Nepal’s leaders spent the five years since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) on 22 November 2006 arguing over semantics. But it was an excuse to buy time for power struggle between and within the parties.

Now there is a concrete plan and a multi-partisan commitment to see the process through. “The major challenge now lies with implementing the agreement,” writes Kul Chandra Gautam in an analysis on p12-13, “this is no time to be nit-picking and second guessing.”

Nearly there

Nepal is taking money away from public welfare to rehabilitate and compensate Maoist warriors. But it may be the price we have to pay for peace.

Many of the provisions in the 1 November agreement (return of seized property, disbanding the YCL, decommissioning the Maoists) are not really new. But the parties now have to do in weeks what they couldn’t do in five years and try to maximize the ‘peace dividend’ from the compensation cash.

If the political leaders give clear guidance, the Special Committee can work it all out. The challenge is for the Maoist-led Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction to work on the rehabilitation package without bungling it.
Hopes are high when the top guns in the political parties signed an agreement to break new life in the Nepal peace process last month. The cynics among us said they only did it out of a sense of guilt for having wasted five years in senseless bickering. We said this was to appease a thoroughly disillusioned public so it would agree to another extension of the CA term on 30 November.

All that is probably true. The public perception of the nation’s elected leaders is at an all time low. The current bloated cabinet is proof to many that politicians are only interested in a division of the spoils. Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai has inexplicably shot himself in the foot by not just tolerating and coddling crooks in his cabinet, but by proactively seeking a presidential pardon for a colleague who is a convicted murderer. Bhattarai is in danger of squandering most of the brownie points he earned for integrity and austerity.

In times like these, it is best to distill everything down to the bare essence: finding a leader who is partly clean. Little in Nepal these days is black or white, there are no absolutes. So, in the media look for the relatively honest police chief, the bureaucrat who is comparatively less corrupt, the minister who shows a hint of honesty.

Call it ‘harm reduction’. A political party may have not done much while it led a coalition, its ministers may have been corrupt, the minister who shows a hint of honesty.

LORDS OF IMPUNITY
Thank you Kanak Mani Dixit for standing up to these keches of our society (‘The Lords of Impunity’, #578). I am slowly starting to like you now. Wonder, though, where are all the well-fed civil society losers?

Sarath G

● If you look at the rank and file of the Maoists, who does not have blood on his/hers? Same goes for the (Royal) Nepal Army and the Nepal Police. It is only a matter of who got caught. The Dorrampa Massacre perpetrated by the Nepal Army is still unresolved. The officers are yet to be punished. The criminal case of Baktirshana Dhungel is clearly non-political and he should be punished. After all, Baburam turned out to be as artiﬁcial as his Mustang. Where is civil society and all those ‘Kira Parosh’ T-shirt walas?

Gaurav

● The NC and the UML are as responsible as Kanak Mani Dixit for bringing parties like the Maoists to the mainstream. Baburam as well as his coterie of mainstream parties and NGOs should stop protecting the false victims of the war. The simple answer is, the ones who got booked by the law while trying to kill others are not victims, they are murderers.

Nirmal

● ‘Dhurung went on to fight the CA elections in April 2006 and terrorised the voters to get elected,’ writes Kanak Mani Dixit. Are you sure? Didn’t you and your ilk, who were bent on ousting the ‘Old Regime’, term the elections free and fair? And where are your partners from the civil’s elected leaders is at an all time low. The current bloated cabinet is proof to many that politicians are only interested in a division of the spoils. Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai has inexplicably shot himself in the foot by not just tolerating and coddling crooks in his cabinet, but by proactively seeking a presidential pardon for a colleague who is a convicted murderer. Bhattarai is in danger of squandering most of the brownie points he earned for integrity and austerity.

Parag

● Nepal was sucked into a whirlpool of impunity and depravity the day Maoists were legitimised through ‘free and fair’ elections, observed so vigilantly by you and your ‘intellectual’ friends.

Anish

● Kanak Mani Dixit is hypocritical. His blindness towards India and Gita and company is responsible for the current situation. When he had the chance to warn his Kangrisi and Indian friends, he chose to look the other way. Now you are crying foul, ask the Indians; why have they pushed BRB on us?

Dinesh

● Great article. Dr Bhattarai will never be counted as a serious politician who will lead Nepal to a new post-conflict era until he is willing to abandon the murderers and thugs around him. Does Bhattarai have the intellect and the courage to do the right thing for the country? His action so far doesn’t seem to indicate that, but he still has an opportunity to correct himself. But will he?

Latomos

● Not surprising. Power flows from the barrel of the gun, is what the Maoists believe and people elected them as CA members. Why do you expect them to be any different?

Ram Shah

● This selective amnesia on the part of Kanak Mani Dixit and the ‘civil society’ of 2006 is amazing. Stil者的 Galuga, Pol Pot’s Killing Fields and that large pail called North Korea are sites of barbaric crimes against humanity that are still highly revered as pilgrimage sites by our Maoadus, especially the hardliner ideologue Babdur. Dixit failed to remember his readers of the hundreds of victims such as journalist Gyanendra Karki who were slaughtered before their families like goats by the party that Baburam provided leadership to. Dixit and his civil society activists are as guilty of complicity in murder as Baburam and his thugs. You championed their ‘liberation ideology’ before the international community and helped foist the criminals on us in the name of Janandanam 2006.

Parag

● Thank you Kanak for shedding light on the realities of the kind of people Baburam has surrounded himself with. The media is truly a voice for voiceless.

Anish

● Can the name a Nepali politician who is not a bandit, reformed or otherwise?

Tashi Lama

● Not long ago Kanak Mani Dixit wrote dire warnings about the Lumbari project. Now it is dire warnings against implementing the peace agreement. I wonder what the next dire warnings will be about.

Parag

● The editorial started out terrific and then descended into wishful and impractical contradictions. What’s with that Costa Rica nonsense? It is just a code for turning Nepal into a de facto Indian state like Bhutan.

Sudha

● Instead of giving military training to the PLA, they should have given them vocational training so they could start rebuilding what they destroyed during the war.

Rajesh Singh

● I agree Nepal should gradually downsize its army over a period of 20 years. Nepal’s economy can’t afford to have a big army. And we don’t need it.

Kamal Khoshour

GOLD RUSH
Great job increasing awareness amongst all Nepalis (‘Quest for Gold’, Anur Rana, #578) about catch and release fishing. This truly could add to our tourist attraction.

Nomi Thapa

SOCIAL SECURITY
The direct expenses of the Maoist compensation package is more than Rs 14 billion (‘Social security vs military security’, Editorial, #578). But there is much more in hidden costs. The country’s economy would have been soiled had it not been for extraordinary stupidity displayed by the political intellectual supporters of the Maoists in Nepal.

Sunil

The government should focus on improving the quality of the army rather than the quantity. If the Maoists could demand how they can protect Nepali against foreign invaders?

