I t has become accepted practice in Nepal’s politics to sign an agreement at the eleventh hour after marathon negotiations, and then just go on to do your own thing. The Big Four had agreed on a five-point deal that after Baburam Bhattarai, it would be the NC’s ‘turn’ to be prime minister. Now, Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal says under no circumstances would the NC be allowed to head the next government. The prime minister told his supporters on Wednesday, it was bad enough having a Congress president, “imagine if there was also a Congress prime minister”.

The NC itself is in such disarray that it can’t even agree on its candidate for prime ministership. Besides, it hasn’t come up with any new attractive ideas on why it should have prime ministership other than to imply that it wants to head an election government for the incumbent advantage.

With only a month to go for the extended holiday period, the NC, UML, the Baidya Maoists, and other smaller parties are set to take to the streets to pile up pressure on Prime Minister Bhattarai to step down and make way for an all-party government.

The ruling Maoist-Madhesi alliance also plans nationwide mass meetings to explain why it won’t let go. To complicate things, Dahal is waiting for Bhattarai to make a serious misstep so he himself can be prime minister.

Forecast: expect some street fireworks before the country goes into a month-long holiday coma and reawakens in mid-November.
M any outsiders are surprised that this country survives even though there is electricity for only six to ten hours a day, and marvel at how Nepalis manage along uncomplainingly. But what is even more shocking is that Kathmandu’s three million people survive with no water supply system. Most of the houses and offices that have pipes have no water. The lucky ones get water for only one hour every three days.

However, this city is not completely uninhabitable: it is that traditional water sources built by the Mallas kings 400 years ago to bring water through underground channels from the Valley rim are still functioning. The few water mains that still exist were laid during the Rana period nearly 100 years ago to pipe water from Sundarjal and Pharping.

Yet, new 17-storey apartment blocks are going up, housing colonies are spreading across the suburbs, highrise office blocks are sprouting everywhere. Kathmandu’s urban water demand has exceeded 200 million litres a day, when supply is only 45 million litres a day in the dry season. More than half of that supply is lost due to leaky pipes.

For many, the only recourse is to buy water from private tankers, or drilling deep into the aquifer. A recent survey estimated that private tankers supply up to 40 million litres of water to customers daily, and more than 60 million litres of ground water a day is pumped up from wells. With extraction far outpacing recharge, the water table has fallen alarmingly, and many traditional wells have gone dry.

Subsidies is already a problem, with the Nepal Telecom building in Jawalakhel dipping into the ground. If the current rate of water extraction continues, the Melamchi River water to Kathmandu through a 27km tunnel. And even that project is stuck. Melamchi has been mired in controversy, allegations of corruption, mismanagement, and lack of coordination among donors. After the Norwegians, Swedes, and the World Bank pulled out of the project in the past decade, a further $600 million project finally went ahead with a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The latest in the long Melamchi saga is that the government this week terminated the contract of the two Chinese companies working on the tunnel, citing non-performance. This means the project could be delayed by a further five years, provided the re-building goes smoothly. Melamchi could have been made more feasible, and egalitarian. IF it had been a multipurpose project to generate electricity and irrigate the Bagmati valley downstream. (See: ‘Revisiting a multi-purpose Melamchi’, #379). But, of course, decisions here are not made on the basis of logic, rationality, and economic viability. Cheaper alternatives are ignored because larger projects appear to have larger kickbacks.

In a way, justice is being served on Nepal’s pampered capital, Kathmandu may deserve to suffer from an acute water shortage in view of its denizens are reminded what the rest of the country has to endure. Melamchi is a political disaster, and engineers can’t solve problems created by politicians mishandling things up so badly.

For now, we may have to look up to the heavens for an answer. Just as many have turned to solar power to cope with the electricity crisis, the only short-term solution to the water shortage may be to invest in household rainwater harvesting.

**CHOOSING ELECTION**

*How can Kunda Dixit claim there is a risk of an ‘ethnic election’? (‘Choosing election’, #623)? Just take a look at the photo (above). All the bigots are the same Brahmin men, six per cent of the population who have ruled the nation primarily for their own benefit for decades. Nepal Times might choose to label the polls as an ‘ethnic election’, but it is actually an opportunity to ensure greater inclusion and diversity in Nepali politics for the benefit of those communities that have rarely been given a chance to guide the country by these less than ‘democratic’ parties.*

**Naryan Stan**

**Election**

Election is unlikely to change the opinion of a large majority of Nepalis who are tired of the never-ending political charade. There is also no guarantee that election will bring about positive change or solve the current impasse. However, for the sake of democracy the electorate, which till date has been treated as a mere spectator, needs to see all competing parties. Regardless of whether it is the RPP with its slogan of ‘bring back the monarchy’, the Maoists with their armed-revolution, the Madhesi parties with separate one-Madhesi-one-pradesh demand, the ethnic entities with their demand for federal states based on ethnicity, or the NC and UML advocating for parliamentary democracy with the same top guns who control their party apparatus, Nepalis need to know what the parties and their candidates stand for.

**Nirmal**

**INTEGRITY OF TOLERANCE**

A very sharp, well-argued editorial which takes a refreshing step towards understanding the absolute nadir of press freedom (‘Intolerance of tolerance’, Editorial, #623). However, with the speed and reach of the Internet and its anonymity there may be an argument to be made in favour of protecting social harmony by instituting some form of control. I don’t know how these controls can be implemented without a repressive state. Using it for a blanket URL ban, there must be a middle way. Otherwise, I’m afraid there will be more of the outrage that followed the YouTube video about the Prophet.

**Bob**

**Arguing that one cannot be half-free, half-rigid, is to write about the need for freedom, democracy, and human rights, they are actually big misconceptions. Hypocrites. China, Russia, India, and North Korea put restrictions on freedom of speech to protect the rulers, but the West prevents people from speaking freely to protect some unknown individuals and interest groups. The US cracked down onwikileaks citing security, but did not block the anti-Islam video which led to so much violence.**

**Who cares?**

**VANISHING PUBLIC SERVICES**

I recently read a speech by the mayor of Bogota who said, “A developed country is not one where we have our own cars, but where rich people use public transport”. As far as freedom and human rights are concerned, the quality of public services is definitely the best indicator of development in any country.

As a child growing up in Kathmandu, I have fond memories of simple joys like riding the trolley bus and marveling at its automated doors, dropping an unidentifiable item at a bright red post box with yellow symbols, asking ourselves: “Which party or coalition of parties will emerge to get electoral legitimacy?”

