

**F FURNITURE LAND**



Show Rooms: Bluestar Complex, Tripureswor Tel: 4224797, 4100549, 4228833  
Bhat Bhateni Super Market, Maharajgunj Tel: 4016277  
Maitighar, Tel: 4266372



RAIMON ALFARO

## Off the beaten trek

Get away from Kathmandu and the crowded trekking trails, flee to Manaslu this Christmas and have the Budi Gandaki Valley to yourself. Friendly people along the way, like this *sahuni* in Machha Khola (left), wait to welcome you. Even though Larkya Pass may be too cold to cross, here are five reasons to hit the Manaslu Trail:

- **Mountains:** The two-horned massif of Manaslu and its magnificent companions
- **Villages:** The further you go, the more remarkable the settlements.
- **Forests:** It's easy to not see the trees for the forest sometimes.
- **The Unbeaten Trail:** Forget the jams of Everest and Annapurna.
- **Kathmandu:** So you can get a breather.

Read more **p12-13**

Full gallery and trekking tips

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

### Editorial

p2

When is Wen coming again?



### The Fourth Force

p3

by Anurag Acharya

### Justice is peace

p11

by Rubeena Mahato



Picasso - Jhamsikhel  
Weizen Bakery - Thamel  
For Business Inquiry: 9841505390

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 : [ises@vianet.com.np](mailto:ises@vianet.com.np)

**EverExceed** **SHARP** **SOLARLAND** **SunLink PV** **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

**SALE! SALE! SALE!**  
17<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> December 2011



The Only Authorized Dealer in Nepal!  
**Sherpa Adventure Outlet**  
Thamel, Kathmandu  
Tel: +977 1 4445101  
[www.sao.com.np](http://www.sao.com.np)

**UNITED SPIRITS NEPAL PVT. LTD.**

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

**Antiquity**

USN/130668/11



# WHEN WEN?

Some things become more newsworthy when they don't happen than when they do. That seems to be true for the postponement of Chinese premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Nepal, which was apparently scheduled for next week.

Foreign Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha tried to fudge it on Tuesday by saying the dates had never been fixed. The Chinese side played down the cancellation, saying Premier Wen had other plans and that a new date would soon be announced.

The visit, and its cancellation at the last moment, has set off intense speculation about Nepal once more being squeezed by a shift in geopolitical tectonics in the region. There has been a more aggressive US posture following the APEC conclave in Honolulu and the ASEAN Summit in Bali in November. US President Barak Obama's commitment at both meetings that America would "remain engaged" in the Pacific in the 21st century have been seen by many as a response to China's growing economic and military clout. Obama's decision to upgrade US troop presence in Australia and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's reassurances of military ties with the Philippines must have set alarm bells ringing in Beijing.

But even more worrying for China must have been Burma's 'defection' last month after four decades of being a loyal Chinese ally. The first indication that Rangoon was going through a dramatic transformation of its domestic polity and international orientation came with President Thein Sein's abrupt and unilateral cancellation in September of the \$3.6 billion Myitsone dam that the Chinese were building on a tributary of the Irrawady. Since then Burma is purposefully



opening up, allowing Clinton to meet Aung San Suu Kyi while the British Foreign Secretary William Hague will be visiting Naypyidaw next month.

All this must have come as a shock to China, which had lined up Burma as a strategic corridor to the Indian Ocean as an alternative to the Lombok and Malacca Straits which serve as vulnerable bottlenecks for its oil, mineral supplies and exports. When Chinese leaders look at a map of the mainland and see Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, Burma, India and Kyrgyzstan, they must have a feeling of being encircled.

Nepal must be sufficiently important in China's strategic perception to warrant the planned visit by Premier Wen, a trip in which he was also going to attend a conference on the Mekong in Rangoon.

However, it would be stretching the point too thin to be predicting a Sino-Indian 'cold war' over Nepal. China is now India's biggest trading partner, the two countries have deliberately kept their border disputes in deep freeze. The last thing they want is for Nepal to flare up and seriously destabilise the Himalayan rimland.

There is a convergence of interests between Beijing and New Delhi over Nepal: both want the politics to be more stable and predictable.

Premier Wen's main objective in Kathmandu would have been to reassert his country's misgivings about Nepal being used as a springboard for free Tibet activities. The Chinese are wary of American and European support for the Tibetan cause, and the pressure they bring to bear on Nepal to go easy on refugees and protests. The Chinese have become even more sensitive after the recent spate of self-immolation of monks in China, and it must have been fear of a similar burning in Kathmandu during his visit in full glare of the international media that factored into the cancellation of Wen's visit.

We in Nepal have enough problems to sort out without also being a regional flashpoint over Tibet. It would behoove the Americans and Europeans to understand that Nepal can hardly be expected to stand up to China when they are going to Beijing begging for cash to bail out their economy.

China, for its part should realise that Nepal is not the cause but the effect of its crackdowns in Tibet. Addressing the genuine aspirations of the Tibetan people for cultural preservation and autonomy would be a vastly superior strategy than beating and torturing monks and nuns.

## ON THE WEB www.nepalitimes.com

### RIGHT CLIMATE

This well-argued article on climate change offers a fresh, new, energy-economics perspective that is rare to see in a newspaper editorial ('The right climate for change', Editorial, #582). I wish policymakers in Nepal would listen, but that is a hopeless cause.

Peter S

- Corporate greed and public ignorance have led us to this precarious situation and are jeopardising the campaign against clean and renewable energy. Nepal is not immune from corporate greed and the short-sightedness of our political and business leaders is likely to undermine the prospects of introducing clean and renewable energy.

Dravin Bahadur Shrestha

### GUNS AND NUNS

The Lumbini issue has become a classic case of the government not paying attention to the aspirations of a community and disrespecting its views ('Guns and nuns', #582). I really wish the Bhattarai government had consulted members of the Buddhist community before selecting a leader.

Sonam Gurung

- On the one hand the Maoists argue that various ethnic, religious and linguistic communities in Nepal should be led by their "own" people and deserve exclusive statehood. And on the other

Bhattarai appoints Dahal, a complete outsider, as the head of the Lumbini Development Committee. There is so much double standard in our politics.

Nirmal

- The Lumbini development project seems like yet another opportunity for the Maoists to siphon off millions to their party coffers and personal bank accounts. How long will such blatant corruption go on in our country? Also, isn't it ironic that a man who openly supports violence and who ordered the killing of thousands of Nepalis is heading a committee which works for the promotion of Buddha's birthplace?

Yam Gurung

- Besides financial rewards, Dahal might have other sinister motives behind wanting to be in charge of the 'development' of Lumbini. For many Nepalis Lumbini is not just a symbol of Buddhism, but of national pride. Controlling a powerful nationalist symbol is an easy way for Dahal to solidify his authority within the country.

Battisputali

- When Prachanda traveled overseas to persuade foreign countries to invest in the Lumbini development project and other ventures he was accused of partaking in meetings with RAW agents. Now that he has succeeded he is attacked for not being a Buddhist!
- Religious groups should have full control of all their sacred institutions. And any religious tourism project will have

to respect the religion in question and be sensitive to the community's needs. But in Nepal, attacking people who actually try to do something for the country's development is a very popular pastime.

'Arthur'

### SONGS

Thank you Amar Gurung for highlighting this wonderful project and congratulations to Terence Bech and everyone else involved in this venture ('Songs of our past', #582). It is heartening to know that despite political indifference and lack of vision shown by our leaders, there are many Nepali professionals, students, laborers who are doing their share and helping preserve our culture. Such ventures will go a long way in helping us understand and appreciate our folk music and rural heritage.

Manohar Budhathoki

- I really enjoyed reading Gurung's article and it is great to see Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya's involvement. I hope this project will go a long way in rehabilitating oral performances and preserving the traditions of rural Nepali communities.

Mark Turin

### MODEL HOSPITAL

I went to Bir Hospital last year to treat a ligament tear and I must say that given the poor infrastructure and administration, the doctors are doing a commendable job ('A model hospital', Bhrikuti Rai, #582). However, apart from the doctors, the hospital is second rate and the appalling condition

of the toilets was a good indication of the overall mess.

Rituraj Sapkota

### LE SHERPA

This is a very distasteful review by Marco Pollo('Le Sherpa', #582). The writer has no idea about French cuisine and rather than reviewing he is simply ranting. I think it is the price that irked his taste buds rather than the food itself. Food as we know evolves to suit the native population. One shouldn't expect to taste authentic, 100 percent French cuisine half a world away, when the only place you can possibly find it is in the small towns of France. Marco Pollo needs to stick to reviewing momo, thukpa, alu dum and other Nepali delights instead of trying to impress the Nepali Times readers.

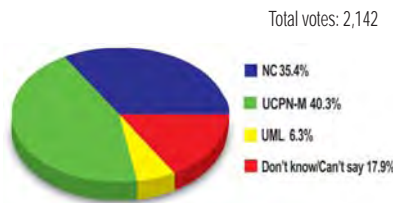
Karma T. Nyangmi



nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll # 583

Q. Who should lead the national unity government?



Weekly Internet Poll # 584. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Who is mainly to blame for the postponement of Wen Jiabao's visit to Nepal?



