

Your **Dream Home**,
Not a Dream **Anyore**

NIBL HOME LOAN
@ **10.5%** Interest p.a.

SMS | home to 7755 or Contact your nearest NIBL Branch

For more Information:
Retail Bank: 4228229, 4242530, EXT 304/324

www.nibl.com.np



नेपाल इन्भेस्टमेन्ट बैंक लि.
NEPAL INVESTMENT BANK LTD.
Truly a Nepali Bank



*condition apply

ARTMANDU

Modelled after major art events like the Venice Biennale and the Sao Paulo Biennial, the Kathmandu International Art Festival is a month-long festival that begins on 25 November. Artists from 31 countries collaborate on this year's theme: 'Earth/Body/ Mind' during the city-wide showcase. There will be installations that fill entire rooms, exhibits in stunning traditional spaces such as Mul Chok at Patan Darbar Square, and even a multimedia piece projected onto the Bouddhanath Stupa.

page 6-7



SAURANGA DARSHANDHARI



Who will be a Gurkha?

Kesang Tseten's latest film, *Who Will Be a Gurkha*, will premier on 16 November at the 24th International Documentary Film Festival of Amsterdam (IDFA), where it is one of a dozen films selected in the main competition. The documentary will also be screened in Nepal at KIMFF 2012 from 7-11 December. Tseten is not judgemental about Gurkha recruitment, he simply documents the process where only 176 recruits are chosen from 10,000 applicants in a process lasting several months in Pokhara's British Gurkha camp.

page 7

First Nepalis to be photographed

Rare photographs by Clarence Comyn Taylor provide a glimpse of what Nepalis looked like 150 years ago: how Nepalis carried themselves, how they dressed, how long they kept their hair, and what weaponry and implements they used. The pictures are from the book, *The People of India*, published in 1868 which contains 24 images of ordinary Nepalis, probably the first photographs ever taken of them.

page 12-13



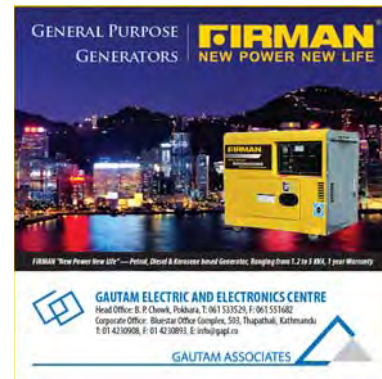
BIKASH DWARE

Return to investment



A year after declaring investment a priority, lack of progress in governance and transparency are keeping investors away from Nepal. The Department of Industries has become the one-window agency for delays and rampant corruption. Inconsistent policies, information gaps, shifting rules, and constant rotations in civil service personnel confuse and frustrate investors. An increasingly politicised and militant labour, corruption, the extortionist attitude of bureaucrats, and a crippling energy shortage have all affected investment.

Economy stupid page 5



Shift smoothly
between your
Worlds

Introducing the all new
CAPTIVA 2.2 Ltz

Bold striking design that provides a glimpse of the future for C 100. A strong, Chevrolet face/ fresh appearance including front and rear fascia, Grille and branded bar, Head lamps, Fog Lamps & bezel, 17 wheel etc. 8 Airbags, Immobilizer, Eco Mode (for better fuel consumption), Front Seat Heater, Sun-roof/ moon- roof, FM Radio, Mp3 with 6 CD changers, Bluetooth Connectivity, Self- leveling Suspensions, Parking Assists System, Cruise Control, Electric Parking Brake.

TO TEST DRIVE
4414625, 9801026543,
9801026544

SMS "Car"
to 2426

Find us on
Facebook
Chevrolet cars in Nepal

Vijay Motors Pvt. Ltd.
Showroom : Naxal Bhagwati Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal. Ph.: 4414625, 4425603.
email:sales@chevrolet.com.np

Authorised Sales & Service centers:
Pokhara: 061-527451/ 9856022495, Butwal: 071-437648/ 9847090837, Nepalgunj: 081-550348/ 9858021489, Biratnagar: 021-462092/ 9852024601, Birtamode: 9842700420, Maharaigunj: 01-4720869

give life
SMS 'BLOOD' 2426

IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?

If Nepal's political process were not so distressingly moribund, it would make for great satire. Entertainers would be hard-pressed to improve on the comedy of errors that is the Nepal ship of state.

More than five months after the CA was dissolved, that ship is leaking and rudderless, drifting into uncharted waters with a lameduck prime minister, caretaker government, no parliament, no constitution, no general or local elections, and now, no budget.

The parties that were elected in 2008 to take the peace process forward, write a new constitution, and ensure stable government and economic development are hopelessly tangled in a zero-sum game. In trying to keep rival parties and rivals within parties out of the power equation, the current cast of political characters cancel each other out. They had the holidays to strike a deal in informal meetings, they squandered that too.

Had successive heads of government behaved more like statesmen, instead of petty party bosses, we might not have got bogged down in this morass. If the opposition parties had publicly acknowledged, even indirectly, that it was their malgovernance over the years that contributed to the current crisis, and if they had fielded untainted, younger and more dynamic leaders, we wouldn't have hit rock bottom.

The only way out of the current crisis, as we keep saying here every week, is to go for fresh elections. What is holding things up is that just about every political party and their discredited leadership are terrified of facing voters.

Hence the hand-wringing, the delay tactics, elaborate legalistic excuses, and using the budget as a bargaining chip as everyone jostles for advantage to be incumbent in an election government. That is what it has always been about: since no one is



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

The Maoists are not just any other party. They may be de-listed terrorists, but they still espouse an ideology that belongs in a mausoleum.

prepared to face free and fair elections, they all want to be where there is power and money, to gain an unfair advantage.

The Maoists have not given up their goal of a one-party state. This is not fear-mongering, they've repeatedly said so themselves. The strategy is to wait till they are sure they can command a two-thirds majority in the next CA or parliament by using money, state security, coercion, and identity politics. No doubt, political exclusion of marginalised ethnicities needs to be addressed, but only fools would trust centralist Maoist communists with that agenda. The Maoists would have gone for elections by now had the party not split, seriously undermining their chance of gaining a two-third.

All political parties want power, that's a given, they would all love to have a two-thirds majority. But the Maoists are not just any other party. They may be de-listed terrorists, but they still espouse an ideology

that belongs in a mausoleum. We haven't yet seen demonstrable evidence of them having given up on violence, confrontation, and an ambition to create a one-party people's republic. In government, they become thugs, blatantly bleeding the treasury.

There is a lot of chest-beating among pundits about this prolonged political 'deadlock', and a tendency to heap equal blame on the Maoists as well as on the NC or UML. But the stalemate is actually evidence of the ability of the parties with democratic values to keep those without from monopolising power.

True, the NC and UML leadership leaves much to be desired. Their methods are crude, their disunity disheartening, they are the same old faces, and they seem not to be able to say anything more inspiring than repeatedly demanding the prime minister's ouster. But at least they espouse the universal values of democracy, pluralism, and non-violence. And that is what it has come down to: a lowest-common-denominator struggle between those who aim to create a one-party state, and those who want to preserve an open society.

And, no, contrary to assertions of crony apologists of the Maoists, this has nothing to do with protecting the status quo. The lies, hypocrisy, and doublespeak have caught up with the Maoists, and they know it.

All the more reason for the democratic parties to finally wake up from their slumber. If not now, then when? The NC's Basantpur 'show of force' was a show of farce, with the party chief bursting into a silly song. The UML is showing slightly more gumption, but also seriously lacks statesmanship and focus.

The least harmful way forward now is for the opposition to join an election government, let Prime Minister Bhattarai continue if need be, and let a general and local election in May untangle this mess.

ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

WRITING ON THE WALL

I'm not sure whether parties can reach a consensus and hold general elections by May 2013 ('For whom the bell polls', Editorial, #629). But what I am certain about is that Baburam Bhattarai is a safer bet than the other contenders: Pushpa Kamal Dahal or worse, Kiran Baidya. At least Bhattarai is keeping the biggest crook and murderer of them all, Dahal, away from power. We should be thankful for that.

Sitaram

- The NC, UML, Maoist, and Madhesi parties have all failed miserably and their leaders have proved to be highly corrupt and inept without any vision to move Nepal forward. Unless a new force emerges to wipe the slate clean, the current leaders will keep plundering the state coffer and destroying the aspirations of millions of Nepalis.

Sharma

PALAZZOS WITH PILASTERS

Like Niels Gutschow, who documents the eroding architecture and spirit of the capital through his book *The Kathmandu Valley*, I too have watched Kathmandu become a very ugly and unhealthy city in the last 30 years ('Palazzos decorated with pilasters', Kunda Dixit, #629). Sadly, the same is happening to Pokhara, where the view from the lake is marred by enormous billboards advertising mobile phones and alcohol brands and Lakeside is polluted and becoming increasingly dangerous with speeding vehicles.

Bridget Harris

- I lived in Kathmandu and Patan from 1972-2001. I thought the Valley was the most beautiful place in the world at first. As the years passed, I witnessed the gradual, relentless destruction of the beautiful architecture and layout of the cities. The rate at which modern buildings began replacing those demolished and the steady encroachment of agricultural lands were horrifying. I am visiting Kathmandu after 11 years and looking at its current state wants to make me sob. From a Shangri-la, it has turned into a living hell.

Danny Birch

- Although I appreciate Gutschow's attempt to create a visual history of Kathmandu Valley, I feel the book lacks ideas and practical solutions on how we can improve the living conditions of the city given the existing physical infrastructure. I only see nostalgia of what was or what we lost, but let's be positive. Why can't we work towards making all this better so that 40 years from now things are improved?

Svasti

- I have watched Kathmandu's deterioration very painfully and suffered.

R Rai

- Kathmandu isn't a 'living, breathing' city as Swati Pujari describes, it's more of a dying city ('Time travel in Kathmandu', #629). We have systematically destroyed our

culture and heritage, arts and crafts, and environmental friendly-structures and killed the charm of the Valley. I recently came across an old satellite photo of Kathmandu from the 1960s which shows a lush Valley with 85 per cent covered in farmlands and beautiful terraces. Today, half of Kathmandu is concrete and we are proud to call it 'development'. What's worse is that given Kathmandu's location, if a Haiti like earthquake hits the Valley, there will be a catastrophe on a scale never seen in history. To avoid a calamity

to have a caring and selfless mother and I am sure they will stick by her side till the very end. People like Gyani who have the least resources are usually the ones with the biggest hearts and they inspire us to carry on despite the political chaos and the overwhelming negativity in the country.