*If we can’t agree with eccentric ideas. If we can’t agree with the best indicator of development in any country, we can’t agree with any country. If we can’t agree with the best indicator of development in any country, we can’t agree with any country.*

**Raj**

**TAKING NATURE BACK TO PEOPLE**

Well done, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands, for keeping the legacy of Nepal’s pioneer conservationists alive (‘Taking nature back to people’, Birikuti Rai, #623). Although it will be hard to fill their big shoes, we can carry on their good work by enhancing and preserving the natural beauty of Nepal.

**Yam Gurung**
A n apple farmer in Jumla has to protect his saplings through three harsh winters before they start bearing fruit. When mature, one tree can yield as much as 100kg of apples, and they sell for Rs 15 per kg in the Khalanga Bazar. These are packed into boxes and transported to Kathmandu where the apples sell for Rs 250 per kg.

The solution is not to tell Jumla farmers not to grow apples, but to put into place a price mechanism so that the producer is not cheated, and the consumer gets more apples for the same price. This means finding ways to connect farmers more effectively to market, cutting out or minimising the impact of middlemen, so that the farmers in Jumla get a fair share of the margin.

Similarly, in politics too, 28 million Nepalis who put their faith and aspirations in the hands of our political middlemen have been let down. Thousands of young Nepalis even sacrificed their lives to be part of a revolution and a people’s movement to start afresh with a new constitution. Having done so, they went back to their hard lives eking out a living from the harsh land, putting their fate in the hands of those they elected. Four years and billions of rupees later, they are still waiting.

The question here is no longer why did a new constitution not get passed and who is to blame, but are we okay with exercising our valuable democratic right of casting our vote for the same people, parties, and ideologies all over again?

Just because elected leaders were not able to deliver on a new constitution, it doesn’t mean that we should start doubting or looking for alternatives to our democratic system of governance. And the solution will also not come from merely finding fault and criticising our political leadership and parties.

Maybe the time has come to decide whether the political brokers on whom we had faith to deliver a better nation have been leading us astray. Like the apple middlemen, politicians have been taking advantage of the Nepali people’s trust in them.

But change is happening in Jumla. A group of pioneering entrepreneurs with capital and market linkages in Kathmandu have got together with young farmers in Jumla, bought a large plot of land and started planting apple saplings. By taking the resources and value additions of urban Kathmandu and combining them with local skills and knowledge, the profit-sharing will be fairer. Who knows, maybe apples will also be cheaper in Kathmandu.

If only we could find such a bridge to bring together Nepal’s political brokers with the people. But for that to happen, one of two things needs to be in place.

Option One is a realisation among the political forces that they have wronged the people whom they represent. It hasn’t sunk into the current leadership that Nepalis are no longer interested in who is going to be the next prime minister, who are going to be ministers, or which parties are going to be in government. Those things make no difference on whether there is food on the plate.

A good starting point is for the leaders individually and collectively apologise to the Nepali people for letting them down. There needs to be an attitudinal change so leaders don’t see themselves as “rulers” anymore, but as “servants” of the people. That is the only way they will win back the people’s confidence, a prerequisite to facing the electorate in the next polls.

Many of you may be shaking your heads, thinking this will never happen in your lifetime. If so, you have to think of Option Two: the formation of a completely new political force made up of individuals who have excelled in their respective fields, Nepalis who have proven themselves and through their work, earned the trust of the people.

Individuals like you and me who have successful, comfortable lives will need to step out of our cozy cocoons to take on not only the challenges facing our nation, but also the political forces that are wasting time and squandering their mandates. No matter how fragmented they may seem now, when it comes to choosing the next prime minister, you can be sure the politicians will circle the wagons when their power is challenged.

Or there could be a combination of Options One and Two so young forward-looking individuals currently in the political parties, and individuals not currently in mainstream politics come together to forge an alliance.

Just like the apple farmers in Jumla forged a partnership with entrepreneurs from Kathmandu, the time has come to bypass the middlemen.

Anil Keshary Shah is a banker and a concerned Nepali citizen.
When Australian artist Isabella Holding, 27, visited a carpet factory while on holiday in Kathmandu three years ago, she got a brain wave.

Back in Australia, she contacted some well-known Australian artists like Heather Shimmen, Euan Heng, Graham Fransella, Judy Holding, Rae Ganim, Wendy Teakel, Angela Cavaliere, and Kate Durham and got them to agree to incorporate their art into carpets that would be woven in Nepal.

Then she came back to Kathmandu and talked to Kiran B Khadgi at the Kumbeshwar Technical School (KTS) in Lalitpur, who admits he found the idea of turning art into carpets a bit weird at first.

"How can you copy paintings into our carpets?" Khadgi recalls telling Holding, "but we said ok, we'll give it a try."

Holding was impressed with the result, and she organised an exhibition, ‘Weaving Art and Change’, in Melbourne last year with eight handwoven carpets from Nepal in limited editions of five. Each carpet sold for US$2,900.

"A lot of people like the idea that it was a collaboration with weavers in Nepal, and we could make a substantial donation to the Khumbeswor Technical School," Holding says.

At the KTS, 30-year-old Sumitra was quietly weaving a carpet on Monday, careful not to wake up her baby whom she brought to work because he had fever. Normally, he would be at the KTS day-care centre. Sumitra is on a six month apprenticeship to learn weaving.

There are 17 other women weavers here between the ages of 17 and 55, seven wool spinners, two dyers, and a trimmer. Employees get free education for their children, medical insurance, and a savings scheme.

KTS is a founder member of Fair Trade Group Nepal, and this is what convinced Holding to work with the company. "When I visited KST for the first time, I was amazed by the work being done both creatively and socially in Nepal and wanted to help," she explains.

KTS also makes and sells furniture and knitwear, but 40 per cent of sales is from carpets. For Khadgi, the Australian collaboration is a win-win formula for his organisation, which benefits from employment creation and funding for its school and other facilities for employees.

"Best of all," Khadgi adds, "Isabella has made our carpets well-known internationally."

SHOWING OFF: Australian artist Isabella Holding (top, right) talks about the original artwork, ‘Jezebel’, which was turned into a carpet that Kiran B Khadgi (above) of the Kumbeshwar Technical School in Lalitpur shows to a customer. A weaver’s deft fingerwork makes these woollen works of art possible (below).

Artists weaves designer carpets in Nepal and sells them in Australia to create jobs and fund education in Nepal

JUANITA MALAGON

Weaving Art and Change in Nepal
23 September to 7 October
Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babar Mahal
4218048, 4438979
www.weaveartchange.com.au
www.kumbeshwar.com

1st - 7th November
Celebrating 10 years of music for Peace, Unity and Compassion

SURYA NEPAL JAZZMANDU 2012
Kathmandu Jazz Festival

Don’t buy NEPALI TIMES
Subscribe... and get a free

SPECIAL Limited offer
Subscribe for two years and get a
German crafted # SWEETLAIN
Home/Office Pen Set with 10 pieces worth Rs. 1000
CALL TODAY
04-564 2525, 9819444977
subscribe@thehimalayandaily.com
SWEETLAIN registered in 2004

/www.nepalitimes.com

4 NATION

28 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER 2012 #624
Banking on financial inclusion

DANIEL SCHYDLOWSKY

The 2008 financial crisis highlighted the profound importance of finance for the globalised economy. But 2.5 billion people worldwide still lack access to formal banking services, credit facilities, or savings instruments. Bringing this largely ignored ‘missing market’ into the formal financial system would enrich and strengthen the global economy.