Nepali Times on Facebook  
Follow @nepalitimes on Twitter





# The Fourth Force

Diminishing clout and dipping popularity sparks a blame game among Madhesi parties



BY THE WAY  
Anurag Acharya

The Maoist-led government made progress in the peace and constitution process in its first 100 days, but the honeymoon was overshadowed by corruption of epic proportions involving ministers and law makers. Barring their notorious role in pardoning their own war criminals and hijacking the state exchequer, the Maoists have done fairly well. Despite pressure from within, Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai ensured that integration went ahead and got the State Restructuring Commission up and running. Alas, the same can't be said about his Madhesi partners in government. They may not have a monopoly on malfeasance, but the energy with which they have been emptying the state coffers, sheltering crooks and demanding payoffs for transfers is breath-taking. These are the same leaders who once gave passionate speeches about how they would work to right the historical wrongs against the Madhesi people. Despite a Madhesi minister holding the powerful home and defense portfolios, the law and order situation in the Tarai has gone from bad to worse, thanks to gangster-style micro-managing. From kickbacks in irrigation projects to transfers of police personnel and tax officers, Madhesi leaders in this government have reinforced the stereotype of what everyone expected of them. Public dissatisfaction with their own leaders in the Madhes itself is at an all time high. Suddenly, the leaders are rushing down for unscheduled visits to Biratnagar, Birganj and Janakpur and, in a bizarre mix of irony and idiocy, calling on their own government to implement agreements which they had forgotten for the last 100 days.



The electoral games have begun, and the Madhesi parties are well aware that the three main parties are trying to steal away their votes in the Tarai. The Madhesi Front, which claims to be the 'Fourth Force' of Nepali politics, however, has been shocked by its diminishing clout in New Delhi and dipping popularity in the plains. In their meeting with PM Baburam Bhattarai and Pushpa Kamal Dahal this week, the Madhesi Front warned the leaders of "the next Madhes movement". But with credibility in the Madhes at an all time low, this is an attempt to rouse a thoroughly disillusioned constituency back home. A Front meeting this week degenerated into ugly blame throwing, and an insider told us the leaders were especially critical of Home Minister Bijay Kumar Gachhedar and blamed him for disgracing Madhesi politics. They instructed Gachhedar to either do what he was sent to do or step down. Sadbhavana leader, Health Minister Rajendra Mahato, admitted on BBC Nepali this week that the performance of his colleagues was below par. "We will have no face to show to the Madhesi people if we fail to deliver even from a government in which Madhesis hold all major portfolios," he said. The corruption cases against JP Gupta and Hridayesh Tripathi, the more articulate among Madhesi leaders, has left the Madhesi politics at the mercy of those that are neither doing any favour to their own party nor the constituency they represent. The Madhesi parties have wasted precious time bargaining for something that their own people have rejected. They must now listen to them before raising the 'One Madhes' slogan. The Madhes movement was one for inclusion and dignity, not for an exclusive identity. The demand for inclusion of Madhesis in centers of power: politics, bureaucracy and the army calls for a closer integration of the region and its people into the national mainstream. In a recent tv interview, JP Gupta said that more than anyone else, the people of Madhes would be the biggest losers if the constitution is not drafted. Let's hope that the Madhesis are looking to do just that in the coming days. 🇳🇵

"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](http://www.subisu.net.np)

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

Dandruff is most severe during this cold & dry winter. Avoid buying ordinary anti dandruff hair oil as it can damage your hair due to harmful chemicals in it.

Now, PROstyle Dandruff Control Hair Oil enriched with the nourishment of Lemon, Rosemary and Peppermint naturally controls dandruff making your hair soft and shiny. And its refreshing perfume always keeps you Stylish, Cool and Confident...

*"PROstyle... for my Romeo"*





# Upwardly mobile

Nepal posts one of highest growth rates in mobile phones for TeliaSonera

STOCKHOLM--Many in Nepal know that Ncell used to be Mero Mobile, but what they probably don't know is that it is part of a multinational company that is the sixth largest service provider in Europe, TeliaSonera.

Telia is from Finland, the land of Nokia, and Sonera is from Sweden, where the world's first mobile phone was installed in a car in 1956. The two countries have been at the forefront of innovation in mobile telephony ever since. TeliaSonera this year introduced mobile broadband 4G service in Sweden because it said the rest of the world was too slow to adopt the data service.

"We want to be first," TeliaSonera's VP for System's

Development, Tommy Ljunggren, told *Nepali Times* in Stockholm recently. "We want to pioneer the next generation of networks in Eurasia."

Among the firsts that TeliaSonera boasts of in its promotional materials and website is that last year it installed "the world's highest 3G" at the base of Mt Everest in Nepal. In fact, among the 18 countries where it operates through subsidiaries or partners in Europe and Asia, TeliaSonera's Nepal operation has registered the highest growth rate.

"Growth in Nepal has really surprised me," admits Tero Kivisaari, president of TeliaSonera's Eurasian operations, "I think we got

the timing right. And if the political situation stabilises Nepal's location between India and China will mean it has fantastic potential for growth in the telecom sector."

Ncell has now overtaken Nepal Telecom (NT) to become the largest provider in Nepal. The company is investing \$100 million in new technology every year, and is even providing equipment upgrades to NT so as to remove the gateway bottlenecks that has affected connectivity.

Says Kivisaari: "Nepal is very important for us right now, we have doubled year-to-year revenue in the third quarter of 2011, and we did it by having a good network, good quality and good

coverage."

However, not everything is smooth sailing in Kathmandu. TeliaSonera has a 'clean company' policy and this can affect day-to-day functioning when corruption, extortion and erratic government policy are the norm. Parliament's Public Accounts Committee this week is retroactively scrutinising the 3G license, so the company has put its plans to upgrade to 4G on hold. Vendors selling SIM cards are resisting attempts by Ncell to stop overcharging.

Although the mobile penetration rate in Nepal is growing exponentially, average revenue per customer is much lower than in other countries whereas investment is three times higher because of terrain, provisioning base stations for power cuts and lack of access. In November Ncell says it had its first day with no reported defects in its network.

For Ncell's Pasi Kostinen it is a daily struggle to battle the bureaucracy and red

tape to get permits, visas for expat staff or clearing equipment through customs. "We appreciate there are procedures, but it takes so much time sometimes it is frustrating," he says, "it requires a lot of patience in Nepal, but we have the patience because we believe this country has so much opportunity." (*See interview*)

The biggest headache has been the connectivity problem between Ncell and NT. "Our customers think it is our fault," says Koistinen, although he adds connections have become smoother in the past two weeks. Ncell is also investing in adding capacity for Kathmandu Valley where demand has grown sharply.

Ncell's focus has been to provide the best quality service for Kathmandu, take 3G beyond the current 16 metros and upgrade to 4G when the frequency is allocated. In early 2010, when Ncell took over Mero and rebranded the company it inherited 100 base stations, today there are 1,600. 🇳🇵

## "I blog to let off steam"

When asked how often he updates his blog, Ncell CEO Pasi Kostinen says:

"It depends how angry I am. I blog to let off steam, it gives me relief to vent it out."

The Finn says he blogs to explain telecom technology to readers, give reasons why things are the way they are. He uses self-deprecating humour, and famous Finnish understatement to get his point across. Some recent excerpts:

- We are two different kinds of operators (in Nepal): we at Ncell want to be very much quality oriented, whereas NTC seems to believe that price is the main value creator for customers. Good. It is important to have alternatives for consumers to choose.
- Please, no "Ncell sucks" posts or "put tower in my village".
- Good news at the end. We thank NTC for allowing our customers, YOU, enough capacity during peak hours to call their network!!

# "We are now building capacity"



Ncell CEO, Pasi Kostinen spoke to *Nepali Times* this week about the phenomenal growth in mobile telephone penetration in Nepal in the past two years.

**Nepali Times:** Nepal has one the highest growth rates for mobile penetration, how much do you think this is because of the activities of Ncell?

**Pasi Kostinen:** Ncell, earlier Spice Nepal Pvt Ltd, ended state monopoly of telecommunication in Nepal. It is a typical trend in low penetration countries that the customer base explodes when better quality services with affordable prices are offered nationwide. In case of Ncell, we lowered the entry barrier to service by affordable SIM card and call prices through extensive sales channel all around Nepal.

**So, what next? What is your future growth strategy, are you going for geographical spread or new products and services?**

Ninety per cent of the population is already covered in the country. We now concentrate on building more capacity.

**For example, how much of an emphasis are you placing on the growth of data products through 3G?**

3G is certainly at the top of our agenda. We offer the fastest internet in Nepal. As of mid-October, according to statistical data issued by NTA, our share was 59 per cent of the total internet market.

**A complaint one hears a lot from mobile phone users is poor connectivity how are you trying to resolve the gateways with Nepal Telecom?**

We have had a fruitful discussion with NTC resulting which, in past couple of weeks they have offered enough capacity for Ncell customers to reach their network even during peak hours. That used to be a big problem earlier. We are optimist that the positive situation continues.

**As part of a larger international company that has a "clean company" policy, how difficult is it to do business in Nepal as a foreign investor in the current business environment?**

Our values come from some of the least corrupt countries in the world such as Sweden and Finland. We have not provided anyone with any undue favors in monetary or other terms to get things done till date and the same will continue in future. We do get some requests in the countryside when building towers, but if the clean procedures are not accepted, we just back off and people will not get their connectivity. I am glad that in many cases, the people have chosen to get the tower instead.



# In the dark

The Rastra Bank's interest rate relief for hydro developers may be too little too late



DAMBER K SHRESTHA



MY TWO PAISA

Paavan Mathema

Last week, Nepal Rastra Bank announced refinancing facilities for hydropower projects of up to 25 MW, under which the central bank agreed to provide banks and financial institutions credit at an interest rate of 6.5 per cent.

The institutions will have to re-lend the amount at interest rate not more than 10 per cent to hydropower investors. For this facility, the banks have been sent a directive to approach the central bank with loan demands placed by such developers.

This is a positive move on the central bank's side to provide relief to the ailing industry, hit by soaring costs. The fixed tariff rates in the power purchase agreement and ever increasing cost of funds have been troubling hydropower project developers and investors. Projects that

had begun working at eight per cent interest rate were forced to pay even up to 15 per cent.

