10-year war, made a 180 degree turnaround in New Delhi last month when he wooed the very Indian investors he said should be thrown out in his 40-point demand in 1996.

If he can do that, there is no reason his party leadership can't now say: “Our armed struggle was in response to the structural violence of the state, we have now concluded that as a duly-elected political party we don't see the need anymore to adhere to the ideology of violence.”

Baburam Bhattarai and Pushpa Kamal Dahal may find it difficult to publicly admit that a war that killed 16,000 Nepais was unnecessary. But as a party that now believes in the ballot, it's about time they pledged their allegiance to non-violent pluralistic democracy. All the same, it would be nice if they could say sorry.

ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

THE NEW DEAL

BRB is facing too little payment for the damage he has caused to this country. Anurag Acharya ('The New Deal', #576) clearly does not understand the implications of that damage. The use of adjectives, honorifics and academic title like PhD is his attempt to prove that the man is bigger than his actions. My best guess is that Acharya is either an idiot or a beneficiary of those actions.

Beeb

- It's OK, Jyoti Malhotra, Baburam Bhattarai had to use the gun and now he uses the pen for same purpose: looting, threatening, fear and embarrassment for his actions ('Guns to Pens', #576). Ask him again why he shifted to pen and get back to us, please.

Johnson

- The New Deal is no Big Deal.

Kiran L

MAN POWER

Its a time to generate employment at home, as you say in your editorial 'The power of Nepal's man power', #576. Our entire national policy should be to reach that goal. There should be easy capital for those who want to invest in business, there should be a proactive policy towards retaining our manpower. But our middle class is going to the Middle East. To change that we have to change our education policy so that the day you graduate you can stand on your own feet, and not have to work for someone else.

Yanpras

- Safe migration is the need of the hour. Your calculation of 200 deaths per year of migrant workers is only 10 per cent of the total. The primary cause is cardiac arrest

at 55 per cent, next is RTA. Death due to heat stroke is rare and occupational hazard is within controllable limit. The rate of death has decreased from 114 to 44 person per 100,000, and this is the result of action by community organisations and the government. Let's give credit where it is due.

Radha Krishna Deo

- You say in your editorial: 'A ruinous war was fought to right the wrongs in society so Nepalis wouldn't have to migrate for work. The architect of that war is now the prime minister.' And yet you have such high expectations on a person who unleashed murder, loot, extortion and destruction on Nepal. Triumph of hope over experience! Baburam will never see the light. Just hope that *Nepali Times* does.

Jange

- The number of Nepali migrant workers who have died in the Gulf now exceeds 8,000. The Prime Minister himself is handling Ministry of Labor and Transportation and as per law he is chairperson of FEPB (Foreign employment Promotion Board) too. The government collects Rs 1 billion a year in its Welfare Fund with contribution of migrant workers themselves. The interest on this alone would be Rs 10 million annually. Yet, there is no program addressed at worker safety.

Nepali

ENCOUNTERS IN NEPAL

Cai Yun has amusing observations about haggling in Kathmandu ('Strange Encounters', #576). But when I was in China I

had to pay more than twice for my flight from Beijing to Chengdu than the Chinese. This was in the late 1990s. But I agree that the dual pricing is really discriminatory in Nepal now. I really loved China's investment in infrastructure.

Chandra Gurung

- What an irony. A Chinese person complaining about bargaining in Nepal. What next? A lecture on corporate governance by Rajat Gupta and Bernie Madoff?

Buzz

- During my first visit to Shanghai, I paid RMB 390 for boxer shorts from a street vendor thinking that Shanghai is most expensive city in China. Now, I realize I paid a “foreigner tax”.

Vayen

- I do not feel it's anything wrong for Nepal to have two rates for Nepalis and foreigners. Thailand does the same thing. Anyway, it is as the real world. Foreigner = money. You go to Tianenmen Square, it's the same thing.

Gyarel

- I stayed in China for four years and the conversation Cai Yun writes about in the streets of Kathmandu were exactly the conversation I had. Thousands of times. It's just that no one said I was lucky, they wouldn't joke and smile, and frowned at me. Anyway, Cai Yun is luckier than a “western” tourist who have had to pay twice what she paid.

Nanana

MEDITATION TOURISM

Thanks a lot to Dorji Tsering Sherpa for sharing the news of Dhamma Pokhara Vipassana Center at Pokhara ('Now, meditation tourism', #576). Many tourists who come to Nepal exploring its natural beauty also have an interest in searching for their inner selves. There are two meditation centres in the Lumbini Masterplan. Extending the visitor stay in Lumbini for spiritual practice is a real support to Nepal's tourism industry. The uniqueness of the Buddha's birthplace is Nepal's unique selling point. Wish Nepal success in promoting spiritual tourism.

Sayalay Bhaddamanika

ARNIKO SKATEBOARDS

Thanks Arter ('Arniko's skateboards', #576), your innovation and contribution are much appreciated in Nepal, hope you will help Nepali products to be better known in Europe.

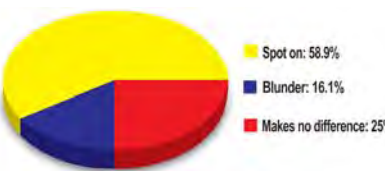
Umesh



Weekly Internet Poll # 577

Q. Was Baburam Bhattarai right in signing the investment deal with India?

Total votes: 1,349



Weekly Internet Poll # 578. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Will the seven-point deal put the peace process back on track?



Nepali Times on Facebook
Follow @nepalitimes on Twitter



The right to know



THIS IS IT
Rubeena Mahato

Right to information (RTI) petition filed by an advocacy organisation and an order from the Rastriya Suchana Aayog later let the cat out of the bag this week.

The Finance Ministry which had earlier refused to disclose the list of VAT defaulters to parliament's Public Accounts Committee citing defaulters' right to confidentiality was forced to make the complete list public.

The list just provides names of firms, some of which are being investigated while others have since been given a clean chit. There is no information about the amount embezzled. The ministry hasn't even released the original investigation report where there is more detail. Nonetheless, the decision marks a watershed in the history of RTI in Nepal which, although touted as being the most progressive in the region, has never really been tested.

The general perception about RTI being solely the domain of journalism has also been broken by this incident. In fact, it has shown how citizens should take charge of their own rights because media is not always the safest bet. Fearing reprisal by advertisers, a large section of media previously hushed up the issue. When they should have proactively investigated it after an online portal first brought out the scam, the mainstream media played it down.

When there should have been pressure on the ministry to release more details, there was deafening silence in the big newspapers. The gap was filled by social media networks and blogs, which do not face advertiser pressure. However, internet sites are also not bound by defamation and libel restrictions, which means irresponsible anonymous postings can destroy reputations of the innocents as well.