Meera Karki

- I wish Gyani Deula a long life and hope she continues to care for man's best friend that our hypocritical

society pretends to worship one day in a year in Kukur Tihar, but abuses all the other days. I have seen how cruel Nepalis can be to stray dogs: kicking them, throwing rocks at them, and sometimes even cutting and inflicting wounds with sharp objects. How a human culture treats helpless animals is a measure of its progressive evolution, and Nepalis (especially Kathmandu residents) are right on the bottom of the list.

A Nepali

BY THE PEOPLE

In my short three months in Nepal last year I found the phrase 'ke garne' (what to do) used far too often ('By the people, for the people', Anurag Acharya, #629). It showed the pessimistic mindset amongst Nepalis and although there is some wisdom in accepting life as it is, such an approach can inhibit hope and motivation to make changes.

Stacey Kett

MUSTANG

I don't think winter should stop children from attending classes in upper Mustang ('Mustang's migrating students', Kunda Dixit, #629). If tourism is better organised, the parents can earn a healthy living, buy warm clothes and heaters for their children, and invest in their education. These children are equally capable and deserve opportunities.

Suniel Singh

HAN SUYIN

The depiction of Kathmandu during the mid 1950's and the process of the protagonist's discovery of herself played out so eloquently in *The Mountain Is Young* are what attract thousands of readers to the book even 50 years after its publication ('Han Suyin's Nepal', Skye McParland, #629). I highly doubt that a couple of pages mildly referring to consummation of the protagonist's affair would be the prime reason for the book to sell so well.

Sniper



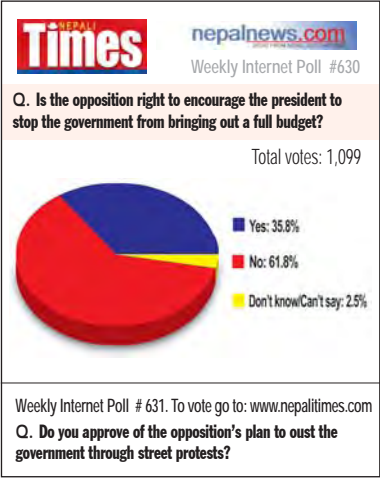
THE KATHMANDU VALLEY

of such magnitude, we must invest in infrastructure: ask the Chinese for help and stop turning into replicas of Indian cities.

Anonymous

GYANI DEULA

Thank you *Nepali Times* for highlighting the incredible work of ordinary Nepalis like Gyani Deula week after week, her story bought me to tears ('The dog mother', Trishna Rana, #629). The 21 dogs she has adopted are really lucky



No movement

The opposition’s winter street showdown may backfire because they have taken the people’s support for granted



Nepalis celebrated the festival of lights this week with revelry and 24-hour power, trying not to dwell on the winter of discontent and uncertainty looming ahead. The prime minister’s directives to keep power cuts to 12 hours will be impossible to fulfil, inflation of basic food items has hit families nationwide, foreign investors are fleeing, there are no new jobs. And to add to the public’s misery, the opposition has decided to take to the streets to oust the prime minister. Last week, the Baburam Bhattarai said, “We are all in the same boat, facing the storm.” In a normal society, this should have galvanised all sections to work towards keeping it afloat, instead



the leaders are rocking the boat to overthrow each other. The people may have lost interest in the political bickering, but they will have to suffer the consequences anyway because it is a time-honoured tradition in Nepali politics that the people are always punished for the inability of our leaders to get along. In the past, people fought the state with a purpose and a mandate. These were spontaneous movements of the suppressed against the oppressors. Autocratic regimes were overthrown and power was handed to the political parties to lead the nation through democratic transition. Now, those preparing for a ‘showdown’ on the streets seem to have mistaken partisan interests for people’s aspirations, and taken the public for granted. They forget that politics is about responding to public opinion, and addressing issues that the people are preoccupied with. And at the moment, they are almost exclusively economic issues. Unless the opposition has a viable plan for economic upturn, to spur investment, control inflation and corruption, its agitation will have no rationale and no backing on the streets. There are sufficient grounds to question Bhattarai’s caretaker government, especially for its tolerance of corruption and for coddling war criminals. But

the opposition was no less irresponsible when it was in power. With the same tainted and aged personalities at the helm, the NC especially hasn’t been able to fire up the public’s support for its agenda. The dissolution of the CA and failure to draft the constitution are blots on Nepal’s democracy for which all parties share the blame. They may like to point fingers, but people don’t have any overwhelming favourites. Movements are successful when the larger polity is against a system, and when other avenues for its removal have been exhausted. Nepal’s democratic transition, although sluggish, has moved in the right direction. People may have become tired of the long drawn statute-drafting process, but the mandate for an inclusive federal Nepal remains valid because it was not a single party agenda or something that was cooked up inside the CA, nor was it donor-driven.

There are just too many actors trying to lead, seek prominence, and direct Nepal’s complex transition. Barring the monarchists and a fringe section of anarchists, the parties agree on the fundamentals of the new constitution, but disagree on the details. Although CA reinstatement would have been preferable to the parties in power, there are sufficient incentives for all the parties to go for fresh elections. Who gets to lead the electoral government does matter, and the NC has a valid claim since its past performance in holding elections has been credible. But the Maoists, Madhesis, and the Janjatis would understandably feel sceptical about it, especially because the president also has a NC background. So while the opposition has all the luxury to blame the government for being unable to hold elections on time, it must admit that it has not been constructive in its own efforts to that end. No matter who leads the electoral government, the interim constitution has doomed the parties to cooperate with each other for now. Legal pundits may have reservations, but there are sufficient provisions in the constitution to resolve the deadlock and move ahead by holding new elections. For that, the incentive to cooperate has to outweigh the temptation for street confrontation. 🇳🇵



IT'S MORE THAN A SIGN. IT'S A COMMITMENT.

THE OFFICIAL ROLEX SIGN ESTABLISHES THE AUTHENTICITY OF AN OFFICIAL ROLEX RETAILER. WITH UNMATCHED EXPERTISE, ONLY AN OFFICIAL ROLEX RETAILER OFFERS A DIVERSE SELECTION OF ROLEX WATCHES AND PROVIDES THE SERVICE NEEDED TO MAINTAIN YOUR TIMEPIECE. EVERY WATCH INCLUDES A RETAILER WARRANTY, GRANTING ACCESS TO THE RENOWNED ROLEX SERVICE NETWORK.





Woodland Hotel Complex, Durbar Marg
Kathmandu, Nepal





SNACK HEALTHY WITH

Nepal's 1st Fruit Fiber JUICE



Manages weight and keeps you fit



Keeps digestive system healthy



Maintains heart health



Now also available in 200 ml pack.





What’s troubling India?

India’s economic slowdown reflects a deeper loss of official direction and business confidence among investors


KENNETH ROGOFF

India’s recent fall from macroeconomic grace is a lamentable turn of events. After many years of outperformance, GDP growth has slowed sharply. Annual output will most likely rise by less than five per cent this year, down from 6.8 per cent in 2011 and 10.1 per cent in 2010. Reform has stalled amid profound political paralysis. All of the major emerging economies face weakening external demand, but India’s slowdown has been exacerbated by a drop in investment that reflects a deeper loss of official direction and business confidence. Even the International Monetary Fund’s forecast of a modest improvement in 2013 is predicated on the government’s ability to breathe life into a spate of stalled economic reforms. India’s recent torpor has underpinned a remarkable shift in global opinion. Just a couple of years ago, India was developing a reputation as the cool place to invest. Heads of state tripped over one another



to meet business leaders in Mumbai, hoping to pave the way for a significant expansion of trade and investment. Now their interest has faded, along with the macroeconomic numbers. And yet changes currently afoot might just turn things around. India’s octogenarian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, has recently awakened to the desperate need for renewed momentum. Economists around

the world have taken note of the arrival of Raghuram Rajan as chief economist in the finance ministry. Rajan is a superstar academic researcher, a brilliant writer on political economy, and a former chief economist for the IMF. But it is far from obvious that Sonia Gandhi, President of the Indian National Congress and the country’s most powerful politician, shares Singh’s reform agenda. Unfortunately, for a country as poor as India, only sustained rapid growth can lead to enduring development gains. India’s poverty rate (an indicator that is admittedly both conceptually and practically difficult to measure) fell by half between 1981 and 2010, to just under 30 per cent, a remarkable achievement. But faster-growing East Asia has experienced significantly greater progress, with the poverty rate falling from 77 per cent to 14 per cent over the same period. Why has India’s growth acceleration fizzled? For many years, India benefited from the long-lasting impact of economic liberalisation in the early 1990’s. Back then, Singh, as finance minister, played a central role. He could count on the IMF – which had real policy leverage, owing to India’s need for a bailout program in 1991 – to provide external support to counter the huge internal obstacles to reform. Today, however, there is no external counterweight to the domestic political pressure that is stalling further liberalisation. True, India’s government must now consider growing threats to the country’s investment-grade credit rating. The major ratings agencies are increasingly complaining about the country’s lack of a growth strategy and its outsized


budget deficits. But the impact has been limited, owing to the authorities’ ability to stuff debt down the throats of captive local banks, insurance companies, and pension funds. Indeed, this ‘financial repression’ tax on domestic savers remains a huge opaque source of funding for India’s debt-ridden government. It also prevents funds from being channelled to private-sector investment projects with far higher rates of return than the government can offer. The good news is that, from an economic perspective, there is still plenty of low-hanging fruit for restoring growth. Although India is right to avoid taking financial liberalisation to the extreme that the United States did in the decades before the recent meltdown, it can do quite a lot without assuming inappropriate risks, as a commission headed by Rajan detailed a few years back. The retail sector is a huge source of inefficiency that effectively places a massive tax on India’s poor by driving up prices. Instead of suing foreign retailers like Wal-Mart, India should be finding ways to emulate and benefit from their hyper-efficient methods. Infrastructure is slowly improving, but roads, ports, water access, and the electricity grid are still horrific across large parts of the country. Of course, India’s democratic government cannot simply bulldoze through people and the environment to create infrastructure. But the obstacles also include layers of corrupt bureaucrats and politicians, a vast network of resistance to reform. Some argue that central-government paralysis is inevitable in a democracy of 1.2 billion people, and that the only way to re-energise India is to establish a looser confederation of its constituent states. Devolution would unshackle the economically more successful states. And by combating the culture of aid dependency in economically weaker states, India’s poorer regions might benefit in the long run as well. As dysfunctional as a decentralised Europe seems to be these days, India might benefit from moving a few steps in that direction, even as Europe itself struggles to become more centralised. Devolution might sound unrealistic, but once upon a time so did the European Union. If Singh’s new reform agenda is again blocked, perhaps it will be time for a more radical assessment. 

