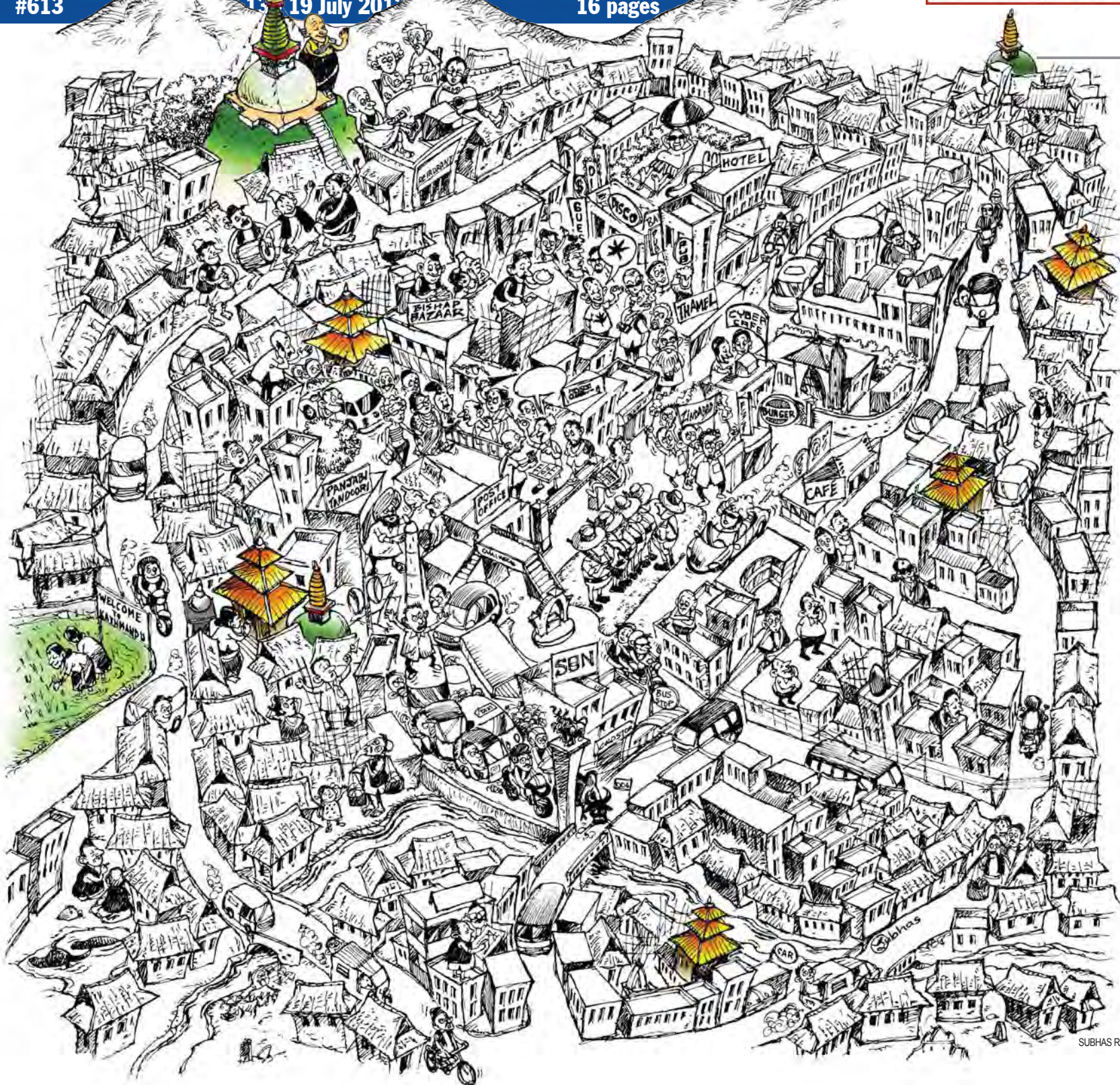


NEPALI Times

#613

15 19 July 2013

16 pages



FURNITURE LAND

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

LAVAZZA
ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE

Blue Note: Lazimpat
Bay 7 Restaurant: hamsikh
For Business Inquiry: 9841505390

Step in for more varieties at
LIFE STYLE
design & decor

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

Cucine
KITCHEN

Able **Brain**
OFFICE FURNITURE OFFICE FURNITURE

S.B. FURNITURE
5004047, 5523864

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

EverExceed **SHARP** **SUNLINK PV** **KANAKA**

Installing Solar PV Since 1991

Rain check

Nepal has hunkered down for the monsoon, and the country seems to trundle along despite the lack of a constitution, a budget, and a parliament. Everything is tied up with political negotiations over a successor to the Bhattarai government, and positions in the next cabinet. The prime minister seems to be hung up on hanging on, and the NC will have to come up with something better than just to say "It's our turn". However desirable an all-party government may be, the reality is that the parties are hopelessly split among and within themselves. Prime Minister Bhattarai has to weigh whether stepping down will clear this log jam, pave the way for elections, and restore a stable state.

Editorial
Four legs good
page 2

On a tight budget
by Rubeena Mahato
page 4

Show me the money
My Two Paisa
by Paavan Mathema
page 5

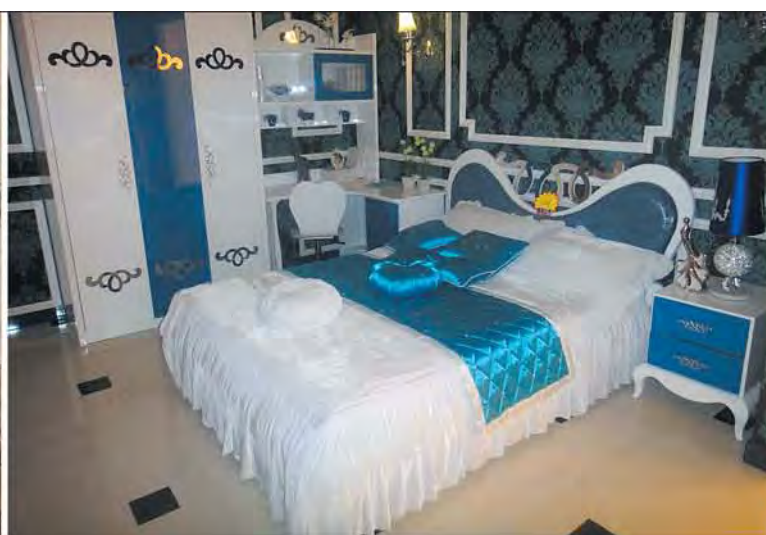
7 WOMEN SUMMITS



After climbing Mt Everest, seven Nepali women are climbing the seven highest peaks in seven continents. They have four more to go.
page 6-7

THE NORTH FACE

Authorized Dealer:
Sherpa Adventure Outlet
Thamel, Kathmandu
Tel: +977 1 4445101
www.sao.com.np



Emporios

Kathmandu Business Park
Teku, Kathmandu
Tel: 4104522, 4104523, 4104524
Email: info@emporiosnepal.com
www.emporiosnepal.com

FOUR LEGS GOOD



Prime Minister Bhattarai may have to weigh whether stepping down will clear the current deadlock, pave the way for elections, and restore a stable state.

Among the 12 retirees, only one gets to stay on if selected to be chief secretary. Fortunately, the candidates said to be most likely to get the top job not just have political connections, but are both competent. The names

of Irrigation Secretary Brinda Hada and Industry Secretary Umakant Jha are being floated as likely candidates for the chief secretary's post. Since all 12 have equal seniority, it seems like the appointment will boil down to political give-and-take.

All this is reason enough for concern because the current deadlock in the political arena has affected the budget. Prime Minister Bhattarai wants a full-fledged budget of about Rs 430 billion, so he can kick-start development and get the economy going. The NC and UML smell a rat, and suspect he wants to influence elections by allocating pork-barrel funds. A one-third expenditure plan of the actual budget last fiscal year will take care of government salaries and essential development projects. The private sector is understandably worried that budgetary uncertainties will hit investment.

To be sure, nowhere does a caretaker government in the absence of a parliament have the right to announce a full budget by ordinance. It will have to pass a budget that just meets regular expenditures until elections are held, and that is probably what will happen. But for that the civil service has to be efficient and experienced.

The budget, constitutional and civil appointments are all tied to political negotiations over a successor to the Bhattarai government and how to divide up the cabinet. The prime minister seems to be hung up on hanging on, and the NC will have to come up with something better than just to say "It's our turn". In fact, the NC can't even agree on its own prime ministerial candidate.

However desirable an all-party government may be, the reality is that the parties are hopelessly split among and within themselves. Prime Minister Bhattarai has to weigh whether stepping down will clear this log jam, pave the way for elections, and restore a stable state.

ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL

This week's editorial about the need for democracy at the local level hits the bull's eye ('All politics is local', editorial, #612). The central government must first hold local elections, followed by national parliamentary elections, and then form a panel of experts to draft the constitution. In the meantime, we will have to make do with the Bhattarai government because we have no better alternative.

Krishna S

Your editorial is spot on: the NC has turned out to be the biggest enemy of democracy. The Maoists stayed true to their ideology by bombing VDCs since violence is their creed. But for Nepal's oldest democratic party to have aborted local elections in 2002 was a body blow. The NC can still redeem itself by standing up for grassroots democracy, but sadly there is no indication of a move in that direction yet.

Jaya Nepali

The three main parties are accumulating massive amount of wealth by having 'yes men' in place of elected local representatives and this system is helping support the opulent lifestyles of the leaders and cadres. Why would they jeopardise their cash cow and opt for local elections?

Raghu

As the editorial points out, grassroots democracy is the only thing that worked properly in

Nepal. However, what it does not mention is that local governance is actually a pre-1990 institution, renamed by political parties who like to take credit for everything good. I am not suggesting that the system worked perfectly, but instead of arriving at conclusions that is only consistent with his worldviews, the editor should give credit where it is due.