Transparency is the biggest safeguard of democracy

People have criticised the disclosure of the list saying it harms business. No doubt, all firms on the list should not have been lumped together, and care should have been taken to ensure that the investigation process was not influenced. But if anyone is to be blamed for the lackadaisical and incomplete release of information, it is the ministry itself. There is no point condemning the RTI petition. In fact we should be demanding clearer and more detailed information. It was the suspicion that then Finance Minsiter Bharat Mohan Adhikari was protecting fraudsters in high place, for example, that forced Finance Secretary Rameswor Khanal to resign earlier this year.

On a recent lecture to Kathmandu journalists, The Hindu's investigative journalist P Sainath talked about how corporate media has "a structural compulsion to lie". This may be why we need citizen journalists who operate outside the incestuous network of business, politics, bureaucracy and the media. The mainstream press has time and again failed the test when it chooses to prioritise the concerns and interests of big business rather the public's interest. It is no wonder then that the big media which did not speak for the taxpayers' right to know is now bending over its back for the defaulters' right to confidentiality. Their standard format of covering such stories is making them as vague as possible and withholding information.

The mainstream media should now be using the right to information petitions to uncover wrong-doing in high places. We should be holding politicians accountable by demanding information on their sources of funding, or asking NGOs to produce their balance sheets, demanding the list of human rights cases the government has decided to dismiss.

Barring few sensitive areas tied to defense and national security, in a democracy the public has the right to know information that directly affects it. In fact, governments should proactively provide all information relating to public offices in easily accessible and understandable format.

This is not just a theoretical exercise. Transparency is the biggest safeguard of democracy, information improves governance, and better governance lifts living standards. 🇳🇵

The Best College in Nepal

Internationally recognised IT Degrees

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.

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

"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

Why Monsanto?



GUEST COLUMN
Sascha Fuller

In a USAID press release last month announcing a partnership between the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and Monsanto on a pilot maize production project in Nepal, we heard the same tired arguments of more nutritious food, increased yields and food security, and the requirement of less chemicals.

As elsewhere, these arguments were used to justify the introduction of hybrid seeds and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO). Throughout the world there is evidence to the contrary. Two years after the introduction of Monsanto seeds in Canada and the United States, for example, yields started to go down between 10-15 per cent. There has been a substantial increase in the use of chemicals resulting in the creation of “super weeds” requiring more highly toxic “super” chemicals, some containing agent orange.

Canadian activists say Monsanto uses test plots to introduce GMOs into a country because the dominant gene in the new seeds spread through pollination, contaminating conventional and organic farms. Only four years after the introduction of Monsanto’s seeds in Canada, no pure canola seeds and no pure soybean seeds remain.

It is frightening, then, that under the pretext of ‘improving food security’ USAID will be implementing the pilot program in the key and already well established maize producing districts of Chitwan, Nawalparasi, and Kabhre.

To gain control of the seed supply, Monsanto is known to intentionally break down the social fabric of rural communities. In a country where people, including USAID, are working to build cohesion, this is a crucial point to consider. Monsanto takes away a farmer’s right and ability to use his/her own seed and forever after farmers must buy their seeds and chemicals from Monsanto.

Hybrid maize seeds were actually introduced in Nepal a decade ago. In the foothills where I am living and researching environmental change, farmers are currently using hybrid corn seeds produced by the Indian company Shriram Bioseed Genetics, among others.

Instead of improving harvests, a USAID program to push hybrid maize will make Nepali farmers more destitute

Hybrid seeds need chemical fertiliser. Nowadays, if people do not increase their chemical fertiliser use each year, their crops will not grow. New grasses, disease and insects have also arrived, native grasses have been compromised and the soil damaged. Poor farmers must spend more money and time dealing with this.

Heirloom seeds do not grow well in the new chemical ‘rich’ soil so people here are forced further into a relationship of dependency with the Agricultural Development Office where they must buy hybrid seeds and chemical fertiliser. All this adds to their monthly expenses, which they can ill afford.

If hybrid seeds have already been introduced and, more than likely, farmers in the target districts already provided with training from the districts’ agricultural offices, and if already well-established agri-business companies exist in Nepal, why has USAID chosen to work in partnership with Monsanto, if not for control of the seed supply and future introduction of GMOs?

USAID and Monsanto are not implementing this program for the ‘development’ of Nepal and the betterment of the people. It will profit both, and cement the relationship between the US government and Monsanto already revealed in Wikileaks.

A small number of *thulo manchhe haru* in the Nepal government will profit, but Nepali farmers will get poorer, Nepali soil will be damaged. The export potential will very likely be damaged with many countries refusing to import food products from Monsanto’s hybrid and GMO seeds. If the pilot program goes ahead, the United States will leave a legacy of environmental degradation, human health issues, social disintegration and hardship.

The USAID-Monsanto partnership is blatant exploitation of a corrupt and unstable government in Nepal. There is no ‘point of no return’ when it comes to this issue. Monsanto’s presence in Nepal will be irreversible and will result in the introduction of genetically-modified crops, further alienating farmers from their land and food production, with disastrous consequences.

The majority of the people of Nepal will not be better off, in fact, their lives and livelihoods will be made more difficult. 🇳🇵

Sascha Fuller is a PhD candidate in environmental anthropology at the University of Sydney, Australia and is currently conducting research in rural Nepal.



Going to seed

Hybrid and genetically-modified seeds may create more problems than they solve

A US-government supported pilot project to introduce into Nepal hybrid maize seeds produced by the multinational, Monsanto, has set off alarm bells over its potential harm.

USAID’s Nepal Economic, Agriculture, and Trade Activity (NEAT) has got the Department of Agriculture and Monsanto to set up test plots to promote the new seeds in Chitwan, Nawalparasi and Kavre districts. This pilot plan will train 20,000 farmers in hybrid maize production methods and help in marketing the seeds.

Last month, Monsanto India’s Amitabh Jaipuria was in Kathmandu for a promotional launch in which he said the project would improve Nepal’s food security and enhance income of Nepali farmers. USAID Mission Director in Nepal, David C Atteberry also said: “Most maize farmers are unaware of the health and financial benefits that high-yielding hybrid seeds can provide. Improved seeds and targeted capacity building on crop management will allow maize producers in Nepal to reap the full benefit of their labour.”

Nepal only grows half its current annual requirement of 270,000 tons of maize for human and animal consumption, the rest is imported. USAID says the project will help make Nepal self-sufficient and save Rs 200 million in imports.

Not everyone is convinced. Activists are worried about Monsanto’s history of being a “Trojan horse” to “infiltrate” agriculture in countries around the world and making them dependent on their seeds, agro-chemicals and other inputs.

