

Student Savings

Your Future, Your Dreams, Your Bank

For more information, please contact our nearest branch.  
www.nibl.com.np

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



DINESH SHRESTHA

## FRESH PERSPECTIVE

In his first week on the job Khil Raj Regmi is systematically ticking off his main agenda items in order of priority:

- Form a cabinet of technocrats
- Fill headless constitutional bodies, most importantly the Election Commission
- Amend constitutional provisions for elections
- Day-to-day governance
- Get disgruntled small parties to row in the same direction.

But the first test of whether Chairman Regmi can stand up to the Big Four will be if he agrees to Lok Man Singh Karki's CIAA candidacy. If Karki is appointed, it will confirm the worst suspicions that the cabinet is a rubber stamp body.

**Regmi regime**  
**Editorial** page 2



**Unfree and unfair**  
by BIHARI K SHRESTHA

page 3

**Free from fear**  
by ANURAG ACHARYA

page 6

KTM's BEST KEPT SECRET:  
Just four hours up from the city is a hike to Chandragiri that offers views that are out of this world (pic, right).

More on page 10-11

LAVAZZA

ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE

HOTEL MOUNT KAILASH - LAKESIDE  
FISHTAIL LODGE - LAKESIDE  
Mail to lavazza@subhashingalintl.com

CONSTELLATION

THURAYA XT

The most rugged satellite phone in the World!

www.constellation.com.np  
Tel: +977-1-5549252

GENERAL PURPOSE GENERATORS

FIRMAN

NEW POWER NEW LIFE

FIRMAN "New Power New Life" — Petrol, Diesel & Kerosene Invert Generators, Range from 1.2 to 5 KVA, 1 year Warranty

GAUTAM ELECTRIC AND ELECTRONICS CENTRE  
Head Office: B.P. Chowk, Pokhara, T: 061 515525, F: 061 515162  
Corporate Office: Bharat Office Complex, 503, Thapathali, Kathmandu  
T: 01 4210008, F: 01 4210093, E: info@gec.co

GAUTAM ASSOCIATES

ECO LIGHT

Fully Automatic Outdoor Solar Energy Light with Motion Sensor

- Easy installation (DIY)
- Fit & Forget
- 1 watt LED
- Long Life Li-ion Battery
- All Weather Proof

1 Year Warranty

FUTURE GREEN ENERGY  
Jhamsikhel: 5549252  
G&G Bhatbhateni: 4411244  
www.fge.com.np

THE NORTH FACE

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

ROCK YOUR PARTY TONIGHT WITH

Delicious | Healthy | Standard

Divine Wines

www.ultrablackswinery.com

DIVINE WINES MAKE YOU SMILE

ENJOY THE MOMENT

Domestic Wine,  
better than imported



REGMI REGIME

The ultimate test for the Chairman of the Interim Election Council of Ministers Khil Raj Regmi and his new 11-member cabinet of ex-bureaucrats will be whether or not they can hold elections in November or whenever.

In his first week on the job Regmi is systematically ticking off his main agenda items in order of priority:

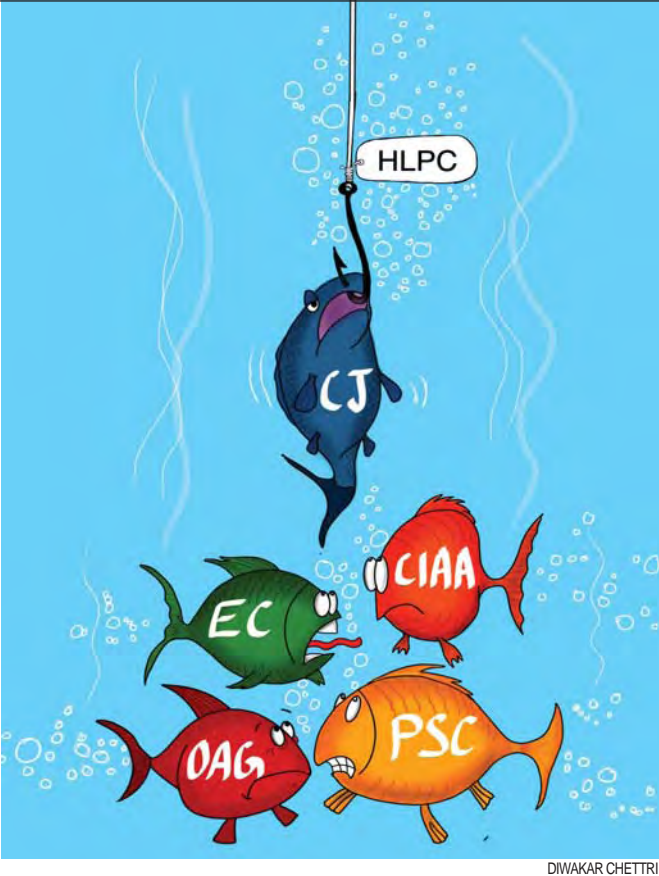
- Form a cabinet of technocrats
- Fill headless constitutional bodies, most importantly the Election Commission
- Amend constitutional provisions for elections
- Day-to-day governance
- Get disgruntled small parties to row in the same direction

Given the mess that he inherited, Regmi has an unenviable task in the months ahead. There is a fuel and electricity crisis, the lawlessness on the streets borders on anarchy, fringe parties are on a warpath, and he has to keep the Big Four at arms length if he is to be successful.

And that last part is the main threat to Regmi's objectivity and effectivity. The signs are not good. It is not clear if the four-party High Level Political Committee that is currently headed by Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal is supposed to recommend appointments and actions to the non-political cabinet or issue directives.

From pronouncements made by senior Maoist leaders it is clear the parties do not want to just sit on the sidelines and twiddle their thumbs. Former Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai actually said just after he stepped down that the 'keys and lock' of government were still with the political parties.

The Committee is further proof that this country



It is not clear if the four-party mechanism is supposed to recommend actions to the non-political Cabinet or issue directives.

has become a four-party dictatorship. What of the other smaller parties? Some token consultations have been made, but the 22 are as disgruntled as ever. The nominee of the Maoist and Madhesi parties for the new head of the CIAA would have been laughable if it wasn't so bizarre. The only good thing anyone has to say about Lok Man Singh Karki is that he is 'decisive'. He is to head the same anti-corruption agency that once labelled him 'unfit for any government position'.

It is easy to see that the Maoists and Madhesi are protecting their backs from any moves by the CIAA to investigate the massive plunder by members of the coalition cabinet during their one-and-half year tenure. The skeletons are rattling and this is a crude attempt to empty the closet.

Regmi's first week in office was marred by physical attacks on the manager of Radisson Hotel and the vandalising of Ncell, one of Nepal's biggest foreign investors. Both seem to be extortion related and perpetrated by militant unions, who have intensified extortion sprees of businesses after elections looked imminent. How is the technocrat government going to control this?

But the first test of the Regmi regime will be whether it can stand up to the Big Four and agree to Karki's CIAA candidacy. If Karki is indeed appointed, then it will confirm our worst suspicions that the cabinet is a rubber stamp body and its members are robots.

On the other hand, Regmi and his band of merry ex-bureaucrats have a historic opportunity to show that this time it is different. In Pakistan in 1993 a technocrat government led by former World Bank/IMF executive, Moeen Qureshi is often touted as the cleanest and most efficient government that country ever had – and it wasn't even elected.

After the Election Commission and election dates are sorted out, the new cabinet has to get down to rescuing the economy from freefall. Nepal's macro-economic parameters which were always healthy no matter if the politics was in tatters, is now showing signs of serious prolapse because of extended political abuse.

It is outside the purview of the interim government to take big decisions and address long-term crises, but the economy needs emergency care. And even if Regmi can just do a Qureshi, a lot of Nepalis will thank him for it.

ON THE WEB  
www.nepalitimes.com

LET'S FACE IT

As the editorial rightly points out, our political parties never had faith in pluralism and separation of powers ('Let's face it', # 647). Asking Khil Raj Regmi to lead the government to conduct election was the least preferable choice, but the parties took that course because they were unwilling to compromise. Now all we can do is hope this government functions within a framework and is allowed to go about its duties without political interference. Transparency will be key and everyone should help out. But the major responsibility lies with civil society members who need to make sure that the parties do not violate Nepal's democratic processes any further and adhere to the rules during election time.

Kamal Kishor

- Before we can have polls, the Regmi-led transition government needs to ensure an atmosphere free of fear, intimidation, and propaganda from candidates and parties. Educating leaders and the public about the importance of elections, their rights and responsibilities, how it will be conducted, how to report intimidation, and how to maintain discipline should be the state's first priority. Non-political volunteers can be used for this massive 'education' campaign.

Basudeb

WIDE OPEN FIELD

A very revealing set of data from this year's Himalmedia poll ('A wide open field', # 647). Key points for

me are the respondents' views on foreign interference, deciding how to federate Nepal, and their non support for specific parties. The over-riding problem though is that the same old politicians are merely being recycled with virtually no fresh choices being given to the people.

Flexible1

- The most interesting thing about the poll is that Nepalis do not want provinces based on ethnicity. We knew that Kathmandu residents didn't want that, but to see that this is a national trend is heartening. It is also a beautiful thing to see the Maoists down in the polling numbers. May they fall even further. They are dogs suitable only for cannibalising the world's greatest country. Let us throw them out.

Paul

- The main message from this poll seems to be to the Maoists: if you change your behaviour and stop threatening, extorting, cheating people you may just get a part of that 50 per cent that hasn't decided yet. If not, may Stalin help you.

Sara

- No matter what this poll shows, the sad truth is that the Maoists will win a majority not because people would vote for them voluntarily, but because they have looted the state coffers to such an unimaginable degree that they will have the muscle and moolah to rig the elections in their favour.

Chanda

- Looking at the data, one can assume that the next government will

be a NC-UML coalition with a Congress prime minister and one or two other opportunistic little parties. The Maoists will be in the opposition as rulers of the streets (you can imagine what that entails).

Krishna S

- It really doesn't matter who we vote for. They will all have their turns before they decide a new round with another election. The votes only decide the order of the new round.

Posan



- The results of this year's poll looks like a pro-NC campaign.

Drasha

- Can Nepali Times publish more details on the methodology used like significance level, error per cent?

Erratic migrant

FOR GRABS

I was living in Nepal during the first people's movement in 1990 and told anyone who asked for my opinion at the time that Nepal needed a presidential

system because political parties' inability to achieve an outright majority in parliament promised instability from frequent government changes ('Up for grabs', Kunda Dixit, # 647). 23 years and uncounted new governments later, the facts have vindicated that the parliamentary model is not appropriate for the country.

Under the current system, politicians worry from day to day whether a coalition partner is going to dump them and form a new government with their opponents. This encourages the worst form of short-term thinking,

with every politician looking to staff government offices with as many of their cronies as they can, so they can funnel as much loot as possible into party and private accounts, national progress be damned. Long-term planning (let's face it, in Nepal planning three or four years ahead counts as long-term) doesn't

happen now because it is guaranteed that the current party in power won't be around in two years, let alone three or four.

Nepal needs an election cycle based on the calendar, with predictable changes every three or four or five years, where politicians are in office long enough for voters to be able to see the results of their policies.

Thomas

FEMININE FM

Thank you Annie O' Kaine for your

report on female-run community radio stations across Nepal ('Feminine FM', # 647). It made me happy to see that despite the political mess that we find ourselves in (blame the old senile men), these women are doing the best with limited resources to spread democracy through the airwaves and helping other women cope with and understand difficult issues like domestic violence. Great job, keep it up.

Renu Shrestha

OFF THE ROAD

Wow, kudos to Rabi Thapa and team for venturing out into wild, wild Nepal ('Off the road', Rabi Thapa, # 647). I am not a trekker and will have to try the 'traditional' Annapurna Circuit first, but the way Rabi describes the nooks and corners of Manang and trails only known to locals, really made me want to pack my bags and join the team. Also the photos are breathtaking.

RT

**Times** nepalnews.com  
Weekly Internet Poll #648

Q. Do you think making Chief Justice Khil Raj Regmi prime minister has set the wrong precedent for Nepal's judiciary?

Total votes: 526

Yes 48.5%  
No 49%  
Don't know/can't say 2.5%

Weekly Internet Poll # 649. To vote go to: [www.nepalitimes.com](http://www.nepalitimes.com)

Q. Do you think the SLC should be dropped for a more comprehensive high-school examination after grade 12?







# Unfree and unfair?

## Regmi's minimum agenda is to ensure law and order for elections

After decades of corrupt, incompetent, and irresponsible misrule by politicians of all stated ideological hues, the chief justice-led election government is the best thing to have happened to the people of Nepal.

The impeccable professional credentials and courage that Khil Raj Regmi brings to his new office put the political parties to shame for their collective failures. Logically, the role of taking over from squabbling and non-performing politicians and organising elections should have rightfully gone to President Ram Baran Yadav, but he seems to have been passed over for being pro-NC. The unnecessary



GUEST COLUMN

Bihari K Shrestha

diminution of the stature of the presidency also has its own implications for the credibility of the present election government.

While Regmi may be committed to holding an election that is free and fair, the present law and order situation is not conducive to one. In 2008 the Maoists blackmailed voters by threatening to go back to the jungle if they did not win, that can't be allowed to happen now.

The Baidya faction held the country to ransom by imposing a series of shutdowns last week through intimidation and mindless destruction of public and private property. It has targeted Radisson and Ncell, promised fire and brimstone and a poll boycott.