Kenneth Rogoff, a former chief economist of the IMF, is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at Harvard University. www.project-syndicate.org




TRANQUILITY SPA

Balancing Body, Mind & Spirit




SHIRODHARA




HOTSTONE THERAPY




BODY SCRUB




YOGA CLASS




BODY TREATMENTS




THAI MASSAGE




STEAM & SAUNA BATH



NAIL CARE




WAXING






Our Service:

- Ayurvedic Therapy
- Hot Stone Therapy
- Shirodhara
- Aroma Therapy
- Steam / Sauna
- Nail Care
- Yoga / Meditation
- Skin Care
- Beauty Care & Many more...




Gift Voucher Available For Anniversery, Birthday & Other Special Functions





Rs. 2200/-

Special Offer*



Rs. 2500/-

Special Offer*

*This offer is available before 12 noon.

POKHARA
061- 4 66 260, 466 261

THAMEL
01- 42 60 850, 47 00 248

KUPONDOL
01- 55 28 125, 55 48 751

LAZIMPAT
01- 44 20 424, 44 25 386

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

Return to investment

A year after declaring investment a priority, lack of progress in governance and transparency are keeping investors away from Nepal



ECONOMY STUPID
Pooja Tandon

Twenty years ago, Nepal's economy looked like it was headed in the right direction. The Foreign Investment Promotion Board was created and legislations like Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Act 1992 were introduced to promote foreign direct investment (FDI). It worked: there was a spurt in investors and Nepal got much needed private capital required to run the economy.

Nepal almost looked like it was replicating the success of the smaller tiger economies of south-east Asia. However, the institutions created to facilitate investments were heavily politicised. The Nepali private sector nervous about competition from FDI players, started to lobby for protectionism. Political instability and the conflict eroded investors' confidence further.

Last year, total FDI into Nepal totalled only Rs 10 billion, a mere 0.12 per cent of the total flows to South Asia. With a low savings rate of 10 per cent of GDP, and quarter of the national budget dependent on foreign aid, FDI contribution becomes paramount for Nepal's economic development. Research shows that economic development through investment is more sustainable than development through aid, as the spill-over effects of foreign technology and management techniques grow with increased foreign investments.

Political stability and an enabling business policy environment are major determinants of investments in an economy. However, the absence or shortage of these factors does not necessarily make a country totally uninviting for investments. Large domestic markets, sufficient economic

and infrastructure development or high natural resources endowment are other factors that can equally attract investment.

Unfortunately, political and institutional risks are the major concerns of investors interested in Nepal. The Department of Industries has become the one-window agency for delays and rampant corruption. Inconsistent policies, information gaps, shifting rules, and constant rotations in civil service personnel confuse and frustrate investors. An increasingly politicised and militant labour, corruption, the extortionist attitude of bureaucrats, and a crippling energy shortage have all affected investment.

But despite the challenges, foreign investors in Nepal have been earning a return of investment of 30 per cent and

of both countries that the government will not nationalise the foreign investment projects and also pledges national and most-favoured nation treatment thereby reducing expropriation risk.

Labour issues have bedevilled just about every foreign investment venture in Nepal, and are now being addressed by the Ministry of Labour and Transportation Management through a revision of three existing labour laws: Labour Act 1992, Trade Union Act 1992, and Bonus Act 1996. Under the proposed new laws, workers' demands have to be linked to productivity, and in case of unlawful strikes, there is a provision for no pay, and lawful strikes will see salaries slashed by half.

Nepal has an adequate regulatory environment: not too restrictive but not too insufficient and can be constructively worked around. It offers low barriers to trade and few restrictions on operations, which is good news for foreign arms in increasing the efficiency of existing economic activity. Small investors with a budget of even a million dollar, who would get lost in bigger economies, can thrive in the healthcare, education, bio-diversity, IT, and high-end tourism sector of Nepal. And not just Greenfield investments, even mergers and acquisitions of existing ventures provide an equivalent opportunity.

Nepal must take advantage of its geography, and learn from the economic miracle happening south of the border in Bihar. And it isn't fair to blame just the government for not being able to provide a conducive investment climate. Its efforts have been defeated repeatedly by the monopolistic attitude of the private sector. 🇳🇵

Pooja Tandon is the co-founder of beed, an international management consulting and advisory services firm.



BAILOUT: Prime Minister Bhattarai discusses the nature of the impending budget with industrialists and economists at a meeting in Singha Darbar last week.

above on average, which to an extent compensates for the risks. Amongst the top 10 tax payers of Nepal in 2010-11, six (Surya Nepal, Gorkha Brewery, Ncell, Nabil Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, and Everest Bank) have been foreign investments.

Under the Immediate Action Plan 2068, (Ministry of Finance) for Economic Development and Prosperity, the government aims to make Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPPA) and Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAA) with various countries including China and South Asian nations. The BIPPA agreement with India promises investors

BIZ BRIEFS

Spreading warmth



Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates provided blankets to Prayas Nepal's children's home and Aamako

Ghar, a non-profit organisation founded by philanthropist Dil Shova Shrestha for abandoned elderly people. Currently, Etihad's corporate social responsibility initiatives in Nepal are focused on supporting less fortunate communities. The airlines also has long-term plans of being involved in development and empowerment projects in Nepal.

Stylish winter

John Players, men's wear brand from Surya Nepal has opened a new outlet at Civil Mall, Sundhara. The store will offer work wear, leisure clothing, and party wear. **JOHN PLAYERS** for men. John Players also has outlets in Putali Sadak, City Centre, Darbar Marg, UWTC Tripureshwor, Boudha, and Maiti Devi.

Unbeatable power

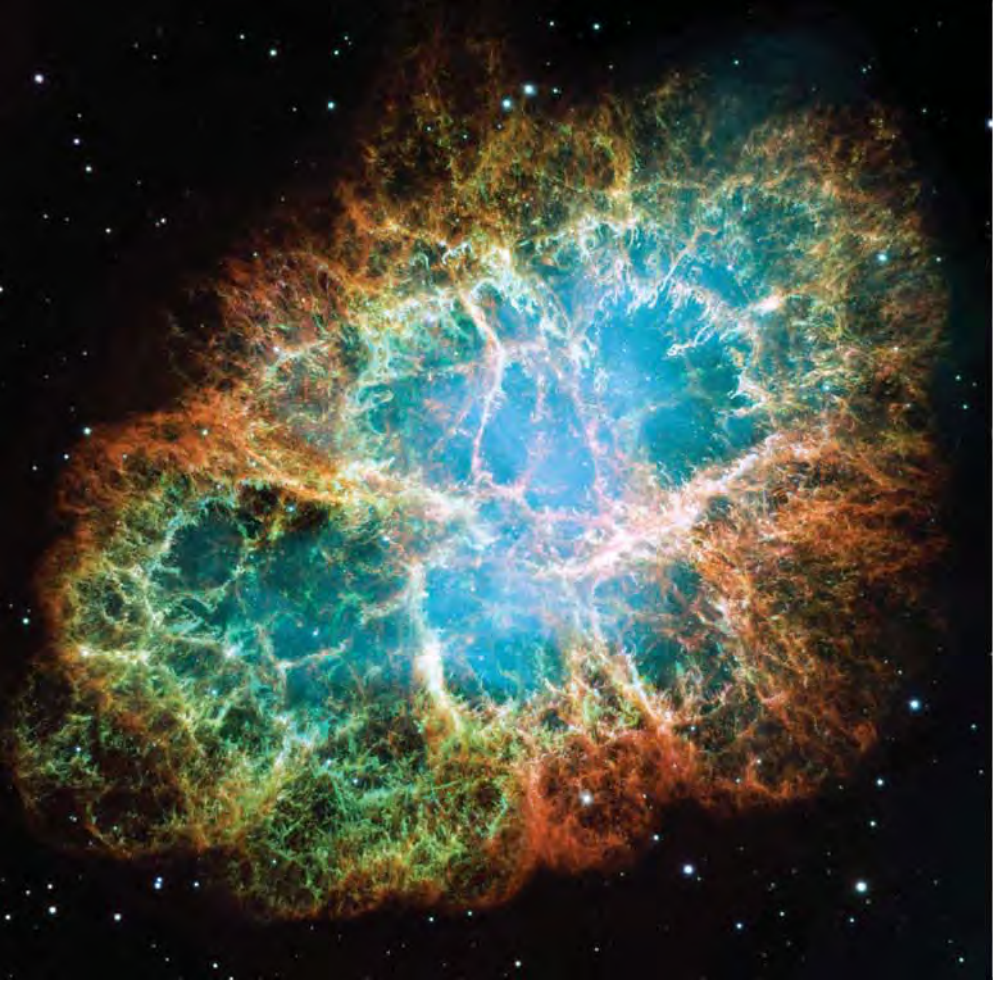
Escorts, India's leading tractor brand launched two new series of tractors in Nepal. Farmtrac 6060 and 6065, in 60HP and 65 HP segment respectively are positioned in the high-end, premium tractor category while Powertrac diesel-saver plus tractor series, available in 37 to 45 HP range, is placed in the mid-size, popular segment.