They are also apprehensive about Monsanto’s interest in genetically-modified crops and suspect the company will use its test plots to propagate seeds that will contaminate the gene pool of local heirloom seeds. (See Guest Column, left)

Organic farmers and activists have a

whole list of negative side effects of hybrid seeds: the increase of inputs that put farmers in debt and lead to suicides, the promotion of unsustainable monoculture, hybrid seeds demand more and more fertiliser and pesticides with each season to maintain yields.

Sterile “terminator seeds” smuggled from India which will not germinate after one use ruined farmers in the Tarai last year. These seeds are now contaminating local varieties of maize which are openly pollinated, scientists say, and eroding seed diversity. Activists believe Monsanto’s long-term agenda is to introduce its GMO maize into Nepal.

Monsanto has an international reputation for pushing genetically modified organisms (GMO) in agriculture, often with the support of US trade and aid missions abroad. It introduced DDT in the 1950s and is now the biggest producer of the herbicide known as glyphosate. Critics say it uses GMOs and hybrids to also boost the sales of its environmentally-destructive agro-chemicals. In India, the company has been sued by the Andhra Pradesh government for pushing genetically modified cotton which led to thousands of suicides by indebted farmers.

Agriculture scientist and rice specialist Rajendra Uprety in Morang says hybrid maize was introduced into Nepal long ago, and adds that most farmers have learnt to ensure that they have to intercrop and balance the use of organic fertilisers. “As far as I know GMO maize has not yet come into Nepal, although there is some genetically-modified cotton and brinjal,” he told Nepali Times.

No matter what Nepal does, he says, if India opts for GMO seeds Nepal will not be able to stop its infiltration from across the open border. 🇳🇵

Rice crisis

HARIDEVI ROKAYA in JUMLA

A fungal infection threatens to blow away 80 per cent of this year’s paddy harvest in the Tila Valley of Jumla, the world’s highest rice cultivation area.

The Karnali is a chronic food-deficit area but the irrigated valleys of the Tila and Sinja rivers have consistently good harvests of the Marsi variety of

high altitude rice. But their hopes were dashed as the harvest time neared. “We burnt our paddy fields as the yield was very low,” says Devu Nepali, who blames the heavy monsoon rains during the transplantation period for the spread of the rice blast fungus.

However Bed Chaulagain of the District Agriculture Office here says the indiscriminate use of pesticides could be the main reason for the spread of the fungus. “Excessive use of nitrogen fertilizer and pesticides that also kill good bugs that would otherwise have controlled the fungus could have made the conditions right for the spread of the blast lesion in the rice plants,” Chaulagain says.

Other farmers like Nepali say they have lost half their harvest, and are now worried about how they will provide for their families through Jumla’s harsh winter months. Kal Bahadur Rawal is now thinking of migrating to find work to buy food for his family this year.

Chaulagain says that some farmers who planted the Chandanath variety of rice had healthy harvests and didn’t suffer losses, but it was the Marsi who suffered the worst losses. There are 3,000 hectares of paddy planted in Jumla every year, and the town itself needs about 25,000 tons of rice. But this year the district capital may have to depend on outside rice to see itself through the winter. 🇳🇵

Guilty until proven innocent

The names of alleged VAT evaders are public. Now what?



MY TWO PAISA

Paavan Mathema

Last week, the who's who of the business sector made it to the front page of almost every daily in the country. But for the wrong reasons. The businesses were in a list of more than 500 companies involved in VAT evasion scam, released by the Ministry of Finance following a directive from the Rastriya Suchana Ayog.

Neither the business houses nor tax collectors have a very good track record in Nepal. So when people turned on their tv sets on that evening, their assumption that all businessmen are crooks was confirmed.

Stories about VAT evasion were first broken a few months ago. The Finance Ministry refused to provide details of the investigation but lists circulated through blog sites. The companies involved have officially been made public now, thanks to an application by Tara Nath Dahal of Freedom Forum that fights for right to information.

While this decision was a test case for right to information, the companies whose names were disclosed lost their right to confidentiality and were immediately presumed guilty in a collective trial by media. When the companies were made public,

the status of individual cases were not considered. Some of the cases are still under investigation, some are fighting their cases at the Revenue Tribunal, and others are just under suspicion.

In many of the 385 firms listed for faking VAT bills, the users of those companies have been held responsible. However, the names were reported in the media like all of the companies were already guilty of the charge. The list included leading companies of the country, also the

is jailed until innocence is proven. Prime Minsiter Baburam Bhattarai signed the BIPPA agreement with India, but potential investors in Nepal are also looking at our legal practices, and what they see doesn't inspire much confidence.

Whether they are taxpayers or tax evaders is not for the public or the media to decide. Unless these companies had a legal stamp on them for their irregularities, their names should have been kept confidential.

for anyone to make any accusation against anyone, there is no legal recourse. Tarring all businesses (the honest ones as well as the crooks) with the same brush and presuming they are guilty until proven innocent goes against law, it is not justice.

Since fake VAT bills leave a paper trail, it should not be difficult to separate the wheat from the chaff. There are institutions charged with conducting such investigations, the business have the recourse to appeal. That is how the law works. The way it is going, small firms willing to mend their ways might have a difficult time even coming up with the penalty.

Tax investigation is nothing new, it is common all over the world. But nowhere in the world are "suspects" labeled "guilty". Such early disclosure is likely to discourage new investment and will negatively impact on businesses that have built their reputation on integrity.

The investigation will take its course and hopefully identify the real counterfeiters and evaders. It is then that we should use our right to information and ensure that the guilty are punished with the full force of the law. But right now, I'd rather demand a mechanism to check if the VAT bill I have in my hand is authentic.



biggest employers and tax payers.

It could be many of them are indeed guilty, but we don't know until they are proven to have committed a crime in a court of law. That is what the rule of law means. A breakdown of the judicial system means that anyone can be framed by a business rival, and the person

Flashing the names will only make the investigation more difficult now. Companies that were cooperating during the investigation in order to save their face, now have less to lose. The investigating officers may have a difficult time gaining their trust. The anonymity of cyberspace provides the cloak

DESIGNED WITH YOU IN MIND

दशैं तिहारको
SEASON
खुशीको
REASON

दशैं तिहारको रमाइलो Season मा Onida ले खुशी हुने Reason ल्याएको छ जस अन्तर्गत प्रत्येक खरिदमा उपहार पक्का ।
32" LCD TV को खरिदमा Onida DVD, 22/24" LCD TV को खरिदमा Rico Pressure Cooker, 14", 15", 21" TV को खरिदमा T-Shirt, Washing Machine र Microwave Oven को खरिदमा CG Dry Iron उपहार स्वरूप प्राप्त गर्नुहोस् ।