The unbanked, who live primarily in developing countries, comprise nearly half of the world’s working-age population. In some countries, as much as 95 per cent of the population lacks access to the formal financial system. This impedes their participation in the global economy by restricting their ability to buy goods and services, to borrow and save, or to invest in their future and that of their community and country.

Most global poverty-reduction efforts rely on ‘top-down’ solutions – development aid flows from rich to poor countries – that largely focus on education, food security, and disease management and prevention. In general, homegrown solutions have proven to be more effective than top-down programmes, since they are more tailored to the local conditions needed for an innovative financial system to the world’s poorest people.

Opening the financial system to the world’s poorest will unlock their economic and social potential to the benefit of all.

M-PESA, to flourish. Since its 2008 launch, M-PESA has attracted nearly 14 million Kenyans – almost one-third of the country’s total population – who use it for money transfers, savings, and other financial transactions.

Regulators and local private institutions can collaborate to create safe and accessible banking and credit instruments. That is how Brazil developed a regulatory framework that has enabled banks to build a network of 95,000 banking agents. As a result, an estimated 13 million Brazilians – in all of the country’s nearly 9,000 municipalities, from the Amazon to the shanty-towns of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro – have been brought into the financial system.

Similarly, a state-owned Indonesian bank, Bank Rakyat Indonesia, is providing micro-financing services to 30 million people, while in India, new ‘no-frills’ savings accounts have attracted 12.5 million customers. Other homegrown regulatory success stories come from Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Uganda, South Africa, the Philippines, Thailand, and Mongolia.

Expanding and supporting financial inclusion is a win-win for both the global south and north. Developing countries can benefit from the opening of markets to new trade and investment, while the developed world can benefit from the infusion of new customers, suppliers, and capital (possibly in the trillions of dollars). If the world’s 2.5 billion unbanked join the global economy, every industry will experience innovation and growth.

Rather than waiting for solutions from American, European, or other advanced country bankers, developing countries are leading the way toward financial inclusion, dramatically reshaping the global economy in the process. Opening the financial system to the world’s poorest people will unlock their economic and social potential to the benefit of all.

Daniel Schydlowsky is the head of the Prosuperintendency of Banca, Seguros y Administradoras Privadas de Pensiones, which oversees Peru’s financial sector. www.project-syndicate.org

nepaltimes.com

BIZ BRIEFS

Wheels on fire

Hero MotoCorp, the world’s largest two-wheeler manufacturer, has launched Hero motorcycles and scooters through NDM, its authorised distributor in Nepal. With a network of over 70 outlets across the country, expect to see the hottest two-wheelers taking your city by storm this Dasain.

Knowledge first

We have launched Jyoti Pustakalya Yojana. Under this offer, coupons found in the noodles packets can be exchanged for books.

Real winners

Ideal Model School of Lalitpur won the Real School of Nepal-2012 contest organised by Dabur Nepal. Schools from all over Nepal had been competing against each other for the last two months for the grand final.

New friendship

McDonald’s whisky has partnered with Ranipokhari Comer Team (RCT) and provide Rs 1 million sponsorship for a year.

Dasain bonanza

CG Electronics is offering buyers exciting gifts and cash prizes with its new festive scheme ‘CG Dasain Kharcha’. Every week, two CG buyers will win Rs 50,000 through a lucky draw.

Celebrating togetherness

Coca Cola Nepal has launched its month long ‘Come Home on Dashain’ campaign offering Rs 10 off on 2.25 litre bottles of Coca-Cola, Sprite, and Fanta.

Festive offer

CG Automobiles, distributor of Suzuki four-wheelers, has launched its Dasain special called ‘Suzuki Dasain baha, rojne tapaniko adhadhar’, for Suzuki Alto, K10, and Wagon R. Under this scheme customers can choose auto loan financing, or an on-road package that includes cash discount, road tax, insurance, and accessories.

Times 28 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER 2012 BUSINESS 5
The art of diplomacy

Brazil ambassador Marcos Duprat feels Nepal is an ideal posting for an artist

I have been a year since Marcos Borges Duprat Ribeiro arrived in Kathmandu to set up the new Brazilian embassy here, and in that time the artist-diplomat has blended seamlessly a passion for painting with his duties as a diplomat.

Duprat is a respected artist in Brazil with many international exhibitions, and has managed to not just combine two professions, but use his nomadic diplomatic job to influence his paintings with the landscapes and cultures of the places where he has been posted.

At age 67, Duprat says he had returned to Brazil after serving in Tokyo and Washington and other capitals to finally settle down, take care of his family duties, work on paintings, and help set up a diplomatic museum in Rio de Janeiro.

“When the call from my minister came about opening an embassy in Kathmandu, I almost said no,” Duprat admits, “I felt it was just too much of a challenge. But within two hours, I had called back and said yes.”

The exotic aura of Kathmandu was just too much of a draw, something that had been with Duprat since the 1960s when, while studying in the United States, a lot of his friends visited Nepal and Bali and came back with fabulous tales.

But Duprat did not arrive in Kathmandu all starry eyed, ready to be awed by Shangri La. He started reading up on Nepal, getting briefings and he knew that it was a country in the throes of dramatic change and buffeted by change.

In the past year, as he passes the change and buffeted by change. In the past year, as he passes the

Bad Hair Day: Cambodian women from a slum near Phnom Penh regret cutting their hair, but say they had no choice.

The exotic aura of Kathmandu was just too much of a draw, something that had been with Duprat since the 1960s when, while studying in the United States, a lot of his friends visited Nepal and Bali and came back with fabulous tales.

But Duprat did not arrive in Kathmandu all starry eyed, ready to be awed by Shangri La. He started reading up on Nepal, getting briefings and he knew that it was a country in the throes of dramatic change and buffeted by change.

In the past year, as he passes the

Bad Hair Day: Cambodian women from a slum near Phnom Penh regret cutting their hair, but say they had no choice.

The exotic aura of Kathmandu was just too much of a draw, something that had been with Duprat since the 1960s when, while studying in the United States, a lot of his friends visited Nepal and Bali and came back with fabulous tales.