Two wheel magic

MAW Enterprises, the sole authorised distributor of Yamaha two-wheelers in Nepal, announced the mwinners of test rides of 'Upgrade Yourself' campaign. Pradeep Man Shaky from Nepalganj won first prize worth Rs 50,000. The campaign was launched to promote the launch of the upgraded Yamaha SZ-R.

Joy ride

Building on the sporty and sophisticated personality of the original Ford Figo, its new models with enhanced design and smart features are now available in the market. Improved calibration of the engine gives the car a better pick up while added lumbar support in the seats and adjustable headrests enhance comfort. It is available in bright yellow and kinetic blue.



Out of this world

As Nepal's most-modern printing facility, Jagadamba Press ensures reliability, precision and speed with its state-of-the-art Mitsubishi Diamond 3000 press that can print five colours in 40" format with inline coating.



Tel: 5250017-19 | Fax: 5250027 | Email: info@jagadambapr.com | www.jagadambapr.com

ARTMANDU

The city-wide, month-long Kathmandu Art Festival aims to put Nepal on the global art map

SALLY ACHARYA

With barely a week remaining for the Kathmandu International Art Festival, the excitement is palpable among artists from 31 countries who have just touched down in Nepal. What started off as a 12-day exhibit in October 2009 is back this year on 25 November as a month-long, city-wide

showcase of eclectic work chosen by international jurors.

“Nepal is one of the most exciting destinations for contemporary art because we have such a rich heritage. We want to promote Nepal as a centre for the arts and hosting a world-class festival is a step in the right direction,” explains Sangeeta

Thapa, director of the festival.

Modelled after major league festivals like the Venice Biennale and the Sao Paulo Biennial, the Nepali edition will see top international and local artists collaborating on this year’s theme of ‘Earth/Body/Mind’ and transcending cultural boundaries. There will be installations that fill entire

rooms, exhibits in stunning traditional spaces such as Mul Chok at Patan Darbar square, and even a multimedia piece projected onto the Bouddhanath Stupa.

Kathmandu International Art Festival

25 November to 21 December

www.artmandu.org

01-4438979



LEANG SECKON, Cambodia

Visitors at the Jawalakhel Zoo will be startled to spot a mythical water creature as long as three elephants. Earlier installed along Cambodia’s Siem Reap River, the serpentine giant is made of rattan, recycled plastic, nylon fishing line, and electric lighting and is an updated, recycling-conscious cousin of the legendary naga that, in Cambodia as well as in Nepal, took on a variety of heavenly responsibilities, from forming a couch for Vishnu to sheltering Buddha.



NOMAD WAVE GROUP, Mongolia

Linked by long sleeves in a striking visual statement of interconnection, Nomad entwines the legacy of its nomadic past and communal dance with the earth. Comprising four visual artists and a designer, the group blends the sensibilities of Mongolian nomads with the concerns and aesthetics of the modern world.

4pm, 25 November at Nag Bahal
10.30am, 26 November at the Summit Hotel



MAUREEN BISILLIAT, Brazil

For much of her 81 years, Bisilliat has roamed the Amazon rainforest, camera in hand, recording the faces, lives, and folkways of the indigenous people of her adopted country. Born in the UK, but considered daughter of Brazil, she has created photographs of lasting poetic power that have also been instrumental in the struggle for indigenous rights. Her work can be seen at Siddhartha Art Gallery at Babar Mahal Revisited.



TAKEHITO SHIINA, Japan

Science fiction meets magic in this quirky document of an artist’s effort to become a plant. “What would happen,” asks Shiina, “if people could photosynthesise? What would it mean for the economy, natural resources, and human relations?” This oddball question is now a multi-media project that highlights, in often unsettling ways, the place of the human body in nature and the interplay between bodily existence and spiritual feelings. Watch Shiina’s documentary at Mul Chok in Patan Darbar Square.

SHEBA CHHACCHI, India

The story is familiar to Hindus: once upon a time, gods and demons came together to churn the cosmic ocean, forcing it to yield a desired potion, but almost destroying the world in the process. Chhacchi asks us to think more deeply about this ancient tale of greed and hidden danger in which even gods can be short-sighted. A highly regarded installation artist and activist, and one of several groundbreaking artists from India in the festival, Chhacchi will install her piece at the Patan Museum.





LOK CHITRAKAR, Nepal

At first glance, it's surprising to see a traditional paubha painter in a contemporary art exhibit. But Chitrakar, one of the world's leading practitioners of this traditional art form, paints with a fluid abstraction, visionary punch, and philosophical rigour that defies the boundaries between 'contemporary' and 'traditional'. His work will be displayed amid the brilliant Newar architecture of Mul Chok.



JANET CARDIFF and GEORGE BURES MILLER, Canada

These artists don't paint pictures to hang over the sofa. They create soundscapes, intense and disorienting and dreamlike, loaded onto iPods that visitors can sign out and experience. Visit the National Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) to see how this very 21st century piece interacts with an old Rana palace.



GOPAL DAS SHRESTHA 'KALAPREMI', Nepal

Starting on 22 November, Thursday, viewers can watch award-winning ceramist Kalapremi as he creates 108 'people being cooked and sold' (pakdai bikdai gayeko mancheharu), a sacred number of clay figures, all unique and connected to the earth. He'll work in public until 26 November at Bhrikuti Mandap. The finished work will be on display at the Nepal Art Council.



HITMAN GURUNG, Nepal

Ah, the face mask: an iconic symbol of today's Kathmandu. Gurung's portraits of real people from all walks of life, all trapped behind face masks, raise a timely question: is this how we handle the problems we've made? Do we just stifle ourselves and go on our way?

His work will be up at the Nepal Art Council.



SHAHIDUL ALAM, Bangladesh

For four years, the prolific photographer, writer, and National Geographic Advisory Board member charted the epic course of one of the world's great rivers, the Brahmaputra, seeking its glacial source in Tibet and following it down through its numerous transformations, from glacial trickle to overfished delta, until it spills into the Bay of Bengal. What he found about the power of nature and culture, and the way life and nature are changing can be seen at the Patan Museum.

nepalitimes.com

For a complete list of artists, schedule, and video clips of some of the work on display.

The flags of their fathers

Nepali documentary on Gurkha recruitment is selected for IFDA in Amsterdam



Kesang Tseten's latest film, *Who Will Be a Gurkha*, is one of 16 feature-length documentaries selected in the main competition of the 24th International Documentary Film Festival of Amsterdam (IDFA), Europe's largest and most prestigious venues for documentaries.

The film looks at the selection process of Gurkha recruitment in which every year 10,000 young Nepali men vie for the 200 or so openings in the British Army which has been recruiting soldiers from Nepal for 200 years, ever since the end of the Anglo-Nepal Wars of 1814-16.

Gurkha recruitment elicits sharp, divided opinion in modern Nepal. Some say dying for another country is shameful and should be stopped, while others believe recruitment in the British Army offers employment, and the chance to uphold the Gurkha reputation as brave, loyal, and skilful soldiers.

Tseten's film does not take up these issues, but simply observes and documents the entire process of recruiting which lasts several months in Pokhara's lush British Gurkha camp. In the end, 500 potential recruits are left standing of which only 176 are chosen. Tseten employs his trademark filmmaking style: there are no characters in the usual sense, though some are recognisable, no interviews to the camera, no script, and no voiceover explaining what is happening. It is an exercise of observing the action as it unfolds, and then seeing what yields, a method known as 'direct cinema' by its most famous proponents Frederick Wiseman and the Maysle brothers.

"There are two basic ways we learn about people," Tseten told us before flying out to Amsterdam this week, "one by listening to them tell us about themselves, and the other by watching them do things. Both are legitimate and effective, but this time I chose the latter."

Tseten added: "These young guys are undertaking a potentially life-transforming series of tests, so it wasn't fair to put them under the gun, as it were, by interviewing them." In the film, the recruits do interact

with the British and Nepali Gurkha officers and among themselves. "I try not to interfere, so people can make sense of what they see and hear for themselves," he explained.

The film depicts the unique nature of the British Gurkha, with the British state as employer and ordinary Nepalis as job applicants. Tseten said: "It is in a way the less dramatic story, which might have been about Gurkha exploits on the battlefield, but it is also the less usual story."

The film is less explicit, less arced, less story-ed, nor does it declare a position of endorsing recruitment or being against it. But there is a point of view, or varied points of view, which Tseten aims for in his films, and it lies in the capture



and illumination of moments and details. The interweaving of archival footage from the Gurkha Museum and the Imperial War Museum in the UK leaves viewers to respond to the film in their own way.

It is fitting that the film, made from grants by the IDFA Fund, the Sundance Institute, and the Busan International Film Festival and by Finnish and Norwegian support, is premiering at IDFA, where creative documentaries take centre stage and form is as important as content.

The Amsterdam festival, 14-25 November, draws thousands of documentary lovers and industry professionals from television, film festivals, film markets, and sales and distribution, and *Who Will Be a Gurkha* will be premiered on 16 November. The film will also be screened in Nepal at KIMFF 2012 from 7-11 December.