Soni

Deuba dissolved an elected parliament in 2002 and Bhattarai dissolved the CA in 2012. These leaders have looted the state treasury and betrayed the people's trust. There is chronic shortage of food, water, electricity, and petrol. Common Nepalis don't have access to education, and healthcare and rule of law does not exist anymore. Why are we not enraged? Why are we still letting these criminals decide the future of our country?

Bikas Gurung

It's shameful and disgusting that people like Koirala, Dahal, Bhattarai, Deuba, and Nepal are 'leading' the country. These disgraced netas are not capable of governing Nepal and bringing prosperity to Nepalis. The sooner we realise this, the better.

Mahendra Singh

The title of this piece is misleading, it should be renamed 'All politics is in Kathmandu Valley', because all the filthy, rotten, corrupt politicians and bureaucrats are concentrated in the Valley.

Suresh Chalise

DEMOCRATIC JOLT

I think the various governments including this one, despite all their shortcomings, are aware of the problems that columnists like Rubeena Mahato frequently talk about, but their hands are tied ('A democratic jolt', #612). The state tries to start a big hydropower plant with foreign investment, but locals sabotage the project saying national sovereignty is being compromised. It tries to dig a tunnel to supply the capital with fresh water from glacial melts, the equipment gets vandalised. It tries to bring in a professional organisation to manage the worst run international airport in the world, opposition parties create a huge ruckus. It tries to write a compromised from-all-sides-constitution, ethnic groups stall the process, and then put the blame on "foreign hands". How can we expect the government to do anything worthwhile in such hostile conditions?

KS

Like the previous elections, the NC, UML and Maoists will not hesitate to cheat, intimidate opponents and show lollypops to ethnic communities to lure them in to their camps. But if the election commission is able to conduct fair and free local elections then it will go a long way in untangling the current deadlock. The moderate monarchists and ethnic leaders could triumph and this will would be the best scenario for Nepal because the oppressors and oppressed can negotiate the future road map of the country together. An alliance of this type will also shorten the transition period and steer the country in the right direction.

Nirmal

I like Rubeena's article, but I disagree with some of her points. She claims that our leaders are "convinced of their indispensability". But I think it is the media which has been circulating propaganda that whether we like them or not, parties and politicians are the only ones who can solve our problems and save the country. But the fact is any Nepali can replace these leaders. She also says the NC and UML are against holding elections in November which is incorrect. These parties want elections but only through consensus.

Who cares

Rubeena can say what she wants, but the inept leaders and parties of Nepal have the backing of India and western countries and this fact renders her opinion useless and irrelevant.

KK Sharma

MONSOON OF THE MEGALOMANIACS

The acute polarisation among the masses and radicalisation of politics is really depressing ('Monsoon of the megalomaniacs', Anurag Acharya, #612). But who is going to get us out of this rut? Where are the second generation politicians? Or will we have to wait for the new Janajati party to rescue us? Or does the ex-king have anything new to offer? Unless and until new forces come into the playing field, we won't be able to move forward even if we manage to break the current deadlock.

Binu

Consensus is a fairytale that has gone completely viral. Our netas must first learn to agree to disagree and stop deliberately contradicting each other.

Nepal needs realists; let's do away with all the pessimists and optimists.

Anonymous

HEALING TOUCH

The story of Dr Govinda KC is truly inspiring ('The healing touch', Subhas Devkota, #612). I salute his devotion to the people and medical profession and his immense willpower. There are many people who talk big but only a few like KC practice what they preach. The hypocrites in the field of healthcare should take a lesson or two from him.

Birat

COUNTRY GOING TO THE DOGS

Ass, the reason the country is going to the dogs is because dogs are in charge ('Country going to the dogs', backside, #612). And now another canine, Gyanendra Shah harbours dreams of becoming a king again. We should put all the dogs along with their civil society friends in kennels where they belong.

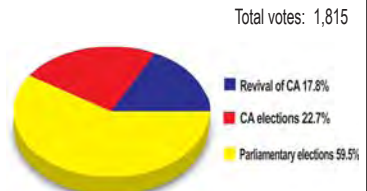
Sunil Pradhan



nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll #613

Q. What is the most viable option out of the present deadlock?



Weekly Internet Poll # 614. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Do you think the monarchy will be reinstated in Nepal in any form?





GUEST COLUMN
Gopal Guragain

On the day that the Maoists launched their “people’s war” on 15 February 1996, they attacked the Small Farmer’s Development Project in Gorkha. This was no coincidence, it was part of a systematic strategy to eliminate all personalities and organisations that had public respect and credibility and take Nepal to Year Zero.

The Small Farmer’s Development Project was the institution that Nepal’s subsistence farmers trusted and relied on the most. Farmers had access to micro-credit and an alternative to the clutches of rural loan sharks.

The next target of the Maoists was to remove the cooperatives, mothers’ groups, and local community organisations by either killing their inspirational leaders, or hounding them out of the villages with threats and intimidation.

After that, they zeroed in on the Village Development Councils, the elected bodies that made it possible for grassroots democracy to be responsive to the people’s needs. VDCs were where the people went to register births, death, get citizenship certificates, but by the end of the war, nearly all the VDCs buildings in the country had either been bombed out, or abandoned.

Next, the Maoists attacked village police posts, driving out the state’s security presence from the countryside. By the end of the war, the demoralised



BIKRAM RAI

Grab what you can

Let’s face it, the Maoists never wanted a constitution, they just wanted to grab power

police had been withdrawn to fortified joint command bases in the district capitals.

As they encircled Kathmandu, the Maoists said they would ‘step on the shoulder to hit the head’. In this they turned the NC and UML not just into the ‘shoulder’ but also the ‘shield’ with which to sideline king Gyanendra. The Maoists regarded the democratic parties as ‘useful idiots’, and the NC and UML did their best to behave as such during the post-2006 phase.

The party’s tactics changed after the war from armed struggle to peaceful politics, but its end goal of dominating the state did not. In this, they ran circles around the UML and NC, played them against each other, dangled carrots in front of them, exploited the greed and ambition of their leaders and used them like pawns.

In the past four years the Maoists held on to their guerrilla force till the last possible moment as a bargaining chip. They used the Constituent Assembly as a proxy forum for identity politics. The truth is that they never wanted a constitution, they have always only wanted to grab as much power as possible by whatever means possible.

The only institutions standing in the way of power now are the media, the Supreme Court, Nepal Army, some sections of civil society and the office of the president. These the Maoists are trying to pick off one by one. They have bought into tv, print and radio, they are trying to undermine the courts and they are interfering openly with the army’s command structure.

During the week before May 27, reporters were singled

out deliberately for attack by a Maoist-supported banda in Kathmandu enforced by the Janajati Mahasangh. It was an experiment to cow down the media and it worked. The latest target of the Maoists is to undermine and weaken the president’s office.

Despite their use of trickery, deceit, threats, intimidation it is not going to be easy for the Maoists to use identity politics as a weapon to get to power. The upshot of the recent visit by senior Chinese officials was that the Maoist leadership got an earful about stirring the ethnic pot in Nepal. On the other hand, there is a section of the Maoists which is pushing for ethnic federalism because it is taking orders from a New Delhi establishment still paranoid about the threat of a Greater Nepal.

Maoist Chairman Pushpa

Kamal Dahal looks like a tired and defeated man these days. He has lost the glow most powerful leaders have as he has fallen prey to his own manipulations. He is caught between geopolitical pressures from the north and south, his party is split and in tatters, and his lies have finally caught up with him.

On the afternoon of 27 May, a draft of the new constitution was ready, there had been a compromise wording on ethnicity-based federalism acceptable to all, the NC and UML had agreed on 14 provinces, the invitations for the signing ceremony at Shital Niwas were ready.

It was clear that had Dahal wanted it, a new constitution was possible. But at 4 pm on 27 May Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai suddenly decided to dissolve the CA without a constitution and announced elections. Dahal and Bhattarai were present when the constitution that they fought for 10 years at the cost of 16,000 lives was about to be born. But they decided to abort. Who was trying to outsmart whom? 🇳🇵

Gopal Guragain is a broadcaster and the founder of Ujjalo Multimedia www.unn.com.np

Subisu is the leading service provider in Nepal, renowned for its one of a kind, best of the breed Enterprise Data Connectivity, Business Continuity Solutions, WiFi Internet, Cable Internet, Data Transport and Managed Networking Services.

Subisu's latest state-of-the-art technology is innovative and efficient. Subisu has set new standard for affordable, high quality Internet/Intranet services in Nepal. COME BE A PART OF INNOVATION AND JOIN THE SUBISU WORLD.

Eastern Development Region: Belbari, 9842035081; Bhojpur, 9742015055; Biratnagar, 9742073624; Dhankuta, 9852050040; Damak, 023-583025, 9852670042; Gaighat, 9852832050; Ilam, 9852680268; Ilam, Mangalbare, 9842627570; Inaruwa, 9842024656; Itahari, 9852020632; Khadbari, 029-560240/9852051680; Lahan, 9804762336; Letang, 9742003457; Pathari, 9742003640; Phidim, 9842766160; Phikal, 9842646546; Taplejung, 24460347/ 9842660170; Terhathum, 9852047647; Uriabari, 9852023329. **Central Development Region:** Malangwa, 9804808270/9844032370; Mugling, 9851079280; Malekhu, 9851027515; Nijgadhi, 9855020231; Ramechhap, 9754203327; Thali, 9851043571; Trishuli, 9751087702; Chandra Nigra Pur, 9855025000; Chautara, 9841924445; Chitwan, 9855055201; Dhading, 9851022354; Dhunche, 9841798124; Gajuri, Dhading, 9851063779; Gaur, 9845135340; Harion, 9854035689; Hetauda, 9755000247; Janakpur, 9844027487; Khanikhola, 9841115475; Kurintar, 9851085278; Birgunj, 9845041776; Shyaprubensi, 9741186804; Kathmandu Valley, 01-4429616/617. **Western Development Region:** Abukhareni, 9740077023; Arghakhanchi, 9707392083; Damauli, 9856023627; Gorkha, 9856029133; Gulmi, 9757009375; Beshi Sahar, 9856030711; Taulihawa, 9847276753. **Mid-Western Development Region:** Nepalgunj, 9848133797; Surkhet, 9858050482; Rolpa, 9748511217; Phuithan, 9847820065; Gulriya, 9858021458. **Far-Western Development Region:** Achham, Saphedagar, 9759002473; Lamki, Kalali, 9858422102.