Twenty-eight hydropower projects promoted by the private sector had turned to the government, seeking relief measures. Many of them were in such financial distress that they were unable to pay the interest, let alone the principal amount of their loans. Projects, including Tama Kosi, Modi and Mai Khola, had formally applied to the Ministry of Energy to be declared 'sick' and to be provided relief packages such as relaxation in bank rates.

The response from the central bank has been received well, but this move is perhaps too little too late to fix the crisis. First of all, the facility has been provided for only six months, which is too short compared to the gestation period of hydropower projects. Hydropower developers argue that a special provision has to be made which will increase the time frame to at least three years.

Secondly, the central bank has

provided an interest spread of 3.5 per cent to encourage financial institutions to invest in the sector, fixing the ceiling for interest rate at 10 per cent. Considering the need of the hour, the interest spread is perhaps too high. The financial sector has experienced a surge in liquidity and the overall interest rate has slightly decreased. In the last five months, commercial banks alone have collected an additional Rs 56 billion, but only Rs 21 billion have been invested in this period. Instead of hoarding this money, the banks should inject it into the market. In this scenario, the interest rate for hydro developers can be lowered to less than 10 per cent.

The government could also ease the private hydro developers through external soft loans, as in the case of Trisuli 3A which is funded through a loan from China Exim Bank, at the rate of just 1.5 per cent, payable in 20 years.

There are other ways to cut down the cost of hydro power developers. VAT is still levied on construction of the project, which increases the cost by 13 per cent. The Nepal Electricity Authority charges penalties to projects that supply less than the quoted range of electricity, even when the decrease is caused by natural decline in the water flow in the river. These charges can be eased. Instead, the government could charge income tax, which is waived right now, after the project starts earning.

The domestic demand for electricity has crossed 1,000MW, and the country has installed capacity of 70 per cent of the demand. During winter, these plants generate only a third of their capacity. As we head to daily 17 hours of power cuts, investing in hydro projects and easing hurdles of the developers should be top priority if we want to shed our load-shedding hours. Otherwise we will still be in the dark 10 years from now.

nepalitimes.com

No light at the end of the tunnel, #541

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Happy birthday

Agni Incorporated has completed twenty years in Nepali automobile trading. It has been importing Mahindra and



Mahindra Multi Utility Vehicles, tractors and Max Mile Lubricants in Nepal. Agni Incorporated has nineteen dealers and branches all over the country.

### Sure insure

Deposit and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DCGC) has signed agreements to insure deposits up to Rs 200,000 in Janta Bank Nepal and Everest Bank. The process began on 9 December with Janta Bank and on 12 December with Everest Bank.



### Glittering Gold

United Gold Mart has opened its new branch in New Road, Kathmandu. The company started in 2009 and has six branches in Pokhara and Tansen.

### Tech partners

Explore Asia Pacific has been appointed the authorised distributor of Dell products. The company will market business series products from Dell.

### Janakpuri Nabil

Nabil Bank opened its 48<sup>th</sup> branch in Bhanu Chowk, Janakpur. The bank also has 75 ATMs and has

more than 1,000 Nabil Remit agents across the country.

Nepal's No.1 CONSUMER DURABLES

Magic Motion Remote

Clip-on glass

More comfort for your eyes

Comfortable cinema 3D glasses

Brilliant 3D Pictures

Flexible positions for greater comfort

Limitless 3D content

THE NEXT GENERATION 3D TV

**CINEMA 3D**

SMART TV

Get ready for the finest, most cinematic 3D entertainment you've ever experienced in the comfort of your home. Forget the heavy, uncomfortable glasses and the dizzying picture quality of conventional 3D technology. You can now enjoy what 3D was meant to be, just like at the movies. The LG CINEMA 3D TV. The new standard in 3-dimensional excellence.

LCD TVs

22LK311 22LK330 26LK311 32LK311 32LK330 32LK410 FULL HD 42LK410 FULL HD

LED TVs

26LV2130 32LV2130 32LV3730 42LV3300 42LV3730

3D TVs

42LW4500 47LW5700 55LW5700

Home DASHBOARD

TV Apps

Smart SHARE

Web Browser

In Plane Switching

dlna CERTIFIED

wireless AV Link

INTELLIGENT SENSOR

USB 2.0

Smart Energy Saving

CLEAR VOICE II

invisible SPEAKER

NEW XD ENGINE

SIMPLINK

CG ELECTRONICS

CG Lifestyle Shoppe Pvt. Ltd.

CG Digital Pvt. Ltd.

LG Concept Store

12 MONTHS WARRANTY

True 0% Finance

Toll Free No. 166-00-100-211





# Change in the air

Climate change is forcing birds to alter their migration routes across the Himalaya

STUTI SHARMA

Despite its relatively small size, Nepal is so strategically located on the boundary between Asia's two eco-biological domains that nearly one in every ten bird species in the world is found here.

Altitude variation in the Himalaya and its climate diversity means that the country has 867 species of birds: more than the entire North American continent.

Bird watchers from all over the world throng to Nepal, but tourism experts say we haven't even scratched the surface of its potential. Hum Bahadur Gurung of Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) says: "Unlike trekkers who pass through villages and spend less, birdwatchers

linger longer in a place and usually spend more."

Birdwatching guides also earn more than trekking guides, and can generate employment and income for local nature clubs. Bird watching is not just limited to tourists, every year BCN organizes bird watching trips where locals, students, hikers and bird lovers walk trails to spot birds.

Jyotendra Thakuri, the Conservation Officer at BCN says students from Tribhuvan University and Kathmandu University who want to pursue a career in environmental science are particularly interested as are locals who aim to be bird watching guides.

Yet all is not well in the bird world. Nepal has 27 Important

Bird Areas (IBA) and there are 149 species in the endangered list.

Climate change has forced birds to change their migratory patterns and the destruction of wetlands and pollution of rivers and lakes has led to dwindling bird populations (see overleaf).

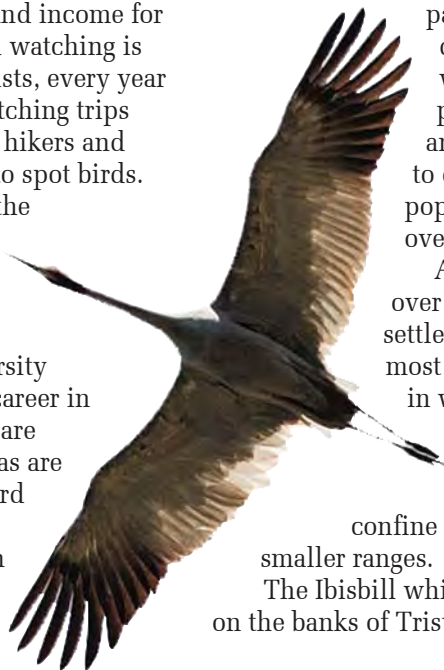
As birds can fly over vast distances to settle where they find most suitable changes in weather cause them to shorten their migratory routes and confine themselves to smaller ranges.

The Ibisbill which once roosted on the banks of Trisuli are now

spotted as high as Langtang Valley, proving conservation areas intended for settlement of birds may no longer support them in the next 25 years.

Studies carried out by Birds International predict how climate change may affect the migratory paths of birds. In Nepal alone there are nearly 40,000 points where migratory birds regularly make stopovers. By factoring changes in weather and habitat, researchers have been able to predict how these locations may change in the next 25 years.

Birds play an important role in the ecosystem by controlling the insect population and aiding in seed dispersal, and Hum Gurung feels it is necessary to plan ahead. He says: "We need to not just conserve our current bird population but also be able to adapt to future changes due to climate change." 🇳🇵



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

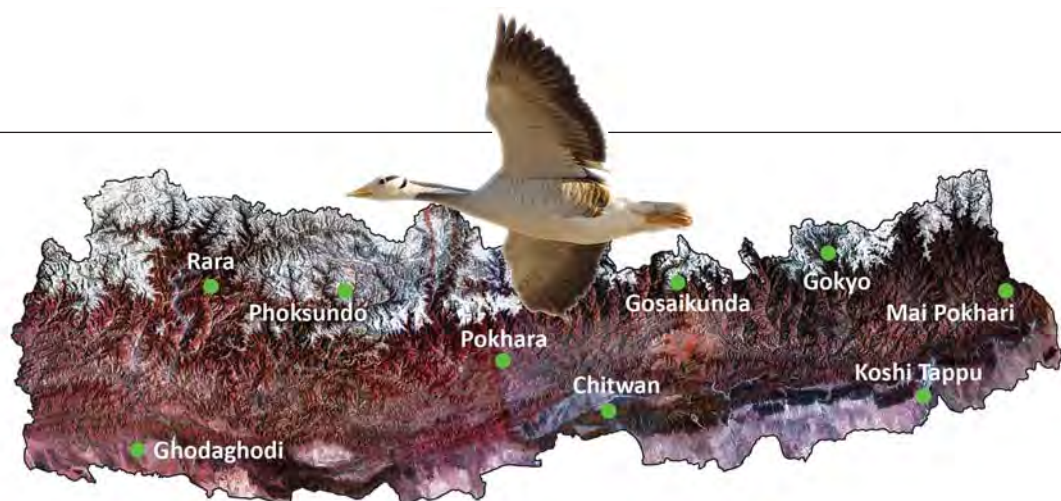
www.facebook.com/Ujyaalo90Network  
www.twitter.com/ujyaalo



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





# Not just for the birds

Nepal's endangered wetlands are a vital stopover for trans-continental bird migrations

Nepal's wetlands are not only home to many unique species of flora and fauna but also serve as a stopover point in the routes of many migratory birds.

Flying from as far as Spain and Siberia these birds use the wetlands of Nepal to gather their energy before setting off again for India, Africa or Southeast Asia. Implemented by the Ministry of Forests and Soil, the Conservation and Sustainable use of Wetlands in Nepal (CSUWN) project aims to address these problems and raise awareness of the importance of wetlands.