Raghu

Published by Himalmedia Pvt Ltd | Design: Sunim Tamang

Follow @nepalitimes on Twitter

Published by Himalmedia Pvt Ltd | Design: Sunim Tamang

Follow @nepalitimes on Twitter

www.nepalitimes.com

www.himalmedia.com

01-5250017-19

www.jagadambapr.com

THE FIVE-YEAR CEASEFIRE

THE FIVE-YEAR CEASEFIRE
At the SAARC Summit last week, Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai exhorted South Asian leaders to walk the talk and deliver on the lofty declarations of the past. He may as well have asked himself whether he is doing the same back home.

The initially gaga mainstream media has done a dramatic turnaround and remarked on a badly tarnished halo effect. We don’t know yet if this is also reflected in public disillusionment with Bhattarai, but it can’t be disputed that the prime minister’s brand equity has taken a battering in the past two weeks.

Not very long ago, when the opposition flagged his ride in a Mustang as a populist move, the public support for austerity measures taken by the Prime Minister forced even the critics to acknowledge it as exemplary symbolism. But all that seems to be a distant memory now as he rides in to bumpy political landscape in an over-crowded 49 seater that threatens to derail.

A prime minister who made austerity his guiding principle has made decisions which have not only put an astronomical price on the peace process, but also led to his personal political bankruptcy. But what really takes the cake is the way he has misused his office to influence cases against Agni Sapkota, Prabhu Sah and Balkrishna Dhungel. A man the nation trusted as a statesman has not been able to rise above partisan interest.

Many war time atrocities need to be investigated by a future Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC) but political motives alone do not explain many of the human rights violations during the war. It is indefensible that cold-blooded murder of an unarmed individual has been pardoned on “political” grounds.

Baburam Bhattarai must also realize that he leads a government which he himself attributed as having a historical task of bringing together ideologically diverse political groups to converge on issues of national consensus. His inexplicably explicit role in the Dhungel case will put him on a collision course with the judiciary and undermine his stated goal to make progress on the peace process.

Returning from the New York visit, Maoist chairman Puspa Kamal Dahal was quick to defend Bhattarai’s move, saying the pardon had been decided by the previous government. To reduce this case to a mere technicality and to argue that the government has constitutional powers to absolve wrongdoing makes a mockery of justice and is an insult to Ujjan Shrestha’s still grieving relatives. It’s not so much about what the government can or cannot do, but about what it ought or ought not do.

While one party of the conflict is under the scanner, nobody has dared to call for investigation into the crimes perpetrated by the Nepal Army. There seems to be a conspiracy of silence among the two warring sides to brush their past atrocities under the carpet.

Theorists argue that claim to absolute truth overlooks its relativity and context. Hence, the call for justice in Ujjan Shrestha’s murder must not eclipse the larger need to provide justice for all.
Second-class citizens

Nepalis are made to feel commercially discriminated on the Everest Trail

A s a Nepali, I had always dreamt of trekking to Everest Base Camp and seeing the ‘mother of the skies’ up close and personal. The only deterrent was the cost involved. I had heard rumours of how Nepalis were commercially discriminated against because we have to pay less, and the foreigners always get preferential treatment.

I didn’t think it would be that bad. But what I saw in Khumbu last week not only left me appalled at the discrimination fellow Nepalis faced, but also made me wonder whether the tourism industry which is supposed to benefit us, is actually doing so.

Whether it’s taxi drivers and touts harassing foreigners fresh out of the tarmac, or hotels offering different rates for domestic and foreign tourists, differential tariffs are a given in Nepal. While there is no doubt that foreigners with higher income have higher spending capacity, and perhaps it is characteristic of capitalism to give priority to those who can pay, no one seems to be giving enough thought to those who can’t.

“We have rooms for the foreigners but none for Nepalis,” the manager of a hotel we had booked in Namche told me, rather oxymoronically. Fortunately, our veteran guide knew the hotel owner personally and coerced the manager into giving room to the Nepalis. Talking to the porters in our group, I realised that they were being accommodated elsewhere.

Never before and nowhere else in Nepal, had I felt more ostracised in my own country than here.

But the shock and awe didn’t end there. Looking around for the men’s room, I followed the universal sign and came upon a door that had a sign on it: ‘All Nepali friends, please use the outside toilet. Thank You.’ At least they thanked us, but only in Nepal’s tourism apartheid do you see a sign like that.

Fellow Nepalis may not have learnt bathroom etiquette that modernised Nepali hoteliers think all westerners have, but they are still Nepalis. If tourism entrepreneurs are really serious about developing the industry here, they should be training those Nepalis involved in the tourism industry how to better present themselves, not putting up discriminating signs that reek of racism in an industry that is supposed to promote ‘hospitality’.

Outside of Lukla and Namche, however, I noticed that not all lodge owners discriminated against Nepalis. Guides are welcomed as old friends and called into the kitchen to be served food and drinks with the foreigners, allowed free changing of cell phones and camera batteries, and even given some snacks for the way.

They might have to sleep in the dining halls for lack of rooms, but they are not asked to use the outhouse.

But the shock and awe faced, but none for Nepalis, that not all lodge owners discriminate against Nepalis. Guides are welcomed as old friends and called into the kitchen to be served food and drinks with the foreigners, allowed free changing of cell phones and camera batteries, and even given some snacks for the way.

The media made headlines of trekkers stranded in Lukla last week, I wondered what the Nepali guides I met on the way were doing. No one in the Kathmandu media obsessed with ‘stranded tourists’ spared a thought for them, perhaps unsurprisingly.

Charitable challengers

They come from all over the world: they are dentists, engineers, risk management consultants, businessmen and physical trainers. What brings them together is that they all live and work in the countries of the Gulf, love a bit of adventure. And they all care for children.

For the past decade, Gulf for Good (G4G) has raised more than $2 million through 700 Arab and other nationals participating in treks in Nepal. The charity is currently helping 35 projects around the world, including raising $110,000 from the Everest Base Camp Challenge for a hospital in Ilam which was completed in 2004.

This time, 21 participants took part in another fund-raiser trek to support the construction of an orphanage on an eco-farm in Panauti. As a means of fundraising, members accepted the challenge to trek up to Everest Base Camp at 5,380m.

A trek to EBC and back is not a walk in the park. But the 15 G4G challenge trekkers took it in their stride. They trekked past dramatic signs of glacial retreat caused by global warming.

Landing in Kathmandu from Lukla, the group headed straight to Panauti with Brian Wilkie, the initiator of the G4G project. The orphanage currently under construction is located in the eastern end of the beautiful valley in Kavre district.

Younger ones in the group like the soon to be dad Floyd Meenan, his best mate Tom McNulty and fellow Irishman Brian Hempenstall, felt such a sense of accomplishment that they are already talking about taking up next year’s G4G challenge to Mt Kilimanjaro.

Alok Tumbahangphey

PICS: ALOK TUMBAHANGPHEY

NON-TOURIST VISITORS: Bechan Sah, 38, from Siraha in the Tarai with a load of pans and momo pots at Pheriche at 4200 m. He has been doing door-to-door sales here for the past 17 years. Smriti Kulung (right) is only 15 and quit school in lower Khumbu to earn money as a porter.
The .com generation

Nepali online stores are cashing on the spread of social networking sites

How would you react to the suggestion of launching your business on the web? You might raise a skeptical eyebrow and say: “Online business in Nepal? Isn’t that just for relatives abroad to send us cakes on birthdays and gifts during Dasain?”