But Duprat did not arrive in Kathmandu all starry eyed, ready to be awed by Shangri La. He started reading up on Nepal, getting briefings and he knew that it was a country in the throes of dramatic change and buffeted by change.

In the past year, as he passes the

Bad Hair Day: Cambodian women from a slum near Phnom Penh regret cutting their hair, but say they had no choice.
you see the beauty all around, you see the beauty in danger. You see the architecture, the temples, the river, and you see so much that should be beautiful, but isn’t.”

Duprat took a personal interest in designing the interior of the Brazilian chancery and residence in Chundevi, commissioning local wood carvers in Patan to make lattice windows and tables, bronze table stands and thankas, and picking just the right design and colours of Tibetan carpets to go with them. The interior looks more like an art gallery than an embassy.

Being a painter also helps Duprat in his work, and allows him to meet Nepali writers, artists, sculptors, and photographers which ambassadors usually wouldn’t otherwise. But he does have to drag himself away from the hectic social circuit to work on his own paintings, which he usually does in the evenings.

Duprat’s paintings have a narrative of the interplay of light, and how it pervades the landscape outside and inside. Which is why many of his paintings are of wide-open windows, narrow doors, and entrances letting in only a chink of light. And then there are the landscapes of the mind, where Duprat explores how light interacts with water, pebbles, air, clouds, mountains, and horizons. The canvases almost emit a light of their own, they are still life and yet they have a graceful fluidity.

Duprat studied art in Japan’s Waseda University and later was posted to Tokyo, and naturally one sees the influence of the subdued tones and understated minimalism of Japanese landscape art. The most exquisite thing for Duprat is the light in Nepal, and this is already evident in some of the paintings he has done after arriving here.

Duprat’s technique is velatura where artists use layer upon layer of paint which partly obscures the underlying paint, giving the works a misty, blurry effect that has a dreamlike quality.

Says Duprat: “Kathmandu Valley is blessed with a high level of refinement of the arts. The casting, woodwork, textiles all have an amazing sense of colour and design. Newari architecture has that delicate touch, it’s not monumental and overpowering, but aesthetic and built to a human scale.”

Asked if he will be having an exhibition in Kathmandu soon, Duprat says: “Paintings have a life of their own. As images, they come to life when they are seen by the viewer. I would love to share my work with the Nepali public and I am working on the details of an exhibition in Kathmandu next year.”

Kunda Dixit

Interview with Marcos Duprat, ‘Brazil keen on hydropower’, #599
Photography workshop, Canon School of Imaging, is offering amateurs an opportunity to enhance their skills. School of Imaging is offering amateurs a Photography workshop. www.canon-nepal.com, register by 30 September 2013. 7.15 pm, Maitri Bhawan, New Road, Rs4500, 1 to 10 October, 5.15 to 7.30 pm, Tinkune.

A GOOD TALK, Daniel Menaker who has been editor at Random House, Harper Collins and the New Yorker will give insight on the art of writing and ideas of social entrepreneurs. Social entrepreneurship bazar 2013, forms available at Pushkar Shah in order to promote domestic tourism and cycling culture. 27 to 29 September, 9803607694, nepal.wcf@gmail.com.

CYCLE FOR TOURISM, brave the heat and cycle for two days from Kathmandu to Sauraha on a tour led by cyclist Pushkar Shah in order to promote domestic tourism and cycling culture. 27 to 29 September, 9803607694, nepal.wcf@gmail.com.

Inheriting statelessness, an exhibition of paintings by Saroj Bajracharya along with the book launch of Future of History. 21 September to October 5. Park Gallery, Pulchowk, 9803167665.

INHERITING STATELESSNESS, an exhibition of paintings by Saroj Bajracharya along with the book launch of Future of History. 21 September to October 5. Park Gallery, Pulchowk, 9803167665.

Events

LIFESTYLE EXPO 2012

Lifestyle Expo 2012 will be held at Exhibition Hall, Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu. It starts from 12th to 16th October.

- Holiday Travel Mart
- Cosmetics Trial Studio
- Nepal Ethnic Day
- Tattoo Art Festival

Events

- Shopping Festival
- Food Festival
- Cultural Festival
- Sports Festival

Supporters

Gold Sponsor: Unifac, Euroguard, Forbes, Yakusa, Ultrasport
Silver Sponsor: Prospec, Malika, Sony, Bash Group, Eastern Paints
Official Beer: Asia Lady

More retail outlets than any mall Luxurious brands on sale Launch pad for new brands Shopping for young generation

Non-stop Fun & Excitement

Quiz Contest
Helicopter Tours
Body Builders Competition
Rock Concerts
Bingo
Kennel Show
Toddlers Talent Show
and many more

1 MEGA MAHA MELA 1 Stop Festival Shopping

More retail outlets than any mall Luxury brands on sale Launch pad for new brands Shopping for young generation

Non-stop Fun & Excitement

Quiz Contest
Helicopter Tours
Body Builders Competition
Rock Concerts
Bingo
Kennel Show
Toddlers Talent Show
and many more

All Nepal battle of the bands, one if you can hit the right notes at this nation-wide music competition. Rs5000, auditions on 6 October, 9841759179, 9803750550.

DINING

CHONGQING FAST FOOD, gear up for some mouth watering Chinese dishes like Sour and Spicy Pork and Kung Pao Chicken. Thamel.

Thik Thak Restaurant, this restaurant boasts live fish from the lake which means the fish dishes are always fresh and delicious. Lakeside, Pokhara.

New Dish, grab filling meals like pork momos, spring rolls and chicken curry with excellent value for money. Khichopakekor.

MUSIC

Paleti with Pawan Goyal, be charmed by the soothing voice of this singer from Darjeeling. 28 September, 5.30 pm, 422448, 4412395, 9851026266, nepal.wcf@gmail.com.

ROCK THE VALLEY, catch Nepal Rock legends Cobweb and various artists perform as an acoustic ensemble for the first time, 28 September, 5.30 pm, 1905 Restaurant, Thamel, 9841984796, 9861026507.

Events

INDRA JATRA AT RED CARPET, celebrate one of the most cherished festivals in the Valley with traditional music, lakhey dances, homemade aila, Newari cuisine, and paintings by the renowned sculptor Vijay Maharjan. Rs 350 for children, Rs 750 for adults, 28 September, 4 pm, Red Carpet Rastho and Bar, Darbar Marg, 4257705.

Cycle for tourism, brave the heat and cycle for two days from Kathmandu to Sauraha on a tour led by cyclist Pushkar Shah in order to promote domestic tourism and cycling culture. 27 to 29 September, 9803607694, nepal.wcf@gmail.com.

Inheriting statelessness, an exhibition of paintings by Saroj Bajracharya along with the book launch of Future of History. 21 September to October 5. Park Gallery, Pulchowk, 9803167665.