Project manager Top B Khatri says, "Wetlands are important stepping stones for migratory birds, but we need to preserve them not just for birds but for the whole ecosystem."

However the destruction of wetlands due to drainage, pollution and commercial fishing has severely affected the populations of migratory birds that make places like Kosi Tappu Wildlife Reserve famous. While once nationally protected birds like the Sarus Crane was easily spotted in the wetlands, today their numbers have drastically reduced.

Most preservation institutions agree the key to saving the wetlands begins with changing the mindset of the people in power. According to Khatri, the project aims to do just that, "We are working on three major areas: coordinating various rules to make a binding policy for all. So, we are revising wetland policy to make a policy for all ministries." 

Brittany Searle

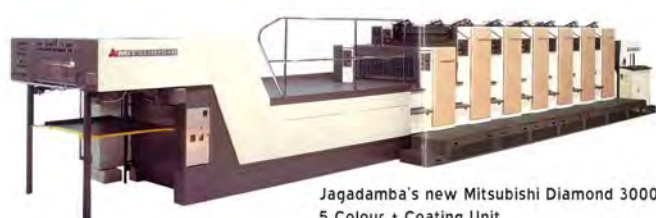
[nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com)

Feathered Friends, #423  
Birds of a feather, #177  
Water World, #130  
Bird and Buffalo Country, #20



## Imitating nature

Nepal's most modern printing facility. Jagadamba Press, now makes natural colours come alive with its state-of-the-art equipment.



Jagadamba's new Mitsubishi Diamond 3000  
5 Colour Coating Unit



JAGADAMBA PRESS

(01) 5250017-19 | fax: (01) 5251013 | [japray@mos.com.np](mailto:japray@mos.com.np) | [www.jagadambapr.com](http://www.jagadambapr.com)

THE WORLD'S  
NUMBER ONE  
INTERNATIONAL  
PREMIUM BEER



It could only be Heineken



enjoy  
responsibly

**BARAHA**  
JEWELLERY INDUSTRIES PVT. LTD.



Head Office: New Road Gate, ktm  
Tel: 4232964-65, Fax: 01-4233511  
Pipal Bot: New Road, Pipalbot, Tel: 2190004, 4266799  
Dharan: Bhanu Chowk, 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](mailto:info@barahajewellery.com) / [www.barahajewellery.com](http://www.barahajewellery.com)  
"We understand customer, so... timely order delivery"

**DECC**  
SERVICE WITH HEART


Opens  
banquet services

business meetings seminars events workshops exhibitions

Direction Exhibition & Convention Center

t : 4117102, 4117135 f : 4117105, e : [seminar@deconline.com](mailto:seminar@deconline.com)  
4th Floor, United World Trade Center, Tripureswor, Kathmandu



Travel to Europe made easier  
Direct flight with  ArkeFly



Europe packages available  
Departure Every Saturday  
Kathmandu to Amsterdam

For further details, please contact  
General Sales Agent (GSA)

Tel: 977 1 4410635, 4415502, 4418726

Lekhnath Marg, Kathmandu [info@mallatravels.com.np](mailto:info@mallatravels.com.np)

 Malla Travel & Trek Services  
Genuine Travel Experiences  
Hunting line 4410635

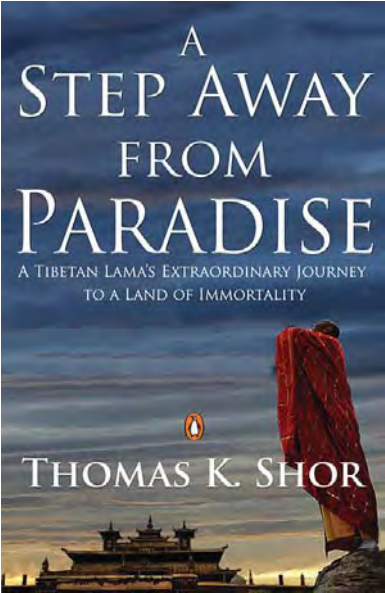




EVENTS

**Life in the Sacred Himalayan Landscape**, WWF presents breathtaking images of the Himalayan region and its people. *Until 17 December, 11am to 5pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery*

**Hamro Shorts**, enjoy the screening of short independent movies in this chilly December weather. *Till 29 December, Food Court, Times Square mall, Durbarmarg*



**Tavern Tales**, Quixote's Cove presents Thomas K. Shor in conversation with Kunda Dixit on his latest book, Step Away from Paradise. *18 December, 3.30 pm, Café Cheeno, Krishna Galli, Patan*

**Bouddha Street Festival**, organised by Yuwa Sarokar the festival features live music, fashion shows and food stalls. *17 December, 10am onwards, Boudha, 9808525924, 9808213636*

**KJC Winter Camp 2012**, ten days winter camp for children between the ages of 6 and 13 organised by Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory. *2 January to 13 January, 5013554*



**Shiamak Davar Dance Fiesta**, concluding dance concert presented by the second batch of Shiamak Davar Workshop dancers. *21 December, 980101101*

**Art Workshop**, learn how to paint and draw under the guidance of Neera Joshi Pradhan. *18, 20 and 24 December, Park Gallery, Pulchowk, www.studiopetals.com*

MUSIC

**Live Music at Jazzabella Café**, Every Wednesday and Friday 6pm onwards, Jazzabella café, Jhamsikhel, Patan. *Call 2114075*



**KUSOM GigExpress**, join performances by bands like Mukti n Revival and X Mantra in the annual music festival. *Tickets at Rs 150, 17 December, 12.30 pm to 7.30 pm, Fun Park, Bhrikuti Mandap, for tickets call 9841594926, 9841518212*

**Baja Gaja**, playing live every Tuesday 7.30 pm onwards at Mosksh, Pulchowk. *Call 5526212*

**Voiceless Scream Nepal**, best of underground bands featuring Satanic Sabotage and Psychic Tower Nabis. *17 December, 11am onwards, Neon Pub, Thamel*

DINING



**Lazy Gringo**, one of the best places in town to sample Mexican cuisine. Free refills of refreshing lemonades won our hearts, but the food is mighty fine. *Jawalakhel*

**Upstairs Cafe**, provides customers with a delicious range of Vietnamese cuisine. *Maharajgunj, near the US embassy*

**Attic**, newly transformed lounge and bar ideal for Friday night cocktails before hitting the dance floor. *Uttar Dhoka, Lazimpat, 984161476*

**New Dish**, you will be in for a treat here as it serves one of the best pork momo in town. *Khichapokhari*



**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*



**Ghangri Café**, a quiet place with comfortable sofas and charming courtyard, perfect for those sunny afternoons. Although famous for their open sui mai, they offer a few other great dishes as well. *Pulchok*



**Higher Grounds**, enjoy the rich Oreo Milky with comfort. *Kumaripati*

**The Factory**, a trendy restrobar perfect 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. Add 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*

**Dragon Café**, try your favorite snacks at a reasonable price. *Kumaripati*



**Just Baked**, a cozy café with amazing pastries and friendly ambience. *Old Baneshwor*



**The Yellow Chili**, Sanjeev Kapoor's restaurant with Indian cuisine and local delicacies. *Bluebird Complex, Thapathali*

GETAWAYS

**Holiday at Grand Norling Hotel**, Gokarna, one night and two days at Rs 4500 and two nights and three days at Rs 7000. *Call 447948*

**The Last Resort**, be a part of the Bungy or Swing Jump Event over the Bhote Khosi river 160 metres below or mountain bike to the Tibetan border. *Fees: Rs 2700 per person for one day or Rs 4500 per person for an overnight stay, valid until December, the Last Resort Sales Office, Mandala Street, Thamel, 4700525*

The art of philanthropy

The Help Nepal Network (HeNN), a charity which channels donations from overseas Nepalis for health and education projects in rural Nepal is organizing a unique auction of art work as a fund raiser for its activities. The first Art for Philanthropy event will auction paintings by Kapil Mani Dixit on 20 December at 3:30pm Moksh in Jhamsikhel. Proceeds will go to renovate and upgrade the buildings of the Adarsha Secondary School in Argakhanchi. Established in 1955, the school currently has 340 students and 16 teachers but the buildings are overcrowded and in need of repair.

The School Management Committee, Centre for Information Technology Nepal, the DDC and VDC have also pledged to support the school.

**Auction:** 20 December at 3:30pm Moksh in Jhamsikhel.








Launched at the Siddhartha Art Gallery last Sunday, Window to the Himalayas tells the story of the sacred Himalayan landscape through a variety of breathtaking images presented by the World Wildlife Fund. Spanning three floors, the exhibition doesn't

# Window on the Himalaya

just focus on the raw beauty of the mountains, but offers audiences an informative visual experience that addresses the challenges faced by the delicate Himalayan ecosystem. The exhibition opens with an introduction to life in the Himalayas with pictures that capture the beauty of the mountains, the types of flora and fauna unique to the Himalayan landscape and the people of the mountain whose religion, culture and lifestyle are intertwined with the land. While the first and second floors feature both majestic and confronting images, the most unique aspect of the exhibition is found on the third floor, where photographs capture the way local people have come together with the WWF to save the land they both love and depend on.