EVENTS

EARTH, BODY, MIND, a four-week long celebration of art that includes symposiums, art performances, a Pecha Kucha gathering, guided tours and screenings. 25 November to 21 December, 9am to 6pm, multiple venues across the Valley, 9849519933, www.artmandu.org

Educating Nepal, take part in this short-film competition and see if you can bag the top prize worth Rs 75,000 and get your film screened at the annual Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival in December. Submit by 20 November, (01)4440635, (01)5542544, www.kimff.org

Living pictures, watch Nepali and Finnish films every Wednesday evening. 31 October to 28 November, 9.30pm, Moksh Restaurant, Jhamsikhel



HUMAN RIGHTS FILM WEEK 2012, a screening of Nepali and international features and documentaries on humanitarian and gender issues. 17 to 24 November, www.hrffn.org for schedule and locations

In the eyes of Kathmandu, screening of films where Kathmandu is depicted through the eyes of street children who made them. 16 November, 5.30pm to 7pm, Delices de France, Thamel, (01)4260326, 9803818253

Stolen childhood, participate in this photography and documentary competition that aims to record lost childhoods, and win prizes worth Rs 50,000. Entry fee Rs 300 for photography, Rs 800 for documentary, 21 November, 12pm onwards, Nepal Tourism Board, 9819214828



INTRODUCTION TO VJ-ING, learn the art of video jockeying with renowned video director and light designer Mathieu Crette. Rs 1,500, 21 to 24 November, 10am to 5pm, Sattya Media Arts Collective, Jawalakhel, apply by 18 November, shreyans@sattya.org

Adventure film festival, come and explore the Nepali edition of this global event that celebrates art, activism, and indie film. 17 November, 1pm onwards, St. Xavier's School, Jawalakhel

MUSIC



DELIGHTS OF SOLITUDE, world-renowned cellist and ethnomusicologist Franck Bernede will perform select compositions of JS Bach on the violoncello. Rs 750, 17 November, 6pm, Vajra Hotel, Swayambhu, limited seating, book early, (01)4271545



DINING

THE HERITAGE, escape the hodgepodge of the tourist hub as you relish delights like paella and panna cotta. Thamel

Sarangkot Fordays Restaurant, have a Sarangkot special breakfast while enjoying spectacular views of the Himalaya. Sarangkot, Pokhara, (061)696920, 9817136896



DRAGON CHINESE RESTAURANT, try the Kung Pao Pork if alone and the Mai Cao if with company. Lakeside, Pokhara



CHOPSTIX, savoury Asian food cooked in true Chinese fashion sure to charm and impress. Try the famous drums of heaven. Kumariapati, (01)5551118

Boomerang Restaurant & German Bakery, offers a large selection of cuisine for those who want to enjoy a full meal and desserts. Lakeside, Pokhara, (061)461412/462978

Japanese Crepe Station, try the unique Nepali khuwa crepe for a quick fix. Khichapokhari and Basantapur, (01)4256655



NEW DISH, grab filling meals like pork momos, spring rolls, and chop suey with excellent value for money. Khichapokhari

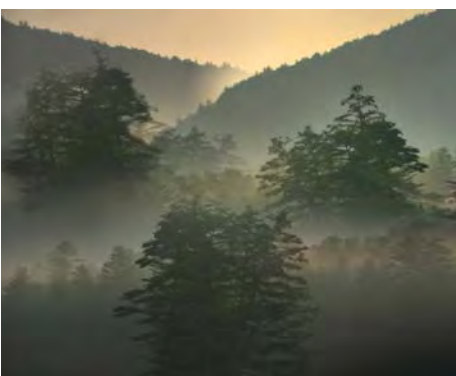
Shangrila Kitchen, try the majestic Gyakok and a wide variety of cocktails. 9 am to 10.30 pm, Hotel Tibet International, Boudha

Tass and Tawa, savour a wide variety of Nepali meat dishes and reserve your palate for the heavenly Chusta. Pulchowk, Kathmandu



NEW TUSHITA RESTAURANT, relaxing ambience and good food. Don't miss out on its penne with creamy bacon and mushroom sauce. Lazimpat, (01)44432957

Fuji Bakery, tucked in Chakupat this bakery offers homemade goodies like apple pie, pain du chocolat, and banana cake. Chakupat



GETAWAYS

BALTHALI VILLAGE RESORT, a small, cosy retreat with a bird's eye view of green terrace fields dotted with ochre painted houses. Balthali, Kabhre, 9851075818

Charikot Panorama Resort, enjoy mountain views and local culture in the historic town of Charikot. Special packages on offer. Charikot, Dolakha, (01)5529463, thapamaag@gmail.com



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. Pokhara, (061)462908/3096/4897, www.landmarkpokhara.com

Fulbari Resort, enjoy the scenic view of Pokhara as you pamper yourself with tennis, golf, drinks, and dinners. Rs 6500 per person for 2 nights and 3 days, Call (01)4461918/2248



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, (061)692136, 9841382053

See Beyond the Usual
with Brilliance
that moves the world!



Desktop Projectors



Wireless Projectors



Ultra-portable Projectors



Interactive Projectors



Home Theatre Projectors



World No.1 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



Talk smart

As part of the Surya Nepal Asha Social Entrepreneurship Awards 2012, ChangeFusion Nepal is hosting a three-day series of seminars on social entrepreneurship. This event aims to promote the social entrepreneurship among Nepalis, and recognise entrepreneurs who have been combining business with social values in their own communities. Open to all, the program will bring together aspiring entrepreneurs, potential investors, and representatives from the government, banks, and corporate houses.

22 to 24 November, 11am to 6.30pm, Dhokaima Cafe, Patan Dhoka
All sessions are free and open to the public.

SCHEDULE

22 November, aspiring entrepreneurs will discuss how to infuse innovative ideas into a business plan

23 November, businessmen and women will talk candidly about the challenges they faced while setting up and running their organisations

24 November, a day for entrepreneurs to make their business pitch and panel discussions with representatives from different sectors

www.changefusionnepal.org

New Road Gate, Kathmandu, Tel: 01-2296915, 4232965, Fax: 01-4233511, Email: info@barahajewellery.com

Contact Offices:
Pipal Bot: New Road, Kathmandu, Tel: 01-2190004, 4266789 **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 **Hong Kong:** 12/F Gofuku Tower 62-64, Woosung Street, Jordan KLN, HONG KONG, Tel: 00852-27838955, Fax: 00852-25538966

I have my Solar Lamp...
.... Do you have yours?

Pani Pokhari, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: 4002626, 4002627
info@solarsolutions.com.np, www.solarsolutions.com.np

SOMEPLACE ELSE

Battisputali is on its way to becoming the next Jhamsikhel with a slew of new eateries. Four month old Cafe 32 announced itself as one of the coolest joints in the neighbourhood. The expansive two storey eatery has indoor and outdoor sitting complete with a bar and live music performance.

The menu looked as impressive as the decor with a selection of Chinese, Indian, Mexican, and Continental dishes. However, the restaurant's glittering facade fell apart the moment our first order arrived. And from then on, it was all downhill.

The mushroom soup (Rs 90) looked like clear soup, but was far from refreshing. The toast accompanying the wishy-washy soup tried to pass off as garlic bread with shreds of garlic sprinkled on top, and failed

CAFE 32

miserably.

Since nothing from the Mexican selection was available we settled for Salad Nicoise (Rs 170) which was a clumsy mix of tuna, green beans, boiled eggs, and olive seeds. It felt like the chef had simply dumped a can of tuna and a random mix of vegetable and poured a generous portion of oil. The Cheese Balls (Rs 190) didn't get our taste buds rolling either. The eight nibble size pieces oozed disappointment and not melting cheese. Although the balls were crisp on the outside, the cheese was scarce and they tasted like soggy bread pakodas.

For mains, Supreme Chicken Imperial (Rs 225) smothered in creamy white sauce was well-cooked and stuffed with



PICS: BHRIKUTI RAI

luscious mushroom and spinach. The butter rice accompanying it along with mixed greens was however dripping in oil almost overpowering the succulent chicken.

The bland Spaghetti Bolognese (Rs 185) didn't do much to our appetite. It resembled fried noodles with minced meat and lacked a generous serving of cheese.



Pork Sizzler (Rs 390), like many other dishes weren't available so we had to settle for the chicken variety or no sizzler at all. But before we could take in the taste of the tender chicken, the salty sauce spoiled the rather delectable sizzler. The canned mushroom and the overall greasiness only made things worse.

We were hoping for a sweet

end to our otherwise disastrous meal with chocolate pudding. But the manager suggested we try rice pudding instead because the chocolate pudding wasn't good and the other dessert items weren't, you guessed it, available.

The slow service and disoriented, clueless waiters added icing on our missing cake. Although not as expansive and buzzing with live music there are plenty of other options along the same lane to satiate your growling stomach. Maybe in a few months Cafe 32 will have found its missing ingredients and become worthy of a second shot. 🇳🇵

Trishna Rana

How to get there: walk from Dwarika's Hotel towards Old Baneshwor, you will find Café 32 on your right-hand side.

Join The **V** Generation

RUSLAN VODKA 100% Pure Vodka

Drink responsibly

Moonrise Kingdom



Wes Anderson's newest film *Moonrise Kingdom* which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival this year is as charming as any of his previous films (*Rushmore*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Fantastic Mr Fox*), perhaps even more so because here finally, Anderson has embraced the fact that his films are trying to re-capture a certain nostalgia for childhood that adults can never fully regain.

The film is set on a fictitious island called New Penzance that is supposedly in the vicinity of New England. On this rather magical island there are many different landscapes, ranging from woods complete with rushing streams, open



fields where one might easily be struck by lightning, craggy rocky areas, and, of course, a magical little inlet that is hidden from the world.

It is to this inlet that Suzy Bishop (played by Kara Hayward) and Sam Shakusky (Jared Gilman) are headed. The two perceive themselves as outcasts, misunderstood by their peers, runaways from home. They are also 12-years-old.

Sam has absconded from his Khaki Scout summer camp on the island, taking with him essentials such as food,

comprehensive camping gear (albeit a bit miniature), and an air gun for survival on the island. Suzy arrives to meet Sam armed with her cat, a suitcase full of books, and her little brother's record player.

And off they go, pursued by Sam's Scout Master Randy Ward (the ever great Edward Norton), Captain Sharp (the island's chief authority played by Bruce Willis), Suzy's parents Walt and Laura Bishop (Bill Murray and Frances McDormand respectively), and 'Social Services' (played by Tilda Swinton) who wants to commit Sam to juvenile refuge because his foster parents have declined to have him back.

As with all of Anderson's film the ensemble cast is essential in the always whimsical, always original, always delightful antics of the characters. While Suzy and Sam develop an affinity for each other, other characters too, come into their own, however comically.

For those who love Wes Anderson films, *Moonrise Kingdom* carries all the hallmarks of his past successes. The sets are intricately detailed with painstaking attention, so much so that future repeat viewing of Anderson's films are particularly delightful for catching what one might have initially missed. Nothing is left to chance, each set is personally overseen by Anderson himself, and Suzy's books, though fictitious, have a ring of truth in them, partly because Anderson himself wrote some of the passages that she reads out loud every night, first to Sam and later to his entire Khaki scout troupe.