32" LCD TV

FREE ONIDA DVD

22/24" LCD TV

FREE RICO PRESSURE COOKER

14", 15", 21" TV

FREE T-SHIRT

WASHING MACHINE

FREE CG DRY IRON

MICROWAVE OVEN

FREE CG DRY IRON

CG EOL

CHAUDHARY HOUSE, SANAPA
P.O. Box: 1073, Kathmandu, Nepal,
Tel: 977-1-5525041, 5525039,
5534141 (D)
Fax: 977-1-5529270

CG DIGITAL PVT. LTD.
(Multi-Brand Showroom)
AC Complex
Chabahil, Kathmandu,
Tel: 01-6205707, 4461234

TOLLFREE NO.
166 00 100 211

12 MONTHS WARRANTY
on LCD TVs, Washing Machines, Microwave ovens

48 MONTHS WARRANTY
on CRT Televisions

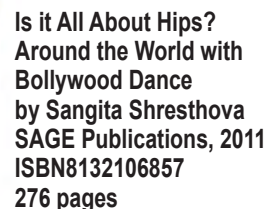
EXCLUSIVE SERVICE STATIONS

It is not all glamour. Bombay has quite another connotation for tens of thousands of young Nepali women who are trafficked to brothels there every year, often sold into sexual slavery by their own relatives. Shresthova looks at the seedy side of Kathmandu's dance bars and the girls who work there, finding

Straight from the hip



Kunda Dixit



**THE WORLD'S
FAVOURITE
CHICKEN
IS HERE.**

KFC
RESTAURANT

it's
finger
lickin'
good

**KFC NOW OPEN AT
BLUE BIRD MALL
TRIPURESWOR, KATHMANDU**

This package of chicken contains
ADDED MONOSODIUM GLUTAMATE
(MSG) WHICH MAY CAUSE ALLERGIC REACTIONS
IN INFANTS BELOW 12 MONTHS



'Bollynatyam' and the remixing of Indian dance

Born to a Czech mother and a Nepali father, Sangita Shresthova (above) was interested in dance as an art form from a young age. She spoke to Nepali Times recently about her new book, *Is It All About Hips?*

Nepali Times: Where did your interest in Bollywood dance forms come from?

Sangita Shresthova: When I was growing up in Kathmandu, my cousin owned a video rental store, and I became the passive consumer of whatever Hindi film he was copying. I enjoyed the song-and-dance sequences the most and was soon trying to copy the movements when I was alone. No one in my family danced, and I really credit Hindi cinema with giving me initial courage to even think about dance seriously. Several years later, I was a somewhat lonely and horribly homesick freshman at Princeton University. This is when Bollywood became a way for me to keep the semblance of a connection to a region of the world I missed terribly. But, it was really at MIT in the Comparative Media Studies program where I finally realised that my apparently disparate interests in dance, media, South Asia and globalisation all connected through Bollywood dance. There was no looking back after that.

And where is the Czech connection in all this?

Well, my mother is Czech, so that was probably the first connection. Beyond that, I was lucky to be in Prague when a renewed interest in Hindi cinema was just beginning to take shape. My friends and I started the Prague Bollywood Festival, later renamed as Prague Indian Film Festival, in 2002. The festival really became a place where I could reflect on what Bollywood means to the largely non-South Asian fans and audiences in the Central Europe. I also got to observe how these meanings

changed over time. These observations led me to question what Bollywood means in other geographies.

As a dancer yourself, what for you is the most inspiring part of Bollynatyam as a genre?

Bollynatyam is a term I use to describe my approach to Indian dance. It is not a technique, it is also not a set vocabulary of movements and gestures. Rather, it is an approach that situates Indian classical and Bollywood dances within a historical and cultural continuum to recognise contemporary trends while respecting past events that contributed to their existence. For example, a gesture is laden with meaning in Indian classical dance. When it is "borrowed" in a Bollywood sequence this meaning should be considered carefully. This does not mean that this gesture should not be borrowed at all. It just means that the borrowing should be done with respect and awareness. Similarly, the translation of Indian dance across media forms, into film and new media, can and in my opinion should be informed by the visual cultures of these dance forms. So, in effect, Bollynatyam is a contemporary and culturally sensitive approach to remixing Indian dance.

But there are now more and more Bollywood films without dance numbers, is the dance form going to be extinct?

I think that we are going to see a further segmentation of the Bollywood film genre. Some films will continue to feature dances as integral narrative elements of the tried-and-tested blockbuster. Others will delve into different narrative conventions, including those that do not include dance. In many ways, this is not new. There have always been Hindi films without song-and-dance sequences. Who knows? The current trend toward segmentation may even allow dance to re-emerge as a central and well thought through and choreographed theme in some films.



Spanish Tapas with Dutch Beer

This season, visit The Pub at Hotel Yak & Yeti for some traditional Spanish Tapas with **Heineken Beer** from Holland.

Tantalize your taste buds with our Chef's recommendations of hot Tapas like Chicken Liver wrapped with Bacon, Barbeque Meat Ball, Spinach & Mushroom Cheese Quesadilla and cold Tapas like Marinated Artichokes, Chilli Marinated Stuffed Olives, Chicken & Ham Croissant among others.

Celebrate the combination of Spanish Tapas and Dutch Beer that is perfect for any occasion.

Date : November 1 - 15, 2011
Time : 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Venue : The Pub, Hotel Yak & Yeti
Price : Tapas : Rs. 1000 + taxes (including 1 can of 500 ml **Heineken Beer** complimentary)
Extra **Heineken Beer** (Can) : Rs. 400 + taxes
For reservations, please contact Guest Services at 4248999



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"

Element

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

DECC

Opens banquet services

- wedding
- birthday
- corporate parties

business meetings seminars events workshops exhibitions

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



HIMAL
Khabarpatrika
2-16 November 2011

COVER STORY:

Baburam the Chameleon
The Prime Minister makes a U-turn on many of his ideals
Interview: Binod Chaudhari on the BIPPA Agreement

EDITORIAL:

Maoists Must Now Abjure Violence

REPORTS

Homestay Tourism and Chitwan Conservation
Hope for Govinda Mainali
Property Seized by Maoists Being Sold Off
Overcharging Hospitals
Women Health Volunteers
Plight of Maoists Injured During the War



EVENTS

Existence: Ashtitwa, an exhibition of paintings by Prithvi Shrestha. *Till 17 November, 11am to 6pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revisited, 4218048, 4438979*

Nepal Cine Symposium, a film festival and network event aimed to highlight young cinematic possibilities from South Asia. *Tickets range from Rs 1500 to Rs 3200, 18 to 22 November, 4pm, www.docskool.org, 4471104*

Exquisite collection of Fine Art, prints and paintings by artists Uma Shah, Neera Pradhan and Seema Shah. *Till 6 November, 10.30 pm to 6pm, Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Park Gallery, RNJC Pulchowk, Patan, parkgallery@wlink.com.np, 5522307*