The exhibit acts as a reminder that the mountains are more than just a tourist destination but home to people and wildlife that have been

affected by climate change, over-grazing, tourism and poaching. Pictures showing Mother's Groups burning waste left behind by pilgrims, communities embracing hydroelectricity and water-smart farming initiatives provide viewers with a stark realisation that the future of the Himalaya is dependent on the support of its local communities. WWF Program Manager of the Sacred Himalayan Landscape, Roshan Serchan believes that awareness is one of the primary reasons an exhibit of this nature is important. He adds: "The idea of the exhibition is to show the uniqueness and importance of the Himalayan landscape."  *Brittany Searle*

*'Window to the Himalayas' will be featured at the Siddhartha Art gallery until Sunday December 18. Schools are welcome.*

**SOMEPLACE ELSE**

Casa de Cass, steps from the UN offices in Lalitpur, houses an assortment of continental delicacies, a bar of baked goodies and coffee brewed to order in a tasteful nook—in effect becoming the UN's unofficial water cooler. With a wide list of soups, sweet and savory crêpes, full salads, quiches, pastas and sandwiches, Cass does brunch and lunch best. Its rendition of the French onion soup tastes true to its origins, but a cheese cap and a quick broil under a salamander for that crispy edge would be perfect. The grilled cheese, one of the more affordable bites on the menu at Rs 195, is served on white, brown or focaccia and evenly toasted. Each sandwich comes with helpings of mixed greens and potato salad.



PICS: MARCO POLLO


# Casa de Cass



Its recommended dinner items, however, need much tweaking. The skewered tenderloin was mediocre.

Grill marks were faint and the meat, hardly seared. My request for medium-rare ended up well done, tough and a bit dry, and the 'unique spicy peppercorn sauce' resembled a marinara sauce. The sage chicken, bacon-wrapped and topped with cream, was well-cooked but the sauce

was unevenly emulsified leaving traceable puddles of butter. Sides to the dishes were uniform: steamed carrots and broccoli, sautéed zucchini and tater tots. For the price, variation would be appreciated: what about a gratin to the chicken or a garlic mash to the tenderloin? The complimentary mixed green salad with a light herb dressing and blanched almonds are a nice touch.

Desserts vary daily at Cass guaranteeing freshly baked surprises like the pineapple upside-down cake, a warm, heavenly slice of buttery pound cake topped (or rather bottomed) with pineapple slices and a walnut crumble—superb. With a soundtrack tuned to the likes of the Temper Trap, Cass sounds like a hipster hangout. But its understated, rustic design (real hardwood floors, a chest doubling as a coffee table, bar stools that line the window front, inviting settees and comfortable fauteuils) and prices to match beckon a quality suggestive of a gentleman's parlor. Bring out the Cubans! But don't be intimidated by the cravats and ascots. No matter the agenda, Cass sets up an ideal spot for a coffee date, a lunch meeting or a Russian novel.  *Marco Pollo*

*Escape the UN House, look left and right before crossing and halt just before the Bakery Café*

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

Join The **V** Generation

**RUSLAN VODKA** 100% Pure Vodka

Drink responsibly



# The 3 H's



DHANVANTARI  
Buddha Basnyat, MD

The unresolved debate about whether George Mallory (standing, second from right) climbed Mt Everest continues nearly a century after he disappeared on the north side of the world's highest mountain. For three reasons (dehydration, hypoxia, and hypothermia) there are doubts about whether he made it to the summit. Clearly Mallory was an extremely motivated and wildly talented, magical climber of his day. He represented the British generation post World War I greatly affected

by the horrors of the war. Mallory himself wrote eloquently about the devastation wrought by the Battle of Somme where he fought. It was time to rescue the British psyche from this mental slump, and his successful bid to the summit in 1924 would certainly have achieved that purpose. Mt Everest, however, had other plans. At 7,000m, the climber is breathing so hard (hyperventilating) that the body loses a lot of moisture, in addition to loss from sweating. Snow needs to be painstakingly melted with a stove for drinking water. In all likelihood Mallory and his friend Irvine who accompanied him were unable to melt water for drinking and were severely dehydrated. Compare this with the successful climb of Hillary

and Tenzing almost three decades later who drank plenty of lemonade and actually peed copiously on the summit. With just his tweed jacket and trousers and hobnailed boots, Mallory was very cold (hypothermic) in the subzero temperatures at that altitude with wind-chill factor. Compare this with the heavy down jacket and well insulated boots that a modern climbers use today. Both hypothermia and severe dehydration predispose climbers to life-threatening brain and lung edema of high altitude. Finally, Mallory felt that it was very unsporting (therefore very un-British) to use supplemental oxygen to help him climb. Indeed there are many climbers who have summited Mt Everest without oxygen, but there is no question that with Mallory's other two problems (extreme dehydration and hypothermia), severe hypoxia (lack of oxygen) is the last thing he could handle. Actually, even if he wanted to use supplemental oxygen, the apparatus of that time was so cumbersome and heavy that it may have been counter productive. It would have been only right that this romantic figure with his intense dedication and skill, reading Shakespeare's soliloquies in camp, clad in his tweeds and simple boots should have been successful. But the 3 deadly H's, (de)hydration, hypothermia, and hypoxia, got in his way to the summit. 🇬🇧



Since 1760

**Berger**

Point your imagination

**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

The unseasonably low minimum temperature this week (it dropped down to 2.3 Celsius) on Wednesday in Kathmandu is caused by a high pressure system stationary over north India. This has left us literally high and dry, and cold. Combined with the Indo-Gangetic inversion haze combined with smoke from the annual grass burning season in Chitwan National Park, has filtered the sun bringing down the maximum temperature to below 20 Celsius as well. This trend is not going to change significantly in the coming week. Best bundle up and think of ways to insulate the house and office to conserve energy and reduce the heating bill.

FRI	SAT	SUN
18-03	17-02	19-01



BIKRAM RAI

**NEWAR DELIGHT:** A girl at a rally celebrating the Newar festival, Yomari Purnima, in Thamel on Saturday. On this day, a special steamed delicacy of rice-flour filled with brown cane sugar and sesame seeds is prepared.



BIKRAM RAI

**KIRAT CUTIE:** A young girl at a gathering on Saturday to celebrate Udhauri, a Kirat festival that marks the begining of winter, in Nakhipot, Lalitpur.



BIKRAM RAI

**CHINESE DOLL:** A dancer waits for her turn at the 5th China Festival, organised at the Academy Hall on Wednesday. The festival was hosted by the Chinese Embassy.

See Beyond the Usual

**YOUR FREE TICKET TO**  
watch us play in  
**ENGLAND!**

Document & Photo Scanners

Laser Printers

Inkjet Printers & All-in-Ones

IMAGING INNOVATION

Bill Printers

Home & Business Projectors

Buy any Epson product and win an all-expense-paid trip to watch Manchester United play at Old Trafford!

Buy any of Epson's cost saving, high performance and highly reliable products and you could win a FREE trip to watch Manchester United play in England this coming season. To win, buy before 15th Jan 2012. Hurry, it's now or never!

**PLUS**

Many official Manchester United merchandise items like pens, caps, T-shirts & key chains will be given away!

Call 4440773 (ext. 103/104/106/108/109) for more details.

\*Conditions apply.

**MERCANTILE OFFICE SYSTEMS PVT. LTD.**  
Hiti Pokhari, Durbar Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 977-1-4445920 / 4440773  
Fax: 977-1-4437088  
E-mail: market@mos.com.np

**Kathmandu Dealers :** Star Office Automation, Putalisadak : 4266820, Max International, Putalisadak : 4415786, Interactive Computer Center, New Road : 4227854, The Waves Group, Lazimpat : 4410423, Click Solution Center, Lalitpur : 5536649, Virgin Mobile, New Road : 4260173, Flash International, New Road : 4222384, Neo-Gen Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Uttardhoka : 4001042  
**Outside Kathmandu Dealers :** Himalayan Office Automation, Pokhara : 061-525300, Computer Service Center (ECSC Group), Butwal : 071-542699/542675, 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, Nepalguni, 081-521473, Smart Link, Dang : 082-561022, Ugratara Technical Goods & Suppliers, Mahendra Nagar : 099-523872, Gagan Enterprises, Birgunj : 9855022388/9725141388, Mega Tech, Biratnagar : 021-521794, Quality Computer, Biratnagar : 023-540150, 9852672548, Dinesh Trading House, Nepalgunj : 081-527092, Hi-TECH Trade Concern, Chitwan : 051-571564



16 - 22 DECEMBER 2011 #583

# Justice is peace

War is often only a few miscarriages of justice away



**THIS IS IT**  
**Rubeena Mahato**

Us Nepalis are known for our weak institutional memory. Out of sight means out of mind. Agni Sapkota, Prabhu Sah and Bal Krishna Dhungel are not in the headlines, so they have fizzled out.

Just a month ago, it seemed everyone in this country, except understandably the Maoists, wanted a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). People wanted the whereabouts of the disappeared to be made public and the murderers of people like Ujjan Kumar Shrestha to be punished. Today, nobody except the relatives of the victims want the commission. The TRC was, like everything else, just political ping pong.

Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai recently declared that the bills for truth and



reconciliation and the disappeared are almost complete and both the commissions will be formed “before long”. But then he went right ahead and refused an extension for the UN’s Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Any hope of having an effective TRC, even five years too late, has been dashed.

It is clear that by driving away the UN’s human rights body, the Maoists want to deliberately weaken future commissions to deal with

war crimes and ensure that they support its agenda of blanket amnesty. Parties with militant wings, the army, police and the leaders of previous governments are only too happy to let the Maoists take the lead because they also have blood on their hands. It seems, justice which has been delayed for five years will now be denied forever.

All this directly enforces the state of impunity in the country. One after another, the government has rubbished orders issued

by the Supreme Court. The prime minister is not just protecting convicted criminals, but openly saying individual investigations will derail the peace process. Will it? It is more likely that reconciliation will be harder and justice will be a mirage if human rights abuses during the war are not addressed.

The architects of the war and those who ordered brutal crackdowns want South Africa to be a model and announce a mass amnesty. Every country is unique, and there are 20 other countries that have successfully completed or are working on truth and reconciliation processes. In some cases, culprits were convicted while some families agreed to forgive perpetrators and some cases were settled with reparations. But invariably, all cases were investigated and aired in public. The guilty had to admit to their crimes and the wrongfulness of their actions was established before they were considered for forgiveness.