I will not go into details regarding the slightly convoluted adventures that these children, pursued by their respective frantic adults, embark upon, even after Sam and Suzy's apprehension from their *Moonrise Kingdom* inlet haven. Suffice to say that they are both heart-breaking and hilarious.

With this latest film Anderson has done the very difficult: he has tapped into our deepest childhood fears, our happiest memories, the innocence of make-believe that one never again feels after adolescence, and the very real conflict between children and adults, which if not treated with respect, can lead to deep and enduring trauma. 🇳🇵

nepalitimes.com

Watch trailer

Dodging the silver bullet



Visit an emergency ward in Nepal with high fever running for several days with no apparent cause, and chances are you will receive an intravenous drug called ceftriaxone.

Ceftriaxone, often referred to as the 'silver bullet', is a very effective, life-saving drug. Unfortunately, it is overused not only for fever of unknown origin, but also for urinary tract infection, pneumonia, meningitis, and many other infections. Even where alternative medicines are available, most doctors have come to rely heavily on ceftriaxone.

However, misuse of the drug means that many organisms are now resistant to ceftriaxone and infections are harder to treat.

Ceftriaxone falls under the group of antibiotics called third-generation cephalosporins.

Cephalosporins are classified into four generations based on their activity against bacterial organisms, specifically gram-negative organisms. The third generation cephalosporins are much more active than the first or second generation cephalosporins against many dangerous gram-negative bacilli.

The overuse of ceftriaxone has caused common gram-negative bacteria, for example *Klebsiella* and *Escherichia coli* to produce 'extended-spectrum beta-lactamases' (ESBL) strains.



These ESBL strains of *Klebsiella* and *Escherichia coli* are now no longer susceptible to ceftriaxone. It is as if the bugs have found an armour to defend themselves against a very powerful enemy. As a result, more potent antibiotics have to be deployed to

fight against the same infection and these new drugs are usually more expensive.

ESBL strains have been increasingly documented in Nepal and indeed treatment of patients with infections caused by these strains has been challenging whether it is a neonatal sepsis, pneumonia or urinary tract infection. What is the solution?

Sensible use of third generation antibiotics is the first step in tackling this problem.

Hospitals need to introduce a policy to cycle antibiotics so that another substitute antibiotic is used in place of third generation cephalosporins like ceftriaxone.

Currently ceftriaxone along with its oral form (cefixime) are easily available over-the-counter so patients don't even need a prescription.

Some degree of government control in the sale of these life-saving antibiotics is essential in avoiding the dangerous spread of ESBL strains. If precautionary measures are not taken soon, we may be faced with a medical crisis in the near future. 🇳🇵



YES WE CAN: 15 opposition parties, including the NC and UML unveiled their protest program against the Bhattarai-led government at the UML party office in Balkhu on Saturday.



ADDED VALUE: A woman offers Bachelor Buttons garlands which are used during Bhai Tika on Thursday at her fruit stall in Kathmandu Darbar square.



BUILDING UP: Street vendors sell their goods next to a pile of garbage in Maru Tole, New Road on Tuesday which has not been collected due to the festivities.

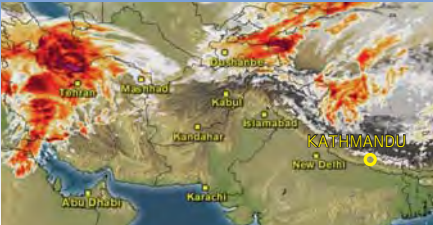
READERS' PHOTO



CALL ME MAYBE: Buddhist monks with matching red phones seen in Thamel.

WEEKEND WEATHER

Kathmandu will continue to enjoy sunny, crisp days into the weekend as high pressure dominates over northern India, bringing in cool dry air from the northwest. This will lower the minimum temperature down to five, but the daytime temperature will still hover in the mid 20s due to the direct sunlight, unfiltered by pollution haze. The rain on Monday was caused by a low pressure circulation over Tibet, but only brought in 5mm precipitation in the Valley and snow down to 4,000m. Some cloud cover expected early next week with the arrival of the first westerly front of the season.



FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
25°-6°	26°-5°	24°-7°

Tibet's burning issue

In setting their bodies on fire Tibetan protesters are in reality cremating themselves, and mocking their tormentors



LOOK OUT

Ajaz Ashraf

From February 2009, in 63 instances of self-immolations, 52 Tibetans have died. This tragic and unique form of protest has escalated: 49 of those who set themselves ablaze did so this year.

Many protesters are between 17 to 30 years old. Most self-immolated outside famous monasteries or public places, consciously seeking to turn their death into a public spectacle in the hope of conveying to both the people and police the meaning of their action.

Yet the audience could not interpret their action in any way other than as a protest against the Chinese government, for they shouted, as they turned into raging balls of fire, slogans for freedom or demanding the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

Some self-immolators chose to record their statements before walking to their chosen site of death. In their English rendering, these testimonials are remarkable for the absence of fear of death, and their expression of anguish at the repression of their people.

Typical is the statement Nangdrol recorded before self-immolation on 19 February: 'Wear Tibet if you are Tibetan / Moreover, you must speak Tibetan / Never forget you are Tibetan... / Restraint from taking lives of living beings / May His Holiness the Dalai Lama live for many ten thousand years.'

Three conclusions can be drawn from these recorded



CHONG ZI LIANG

statements: there exists at least a rudimentary network to record and transmit the statements of self-immolators worldwide, Tibetans don't consider self-immolation as sin, it is in fact extolled, and each self-immolator seems to inspire others.

All this has prompted many to demand that the Dalai Lama should express his disapproval of self-immolation, believing such a proclamation could dissuade those contemplating to voluntarily embrace fiery death. Others, like Stephen Prothero, a scholar of religion in Boston

University, have questioned the silence of westerners over self-immolations in Tibet, particularly as suicide bombing seems to repulse them. The Chinese themselves have dubbed self-immolation as terrorism, and claim it violates the tenets of peace and compassion enshrined in Buddhism.

Indeed, both the suicide bomber and the self-immolator believe death is the only recourse left for them to secure justice. Both choose to die because they wish through their sacrifice to provide a better


future for their people. Yet there is a vital difference between the suicide bomber and what cultural theorist Terry Eagleton calls the martyr, or the person who fasts to death for a cause. In a piece for *The Guardian* in 2005, Eagleton wrote, "The martyr bets his life on a future of justice and freedom, the suicide bomber bets your life on it. But both believe that a life is only worth living if it contains something worth dying for."

The self-immolator is as much Eagleton's martyr, as both kill themselves without harming anyone else through

their act. Indeed, the statements of Tibetans who burnt themselves to death do not preach vengeance against their tormentors. They offer their bodies as a voluntary sacrifice for preserving the cultural unity of Tibet. It means, so to speak, walking the path of Buddha, one of whose incarnates offered his body to a famished lioness who was about to feast on her cubs.

Thus, in setting their bodies on fire they are in reality cremating themselves, and also mocking their tormentors who, unable to establish supremacy over the hearts and minds of Tibetans, forever seek to control their bodies. The Tibetan self-immolator, like Eagleton's suicide bomber, defies power by simply learning to overcome his or her fear of death. Consequently, the capacity of political power to coerce people stands undermined. About suicide bombing, Eagleton says, "It proclaims that what your adversary cannot annihilate is the will to annihilation."

In its failure to overpower the Tibetans' will to annihilation, as also in its inability to convince the Tibetans to live, the Chinese regime is rendered a bit more illegitimate every time a monk sets himself ablaze.

The feared erosion of their legitimacy prompts the Chinese to take retributive actions against the monasteries to which the dead were affiliated. As for the rest of us in the world, we prefer silence to the grim prospect of China directing its wrath against us or depriving us of its money to develop our economy. The raucous American election circus helps to muffle the murmur of our conscience.  ashrafajaz3@gmail.com



TEMPLE TREE
RESORT AND SPA







Pokhara: Gaurighat, Lakeside 6, Nepal | Tel: +977-61-465 819 Fax: +977-61-465809
Kathmandu: Arcadia Apartments, Thamel, Nepal | Tel/Fax: +977-1-421 5952
info@templetreeneepal.com | www.templetreeneepal.com



1



2



3



18



17

THE FIRST PHOTOGRAPHS OF US

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CLARENCE COMYN TAYLOR PROVIDE A GLIMPSE OF WHAT NEPALIS LOOKED LIKE 150 YEARS AGO

TEXT BY KANAK MANI DIXIT

The *People of India*, printed in 1868, was a photographic album prepared at the insistence of the Viceroy Lord Canning. Glass plate photography had been invented barely a decade earlier, but by 1860 colonial officers all over the subcontinent were proficient in the process. The colonial administration in Calcutta clearly wanted to document the people, a need that seems to have been felt after the mutiny of 1858.

The book contains around 400 albumen prints of people from Burma to Afghanistan, and includes 24 photographs of Nepali citizens even though Nepal was not part of the Indian empire. For whatever reason this was done, we have a treasure trove of portraits from long ago.

The Nepal pictures provide a window on how Nepalis carried themselves 150 years ago, how they dressed, how long they kept their hair, what weaponry and implements they used. Whereas we have many photographs of the Rana court and subsequently of the Newar and Khas nobility, this is the first photographic 'shoot' of ordinary Nepalis. The text which accompanied the photographs are thought to have been provided by the previous British resident in Kathmandu, Brian Hodgson.

Given the relatively static nature of the times, this is probably what Nepalis looked in at least the century preceding the photographs. The photography was concentrated in Kathmandu Valley, and we do not find Tarai or high-Himalayan portraits.