Although traditional players like muncha.com and thamel.com have been around for about ten years, online businesses are still a fairly new concept in Nepal. E-commerce takes time to grow when people are still scared of putting their credit card information on an online form.

The scene seems to be slowly changing as several new online start-ups have made their debut in the hope of replicating e-commerce models abroad. It has now become possible for Nepali consumers to buy and sell electronic products, clothing items, accessories, air tickets and groceries on the web. However, not only have these new players widened the market, they have also innovated new models for online businesses. For example, harilo.com allows users to purchase goods at zero cost. The second factor contributing to the growth of online stores is the escalating number of Nepal internet users. The rate of internet usage in Nepal which stands at about 11 percent may not seem very encouraging at first glance, but there are now over a million Facebook users here. Nepal ranked fourth on the list of countries with the highest number of Google+ users in July 2011. The popularity of online media and social networks is likely to translate into a growing pool of consumers who are willing to purchase products on the web.

We have the eager consumers, we have the products, and the only problem is the lack of a trusted online payment mechanism. Credit card companies demand very high collaterals for their card products, and the only problem we have is the lack of a trusted online payment mechanism. Credit card companies demand very high collaterals for their card products, and the only problem we have is the lack of a trusted online payment mechanism. Credit card companies demand very high collaterals for their card products, and the only problem we have is the lack of a trusted online payment mechanism.

E-commerce models abroad have made their debut in the hope of replicating e-commerce models abroad. The rise of online stores in Nepal. For businesses, having an online presence means expanding the market, they have also innovated new models for online businesses. For example, harilo.com allows users to purchase goods at zero cost. The second factor contributing to the growth of online stores is the escalating number of Nepal internet users. The rate of internet usage in Nepal which stands at about 11 percent may not seem very encouraging at first glance, but there are now over a million Facebook users here. Nepal ranked fourth on the list of countries with the highest number of Google+ users in July 2011. The popularity of online media and social networks is likely to translate into a growing pool of consumers who are willing to purchase products on the web.

We have the eager consumers, we have the products, and the only problem is the lack of a trusted online payment mechanism. Credit card companies demand very high collaterals for their card products, and the only problem we have is the lack of a trusted online payment mechanism. Credit card companies demand very high collaterals for their card products, and the only problem we have is the lack of a trusted online payment mechanism. Credit card companies demand very high collaterals for their card products, and the only problem we have is the lack of a trusted online payment mechanism.

For the consumers, the win-win situation for both consumers and sellers. For the consumers, the ability to purchase a wide range of products on the web, minus the burden of having to physically visit stores and the stress of commuting makes their lives very convenient.

For businesses, having an online presence means expanding the market, they have also innovated new models for online businesses. For example, harilo.com allows users to purchase goods at zero cost. The second factor contributing to the growth of online stores is the escalating number of Nepal internet users. The rate of internet usage in Nepal which stands at about 11 percent may not seem very encouraging at first glance, but there are now over a million Facebook users here. Nepal ranked fourth on the list of countries with the highest number of Google+ users in July 2011. The popularity of online media and social networks is likely to translate into a growing pool of consumers who are willing to purchase products on the web.

We have the eager consumers, we have the products, and the only problem is the lack of a trusted online payment mechanism. Credit card companies demand very high collaterals for their card products, and the only problem we have is the lack of a trusted online payment mechanism. Credit card companies demand very high collaterals for their card products, and the only problem we have is the lack of a trusted online payment mechanism. Credit card companies demand very high collaterals for their card products, and the only problem we have is the lack of a trusted online payment mechanism. Credit card companies demand very high collaterals for their card products, and the only problem we have is the lack of a trusted online payment mechanism.

Nokia has launched Nokia N9. This touch-screen model is equipped with 8 mega pixel camera, navigation, and audio technology. Its design allows for easy use of applications, and social networking sites.

Branching out

Bank of Kathmandu has opened four new branches at Chabahil of Sankhuwasabha district, Beni and Baglung of Myagdi district, and Bitamad of Jhapa district. These branches will provide all the services including deposit, loan and remittance.

Easy learning

Lord Buddha Education Foundation has started Nepal’s first computerised language learning centre, EnglishEdge. The program has been developed in association with BBC.

Smart purchase

Teletalk, the authorised distributor of Blackberry smart phones has introduced Blackberry Bold 9900 in the market. It offers two months of Noel Blackberry Unlimited Monthly Service on every purchase.

Sensible touch

Nokia has launched Nokia N9. This touch-screen model is equipped with 8 mega pixel camera, navigation, and audio technology. Its design allows for easy use of applications, and social networking sites.

Branching out

Bank of Kathmandu has opened four new branches at Chabahil of Sankhuwasabha district, Beni and Baglung of Myagdi district, and Bitamad of Jhapa district. These branches will provide all the services including deposit, loan and remittance.
With the fuel crisis certain to get worse, and an unreliable public transport system, more and more people in Kathmandu are opting for bicycles. Pedal power is actually a faster and more reliable way to navigate through the city’s choked roads.

However, given Kathmandu’s polluted and precarious road condition and the absence of designated bicycle lanes, bicycles are going to have an uphill ride. Rajan Kathet, an avid bicyclist and the founder of Kathmandu Cycle City (KCC) 2020 says: “The lack of bicycle lanes is the most important factor dissuading people from using bicycles as a regular means of transport.”

The group has been lobbying government bodies to build cycle lanes on newly constructed roads and accommodate cycle lanes within existing road networks. Says Rajan: “Everyone on the road tries to overtake cyclists and we are forced to cycle and sometimes walk our bicycles on the pavements.”

Motor vehicles ply left, right and center on the congested roads of Kathmandu so cyclists need to be extra cautious. Fellow cyclist Amita Thapa Magar has had numerous close calls. “Cycling is especially difficult at night,” she says, “there are potholes and the darkness makes it really dangerous.”

Although there are just 9 vehicles per 1,000 people, Nepal ranks 98th out of 178 on World Health Organisation’s list of countries with the highest per capita rates of traffic-related deaths. The reason is the lack of adequate space not just for bicyclists or pedestrians, but for vehicles too. The death of noted biologist and devoted cyclist Pralad Yonzon two weeks ago after the bicycle he was riding was hit by a truck on the Ring Road, has focused attention on the dangers that bicycle commuters face.

In an effort to reduce Kathmandu’s growing air pollution and promote a cycling culture, a passionate group of youth has set out to make the capital a cycle-friendly city by the year 2020. Kathmandu Cycle City (KCC) 2020. The group was formed by Kathmandu University students in 2009 has been actively promoting cycling through various events and workshops.