What the Maoists want here, however, is validation for their violence, especially the heinous crimes committed during the war. This is not reconciliation but betrayal.

There will be no lasting peace without justice for the

victims of war. Post-conflict societies have used truth and reconciliation as a way to grieve, heal and move on. We, on the other hand, don’t even want to hear the victims out. War mongers on both sides are so afraid of the truth and the violence they committed on the people, they are blackmailing the nation by saying that justice threatens peace.

Ideally, we should have been able to solve our own issues. We can’t let foreigners manage our peace process forever. It’s not particularly a proud moment when a foreign ambassador writes in the national media pressuring the government regarding human rights. This is what happens when, instead of protecting its own citizens, the state seeks to pardon itself for crimes committed against them.

The Maoists are getting the rap because they have the most to hide, but there are known war criminals in the security apparatus as well. It would benefit both sides to push a wishy-washy TRC that pardons all. If this happens, it would forever institutionalise violence and impunity in our society. War is often only a few miscarriages of justice away, and no Nepali wants to go down that road again.



## HIMAL KHABARPATRIKA

15-31 December, 2011

### Cover

Geopolitical tremors  
Delhi worried

### Editorial

Implications of Wen Jiabao’s cancellation

### Himal’s 300<sup>th</sup> issue

Roundtable discussion on the past, present and future of Nepal’s foremost newsmagazine

### Reports

Looting the local bodies  
Pushpa Kamal Dahal’s strategy  
Still no visas for Hong Kong

### Interview

Sushil Koirala

### Opinion

Radheshyam Adhikari on state structure  
Purshottam Dahal on the Nepali Congress

### Remittance Special

Backbone of the economy

**Yeti Airlines**  
we fly with you

## Online to on board.

## With easy e-ticketing service

Also avail the promotional discount while booking online via secured internet banking.

Be Online with:

Be Online with:

In Partnership with:

www.everestbankltd.com  
Tel: (977-1) 4443377

In Partnership with:

www.nibl.com.np  
Tel: (977-1) 4228230

In Partnership with:

www.bankofasia.com.np  
Tel: (977-1) 4263212

In Partnership with:

www.globalbanknepal.com  
Tel: (977-1) 4002507, 4002508

Clients of Everest Bank Ltd., Nepal Investment Bank Ltd., Bank of Asia Nepal Ltd., Global Bank Ltd., PayWay and eSewa Nepal can now book their flight-tickets online, just log on to [www.yetiairlines.com](http://www.yetiairlines.com), e-ticketing contact no: 016 215397

Simple, swift solution

## Instant Ticketing

through secure Internet Banking

Click & Fly

Any time, Any where

[www.yetiairlines.com](http://www.yetiairlines.com)

We operate 7 Jetstream-41 aircrafts to the following sectors on time, every time.

Kathmandu - Pokhara - Kathmandu	Daily 8 Flights
Kathmandu - Biratnagar - Kathmandu	Daily 7 Flights
Kathmandu - Bhadrapur - Kathmandu	Daily 3 Flights
Kathmandu - Bhairahawa - Kathmandu	Daily 2 Flights
Kathmandu - Nepalgunj - Kathmandu	Daily 2 Flights
Kathmandu - Janakpur - Kathmandu	Daily 2 Flights
Kathmandu - Dhangadhi - Kathmandu	Daily 1 Flight
Kathmandu - Bharatpur - Kathmandu	Daily 1 Flight
Kathmandu - Tumlingtar - Kathmandu	Daily 1 Flight

**Yeti Airlines Domestic Pvt. Ltd.**  
Corporate Office: Tilganga, Kathmandu  
Tel. 4465888 Fax 4465115 Reservations 4464878 (Hunting Line)  
Kathmandu Airport 4493901, Website: [www.yetiairlines.com](http://www.yetiairlines.com)  
E-mail: [reservations@yetiairlines.com](mailto:reservations@yetiairlines.com), [eticket@yetiairlines.com](mailto:eticket@yetiairlines.com)

Nepalgunj 081 526556  
Biratnagar 021 536612  
Dhangadhi 091 523045

Bhairahawa 071 527527  
Bhadrapur 023 455232  
Bharatpur 056 523136

Pokhara 061 464888  
Janakpur 041 520047  
Tumlingtar 029 575120

**NEPAL TOURISM YEAR 2011**  
NATURAL WONDERS  
LAND OF SMILES

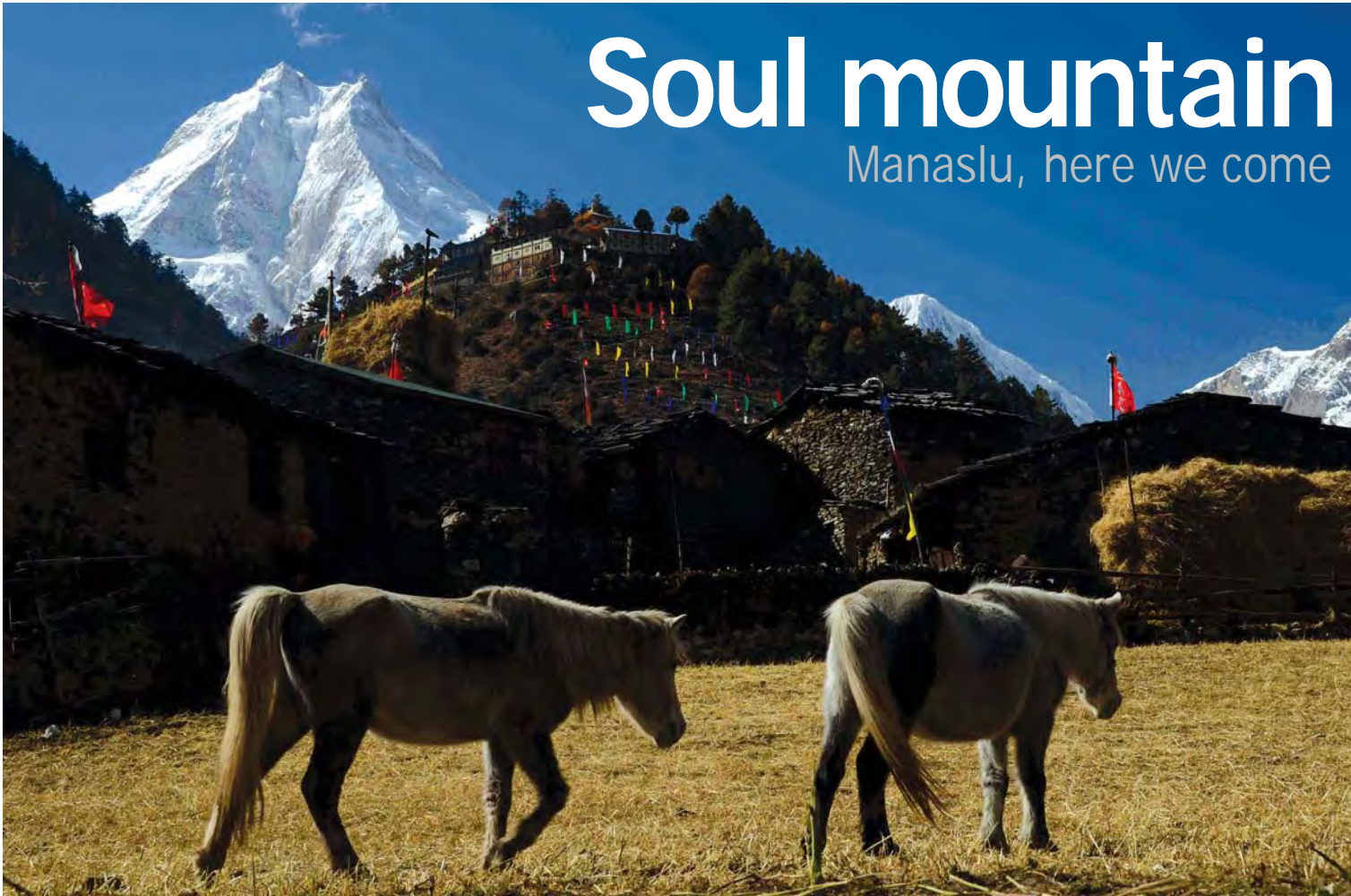


RABI THAPA

“Hello...Namaste... Hi,” and a nod of the head when gasping up an incline; there seemed no end to the trekkers on the trail. On the other side of the Marsyangdi River, workers drilled into the hill. It would take more than a road to deter trekkers drawn by the lure of the Annapurnas, but we couldn’t help but feel sorry for the Johnny-come-latelies crowding the famous circuit – heading up in the opposite direction to us –oblivious to the 150-kilometre circuit of neighbouring Manaslu we’d just completed. If only they knew.

We didn’t either, to start with. We’d almost missed Manaslu, caught up in a welter of itineraries old and new, when I took a second look at the route linked to the Great Himalaya Trail’s website. We reckoned we could make the circuit in the fortnight available to us, and the rest, as they say, is natural history.

It began with all the dubious joys of the highway. By microbus, bus and jeep,



ALL PICS: RAIMON ALFARO

on steadily deteriorating tracks, we passed Gorkha before coming to settle at Soti Khola, where we commenced a classic Nepali trekking circuit – moving from lush, sub-tropical humidity through temperate forests all the way up to barren, icy Himalayan grandeur topping

5,000 metres, and back down again. As with any self-respecting circuit, this one was a long meditation on a single massif, with many glorious distractions along the way. Manaslu, the eight-highest mountain in the world at 8156m, did not

disappoint. From its two-horned appearance on the fifth day of walking, at Syo, it steadily rose out of the lesser peaks surrounding it until it completely dominated the northwestern aspect of the route – unless of course you looked back to admire Himalchuli (7,893m), most

impressive in the wide-angle panorama from Syala. The closer we approached, the more impressive the glaciers that sloughed down from these ice giants, despite the extent of their retreat. The distractions, if one can call them that, comprised the transitions



### THE CHRISTMAS DELICATESSEN COUNTER

At the Lobby

Date: 19th - 30th December

### CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

Traditional dinner menu with promising Live Band performance & Carol Singing at the lobby.