SUBISU CABLENET (P). LTD.
P.O. Box : 6626, Baluwatar, Kathmandu
info@subisu.net.np
T: +977-1- 4429616 / 617
F: +977- 1- 4430572
www.subisu.net.np

LINEZ/12

On a tight budget

Budgetary uncertainties and mass retirement of secretaries will set back governance

RUBEENA MAHATO

Increasing pressure from the opposition parties has forced Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai to back out from his decision of bringing a full-fledged budget. Coupled with the mass retirement of twelve experienced senior civil servants, this has added to worries that governance in this country will suffer a further setback.

An all party meeting called by Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal on Tuesday decided to approve a truncated budget, after the opposition boycotted a similar meeting called by Bhattarai. This has fed speculation that the budget has become a game of ping-pong in the intra-party rivalry between Bhattarai and Dahal.

Despite the agreement on a limited budget, the controversy is far from over. There is still disagreement over whether to bring a partial or a one-third budget and there is strong lobbying going on by the FNCCI (Federation of Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Industry) for a full budget. Even if a limited budget is passed now, constitutional provisions require it to be endorsed by the parliament within six months.

PM Bhattarai it seems has only reluctantly agreed to a partial budget after all-round opposition, including from his own party, forced him to back down. Bhattarai had been firm on his stance on a full budget until recently, and had support from the business community. He even threatened to bring the budget through an ordinance if the other parties did not cooperate.

The Interim Constitution states that a caretaker government cannot bring a full budget and the Supreme Court has also given a verdict along the same lines. Although, the cabinet can propose a full budget through an ordinance, constitutionally the final decision rests with the president.

But President Ram Baran Yadav made it clear last week that he would



not consent to this, and directed the PM to bring in budget as per established norms, legal provisions and the SC's verdict. Bhattarai could have defied the president, but the all party meeting hosted by Dahal was the last straw.

Those supporting the full budget say that because the economy is already in a bad shape, anything less than a full budget would further aggravate the slowdown.

The private sector, headed by the FNCCI is taking this line and has been supporting Bhattarai. "It is necessary that a full budget is brought in time to ensure the health of the economy," Rameshore Khanal, former finance secretary and adviser to the prime minister told *Nepali Times*.

The opposition parties believe the Baburam government has its eyes on the money and wants to use budget allocations to benefit party associates and influence the election. This is not unlikely given past misappropriation

of the prime minister's pet project, the Youth Self Employment Fund, which was used to distribute money to Maoist cadres. The Maoists are also accused of siphoning off the resettlement funds for their ex-guerrillas by inflating numbers and doling out money to phantom fighters.

A caretaker government is not supposed to stay in power more than three months and preparing a budget for the full year sends a bad message, critics argue.

Says economic analyst Chandan Sapkota: "Not having a full budget would not significantly dent growth prospects, given the slow pace of the economy. A one-third budget will take care of salaries for government employees, meet our debt obligations, finance elections, and provide partial funding to major ongoing development work." Even the Rs 10 billion requested by the Election Commission can be included.

Having a full budget is also problematic at a time when a dozen government secretaries are retiring en masse. Four secretaries have already retired a month ago and the cabinet has promoted new officials in their place. Those promoted are Durganidhi Sharma, Gyandarshan Udas, Dhan Bahadur Tamang and Surya Prasad Silwal. Looking at the list, it seems the government did not make an effort to be more inclusive in its selection.

All other secretaries, except for the one bureaucrat who will get promoted to the post of chief secretary, are to leave office on 30 September, which is why the top post is being fiercely contested. And as usual, the political parties are already lobbying for their candidates, and competition has also started for the soon to be vacant secretarial posts.

Other incumbent secretaries are tight-lipped about their future plans, but the final shortlist for chief secretary is expected to include Umakant Jha and Brinda Hada who are clear favourites because one is a Madhesi and the other is woman and a Janjati close to the PMO. But if the prime minister steps down and the Maoist-Madhesi coalition is replaced by an all-party government, then all bets are off again.

But what worries many in and out of government is the lack of budgetary oversight during the caretaker period with so many efficient and experienced secretaries retiring all at once. The new appointees will be relatively less inexperienced, and bureaucratic turnover can be accompanied by irregularities in budget spending especially if the full budget is passed.

Says Sapkota: "I fear the ministers will waste their budget allocations since there will be so little oversight. The joint secretaries and others below them will pretty much have to agree to what the minister says or else their chances of promotion will go down." ■

See
Beyond
the Usual
with Brilliance
that moves the world!



EPSON
MULTIMEDIA
PROJECTORS
WORLD NO.1 FOR
10 YEARS IN A ROW

EPSON
EXCEED YOUR VISION



Desktop Projectors



Wireless Projectors



Ultra-portable Projectors



Interactive Projectors



Home Theatre
Projectors



MERCANTILE
OFFICE SYSTEMS PVT. LTD.

Hitti Pokhari, Durbar Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 977-1-4445920 / 4440773
Fax: 977-1-4437088
E-mail: market@mercantile.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, Flash International, New Road : 4222384

Outside Kathmandu Dealers

Quality Computer, Birtamode : 023-540150, Birat Infotech, Biratnagar : 021-538729, 9852027264, Megatech, Biratnagar : 021-532000, Gagan Enterprises, Birgunj : 9855022388, Advance Computer, Banepa : 9851081595, Hi-Tech Trade Concern, Chitwan : 051-571564, E-Net Solution, Chitwan : 056-572096, Himalayan Office Automation, Pokhara : 061-525300, Computer Service Center, Butwal : 071-542699/675, Smart Link Dang : 082-561022, Dinesh Trading House, Nepalgunj : 081-527092, Manokamana Hitech, Nepalgunj : 081-521473, Ugratara Trading House, Dhangadhi : 091-523601, Dinesh Computer, Dhangadhi : 091-521392, Ugratara Technical Goods, Mahendra Nagar : 099-523872

Show me the money

And again, political differences are forcing us to settle for a partial budget



MY TWO PAISA

Paavan Mathema

After weeks of deliberations, the government gave up its intention to bring out a full budget on Tuesday and agreed with the opposition on a one-third budget instead.

The government should have been preparing for the announcement of a full budget now, which is expected to be approximately Rs 429 billion. The fiscal year ends on Sunday, but the parties have only agreed on a partial plan. The opposition fears that a budget before the election will be a populist one, and there are several debatable issues. It will take them days or even weeks to reach consensus on the nitty-gritty of the budget.

Perhaps we should be glad that at least some progress is being made to bring out the budget. Even if the Bhattarai government had been allowed to bring a full budget, its implementation by a caretaker government would have been questionable.



ROBIN SAYAMI/ HIMAL

We should be used to this by now. Since 2006 the country's budget has been held hostage by the opposition on one issue or the other every year, sometimes even ending in embarrassing fist fights. Looking at the trend, we might as well change our fiscal calendar permanently. The economy be damned, the opposition parties will not give up the chance to bargain on the budget.

But halting it will put a major speed bump on the country's development and growth. This delay has come at a time when the confidence of the business community is already seeing a sharp decline. The missed deadline for the constitution crashed hopes of investors who were finally expecting some stability. Banks still have not experienced a rise in credit demands, reflecting the sentiments of the investors. The real inflation rate is estimated to be in double digits now.

The delay and squabbles over the budget represent another lost opportunity for Nepal. No investor, local or foreign, will want to take a chance on a country with a highly volatile political environment where risks seem to crop up at every corner.

The central bank is trying to manage the impact of the European crisis on the economy and rising inflation, and without a budget it will not be able to make monetary policy changes to mitigate the situation. It's sad that our politicians, even former finance ministers, do not realise the magnitude of our economic conundrum.

The partial budget will only take care of regular expenses like social security, salary, debt servicing and projected costs to national priority projects. But the economy is passing through a difficult phase and a timely and complete budget could have given it the boost it so desperately needed.

We can only hope that before the partial budget runs out, the parties will come to an agreement which will in turn help stabilise the country's economy. Fingers crossed. 🇳🇵

भाट-भटेनी सेवा विस्तार अब न्यूरोड पोखरा मा खुल्दै




USE YOUR VISA DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD GET 10% DISCOUNT

10% DISCOUNT IN ALL THE PRODUCTS

Grand Opening Offer

10% Discount Exclusively for Visa Card

२०६९ साल असार ३० गते, शुभारम्भ

SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

भाट-भटेनी

सुपर मार्केट एण्ड डिपार्टमेन्टल स्टोर प्रा. लि.

पोखरा, फोन नं. ०६९-५२३२६५

www.bhatbhatenionline.com, www.bbsm.com.np, email-bbstore@wlink.com.np

*For Visa holders scheme is valid from 15th July-5th August, 2012. Grand opening Offer valid for 7 days from the date of opening in all the products. In every purchase customer is entitle to get 10% discount only.

Gift Voucher available @ any occasion

Tranquility Spa अब पर्यटकीय नगरी पोखरामा पनि







Our Services: Nail Care, Beauty Care, Types of Body Therapy, Packages and many more... (Facilities- AC, Hot Shower, Back Up Power, etc.)



Kupondol: 01-5528125, 5548751

Lazimpat: 01-4420424, 4425386

Thamel: 01-4260850, 4218396

Pokhara: 061-466260, 466261

Email: info@tranquilityspa.com.np, www.tranquilityspa.com.np



Seven women, seven summits

CANDICE NEO

After seven years as a journalist, 29-year-old Shailee Basnet no longer felt the same passion and drive for the profession. She decided there is a higher calling in her life: to climb the tallest mountains in all seven continents, and set an example for other women climbers.

Basnet was among the 10 Nepali women who ascended Mt Everest in May 2008 as part of the First Inclusive Women Sagarmatha Expedition (*see box*). During their gruelling 45 day trek, Basnet, Pujan Acharya, Maya Gurung (*pictured right, on Mt Elbrus*), Asha Kumari Singh, Nimdoma Sherpa, Pema Diki Sherpa, and Chunu Shrestha became close friends and met in Thamel every week to catch up.