Events

LIFESTYLE EXPO 2012

Lifestyle Expo 2012 will be held at Exhibition Hall, Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu. It starts from 12th to 16th October.

- Holiday Travel Mart
- Cosmetics Trial Studio
- Nepal Ethnic Day
- Tattoo Art Festival

Supporters

Gold Sponsor: Unifac, Euroguard, Forbes, Yakusa, Ultrasport
Silver Sponsor: Prospec, Malika, Sony, Bash Group, Eastern Paints
Official Beer: Asia Lady

More retail outlets than any mall Luxurious brands on sale Launch pad for new brands Shopping for young generation

Non-stop Fun & Excitement

Quiz Contest
Helicopter Tours
Body Builders Competition
Rock Concerts
Bingo
Kennel Show
Toddlers Talent Show
and many more

1 MEGA MAHA MELA 1 Stop Festival Shopping

More retail outlets than any mall Luxury brands on sale Launch pad for new brands Shopping for young generation

Non-stop Fun & Excitement

Quiz Contest
Helicopter Tours
Body Builders Competition
Rock Concerts
Bingo
Kennel Show
Toddlers Talent Show
and many more

All Nepal battle of the bands, one if you can hit the right notes at this nation-wide music competition. Rs5000, auditions on 6 October, 9841759179, 9803750550.

DINING

CHONGQING FAST FOOD, gear up for some mouth watering Chinese dishes like Sour and Spicy Pork and Kung Pao Chicken. Thamel.

Thik Thak Restaurant, this restaurant boasts live fish from the lake which means the fish dishes are always fresh and delicious. Lakeside, Pokhara.

New Dish, grab filling meals like pork momos, spring rolls and chicken curry with excellent value for money. Khichopakekor.

MUSIC

Paleti with Pawan Goyal, be charmed by the soothing voice of this singer from Darjeeling. 28 September, 5.30 pm, 422448, 4412395, 9851026266, nepal.wcf@gmail.com.

ROCK THE VALLEY, catch Nepal Rock legends Cobweb and various artists perform as an acoustic ensemble for the first time, 28 September, 5.30 pm, 1905 Restaurant, Thamel, 9841984796, 9861026507.
Amazing Amazon in Kathmandu

In 2010 the Colombian artist Nicolas Van Hemelrick decided to take a bike ride to the source of the Amazon River and from there began a five-month journey to its delta in the Atlantic Ocean. The images of what he saw along the way are being exhibited over the weekend in Kathmandu in a show brought here by the Colombian Embassy.

The exhibition ‘Amazing Amazon’ explores the unique way of life from the rainforest, the so-called ‘lungs of the world’. Consultant for the exhibit, Prasit Sthapit, says: “We rarely get to see images from South America, apart from what’s on tv. The nature in Nepal and Colombia have a lot in common, they are very diverse.”

The exhibition has already toured India, stopping at Delhi, Kolkata, and Chennai in 2010. After Nepal, ‘Amazing Amazon’ will be heading to Bangladesh.

The exhibition runs from 29-30 of September at The Park Gallery in Pulchok, Lalitpur, 5522307.
Eyes Wide Shut

Stanley Kubrick’s last film is a grand old mystery, released in 1999 a few months after Kubrick’s death. Eyes Wide Shut created a great deal of controversy, with its erotic subject matter, the byzantine plot, and endless speculation that had Kubrick lived longer the film would have been somehow different. Kubrick had the reputation like some autes such as Kar Wai Wong (Chungking Express, In The Mood For Love) of endlessly refining and editing his films, so in some ways the speculation is valid, but the nature of the film is such that it deals with two distinct questions: if there can be any one definitive interpretation.

A master of cinema, yet often misunderstood in his day, Kubrick wrote, produced, and directed his final film on a story that took a record 400 days. During this period Nicole Kidman who plays Alice Harford and Tom Cruise who plays her husband Dr William “Bill” Harford were more or less sequestered away from the world with Kubrick. They spoke with their daughter Suri brought up under any kind of influence of the Scientology being one of them. His long marriage amidst media speculation that she didn’t want their daughter Suri brought up under any kind of influence of the secretive Church of Scientology.

In the film, Cruise’s character, Dr Bill, a handsome successful general practitioner finds himself gate crashing a cult like ritual in a mansion just outside of Manhattan after a swanky Christmas party where he meets an old friend and medical school dropout who now plays piano and is occasionally summoned, with a secret password, to these clandestine events where everyone is masked and where the men are clothed, but the women are stark naked. There has been more endless speculation that Kubrick was emulating Masonic rituals or perhaps even the shadowy Illuminati made famous by The Da Vinci Code, but what is most striking in the film is the uncanny coincidence of Cruise’s character being caught up in a sinister cult that veers him away from his lovely wife and his picture perfect life.

If, of course, unfair to speculate in this way about the private life of actors, even as it is impossible not to draw the above admittedly disturbing parallel. But then, the entire film carries a heavy and sinister atmosphere that makes for this exact kind of conspiracy theory like speculation. Directed by the hand of a master, Kidman and Cruise carry the complex overtones of the film as best they can. Sometimes heavy handed in their acting, one still must applaud how they gamely take on one particularly long, tortuous conversation scene with just the two of them, intensely discussing the urge to cheat, even in a happy marriage, all the while under the influence of marijuana.

As Tom Cruise’s character founders through his nightmarish evening (the sinister events take place over two nights, but they seem melded into one long one) he runs the course of lust, and comes back to his wife and home, guilty and ready to confess. Meanwhile Alice, herself no innocent, has had portentous, uncannily similar dreams of herself being raped many among powerful men.

In the end, we never know what really happened, and whether any of it was even real. Regardless of this, it is fascinating to be a viewer to such a powerful artifact of cinema that holds a mesmerizing power years after it was released, still leaving much speculation in its wake.

**Watch trailer**

**MAKE A TOAST:** As part of World Tourism Day celebrations women show a curious passionity how to make traditional Newari alcohol at Kathmandu Darbar Square on Wednesday.

**WEEKEND WEATHER**

**NIGHTMARE ENDS:** French mountaineers arrive at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu and meet their travel agents after being rescued in Manaslu on Sunday.

**READERS’ PHOTO:** Instead of playing with her friends, a schoolgirl helps her family sell oil lamps in front of Swayambhunath stupa.

**MISTAKEN IDENTITY:**

Typhoid is a major killer specialty in our part of the world. 360,000 people around the world die from this illness every year and 27 million are infected. Understanding the transmission cycle of the bacteria is imperative to battle this deadly disease. When a patient is cured of typhoid fever, there is some likelihood that she will ‘carry’ the typhoid bacteria, called salmonella. Salmonella in these asymptomatically ‘carriers’ stays in the gall bladder and intermittently with the bile which flows from the gall bladder, enters the intestines and exits in the feces to set up a faecal-oral typhoid transmission cycle.