Maoist leader Devendra Poudel threatened rights activists with 'stern action' if they did not stop demanding the arrest of murder convict, Balkrishna Dhungel. On Sunday, the Maoists unleashed their YCL to hijack the Occupy Baluwatar protests.

If this is the way it's going to be, you can kiss a peaceful election good bye. Dhungel is just the tip of the iceberg, there are many political figures with criminal convictions or culpability who made it to the last CA and are most likely to be candidates in the next elections. Regmi has his work cut out: get the new Election Commissioner to purge the candidate list of such elements.

The sense of impunity among the parties is too deeply ingrained and the police are just mute spectators when confronted with mayhem in the name of politics. The fact that the security forces forged an understanding with the Baburam Bhattarai-led government not to prosecute war crimes is a question mark on their role of providing electoral security. As it is, all major parties have militant wings, euphemistically called 'youth' organisations, who are going to use muscle during the campaign and on election day.

Another challenge for the new government, particularly Chief Secretary-turned-Home Minister Madhav Ghimire, will be to restore the professionalism and integrity of the security forces which have been decimated by years of political interference. Can he sanitise them and tell them who's boss? Then there are spoilers from our 'near abroad' who could put a finger in the pie.

The Regmi government has a near impossible task, especially with the four-party high level mechanism itching to interfere in every decision. This is where the international community has a crucial role to play, too, by backstopping the electoral machinery with necessary hardware and logistics. India, China, US, EU, and the UN have to come together in a consortium to help an election government they had a hand in creating, so they have a stake in free and fair elections. This time, it has to be more than former US President Jimmy Carter stamping a premature seal of approval as he did in 2008. 🇳🇵

*Bihari Krishna Shrestha is an anthropologist and was a senior official in the government.*



### Admission Open for Ullens Kindergarten

- a progressive early childhood education center
- serving children of 2½ years - 5½ years
- committed to providing a vibrant, safe and innovative environment for exploration
- developed in collaboration with a team of highly regarded educators
- inspired by best practices world-wide, particularly of Bank Street College of Education, New York, Children's Center at CalTech and Evergreen Community School, California
- rigorously trained team of teachers
- purposefully redesigned infrastructure and extraordinarily equipped classrooms
- world class management

#### Limited seats available - Apply now !

Open House and Application Form distribution:

Saturday, 23 March : 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Saturday, 6 April : 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Presentations on our philosophy, financial/admission policies, and Q&A every 1/2 hour

To avoid waiting and to make the most of your visit, we encourage you to make an appointment.

Tel 01-5555839, 5521406

Email : [info@ullenskindergarten.edu.np](mailto:info@ullenskindergarten.edu.np)

Address: Narayan Bhawan Bungalow, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur

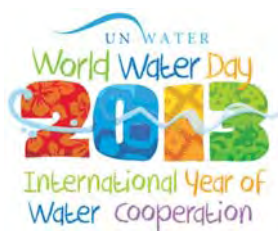


SHAH RUKH KHAN  
AND HIS AQUARACER

**TAG Heuer**  
SWISS AVANT-GARDE SINCE 1860

**SULUX CENTRE**  
Hotel Woodland Complex, Durbarmarg  
Kathmandu, Nepal.





Although statistics say access to water in Nepal is 62 per cent that figure is debatable because it isn't regular access. It means that people have some drops of water sometimes during the week, and it's not 24/7.

Ashutosh Tiwari, WaterAid

# Where is the bathroom?

There used to be a time when you could tell you were nearing a village in Nepal when you saw signs of open defecation along the trails. Not anymore. Slightly more than half the population now use toilets. A government campaign backed by NGOs to declare VDCs open defecation free is yielding results and saving lives.

There is also greater awareness about the links between killer infections and poor sanitation and contaminated water. The number of children dying from diarrhoeal dehydration has come down by half in the last 15 years.

Nepal's infant mortality declined by 42

per cent over the last 15 years, while under-five mortality has declined by 54 per cent. Still, one in every 22 Nepali children dies before reaching their first year and one in every 19 does not survive to the fifth birthday.

But there is still a long way to go. Poor drinking water, sanitation, and malnutrition are silent emergencies that don't grab headlines like a bus crash or crime because the victims are mainly poor and they die silently, scattered across the land.

More can be done to improve the health of the children of poor Nepali families by building toilets than distributing medicines,

more lives can be saved by installing a safe drinking water system in a village than starting a new clinic.

In parts of the country where most rain falls in three months, rainwater harvesting could help improve water supply and sanitation. Tyler McMahon of SmartPaani says rainwater collection could help communities, households, and schools on the high ridges.

"The conjunctive management of rainwater and groundwater recharge can help improve water security with minimal investment," explains McMahon. *Juanita Malagon*

## GLASS HALF FULL

**20** Number of children who die everyday directly due to diarrhoeal dehydration

**20%** Nepalis who don't have access to safe drinking water

**16,000,000**

Nepalis without proper toilets

**41%** Proportion of schools with toilets of which only 1/4 have separate toilets for girls

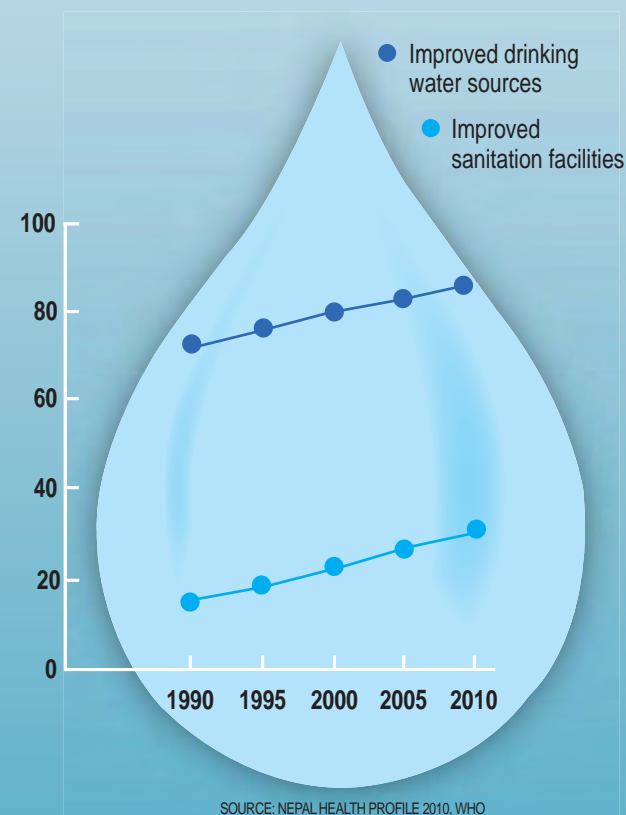
**37%** Proportion of population that washes hands after defecation

**14%** Proportion that washes hands with soap

SOURCES: WATERAID, WHO, UNICEF

## AS SLOW AS A SNAIL

In 20 years Nepalis have nearly triplicate the use of sanitation facilities which is still very low just 30 per cent of the population. On the other hand, access to water has improved less than 10 per cent.



## DID YOU KNOW

Access to water and sanitation is a human right

The average distance that women in Asia walk to collect water is **6** km

Nepal ranks **42** among **174** countries in total water resources (**210** cu/km)

There are **209** NGOs working with water in Nepal.

Two members of the British House of Lords were in Nepal to take part in the launch of the South Asia Regional Campaign on Sanitation this week in which MPs from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, and ex-CA members from Nepal took part. The campaign was organised by WaterAid and its partner NGOs and urged governments to ensure that the one billion people in the region have sustainable access to improved sanitation. Lord Ian McCall (*right*) of Dulwich, who is a surgeon, and Lord John Edward Hollister Montagu (*left*), Earl of Sandwich, spoke to *Nepali Times* this week.

**Nepali Times: Why did you choose to come to Nepal during World Water Week?**

**McColl:** We've come to talk about the need for sanitation and related infrastructure. We've been struck with the fact that so often the talk is about how we need to get the economy right and then we can invest in infrastructure and sanitation. Actually, our experience in the UK has been the reverse. In the 1850s, when the River Thames became more and more like a sewer and it was called The Great Stink, the government was forced to take action. It was an enormous success. Improving sanitation improved health. We're here to tell the government to invest in sanitation so that citizen's lives can be improved bearing in mind that you have to get on with that rather than wait until the economy grows.

# Toilets for all ASAP



CINDREY LIU

Montagu: I've been here before and I think Nepal is special. I believe in the power of civil society. When we visited Thecho village in Lalitpur, where the Nepali NGO Lumanti is working with the community members, I was impressed to see how the people themselves have been installing latrines, sometimes private sometimes for the community. Nepal has a long way to go, but it can do it because all these

non-governmental organisations are working together with the government.

**What can be done in Nepal to improve water and sanitation?**

**McColl:** The important thing is to make sure the local infrastructure is right and that you're treating people properly. Sanitation workers have more

impact on public health than medical doctors. You have to have proper infrastructure and sewers have to be made properly. That is how you improve the whole public health system.

**What can the government do?**

**Montagu:** The government needs to work with NGOs and other organisations and support their work.

**McColl:** The government can make sanitation a high priority. That means, providing more funds, monitoring the results, and educating people so that benefits from sanitation can spill over into public health, tourism, livelihood and so on.

**How do you see Nepal in 10 years in terms of access to sanitation?**

**Montagu:** We want to see many, many more indoor toilets. This is very important in development and it's happening already. It's education as well, what you're taught in school with hygiene. In some cases, bringing toilets inside the house can be perceived as a foreign initiative and likely to be rejected by the community.

**McColl:** The first thing is not for us to come in and tell people what to do, but to do everything with them and not for them so they have ownership. There are countries in Asia like Sri Lanka and Thailand which are quite advanced in sanitation and it's not because they have more resources, but because they made sanitation a priority, which once done, they are able to do other things.



# Money in, money out



**ECONOMY STUPID**  
**Puja Tandon**

Everyday about a thousand men and women fly out of Kathmandu to India, the Gulf, South Korea, Malaysia, US, and Europe where they join four and a half million fellow Nepali workers.

These are the men and women who keep the country's limping economy afloat by contributing a quarter - \$4 billion - of our annual GDP. The actual figures could be three times higher than the official figure since almost 70 per cent of remittance comes through informal channels (specially from India) and large numbers of illegal workers are not accounted for.

Remittance boosts individual families' income levels and allows them access to services like health and education. It leads to increased consumption which is good for local businesses. And when the government is having a



BIKRAM RAI

## Growth in remittance is an indication of the abject political and economic state of Nepal

hard time attracting foreign investments, remittance acts as an important source of external financing along with debt, equity, and development aid.

However, growth in remittance is an indication of the abject political and economic state of Nepal. According to the World Bank, remittances (unlike private

capital flows) tend to rise when the recipient country experiences an economic slump bought on by a financial crisis or political stalemate. As times get harder here, migrants are sending more cash to help out their families and friends.

We have also failed to utilise the large amounts of remittance for investments or

to generate capital. Around 85 per cent of money sent home by migrant labourers is spent on consumption and many families don't have any long-term savings. Rising demand for imported consumer products like electrical goods, cars, and bikes means that for every dollar earned, 25 cents goes right back out. Two per cent of remittance goes into real estate, but investments in businesses, infrastructure or the industrial sector is almost zero.

The other downside of a remittance-reliant economy is its effect on our labour force. Not only are we letting go of thousands of young Nepalis every year, but families who depend on money from relatives abroad are losing their motivation to work or do business. Those who have brothers or sisters working outside the country increasingly believe foreign employment is their only way out. To make things worse the state, foreign investors, and the private sector are hesitant to invest in regions where out-migration is high due to unreliable workforce.

It's high time the government revamped its remittance policies and started using the dollars coming from abroad to generate jobs at home and

stem the mass exodus. Money from remittance can be used for micro-investments and micro-financing in sectors like agriculture and trading. Big investments in manufacturing might not be feasible, but small investments would serve as baby steps in increasing entrepreneurship and engagement of the private sector in Nepal.

Surveys show that returnee migrant workers and their families who might be interested in investing or starting their own business usually lack the acumen and skills. Understanding their motivation, developing capacity, and equipping them with the necessary skills should therefore be a top priority for the state. Only then can it influence their consumption and investment habits.

As 30 per cent of young Nepali men work outside, more and more women are managing households on their own. They should be the focus of government policies. If women with remittance funds are encouraged to start businesses through incentives like tax subsidies, they will not only create employment for themselves but also others in the community. ■

### BIZ BRIEFS

#### Fresh look

China Tourism has unveiled its new logo featuring four modern Chinese characters, which together signify, 'Beautiful China'. According to the press release the new logo represents different elements of Chinese culture and marks a new chapter for China Tourism.



#### Raining discounts

**Index furniture** Index Furniture has launched its annual sale that will run until 1 May. The sale offers 20 to 30 per cent discounts on various products including stools, sofas, dining sets, recliners, and coffee tables.

#### Drink it right

Diageo and its distribution partner Global Trading Concern have launched DIAGEO Bar Academy in Nepal. The academy is the largest regionally accredited bartending course in Asia Pacific, the press statement says.

#### Mobile money

Bank of Kathmandu has re-launched its mobile banking service 'M-Paisa' in association with Hello Paisa Network. The service will be available for customers of Nepal Telecom with free registration from its branches across the country.