Blow up the Spot, live performances by artists from Kathmandu and after party with DJs like DJ Niral, DJ Rabbit and DJ Finzok. *4 November, 6 pm onwards, Club Platinum, Durbarmarg*

As It Happens, an exhibition of paintings by Soni Shakya. *Till 17th November, 11am to 6pm. Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revisited, 4218048*

The Constant Change: 12 photo stories from Nepal, after 14 weeks, the 'Masterclass with Mads Nissen' participants share with you the stories they have produced. *4 to 13 November, 4pm on 4 November and 12pm to 7pm till November 13, Nepal Art Council Gallery, Babar Mahal*

Youth Festival, International Youth Fellowship organizes a fun filled fest for young people. *Admissions is priced at Rs 2000, 12 to 15 November, Tribhuvn Army Officer's Club. Tudikhel*



Australian Big Day Out, take a break from the cold and go outdoors for Austrlian wining and dining along with universities. *12 November, 11pm to 7pm, Moksh, Jhamsikhel, 9851032041*

Amateur Cup, the Futsal Arena of Godavari Alumnae Association presents a knock out challenge to showcase your skills with football. *5 November to 6 November, Futsal Arena, Thamel*

MUSIC

Mukti and Revival VOL II, folio.music.session presents rocking tunes from mukti and revival. *Tickets are priced at Rs 300 and Rs 500, 11 November, 7pm to 10pm, The Factory, Thamel, Contact: 4269927, 4254369*

Kites Band, A cosmopolitan rendezvous to unwind in the evenings presenting live music by "Kites" Band and snooker to refresh. *4pm to 11pm. Corner Bar, Radisson Hotel, 4411818 ext. 1330*



Tribute to Floyd, a concert dedicated to the legendary pioneers of rock. *12 November, 6.30pm to 9.30pm, Army Officer' Club, Sundhara*



Himalayan Blues Festival, celebrating blues and its influence on folk with international acts and local bands. *10 to 12 November, himalayanblues.com*

DINING



Manny's Eatery and Tapas Bar, scrumptious panini, sandwiches and more lunch delicacies starting at Rs 199. Manny's also offers a satisfying assembly of a unique continesian cuisine. Open for lunch and dinner and presents Tapas Bar for you to unwind and relax. *Jawalakhel Shaligram Complex, 5536919*

Café Du Temple, famous for its delicious food, warm ambience and the beautiful roof top view. *Patan Durbar Square, 5527127. Boudha, 2143256*



Delices de France, from roasted pumpkin to baba au ruhm, Delices de France is serving up a special menu this week. *2 to 6 November, Thamel*



Him Thai Restaurant and Bar, for the most authentic Thai cuisines in town. *Lazimpat, 4418683*

Bu keba, the newest organic restaurant in town, offers continental and Indian food along with chef's originals. *Sanepa*



Aalishan, serves authentic Indian delicacies. Try the special chicken biryani and chicken reshami kabab. *Jawalakhel, 5550039*

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, 5536926*

Chez Caroline, for business lunches and relaxed dinners. *Babar Mahal Revisited*



New Tushita Restaurant, relaxing ambience and good food. Don't miss out on their Penne with creamy bacon and mushroom sauce. *Lazimpat, 44432957*



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

Cinnamon Grill and Lounge, mouth watering delicacies with live music. Try the grilled tenderloin steak and quiche lorraine with fresh fruit salad. *Jhamsikhel, 5521339*

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



Yin Yang Restaurant, east meets west as you choose from a variety of Thai and continental dishes. Get a little spice in your life with their pad thai or green curry. If you can't handle the heat, fall into the safety net of their western dishes. *Thamel, 10am to 10pm, 4701510*

GETAWAYS



The Last Resort, one stop for Adventure Sports, bungee jump over the Bhothe Khosi river 160 metres below or mountain biking up to the Tibetan border. *The Last Resort Sales Office, Mandala Street, Thamel, 4700525*

Splash Fest 2011, time to get wet as Aspadez Entertainment introduces water football. *11 to 12 November, 10pm onwards, Grand Norling Resort, Mulpani and Green Cottage Resort, Shantiban, 9841269716*

Hong Kong ka Nepali



Journalist Dambar Krishna Shrestha's documentary, Hong Kong ka Nepali will be screened in Hong Kong this week. Shrestha is a reporter at Himal Khabarpatrika and has been reporting regularly about Nepalis in Hong Kong. This is his first attempt at bringing the life and struggles of Nepalis in Hong Kong in a film format. The 90 minute documentary encompasses the lives of Nepalis who have been struggling to find identity in foreign soil, while keeping their love for their country alive. The film profiles the successes and struggles of Nepalis in Hong Kong, telling the stories of their lives and following visits to the city by Mahabir Pun and Nepali comedians. According to Shrestha, the documentary is a journalist's travelogue that has tried to unfold various aspects of the lives of Nepalis in Hong Hong. There are estimated 35,000 Nepalis living and working in the former British colony which has a total population of 8 million. The film was produced by the Hong Kong-based Everest Media Ltd with Sarita Shrestha and Matridip Rai also involved.

Screening:
3 November, 7 pm and 9 pm Pakistan Club, Jordan
6 November, 7 pm Yunglung Town Hall



SOMEPLACE ELSE

RABI THAPA

I'm an incorrigible "bhaatey", but I've always believed the soul of a culture lives in its food. Going phoren at a time when Thamel meant beer and burgers and Jhamel was still "St.Mary's ko baato", my first memory of Australia is of a humongous bratwurst I enjoyed in the fulsome sunshine of a summery January. "This is the life," I remember thinking.

Alas, mainstream Aussie cuisine had little more to offer: it was only when I moved to France that it struck me how superficial similarities could conceal profound differences. Amul Cheese seemed juvenile in the land of Brie and Roquefort; Krishna Puroti wasn't bread at all after all; and canned cocktail sausages bore no actual relation to ham and salami. Back in Nepal, I was happy to discover "international" cuisine had moved up a few notches. But it was the weekly Farmers' Market at 1905 that finally made it possible to get the raw materials for fine organic dining at home. A regular delicatessen, where local products could vie with the best from the rest of the world, was only a matter of time.

"I felt there was a distinct lack of quality foods, of the type that I myself like to eat and cook with," explains Sophia Pande, owner of Sol Delicatessen. And who



A place in the sun

Nepal's first deli opens up new culinary vistas



better to advise her in setting up Nepal's first deli than François Driard, local fromagier extraordinaire?