To mark their third anniversary, KCC 2020 is organising an evening cycle rally with the theme ‘Get Visible’ to shed light on the problems of cycling during night time. “Cycling at night carries unimaginable risks,” says Shail Shrestha, the president of KCC 2020. The rally will also be a tribute to Pralad Yonzon, who died in bicycle accident after being hit by a truck in Balkhu two weeks ago. The rally is supported by World Cyclist Foundation-Nepal, Chepang’s Mountain Bike Club, Cycling Association-Kabhi, and Clean Air Network Nepal (CANN). The rally will take place on 19 November starting at 5pm.


For cyclists in Kathmandu, the path ahead is full of potholes.
It’s 7 AM at the B&B Hospital’s emergency ward at Gwarko. Two motorcyclists are brought in, they are conscious but badly injured. One has serious head injury and the other has a fractured leg. The trauma centre at B&B deals with 20 traffic accidents every day, many of them from the newly constructed 9.14 km Kathmandu-Bhaktapur road where speeding vehicles has killed 24 people since it was opened last year.

Police say negligent drivers and careless pedestrians are the main reasons. “Driving licenses are issued without really testing a driver’s capability,” explains Jagat Man Shrestha of Metropolitan Traffic Police Division, “drivers forget traffic rules as soon as they pass their written tests.” However, badly-built highways, traffic congestion, dangerously placed road dividers and lack of streetlights add to the problem. Road dividers have been a major cause of deaths, mainly of motorcyclists who collide with them in dimly-lit roads.

“Road dividers are not uniformly placed and it is hard to see them at night, I have missed the concrete dividers by inches on several occasions,” says Sajal Shrestha who commutes to work daily on his motorbike from Satdobato to Baneswor.

A big part of the problem is the complete lack of coordination on road safety between the Department of Roads (which is supposed to undertake repairs) the Department of Transport Management (which registers and regulates vehicles and driving licenses), the Traffic Police (which enforces traffic rules) the Ministry of Environment (which issues green mission stickers), and the municipality (which is supposed to oversee strategic management of roads and parking).

At the Traffic Police, Shrestha says he has neither the budget nor the authority to maintain road safety. Although driving under the influence is a leading cause of accidents, the Traffic Police has few breath analysers. Moreover, there are no laws limiting the alcohol level for drivers.

Paavan Mathema
Compensation by accident, DEWAN RAI #564

these two are lucky to have survived. Many are dead on arrival.

While aviation accidents make big headlines, road accidents have become so commonplace that most have come to accept it. But figures show that traffic accidents have now become the number one killer in the 20-30 age group in Nepal. Last year, 8,500 road accidents across Nepal killed 1,700 people, half of the accidents took place in Kathmandu Valley. B&B alone saw 50 traffic deaths last year.
Portraits of a proletariat

Maki Gurung protests social repression with visual impressions

Determination as authorities beat the man during a Maoist banda. "When I was photographing the strike, I was also almost hit," said Gurung, whose nameless subjects are drawn from news images and photos of strangers he had taken. 'Federal New Beauty' depicts a woman he found pictured along an article about the Tamang New Year. Born in Nepal to a Gurung father and a Japanese mother, the 26-year-old artist considers himself first and foremost Gurung and calls himself a natural way of living," he said. "I don’t like the word Nepali. I am Gurung," he said. "The self-professed anti-nationalist communist, however, admits to a bourgeois upbringing in Kathmandu that included private lessons from his mentor and Japanese artist Yuki Shirai, who now runs CTC. "I don’t think capitalism is a natural way of living," Gurung says. "People should either farm or have a technical skill like a shoemaker or a blacksmith. Today, the main occupation in the world is being a middleneck."

Last year, Gurung planted 360 orange trees in Patiswara and plans to relocate his commune to the village as soon as the trees begin to fruit. For now, the would-be farmer works as an Art Teacher at CTC and hopes to sell his portraits.

Gurung asserted: "Art shouldn’t be limited to the bourgeois, it is now. It should be for the proletariat. If you’re farming for your own consumption, then you only have to work two hours a day. You can spend rest of your time doing art and being creative. But right now the poor are working too much."

MTLR Concert, the hit Danish band is coming to Nepal, don’t miss out. 18 November, Tundikhel, 4442435

For a Healthy Diet, Christina Regnier talks about eating healthy and maintaining a balanced lifestyle. Feat: Rm 200, 19 November, 1pm, Delices de France. 4260326, info@restaurantnepal.com

Get Visible, a cycle rally to promote road safety and traffic awareness for bicycle riders. 18 November, 6pm to 8.30 pm, Basantapur, 9814422228

For Children, various art lessons for children aged between 6 to 14. Feat: Rs 3000, 19 November, 10am to 12.30 pm, Artudo, Lazimpat, 9841408425

Pashmina Week, celebrate 18 years with Sana Hatakala by endorsing their quality pashminas and authentic Nepali handcrafts. 13 to 20 November, Sana Hatakala, Kopanodile, 5522626, 5522685

Kites Band, enjoy scintillating live music by Kites Band and unwing white playing a game of snorker or sipping a refreshing glass of mohito.

Kaiser Cafe Restaurant & Bar, have a BBQ lunch and a glass of wine or beer inside a peaceful Garden of Dreams. Alive Juhley, Thamel

Gypsy Jazz, enjoy the music of Daniel Givone and Hari Maharjan with delicious food and drinks. 18 November, 7.30 pm, Delices de France, Thamel, 4260326, info@restaurantnepal.com

Extraordinary, bring out the extraordinary in the ordinary. This is what Navin Joshi does in his art exhibition which shows a unique take on everyday life. 12 to 28 November, Park Gallery, Pulchowk

Noche Flamencia, a dance performance by the participants of two workshops by Maradee de Guzman of Clara Ramona & Co. 20 November, 6pm onwards, Moksh, Jhamsikhel, 535992

A Changing Nepal, Maki Gurung’s first exhibition in Nepal which shows even-changing Nepal faces painted on Loka paper. 11 November to 25 November, Cosmopolitan Training Centre, Jhamsikhel, 016217752

Maki Gurung’s palette incorporates a wide spectrum of oil paints and spot colours that accentuate the movement of facial muscles and render almost palpable expressions. In a work bluntly entitled ‘Police Beating a Proletariat’, Gurung vividly captures a protester’s anger and the common disregard for manual labour in Nepal. Gurung’s palette incorporates a wide spectrum of oil paints and spot colours that accentuate the movement of facial muscles and render almost palpable expressions.

In a work bluntly entitled ‘Police Beating a Proletariat’, Gurung vividly captures a protester’s anger and the common disregard for manual labour in Nepal. Gurung’s palette incorporates a wide spectrum of oil paints and spot colours that accentuate the movement of facial muscles and render almost palpable expressions.

Get Visible, a cycle rally to promote road safety and traffic awareness for bicycle riders. 18 November, 6pm to 8.30 pm, Basantapur, 9814422228

People During Change, an exhibition of 22 pastel portraits by artist Maki Gurung, paints a personal protest against social repression. With his Kathmandu debut at the Cosmopolitan Training Center (CTC) in Jhamele, Gurung confronts the plight of ethnic and gender minorities, state brutality and
O

out of the numerous
terrace bars and
cafes that compete
for best breakfast sets or
happiest happy hour deals
in Chitwan, KC’s stands
out with a driveway and
a sizable, Spanish-style
manor that looms over
Sauhara. Unaffiliated with
the café of the same name in
Thamel, the restaurant serves
typical tourist provisions,
but specializes in fish and
cooking items.