On 1 January 2009, the seven friends formed the Everest Women Seven Summits Eco-Action team and mapped out their future plans. "It was our New Year resolution of sorts," Basnet explains. "We didn't want to go back to our normal lives. We wanted to fulfil bigger dreams and inspire people."

In 2010, the team scaled Mt Kosciuszko in Australia and Mt Elbrus in Russia. Africa's Mt Kilimanjaro



Having climbed the highest peaks in Asia, Australia and Europe, the Nepali women mountaineers have four more to conquer

is next on their to-do-list for spring 2013. The United Nations World Food Programme has agreed to sponsor a part of the Kilimanjaro climb and the team is offering public hikes every Saturday to hills near Kathmandu Valley to raise the remaining amount.

However, their journey to the top has been an uphill battle and they have had to overcome immense personal and financial obstacles. Pema, 24, and Nimdoma, 21, belong to poor families.

Nimdoma's father died when she was 15 and she has been supporting her family ever since. 33-year-old Gurung ran away from her home in Sindhupalchok at 14 when she found out her family was planning to marry her off.

Even after their successful climb of Mt Everest, funding for their Mt Elbrus trip was hard to come by and they had to use their personal savings to cover half of the two million budget.

Conquering the three summits not

only bought them fame and recognition, but also gave the women an opportunity to fight gender stereotypes and break new grounds.

In the male-dominated world of climbing, only 51 out of the 300 climbers who have scaled the seven peaks are women. And despite the rise in female trekking guides and climbers in Nepal, there is an immense gender disparity with men far outnumbering women in mountaineering expeditions.

"Before Everest, the older generation in particular had a hard time accepting us. They seemed uncomfortable with the idea of young, female mountaineers. They would ask us why we are climbing mountains, instead of finding 'regular' jobs, earning money, or getting married," says Pema.

"But now people listen to us," adds Basnet proudly. "They say you have climbed Everest, now you can do anything."

Today the women are role models both at home and abroad. They have visited more than 100 schools across Nepal as well as universities in the US and Australia where they talk about their achievements, setbacks and the value of hard work and perseverance. Gurung, who dreams of transforming the lives of women in her trafficking-plagued district will be speaking to Nepalis living in Singapore and Malaysia in July.

Everywhere the women go, the response is overwhelming and students say they feel hopeful about pursuing dreams they once thought were impossible.

"Many young Nepali girls have low self-esteem and hesitate to follow their dreams," says Chunu Shrestha. "We want to reach out and tell them that if they believe in themselves, they can achieve their goals and do as well as men. Even physically and mentally demanding tasks like climbing Mt Everest is not out of reach." 🇳🇵

www.sevensummitwomen.org

nepalitimes.com

Nepali women climbers set the pace, #590





TOP OF THE WORLD (l-r): Shailee Basnet and Pema Diki Sherpa summit Mt Everest

Ascent to the top of the world

After an intense 10 month training programme that involved rock climbing, ice-slammng and running at high altitudes, the team of 10 Nepali women from diverse ethnic communities summited Mt Everest on 25 May 2008. Before them, only seven Nepali women had reached the top on separate occasions. The expedition was organised by veteran mountaineers like Pemba Dorje Sherpa, DaGombu Sherpa and Susmita Maskey.

The highest mountain in each of the continent:



Mt Everest at 8848m in Nepal-China (Asia)



Mt Aconcagua at 6962m in Argentina (South America)



Mt Elbrus at 5642m in Russia (Europe)



Mt McKinley at 6194m in Alaska (North America)



Mt Kilimanjaro at 5892m in Tanzania (Africa)



Mt Vinson Massif at 4892m in Antarctica



Mt Kosciuszko at 2228m in Australia



CONQUERING RUSSIA: Tanya and Ludmila (standing, l-r), the only woman to have climbed all seven summits along with Usha Bista, Pema Diki Sherpa, Shailee Basnet, Maya Gurung, Nimdoma Sherpa, Asha Kumari Singh, Chunu Shrestha, Ngabhang Phuti Sherpa, and Pujan Acharya (below, l-r) pause for a picture on Mt Elbrus, Russia.

Nepal's UN mission has its work cut out

Nepal is set to remain on the list of 'least developed' countries for some time yet

ABHA ELI PHOBOO in GENEVA



Here in Geneva, surrounded by news of Europe's falling economy and rising unemployment, a woman with a baby holds out a cup in the train near the Nepal mission to the UN, and an elderly man begs for spare change on the sidewalk.

The United Nations in Geneva which is supposed to raise living standards of developing countries is increasingly finding itself in the midst of joblessness and poverty in its own vicinity.

In a recent Gallup Poll on countries where residents rated their lives as 'highest in suffering', Nepal topped the list, beating Afghanistan. But Shanker Das Bairagi, Nepal's newly-appointed ambassador to the UN in Geneva (*pic, above*), is optimistic, and says we must look at the positives.

"There will always be problems, no matter how developed a nation is. The difference will be the nature and depth of the problem," he says.

Given the many problems Nepal has, including the constitutional deadlock, what is the mission's priority now?

"Things aren't as bleak as people make it out to be," says Bairagi, "yes, we face some difficulty in having a new constitution within the prescribed time frame, but we have an interim constitution in place and it looks like Nepal might possibly achieve most of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015."

Indeed, Nepal's progress in basic health and primary education has been recognised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as showing the sharpest improvement among low-income countries. But Bairagi has his work cut out for him here in Geneva: to ensure that Nepal remains committed to human rights instruments that it has ratified, and to promote development through trade.

The Permanent Mission represents Nepal at the Palais de Nations in Geneva, one of four major offices of the UN around the world that houses the United Nations

Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

It maintains bilateral diplomatic relations with Switzerland, Italy, and Croatia and also seeks to serve diaspora Nepalis in the area, and promote Nepal as a tourist destination.

Bairagi says while political awareness runs high in Nepal with the media and civil society actively engaging in public debate, there isn't enough done to promote economic development, and prioritise agriculture.

Last year, Nepal coordinated the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Nations in Istanbul with Bairagi in the expert-level committee. There are still 48 countries on the 'least developed' list, and the goal is to halve the number by 2020. Maldives has already graduated, and a few others are close to meeting the requirements.

"Nepal's performance has not been bad," Bairagi says carefully, "but we need national commitment and efficient implementation of policies. The planning and strategies are down on paper, the question is of action and partnership."

Bairagi finds a lot of work has to do with trade-led growth, and joining other developing nations in the negotiations at multilateral trade fora for duty-free, quota-free, non-restrictive access to markets in developed nations. The career diplomat has served at the UN in New York and at the EU in Brussels. He helped set up the Nepali embassy in Canberra.

Bairagi adds: "It is important to have a national target with the goal of being self-sufficient. And this can only be achieved with a right mix of policies, institutions and resources."

Without that, Nepal seems fated to remain one of the few countries from Asia in the list of 'least developed' countries for some time yet.

EVENTS



DEMYSTIFYING PORTRAITURE, a workshop by Spanish photographer Arantxa Cedillo for photography enthusiasts who want to meet people and tell their stories through portraits. 21 to 22 July and 28 to 29 July, 9am to 3pm, Jhamsikhel

Futsal Carnival, enjoy a fun-filled fair as you cheer for your favourite futsal team, dance to the music of DJ Phuchhey and savour delicious snacks from the food stalls. 28 July, 11am to 7pm, Grassroots Recreational Centre, Mandikatar



JAMUNKO RUKH, don't miss this drama for street children organised by Koseli School and Gari Khana Deu. Rs 250, 14 July, 4.45 pm or 6pm, Nepal Tourism Board, Bhrikuti Mandap

Ah Wilderness!, a family comedy written by Nobel Prize winner Eugene O'Neill and directed by Deborah

Merola. Rs 200 (for adults) and Rs 100 (for students), 14 to 15 July, 3pm, Vajra Hotel, Swayambhu

Kathmandu Kora Cycling Challenge 2012, cycle a full circle around Kathmandu Valley to raise money for Save the Children. Register at www.tinyurl.com/reg-ktm-kora, 21 July, 6.45 am, starting at Patan Durbar Square, 4412508 or email kora@socialtours.com

Shuffle Party, shuffle the night away with music by DJ Pujan and Niral. Rs 300 (pre sales) or Rs 500 (door), 21 July, 1pm to 12am, Topsy Bar and Lounge, Durbarmarg

MUSIC



ASARAI MAINAMA, celebrate traditional Nepali music this Asar with Rock Sitar. Rs 300, 13 July, 7.15 pm onwards, House of Music, Thamel



MONKEY TEMPLE, catch Monkey Temple's brand new album 'Shades of Grey' as they perform live. Rs 350, 20

July, 7.45 pm, Trisara Restro and Bar, Lazimpat

74th Yalamaya Classic, catch two classical music performances to unwind this summer. 17 July, 5pm onwards, Baggikhana, Yalamaya Kendra, Patan Dhoka, 5553767

DINING



CAFE U, a homely ambiance with a fusion of Japanese and Filipino delights. Closed on Tuesdays, Sanepa

G Café, spic and span with a palatable menu, this restaurant is definitely worth a visit. Bouddha



MAGIC BEANS, coffee, cakes and sandwiches with a magical touch and taste. Sherpa Mall, Durbar Marg, 4230914

Lorry's, let Italian, Mexican and continental dishes excite your taste buds in this cosy restaurant. Jhamsikhel



LA ROTISSERIE, get your fill of roasted delights like chicken, duck and trout. Jawalakhel

Dragon Café, enjoy momos, sizzlers and vegetable coins at the most reasonable prices. Kumarijati



CHIKUSA, enjoy a cup of freshly ground coffee with syrupy pancakes, waffles and crêpes. Thamel

Alchemy, an authentic Italian restaurant which serves dishes like Pizza Quatro Stagioni and Spaghetti alla Puttanesca. Thamel

Japanese Crepe Station, try the unique Nepali khuwa crepe for a quick fix. Khichapokhari and Basantapur, Call 4256655

Picnic, enjoy this Korean restaurant which offers heaping portions at affordable prices. Thamel



SUMMIT HOTEL, savour the succulent ribs basket, and add the finishing touch with a hot Dutch apple pie. Jhamsikhel, 5521810

Singma Food Court, for the best Singaporean and Malaysian cuisine in town. Pulchowk, 5009092 and Bhatbhateni, 4411078



BOUDHA STUPA RESTAURANT & CAFÉ, enjoy wood-fired pizza, homemade pastas and the one and only Tibetan gyakok. Boudha, 012130681, 9841484408

FLY ON TIME

Yeti Airlines operates 7 Jetstream-41 advanced turbo prop aircrafts catering to widest network sectors every day.