#### This is IT

Sunway International Business School and Student 2 Professional (S2P) organised an interaction program on 9 March. According to the press release the participants discussed the potential for mobile application development in Nepal.



#### Soupy treat

CG Exim (Nepal), sister company of Chaudhary Group has launched 'Wai Wai Soup' in the market. The soup is available in three flavours to cater to local taste buds, the company said.

#### Easy cleaning

LG has introduced bag-free vacuum cleaners. Available in 1800W and 2000W, the vacuum cleaners have ergonomic design and the mini ellipse cyclone system separates and compresses dust and debris effectively, the company said.



Practical Approach to Learning

## ADMISSIONS OPEN

Bridgewater International School announces admissions for the  
**ACADEMIC SESSION 2070 in GRADE I**  
**Limited seats in Play group, Grade II, III & IV**  
**Last date for form submission: 25th March, 2013 (12th Chaitra, 2069).**  
*Prospectus and admission forms are available at the school office, Monday to Friday between 9 am to 4 pm.*

**BRIDGEWATER**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

**Jwaagal, Kupondole, Lalitpur, Tel: 5011054 / 85**  
**Email: bwischoolktm@gmail.com, URL: <http://www.bwischool.com>**



# Free of fear



BY THE WAY

Anurag Acharya

After nine months of to-ing and fro-ing over reinstatement of the dissolved Constituent Assembly, then a year of haggling over who should lead an elections government, Nepal will hold another CA elections later this year.

For an electorate that has been denied franchise for so long, it doesn't seem to matter that no dates have been announced yet. In fact, opinion polls have shown that the majority of people are past caring when, or if, elections are held.

The political parties that are drafting election manifestos and getting ready to kick-start campaigns face an apathetic and disinterested public. The reason is that they have been let down so often by the same netas in the last four years. But despite widespread disillusionment, elections are still the safest and quickest way to bring a country derailed by a prolonged transition back on track.

Unlike earlier elections, this one is being held under a



DIWAKAR CHETTRI

**We need a firm commitment from political groups of the left, right, and centre for clean and non-violent polls**

technocratic government made up of government managers, most of them batch-mates. This presents both opportunities and challenges. All we need now is a firm commitment from political

groups on the left, right, and centre to participate in clean and non-violent polls and to abide by the code of conduct.

To be sure, emotions will run high and there will be heated

exchange of words in the media and when leaders share a podium. But the parties must remember that elections are about winning over the people's confidence and not just about defeating the opposition. The two are not the same. It is about what you will do, not about what the rival party will not.

Already there are worrying signs of the rhetoric getting out of hand. Leaders threatening to break the legs of opponents, candidates turning a contest of ideas into personal battles, and portraying the polls as a winner-takes-all game.

Since few of the candidates can boast about performance, the elections will be a referendum on issues like the nature of federalism and forms of governance that remained contentious in the last CA. There may be two clear sides emerging, one led by the Maoist-Madheshi coalition and the other led by the NC and UML. Editorials and pundits are already presenting it as a fight to finish between 'democrats' and 'radicals', between 'progressive' and 'traditional' forces. Elections should be about ideas, but mixing sectarianism, ethnicity, or regionalism into the campaign to rabble rouse would be disastrous.

And we in the media must resist stoking fear and overtly taking sides and help moderate a charged political climate. The mainstream must overcome its bias and accept, until proven otherwise, that

every political party contesting the election is a legitimate political force under Nepal's interim constitution and poses no danger to the core values enshrined in it. As long as their political agendas and programs do not go against the spirit of the constitution, they have every right to seek popular endorsement for their programs through elections.

As an institution that has stood by democratic values, the media must maintain its own integrity, impartiality, and code of ethics. The fourth estate has an important role in creating an environment for free and fair elections that are fought on discourse, debate, and political programs rather than driven by subjective and often imagined categories.

For all the controversy it has generated, the party less technocratic government ensures that state powers are not abused for unfair advantage and once the Election Commission takes full shape, all stakeholders will be bound by its code of conduct. The deployment of the Army for election security could be an added safeguard against cheating and violence.

If Nepal is able to hold peaceful elections free from fear, winners will have a chance to push through programs in a future assembly for a stipulated period and we may finally have a constitution. No matter which side gets more votes, it will be a victory for democracy.

हेर्नुस न बहिनी ! मेरो छोरा School जाने मन गर्दै न कक्षामा पढाएको पनि बुझ्दै न रे । घरमा आएर Homework गर्न पनि मान्दैन ।

मेरो छोरी पनि पहिले यस्तै थिइन् । तर उनीहरूको School मा MiDas eCLASS राखेपछि त कक्षामा पढाएको सबै बुझ्छिन् । घरमा आएर पनि चाख विवर Homework गर्छिन् ।

त्यसो भए त म पनि मेरो छोरालाई MiDas eCLASS भएकै स्कूलमा पढाउँछु ।

अचेल त मेरो School मा MiDas eCLASS छ । त्यसैले म कक्षामा पढाएको मज्जाले बुझ्छु । अनि घरमा आएर सजिलै Homework गर्न सक्छु ।

**तपाईंको बच्चाको भविष्यको संरचना, केवल तपाईंको एक प्रयास ।**

MiDas eCLASS नेपालको शिक्षाको परम्परागत पद्धतिमा परिवर्तन ल्याई विद्यार्थीहरूलाई ब्यवहारिक ज्ञान रुचिका साथ अध्ययन गराउन तयार गरिएको आधुनिक र व्यवहारिक पद्धति / पढाउने विधि हो ।

MiDas eCLASS लागु भएको विद्यालयहरूमा विद्यार्थीहरूले पढ्नु पर्ने पाठहरूको व्यवहारीक पक्ष सहितका Animated Audiovisuals, टीभीमा कार्टुन हेरे जत्तिकै मनोरञ्जन लिएर पढ्न पाउँछन् जसले गर्दा उनीहरूको पढाइमा ध्यान जान्छ । अनि गाह्रो भन्दा गाह्रो पाठ पनि सजिलै बुझ्छन् र उनीहरूले हाँसिल गरेको ज्ञान, जाँच पास गर्नको लागि मात्र नभई भविष्यमा व्यवहारिक रुपमा प्रयोग गर्न सक्छन् ।

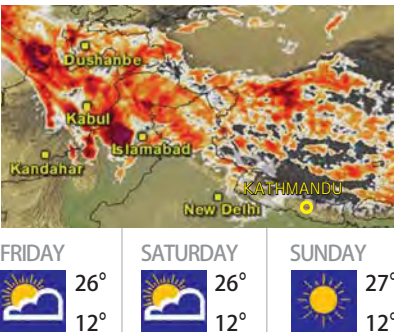
**Schools can easily implement MiDas eCLASS in their classrooms.**

A product of **Midas EDUCATION Pvt. Ltd.**  
[www.midaseducation.com.np](http://www.midaseducation.com.np)

**Contact:**  
 Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal  
 Tel: 977-1-4245919, 4245325, 9751015265  
 info@midas.com.np  
[www.facebook.com/MiDaseCLASS](https://www.facebook.com/MiDaseCLASS)  
[www.youtube.com/user/MiDaseCLASS](https://www.youtube.com/user/MiDaseCLASS)



We are now officially entering the hot and dry season, and the time of greater water stress. On World Water Day on Friday, let's think about rainwater harvesting, not because it is a green thing to do but because it is smart. However, there isn't much by way of rain on the horizon. It is too early for the summer storms, and the westerlies are not packing the kind of moisture we need. However, there will be buildups over the mountains in the afternoons into the weekend with brief passing showers. Kathmandu valley will be hazy, dry and hot with a few passing clouds.



**QATAR** AIRWAYS القطرية  
World's 5-star airline. qatarairways.com

# PACK their BAGS

With hundreds of preschools to choose from, picking the right fit for your child can be daunting

Admission season is in full swing and like hundreds of other young parents in town you are trying your best to keep up with the merry-go-round: visiting schools, collecting brochures, scanning newspapers, making frantic calls to friends and families for advice. After all, your precocious toddler deserves the best.

Until a decade ago joint families with grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins all living under the same roof was the norm in Nepal. Today's urban parents don't have that safety net and

most work full-time so there is no one at home to take care of the kids. Pressured by an increasingly competitive education system even stay at home mothers (and

fathers) are rushing to enroll their children in good preschools which are seen as stepping stones into the formal education system three or four years down the line.

No wonder early education has become a highly lucrative business in the country and preschools are mushrooming everywhere, your neighbourhood probably has a couple. Choosing the right fit for your child couldn't get any tougher.

When Rita Singh started Mickey's International in 1987, there were only two others in the Valley. That number has grown more than ten folds in the last decade alone. "A simpler registration procedure means that anyone interested in opening a preschool can do it easily. Many have made a business out of it. This was not the case back then,"



PICS: BIKRAM RAI

says Singh.

Spacious play area, safe environment, and well-qualified teachers top most parents' list of requirement when selecting a preschool. But to keep pace with the intense competition, many of the newer preschools seem to focus on infrastructure rather than

rote learning, preschools today use interactive methods to help children understand the basics of alphabets, numbers, colours, and shapes in an interactive learning environment.

Many are also developing 'ambitious' curriculums to make sure their students have an edge



quality of teaching. "See whether the teachers are trained or not, go through the school's curriculum. Don't look only at the hardware, look at the software," advises Singh.

Another factor most parents tend to overlook is the student-teacher ratio. "Children at this age need individual attention which is not possible if the teacher has to look after a lot of kids at once," explains Madhu Rai of Sarita Indra Preschool in Biratnagar.

Preschools, however, are no longer just about fun and games. Moving away from the traditional

over their peers. But as long as your four-year-old is learning social and emotional skills, making friends, and building a strong foundation, you shouldn't worry too much if she cannot recite her multiplication tables yet.

"Children have different thresholds for learning so if they are burdened with too much at once they will stop enjoying the process," says Hima Pradhan, a psychologist at a high school in Kathmandu, "if you want your children to benefit in the long-term make sure their school engages them in different hands-on activities and gives them plenty of time to play."

Keeping these in mind, decide on a budget, sit in on a few classes, talk to potential teachers, and pick your top three.

SEE INSIDE:  
page 16-17

**HONDA**  
The Power of Dreams

**BRIO**  
It loves you back

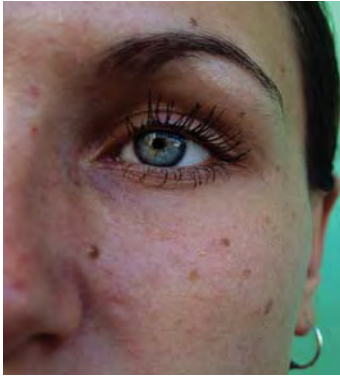
You wanted a car you'll love.  
We built a car that will love you back.

**BRIO**

**JYOTI**  
Honda Car Showroom, Drobighat, Ring Road, Lalitpur  
Tel: 5549741/8721383223 Fax: 977-1-5549742  
Thapathali Showroom Tel: 2003769  
E-mail: hondacar@sykar.com.np  
www.honda.com.np



EVENTS



**HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES,** screening powerful documentaries throughout the month to create awareness on human rights and gender issues.  
7 to 31 March, 7pm, Attic Bar, Uttar Dhoka, [www.hrffn.org](http://www.hrffn.org)

**Himalayan rush,** run, swim, or cycle around Begnas Tal and promote healthy, community-based tourism around the lake.  
30 March, Pokhara, 9851021852/9851102046

**Backyard screenings,** watch great cinema while enjoying delicious food.  
Rs 100, 2 to 28 March, every Thursday, 6.30pm, Backyard Café, Jhamsikhel



**HOLI,** join thousands on the streets of Basantapur, Thamel, Patan, and Pokhara to celebrate Holi, the festival of colours with much fanfare and enthusiasm. 26 March



**BONJOUR,** an exhibition of Francophone comics that have been loved all over the world.  
Runs till 23 March, 10am to 5pm, Alliance de Francaise, Teku

**Thai film festival 2013,** watch award-winning films that observe and explore Thai culture and society.  
21 to 22 March, Nepal Tourism Board, 10am to 5pm, free tickets available at the Royal Thai Embassy

**Expressions of devotion,** an exhibition of etching, unique print, and video installations by Uma Shanker Shah and Seema Sharma Shah.  
24 March to 17 April, 10am to 5pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babarmahal

**Nepal International Indigenous Film Festival,** the seventh edition of the annual NIIF will explore issues related to Nepal's minority.  
25 to 28 April, City Hall, Nepal Tourism Board, Exhibition Road, (01)4102577, [ifa\\_festivals@yahoo.com](mailto:ifa_festivals@yahoo.com), [www.ifanepal.org.np](http://www.ifanepal.org.np)

**With love from France,** Image Ark Gallery invites you to a dual exhibition of French artists Nicholas Henry and Floriane de Lassee.  
Runs till 28 March, 10am to 5pm, Image Ark Gallery, Patan, (01)5006665

**Lalitpur Festival 2013,** an international celebration of the best arts, crafts, culture, tradition, and businesses of the SAARC region in the city of fine art.  
28 to 3 April, Lalitpur

**PRANAMAYA YOGA,** a special weekend workshop with internationally renowned guru Emil Wendel and partner Anouk Petzoldt.  
Rs 4,000, 23 to 24 March, Pranamaya Yoga Studio, Thamel, [www.pranamaya-yoga.com](http://www.pranamaya-yoga.com)