In a surprising finding from Patan Hospital that will soon be published in an open-access journal, PlasChu, Sabina Dongol and colleagues show that the salmonella that leaves the gall bladder in ‘carriers’ may not be the culprit causing the acute ‘blood’ infection in another person as was previously assumed. This salmonella carrier study done from 2007 to 2010 at Patan Hospital had a large sample size of 1,377 patients who required gall bladder surgery; mostly for gall stone problems. About four per cent of the bile from this group grew out salmonella from the bile culture.

The study revealed that the gall bladder salmonella and the prevalent acute typhoid fever causing salmonella appear to be two different strains as verified by microbiological and genetic studies. This mistaken identity is vital in the context of the spread of typhoid fever.

Prevaling dogma in tropical medicine states that it is the carrier who maintains this active transmission of the bacteria from person to person, but the Patan Hospital study findings counter this dogma. In a high-typhoid transmission area like ours, ‘carrier’ transmission seems to play a secondary role. In sharp contrast, in low typhoid transmission areas as in the Western world, it is well-established that whenever there is a typhoid outbreak, a ‘carrier’ is often identified and both the patient and the carrier (often a cook or a food handler) will be infected by a similar strain. So has Typhoid Mary been vindicated?

Typhoid Mary was a typhoid ‘carrier’ in the early twentieth century in New York who was implicated in infecting many people with typhoid in different households where she worked. Recent studies appear to question Mary’s culpability in spreading this illness given that at that time New York (unlike now) was a relatively high transmission area for typhoid akin to Nepal today.

If the ‘carrier’ transmission is less important than was previously believed, having access to clean drinking water, using soap to wash hands and an overall improvement in sanitation (besides vaccination) will be more important in preventing typhoid infection.
Barking up the wrong tree

The frustrated opposition is once again preparing to take to the streets, but what do they really want?

Last week when the parties had come with an ‘agreement’ to go for fresh elections, we were all skeptical about it here at Nepali Times. Without a front-loaded deal on outstanding constitutional issues, most importantly on federalism, we felt, it was only a matter of time before the parties hit a brick wall. And they did.

There is nothing new in this new drama. The Big Four wasted four months in a rhetorical war, practically without talking to each other. The president twisted their tails. The public started ridiculing them. So they came up with the election to defuse the pressure, but many forgot that Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai had already announced elections on 27 May to extend his term in office.

The hard truth is that electing another CA will only provide the country with a vehicle without a political destination. Although the Maoist-Madhesi alliance and the NC-UML led opposition seem to agree in the new constitution on power sharing between directly-elected and parliament-elected executive as well as federating the country into provinces, they differ fundamentally on the details.

So when leaders in the opposition claim that there is no difference on constitutional issues and blame the Bhattarai government for not making way for a national unity government, they are being deceitful. They hold Bhattarai responsible for what happened on 27 May, but after the Supreme Court decision, the opposition had already contemplated the CA’s natural death as a way to get rid of the Maoist-Madhesi diktat in the constitution drafting. A senior NC leader who had lobbied for the CA extension until the last moment admitted as much in a private conversation.

The opposition had hoped that the president would force Bhattarai to resign and call for fresh parliamentary elections. But Bhattarai outsmarted them by declaring CA elections at 11:30 PM, half an hour before the house was dissolved. A sulking opposition took to the streets and frequented Shital Niwas in an effort to unseat Bhattarai. But after gauging the nation’s pulse and consulting various constitutional and legal experts, President Ram Baran Yadav chose not to overstep his constitutional jurisdiction even though he turned down the full budget and several ordinances to remind Bhattarai that he was only a caretaker.

The opposition had no option but to come back to the table, which they did last week. But the way they have sidelined the constitutional issues and focused only on government change, it seems they are not so keen on resolving the deadlock and forging agreement on sticking issues than they are to get to power.

The NC has both the credibility and experience in holding free and fair elections. But at a time when the rationale for going to elections is being contested, it is the responsibility of all parties to first figure out why a consensus was elusive before and what has changed to make a deal on the constitution possible now. For the last four months, the leaders have been blaming the CA for failing to draft the constitution, but the valuable work done by the House that still exists in the form of a draft proves nothing is further from the truth. The House had its rules which allowed a democratic solution to all the problems. It is the political leadership which undermined the spirit of democracy by making and breaking backroom deals and bypassing the elected assembly.

The political parties need to reinvent themselves through fresh elections, but the nation cannot go for polls in this socio-politically polarised environment. The opposition is preparing for a street show against the government because it considers Bhattarai the biggest obstacle, but it is really barking up the wrong tree.

If the NC-UML want to lead the electoral government, they must convince the silent majority who still stand by the present coalition, that they uphold the spirit of the 2006 Jana Andolan as well as Janajati and Madhes movements which called for political as well as social restructuring of the state. They can begin by convincing those in their own ranks and preventing the exodus of Madhesi and Janajati leaders from their parties.
As Nepal’s population ages, thousands of elderly Nepalis find themselves orphaned

DAMBAR KRISHNA SHRESTHA

Every morning 77-year-old Sarmaya Acharya (pic, centre) neatly lays out packets of cigarettes and chewing tobacco, shampoo sachets, and nail polish bottles and sets up her small stall at Bhanu Chok in Dharan. The mother of two lives by herself and uses earnings from the shop to pay her monthly rent.

Sarmaya’s son is settled in Kathmandu, and abandoned her shortly after her husband’s death and hasn’t come to see her in three years. She has never met her daughter-in-law, or her grandchildren.

Thousands of 60 plus Nepalis across the country find themselves orphaned at old age. Abandoned by their families, they are forced to spend their retirement years in old age homes, on the streets or in their own residence with no one to look after them.

Joint families with grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, and cousins all living under the same roof were the norm in Nepal till even a decade ago. Older members were respected and valued, and played a vital role in the transfer of knowledge, skills, and traditions. In an economy so heavily reliant on agriculture, it made sense for families to stick together because grandparents would help raise children, while parents worked on the farm.

While the democracy movement in 1990 bought about major political and economic changes, it also ruptured this social contract. The economy expanded, new jobs opened up in the manufacturing and services sector, and many flocked to the cities. The decade long civil war hastened this trend, and elderly family members were left behind. With more and more Nepalis opting to work and settle abroad, the number of abandoned aged parents is likely to rise.

The middle class urban lifestyle, nuclear families living in cramped rented quarters, and premium on personal freedom and financial independence over customs, have brought about a significant change in attitude.