KTM-MTN-KTM Daily 5 Flights • KTM-PKR-KTM Daily 8 Flights • KTM-BIR-KTM Daily 7 Flights • KTM-BDP-KTM Daily 3 Flights • KTM-BWA-KTM Daily 2 Flights • KTM-KEP-KTM Daily 2 Flights • KTM-JKR-KTM Daily 2 Flights • KTM-DHI-KTM Daily 1 Flight • KTM-BHR-KTM Daily 1 Flight • KTM-TMI-KTM Daily 1 Flight

Yeti Airlines Domestic Pvt. Ltd. Corporate Office: Tilganga, Kathmandu, Tel: 4465888 Fax: 4465115 Reservations: 4464878 (Hunting Line), Kathmandu Airport: 4493901 Email: reservations@yetiairlines.com Sky Club: 01-4487020/4465888 (223/418/614) Email: skyclub@yetiairlines.com Bhadrapur: 023-455232 • Biratnagar: 021-536612 • Tumlingtar: 029-575120 • Janakpur: 041-520047 • Bharatpur: 056-523136 • Pokhara: 061-464888 • Bhairahawa: 071-527527 • Nepalgunj: 081-526556 • Dhangadi: 091-520004

Yeti Airlines
You come first
www.yetiairlines.com

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

Put your **body, mind, and spirit** in harmony

Subscribe to Nepali Times
for two years, and
Get a free
coupon worth
Rs 3,000 at

TRANQUILITY SPA

Call today
01-554 2525, Fax: 977 1 525 1013, 98510 30025
subscription@himalmedia.com
SMS: SUB <space> to 5004



8 DEGREES, from lemon lassis to spicy pork stews, 8 degrees is a great place to try continental dishes. *Jhamsikhel*

Dragon Café, enjoy momos, sizzlers and vegetable coins at the most reasonable prices. *Kumaripati*



SALT AND PEPPER, a resto-lounge with a wide variety of dishes to choose from like Hakka Noodles, Hong Kong Chicken and Honey Chili Potatoes. *Lakeside, Pokhara*

Byanjan, enjoy great food at an affordable price. Shrimp cocktails, Grilled Fish and desserts are favourites among guests. *Lakeside, Pokhara*

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

Chongqing Fast Food, gear up for some mouth watering Chinese dishes like Sour and Spicy Pork and Kung Pao Chicken. *Thamel*



PERI PERI, home of legendary Portugese flamed grilled chicken, enjoy dishes served with the trademark Piri Piri sauce. *Jhamsikhel, 9808563803*

Fire and Ice, home to some of the most delicious pizzas in town. *Thamel, 4250210*



RANIBAN RETREAT, situated at the other end of the Phewa lake and nested inside the Raniban forest and the World Peace Stupa, this retreat has one of the best views of the Annapurna range, Phewa lake and Pokhara. *World Peace Pagoda, Pokhara, 977-61-692136, 9841382053*



HOTEL LANDMARK, made entirely from traditional Nepali brick and woodcraft, this hotel is rich not only in heritage but also in services and boasts an award winning restaurant, the Hungry Eye. 00977-061-462908/463096/464897, www.landmarkpokhara.com

Last Resort, canyoning, hiking, rock climbing, rafting, mountain biking-challenge yourself and be adventurous at the Last Resort. 4700525, 4701247

Auto-coding™

Element

Blood Glucose Monitoring System

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

- 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...)

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@srcd.com.np

125

15 11 12:25

BARAHA
JEWELLERY INDUSTRIES PVT. LTD.

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

"We also make casting jewellery"

SOMEPLACE ELSE

Saffron



Saffron opened its doors over eight months ago, yet it retains an air of newness. The walls are unadorned, the waiters look quite astounded when they see patrons walking in and the gold gilded, maroon upholstered aluminum chairs still hold on to their plastic covers. The entire ambience is that of a banquet party hall.

As it is situated in the Trade Tower Nepal Complex in Thapathali many people don't know about its existence.



PICS: RUBY TUESDAY

Saffron lacks charm, but maybe its attraction is in not trying to be anything it isn't. It's basic, but very conveniently placed to grab a quick bite for lunch after looking through the newest model of cars on display on that section of the road or attending a business meeting.

While the place was definitely a let-down, the food was surprisingly good. A quick word of advice-do not decide on what to eat by reading the menu, for half the things on offer weren't available, so we resorted to asking our server and went by his recommendations. The Buff Momos (Rs 90) were hot and satisfying. And their take on Chicken Sandeko (Rs 150) was deeply fried crispy chicken bits tossed in a sliced cucumber, tomato and onion salad generously garnished with sliced chilies and coriander- crunchy, tart and spicy all in one.

Where Saffron really surprised us was

with its entrées, Chicken a la King (Rs 180) and Pasta with Chicken and Creamy Sauce (Rs 150). While cream can be used to disguise and mask a multitude of faults, and let's be honest, it can make everything taste better, Saffron did not rely on cream to salvage its dishes. The pasta was perfectly al dente and did not sink under the weight of the sauce. The thin strips of carrot and capsicum added texture to the bite. The Chicken a la King didn't disappoint either. The chicken pieces could have been a bit smaller so as to be seasoned throughout and not so dry, but overall the dish was perfectly acceptable.

Saffron does not have a dessert menu but you can order a variety of coffee-hot, cold or iced from the café downstairs. We chose the Sweet Lassi (Rs 50) and that came well-blended and chilled, perfect for the hot, muggy weather.

Saffron's price is what made us the really happy. Our entire meal came to Rs 770, which is a bargain



in today's age where eating out is fast becoming a luxury because of the exorbitant prices charged by most restaurants. It is clean, has air conditioning, lots of icy cold water and the waiters were very eager, once they got over their initial surprise. **Ruby Tuesday**

Once you cross the busy intersection at Maitighar and turn towards Thapathali, look towards the left where you will see large gates supporting an arch – that's the entrance to the Trade Tower Nepal Complex. Saffron is on the first floor to the right.

5.5
OUT OF
10



Join
The
V
Generation

RUSLAN
VODKA

100% Pure Vodka

Drink responsibly



TAKE THIS WALTZ



MUST SEE

Sophia Pande

Sometimes films are more tone poems or mood pieces without the kind of definitive narrative arc that we have come to expect from more conventional cinema. As with abstract painting it would be a mistake to imagine that these pieces are merely put together to look pretty without a thought for structure and that “any one could do it”.

While Sarah Polley’s second film *Take This Waltz* is much less structured than her wonderful debut film *Away From Her* - based on an Alice Munro’s short story and featuring the still very lovely Julie Christie and Gordon Pinsent as an ageing couple who must struggle with Christie’s slowly advancing Alzheimer’s – it is still a carefully thought out film which lingers over its characters and scenes and is poignant and beautiful to the eye.

As with *Away From Her*, this follow up film is a careful study of a couple’s relationship: the intimacies, intricacies, daily joys and disappointments of being with someone over a long period of time.

Margot, played by the pixie-like Michelle Williams, is a free-spirited, poetic housewife who meets the tall, dark, handsome and sometimes brooding artist Daniel (Luke

Kirby) while on a trip to Nova Scotia. Sharing an immediate connection and a taxi ride home from the airport, they discover to their slight consternation that they are neighbours. As Margot leaves Daniel at the taxi she tells him “I am married”.

Lou, Margot’s husband played by Seth Rogan, is the opposite of Daniel. He is tall, with a fireman like build, spends most of his time obsessively cooking varieties of chicken in the kitchen (for his cookbook) and is taciturn, though obviously very much in love with his wife. It is both easy and painful to see how the charming, child-like, slightly erratic Margot drifts towards Daniel even as she remains physically faithful to the husband that she loves, but to whom she has become too accustomed.

Sometimes with a heavy hand and other times with a feather light touch, Polley’s film addresses the issues inherent in a long-term relationship. In the words of a wiser old lady in a shower room after a wonderfully comic scene where the women are doing water aerobics taught by a pushy gay instructor, “New becomes old”. This is the recurring theme in the film, and perhaps herein lies the essential tragedy of modern relationships.

We witness Margot’s small but telling intimacies with her husband, their little jokes, as well as the torrid beauty of her mini escapades with Daniel in episodes that are alternately charming, occasionally too precious, but always beautiful and lit with a glow that is almost other-worldly. It is difficult to portray certain stories without surrendering to the power of beautiful cinematography and of course, to music, which heightens every important scene in the film.

Take This Waltz was written by Sarah Polley, and the title is after the tragic and mysterious Leonard Cohen song of the same name, loosely translated from a poem by Federico Garcia Lorca. Needless to say, the song does make an unforgettable appearance in the film in a montage of slow moving 360 degree shots that dissolve into each other and convey the burning heat and the slow simmering down of a new and passionate relationship.

The song, perhaps one of the most enigmatic ever written, ends with these lines:

And I’ll yield to the flood of your beauty
My cheap violin and my cross
And you’ll carry me down on your dancing
To the pools that you lift on your wrist.

As with any great, searching, independent film, perhaps the best way to view this one is as an attempt at portraying a slice of life.