DINING



**Tian Rui,** if you're looking for genuinely good Chinese food this restaurant is the place to go. *Thapathali*

**Dragon Chinese Restaurant,** try the Kung Pao Pork if alone and the Mai Cao if with company. *Lakeside, Pokhara*



**EVEREST STEAK HOUSE,** an old-school joint for everything steak, a sanctuary for meat lovers. *Thamel, Chhetrapati Chok, (01)4260471*

**Mulchowk,** a blend of culinary expertise and charms of a bygone era, enjoy a wholesome meal in a beautiful setting. *Babarmahal*



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

**BAGAICHA,** serves Nepali, Indian, Chinese, Continental, and Thai dishes. *Jawalakhel*

**Bombay Masala,** transcend the limits of geography with a wide variety of cuisine. *Pulchok*



**BOUDHA STUPA RESTAURANT AND CAFE,** bide your time in the free wi-fi zone as you enjoy wood-fired pizzas, home-made pastas, and the Tibetan gyakok. *Boudha, (01)4485585*

**The Heritage,** escape the hodgepodge of the tourist hub as you relish delights like paella and panna cotta. *Thamel*

**Chilly Bar and Restaurant,** quality food and wide selection of drinks with great views of Phewa Lake. *Lakeside, Hallanchok, Pokhara, (061)463614/463163*

www.nagariknews.com



कुपन जसरी स्क्र्याच गरेपनि नागरिकका ग्राहकलाई हजारौंको नगद पुरस्कार पर्ने पक्कापक्की छ ।

हामी आउदैछौं तपाईंको घरदैलोमा फेरि एकपटक

ग्राहक बन्नका लागि CIR टाइप गरी ५२२५ मा SMS गर्नुहोला ।

थप जानकारीका लागि नेपाल रिपब्लिक मिडिया जे.डि.ई. कन्टैक्स, बागदोरबार, काठमाडौं, फोन: ०१-४२६८६५६, ४२६५१०० (ext. २०४/२०५), ईमेल: [circulation@nagariknews.com](mailto:circulation@nagariknews.com)  
नेपाल रिपब्लिक मिडिया नेपालगञ्ज ०८१-५५१२१८ | पोखरा ०६१-५४०३१० | बुटवल ९८४६४२६३८८ | लारायणघाट ९८४५५५७३७ | विराटनगर ०२१-४२१२२८

**निम्न बुकिङ्ग काउण्टरहरूमा पनि ग्राहक बनाईन्छ:** कमल कौशल स्टोर्स: न्युरोड, ४२२२४५६ | त्रिसा सप्लायर्स: लमनखेल, ४८४१४१७०४५ | गोर्खा न्यूज एण्ड स्टेशनरी: सोलुखुम्बु, ४३५५७६० | जयबागेश्वरी कम्प्युनिकेशन: जयबागेश्वरी, ४४६७०३४  
एस् एस् सेढाई: बसुन्धारा, ४३५६४७५ | सिस्टम फोटोकपी: पाटनढोका, ५५५०१७१ | न्यू लालित्व प्रिन्टर्स: लमनखेल, ५५४३५८२ | निसा बुक्स: लमनखेल, ५५३१६५७ | अंकुर ट्रामर्स: गढाचर, ६६३३५५८ | भण्डारी साईबर: मैतीदेवी, ४४१८४१४ | किपु बुक्स: कीर्तिपुर, ४३३१७७५  
न्यू पि. पि. बुक्स: कलकौ, ४२८०६७३, ४२८२४५१ | दीपसेवा कम्प्युनिकेशन: कोटेश्वर, ४६०००७० | सुमिता क्लासिफाईड: नयाँ बागेश्वर, ४१०४२३७ | साई न्यूजिक: बापनाउँ, ४४६१३५५, ४४५३५१२

\*शर्तहरू लागूहुनेछन् ।



## MUSIC



**ALICE**, the Swiss duo Alice and Gregg jam with Kiran Nepali, Hari Maharjan, and Rizu Tuladhar.

23 March, 6.30pm, Hotel Shangri-la, Lajimpat, (01)4242832/4241163

**Live at Cafe 32**, live music and delicious food every Friday.  
6pm onwards, Cafe 32, Battisputali, (01)4244231

## GETAWAYS



**HOLI AT SUNKOSHI**, delicious food, beach volleyball, bonfire, and rafting on demand during the festival of colour, guarantees more clean fun than Kathmandu.

Rs 2,000 for day-trip, Rs 2,500 for overnight stay, and Rs 3,000 for Holi celebrations, 26 March, Sunkoshi Beach Camp, (01)4381214/4381723



**MUM'S GARDEN RESORT**, head out to Pokhara for a peaceful and comfortable stay in beautifully designed cottages surrounded by a lush green garden with great views of Phewa Lake and the Annapurna range.

Lake Side, Pokhara, (061)463468, www.mumsgardenresort.com

**The Yellow House**, bed and breakfast for the light traveller. Sanepa, (01)5553869/5522078, www.theyellowhouse.com.np

**The Last Resort**, canyoning, hiking, rock climbing, rafting, mountain biking, bungee jumping – test your limits at the Last Resort. Bhotekosi, Sindhupalchok, (01)4700525/1247



## TONI'S NEPAL

On the 10th anniversary of Toni Hagen's death, Heritage Gallery has revived his classic photo-exhibition on Nepal, one that was held 20 years ago and inaugurated by Late King Birendra.

When Hagen first arrived in Nepal in 1950, he was assigned merely to take aerial photographs of the country's incredible terrain. By the time of his death in 2003, he was one of the most respected advocate of sustainable development in Nepal. Traversing across 14,000 kilometres of uncharted territory, the geologist in Hagen ultimately found Nepal's "people more important than its rocks". Hagen took hundreds of photographs in his 12 years of travelling on foot and they have become the only window to the Nepal of the past.

Runs till 31 March, Heritage Gallery, Toni Hagen House, Gachhen, Bhaktapur, (01)6613197



## GARDEN of DREAMS

Recently voted by *Time* magazine as one of top 24 hideaways in the world, the Garden of Dreams is a firm favourite among those who seek isolation in the middle of the metropolis. What was once a private garden set in the sprawling lawns across the former royal palace is now an oasis open to the public. Dine at the Kaiser Cafe, admire the artfully maintained flora, or grab a mat and lie down to read a book, so close yet blissfully far away from the chaos of Kathmandu.

Garden of Dreams, Thamel, (01)4425340



**Roadhouse Cafe**  
where the good times roll

wood-fired pizza,  
coffee and more!



## The Golden Door

The Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT) inaugurated the recently restored Golden Door Ensemble (funded by the German government) and Yantaju Shrine (gifted by Lamu Amatya in memory of her husband Bhubaneswar and mother-in-law Sita Devi) in Mulchowk courtyard, Patan Darbar

**बराह ज्वेलरी इण्डस्ट्रीज प्रा. लि.**  
**BARAHA JEWELLERY INDUSTRIES PVT. LTD.**

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, 4266799 Dharan: Bhanuchowk, Mahendrapath, Tel: 025-526777, 520056, Fax: 025-522412  
Pokhara: Sabha Gana 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

**FREE WI-FI ZONE**  
Visa & Master card accepted

Way to Bhatbhateni  
Sunn International College  
Surprise Bank  
Police Head Quarter  
Lainchaur

**ALICE RESTAURANT**  
Subarna Shamsher Marg,  
Gairidhara, Kathmandu  
Tel: 01-4429207  
alicegairidhara@gmail.com



**Degna**  
Rasta-Living  
Kumari pati, Lalitpur | 5008679



Yeah!!! You will love it.....



Wishing you a  
**Happy & Colourful Holi 2069**

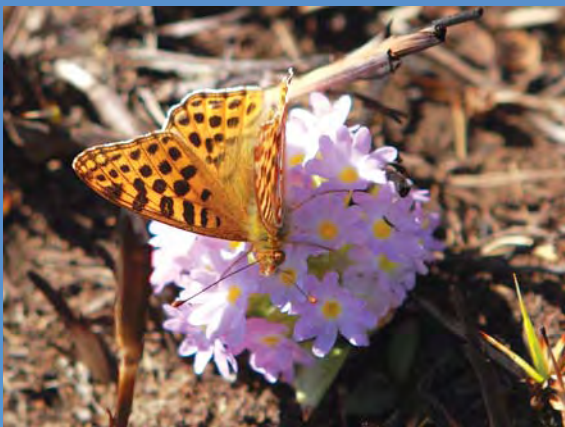
**Corporate/Reservation Office:**

KGH Complex, Thamel, Kathmandu NEPAL. | P.O Box No: 21218 | Tel: 4700 800 / 4700 632

Email: info@ktmgh.com | Website: www.ktmgh.com



# Kathmandu's best kept



PHOTOGRAPHS by  
DINESH SHRESTHA

The long ridgeline of Chandragiri south of the Valley offers views that are out of this world, and it's only a four-hour hike away

Start your walk from the Hatiban Resort, which can be reached via the turnoff on the highway to Pharping. The eastern sky turns from pink to gold silhouetting the mountains, as you walk through a scented dew-wet pine forest and race the sun to the top of Champadevi (2,278m) which is the first peak on the way to Chandragiri (2,545m). After that the trail dips a bit and goes



Dhaulagiri Machhapuchhre Annapurna Range



Ganesh Range



Langtang Lirung



Xixia



# secret. Shhh.

horizontal for a further 45 minutes before the final climb to the elongated summit ridge at above 2,500m. The view is an awesome vista of nearly 450km of horizon from Dhaulagiri in the west to Mt Everest in the east, with the whole of Kathmandu spread out beneath your feet.

People know that Mt Everest is visible from Nagarkot, but from Chandragiri its dark and snowless southwest face looks like a Nepali topi and is much more prominent, peeking out from behind the mountains of the Rolwaling. Five other eight-thousanders are visible.

This is the best hike you can make because the views are always with you throughout the long walk along the exposed ridge. You can also just keep walking along, beyond Chandragiri all the way to Chitlang Pass and descend to Thankot, but this will take you the whole day or more. Unlike other tourist areas around the Valley, there are no resorts and the likelihood of seeing other hikers is minimal.

Take plenty of water, there are no streams or water sources. One great way

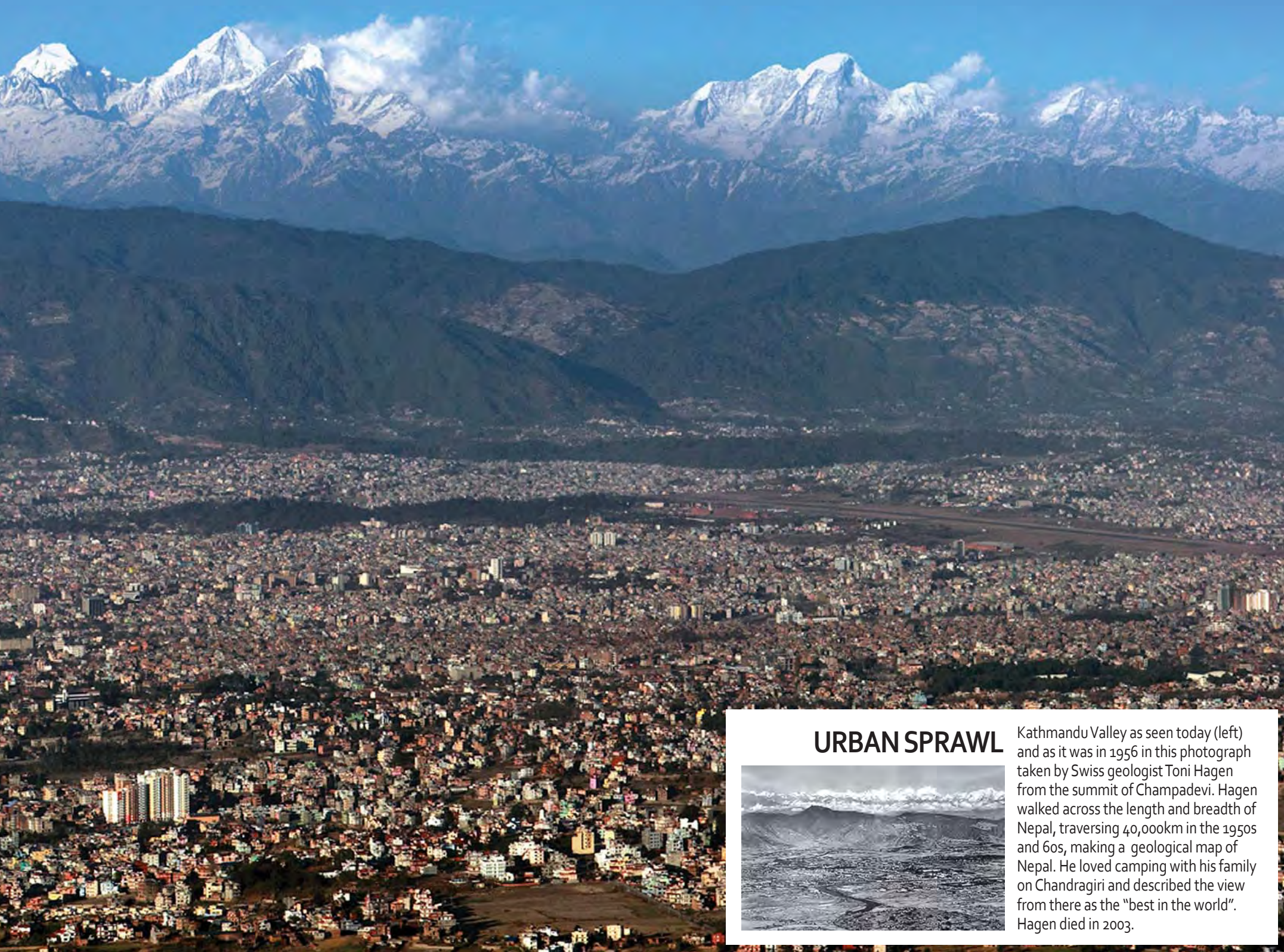
to finish off your Chandragiri climb is to make a leisurely descent to Hatiban Resort (keeping an eye out for the abundant bird life) and even spend the night before returning down to the city the next day.