Nestled in the warren of outlets that make up Babar Mahal Revisited, Sol is a pocket of culinary verity. In this small larder of delights

you'll find packed in a range of gourmet foods to sate the most refined palates. If you're familiar with the Farmer's Market, you'll be pleased to find François' Tomme goat cheese, Harmut's olive oil, and Sandro's mozzarella. But there's much more at hand: Moroccan olives, Parma ham, Porcini mushrooms, fresh herbs, a range of condiments and dry foods, and yes, impressive cylinders of foie gras.

The best thing about Sol is the warm welcome you can expect. You consider it your right to browse through a book before you buy it; here too you can dip into your desire before you commit to it. "I wanted to create a space where people can walk in and taste what they're curious about, and walk out with good fresh ingredients for a nice dinner," says Sophia. If a bottle's been opened, you can even sip some chilled

white wine with a slice of Brie or ham, on rustic white bread. How's that for an appetiser?

It's tempting to assume that like much else at Babar Mahal, an upmarket delicatessen will appeal only to expatriates. Sophia calibrates my perception. "Yes, we do have expat customers. But a lot of Nepalis come in as well – those who know what they're looking for as well as the simply curious." This is not so surprising perhaps: Nepalis are in the midst of a culinary revolution of sorts. Having moved from daily dalbhat at home to dining out, it's to be expected that they'll expand the range of foods they bring home. Nepali customers quite fancy François' goat cheese and the ghee, but also plump for imported cheeses (the easygoing Beaufort is a favourite) and the luscious hams. This is of course good news for Sophia, who orders

100 kilos of products a month from a Paris supplier.

Ultimately, it's all about "bringing good food to people", says François, before launching into a tribute to Newari food. We compare Newari kachila and French steak tartare, and I promise to take him to my favourite eatery in Kirtipur. But before that I decide to order a picnic hamper from Sol, complete with a bottle of wine, for one of these sunny days in some corner of the Valley. Sol will also be dispensing gourmet sandwiches, with appropriately sunny seating, and a collaboration with Chez Caroline is in the works. In the gray area between over-familiar home cooking and hit-or-miss dining out, Sol's a bright spot. 🇳🇵

Sol Delicatessen
Babar Mahal Revisited
 10am-6pm, closed Mondays
 01-4216433
 soldelicatessen@gmail.com



Learning lessons



DHANVANTARI
Buddha Basnyat, MD

In the winter of 2003, deaths in an avalanche of seven school children while skiing in the Roger Pass area in Western Canada revolutionised the concept of avalanche safety in the Canadian Rockies. Roger Pass is a narrow valley




surrounded by mountains in British Columbia and prone to avalanches. On that fateful day in Feb of 2003, 17 people were caught in the avalanche including school teachers and students. Seven lost their lives. They had followed existing avalanche guidelines, and yet it did not save them. Partly because this was an affluent private school, no effort was spared in

investigating the accident. The good thing that came out of this tragedy was that it lead to a massive media blitz about avalanche safety in Canada. Among other things, more clear cut, easily-understandable avalanche warning systems were put into use cutting out difficult technical wording that the ordinary skier could not fathom. This did not mean that they cut out the “adventure” all together.

For example, for those that considered themselves more experienced skiers who knew about avalanche safety, there were more elaborate warnings and recommendations. Indeed as some Canadian avalanche experts will tell you, all of these activities over the years lead to more safety awareness about avalanches and prevented many deaths in the Canadian


Rockies. The other day after listening to these lectures on avalanche prevention and safety, I could not help think about the many preventable accidents besides avalanches that we face in Nepal every day. It took the Canadians seven deaths and they promptly fine tuned a system that was already in place and brought about important gains in accident prevention that saved live.




Here in Nepal, we bribe officials to build unsafe houses for ourselves. Despite an epidemic of road accidents nothing is done to improve road furniture and stricter licensing requirements. We continue to have people ride on the roof of buses. It took the tragic death of Pralad Yonzon to draw attention to the need for separate bicycle lanes in the capital, but possibly nothing will be done. All the aircraft investigation reports sit on shelves, none of the recommendations are ever implemented. Most of our diseases are water-borne infections, yet don’t clean up our water supply. The list is long. ☐



WEEKEND WEATHER
by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

The sand whipped up by the Arabian Sea cyclone as well as the southwesterly winds added thick haze this week. Combined with cloud cover, it made Kathmandu go from autumn to winter overnight. The cyclonic system did bring some precipitation over the midhills and snow over the mountains, but not in the amounts expected. The system split in two and one of its tentacles will move across Nepal Friday, bringing partly cloudy skies. The haze will persist, filtering sunlight and keeping temperatures in the low twenties into the weekend.



FRI	SAT	SUN
		
20-10	21-09	23-08



WEATHERCOAT
All Guard



7 year warranty

WEATHERCOAT All Guard Truly Durable Exterior Paint



SITA MADEMBA

PRAYERS TO THE SUN: Prayers being offered in Sunsari on Tuesday evening during Chhat, the holiest Terai festival.



BIKRAM RAI

ENOUGH: Tibetans demonstrate in Jawlakhel, Lalitpur, in memory of protestors in Tibet who have burned themselves alive against Chinese crackdown on Tibetan religious and cultural systems. Eleven have self-immolated since February 2009.



BIKRAM RAI

QUEUE FOR TEA: Invitees to a tea party at the prime minister’s residence in Baluwatar on Tuesday line up to greet PM Baburam Bhattarai.



01 110 101 011 010110

Empowering Technology



Rs.38,000/-
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

Pralad Yonzon, 60

When Nepal's top conservationists were killed in a helicopter crash near Kangchenjunga in 2006, Pralad Yonzon lost many of his peers. But he turned his grief into action and set about training a new generation of conservationists through his organisation, Resource Himalaya.

In a cruel blow, Yonzon was himself killed on Monday afternoon when a truck rammed into his bicycle on the Ring Road in Balkhu. It was the mark of the man himself that Yonzon rode a bicycle through Kathmandu's dusty and crowded streets: he practiced what he preached.

In an illustrious career, Yonzon worked to study the habitat in Langtang of the endangered red panda for his PhD. He made the highest-ever spotting in the world of a tiger at 3,000m in the mountains of Bhutan in 2001. It was a breakthrough in tiger conservation, giving the world the hope that the tiger could be saved. It



was also just like Yonzon that he did not crave credit for this discovery, and let the Bhutanese get the glory. Yonzon was at the forefront

of research into wildlife conservation of elephants, monkeys, birds and snow leopards and preferred a people-centred approach to

conservation. He believed that unless poor farmers living in proximity of wildlife saw the benefits of conservation, endangered species could not be saved.

Yonzon preferred to spend time in the field, rather in the office. He was nearly killed several times in accidents in the wild, but he shrugged at the dangers. He said in an interview after receiving the MacArthur Award in 2007 : "We want to help conservation with science-based information." He donated his prize money of \$350,000 to setting up Resource Himalaya Foundation building in Dhobighat.