Life is never wrapped up in the neat formula of the romantic comedy, and while *Take This Waltz* is not perfect, it still has a ragged beauty and mystery that is best taken with a measure of wonder and a certain acceptance. 🇳🇵

All DVDs reviewed in this column are available at: Music and Expression, Thamel, Phone # 014700092

nepalitimes.com

Watch trailer

Pilgrimage medicine



DHANVANTARI

Buddha Basnyat, MD

Probably the most visited and arduous high altitude pilgrimage site in South Asia is Mount Kailash (6714m), the centre of the universe in Vedic thinking, where thousands of Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains circumambulate the sacred mountain and bathe in the nearby Lake Manasarovar (4560m) every year. Most of these pilgrims are unaware of and ill prepared for the hypoxia (low oxygen) caused by high altitude, and not surprisingly many fall ill and some succumb to their illness.

Unfortunately, because there are no records, the extent of the problem is unknown in Kailash. Often patients are misdiagnosed as having altitude sickness and treated incorrectly. In addition, many of the pilgrims are elderly and have concomitant illnesses. Sometimes the strongly devout pilgrims feel privileged to die in the precincts of the holy



mountain and do not want interventions. Indeed, many factors conspire to work against the safety and rescue of these pilgrims.

But closer to Kathmandu is Gosainkunda. On 1 August, the eve of Janai Purnima, Gosainkunda Lake (4300m) will be the venue for the climactic enactment of the greatest Vedic tradition.

In their quest for amrit (the elixir for spiritual immortality),

the titans and gods collaborated in churning the ocean. Unfortunately from the murky depths of the ocean, the first thing to rise was Kalakut, a deadly poison.

Luckily, Shiva came to the rescue and swallowed the poison, but he needed to cool off the immense heat generated

by Kalakut, so he dove into Gosainkunda. In the memory of this selfless act of Lord Shiva swallowing the poison, every year pilgrims take a holy dip in the lake and wash away their sins. But like Shiva, this pilgrimage is not risk-free journey for commoners.


Starting from Dunche in Rasuwa district, it is best to take four to five nights to reach the lake so that you are properly acclimatised. You need to listen to your body and not push ahead relentlessly disregarding symptoms of acute mountain sickness (AMS) which are chiefly headache and nausea.

Taking diamox, if you don’t have sulphur allergy, will help prevent and treat AMS. Drinking two litres of clean water (boiled or treated with chlorine/iodine tablets) per day will help avoid dehydration. Proper rain gear and carrying some table salt to deal with leech bites will also come in handy.

The lake area is inundated with visitors during Janai Purnima so being psychologically prepared for the hardships will go a long way. But you will be amply rewarded for your efforts. 🇳🇵

WEEKEND WEATHER

The monsoon is now picking up second wind, as it were, but it’s endurance and stamina are still not up to mark. The average daily rainfall in July should be up to 25 mm, we are barely getting half that. The night precipitation, which is supposed to be heavy and sustained, comes in short drizzles. Pokhara did get unusually heavy precipitation on Wednesday night, flooding the Seti. The weather has been erratic across the world this summer with unprecedented heat waves in North America, a deluge in Russia and summer snow in northern China. All this will hopefully change for us in Nepal with a fresh surge of moisture from the Bay of Bengal that we see in this satellite radar composite taken on Thursday morning.



FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
27-19	30-19	30-19



COMFY SEATS: Indian Army Chief Bikram Singh meets PM Baburam Bhattarai at his office at Singha Darbar on Wednesday, during his five day visit.



RISKY RESCUE: A microbus, which met with an accident in Rubaskanda along the Bhimdatta Highway in Doti two weeks ago, being pulled out on Sunday. Eleven passengers were killed in the accident.



DIRT RIDE: A motorbike struggles through Kalikasthan road which is under construction on Tuesday.



TALK TIME: A farmer in her field in Harisiddhi, Lalitpur, takes a break from planting rice on Tuesday.

It's your mess, clean it up



BY THE WAY
Anurag Acharya

The glaring loopholes in the interim constitution provide a lot of elbow room for the political parties to undo the mess they created by letting the CA lapse on 27 May. They must use these to clean up the mess they made instead of waiting for someone else to do it.

Although they moan and groan about it, almost everyone is happy with the postponement of the constitution. The opposition NC and UML got what they wanted, they have reduced the government to a lame duck that can neither bring a full budget nor prepare for elections. The Maoist-Madhesi coalition led by Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai seems fairly certain they won't have to step down any time soon.

The election commission has said that it will not be possible to hold polls by 22 November unless the parties sort out their squabbling and amend the constitution in the next 10 days.

On Tuesday, Bhattarai called an all party meeting with four very specific agendas: budget, new government, elections and constitution. The opposition parties boycotted the meeting, but attended the all party meeting called by Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal at BICC, the same evening. Besides bringing the Dahal-Bhattarai competition for influence out in the open, the meeting was also interesting because it ignored the constitution and elections, but agreed on a preliminary budget.

Bhattarai's unchallenged power is making everybody, including his own party chairman, uncomfortable. But whoever comes to power next will also be unchallenged, except under two conditions: reviving the CA which will then pave way for the declaration of the constitution or holding the CA elections in November. That is why there must be an agreement on one of the two before Bhattarai steps down.

Many, including opposition leaders, intellectuals and legal



BIKRAM RAI

It doesn't matter whether this government remains or goes because the next one will face the same deadlock

experts have rejected the possibility of reviving the house. They argue that a dead institution cannot be revived. Similarly, on the question of next CA elections, they maintain that the last four years of exercise proved to be an expensive 'misadventure' and therefore a new way must be found. While the proposition has been able to cash in on the immediate resentment of the public, it is still an undemocratic and unconstitutional one.

To begin with, the Supreme Court and legal experts have to take note that Article 64, under which the CA was dissolved runs counter to Article 82 which states that the CA will be dissolved on the day it promulgates a new constitution, not before that. Nowhere in the 22 page long verdict that supposedly sealed the fate of the CA has the Supreme Court cleared this ambiguity.

Besides, there is also Article 158 which gives the cabinet the right to remove any difficulties while implementing the provisions in the constitution, provided it is endorsed by the House within a month. So if there is a political consensus among the parties, the cabinet can revive the house and seek its endorsement within 30 days.

This is not wishful thinking, these are perfectly legitimate legal loopholes in the interim constitution that the parties can use to undo their blunder if they want to avoid another expensive 'misadventure'. The opposition must stop provoking the president to

overstep his jurisdiction of a ceremonial role and negotiate its terms fair and square.

The NC and UML leaders have been speaking in public that the next elections, whenever they are held, should be for a parliament which would then form an 'expert panel' to give final shape to the constitution. The interim constitution of 2007, however, does not envision a constitution drafted by any other body except a constituent assembly.

The preamble of the interim constitution clearly states that the present constitution will 'be in force until a new constitution is framed by a constituent assembly'.

"Any attempt to draft a statute through a selected group of political appointees will not just be unconstitutional, it will go against the spirit of the 2006 movement," says constitutional expert Daman Nath Dhungana.

If the opposition is aware that there is no alternative to

reviving the house or going for new CA elections in order to declare a statute, why is it rejecting both propositions?

We will see as the monsoon drags on how long the present government can survive, but it doesn't seem to matter who is in Singha Darbar anymore.

The fate of the government is inextricably tied to the fate of the Constituent Assembly because it is the basis of a new and inclusive Nepal we all fought for, and dreamed of. 🇳🇵

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Practical Action is an International NGO, working in South Asia, Southern and Eastern Africa and Latin America with its Head Office in the UK. It aims to reduce poverty in developing countries - by introducing appropriate technologies for the communities, demonstrating results, sharing knowledge, building capacity to replicate and influencing others for scaling up.

Practical Action in Nepal is working primarily in four programme areas - Energy; Agriculture, Markets and Food Security; Urban Waste, Water and Sanitation; and Disaster Risk Reduction. Practical Action seeks to recruit a Head of Programme (HoP) to manage its Energy Programme based in the Country Office, Kathmandu in Nepal. Reporting to the Country Director, the incumbent will lead the development and implementation of Practical Action's "Access to Sustainable Energy Programme" in-country and South Asia region.

Major Responsibilities:

- Lead the development and implementation of Practical Action's work towards the Access to Sustainable Energy Programme
- Provide input into the strategic direction of the international programme, ensuring coherence with Practical Action's knowledge, impact and influence approach and maximise energy works in the region
- Be part of the international energy programme team, and build and manage the in-country Energy Programme Team ensuring better integration with Practical Action's other programme areas
- Develop, projects/programmes in line with Practical Action's national, regional and international objectives, build energy work profile and raise funds
- Provide technical assistance to Practical Action Consulting (PAC) Asia to upscale Practical Action's good practices by giving inputs to energy strategy and developing in-country and regional projects/programmes
- Contribute to effective implementation of Nepal Country Strategy, country programme management and policy framework as a member of the Senior Management Team

Minimum Qualifications:

- Master's degree in any discipline related to the subject with at least five years' work experience in energy and with an understanding of the recent major issues in the field of attaining sustainable and decentralised energy services for poor people
- Analytical skills, especially relating to energy services for poor people
- Experience of practical field based research and research methodologies
- Experience of project and contract management (from project design to implementation)
- Leadership skills, including experience of building effective teams, defining targets and managing staff and partners
- Familiar with communications, policy and advocacy work and a confident communicator to external audiences
- Knowledge of energy sector in South Asian countries is preferred and
- Understanding of international development policy issues and how they relate to technology is desirable

Please refer to <http://www.practicalaction.org/jobs> for the detailed Job Description and the application form.

Practical Action encourages all interested candidates to submit the duly filled application form including recent passport size photograph, list of three professional references and a cover letter by email at HR@practicalaction.org.np or post before 25 July 2012 to the following address:

The Country Director
Practical Action Nepal Office
House No. 2677, Narayan Gopal Sadak, Maharajgunj
PO Box 15135, Kathmandu, Nepal



Female candidates and candidates from disadvantaged groups fulfilling the above requirements are highly encouraged to apply

LG 42LK410 LCD TV
Rs. 71,110/- @
www.haamrodeal.com

NEW SOUND & VISION
Kendrapool, Pokhara

haamrodeal
www.haamrodeal.com



PRAVEEN MAHARJAN

No government, no irrigation

Lack of local governance and rains have left farmers across Nepal high and dry



GOOGLE EARTH

Sindhupalchok may be only 100km from the capital, but subsistence farmers here may as well be in remote farwestern Nepal. Maize farmers couldn't be bothered about the political stalemate in Kathmandu, they are more worried about their dying crops.