The only problem is that some misguided donors have decided to put stone steps all the way up to Chandragiri from Hatiban, thinking trekkers prefer steps. There is also talk of a Manakamana style cable car from Kirtipur to the top soon. Which is all the more reason to get up there before the rest of the city arrives. 🇳🇵



## MT EVEREST, 8848m

The unmistakable silhouette of the world's highest mountain from 200km away. As you climb from Hatiban towards Chandragiri, Everest gives the illusion of growing taller as it emerges from beyond the mountains of Rolwaling.



## URBAN SPRAWL



Kathmandu Valley as seen today (left) and as it was in 1956 in this photograph taken by Swiss geologist Toni Hagen from the summit of Champadevi. Hagen walked across the length and breadth of Nepal, traversing 40,000km in the 1950s and 60s, making a geological map of Nepal. He loved camping with his family on Chandragiri and described the view from there as the “best in the world”. Hagen died in 2003.







# RUST AND BONE



**MUST SEE**  
**Sophia Pande**

The title *Rust and Bone* is enigmatic. Going into the film, one doesn't quite know how these two disparate nouns will factor into this story of two very star-crossed lovers who struggle with themselves and their bodies, kicking and screaming their way to a happy ending.

Jacques Audiard's latest film is tough to watch. It's tough on the audience, tough on its actors; its cinematic style unglamorous and unforgiving. Regardless of these aspects of Audiard's (I have not seen his previous films but have read of his quirks), the film is strikingly compelling, causing the viewer to both cringe as well as be unable to take her eyes off the screen, a combination that can only really be achieved by a master.

So much of reviewing cinema has to do with taste and I will admit freely that Audiard's style disturbs me as much as Clint Eastwood's in films like *Mystic River* (2003) and *Million Dollar Baby* (2004). Both directors tend towards extreme drama, milking the viewers' emotions, mostly using the guise of working class issues, gender, and other such political subjects to excuse their heavy handed manipulation of the audience, torturing us (almost gleefully) with the awful things that

inevitably happen to their main characters (most of whom are not very likeable).

Undeniably both directors are highly talented even while their methods are rather underhand. Luckily, this particular Audiard film, though sharing the above-mentioned distasteful elements, manages to transcend its genre mainly through the astonishingly riveting and humane performances of its two main actors, Marion Cotillard and Matthias Schoenaerts.

Cotillard plays Stéphanie, a whale trainer who suffers a horrific accident when an orca accidentally demolishes a stage on which she is standing. Waking up to find both her legs amputated above the knee, Stéphanie, a beautiful but slightly repressed woman, goes into an inevitable decline.

Enter, Alain, played by Schoenaerts, a

brutish young man with an infant son, who drifts into Antibes to stay with his sister after a nebulously described split from his wife.

Alain is self-centred, mostly callous with his son, careless with his sex life and not particularly careful with his words. Having met Stéphanie before her accident, when he rescues her from a bar fight, he is strangely not disconcerted when she calls him post accident from her specially equipped apartment and from a wheelchair.

What follows is riveting due to the naturalness of the two central characters. Even while dealing with the heaviest of issues, Cotillard and Schoenaerts portray their characters without artifice, always drawing back from overly sentimentalising their tragic, almost sordid situations.

It's hard to know why one would want to make such a film. *Rust and Bone* leaves us with so many questions, some of which might be deemed unnecessary. Does one really want to watch a beautiful woman in her prime, lose her legs and drag herself off her hospital bed in anguish? Do we want to witness the scars that are inflicted upon a neglected child by an oblivious parent? Do we want to care about these very flawed, very complicated human beings whose uniquely painful situations could only have been realised in an Audiard film?

I cannot answer any of these questions, but I will say that, if nothing else, *Rust and Bone* is worth seeing for its performances and one transcendental scene involving Cotillard as she visits the orcas after her accident, on crutches and walking, ever so slowly on her prosthetic legs. Perhaps after watching this wrenching scene, one can finally get an inkling of what the title may mean. 🇨🇪



**GIZMO by YANTRICK**

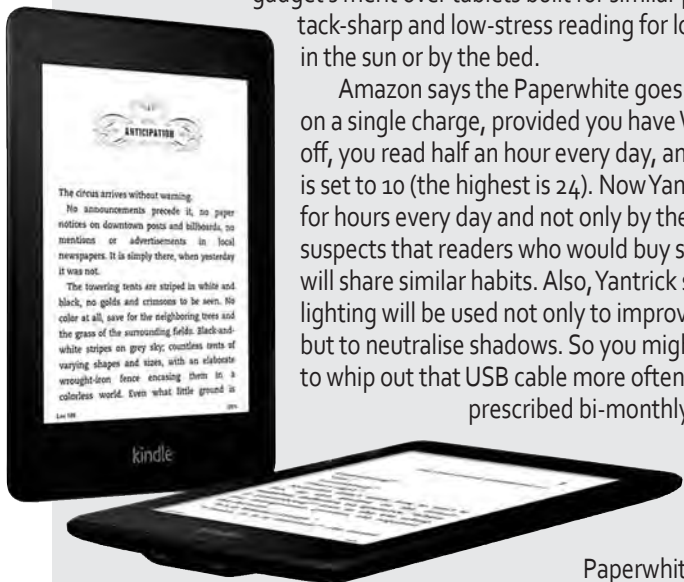
## Turn that page

If, like Yantrick, you were hesitant to lend books or stocked your shelves with titles you had bought and borrowed, the e-reader from Amazon liberates you from all such anxieties: you carry your bookshelf wherever you go.

After five previous editions of the Kindle, Amazon has accomplished in creating a dedicated e-reader in the Kindle Paperwhite. Gone are the days when you had to sit beside a powerful source of light while reading in the dark wishing the screen would magically radiate like a sunbeam. Simply switch on the WiFi, browse the titles on offer, and dive into the latest bestseller.

The Paperwhite skips past the issues faced by earlier e-readers – mainly bad contrast and lack of extra illumination – by incorporating an efficient front lighting system. It has tiny lights embedded under the screen and these light up the display almost evenly. And so, it retains the gadget's merit over tablets built for similar purposes: tack-sharp and low-stress reading for long durations in the sun or by the bed.

Amazon says the Paperwhite goes eight weeks on a single charge, provided you have WiFi turned off, you read half an hour every day, and your light is set to 10 (the highest is 24). Now Yantrick reads for hours every day and not only by the pillow and suspects that readers who would buy such a device will share similar habits. Also, Yantrick suspects the lighting will be used not only to improve readability but to neutralise shadows. So you might have to whip out that USB cable more often than the prescribed bi-monthly charging.



At six inches across the diagonal, the Paperwhite is easy to hold as any tablet. Everything is touch-guided and it has no other button except for the power thingy. Readers who were used to dedicated page-turn buttons in earlier Kindles might have some trouble getting accustomed to this, but it is no big deal. However, the Paperwhite could definitely have done better with a dedicated home button that would take you directly to the menu. At the moment you have to tap the screen for all kinds of navigation.

The Paperwhite is also a much more simplified version of the earlier Kindles. Amazon has done away with the speakers, intended for text-to-speech which was as lousy as Microsoft Sam. Unlike most tablets, it doesn't have an automatic light sensor, meaning you will have to change light settings for each new location. It comes with a PC-connecting USB cable and not a wall-charger, the so-called ad-free versions are not really ad-free, and the only way to turn off WiFi is to turn on the 'airplane' mode, which then logs you out of any network you're connected to. Many have fussed over its non-expandable 1.25 GB storage, but with a capacity of 1,100 books there's nothing to fret about.

The Paperwhite, priced at 119 USD (Rs11,000) for the basic WiFi version, is not available for direct sales in Nepal, but you can order one from the folks at harilo.com who will be glad to ship it to you for nominal charges.

**Verdict:** Yantrick is no Luddite, but can't see an immediate mass-migration of readers from the paperback to the Paperwhite. But mark my words, it is here to stay.

# See Beyond the Usual

with Brilliance that moves the world!

3LCD

## EPSON MULTIMEDIA PROJECTORS

WORLD NO.1 FOR 10 YEARS IN A ROW

Desktop Projectors    Wireless Projectors    Ultra-portable Projectors    Interactive Projectors    Home Theatre Projectors

WORLD NO.1 PROJECTORS 10 Years Running 2001-2010

### 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





# Christie's removes stolen Nepal artworks

Four painted wood covers of palm-leaf manuscripts had been put up for auction to be sold at Christie's on 19 March at New York's Rockefeller Plaza. They were pulled out last week after objections from academics and specialists of Himalayan art.

Each of the four paintings was unmistakably identified as the property of the National Archive in Kathmandu, based on comparison with images in an inventory created by the Nepal German Manuscript Project in 1970.

The rarest of the four works is a 12th century wood cover which is believed to be one of the oldest known painted art objects in Nepali history.

It is the cover of a manuscript of the Shicadharmanasgraha and depicts ascetics and deities across a red background. Shiva, Uma, and Nandi are at the centre, with other assorted deities worshipping linga-yoni and a jyotirlinga. It would have fetched anything up to \$50,000.

The painting had previously been reported missing in a 2009 book on Hindu Miniature Paintings of the Kathmandu Valley by Savitri Mainali. The provenance provided by Christie's on its website said the paintings belonged to a private collection, acquired in Paris in 1989-90.

In an email to Prof Jinah Kim of Harvard and Alexander von Rospatt

of Berkeley, Sandhya Jain-Patel, head of sale at the Indian and SouthEast Asian Department of Christie's wrote: 'Since first learning this information on these Nepalese book covers we immediately conducted further investigation and based upon your help and information from our investigation, we decided in concert with our consignor that we will be withdrawing all four lots of Nepalese wooden book covers from the sale.' She added that the collector has offered to cooperate to return the book covers to Nepal.

When asked to comment, the Director General of the Department of Archaeology, Bhes Narayan

Dahal told *Nepali Times*: "We have also received information about the auction and I have directed the National Archive to find out more." Over at the National Archive, chief Prakash Darnal at first wanted to know how this paper found out about the theft. On the record he told us: "We don't know exactly when it was stolen and we were also surprised to hear about it."

Soon after the interview, Darnal shot off an email to Jain-Patel of Christie's that asked her to provide the name and address of the collector. 'We expect your and his/her full cooperation in speedily returning the objects to the National Archives.

Otherwise, we will have to take legal action and for that we will contact Interpol,' Darnal threatened.

It is unclear how the case will proceed since there is no known record of when the pieces went missing, if the loss was documented, and whether or not a police report is available. An official claim by the police and subsequent request by Interpol to US authorities would likely begin the process of returning the stolen objects, experts say. However, there have been cases in the past in which foreign collectors have voluntarily returned stolen art.

Kunda Dixit



NOT FOR SALE: The front cover (top) and back cover (below) of a 12th century manuscript that was stolen from the National Archive. One of the oldest known paintings from Nepal, Christie's cancelled its auction last week after an outcry.



SOMEPLACE ELSE

Bhanimandal, Lalitpur might not be the first place that comes to mind when you think of fine dining. But away from the city centre and tourist hubs along a quiet street, there is a restaurant that offers Western dishes in a comfortable setting.

La Soon Restaurant and Vinotheque is a lengthy name, but the joint itself is small and cosy. Located on the second floor, it's a nice place to have a long lazy meal while looking out onto the street below, perhaps while reading a

magazine from the collection on hand.

Originally situated in Pulchok, the restaurant recently moved to Bhanimandal, perhaps to take advantage of the large expat community that lives here. Run by two female entrepreneurs, Dolly Yakthumba and Maria Himmermann, La Soon offers a fairly limited yet adequate range of western cuisine, along with more familiar local fare.

We decided to try a vegetarian and a meat dish for our starters. The fried spinach ravioli (Rs 210) resembled pastry shells with spinach and cheese filling. Dipped in a spicy salsa sauce, the medley of flavours made it a good starter. In contrast, the chilli chicken (Rs 275) was almost too spicy. Served Chinese style in chunks with peppers and onions, the portion was big enough that it could have worked as a meal if served with a side of rice.

Our main courses were similarly satisfying, served in big portions and very tasty to boot. The grilled pork chops at Rs 495



PICS: CINDREY LIU

## LA SOON

was a little pricey, but the dish itself was excellent, the meat tender and succulent. I strongly recommend the mashed potato as a side, it's rich with melted butter and complemented the pork chop perfectly.