Date : 24th December  
Time : 7 pm onwards  
Rate : Rs. 2499/- nett per person  
Includes complimentary glass of wine or a bottle of beer.

### CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH

Lavish Buffet Brunch

Date : 25th December  
Time : 12 noon onwards  
Rate : Rs. 1699/- nett per person  
Includes a glass of sparkling wine.

### ZODIAC night

Come let us all be together this New Years Eve and mark our individual Sun sign giving it a special priority.

Date : 31st December  
Time : 7 pm onwards



Sponsors:



**For Reservations: 5523900**  
The above Rates are inclusive of 10% service charge & 13% VAT.





**AROUND MANASLU:** Horses graze in the shadow of Manaslu and the Ribung Gomba (above, left). Looking back on Samdo and Himalchuli from Larkya Pass (above) and a sheperd carries a kid in a net around his neck.

through Hindu, Gurung and Tibetan cultures, mirrored by shifts in flora and fauna, that make a ‘typical’ Nepali trek so intriguing. There were the myriad species of butterflies about our feet down low, and a 40-strong herd of blue sheep up high. There were the misty wood-shingled villages thronged with rosy-cheeked children and moody yaks. Thick forests spanning sal to pine. And the waterfalls thundering into the Budigandaki, frozen into glaciers in the thin air as we crossed the Larkya La (5100m) for views of the Annapurna range.

Such a journey as this is much more than the sum of its parts. It’s about the elongated moments of wellbeing, so rare in our jumbled-up urban lives, that become commonplace when there is nothing but nature around you. Walking. Talking. Using all five senses. The rasp of a tree trunk under my fingertips and the morning sun on the nape of my neck; the shrill call of a bird, the laughter of a child, and the mournful clunking of belled yaks grazing in the night; the damp musk rising from a leaf-strewn forest path and the piney chill of

## Practicalities

Officially, the Manaslu circuit is still a camping trek, but don't be fooled by the fake inventories the agencies have to submit for permits. Some teahouses don't yet have toilets, but things will only get better. A sleeping bag's still handy.

The circuit runs anti-clockwise from Arughat (east of Gorkha) to Besisahar, but the advent of tracks means one can start from Soti Khola and end in Chamje instead, making for a two-week circuit. The trek isn't especially hard if you've had a little experience, but make sure to acclimatise.

[www.greathimalayatrail.org/](http://www.greathimalayatrail.org/)  
<http://manaslucircuittrek.com/>

the mountain air; even the taste of plain, smoky dalbhat, cloven in two by the heart-stopping fire of a green chilli. Thanks to the intrusions of the road next door, and the overflow from Everest, we were not the only people discovering Manaslu. With 2,322 foreign trekkers in 2,010, up from 344 in 1995, Manaslu is set to become the next trekker's Mecca. The opportunity is not just for hopeful hoteliers who've invested in new stone cottages with plywood partitions, in village after village. Government could help clear the bureaucratic

brush that deters trekking agencies from starting business in Manaslu, and the Manaslu Conservation Area Project should rapidly move to regulate prices (Samdo's Chez Karsang Sans Toilet makes my personal \$hitlist), control wood consumption (the sole kerosene depot we saw appears to have been converted into a hotel dining room), and provide the necessary hospitality training for newbie hoteliers. Manaslu will do the rest. 🇳🇵

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

For more tips and photo gallery.

स्वच्छ वातावरण, स्वस्थ जीवन र दिगो विकास !

Come meet people who have taken charge of our green future. Discover practical eco-living habits, meet businesses which aren't about business-as-usual.

Engage, be inspired, and have fun.

<p><b>ECO LEARN PAVILION</b></p> <p>Expert speakers on various environmental themes.</p>	<p><b>GO GREEN PAVILION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Environmental Initiatives</li> <li>* Campaigns</li> <li>* Eco Friendly Services</li> <li>* Sustainable Ideas and Practices</li> <li>* Live Eco Friendly Demonstrations</li> </ul>	<p><b>GREEN HABITAT PAVILION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Rain Water Harvesting</li> <li>* Recycled and Lokta Paper Products</li> <li>* Pottery</li> <li>* Traditional Crafts</li> <li>* Bio Briquettes</li> <li>* Sustainably Harvested Medicinal and Aromatic Plants</li> <li>* Organic Foods and Beverage</li> <li>* Energy Saving Lights</li> <li>* Social and Eco Tourism</li> <li>* Electric Vehicles</li> </ul>	<p><b>RENEWABLE ENERGY PAVILION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Solar Energy</li> <li>* Bio Energy</li> <li>* Hydro Power firms</li> <li>* Micro Hydro Power Service Providers and Cooperatives</li> <li>* Other forms of Alternative Renewable Energies</li> </ul>
--	--	--	--

Join 50,000 visitors, more than 40 exhibitors, 15 expert lectures, organic food stalls, unplugged musical troupe, live demos of eco-friendly products.

<p><b>FOR STALL BOOKING PLEASE CONTACT</b></p> <p><b>Shweta Budhathoki</b>  Himalmedia, GPO Box 7251, Hattiban, Lalitpur  Tel: 5250333, 5250845. Fascimile: 5251013  Email: shwetab@himalmedia.com  ecofair@himalmedia.com  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/nepalitimes">www.facebook.com/nepalitimes</a></p>	<p><b>ECOFAIR DETAILS</b></p> <p>Date: February 11 and 12, 2012 (Saturday and Sunday)  Venue: Nepal Academy Premises, Kamladi Kathmandu  Time: 1000 Hours until 1700 Hours</p>
--	--



# Blunder, disaster, gaffe

Editorial, *Nepal Samacharpatra*  
14 December

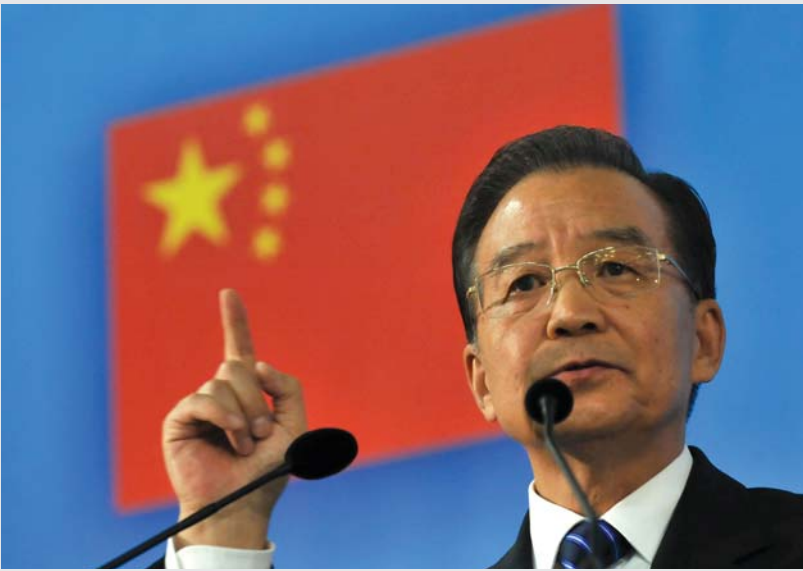
समाचारपत्र

Rarely does Nepal get the chance to shine on the world stage, and even when it does, it makes a mess of things. The postponement of Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao's visit to Nepal has tarnished Nepal's reputation further. Amid preparations for Premier Wen's visit, the cancellation announcement has left the government red faced. Sources in government blame political parties who didn't want the Bhattarai-led government to get credit for the visit and detested the growing friendliness between China and Nepal. When the Madhesi Front threatened to walk out of the coalition government the Chinese side was told this may not be the right time to do deals with an unstable government. Although it is difficult to prove it, this is probably the main cause. At a time when efforts need to be concentrated on constitution drafting and concluding the peace process, such rifts between the parties is unnecessary. Nepal has been the playground of foreign countries, and our leaders have time and again proved to be short-sighted. It's high time they did something to restore our ailing international reputation.

Yubraj Ghimire in *Jana Aastha*, 14 December

आस्था

Chinese premier's postponed state visit has raised many questions over Nepal-China relationship. Did the Chinese pull out last minute because they were wary of dealing with the Maoist-led government? It is no secret that the Chinese never accepted Nepali Maoists as true followers of Mao Zedong. What's more, Beijing is known to be unhappy over India's influence on Maoist leaders, particularly Dahal and Bhattarai. We may never find out the actual cause, but cancellation of Jiabao's visit means that Nepal has lost out on lucrative development packages.



*Ghatana ra Bichar Weekly*, 14-20 December

घटना-विचार

The cancellation of a supposedly very important visit by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao this week has raised serious questions about the credibility and competence of Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai. Wen was going to announce major investment and aid worth billions and sign a BIPPA agreement with Nepal. The government itself was publicising all the goodies we were going to get: a new international airport in Pokhara, the West Seti project, railways and the modernisation of Nepal Police. Ordinary Nepalis were bemused to see everything that was supposed to happen, and experts said this signified the added importance China had given to relations with Nepal. Still others said a new 'cold war' had started between India and China. The cancellation of such a visit has shocked Nepali officialdom, and has ruined the persona of Prime Minister Bhattarai. It is clear now that it was also the behaviour of Home Minister Bijay Gachhedar that had made the Chinese suspicious. The Chinese had hinted that they were not getting the necessary cooperation from Gachhedar about security matters during the visit. Bhattarai has therefore lost a golden opportunity to show his equidistance between India and China, and also his image as a result-oriented prime minister who delivered on promises. Now, it looks like Wen Jiabao is unlikely to visit Nepal as long as Bhattarai is prime minister.