For 55-year-old Dhanmaya Tamang and her family in Harekolpata village, a weak monsoon has hit their only income source. "At least we had hopes from the gods. But they have also abandoned us this year," Dhanmaya said.

Usually by July each household has 200 to 400 kg of maize depending on farm size, enough to feed the family and bring in extra cash. This time, it's not even 20 kg, barely enough to last a week.

The Central Region, which includes Sindhupalchok District, fared well in last year's

July-September harvest, seeing a 16 per cent growth in both rice and maize cultivation, according to the World Food Programme (WFP). This year, dozens of families in Harekolpata are planning to send their children over the mountain to Bhaktapur to find work.

"We have no choice but to ask them to leave school this year," said 40-year-old farmer Kajiman Tamang, father of two sons. The destitution so close to Kathmandu is a result of government neglect, the war and the lack of local elections for the past 15 years.

"We lost 20 years of opportunity to develop our nation due to the decade long war and then an unsuccessful peace process that has only ended up with the major political parties fighting for power," said Sirupati Pakhrin, who used to work with Sindhupalchok DDC.

For each of Nepal's 3,900



बम्पर उपहार

एक जनालाई काठमाडौं नयाँ बानेश्वरनजिक वागमती अपार्टमेन्टमा २ बेडरुम अपार्टमेन्ट



हरेक महिना

TATA Nano कार र Mahindra Rodeo 125 स्कूटर एक एक जनालाई



हरेक साता

LG को Refrigerator, Micro-Wave oven र Washing Machine एक एक जनालाई



हरेक दिन

Maxx Mobile र D.Light Solar Light एक एक जनालाई र सुक्रवार साप्ताहिकको अर्धवार्षिक ग्राहक र Digicom Stand Fan तीन तीनजनालाई



हरेक क्षण

हरेक ग्राहकले पाउनुहुनेछ हात खाली नजाने स्क्र्याच कूपन भित्र लाखौंका उपहार



हामी आउँदैछौं तपाईंको घरदैलोमा फेरि एक पटक

रजिष्टर गर्नका लागि CIR टाइप गरी ५२२५ मा एस.एम.एस. गर्नुहोला। यो सेवा नेपाल टेलिकममा मात्र उपलब्ध छ।

नोट : वार्षिक ग्राहक यी सबै योजनामा सहभागी हुन पाउनेछन्।
अर्धवार्षिक ग्राहक बम्परबाहेक अन्य योजनामा सहभागी हुन पाउनेछन्।
त्रैमासिक ग्राहक भने हरेक दिन र हरेक क्षण योजनामा मात्र सहभागी हुन पाउनेछन्।
*सर्तहरू लागू हुनेछ



थप जानकारीका लागि
नेपाल रिपब्लिक मिडिया प्रा.लि.
जे.डि.ए. कम्प्लेक्स, बागदरबार, काठमाडौं
फोन: ०१-४२६६६५६, ४२६५१०० (Ext. २०४/२०५), इमेल: circulation@nagariknews.com



NARESH NEWARI/IRIN

VDCs, there is supposed to be 10 elected officials plus a government-appointed clerk. But since the last local election in 1997, there has only been the one clerk overseeing village governance.

Each DDC contains a chairman from each of the 75 VDCs in a district. They too have been operating with one clerk for the past 15 years. The delivery of a new constitution would have decentralised governance under a federal system, but that has been indefinitely postponed.

“Nothing has changed for us. We don’t even have drinking water,” said Sita Tamang, a 35-year-old mother of three whom she cannot afford to send to state school. Even without school fees, she still needs to find money for clothes and school supplies. Unsafe drinking water contributes to the deaths of some 13,000 children in Nepal under

five annually, according to UNICEF.

“If these politicians come again asking for votes, I will shut my door in their faces,” said Sita angrily recalling how during the 2008 CA elections, local political candidates promised to bring drinking water, road, schools and irrigation projects. They never returned after the elections.

Farmers here and elsewhere in Nepal have stopped expecting anything from the government. “We have no choice but to rely on each other because we have survived without a government for the last 20 years,” said Uttam Khadka, a local hotelier.

Sindhupalchok has been classified a ‘food insecure’ district by the Ministry of Agriculture - where people do not have access to enough food to keep them healthy - but with unpredictable rains

ABANDONED FARMERS: Families in Sindhupalchok bemoan the lack of local governance since 1997 and subsequent lack of government investment in irrigation

even the more productive farms will be at risk, according to the government’s District Agricultural Office in Chautara.

“The only way to improve our farms without waiting for the rain is irrigation. The central government has promised it for so many years, but nothing has happened,” said Jitman Tamang, 40, whose half hectare of maize plants shrivelled with the late rains.

Less than half of Nepal’s cultivable land is irrigated. Rural Nepalis when asked what their village needed the most used to say “roads”, but as the road network spreads, they now say “irrigation”.

Meanwhile, 600km away in the western Tarai district of Kailali, a region known for its relative agricultural productivity, farmer Kul Bahadar Shahi, 53, said he remembered when officials came from the land survey department 16 years ago. “Since then no one has come back. No one is really listening. Politicians take care of their own VDC.”

When asked about his elected representative in the recently dissolved national CA, he said: “Our leader had a low profile and was not much help.”

IRIN
www.irinnews.org

nepalitimes.com

Editorial, All politics is local, #611

Seeds of wrath

The rice planting season was supposed to officially begin two weeks ago, but many farmers have still not planted paddy seedlings. A weak monsoon and a critical lack of chemical fertilisers have kept many terrace farms fallow this season.

The state supplies only 150,000 metric tons of chemical fertilisers at subsidised rates every year, but the estimated annual demand is more than 700,000 metric tons. In addition, the government’s cheap fertiliser never arrives in time for the planting season, and farmers are forced to buy smuggled fertiliser from India in the black market. A staggering 80 per cent of the fertiliser used in Nepal is smuggled across the border from India.

This year, farmers have nearly given up hope, and by the time the fertiliser arrives they know it will be too little too late. And with police getting strict at the border, even the smuggled fertiliser supplies have dried up and when they are available they are too expensive.



“The Agricultural Inputs Company cannot fulfil the demand because of lack of funds for subsidies. The amount it imports suffers from anomalies in the tender system, the only short-term solution is to increase imports,” says Hari Dahal, spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture.

Instead of selling fertiliser at the Import Parity Price as agreed between India and Nepal, some suppliers are

demanding a 30 per cent markup on the Maximum Retail Price for each ton. The government does not blacklist these companies nor does it order more, hence the chronic shortage.

Farmers who queue up all day say there is plenty of fertiliser being hoarded and sold at exorbitant prices. Most are convinced government officials are in cahoots with smugglers and merchants, which is why they don’t want to stop the black market trade. Poor governance and instability have contributed to the crisis.

“After two consecutive years of surplus, Nepal’s food security and revenue from grain harvests are bound to take a hit this year,” says Surya Prasad Pandey, who worked at the Nepal Agricultural Research Council for 30 years. “There is a growing market within South Asia for artificial fertiliser. So if countries like Nepal, India, and Bangladesh worked together and started multi-national ventures, they would not only meet their yearly domestic demand, but also earn profit.”

Sunir Pandey



The cool has landed... with a splash!

Samsung's Digital Inverter Compressor technology intelligently senses the cooling requirements and automatically adjusts its power and speed to give you uniform cooling with the assurance of less power consumption, low noise and longer life. It's the smart way to live a fresh life.

Smart solution for energy saving and freshness
digital inverter
COMPRESSOR



PRISMA - 05/07/12



Energy Saving



Stabilizer Free Operation



1-5pin Cooling



Cool Pack



Dual Sensor Control



The new Frinrch Box



LED Light



Scratch Resistant Glass Shelves



TWIN Cooling System



RR1914AABRR Rs. 22190/- RR1914ASBSE Rs. 22390/- RR1915QABDE Rs. 22990/- RR2015RSBSJ Rs. 24690/- RR1915TABBL Rs. 25290/- RR2015CSBPZ Rs. 26490/- RT26ADES Rs. 30290/- RT2534ACRR Rs. 31490/- RT2534ACSA Rs. 33590/- RT2734PNBSE Rs. 36990/- RT2734GNBRJ Rs. 38990/- RT26HCUX Rs. 38990/- RT3234GABSP Rs. 39990/- RT26HCUX Rs. 41190/- RT3534TABBL Rs. 42990/- RT3534TABRK Rs. 42990/- RS21HSTPN Rs. 124990/- RS21HUTPN Rs. 139990/- RF67DEPN Rs. 167990/- RS21H2LMR Rs. 169990/- RS26MBZBL Rs. 225790/-

YIM ELECTRONICS SUPPORTS:



Marketed in Nepal by:
YIM ELECTRONICS
PRIVATE LIMITED

Does Nepal need a Janajati party?

Interview with sociologist Krishna Bhattachan and UML leader Kripasur Sherpa in *BBC Nepali Service*, 7 July



BBC: What are the reasons behind starting an ethnic (janajati) political party?
Krishna Bhattachan: Your question is biased to begin with. We are forming a national party that will unite the voices of the Dalits and Janajatis and end 240 years of internal colonisation and marginalisation of the backward communities. Unlike the bigger parties, our new party will not be run by people belonging to a particular gender, class or caste.
Kripasur Sherpa: Instead of forging unity



DANDA GURUNG

among Nepal’s diverse ethnic groups, the ones trying to create a Janajati party are misguiding the public by selling caste and ethnicity. But politics functions on ideology and agendas, not on narrowly defined identities.

How differently would such a party address the demands of the Janajatis?
Bhattachan: The party will fight for social justice and work towards bringing marginalised communities into the national mainstream. We will also demand for a fully proportional representation system at all levels of the state

machinery.