The pasta with cream sauce (Rs 320) is a better choice for those looking for a lighter meal. Served with olives and your choice of

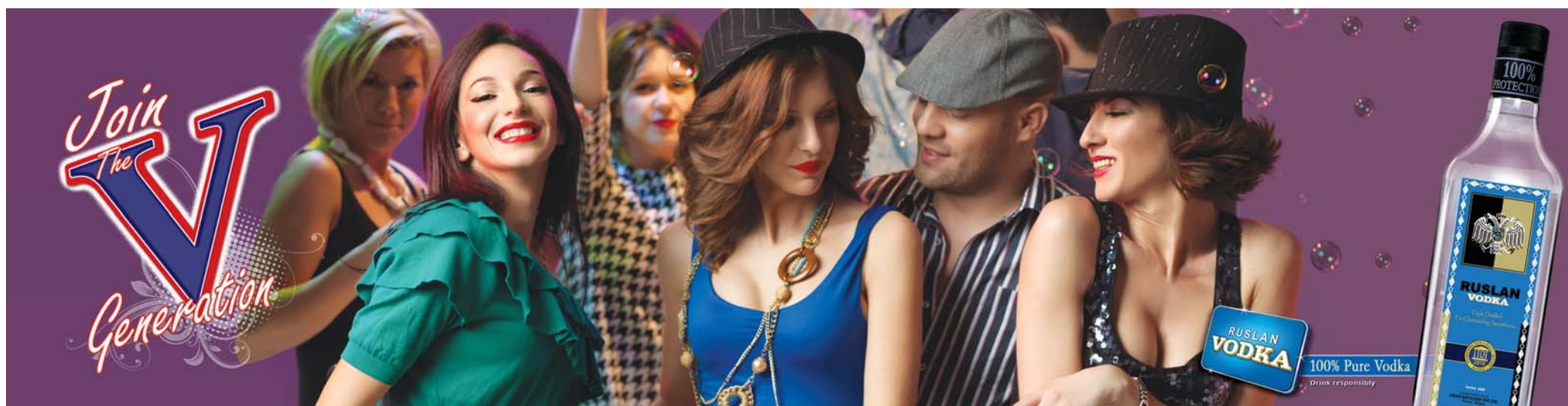
chicken or tuna, it was piping hot and very filling. I prefer my pasta dry and the kitchen was happy to accommodate my request for less cream sauce.

We ended lunch with chocolate soufflé with vanilla ice cream and orange sauce (Rs 175). It's only big enough for one and the orange sauce was frustratingly drizzled on the plate in pseudo-artistic style rather than on the soufflé. However the warm, sweet chocolate went very well with the scoop of vanilla ice cream.

La Soon is an excellent place to have a nice dinner in a quiet, peaceful surrounding, although the slightly expensive dishes and remote location make it less practical as a quick lunch getaway. Leave a few hours free this evening and perhaps order a bottle of wine as you catch up with friends over dinner.

Sulaiman Daud

*How to get there: Once at Ekantakuna, turn into Bhanimandal. La Soon is directly opposite Laxmi Bank on the second floor.*





# Sweet n silent



**DHANVANTARI**  
**Buddha Basnyat, MD**

One in four Nepalis is diabetic. Thousands have died and hundreds more suffer from visual impairment, blindness, or kidney failure due to complications of having high blood sugar levels for years.

Yet public awareness and understanding of diabetes is still very low. Children are taught about major killers like malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS in school, but diabetes unfortunately does not fall in this list.

The good news is that the government now provides free hemodialysis in select hospitals like Patan Hospital. For hundreds

of diabetics whose kidneys can no longer filter impurities in the blood, this free service (which otherwise costs upwards of Rs 25,000 per month) is allowing them to live longer.

Diabetic nephropathy, a progressive kidney disease, is the major reason why so many Nepalis have to undergo hemodialysis. Nephropathy may be functionally silent that means patients may not show any symptoms for 10 to 15 years after the onset of diabetes. The commonly-used dipstick test (a strip of paper put into a urine sample) will pick up albumin

(protein) only when nephropathy is in its advanced stage.

Therefore, it is imperative for diabetics to keep their blood sugar level under control during these 'silent years' to avoid (or postpone) renal failure. Because once the albumin becomes significant enough to be detected by dipstick, there is a steady decline in renal function with the rate of blood and plasma filtering in the kidney decreasing on an average of 1ml/min per month.

Since the normal function of the kidney is to filter about 125ml/min, this steady decline will lead to kidney failure in about 12 years after diagnosis of diabetes. However, if blood sugar is kept in check and spilling of albumin in the urine is prevented, this complication can at least be postponed or avoided.

Our emphasis has to be prevention though. Healthy and balanced diet, regular exercise, and maintaining age/height appropriate weight will help keep blood sugar to a normal of 70-100 mg/dL. Alongside taking their medicines or insulin shots, those with diabetes too should follow these three steps to lead longer, healthier lives. 🇳🇵



## TRANQUILITY SPA

*Balancing Body, Mind & Spirit*

SHIRODHARA	HOTSTONE THERAPY	BODY SCRUB
YOGA CLASS	BODY TREATMENTS	THAI MASSAGE
STEAM & SAUNA BATH	NAIL CARE	WAXING

*Tranquility Special Offer\**

	+		+		=	<b>Rs. 2200/-</b>
						<i>Special Offer</i>
	+		+		=	<b>Rs. 2500/-</b>
						<i>Special Offer*</i>

\*This offer is available before 12 noon.



### 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 Anniversay, Birthday & Other Special Functions**



**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](mailto:info@tranquilityspa.com.np), [www.tranquilityspa.com.np](http://www.tranquilityspa.com.np)

### HAPPENINGS

the week in pictures  
brought to you by

#### SHOE·A·HOLICS

Ground floor, Laxmi Bank Building  
Harihar Bhawan, Pulchowk  
Tel 5524812

opening soon at Mayalu center, Jamal



**WORKING TOGETHER:** Chinese ambassador to Nepal Wu Chuntai introduces a doctor posted at Bharatpur Cancer Hospital during a function in the Chinese Embassy on Sunday.



BIKASH DWARE

**HOLI-DAY:** Locals of Basantapur install a ceremonial poll, chir, on Wednesday to mark the beginning of Holi.



BIKRAM RAI

**HIGH TUNES:** The Boyz Next Door entertain revellers at the 8th Sun Dance Music Festival at the Last Resort in Sindhupalchok on Saturday.

### READERS' PHOTO



KSHITIZ SHRESTHA

**KEEP WAITING:** An old woman sits down next to the road connecting Kulekhani Dam near Hetauda.



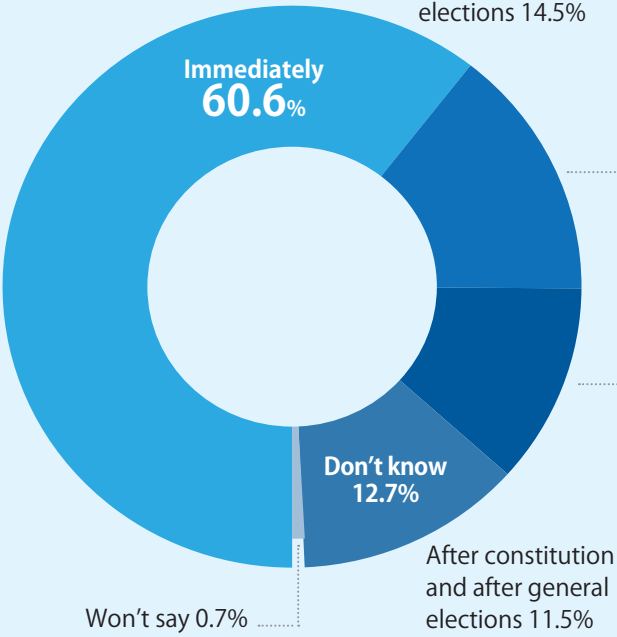


# All politics is local

KUNDA DIXIT

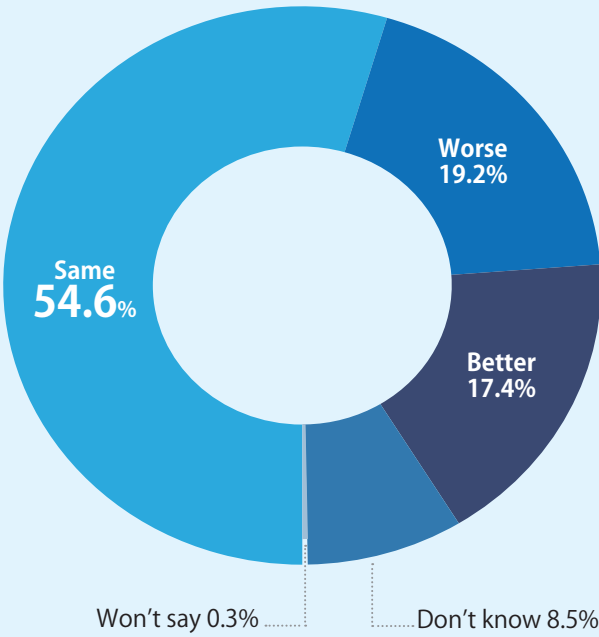
More than 3,500 Nepalis were interviewed nationwide in 38 districts for this year's Himalmedia Public Opinion Poll in mid-February, and for many of them the disappointment with national politics has trickled down to the district and village level. DDCs, VDCs, and municipalities have been without election councils now for 11 years and the resulting lack of accountability is affecting the lives of Nepalis everywhere. Six in every ten respondents said local elections should be held 'immediately', without waiting for national elections for a Constituent Assembly. Local units of government are responsible for citizenship, birth and marriage registration and other paperwork, and

When should elections be held for local councils?



this is now being handled by civil servants who are often outsiders. When asked where they went to get work done, one-third of the respondents said they went to the VDC or municipality secretary, but a

Compared to national leaders, how would you rate local party leaders?



sizeable 26% said they still approached council members elected in the last local elections in 1998. The fact that people still go to their elected officials even though they don't hold any formal positions anymore is an indication of the residual respect accorded to local officials.

However, successive poll

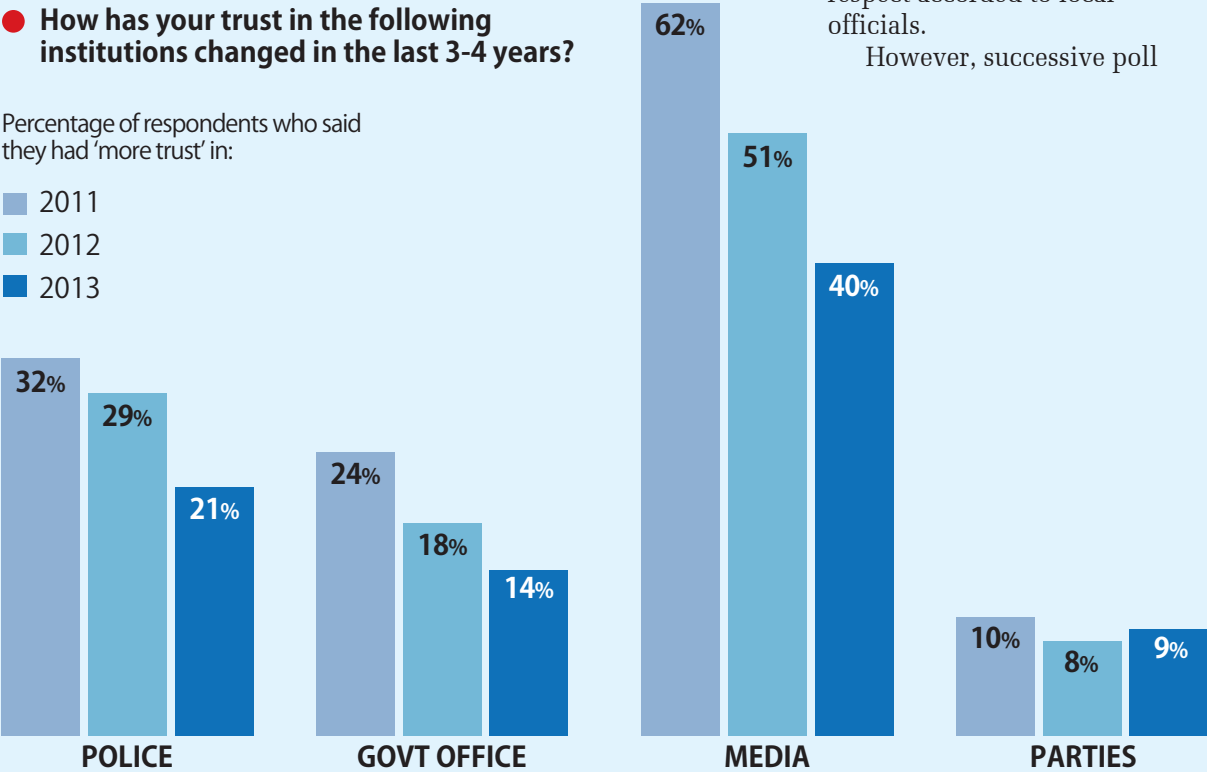
results from the past three years show a gradual erosion of the people's trust in local political leaders. When asked to compare between national-level leaders of political parties and local ones, nearly 55% said they were 'the same'. More people (nearly 20%) thought they were worse, and only 17% thought local leaders were 'better' than national ones. More than half the respondents (52%) now say that their trust in political parties has diminished in the past few years and less than 9% felt that their trust had improved. The Poll had a battery of questions on the public trust of other institutions like the army,

police, bureaucracy, media etc. 'Distrust of the police' is at 24%, and it is higher in the Tarai. The people are similarly distrustful of the civil service, with a full one-third of Tarai respondents saying so. As in previous years, those fairing comparatively better include the army, the justice system, and media. Nearly 86% said they trusted the media the most or enough, but the percentage of those who trust the media more than 3-4 years ago has gone down from 62% in 2011 to 41% in 2013. As a control question, respondents were asked if there had been an improvement in electricity supply in the past 3-4 years. Nearly 55% in the Pahad and 73% in the Tarai thought it was worse. In comparison, most respondents noticed improvement in local health care and education. More people in rural areas (65%) felt schools had improved than in cities (55%). Similarly, the improvement in road access in the Himal and Pahad is reflected by those who felt that road connectivity was better (27% and 34% respectively). Asked what should be done to improve health, education, water supply, electricity, and roads, more than a quarter of the respondents said it should be handed over to the local community to manage. And almost as many said political interference should stop to improve services.