The Fish Fried, a battered
trout filet served with fries
and coleslaw was
well-cooked and flaky,
but lacked a complimentary
sauce. A basic tartar or a
lemon herb sauce before plating,
steamed vegetables could
have outdone the dish. The
coleslaw, however, was
evenly dressed.

To mix it up a bit, we
opted for the pork on
the barbecue list. The skewered
cubes of meat were on the
drier end. A spicy, red slaw
that came with the dish was
dellectable. But once again, a
sauce vital to the plate was
unaccounted for.

KC’s Special Steak
was unanimously the best
choice. A decent mound
of hamburger steak comes
sizzling on a heavy iron cast
and bathed in white cheese
and rum reduction. The
steamed vegetables could
have been sautéed in a butter
herb sauce before plating,
but the slices of cooked
pineapple and banana merge
well with the rich gravy.

Considering the price
that customers pay for the
prime setting, KC’s could
be more generous with its
portions. The restaurant
opens on to a manicured
garden which ends right
before the riverbed and
overlooks the vast savannah.

A tree-lined walkway leads
out with a driveway and
when orders are ready to
table. It is surprising that in
its decade long existence,
the kitchen prompts the
patrons to begin
summon a sunset kickback.

The property is so large
that the kitchen prompts the
brow-tied waiters by mobile
when orders are ready to
table. It is surprising that in
its decade long existence,
the kitchen prompts the
patrons to begin
summon a sunset kickback.

The Last Resort, be a part of
the Ampit Bungy or Swing Jump Event
over the Bhote Khosi river 180
metres below or mountain biking
up to the Tibetan border. Fees: Rs
2450 per person for one day or Rs
4500 per person for an overnight
stay, valid until Decemberhe Last
Resort Sales Office, Mandalas
Street, Thamel, 4700525

On the main intersection
in Sauhara-2, face the river
and enter either end of the
driveway

Service
Bread ‘n water
Space
Dealicious
Repeat?
HALFWAY THROUGH: PM Baburam Bhattarai at a meeting of the Special Committee that approved the rehabilitation package for ex-Maoist combatants, Monday. The decision makes way for the categorization process of 19,000 Maoist fighters.

Weekend Weather

by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

FRI  SAT  SUN
19-06  21-06  21-07

A lingering low pressure area over eastern Nepal and Bhutan have brought overcast skies and precipitation to the mountains. Combined with pollution haze, this has created havoc with flights this week. Things should start to ease somewhat as the low pressure is pushed away by the prevailing westerlies. Expect misty mornings in the Valley with the sun coming out in the late mornings for hazy sunshine. Some cloud build-up in the higher mountains.

CZECH THIS OUT: Industry Minister Anil Jha shakes hands with the Deputy Environment Minister of Czech Republic Tomas Tesaf during a business and trade seminar on 3 November organized by the Confederation of Nepalese Industries. Also in the picture is the Honorary Consul General of the Czech Republic to Nepal, Vishnu Agrawal.

ROCKING KATHMANDU: Mikkel Lentz, Kare Wanscher and Jascha Richter (L-R), members of the Danish band Micheal Learns to Rock, arrive in Kathmandu on Wednesday. They are scheduled to perform on Saturday at Taudikhel.

Frostbite

by DHANVANTARI

Buddha Basnyat, MD

Living in the relative warmth of Kathmandu, it may be difficult for many readers to consider why frostbite is an important topic. One of the most important tragedies that happens regularly during the trekking and climbing season in Nepal is frostbite amongst porters who accompany Western travelers. When they suffer from severe frostbite and need to have their toes or fingers amputated, their ability to earn a livelihood from portering is severely compromised.

Unfortunately the treatment of frostbite has not changed since Napoleon’s army in 1812 tried to invade Russia in winter but failed miserably. Hypothermia (low body temperature) and subsequent frostbite amongst army personnel was an important reason for Napoleon’s defeat. Essentially there is no specific, evidence-based drug therapy for the treatment of frostbite. Hence prevention of frostbite is of paramount importance.

One of the things that Baron Larrey, Napoleon’s surgeon, learnt during the march into Russia was that when soldiers heated their hands and feet at night on open fires and next day continued their march in sub-zero temperatures, this freeze-thaw-refreeze cycle had the most deleterious effect on the frost-bitten tissues. So, once warmed after freezing, the hands or feet should not be frozen again.

Although many trekking companies now provide shoes for porters (at one time most porters trekked at high altitude wearing flip-flops), often the shoes are ill-fitting which can predispose to frostbite by constricting blood flow to the feet while walking in cold temperatures. Often the socks get wet, and this too can lead the feet to frostbite. It is important to have shoes that fit properly and have available extra pair of socks to replace wet ones. Some porters use extra socks to try to fit their foot into big shoes which can be problematic as the trek progresses. Inadequate clothing or shelter will also lead to hypothermia and potentially lead to frostbite.

Unfortunately the blood is directed from the extremities to the main organs like the heart and the brain in hypothermic situations. Warm clothing, proper gloves and sleeping bags are important especially when the trek ascends to >4000 m passes. Adequate intake of fluids and food will also help prevent frostbite. Crucially trekkers and climbers using porters to trek in the Himalayas need to take good care of their porters and vice versa. This ‘buddy system’ is a unique feature of Himalayan trekking and climbing.

Although many trekking companies now provide shoes for porters (at one time most porters trekked at high altitude wearing flip-flops), often the shoes are ill-fitting which can predispose to frostbite by constricting blood flow to the feet while walking in cold temperatures. Often the socks get wet, and this too can lead the feet to frostbite. It is important to have shoes that fit properly and have available extra pair of socks to replace wet ones. Some porters use extra socks to try to fit their foot into big shoes which can be problematic as the trek progresses. Inadequate clothing or shelter will also lead to hypothermia and potentially lead to frostbite.

Unluckily the blood is directed from the extremities to the main organs like the heart and the brain in hypothermic situations. Warm clothing, proper gloves and sleeping bags are important especially when the trek ascends to >4000 m passes. Adequate intake of fluids and food will also help prevent frostbite. Crucially trekkers and climbers using porters to trek in the Himalayas need to take good care of their porters and vice versa. This ‘buddy system’ is a unique feature of Himalayan trekking and climbing.

Crucially trekkers and climbers using porters to trek in the Himalayas need to take good care of their porters and vice versa. This ‘buddy system’ is a unique feature of Himalayan trekking and climbing.