A mild-mannered man, Yonzon preferred to maintain a low profile. A gold medalist from Tribhuvan University and Fulbright scholar, he earned his PhD from the University of Maine and was a visiting professor at TU for the last five years. He was a recipient of the Golden Ark, The National Achievement Award, Young Scientist Award, Joint-Doctoral

Research Award (Hawaii) and Mary Totten Achievement Award (USA).

"He dedicated his life, his earnings and his profession to create a conservation oriented organisation which has truly become a platform for hundreds of young students, researchers, and practitioners to share and learn," wrote Madhav Karki of ICIMOD in a NNSD group post.

In a tribute Dipak Gyawali, who worked with Yonzon in the erstwhile King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation, wrote: "It is said that tragedy is the difference between what is and what might have been. That difference is just too huge, like infinity, to contemplate." (See box for more tributes.)

Yonzon, 60, is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

nepalitimes.com

Pralad Yonzon on conservation of environment in the Himalaya

Common sense and the tiger-profile of Pralad Yonzon in Himal Southasian by Carey L Biron

Tributes to Pralad

The day he met the fatal accident on Monday, he was at WCN (Wildlife Conservation Nepal) office in the morning and we had gathered for the weekly update. I asked him to join us and speak a few words. He spoke about the value of conservation and leadership. Fantastic talk, and as usual he was off on his bike. Later that afternoon, a truck hit him while he was on his way home. He always had practical answers to each question in conservation, a sound knowledgeable person on conservation issues. The last lecture he delivered at WCN left us with the courage that we have potential to do better provided we work honestly.

Prasanna Yonzon, Wildlife Conservation Nepal

I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Pralad over several decades and knew him and his work in Nepal, Bhutan and Vietnam. He was always an unconventional and provocative thinker, a trait which I think we all valued immensely. He constantly challenged us all to formulate and test new hypotheses, one of the basic characteristics that advance science and understanding. As tribute to Pralad, may we always remember to continue challenging conventional wisdom, formulate and test new ideas rigorously and continue to move forward. Thank you Pralad for setting and following this high standard, even when it was uncomfortable. Pralad's tiger work at high altitude is a perfect example of this type of dedication.

Brian Peniston, The Mountain Institute

Voices need to be raised in Nepal about safety on the roads and in the skies. Road traffic accident is the number one public health hazard but it is not treated as such. It kills many more people than HIV, malaria and a host of other conditions do. We need to remove the concrete road blocks which have killed many motor cyclists.

Dr Prativa Pandey, CIWEC Clinic

We will miss him dearly. But I hope this unfortunately incident will inspire us to work for bicycle and pedestrian friendly transportation in Kathmandu.

Bhusan Tuladhar, Environmentalist

Loadshedding? Do not stay in dark.

Let there be **light!**

Learn French!

New session

10 November - 18 January

Admission

15 October - 8 November

फ्रान्सेली केन्द्र

af

de katmandou

CAMPUS FRANCE

campusfrance.org

NÉPAL

42 41 163 | www.alliancefrancaise.org.np

The new silk road

PHOTOS and TEXT by PRASIIT STHAPIT

“Don’t take pictures facing the Chinese side,” a Nepali policeman stationed at the border village of Rasuwa Gadhi insists. “They don’t allow that. We’ll get into trouble.”

The old trade route between Kathmandu and Tibet via Kerung is the new silk road. Traditionally used by yak caravans bartering salt for rice, the route will now be upgraded to an 18 km highway connecting Syabrubesi to Rasuwa Gadhi. Syabrubesi is already connected to Kathmandu and to the Prithvi Highway via Galchhi.

“The road has made things easier,” says Nima Ghale of Timure. “The journey to Syabrubesi used to take five to six hours, but doesn’t take more than two now, even by foot.”

But there are concerns among locals about long-term consequences. “All the land is being bought up by people from Trisuli and further south. Soon, the whole village will be owned by them, and we’ll have to resort to collecting firewood and fodder for money,” she says. “The poor will just get poorer.”

Local villagers are caught in a familiar dilemma: to balance the advantages and disadvantages of a new road.

This photo story was produced for Mads Nissen’s masterclass organised by photo.circle. It is part of the book ‘*The Constant Change- 12 photo stories from Nepal*’ and is being exhibited from 4 to 13 November at the Nepal Art Council, Babar Mahal.





1 A girl picks berries in Timure. The road below follows the Bhote Kosi where a hydroelectric plant is going to be built.

2 A Chinese worker at the road construction site in Ghattekhola. The banner reads: ‘If you want a better market for your product you have to ensure it has a good quality.’

3 Cattle being taken through a forested slope to high summer pasture.

4 A man performs a ritual at Dhukpo Cheju, a local festival. The festival is also celebrated across the border in Kerung on a much grander scale.



“We won’t split”

Maoist General Secretary Ram Bahadur Thapa ‘Badal’ interviewed on *BBC Nepali Service*, 2 November



BBC Nepali Service: You have said you will launch an offensive against the 7-point agreement. When and how will you do that?
Ram Bahadur Thapa: The press conference today was the beginning of the offensive.

But that was just a talk.
We will protest. The agreement should be in favour of the people.

Which people are you talking about?
I am talking about workers, farmers, oppressed communities, gender and regions.

Who from these segments actually protested the deal?
All of them did. This agreement has overlooked the concerns of the oppressed. You probably haven’t heard the voices of protest. We represent those who protested.

Everyone wants to know what you will do now.
We will continue to fight.

What will you do if Prachanda and Baburam do not listen to you?
We will raise our voices until we are heard. We will keep struggling until our objectives are achieved.



What form will your struggle take?
We will struggle on political and ideological fronts.

Will you organise torch rallies, banda and blockades?
These are all forms of protest, which are permissible in a democracy.

It just sounded very odd to me hearing you talk about democracy.
(Laughs) It is not odd, democracy replaced monarchy and all the parties have been exercising democracy.

You have talked about the rebirth of the

people’s liberation army from the ashes of Tuesday’s deal. How will it be reborn?
The PLA had a decisive role in overthrowing monarchy in the country. We have been demanding their dignified integration.

Why are you trying to split the party?
Actually we are trying to bring it together. The party won’t split.

But you objected to the handover of keys to containers, BIPPA and the 7-point deal. How long will you keep protesting?
That’s why the central committee meeting has been called. It will have the final say.

Happy PLA

Kantipur, 2 November

कान्तिपुर

The Maoist ex-combatants in the camps were restless on Tuesday afternoon as political leaders sat at the PM’s residence in Baluwatar to decide on their future. When the radio and tv announced that a deal had been signed, the commanders huddled together to find out the details. “As soon as it was announced we got up and congratulated each other and shook hands,”



says Dipendra Singh, commander of the camp at Dahaban, Rolpa. “It seems that the political leaders are finally serious. These agreements have to be implemented.”