How has your trust in the following institutions changed in the last 3-4 years?

Percentage of respondents who said they had 'more trust' in:

- 2011
- 2012
- 2013



nepalitimes.com

Up for grabs, #647  
A wide open field, #647  
Let's face it, #647

## WHO WANTS TO MIGRATE?

Respondents to the Public Opinion Poll were asked how they wanted to increase their income. Three quarters said they would 'work harder' or 'get a better job', only 8% said they would migrate for work. Although there are an estimated 4.5 million Nepalis working abroad, what this result shows is that people would rather stay home and work harder than migrate. In a hypothetical question, respondents were asked what salary level would convince them to migrate abroad to work. More than three-quarters of them said between Rs 10-30,000, and the rest (mainly city-dwellers) would migrate only if they earned more than Rs 30,000.

## A greener way to fly....

In 2010, Yeti Airlines took an initiative and launched "Green Far West Project" with a strong partnership with RAAIKA Tours and Travels, DRSP (District Road Support Programme) and Tiger Mountain Nepal. Under this Green Project, for every ticket sold in Kathmandu, Dhangadi or Nepalgunj sector, Yeti Airlines plants a tree sapling on passenger's behalf in one of the chosen community forest in the Far-Western region of Nepal. Till date, more than 0.1 million tree saplings have already been planted and taken care of. Yeti Airlines contributes Rs. 20 /-(one way ticket) and Rs. 40/-(a round trip ticket) for Kathmandu-Dhangadhi or Kathmandu-Nepalgunj sector only. You are welcome to visit any of the community forest sites where your tree saplings are planted and taken proper care.

Come, be a part of this step with the nature.  
Fly with Yeti Airlines and help make the world greener.



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





BIKRAM RAI



# PREPPING FOR PRESCHOOL

Depending on how deep your pockets are parents in Kathmandu are spoilt for choice when it comes to picking preschools

From technology enhanced classrooms that deliver multimedia content and allow children to interact with objects and images they see on a screen to mini-libraries, separate art and science corners, and personalised wash areas and

toilets, Kathmandu’s toddlers and their parents are spoilt for choice when it comes to preschools. It all depends on how deep your pockets are. Most schools follow the Montessori curriculum developed by Italian physician and educator Maria Montessori.

But there are some like Premier International Preschool and Ullens who provide the more exclusive International Baccalaureate affiliated kindergarten programs. “Expats living here want their children to attend IB kindergartens because it is a

globally recognised program and it is easier for the children to transfer from one school to another when their parents move,” says Pawitra Limbu of Premier International. However, with Nepali parents also looking for globally saleable education for their

children, they too are willing to pay the higher fees. Studies have shown that early childhood development programs not just give children a strong social, emotional, and cognitive foundation but also help to retain them at primary and secondary levels. While families in rural areas don’t have the same luxury as Kathmandu’s parents, the government is gradually expanding pre-primary education and has opened over 30,000 early childhood developments centres around the country with the aim of reaching out to children across 75 districts. 🇳🇵

you trust, we prove

# Kavya School

announces

# Admission Open

for Grades I, VI, VII

for limited seats only.

## ENTRANCE TEST

30<sup>th</sup> March 2013 (17<sup>th</sup> Chaitra 2069)

## काव्य स्कूल

### Kavya School

# KA VYA

Estd. 2007

तमसोमा ज्योतिर्गमयः

New Baneshwor, Kathmandu  
Tel: 01- 4780214, 4780310  
Fax: 01 4784292  
info@kavya.edu.np, kavya.edu.np

### इजिप्शियन मेहंदी ट्रेनिङ्ग सेन्टर

नाचघर कम्प्लेक्स, जमल, काठमाडौं  
फोन : ०१-४९६६०९९, ९८४९८९०५५५

विदेश जाने दिदी-बहिनीहरूको लागि स्पेशल कोर्ष उपलब्ध छ

पहिलो शर्ता हुने १० जनालाई **६०% विशेष छुट**

मेहंदी सिक्दा नैल आर्टको बेसिक कोर्ष र साडीको कोर्ष

**फ्रि**

मेहंदी डिजाइनहरू:  
इजिप्शियन, ब्राह्मन, मारवाडी, बेङ्गल, राजस्थानी, कश्मिरी, अरेबिक, फिजीक, मेडालिक

नैल आर्ट कोर्षहरू:  
१. छद्मनवस  
२. टेडिनाशियन

• दुनईपलाई मेहंदी र नैल आर्ट  
• पढीको लागि अध्ययन दस्तावेज  
• होम सर्विसको सुविधा





## CHECKLIST

- Take a tour of the school before filling out any form. It helps in understanding the overall environment.
- Make sure there is an indoor as well as an outdoor play area that are safe. Children should get to move as much as they like.
- Ensure that the quality of teachers is up to mark. Choose a school that has experienced and passionate staff with adequate training and education.
- Balanced teacher-student ratio: children at this age need utmost care and attention. If a teacher has to handle too many students at once, she won't be able to pay attention to your child's individual needs.
- Location is important. It is best to select a school that is close to your home or office as it will save young children from the unnecessary hassle of travelling from one corner of town to another.
- Good hygiene is another critical factor. Visit the rest room and you'll understand how much attention the school pays to cleanliness.
- If your children have to use school buses and vans, make sure they aren't crammed in the vehicle and there is a staff accompanying them all the time.
- Take a good look at the curriculum. Enroll your child in the school only if the curriculum appeals to you and is devised to foster confidence, self-esteem, and love of learning among kids.

## Teachers' corner



The development need of every child is different so teachers need to be patient and help children explore, experiment, and experience as much as they want to at their own pace.

**Dipti Acharya,  
Bridgewater Preschool**

The foundation years at preschool are crucial since this is the time when children develop their gross motor skills and their learning patterns.

**Gita Puri,  
Rupy's Children  
Castle**

Activity based learning tailored according to the requirements of the students is essential for sharpening young minds.

**Rajesh Chaudhary,  
Rajarshi Gurukul**

Providing high quality education for children before they turn five yields significant long-term benefits. We put emphasis on children constructing knowledge through exploration and play.

**Nadege Lecomte, Ullens  
Kindergarten**

Our teaching strategies are tailored to student responses and requirements which are based on learning by playing methods.

**Kabita Parajuli,  
Corona International School**

No matter what kind of courses the schools claim to offer, parents should do some research beforehand and see if children are being overburdened by the curriculum.

**Nawaraj Baskota, Kavya School**

The kind of the care we offer is totally different from that offered at regular schools. We not only pay attention to education, but also focus on the overall development of the children.

**Angad Singh, Stepping Stones**

Every kid is special so we work according to their needs. We don't believe in handing out homework as a means of educating a child.

**Sharmila KC, Blooming Flower**

Whatever the children learn at this stage will set the foundation of learning so it is important to teach them with patience and care.

**Palpasa Maharjan,  
Times International School**

Our focus is on wholesome learning through hands on activities supported by field trips. Our qualified faculty ensures that children can relate lessons learnt in the classroom to the environment outside.

**Vibha Rana, Montessori Cottage**

Children shouldn't feel burdened by pressure from school. Learning through play method should be the best.

**Pushpa Rijal,  
City Montessori Training Center**

Preschools are stepping stones for children where they learn to explore and enjoy their surroundings.

**Monika Pradhan Rajbhandari,  
Shemrock Keen Kiddies**

We have introduced smart class where children are encouraged to be more curious and learn through discoveries.

**Sirish Khadka, Olympia School**

We impart the joy of learning in children from an early age through inquiry based education so that they find the transition to formal education easier and do well in higher grades.

**Pawitra Limbu,  
Premier International Preschool**



## Stepping Stone International Pre-School

**KIDS CLUB**

Incase the parents want to keep the child after the given hour, Stepping Stone also provides a kids club for children.

Time: 2:30pm - 5:00pm

■ Knowledge ■ Exploration ■ Compassion ■ Respect

Cycle Track | Outdoor Play Station  
Splash Pool | Swings | Monkey Bars  
Trampoline | Slides more...



Chakupat, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Phone: 5260106  
www.steppingstone.edu.np



**Blooming Flower Montessori**  
Rudreshowr Chowk, Budhanilkantha  
Tel: 4372343



## PREMIER INTERNATIONAL PRE SCHOOL

**ADMISSION OPEN**  
(2-5 years old)

- Preschool wing of Premier International School, an IB candidate school
- Develops the intellectual, personal, emotional, social, and physical potential of each child in a secure and stimulating environment
- Well equipped class rooms to support the world class pedagogical practice
- Teacher student ratio is maintained at no more than 1:6 for individual care

Admission form distribution from 9:30 am-4:00pm (Sun-Fri)  
Contact for school visit appointment  
at 5525576, 9808019345



**Thamsikhel, Pulchowk, Lalitpur**



If your children are 18 months or more, it's time to send them to shemrock for sure!!

22 years Experience

175 Branches



**SHEMROCK**

Keen Kiddies

India's 1<sup>st</sup> Playschool Chain

Chakupat, Lalitpur, Phone: 5260869

Website: www.keen-kiddies.shemrock.com



**An International Pre-School**  
(2-6 yrs)

- \* Montessori trained teachers
- \* Fully equipped with Montessori apparatus
- \* Safe, carefully planned & structured environment
- \* Transport available

FOR VISITS & REGISTRATIONS

Time: 9:30 - 3:30 | Baluwatar Kathmandu | Tel: 4416242





NEPAL

# Trans-boundary revolutionaries

Bhojraj Bhatt in *Nepal*, 10 March

नेपाल

He is wearing branded shades, military fatigues and boots, a shiny buckle with an American pistol in his holster, a cap with a red star and is standing with 10 other uniformed men in a row. He is the current Maoist chairman, Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’. Other Maoist leaders are also present, but there are two taller men who don’t look Nepali wearing lighter uniforms.

This picture was taken in 1999 in Darbato of Rolpa and the two men are Balaji, still a politburo member of the Indian Maoist People’s War Group (PWG) and the one with glasses is PWG central committee member DK who was killed two years later by Indian security forces. They were in Nepal to provide military training to the Maoists who by then had the Nepal Police on the run. But their future path was uncertain because state security had just wound down Operation Kilo Sierra 2 and was setting up a paramilitary force and the Royal Nepal

Army was mulling an Integrated Rural Development Program to counter the insurgency. The Maoists received up to 20 days of training to be instructors to train more guerrillas in their areas. The training gave an important boost to the movement and allowed the Maoists to launch simultaneous attacks in different parts of the country.

What the picture offers is proof that there was indeed a close link between Indian and Nepali Maoists, countering Indian academic SD Muni who, in his book *Nepal in Transition: From Peoples War to Fragile Peace*, claimed there was only solidarity and no cooperation between the two groups. This wasn’t the only training Nepali Maoists got from the Indian comrades both inside and outside Nepal. A retired Indian soldier first trained central leaders, including Prachanda, in Physical Battle Craft in Siranchok of Gorkha to prepare for the ‘People’s War’.

The party also sent Mahendra Shrestha and Nanda Kishore Pun ‘Pasang’ to go to India to get weapons and explosives training by the

PWG. Then again in 1997 it sent Shrestha and Pun together with Bijay Ghale to India for training, but it is not clear where. Shrestha and Ghale later died and Pun refuses to say where they were trained. Pun admits in his book, *Itihas Ka Raktim Paila*, that he did get training in India, but is silent on the venue. He told *Nepal*: “There are many things about the People’s War that will be revealed when the time comes, maybe in my next book.”

However, Royal Nepal Army officer Bibek Kumar Shah writes in his book, *Maile Dekheko Darbar*, that he was told by APF Chief Sahabir Thapa that one of his officers sent to be trained at the Indian Army’s training centre in Chakrata near Dehradun in 2000 said he had learnt Nepali Maoists had also received training there one month previously.

The Darbot training was so effective that the Maoists launched a wave of attacks which forced the police to close its posts and pull back to district headquarters. Further training in modern weaponry was provided by another PWG

**THE WAY WE WERE:** Photograph taken in August 1999 in Darbot of Rolpa after military training by Indian Maoists from the People’s War Group to the Nepali Moaist leadership. From l-r: PWG’s ‘DK’, Rabindra Shrestha, Shakti Basnet, Krishna Bahadur Mahara, PWG’s Balaji, Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’, Post Bahadur Bogati, Barsha Man Pun.

trainer, Binod, in 1998 in the Valley, Bara, and Tanahu. After this, the Maoists scored one victory after another in Rukum, Rolpa, Jajarkot, and Dolpa in 2000. CPN(M)’s Kul Bahadur KC says: “Those attacks were all possible because of that first training in Darbot.”