A lingering low pressure area over eastern Nepal and Bhutan have brought overcast skies and precipitation to the mountains. Combined with pollution haze, this has created havoc with flights this week. Things should start to ease somewhat as the low pressure is pushed away by the prevailing westerlies. Expect misty mornings in the Valley with the sun coming out in the late mornings for hazy sunshine. Some cloud build-up in the higher mountains.
A war of words

RUBEENA MAHATO

At 23, Tara Rai has seen it all. She has been a guerrilla in the Maoist army, she has spent time in jail, and now she is the bestselling author of an acclaimed book that has sold eight editions in one year. As she prepares to bring out the ninth edition of ‘Chapamar Yubati Ko Diary’ while working on another war-based novel, she is pensive and a bit philosophical these days. “I have no regrets,” she told us, “but these days I have doubts about whether the war was necessary.”

In her village in Ilam district in eastern Nepal, she does what most other young women here do: help out her family in the farm. But in the evenings she works on her new novel. Tara left school at 15 and joined the Maoist cultural wing. Three months later, she was arrested by the army and sent to Ilam jail, where she nearly died after falling sick. She was treated by the army in prison and recovered. The near-death experience seems to have left an indelible mark on this fighter-turned-writer.

Tara’s book took the market by storm when it was published last year. All 5,000 copies were sold out within two months. Different from the usual narratives of Nepali war literature, it neither demonised the enemy nor was it overburdened with literature, it neither demonised the army in prison and recovered. The near-death experience seems to have left an indelible mark on this fighter-turned-writer.

Tara left school at 15 and joined the Maoist cultural wing. Three months later, she was arrested by the army and sent to Ilam jail, where she nearly died after falling sick. She was treated by the army in prison and recovered. The near-death experience seems to have left an indelible mark on this fighter-turned-writer.

Tara’s book took the market by storm when it was published last year. All 5,000 copies were sold out within two months. Different from the usual narratives of Nepali war literature, it neither demonised the enemy nor was it overburdened with literature, it neither demonised the army in prison and recovered. The near-death experience seems to have left an indelible mark on this fighter-turned-writer.

Tara’s book took the market by storm when it was published last year. All 5,000 copies were sold out within two months. Different from the usual narratives of Nepali war literature, it neither demonised the enemy nor was it overburdened with literature, it neither demonised the army in prison and recovered. The near-death experience seems to have left an indelible mark on this fighter-turned-writer.

Tara’s book took the market by storm when it was published last year. All 5,000 copies were sold out within two months. Different from the usual narratives of Nepali war literature, it neither demonised the enemy nor was it overburdened with literature, it neither demonised the army in prison and recovered. The near-death experience seems to have left an indelible mark on this fighter-turned-writer.

Tara’s book took the market by storm when it was published last year. All 5,000 copies were sold out within two months. Different from the usual narratives of Nepali war literature, it neither demonised the enemy nor was it overburdened with literature, it neither demonised the army in prison and recovered. The near-death experience seems to have left an indelible mark on this fighter-turned-writer.
The 1 November agreement breathed new life into the Comprehensive Peace Accord five years after it was signed.

We spent much time in the past five years debating the differing understandings of what the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) and the Agreement on Monitourig of Management of Arms and Armies (AMMAAA) meant by ‘integration and rehabilitation’. But all that was settled by the major political parties on 1 November with an agreement on numbers, amounts and modalities.

We can, of course, always argue and speculate how the agreed package could have been better. But this is no time to be nit-picking and second guessing. The major challenge now lies with implementing the agreement. Many of the provisions in the 1 November agreement – such as the return of seized property, ending the paramilitary structure of the YCL, and bringing the Maoist combatants fully under the command of the Special Committee – are not really new. Even an agreement on the numbers of combatants and the financial package for rehabilitation was almost finalised at the Kanpur Summit a year ago, but was dropped because of internal disagreements within the Maoist Party.

Although there are still a few details to be worked out, the Special Committee has now prepared a very sensible plan for integration and rehabilitation. But, as they say, ‘the devil is in the details which are ambiguous or remain unresolved. If the political leaders give clearer guidance, the committee can work out all technical and logistical details.’

The rehabilitation package is more complicated, as the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction has not really done the required homework yet and it is questionable if it has the capacity to implement a sound vocational training job creation and rehabilitation program. Complications that could crop up: Maoist combatants defying the agreement, haggling over their ranks in the army, uncertainty over the rehabilitation package, disagreement over how much combatants have to contribute to party coffers. If the combatants are given truly free choice, and the party does not try to manipulate or extort funds from the combatants, the regrouping exercise is likely to produce a generally honourable outcome for the combatants. But whether that will also be in the best interest of the nation is a different matter. We should have tried harder to maximize the ‘peace dividend’ from the expenditure.

Now, there are two seemingly contradictory requirements: the need to reduce the size of the Nepal Army and the need to increase its size by integrating Maoist combatants. One way to tackle this would be to give priority to under-represented groups like women, Madhesis, Dalits, and some Janajati communities. Making the Nepal Army more inclusive and gender-balanced would eventually enable Nepal to respond to UN Security Council resolution 1325, under which the UN is encouraging member states to provide more women soldiers and officers in peace-keeping missions.

The proposed voluntary retirement package offered is quite generous. But it would wise to pay the amount in several installments.

Disbursement should not be in cash but through banking channels, and preferably requiring the spouse’s signature.

One criticism of the 7-point agreement is that it does not say anything about ‘democratization and right-sizing’ of the Nepal Army, which is also a key component of the peace process. The CPA signed five years ago this week called for security sector reforms to ensure genuine civilian oversight over the national army and other security services. A detailed security sector reform (SSR) plan should be developed in due course keeping in mind Nepal’s legitimate security interests, but avoiding unnecessary and unaffordable militarisation of Nepali society.

Some Maoists have criticised the new direcotrship of the Nepal Army for disaster relief as a second-class, non-military entity. But such a directorate is appropriate because a peace-loving country like Nepal that has no intention of going to war against anybody needs to redefine the role of its military.

No war, no peace

No surprise that we have all forgotten the fifth anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Accord this week.

Monday, 21 November, marks the fifth anniversary of the signing of the UN-brokered Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) that formally ended ten years of conflict between the Maoists and the state. It ended the war, but didn’t bring peace. The Maoists lowered their guns, but didn’t abandon them. They joined mainstream politics, but didn’t abjure violence.

Few remember the sense of jubilation that swept the nation as Prachanda, Kamal Thapa and Bimal Gurung signed the document in the presence of senior leaders and the UN brass. The ceremony was held inside the BICC, that later served as the Constituent Assembly.

As I write this, the amnesty case of Balkrishna Dhungel is raging like wildfire, joking Baburam Bhattarai’s seat of power. There have been five prime ministers in the last five years, all of whom have failed to deliver. There may now be a sixth. Impunity is rife, and the rot at the top is lethal. Power cuts and fuel shortage have worsened. Farmers are having to take to the streets to demand fertilisers. The middle class is struggling to keep up with inflation.

Never mind the disillusionment this has created in the general public, like a bad dream, the ex-guerrillas who had fought for change are now engaged in an intense struggle for the hearts and minds of their own rationalised cadre base.

In the past five years, there have been 4-point, 5-point, 7-point agreements. Promises no one intended to keep, agreements not worth the paper they were written on. Everyone played for time until they ran out of time. All they were interested in was to lengthen their time in office so they could amass wealth from kickbacks and payoffs. Most people were past caring, they raised their heads when Baburam Bhattarai became minister with slender hope that he would be different. But they have been tragically disappointed again.