Editorial in *Annapurna Post*, 14 December

अन्नपूर्ण पोस्ट

The postponement of Chinese premier Wen Jiabao's visit is a diplomatic disaster and it has tarnished Nepal's image in the international arena.

The visit should have been treated with high level of sensitivity. But instead PM Bhattarai prematurely disclosed the date and failed to respect silent diplomacy that the Chinese greatly value.

Like Bhattarai, many Nepali leaders in the past have demonstrated their incompetence in diplomacy. And their lack of diplomatic skills becomes most pronounced when trying to strike a balance between two giant neighbours and win their confidence.

It's time Nepali leaders examined their diplomatic aptitude. They must learn to keep emotions and ideologies out of diplomacy and work on understanding the foreign policy, and internalising norms and practices of the concerned country.

Editorial in *Kantipur*, 15 December

कान्तिपुर

The news that Chinese premier Wen Jiabao will no longer be visiting Nepal has sent shock waves throughout the nation and political experts and analysts are all scampering to get to the root of the disaster. PM Bhattarai flouted diplomatic norms by making a unilateral announcement of the definite date played a part in suspending the visit. But news of Tibetan refugees holding protests in Kathmandu was what upset the Chinese the most. China could not trust a country that made a mess by revealing confidential information and one that cannot curb protests with the security of its head of government. The lack of coordination between the PM's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also did not help Nepal's cause. Speculation will continue for a long time, but the government has an obligation to explain to the public why a visit from a neighbouring country's prime minister was postponed so abruptly.



Now with Additional Security



**Your Mega Dollar Savings Account @ 3%**  
*is smart, secure and hassle free!*

For the smart, secure and safe way to save your dollar please contact your nearest Mega Bank Branch.

Minimum Balance Requirement USD 100 | Interest Rate: 3% annum payable quarterly | Inward Remittance free | 25 % discount on Safe Deposit Locker | OD facility against USD Deposit | Free of charge ABBS facility | Free of Charge issuance of Cheque book and ATM card



**Mega Bank Nepal Limited**, Mega Mahal, Kantipath, Kathmandu, Nepal, P.O. Box: 26559, Ph: 977-1-4257711, Fax: 977-1-4266599  
Branches: New Baneshwor- 01-4107247/48/49 | New Road- 01-4251299/93 | Jawalakhel- 01-5554506 | Kapan- 01-4812602/03/04 | Pokhara- 061-531112/13/14 | Biratnagar- 021-521356



Chinese PM is coming      He is coming soon      Says who?

नागरिक    Rajesh KC in *Nagarik*, 15 December

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“ Reopening the wounds of war will not benefit anyone. ”



Prime Minister Bhattarai on Human Rights Day, 10 December



# Busy signal

Interview with Foreign Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha in *Naya Patrika*, 14 December

नयाँ पत्रिका

**Naya Patrika:** Why was the Chinese premier's visit postponed at the last minute?

**Narayan Kaji Shrestha:**

We had never divulged the exact date of his visit. We were working at a diplomatic level to announce the final date. But the Chinese embassy has informed us that he would not be able to visit this time due to his busy schedule. A new date for his visit will be fixed soon.



**But there are reports that the real reason was the government's inability to guarantee security?**

Nepal is not the reason for this cancellation. We had made high-level security arrangements for the visit. Even the Chinese ambassador appreciated our preparation.

**Will this affect Nepal- China relations?**

It will not affect our longstanding relations. The Chinese delegation postponed the visit for internal reasons. So we believe bilateral relations between the two countries and Chinese assistance for Nepal's development will remain intact.

**It is also said that the visit was postponed, because the tenure of this government is uncertain and that the Chinese side is angered by PM Bhattarai unilaterally announcing the date of the visit?**

The Chinese government keeps out of domestic political developments in Nepal. So that cannot be the reason for the postponement. The PM had only mentioned a tentative date of the visit. The Chinese are keen to take Nepal- China relations to the next level.

**The cancellation of the visit is also linked to possible demonstrations by Tibetan refugees.**

It is not true that the visit was cancelled due to the activities of the Tibetan refugees. We have left no stones unturned to ensure that anti-Chinese activities do not take place on Nepali soil.

# Bloody revolution

Saroj Karki in *mysansar.com*, 13 December

Members of Youth for Blood group have been waging a nationwide campaign against the mismanagement by the Red Cross of its Blood Transfusion Center for the last two months. According to the group, Red Cross has increased its service charge for 'fast' and 'normal' service - a practice unheard of before. It has mismanaged the centrifuges machines that separate red blood cells and platelet, and has not repaired them. The blood donors list is outdated and the group says technicians at the center lack training and experience. In Biratnagar and Dharan signatures have been collected and the 'email the Prime Minister' campaign activated to make their voices heard.

**Auto-coding™**

**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

**14 Years of Academic Excellence**

**The Best College in Nepal**

**Internationally recognised IT Degrees**

**Islington college**  
(इस्लिङ्टन कलेज)

formerly known as  
**informatics college**

**Enrol Now**

**Industry Ready**

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

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

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

All courses approved by Nepal Government, Ministry of Education

**Entry Requirements**  
10+2 (Any Stream) or Equivalent

**Intakes**  
September/October | January/February

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

for more info  
**2426**

**The Only UK UNIVERSITY**  
affiliated College in Nepal

www.facebook.com/islingtoncollege  
info@islington.edu.np

**441-2929**  
**442-0054**

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

**building trust**

**We are at your service**

**METALS**

Gold Silver Platinum Copper

**ENERGY**

Crude Oil Gas

**AGRO**

Wheat Cotton Coffee Cocoa

**OIL & SEEDS**

Soybean & Oil

**CFX**

Commodity Futures Exchange Ltd.

Trade Tower Nepal (TTN), Fifth Floor,  
Ward No:11, Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel.: 01-5111010/11/12  
Fax: +977-1-5111013, Post Box: 21199  
Email: info@cfxnepal.com, www.cfxnepal.com

For more info:  
**TOLL FREE NUMBER**  
**1660-01-90909**





When colors unite,  
magic happens



**ROYALE PLAY** | **Thrill of Magic**

For more information email us at [royal.play@asianpaints.com.np](mailto:royal.play@asianpaints.com.np)

**asianpaints**

# Boy scout prime minister

The big question this week is not why Wen Jaibao scrubbed his Nepal visit at the last moment, it is about whether or not Prime Minister Ram Babu is finally going to dump his Mustang after getting **car sick** on Wednesday. As anyone who has ridden this deshi SUV knows, its road handling capacity leaves much to be desired. The Mustang is built to carry twice the legal passenger capacity on the Beni-Marpha road in the monsoon. Not surprising, therefore, that after negotiating some hairpin bends on the Naubise downhill at 75kmph, the Comrade Right Honourable Prime Minister started throwing up. Or is Mr Lal Dhoj simply getting sick and tired of it all?



Good to see former guerrilla chieftains have turned into boy scouts. And there was the prime minister himself decked up not in combat fatigues, but in khakis reciting the Boy Scout oath with the three-finger salute:



BHIM GURUNG

*"On my honour I will do my best To do my duty to God and my country..."*  
Here's a thought: instead of integrating them into the army, why didn't we just induct Maoist **Tenderfoots** from the cantonments into the boy scout movement so they could do their duty to God and country?

Is it just the Ass who is scratching his head when he sees BRB extol the virtues of Sanskrit after spending all these years bombing the country's only Sanskrit University to the ground, or Comrade Brave Top saying he is henceforth going to wear daura suruwal and topi

because it symbolises "national unity", or Comrade Awestruck who dispatched people he didn't like to the next life now proclaiming himself to be a **Bodhisattva** and installing himself as the head honcho of the Lumbini Development Trust?



The Ass takes umbrage at suggestions that the Supply Minister's decision to have dual pricing for diesel is "asinine". And those who call it "hare brained" are seriously insulting all hares. However, the Minister of Undersupply risks undoing the parity in diesel and kerosene, which had stopped adulteration for the past eight years. Besides, it's completely unworkable. Industries will just buy diesel from private suppliers.



After the way we let the trolley bus service go to pot, ran the brick and tile factory to the ground, turned Nepal's first footwear factory into a heart centre, converted the Ring Road green belt into a depot for

construction material, guess the Chinese would just be dying to donate us a new airport in Pokhara, take over West Seti and gift five Y-12s to NAC.




Whereas advanced countries have corrupt military deals involving nuclear submarines, it is a sign of our small-is-beautiful mindset that the Nepal Army is currently embroiled in a **Biscuit Scam**. The Nepal Police is in the throes of an **Instant Noodle Scandal**. And the Armed Police force is being accused of kickbacks in a major **Mosquito Net Deal**. Just imagine if we had a navy.




Nepal Tourism Board, a firm believer in the adage 'It's Never Too Late To Get the Worm', has decided to launch an advertising blitz in December to promote Nepal Tourism Year 2011.





**The Banker**




**Be OK** *for the best*

Bank of the Year 2011  
**NEPAL**

We dedicate this award to **YOU**

Our Customers, Shareholders, Employees, Regulators, Well wishers and all other Stakeholders are the very core of all our achievements. Hence we would like to share this success with **YOU**.  
**Thank you !**

 **बैंक अफ काठमाण्डू लिमिटेड**  
**BANK OF KATHMANDU LTD.**  
*We make your life easier*

Corporate Office: GPO Box 9044, Ph: 977-1-4414541, Kamal Pokhari, Kathmandu, Nepal  
[www.bok.com.np](http://www.bok.com.np)