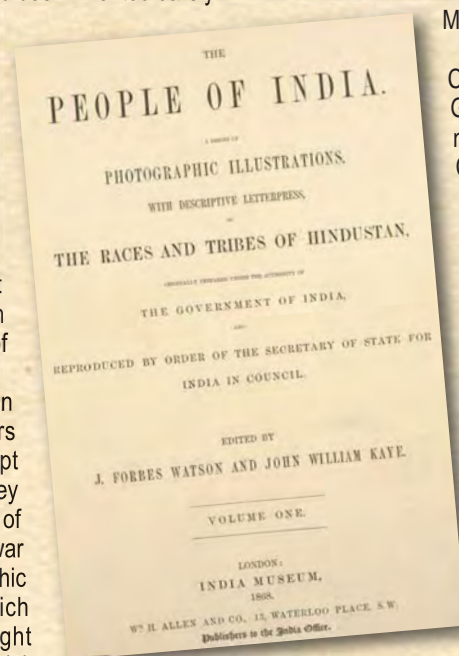
Representation of some of those communities can be found in the prints included in the volume from neighbouring Bihar and Darjeeling, such as pictures of the Lepcha, Musahar, and plains Muslims.

When the order for pictures came from Calcutta to the British Resident in Kathmandu, George Ramsay, he wrote back that he had neither money nor expertise. Fortunately, Clarence Comyn Taylor, who had learnt the newborn art of photography while serving in Rajputana, was assigned as the Assistant Resident during the same time. A budget was then arranged, and the photography began. It was only in 1992 that scholar JP Losty identified Taylor as the photographer, and historian Pratyoush Onta suggests that Taylor's photographs of 1863 are most likely the first taken in Nepal of Nepali subjects.

That was the time when Jung Bahadur Kunwar had already emerged as the supremo of Nepali politics with King Surendra Bir Bikram already relegated to ceremonial status. At first Resident Ramsay worried about Jung Bahadur's reaction to the proposed photographic documentation, but the latter proved enthusiastic and even

bought one album of the Nepal photographs for himself. Taylor also took portraits of Jung Bahadur, and King Surendra.

For the longer version of this piece in Nepali with more images, see: www.nepalihimal.com



16



15



14



4



5



6

1. A Gurung youth looks to us through the prism of history. His hair is nearly at shoulder length, and a talisman hangs from his neck. He wears a peculiar garment that all the other males wear in this set of photographs, seeming to represent the pre-daura suruwal era.

2-3. There are only four pictures with female subjects in the collection. In general, the dress, coiffure, and ornamentation of women seem to have changed less than those of the males. Pictures 2 and 3 show a Sunuwar and Limbu woman, respectively.

4. The middle-aged Limbu gentleman wears a regular padded Nepali topi and has twirled his moustache.

5. Picture of a Magar elder with wrap-around shawl and a 'Himali' topi.

6. Titled 'Murmi' in *The People of India*, this Tamang youth sports a khukuri and a topi of the kind that is worn by Himalayan lamas.

7-8 Identified in the book as Khas, the youth is wearing a Nepali topi with a khukuri placed on his cummerbund. The same man is made to pose at rest in photograph 7.

9. Group photograph of Newar 'Banda' priests in their unique traditional attire.

10. Photograph of Tamang trio shows two young men observing a woman carrying a load of firewood.

11. Photograph shows the youth from photograph 1 in conversation with two others, while holding on to what seems to be a ceremonial umbrella.

12-13. The young Newar sports a padded Nepali topi and shoulder-length hair. He is seen at the left in the picture meant to depict a bazar scene.

14-15-16. Group portraits showing platoons of Gurung, Limbu, and Magar soldiers (left to right), perhaps deputed from the Gorkhali army by Jung Bahadur to pose for the photographer. The subjects carry khukuris as well as bows, arrows, and quivers.

17. Two Tamang youth are seen with pick-axes, apparently part of some construction activity.

18. Sunuwar youth wearing a turban.



7



8



9



10



13



12



11



4



5



6

1. A Gurung youth looks to us through the prism of history. His hair is nearly at shoulder length, and a talisman hangs from his neck. He wears a peculiar garment that all the other males wear in this set of photographs, seeming to represent the pre-daura suruwal era.

2-3. There are only four pictures with female subjects in the collection. In general, the dress, coiffure, and ornamentation of women seem to have changed less than those of the males. Pictures 2 and 3 show a Sunuwar and Limbu woman, respectively.

4. The middle-aged Limbu gentleman wears a regular padded Nepali topi and has twirled his moustache.

5. Picture of a Magar elder with wrap-around shawl and a 'Himali' topi.

6. Titled 'Murmi' in *The People of India*, this Tamang youth sports a khukuri and a topi of the kind that is worn by Himalayan lamas.

7-8 Identified in the book as Khas, the youth is wearing a Nepali topi with a khukuri placed on his cummerbund. The same man is made to pose at rest in photograph 7.

9. Group photograph of Newar 'Banda' priests in their unique traditional attire.

10. Photograph of Tamang trio shows two young men observing a woman carrying a load of firewood.

11. Photograph shows the youth from photograph 1 in conversation with two others, while holding on to what seems to be a ceremonial umbrella.

12-13. The young Newar sports a padded Nepali topi and shoulder-length hair. He is seen at the left in the picture meant to depict a bazar scene.

14-15-16. Group portraits showing platoons of Gurung, Limbu, and Magar soldiers (left to right), perhaps deputed from the Gorkhali army by Jung Bahadur to pose for the photographer. The subjects carry khukuris as well as bows, arrows, and quivers.

17. Two Tamang youth are seen with pick-axes, apparently part of some construction activity.

18. Sunuwar youth wearing a turban.



7



8



9



10



13



12



11

Coups, polls, and loyalty

Interview with Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Nepal, 11 November

नेपाल

Yasoda Timsina: You refuse to come to an agreement, and spread rumours that the president is staging a coup. Are these tactics to stay in power forever?

Pushpa Kamal Dahal: I met the president on Friday, and he told me to work on forging consensus on issues like the budget, elections, and government change. I believe he gave me this responsibility because I am the chairman of the biggest party. He also categorically denied all the rumours circulated by the media, and said he would not be a hurdle if there is consensus on the budget. Although there has been some confusion in the past few days, I believe the president is committed to national integrity and even now his emphasis is on consensus.

It seems you are eager to maintain a strong hold over your party by keeping Baburam Bhattarai in power. These are all false allegations. There is no relation between the government and our party's leadership. I am very worried that the process set in motion by the 12-point understanding might get derailed. The party split because we were determined to take this process to its conclusive end. So how is this related to the party?



Are you afraid of going to polls because your support base is now divided after the break up of the party?

We have no reservations against elections, and want to pass the constitution from the constituent assembly itself. A few seats might be lost because of the split, but this will not affect our party's position much. Who knows, we might even work together, so why should we be scared?

You are also blamed for the death of the CA because after radicalising ethnic groups. What do you have to say?

During the 2006 uprising, we raised issues against regional,

gender, and class-based discrimination practiced by the old guard. Championing the rights of one side does not mean we are against the other. The privileged class has one mantra: to tarnish Prachanda's image and wipe out the achievements of the 2006 uprising. And after that, they want to continue ruling. Certain actors from the ruling class are arm twisting the media and spreading propaganda.

People had a lot of expectations from you, do you think you fulfilled these expectations?

When I met all the representatives of the major parties and proposed that we discuss two alternatives, elections or CA revival, they started accusing me of double-speak. They assumed that by doing so, they could render all our achievements insignificant. Recently, I have stopped wasting time by blaming others, and am instead focused on institutionalising our era-defining changes. Maybe one section of society thinks it is possible to wipe off our achievements by insulting party leaders, ordinary Nepalis, and martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the republic. If this happens, the country will sink, but I will not let that happen.

You have been warming up towards India lately. Why is that?

This is a very sensitive issue, and I don't see any wisdom in commenting on it. India, the UN, and other nations have helped us with the 12-point understanding. Today, we are walking on the path set by it, but haven't reached our final destination yet which means we still need everyone's help, including India.

Are you leaning towards India for good?

It's nothing like that. We are simply seeking help in order to fulfil our goals. The problem is once you are in power, outsiders presume you are leaning one way or another. Yesterday I too felt like others were 'leaning' towards certain power centres when they were in government, but now I realise I was wrong. I am loyal towards Nepal and Nepalis only.



Koirala: Nepalis, wave your revolutionary flags and march forward
Sack: Full budget
Pillar: Consensus

कान्तिपुर Batsyayan in Kantipur, 12 November

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“Before the Maoists came, corruption was limited to hundreds of thousands, now it is crossing billions.”

NC leader Ram Chandra Paudel quoted in *Nagarik*, 10 November.

NEPALI TWEETS



Dr. Baburam Bhattarai
@PMONepal

Follow

हिजो हल्का भूकम्प काँ धक्का आएछ.. अदेक्ष कमरेड र म संगै थियौ.. चाइना वाट आएको ले पक्कै किरण कमरेड काँ चलखेल हो कि भन्ने शंका भो!

Reply Retweet Favorite

I was with Comrade Chairman when there was an earthquake yesterday. Since the quake originated in China, we suspect Kiran Comrade was behind it.



Chandrika Giri
@ChanDrrikkKa

Follow

मेलम्चीको सुरंग खन्ने जिम्मा अब जेलवाट सुरंग खनेर भाग्ने टोलीलाई दिंदा कसो होला ?

Reply Retweet Favorite

How about giving the Melamchi tunnel contract to the prisoners who escaped by digging tunnels?



braZesh
@brazeshk

Follow

नेपाली काँग्रेसले अरु केही नदिए पनि बाटोमा ट्राफिक जाम भएर दुख चाहिँ दियो है:-)

Reply Retweet Favorite

The Nepali Congress couldn't provide anything else, so they gave us all a headache by stopping traffic.



PHALANO®
@phalano

Follow

वृद्धभत्ता लिने लाइनमा वृद्धको मृत्यु भयो । "पृथ" नेतालाई एयर एम्बुलेन्स उपलब्ध गराए झैं वृद्धभत्ता कसरी सहजै उपलब्ध गराउन सकिन्छ होला ?

Reply Retweet Favorite

An elderly man died while waiting in line for his old age pension. How can senior citizens get their allowance as easily as our beloved leaders get an air ambulance?

Out of business

Editorial, Karobar, 11 November

कारोबार

The Jana Andolan in 2006 bought about massive political transformation and Nepalis hoped for a major economic overhaul and huge improvement in the business environment. However, the political deadlock has pushed the country's economy to an all time low.

In the last six years, the budget was never on time except during one fiscal year. The failure to announce the budget on time and the lack of full implementation of the budget have hurt the economy directly. The constant shuffle in the government and unfavourable policies have further dampened the business sector.