Four years ago, just before the CA elections, I was travelling across Rolpa, the district that was the cradle of the Maoist revolution. Everywhere in Rolpa, hopes ran high. Infrastructure projects that had been stuck for more than a decade were being revived. In Thawang, ex-guerrillas were building a micro-hydro power plant. A huge festival was being organised in Jaljala, a historically significant place for the Maoists, to promote tourism in the region.

Finally it seemed like Rolpa would rise. After all, the very leaders who had taken shelter in homes that were destroyed in bombings from helicopters had risen to power in Kathmandu. Thawangis were sure that their time had come.

I can never bring myself to accept violence as a political tool, but could understand the anger of women who had lost all their male relatives to war, were raped and battered and were raising babies of the enemy. Even they ill up with hope talking about the future. They were glad the war was over.

The dream has shattered. The Maoists turned out to be like everyone else. After getting to power in Kathmandu, they forgot about Thawang and Jaljala. Parts of Thawang are still in ruins.

The promises of leaders to make Thawang a model commune commemorating the civil war fails to elicit any response from the villagers anymore. And there are other promises which have remained unfulfilled. The families of the disappeared are still seeking closure, thousands of internally displaced people are waiting to go back home. They have waited for five years without result and have now given up on the government.

This is the silence that is mistaken for peace today. This year, too, there will be the usual rituals marking the CPA anniversary. Leaders will wax eloquent on the historic agreement and its significance. The people will not be listening because they have heard it all before.

What a waste.
In Nepal today we are closer than ever to real peace with the seven-point deal reached on 1 November on integration and rehabilitation. At a time when we are thinking about the future, it is important to analyze our feelings that war is somehow special and peace is somehow normal. In fact, what happens during peacetime often makes possible the next conflict, the next war, and the next atrocity. As a student of politics and human rights I have come across the work of anthropologist Nancy Schepers-Hughes, who argues that one way to understand the violence of war is to look at the hidden violence that goes on during peacetime. The everyday violence of normal times goes unnoticed and is accepted by society at large, often in the name of security. November 2006 was a big turning point in Nepal’s history. Ten years of conflict officially came to an end as the government and the Maoists signed a Comprehensive Peace Accord. Yet many of us were uncertain about whether this ceasefire would hold. The first unsuccessful ceasefire with the Maoists four years earlier ended dramatically with attacks in 42 districts and the king’s declaration of emergency that followed. I remember that ceasefire well. On 7 September 2001 I was forced to join the Maoists in my home district of Mugu as a ‘motivator’ and train for self-defense. There were hundreds of other young boys and girls with me, some had been forced, and others were volunteers. Together we listened to instructors discuss Mao, Marx and Lenin. We were taught how to go into villages at night and form committees to advocate social equality, to work to end caste, class, and gender-based discrimination. We walked for hours and hours, sometimes for 22 hours straight. I went with a group of ten Maoists one day, and watched as they took food saved for the winter from an elderly woman’s house. She was crying as they left.

Fifteen days later I told them I had become a true Maoist, but I wanted to go home one last time and say goodbye to my father. Instead, I left the district and went into hiding in India and later within Nepal as the war started again. For many, the ceasefire was about preparing for war, not peace. Maoist violence was being countered by the state. The Armed Police Force (APF) was established during that ceasefire period because Nepal Police was proving inadequate to fight the insurgents and the king refused to use the Royal Nepal Army to fight the guerrillas.

The APF was officially set up on 24 October 2001, and many young people who had suffered under the Maoists joined the newly formed paramilitary force. The APF’s stated mission was to control ‘acts of terrorism and the associated trend of organized crime’. The Maoists were officially declared ‘terrorists’ around this time. Just as I was sent to mobilise villagers by the Maoists, the APF was sent out to protect citizens from ‘terrorists’ during the ceasefire. For both the government and the Maoists, a ceasefire was a time to take a break, to consolidate, re-mobilise, rest and prepare for the war to start again. It was a tactical break to enable a longer war. The current ceasefire has lasted five years. But we are still trying to sort out the legacy of the conflict and it even seems like the Nepal Army, the APF and the Maoist army are waryly circling each other. The new deal may create an integrated Nepal Army, but there is a lot of uncertainty about how it will go. A ceasefire is a time to build peace, not prepare for another war. Today – even if we are lucky – we will have three security forces (NA, APF, and NP). Yet some would say that even one professional army is too many for a republic.

Kul Chandra Gautam is a former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and this review is adapted from his presentation at a workshop on ‘The Peace Process in the Context of the Five-Point Agreement’ at a workshop on ‘The Peace Process in the Context of the Five-Point Agreement’.
Double standard

Editorial in Kantipur, 13 November

Scholar leader Baburam Bhattarai shot to popularity as an economic and administrative reformer with austerity measures and set an example of good governance which even those on the opposition appreciated. But the way Bhattarai cobbled together an outsized cabinet added an economic burden to the state. Then his decision to recommend a presidential pardon to a murder convict proved that he is no different from his predecessors. He has turned a deaf ear to widespread public criticism and continues to sing to his own tune.

Bhattarai rode a locally-assembled Mustang vehicle when he drove to his office after being sworn in, reinforcing the public perception of his modest ways. But with 49 ministers on board and the state having to spend millions per year for each minister, the entire Mustang gesture has turned into a farce.

Bhattarai must know he doesn’t need four dozen ministers to run a transitional government. He has already set a new record by forming a 44 member secretariat of advisers at his office and doling out ministries to stay in power is a betrayal of the nation’s trust. The government’s decision to grant amnesty to Dhungel without forming a Truth and Reconciliation Commission has made mockery of rule of law. Had the Supreme Court not issued a stay order on the cabinet decision on Sunday, it would have embroiled the office of the president in controversy as well.

Upon his return from the SAARC Summit, Bhattarai made irresponsible remarks against “a small coterie of dollar-earning groups” blowing the issue out of proportion. Nobody is opposed to the formation of a Truth and Reconciliation committee to look into the war time cases but to condone individual acts of crime under political pretext will only promote impunity and anarchy.

Bhattarai needs makeover

Editorial in Nagarik, 15 November

Less than three months after being sworn in as prime minister, Baburam Bhattarai has been sucked into a whirlwind of controversies ranging from granting impunity to criminals to being unable to curb lawlessness in the country. The decisions he has taken so far in order to appease various parties in the coalition government are tarnishing his once popular image.

Soon after joining office, he had announced austerity measures and stood true to his words by riding the Nepal-assembled Mustang vehicle. However, what followed was the formation of a jumbo cabinet with 49 ministers, appointment of murder convicts as ministers and the decision to have a presidential pardon to a Maoist member convicted of murder by the Supreme Court. These actions have tarnished the prime minister’s image.