Are you talking of priority rights?
No, we are talking about an inclusive state as defined and advocated by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Why is decision-making in all major political parties dominated exclusively by Brahmins and Chettris?
Sherpa: The leaders represent their parties and respective ideologies, not their caste groups. If the Janajati leaders have been unable to influence party decisions, it is their own fault. They have to be more assertive.

How will the new party address marginalisation within the Janajatis and Dalits?
Bhattachan: There are multiple levels of marginalisation within Nepali society out of which caste and gender based exclusion is the most severe. If we are to make the country more inclusive, we must first address the question of caste and gender and then other forms of oppression within them including class-based marginalisation.

There are already Madhes based parties which deal with regional issues, so what is the harm in having an ethnic party which works on behalf of ethnic groups?
Sherpa: The problem is not the party or its agendas, but the approach. Identity is an issue that must be debated and addressed but it should not jeopardise the social harmony that exists between different communities in Nepal. Besides, a party that has no ideology and philosophy and focuses only on caste issues cannot last long in politics.

Bhattachan: It is wrong to assume that a Janajati party cannot have an ideology or philosophy. The party’s main objective should be to provide a voice for marginalised communities while following the principles of socialism, human rights and inclusion.

“PM is being dragged into controversies”



BIKRAM RAI

Devendra Paudel, political advisor of the prime minister in *Naya Patrika*, 8 July

गयाँ पत्रिका

Allegations that Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai has changed the party’s stance towards India are wrong. The PM has improved relations with China, UN and other international powers and not just India. It’s true that we are trying to establish better relations with

our neighbour, but to blame the party split on Bhattarai’s increasing closeness to India is complete nonsense. It’s just a ploy to make him look bad.

Anti-government elements have been unnecessarily dragging the PM into controversies. The handing over of Tribhuwan International Airport’s management to India, for example, is being blown out of proportion. The government was also talking with Chinese

and Korean companies on TIA’s management and the decision hasn’t been finalised yet.

The government fully understands Nepal’s security needs. But we cannot move ahead by closing ourselves to the outside world while doing nothing on our own. If we want economic development, we have to insure the safety of foreign investments.

The prime minister was also wrongfully criticised for signing the BIPPA (Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection) agreement with India, but they have similar deals with 160 other countries. There is no point in saying BIPPA is against our national interest.

There is also no truth in stories about problems between Chairman Dahal and Prime Minister Bhattarai. They have differing views on some issues which they are trying to sort out. But in terms of the ideology, working style and the party’s fundamental policies, they are still very close.

Guardian king

Interview with Gyanendra Shah in *News24 Television Channel*, 9 July



News24: How was your visit to the districts?
Gyanendra Shah: Wherever I went, I was overwhelmed by the reception I got from the people.

What do you have to say about demands from a section of the public to reinstate the monarchy?
In a democracy, everybody has a voice and now that it is clear such a section exists, perhaps they should also be heard. Personally, I appreciate their concern and make an effort to engage but I don’t think it is right to say or do anything more at the moment.

The parties have blamed you for trying to opiate the public in the pretext of religious gatherings. How do you respond to that?
I go because I am invited by the people to participate in religious functions. What others say does not change the fact. People take time to meet me and share their problems. I don’t know why they (parties) are scared, I did not call anybody because if I had you would see more people.

As a common citizen, how do you assess the present political situation in the country?
Obviously, I am not happy because the parties promised a lot but did not deliver anything. Now people are looking for a breakthrough and it is time to focus our energy towards that.

Does it mean you will be more assertive about your role in the present context or remain silent?
Our gods are also made of stones and remain silent but it does not mean they are mute spectators. When the time comes, even the stones speak up. If people want me back, I am ready to provide leadership.

You have said before that the parties have broken the deal and unfairly ousted the monarchy but have not divulged further information. Can you tell us who signed the deal and what was in it?
The seven parties had signed a three to four point deal with me in which they agreed to work as per the 1990 constitution and retain a constitutional monarchy. I kept my part of the deal by stepping down but when the seven parties became eight, they unilaterally abolished the monarchy.

Don’t you think it was your fault that led to the downfall of the monarchy?
That is not true. But sometimes I feel I should have been more restrained in my approach. Things got out of hand quickly and people suffered. That was not my intention.

Should there be a referendum on whether to reinstate the monarchy?
Was there one when it was done away with? No, the monarchy should be an institution that is neutral and plays a guardian role but I do not wish to be active.



Cow: Full fledged budget

कान्तिपुर Batsyayan in *Kantipur*, 8 July

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“If Gyanendra Shah crosses the line, the government will withdraw facilities given to him.”

Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai at Global IME Bank’s inaugural ceremony in Kathmandu on Monday.



NEW
LIMITED
EDITION

A RICH, INTENSE, SMOKY
BLEND CONTAINING WHISKY
MATURED IN DEEP CHARRED
OLD OAK CASKS.

BLACK

BLACKER



JOHNNIE WALKER®
DOUBLE BLACK™

for the facts
www.DRINKiQ.com

JOHNNIE WALKER REMINDS YOU TO DRINK RESPONSIBLY
The JOHNNIE WALKER, BLACK LABEL and DOUBLE BLACK words, the striding figure
device and associated logos are trade marks. © JOHN WALKER & SONS 2010

 Global Trading Concern (P) Ltd.

v-chitra/JWBL/2012



Bring smile in your eyes,
sparkle with glitter



ROYALE *Glitter* | Always Beaming

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

asianpaints

Corrodes, arabs and kharabs

The current political system in the Plutocratic Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal can be best described as 'Crony Communism', where ex-revolutionaries have turned into oligarchs. But murderers becoming kleptocrats is good, no? The Baddie-Deshi Coalition pocketing budgetary allocations for party and personal needs is not news anymore because it is so commonplace. Which is why the NC and UML are itching to get into govt, so they can also plunder ahead of elections. Money can't buy you love, but it sure can buy you an election (at least in Nepal).

Speaking of moolah, after Awesome got one of his cornies to buy off a chunk of shares in a national media company for 42 corrodes, comes news that another oligarch is planning to put an arab or two into yet another media empire. At the rate these guys are going, the Mau Mau are not just going to be media tycoons, they'll also be media typhoons. "Dollar appreciation" has new meaning in Nepal as the Baddies emulate the royalty they overthrew to stash their loot abroad. And with the NPR in freefall, looks like their ill-gotten arabs will soon become kharabs.

Two people dominated the news this week: Prachanda Pratapi and Prachanda Putra. By their strident over-reaction to KingG's tv interview, the kangresis, eh-maleys and baddies all showed their deep sense of insecurity. And by speaking out now, Kingji actually ended up cementing fraying ties between the fractious parties: if there is one thing that unites them it is their collective aversion to His Erstwhile Majesty. The meanest tirade came from PM BRB, who threatened to terminate the state's facilities to the ex-king. First Lady Yummy spoke sense, tho. She said we deserve to have the monarchy back. Hear hear.


PKD Jr has long been the black sheep of the Awesome Family. But here in Nepal we are used to clown princes growing up into seriously spoilt brats. But Prakash broke the cardinal rule of Maoism: "Thou shalt not covet thy comrade's wife." It was OK that the twice-married ran off with a third girl-friend, so what if Bina is already married and with a child, what got PKD's goat was that Bina's husband is a Kiran Kaka loyalist. When hubby boy found out The Dear Leader was knoodling his wife in the vicinity of the Western Cwm, he blew a gasket and smacked Prakash in his nose, which is why you must have noticed The Dear Leader's proboscis is slightly crooked. Fruit of Prachanda's Loins is now absconding, and there have been several Prakash sightings which (like sightings of Elvis) have all been hoaxes.

Rumours are that Prakash has emptied Daddy's local bank accounts and headed south of the border. The party suspended the couple for being "cultural deviants", and thankfully stopped short of accusing them of being "sexual deviants".


ॐ

What really got PKD's goat was that the week BRB's dotter graduated magna cum laude from TU, his son eloped. The PKD vs BRB spat just keeps getting worse. PKD sees the prez in the AM, and BRB goes to see the prez in the PM. BRB calls an all-party meet to talk budget, and no one shows up. PKD calls an all-party meet, everyone comes, and they all endorse the one-third budget. Just awesome.





Petrol Free Emission Free Ownership Tax Free



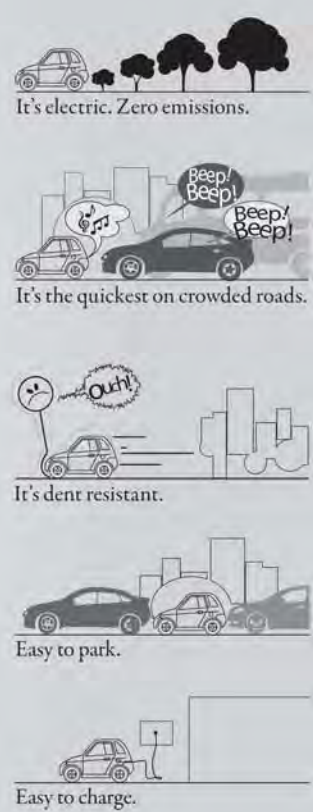
The Reva is an electric car, it sets you free from petrol-woes and worrying about sky-rocketing fuel prices.

An inexpensive solution, the Reva needs no expensive fuels and has no emissions, so money is not the only thing that you'll save. **Save money as you save the planet.**


No clutch, no gears - it's ideal for the city. The Reva with its auto-transmission and dent-resistant body makes for remarkably easy, tension-free driving. It's also amazingly simple to park, even in the smallest of available parking spots!

Freedom... it's beginning!

REVAi




The Reva is a bold, clear statement - that you are concerned about the environment and that you are smarter, because you choose to evolve to the technology of the future. The Reva is not just a smart city car, it is a philosophy about living as an evolved, thinking Citizen.



AGNI ENERGY PVT. LTD.
Uttar Dhoka, Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Tel : 4414626, 4414628
Fax : 4416718 P.O. Box: 3545, Email : marketing@agniinc.com.np, URL : www.agniinc.com.np

FINANCIAL PARTNER



Clean Energy Development Bank
विलन ईजर्जी डेवलपमेन्ट बैंक

ISSN 1814-2613