In the absence of proper policies, Nepal's business community continues to be the victim of rampant corruption and extortion. The Business Confidence Survey 2012 conducted by the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry



(FNCCI) showed political instability, energy crisis, strike, weak governance, labour, and financial problems as the major challenges of doing business in Nepal.

The Maoists started collecting large sums of money from business houses as 'donations' during the war. The practice continues unabated till this day. Countless underground outfits and many large and small political parties and their sister organisations have picked up on this habit and are bleeding the business community dry.

While the leaders are busy bickering amongst themselves, the economy has become a hostage to power politics and is falling apart with each passing day. Even when the government is trying to present a budget, the opposition is hell bent on preventing it.

When you add the perennial energy crisis to the mix, its not surprising to learn that the morale of the business community especially the industrial sector is completely shattered. If the political parties fail to lift the spirit of entrepreneurs through proper policies, Nepal's economy will come crashing down.

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

Crisis in Chure

When villagers in Chepti Bagar, Ilam go to bed, smugglers descend into the community forests in the cover of darkness to fell Sal and Sisau trees. Entire trunks and wooden beams are floated down the rivers, where they reach markets further downstream and hundreds of tractor-loads of timber are carted across the border into India.

According to the District Forest Office, 21,000 trees are plundered every year in Ilam, which means one hectare of hillside becomes barren annually. Heavy denudation of the Chure hills has worsened floods, and sudden droughts and flash floods have made things worse for farmers in eastern Nepal.

For Som Bahadur Magar, 19, of Danabari VDC and his 16-year-old brother Amrit the effects of deforestation couldn't have been more real. Heavy rainfall in 2011 set off a flood in the Mai Khola which swept away settlements, farmlands, and cattle and displaced hundreds. The brothers lost their mother and a sibling in the flood. "The river made us orphans and took away four acres of our land. Our farm has turned into a sand bank and now we have nothing left,"



TOYANATH BHATTARAI

says Som. After their mother's death, Som and Amrit lived in a makeshift hut on the local school's premises. Som dropped out of high-school and kept poultry so that he could feed the two of them. Now the brothers spend their nights at neighbours' homes. Along with lost livelihoods, irregular flashfloods in the Chure region have left irrigation projects and drinking-water supplies irreparably damaged.

Last year, 23 irrigation projects were destroyed, and farms were left at the mercy of rainwater. According to Nepal Red Cross Society in Ilam, 39 floods over the last three years have destroyed more than Rs 2 million worth of property. In Chulachuli alone, three drinking-water projects were wrecked by floods. Irrigation projects including Ratuwa Khola Project, Chajo Khola Irrigation Project, Kamal Khola Irrigation Project and

others in Sakphara, Kolbung, and Irauntar suffered Rs 141 million worth of damages. The increasing frequency of natural disasters can be directly linked to the politics that has seeped into community forestry user groups. With local officials, policemen, and smugglers all in cahoots, the illegal timber trade has become highly institutionalised and villagers of 14 VDCs which lie in the Chure region say their hands are tied. "Officials see no reason to step up inspection or implement the law. As long as they receive cuts from the timber mafia they will simply turn a blind eye," explains Rudra Dahal, a teacher of Mahamai. According to Chhabi Limbu, President of Kaman Community Forest in Chulachuli, officers at the area and district forest offices demand Rs 25 per cubic feet, and rangers get Rs 15 each as commission for the wood sold from community forests. Rajendra Kafle of the Ilam Forest Office denies these accusations and says that green trees cannot be felled nor sold. But he admits that timber belonging to user groups is being smuggled. Over in Kathmandu, there is intense competition at the Department of Forests to be transferred to Ilam, with each

official fighting for his share of the pie. Imamuddin Ansari, who came to Ilam when Surendra Lal Karna was Forest Officer, went to court and won a case to replace Karna, and spent an entire term there. Timber from Mahamai and Danabari VDCs goes via Satasidhaam to Jhapa, Morang, and India and through Khudunabari and Sanishchare to Birtamod. Smugglers also take the Tindobhaney route, situated between Mahamai, Baanjho, and Topgachhi. Although there are check posts along the Ilam-Jhapa border as well as on the Danabari-Birtamod road, trafficking continues unabated. Community forests in Ilam were once synonymous with conservation. Today the district is notorious for rampant logging, and timber poachers and corrupt officials. While a few groups are benefiting from the barren hillsides in Ilam, ordinary citizens will face the long-term repercussions. Toyanath Bhattarai Centre for Investigative Journalism

nepalitimes.com

Uprooting grassroots democracy, #593
Neither forests nor trees, #535
Village forests go through midlife crisis, #509



HIMAL
KHABARPATRIKA
17-30 November 2012

COVER

Scars of the war: Nepal's conflict report is getting international attention

EDITORIAL

President's list

COMMENTARY

Obama's second innings – Lekhnath Poudyal
City of hope – Anbika Giri

REPORTS

All eyes on the president
Human trafficking
Cosmopolitan Kathmandu
Photo essay
Little Tibet – Kunda Dixit



Don't miss your chance
Jump on the bandwagon
Learn French!

Next session

November 20, 2012
– January 16, 2013

Admission Open





Gangnam Style in Gangsterland

Hope all Ass fans out there had an indolent Dasain Tihar out of solidarity with our political leaders who sat back, relaxed, and gambled with the country's future. Here are some happenings that you may have missed because newspapers (except yours truly) will not be coming out on Friday. Surgeon general's warning: none of this is made up.

ॐ

PKD promised two months ago to party faithful that he would move into a more modest residence, remember? That was the plenum where he was skinned alive for his luxuriously revolutionary lifestyle. Anyway, the Chairman's sidekick clarified to the press the house-hunting was on, real estate agent Mr Lal is being supervised closely by Comrade Sita and they have looked high and low but haven't yet found any home befitting the Dear Leader. The house has to be more imposing than the **Pistachio Palace** in Naya Bazar, and less luxurious than the **Lazimpat Darbar**. The specs are: 12 bedrooms, garage

for four SUVs, parking for at least 15 vehicles, swimming pool, a guard house, and a high perimeter wall. Sounds to me like Awesome should just move into **Nirmal Niwas**. Which must be what he was getting at when he warned that facilities granted to the ex-king would be withdrawn if he (majesty) didn't keep his trap shut?

ॐ

The Great Helmsman must be mighty chuffed that a tabloid has named him the most-corrupt person in Nepal today in a list of the **Top Dirty Half-Dozen** politicians. Needless to say, Chairman Awesome deserves the honour, and at the rate he is going, he is working hard to bag the award next year

too. The other shady personalities on the list, including Gutch, Brave Lion, Comrade Yummy, and Rajinder-ji have a lot of catching up to do to knock PKD off his pedestal. The paper also has a list of the three top honest leaders and, guess what, Jhusil Da comes out as the cleanest politician alive. Almost makes you want to wish our leaders would be just a little crooked, so we could get things moving. A bit of constructive corruption never hurt anyone, eh?

ॐ

PKD must have been bored out of his mind during the holidays because he agreed to be brand ambassador for Everest Toothpaste. Is there a message there? He also signed

an agreement with himself for the Lumbini project. Get this: Chairman of the ruling party signs a MoU with an organisation of which he is the vice-chairman. And the total allocation for the **Lumbini Disneyland Project** has suddenly jumped from \$3billion to \$5billion because of the added expense of the construction of a Cloud Tower in the middle of Kenzo Tange's masterplan for the development of Buddha's birthplace. Really feels like Gangnam style in gangsterland.

ॐ

Tongues are wagging over at KUKL over the appointment of The First Lady's Sis as head honchess.

Big Brother is watching, so no reason why **Big Sister** can't, right? What people don't understand, argues Comrade Hasiya, is that it is her filial duty to take care of her relatives. Besides, Didi is eminently qualified to take over Kathmandu's water supply, now that jailbirds who dug themselves out of a prison are going to be recruited to finish the Melamchi tunnel, if they are ever caught that is.

ॐ

Meanwhile, Hubby Boy was off again for his once-a-month sleep-over with the downtrodden, and this time it was the Dali family in Kapilbastu. BRB is making these trips to "learn firsthand the problems of my people". Which must be why he built the Dalis an indoor squatting toilet. But, hey, where's the flush? Just before being helicoptered off for his night out, Comrade Lal Dhoj said he was still a revolutionary at heart and called his prime ministership a '**paji**' job. Interesting choice of word because the dictionary doesn't even list such epithets. Some research has revealed that '**paji**' actually means 'armpit hair' which proves the prime minister was actually being polite, and didn't want to use the Nepali word for 'cockpit hair'.

ॐ

Guess who makes up the biggest chunk of the applicants to the **US e-Diversity Visa** this year? Yes, former combatants from the cantonments who are no longer terroristas. Very apt that ex-Baddies have altered their wartime motto from "Yankees, Go Home!" to "Yankees, Go Home. And Take Us With You!"



दशैं र तिहार को छाया लहर

Yasuda®

DAEWOO DC

का सामानमा PEPSI संग आयो अफर

कुनैपनि 42" LCD/LED TV को खरिदमा मा २ लि. को ६ बोतल पेप्सी, DEEP FREEZER मा २ लि. को ४ बोतल पेप्सी, 21" CRTV मा २ लि. को १ बोतल पेप्सी FRONT LOADING WASHING MACHINE मा २ लि. को ३ बोतल पेप्सी DOUBLE DOOR REFRIGERATOR मा २ लि. को ४ बोतल पेप्सी सिलैमा पाउनुहोस् ।

Triveni Byapar Co. Pvt. Ltd., Triveni Complex, Putalisadak, Kathmandu, Tel: 4248732 Ext. 541, E-mail: info@trivenitrade.com
Visit our Showrooms: Nava Durga Departmental Store, New Baneshwor • Triveni Complex, Putalisadak • Dhading • Chipledhunga, Pokhara

यो योजना अक्टोबर २४ देखि मंसिर ४ सम्म लागू हुनेछ ।

CDO Regd No 194/056/57 Lalitpur, Central Region Postal Regd. No 09/069/70