Although the task of managing and appeasing a discordant coalition government is not easy, Bhattarai’s decision to induct a record-breaking cabinet and shelter criminals to remain in power cannot be justified under any circumstances. Therefore, to win back people’s confidence he has to admit to these mistakes and withdraw the pardon for Balkrishna Dhungel.

Despite the power struggle between the parties, the recent seven-point agreement has ushered in the only ray of hope for peace and constitution. It is high time the leaders worked together to save the country from sliding down a slippery slope much like Bhattarai’s image has.

double standard

Five standards
“I eliminated a spy”

Interview with Balkrishna Dhungel in Naya Patrika, 16 November

Nayapatrika: What do you have to say about the presidential pardon for you which has become an issue of national politics?

Balkrishna Dhugel: The issue has been overblown. This is an attempt to criminalise the insurgency and the Maoists.

What do you think is the intention behind this?

Those who had fixed a reward on our heads still want to finish us off. They have been trying to find a way to criminalise the Maoist movement and people’s movement.

Where were you at the time of incident? What had actually happened?

It was purely political, not personal at all. We found him spying on us and he was eliminated.

What proof do you have that he was a spy?

The government categorised the conflict affected areas and recruited influential people in the regions to carry out the mission in 1996. Ujjan Shrestha used to live in Kathmandu. He was sent to village as advised by Bal Bahadur Rai and Gopal Rai to spy on us. He went back to village the following year. The government launched a bloody operation in Likhu areas in which families of the Maoists and Jana Morcha were killed and displaced. He played major role in this. The police arrested 47 people including me, Puskar Gautam, Shambhu Gautam, Madhav Dhungel, Prem Prasad Dhungel among others. We were released on bail when Bamdev Gautam was the home minister.

What did you do to Ujjan after that?

He was still working as an agent. We warned him, asked his relatives to convince him, party formally approached his family but he continued. Then, the party concluded that he should be eliminated.

Which level of the party had decided?

If we have to eliminate someone during the insurgency, we had to take permission from the party command. No district or area command could take decision on elimination.

What was your position in the party then?

We had demarcated areas from Tamakosi to Ramechhap including some VDCs of Okhaldhunga, Khotang, Solukhumbu and Bhojpur as our eastern base. Biswa was in-charge of the area and I was next to him.

Where were you at the time of incident?

I was involved in politics since 1986 and went underground from 1996. The incident took place when I was underground. The government launched a massive operation in the region. The party had concluded that he was a plain clothed policeman. Locals were arrested, tortured and forced them to sign in a paper saying Balkrishna Dhungel and Puskar Gautam were involved in killing. I was arrested in 1999 and released in 2006.

What will you do if the president doesn’t grant you a pardon?

I am a responsible party member. Whatever party decides is my decision.
Mustangs will soon have to be flying off the Hulas Motors assembly line in Biratnagar if we are to keep up with the demand for official cars for the cabinet which, like the universe itself, is still expanding. There are four more vacant portfolios so we will have a 55 member cabinet. Lot of people have been complaining about how this jumbo cabinet is going to be a drain on the budget. I don’t think so. It will actually give Nepal’s budding automotive industry a shot in the arm, create jobs and who knows one day we may even be able to export SUVs. At least BRB was honest enough to tell Bhusan on Fireside that he can’t resist plucking low hanging fruits. A DIG spilled the beans to the tabloid press last week that he was asked to pay Rs 1.5 karod + a crate of Chivas to IGP by Gachhedar has promised that his home ministry will be “cleanest ever”. But old habits die hard and the minister can’t seem to resist plucking low hanging fruits. A DIG spilled the beans to the tabloid press last week that he was asked to pay Rs 1.5 karod to be promoted to IGP by Gachhe’s sidekick. When he said he didn’t have that kind of money, they sent a notorious don in the payroll of the minister to have a chat with him. The DIG in question wasn’t just not promoted, but two junior officers were. If that was the going rate, Victorious Babu must have made a cool 30 million on those two promotions alone. If even half the rumours are true, Deputy Prime Minister and Homely Manakamana last week to give thanks to the God of Good Wishes. Don in question, Acting Minister of Home Affairs Ganesh Lama (no relation to HH the Dalai), has apparently issued a secret rate list for this year’s police transfers and promotions. ASI to Inspector: Rs 100,000 + a bottle of Famous Grouse DSP to SP: Rs 500,000 + two bottles of Black Label DKG to IGP: Rs 1.5 karod + a crate of Chivas

Notes of descent.

Victorious Bachelor Gachhedar has promised that his home ministry will be “cleanest ever”. But old habits die hard and the minister can’t seem to resist plucking low hanging fruits. A DIG spilled the beans to the tabloid press last week that he was asked to pay Rs 1.5 karod to be promoted to IGP by Gachhie’s sidekick. When he said he didn’t have that kind of money, they sent a notorious don in the payroll of the minister to have a chat with him. The DIG in question wasn’t just not promoted, but two junior officers were. If that was the going rate, Victorious Babu must have made a cool 30 million on those two promotions alone. If even half the rumours are true, Deputy Prime Minister and Homely Manakamana last week to give thanks to the God of Good Wishes.

Don in question, Acting Minister of Home Affairs Ganesh Lama (no relation to HH the Dalai), has apparently issued a secret rate list for this year’s police transfers and promotions. ASI to Inspector: Rs 100,000 + a bottle of Famous Grouse DSP to SP: Rs 500,000 + two bottles of Black Label DKG to IGP: Rs 1.5 karod + a crate of Chivas

If any of you have ever murdered someone in cold blood or have the intention of doing so, don’t worry, we now know how to escape punishment. Here’s what you do: join the Maoist party and then get yourself elected as Constituent Assembly member. This is what Balkrishna, Bahan and Comrade Ugly did, and they will all be pardoned by the president. Baboon Sing didn’t just commit a murder, he masterminded a bloody massacre, and he is walking around the CA in broad daylight even when he is on the Nepal Police “Most Wanted” list. When a case was filed against him, he suddenly turned Gandhian and went on a hunger strike. Prabu Sah, involved in murder of a Hindu activist in wide open spaces, was filed against him, he suddenly turned Gandhian and went on a hunger strike. Prabu Sah, involved in murder of a Hindu activist in Birganj, was not only never caught, BRB appointed him as a Nepali expert on cloud computing if he generate a Nepali expert on cloud computing if he generate some rain in drought-infested western Nepal.

So BRB got tired of waiting for disgruntled comrades to join his govt and has filled it up with disgruntled comrades. The ultra faction apparently made an ass of herself by asking a Madhesi NRN in NY which part of India she was from. Then she asked Prabu Gurung if he was a tailor, and ordered a haku patasi gown. And, this is the kicker, she asked a Nepali expert on cloud computing if he generate some rain in drought-infested western Nepal. So BRB got tired of waiting for disgruntled comrades to join his govt and has filled it up with disgruntled comrades. The ultra faction apparently made an ass of herself by asking a Madhesi NRN in NY which part of India she was from. Then she asked Prabu Gurung if he was a tailor, and ordered a haku patasi gown. And, this is the kicker, she asked a Nepali expert on cloud computing if he generate some rain in drought-infested western Nepal.