“When we heard that an agreement has been forged, we rejoiced and congratulated each other,” says Janak Bista of Shaktikhori camp. “Perhaps the peace

process will now be concluded.”
“This is an important step for peace and PLA management,” said the Brigade Commander of the third division headquarter, Ashok DC. “There is no point bringing up unnecessary issues to oppose the integration now.” He added that an agreement was the only solution and the packages announced are satisfactory.
Nara Pun, representative in the monitoring committee in Surkhet says that this is the correct path for the country. “But we were hoping for more support,” he added.

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





Worshipping work

Himal Khabarpatrika, 2-16 November

हिमाल
खबरपत्रिका

When his shop went bankrupt Rati Lal Parajuli, 65, started doing the rounds selling flowers door-to-door in Nepalganj. The business grew and he started a shoe business. Now, he is a millionaire with two houses, two plots of land and a fancy store in the city's prime locations. He has everything one can wish for. His family members suggest he take leave from work. "If I stop working, I might suffer from a rich man's disease," he says. When he went bankrupt in the retail business, he was not

disheartened at all. After 10 years, he saved Rs 60,000 and set up a shoe factory with the money and named it 'Baje Shoe Factory'. People teased him, saying a Brahmin doing a Dalit's job. But he didn't listen to them. His shoes found market as far as Surkhet and Narayangadh. He never had to look back ever since. He has an advice for cynical people, "All castes and types of job are the same, after all there are people who spend lakhs on education but don't have a job," he says. Parajuli says all work is the same, and emphasises on diligence and integrity.

Death trap

Editorial in Nagarik, 3 November

नागरिक

A dedicated and eminent conservationist, Pralad Yonzon, has been the victim of chaotic traffic of Kathmandu Valley. A truck rammed the bicycle he was riding on Monday. As an environmentalist, Yonzon had

been commuting on a bicycle from home to office for the past 25 years. But the bicycle is the most neglected vehicle in this dusty and polluted city. There are no bicycle lanes even when the city is ideal for pedal transportation. The death of one of Nepal's most noted conservationists who voluntarily adopted a clean

lifestyle should be an example to others.

There are no sidewalks for pedestrians, there are no designated lanes for bicyclists on most Valley roads. The number of private vehicles has grown exponentially. Public transport is unreliable and crowded. The city planners have never prioritised public transport.

You judge how civilised a place is by the way it treats pedestrians and bicyclists. Kathmandu rates very low on the civilisational scale. The death of conservationist Yonzon has saddened conservationists and demoralised others like him who use bicycles. A true tribute to Yonzon would be to launch a campaign to pressure the municipality to turn Kathmandu from a death trap for bicyclists to a bicycle-friendly city.



UCPN (Maoist)

कान्तिपुर Abin Shrestha in Kantipur, 3 November

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“It's the beginning of a new beginning.”

Pushpa Kamal Dahal



SAMSUNG

Immerse yourself in premium entertainment Samsung LCD TV

HYPER REAL ENGINE

allshare

Amynet+ HDMI-CEC

HDMI x 4

Wide Color Enhancer Pro

Full HD 1080p

LA 22D400

LA 22D450

LA 26C350

LA 26D450

LA 32D400

LA 32C450

LA 32D481

LA 32D550

LA 40D503

LA 40D550

LA 46D550

27D5000

32D4003

32D5000

32D5900

32D6000

40D5003

40D5900

40D6000

46D5500

46D6600

46C5000

55D6600

55C7000

55D8000

SAMSUNG HAPPY TIMES

Free Timex Watch

Marketed by: NIM ELECTRONICS PRIVATE LIMITED



Future depends on your dreams;
Go to sleep.

ROYALE PLAY  Dare To Dream

asianpaints

“Result Too Large to Display”

How much is Tuesday's seven-point agreement to resuscitate the peace process going to cost Nepali tax payers? The Donkey got out a calculator and multiplied an average of **7 lacs** with the **12,000 ladakus** who will not be integrated, and this is what the monitor showed: “Result Too Large to Display”.

The figure is so astronomical that we had to check with the Central Bureau of Statistics which came up with the correct total: a lump sum of nearly Rs 9 billion. So, you if you killed a whole lot of people the state will pay you Rs 7 lacs each, or allow you to join the army. Sheer genius. But soldiers and police who also killed a whole bunch of people will rightfully ask: “Hey, how about us?” Just a thought: if we had got Nordic taxpayers to give guerrillas 10,000 dollars each in 1996, perhaps there needn't have been a war in the first place.



The only thing “historic” about the seven-point deal is that it's just a continuation of history. The “Radisson Agreement” actually follows up on



the “Gokarna Summit” a year ago and the CPA five years ago in which Com Sitaula had got leaders to nearly agree on exactly the same points. In Gokarna, **Makunay** and **Awesome** had crossed the t's and dotted the i's on the number of fighters to be integrated and the compensation package to those opting for rehabilitation, and were ready to sign the documents after lunch break. But then PKD got a longish phone call from somewhere, and suddenly told MKN he couldn't go through with

it. That is how we lost one year on this agreement. The moral of the story is that henceforth all mobile phones should be banned during summits.



What we tend to forget is that this was just an agreement on decommissioning of the Baddie camps, the larger issues of the new constitution remain to be resolved. And what we haven't seen are the sub-points of the seven point agreement that were

stealthily written with invisible ink. Even Bauram hasn't denied that besides the note of dissenters, the agreement has footnotes which stipulate the sequence of power-sharing. Under this “ladies and gentlemen agreement”, it looks like Awesome will once more become primordial minister on or around November 30 so

that he is head of government when the constitution is finally written. The Kangresis have agreed to wait, and will be given the helms to oversee elections when they are finally held. Those who believed in **revolutionary** leadership have agreed on **rotational** leadership, which must be a sign of progress.



It's a win-win for everyone. BRB cements his statesmanlike image of a dealmaker who delivered on his promise of rescuing the peace process. PKD who

sorely missed being in Balu Water not just gets back to being PM, but even regains the trust of his handlers down south. The Kangresis get their pound of flesh. And the UML doesn't get anything, they just get to show that they are still players.



Even though the party leadership smoked the peace pipe, war has broken out between the chauffeurs of the various ex-prime ministers in the Balu Water parking lot. A long simmering dispute between drivers over priority parking slots broke out into an open fist-fight even while the leaders were signing on the dotted line on Tuesday night. Makunay has been trying to launch a club of ex-PMs to build bridges and take a perspective outlook on issues of national importance, and the group has met a couple of times. Ironically, it was MKN's own driver and PKD's YCL flunky who first got into the skirmish and others joined in. There is another peace process that needs to be saved on the parking lot.



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