“Grandparents were shown a lot of respect and well-loved by families, but that culture has slowly faded away. We are so busy running after money and making a name for ourselves, we have forgotten some of our good social values,” explains sociologist Suresh Dhakal.

GIVING UP ON GRANNIES

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

See Beyond the Usual with Brilliance that moves the world!

Kathmandu Dealers

Outside Kathmandu Dealers
Pressures of modern life mean that many Nepalis don’t even have the time or energy to take care of their children, so looking after aged parents becomes an economic and emotional burden. The average family size in Nepal has shrunk from 5.4 in 2001 to 4.7, and the capital has an even smaller family size of 3.7.

While the poor elderly are the most vulnerable, there have been many cases where well-off parents have been kicked out after handing over their property to their children, or after being coerced into giving up their wealth.

According to the 1991 census, there were 1,071,000 Nepalis above the age of 60. In two decades that has doubled to 2,351,000 as Nepal’s population ages. Senior citizens now make up nine per cent of the country’s population.

In many developed countries, the state takes responsibility for citizens over 60 years and provides social security. Here, there are no such safety nets and the only state-run home for the elderly in Pashupati which houses 210 senior citizens is in a perpetual financial crunch.

The dozen or so private homes in Kathmandu, Chitwan, Dhankuta, Biratnagar, and Pokhara are also overcrowded, and have to rely on donations.

Bhim Prasad Subedi from the Department of Geography at Tribhuvan University estimates that in the next 20 years the above-60 population will double, turning Nepal’s demographic profile from a pyramid into an hour-glass: wide at the top and wide at the bottom.

Sarmaya’s daughter visits from time to time and has been urging her to move in with her. But she says she will work and live on her own till she is physically capable. Although life has been cruel to her, she carries on with the hope of seeing her son and grandchildren one day.
**Lost in London**

Dipendra Gurung, Naya Patrika, 21 September

News of Nepali officials who go ‘missing’ abroad has become quite common. The 2012 London Paralympics was no different. Out of the 20 officials who accompanied athletes Maiya Bisankhe and Bikram Bahadur Kama to London, nine still haven’t returned although the official return date was 10 September. While the names of the four ‘missing’ people have been revealed, Nepal National Paralympics Committee is yet to identify the remaining five. One of the athletes said they did not know many of the officials and met them for the first time at London. According to the athlete, most administrators arrived in the UK before them and left the Olympics village long before the games were over.

On top of the missing members, Nepalis have to cope with another embarrassment. The National Paralympics Committee isn’t even sure about the exact number of officials who travelled to the UK. A picture of the Nepali team at the Paralympics reveals that a British national and two children also took part in the opening ceremony. However, none of these ‘extra’ people have been identified.

“Although we had officially recommended eight people, we have been informed the actual numbers were higher, but we don’t know the full details yet,” said a committee official.

**Flying high**

Ganesh Basnet, Rajdhani, 23 September

Young, unemployed, gang members, criminals, these are the stereotypes that come to mind when we think of drug addicts. But a growing number of health care providers and pilots are joining this notorious list. A recent investigation carried out by the Department of Drug Administration (DDA) found a doctor and pilot guilty of misusing buprenorphine, a painkiller. According to SSP Nawaraj Silwal, the two were found with other illegal drugs like lidocaine and phenergen. The nurses who gave the DDA officials the lead were also found misusing the drugs with the doctor.

The convicted doctor said he began taking the drugs to reduce stress. “I wanted to use it only once, but now I cannot get out of the habit,” he admitted. The pilot who is a former drug addict said he had remained clean for years before relapsing a few months back upon his return from the Philippines. His family weren’t sure whether they will come back alive. He says, “If a miner has an accident, the others won’t find out till much later because it’s so dark in there.” For coal miners like Sunar, Nepali, and Thapa, life underground as well as above ground is dark and grimy.

**Bound underground**

Durgalal KC, Kantipur, 22 September

Their day starts at 5am. They get up, have a quick meal, put on their uniforms and head to work 300 metres into the earth. When they come back to the surface after a gruelling day at the office, they are completely covered in soot and unrecognisable.

This is the daily routine for hundreds of Dalit and Margar youths from Ramche, Tos, Tampani, Tisrang, and Bayalikut of Saigha VDC in northern Dang who spend their entire lives in coal mines. Mining in Saigha started in 1990, the same year when the Panchayat system gave way to multiparty democracy. There have been plenty of changes in the country since then, but prospects have remained just as bleak for the inhabitants of Saigha.

The miners are paid Rs 50 per quintal and on average they extract up to six sacks of coal each day. “It’s a hard life. We spend the entire day in total darkness searching for coal,” explains Tej Bahadur Thapa of Ramche. Despite putting his life at risk every day, the rewards are paltry. He manages to scrap out a living and feed his family, but it’s a hand to mouth existence.

Amrit Nepali of Tisrang shares a similar story. With his meagre income Nepal can either send his children to school or feed his family of seven. It’s a tough choice. “If I send my children to school, there is not enough to eat. So they also help out,” he admits.

Safety standards in the six mines in Saigha are almost non-existent. Tunnels may collapse anytime burying the miners alive. There are no lighting systems or mechanised trolleys to ferry the load. And the workers are neither insured nor do they receive any medical benefits.

Dal Singh Sunar of Bayalikut says he and his friends are terrified every time they load into the pits because they’re not sure whether they will come back alive. He says, “If a miner has an accident, the others won’t find out till much later because it’s so dark in there.” For coal miners like Sunar, Nepali, and Thapa, life underground as well as above ground is dark and grimy.

**Congress under the influence**

NC leader Gagan Thapa in Kantipur, September 24

When the leaders do not have answers to the political deadlock, the best option is to go for a fresh mandate and the parties have made the right decision. In a democracy, no clause in the constitution can stop the people from reasserting themselves.

But for the elections to take place, the top four political forces must first include smaller parties in the ongoing dialogue and forge a common understanding on the rationale of the elections, date, and the size of the next CA or parliament. But even before that it is important for the parties to decide who will lead the electoral government?

Internally, the top brass has disregarded established norms of seeking mandate from the party’s representative body and has been making arbitrary decisions in the name of the party.

A few leaders have been keeping the party hostage to their personal ambitions and making back door deals to accommodate each other’s interests. But their failure to provide a visionary leadership, and engage the opposition shows that the days of coterie politics in the NC are over.

There is an urgent need to democratise the party’s internal structure and decision-making process. Only a strong NC free from the control of a few can influence national politics.


**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“Don’t run after what’s in public because I have to say lot of things that I don’t mean to keep the opposition engaged. You must trust that all our actions have long term motive of capturing the state.”

Basu Kshitiz in Annapurna Post, 23 September

**FROM THE NEPALI PRESS**

28 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER 2012
When Krishna Kathayat of Dama came to district headquarters in Achham in July to collect his disability pension, Chief District Officer Ram Kurumbang and officials at the Local Peace Committee did not know what to make of Kathayat. The Ministry of Peace had put him under the ‘100 per cent’ disabled category and his papers said he was invisible with a missing arm and ear. But Kurumbang saw nothing unusual except a slightly crooked arm with a small lump at the elbow. No one could question Kathayat because he had all the necessary documents. So he nothing unusual except a slightly crooked arm with a small lump at the elbow. No one could question Kathayat because he had all the necessary documents. So he collected his four months worth of pension amounting to Rs 24,800 and walked back home. Similarly, Arjun Prasad Poudel of Bhorle in Rasuwa district went to the headquarters to claim his pension. He told the officials that he had become blind after the army beat him during the war. When the officials asked him to remove his glasses, they found out he was lying. Poudel then claimed he couldn’t hear. His name is now being removed from the list of the conflict-hit.

Seven months after the government started the lifelong pension scheme for war victims and ex-combatants, the full extent of corruption and deceit is finally emerging as more and more scam cases are revealed. From medical reports to victims’ stories to the disability criteria used by the state, everything is forged.

“People paralysed before the war and even those who fell from trees have papers to prove they are war victims. When they present these ‘authentic’ documents, we have no other option than to provide the pension,” admits Jora Singh Bista, secretary to Achham’s Local Peace Committee.

In November 2011, the Maoist-led cabinet formed a committee headed by Krishna Regmi to collect data about ex-combatants wounded during the war, and help with the rehabilitation process. Three months later, the cabinet announced a rehabilitation and support manual without waiting for the committee’s recommendations. Maoist fighters, war victims, and families, as well as those injured during the 2006 Jana Andolan and the Madhes Uprising, who are deemed to be ‘51 per cent or more’ disabled, became eligible for the lifelong pension and health care services.

The manual also divided the disabled into two categories: special and first. People with 75 to 100 per cent disability, who cannot walk without support fall under the ‘special’ category and receive Rs 6,200 as monthly stipend, and their caretakers also get the same amount. Those with 51 to 75 per cent disability who cannot earn a living are in the ‘primary’ category and get Rs 6,200 every month. Out of the 736 beneficiaries, 446 are Maoist cadres while others are mostly Maoist supporters or family members.

An incriminating report by the Relief and Rehabilitation Department of the Ministry of Peace reveals that 319 out of 446 former fighters have disabilities lower than 50 per cent and are ineligible to receive pension. In fact, even people with 20 to 25 per cent disability have been found to possess fake papers that describe them as 100 per cent disabled.

Ministry officials estimate that almost 60 per cent of those currently receiving pensions have fabricated their documents in one way or another.

“We thought the pension was for people on wheelchairs or those who couldn’t function without caretakers. But the ones who come to collect money are actually quite healthy, some are even strong enough to beat us,” explains Kailash Kumar Magar (right), who lost his arm while setting off a bomb in Palpa, is also in the same category.

Rather than providing much needed financial relief to the victims of war, the Maoists seem to be using the lifelong pension scheme to run the state exchequer across the country remain to be investigated.
Wonders never cease in this Brand New Secular Federal Inclusive Demographic Ex-Monarchy of Greater Nepal as we prepare to declare war on the Indian Subcontinent. Since nationalism is the last refuge of scoundrels, off go the Kranti-curries deporting Indian vehicles with Indian plates (Indian vehicles with Nepali plates are a-ok), banning Bollywood movies, and Hindi songs. CPji and the Kiran Kaka haven’t forgiven the Indians for the bad jail food they got in Chennai and Sitifari during the war at a time when FKB, BRB, Sita, and Yummy were slurping black and white. And red.

If we had all read carefully the Bracket Baddies’ 70-point demand last month, we can’t say we weren’t warned that Conrade Pumps wanted us all to start digging trenches and tunnels again. It was all there in black and white. And red. 🙋‍♂️

But why are Baidya Ba and Pum Pum satisfied with only banning movies and songs? We have to be much more aggressive and add more items to the list if we are to effectively counter the comprador ruling classes, running dog jackeys of imperialism, revisionist fascist hyenas, and capitalist traitors to the proletariat who conjoin with their hegemonic masters in Delhi. To set an example, Baidya Ba has said he is ready to extract his Indian corneal transplant, and replace it with a Nepali one at Til Ganga. Nepal Time is only 15 minutes ahead of Indian Standard Time, and that puts us too close for comfort, so Nepalis should reset their clocks to be at least four hours ahead of Indian time. We also don’t like to be so near to India anymore, Nepal should physically relocate itself further abroad, say, to the Caribbean. And here is a longer checklist of Indian thingies that the Bracket Baddies should ban with immediate effect if they are really serious about this:

- Salt
- Petrol, diesel, gas
- 80 megawatts of electricity
- Home-made guns
- Wedding saris
- Pan Pum Pum
- Gladis
- Sai Baba
- Devnagari script
- Kurta suruwals
- Migratory birds
- Monsoon rains

Never thought the Ass would live to see the day that Baidya Ba would get into bed with Jhussii, Jhussii and Co. But there they were the other day, knoodling cosily together as if they were joined at the hip, united by their determination to get the Baboo to go. 🙋‍♂️

It’s getting really difficult these days to tell which are the badder baddies: the opposition Baddies who threaten to bring the country to a halt, or the Baddies in government who threaten to bring the country to a halt. This is the only country in the world where the parties in government take to the streets to protest against the opposition. It is the only country where the Prime Minister openly declares that he is not in charge, and that “someone else has the keys”. 🙋‍♂️

One has to feel for BRB, though, since he has surrounded himself with a menagerie of ministers each more crooked than the next. His cabinet is made up of a jukerting Minister of Women and Children who thinks his job is to take his wife and children on phoren trips, a Moonie Minister whose sole interest is to propagate the Unification Church, a Healthy Minister who collected a couple of corrodors to replace the head of Patan Hospital with a crony’s niece, a Deforestation Minister who is on the payroll of illegal loggers, and the Sporty Ministry which got 20 officials to accompany a two-member Para Olympic delegation to London and only nine of the officials came back. Then the Financial Minister goes to China to negotiate an airport deal in which his sidekick admitted to taking a 50 lack kickback. And last but not least, the Minister of Disinformation and Miscommunication says all Nepali journos will get life-long pension when they complete 50 years in the profession. Good move, given the lifespan of an average back, they’ll all be dead by then. 🙋‍♂️

Kamred Oily got so carried away in his anti-Baddie tirade the other day he called them “mad donkeys”. Watch your mouth, KP.