Indeed, within six months of Darbot the Maoists expanded their forces and by 2001 had set up the People’s Liberation Army, even before the Indian Maoists who trained them had their own army. It was 1,000 members of this newly-formed force who made the successful attacks on the army base in Ghorahi and Mangalsen during which the Maoists captured a large amount of modern weaponry. By this time, Nepali Maoists were more battle-hardened than the Indians and it was in fact 25 Indian Maoists who came to Nepal in 2004 and spent three months in Rolpa to learn about the revolution.

This continued even after the ceasefire when Indian Maoists were trained inside the Shaktikhor Cantonment in 2008 while it was under UNMIN supervision. Nepal’s Maoist leadership also played a role in uniting the three Indian Maoist parties in 2004.

However, after the ceasefire the relationship between international and Indian Maoists and the Nepali Maoists went cold and Prachanda didn’t even bother to reply to letters from them that were critical of his ceasefire agreement. Now it is the breakaway CPN(M) that is closer to the Indian Maoists.

## NEPALI TWEETS

**Sujeev Shakya**

चुनावी प्रधानमन्त्री उद्घाटनमा जानु भनेको विद् गले बोलाएको पण्डित जन्तीमा लाचेको झो हो!

An electoral PM who goes around inaugurating events is like a priest who dances at his patron's wedding.

**Rabindra Adh.**

मैले जस्तै वैद्यको पाटिले पनि आज मिस नेपाल भएको थाहा पाएपछि कि क्या हो? ठुलै हुल्काखल्का गर्थे त पैसा पम्फा कामरेडहरू! ) #MissNepal2013

Like me Baidya's party seems to have forgotten that Miss Nepal competition was today? Comrade Pampha and friends used to make a big deal every year. #MissNepal2013

**Kamal Kumar**

मानसिक रोग सम्बन्धि एउटा अनुसन्धानले भनेछ: ३ करोड जनसंख्यामा १ प्रतिशत मात्रै सदे छन् रे, बाँकि जस्तै कवि । #TweetKavita

According to a mental health survey, only one per cent out of a population of 30 million are normal, rest are poets.

**sigdelumesh**

प्रश्न-म तपाईंको आइक्यू चेक गर्न चाहन्छु भन्नुस ८,९,१० पछि के आउँछ? उत्तर- पन्थवाट, ८,९,१० पछि गुलाम मिसी र बास्सा आउँछ । #MissNepal

Q) I want to test your IQ. What comes after 8, 9, and 10? A) Thank you. After 8, 9, and 10 come Jack, Queen, and King. #MissNepal

## WEEKLY BAZAR POLL #5

*Himal Khabarpatrika* asks 375 respondents in 14 cities across Nepal every Monday for their opinion on contemporary issues. This week’s result:

**1. When should elections for empty local bodies be held?**  
Right away: **60.6%**  
After constitution, but before general elections: **14.5%**  
Don't know: **12.7%**  
After constitution, after general elections: **11.5%**  
Won't say: **0.7%**

**2. Compared to national leaders in Kathmandu, what do you think of your local leaders?**  
Same: **54.6%**  
Worse: **19.2%**  
Better: **17.4%**  
Don't know: **8.5%**  
Can't say: **0.3%**

# Strikers out

Jagadish Ghimire, *Kantipur*, 16 March

कान्तिपुर

I have cancer and go for regular chemotherapy. But every time there was a banda, the ambulance journey from my home to the hospital used to give me nightmares. The banda enforcers would stop the ambulance and ask, “Where is the sick one?” Due to my fractured back, I am not able to lie down while travelling so I would be seated. They wouldn’t believe me and demand the driver to turn back the vehicle. It used to get so frustrating that I started asking another person to lie on the stretcher

so that we would be allowed to pass. The entire country has to suffer because of bandas. The economy is bought to a standstill. Millions of students are kept away from their classes putting their futures at stake. Daily-wage labourers and their families have to go to bed hungry. And those who are ill are deprived of timely treatment. Tourists are left stranded. Fresh milk, fruits, and vegetables go to waste while children cry for food. There is a sudden price hike of daily commodities and farmers and consumers have to bear the brunt. The violence and vandalism that take place during strikes costs us millions every year.

I have a proposal: in the upcoming elections, no one should vote for parties or candidates who organise bandas. They don’t deserve to win a single seat.



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA



Pushpa Kamal Dahal: “Order, Your Honour, order! Hold polls, ensure a majority for us, and then hand over power!”

**राजधानी** Uttam Nepali, *Rajdhani*, 17 March

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK



**“We will break their legs if they try to force elections upon us.”**

CPN-M Chairman Mohan Baidya talking to supporters in Kabhre, Himalkhabar.com, 18 March



# Nothing, but the truth

Perpetrator remorse and truth cannot be traded for justice

RAM KUMAR BHANDARI

The International Day for the Right to the Truth on 24 March is an occasion to remind ourselves that victims and their relatives have a right to know to the fullest extent possible the fate of loved ones who were disappeared, tortured, raped, and killed during the Nepal conflict.

Right to truth (R2T) has special relevance at a time when those with power are threatening those who seek truth and justice. But why should truth and justice matter to people outside the circle of direct conflict victims when former enemies agree that raking up war atrocities would endanger the peace process?

Last Friday, President Ram Baran Yadav approved an ordinance to set up Nepal's long promised Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as part of a political package deal to set up an election government. The ordinance contains a provision that the TRC may recommend amnesties and fails to clarify whether this will include grave violations of human rights such as torture or forced disappearances. If the recommended amnesties entail such crimes, the Commission



BIKRAM RAI

will not meet international standards.

There is a misconception that truth can be traded for justice through the work of a 'Truth Commission'. A precedent is the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission which was empowered to grant amnesty for politically motivated crimes including torture and forced disappearances in exchange for an apology and full self-disclosure of crimes. But is perpetrator remorse enough?

If the South African TRC was established today, it would not meet current international standards. The victims of grave human rights violations have a right to redress

while being protected by domestic legislation as well as international legal norms. It is neither for the government nor an independent commission to decide whether or not that right will be upheld.

The right to truth is known as an 'autonomous' right. The victims' right to know the fate of relatives stands in addition to their right to justice.

In a courtroom, the process focuses on determining the guilt or innocence of the accused. The goal is not to satisfy a victim's demands to know what really happened. Court cases may, but very often do not, reveal information about the circumstances surrounding a criminal act, the causes

and facts of abuses, and most importantly, the whereabouts of a victim's remains. This means the verdict may be determined in court without fulfilling the right to truth.

The right to truth also has the character of a 'collective' right, meaning it is also articulated as a community's right to know the history of its own oppression. Civil conflicts involve direct acts of violence, but they also leave social, political, and economic legacies that linger long after a peace agreement.

Nepalis are entitled to government institutions that respect and uphold the rule of law. Yet, known and alleged perpetrators of wartime excesses occupy senior positions in the military, police, and government. The right to truth therefore takes on a society-wide character beyond close relatives of victims.

Knowing the truth about the past is necessary to ensure that Nepal does not relapse into violence in the uncertain days ahead as a chief justice-led government attempts to hold new elections in a tense political environment. R2T is also a moral imperative because understanding the oppression of fellow citizens is a crucial part of consolidating peace

and renewing rule of law in a country divided by war.

Should a TRC move ahead as planned, the voices of victims could be sidelined in favour of perpetrator amnesty. With the guilty from both sides holding senior positions in the state mechanism, there is active collusion between the Nepal Army and Maoists to keep the truth buried.

The Maoist party has threatened activists demanding the detention of Balkrishna Dhungel, who was convicted by the Supreme Court itself to life imprisonment for a murder in 1998. How is the chief justice-led government going to handle other cases of Rajendra Dhakal, Maina Sunuwar, Arjun Lama, and many more?

The ordinance provides discretionary power to the TRC, which may recommend amnesty for serious crimes. But the Commission should not be a court which values 'the standard of proof' more than the pain of victims.

It is only the victims who can forgive or decide whom to forgive. Perpetrators cannot pardon themselves. If left unaddressed, the grief of relatives of victims will fester and turn to revenge. 🇳🇵



*Ram Kumar Bhandari's father was disappeared by the Army in 2001 and he is now coordinator of the National Network of Families of the Disappeared and Missing Nepal (NEFAD).*

*Festivity Never Ends at Hotel Himalaya...*

## Oriental Night

*Enjoy the true Asian mouthwatering cuisines of the region.*

**NOW EVERY FRIDAY AT CAFÉ HORIZON**  
Time: 7 pm onwards

**Rate: Rs 1099/- plus taxes per person**  
10% Service Charge & 13% VAT extra.

**For Reservations: 5523900**  
fnb@hotelhimalaya.com.np

**THE ONLY SCHOOL TO HAVE 'SMARTCLASS' IN NEPAL**

## Admission Open from Grade I - VII

Application forms are available at school premises

**Salient Features:**

- Child centered learning .
- Practical teaching-learning pedagogy
- Teaching-learning through digital content
- Individual care, positive discipline.
- Scientific class size, clubs, locker facility.
- Healthy and standard meals with choices.
- Door to door transport facility.
- In house medical team.
- Full time counsellor.

*"A quantum leap from traditional teaching learning history in Nepal —marking a new trend"*

**OLYMPIA WORLD SCHOOL**

Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: +977 1 4220449, 4220265  
Email: admissions@olympia.edu.np  
www.olympia.edu.np

**Entrance Date: Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> Chaitra, 2069**





Sing with the birds, Fly with the winds, Find peace within

ROYALE Luxury Emulsion dazzlingly peaceful

asianpaints

# The 8-Bahfun Mechanis

Kiran Kaka got a bit carried away in Kavre the other day and said his followers would break the legs of BRB and PKD if they came to campaign in his constituency. Something hasn't quite worked out in the hard bargaining between the Dashies and Cashies and the Ass' guess is it's something to do with hard cash. Dash Baddies haven't yet registered their party with the EC, so they must still be holding out for the possibility of a last minute alliance. An unholy dalliance of Baddies and Maddies, meanwhile, will keep them out of each other's turfs. May backfire, though, sticking together may just remind voters that the Maodeshi Coalition was the most corrupt government this country ever had since the Lichhavi Era.

It must have been really frustrating for the eight bahfuns inside 4-walls who lead the 4-party Mechanism to come up with names to fill up the

11-member cabinet. The High Priests want people who are not too independent and token women who are yes-men. To head constitutional bodies, they looked for candidates who are loyal, but settled for a royal.

The Donkey, being a wise guy, thought it had seen it all. But the proposal from the Gang of Four Bahfuns to make Loktantra Man Sing the head honcho of the Commission for the Investigation of the Abuse of Authoritarians was a reminder that we ain't seen nothing yet. This is like making a poacher a zoo-keeper. PKD seems pretty desperate to ensure he won't suffer JP's fate.

The reason their appointments were delayed was because the Mechanism bargained hard into the night to push nominees who had been lobbying hard with top brass, even offering dough and/or moolah to party coffers as advance for their



appointment. But the man who is really ticked off is Comrade Lila who now has to take orders from colleagues whom he outran to become Chief Sec just a few months ago.

When the UN was collecting all the Baddie guns to put into containers in 2008, they got mostly rusted muskets and 303s. Chairman Lotus Flower, when asked some time later what happened to all the M-16s and AK-47s, answered famously: "They were washed away by

the river." Now, PKD has tried to allay fears that the rains may wash away elections. He has predicted elections are possible in June because the rains will be late this year. This is the earliest monsoon forecast the Ass has heard. We should also make Comrade Awesome the DG of the Dept of Meteorology in charge of long-term forecasts and climate predictions.

The Mechanism is still stuck on the date for elections. Not just RCP, even godless Commies who swear by Marx, Lenin, and Stalin first want to consult the astrologers about planetary alignments before they agree on a date. Chief Regmi, being a god-fearing man, also wants the stars aligned. So, expect a date

as soon as meteorologists and astrologers agree on it.

After arresting people with long hair, the next target of Kathmandu's Finest, according to a Police press statement this week, are kids throwing water-filled balloons over next week's Holi days. But if you are a murderer that the Supreme Court has convicted to life imprisonment, that's perfectly fine. This way to the podium, Sir.

The last topic on our agenda this week is the strange uttering of Comrade Octopus who was overheard telling sidekicks: "BRB's utility is finished." Was he speaking as himself or was he echoing the view of the DO who helped extradite his wife from Pune?

And the headline of the week must be: Indian Chicks Seized At Border.





Panasonic ideas for life

Go Green. Go Clean. Go Your Way.

5 FEATURES

- Sunlight Detection: Adjusts cooling and heating power to changes in sunlight intensity.
- Absence Detection: Reduces cooling and heating power when you are not around.
- NEW Temperature Wave: Rhythmic temperature-controlled pattern to save energy without sacrificing comfort.
- Activity Detection: Adapts cooling and heating power to your daily activities.
- Area Search: Directs airflow to wherever you are in the room.

Human Activity Sensor Sunlight Sensor

INTELLIGENT ECO SENSORS ECONAVI

ECONAVI now comes with 5 features that save energy by adjusting to changes in human movements, activity levels, absence and sunlight intensity.

nanoe-G

nanoe-G uses nano-technology fine particles that work effectively on micro-organisms in the air, on surfaces and even in the filter to ensure a cleaner living environment.

Please Contact: Alpha Trade Nepal, Tel: 9851025931 • Esquire, New Road, Tel: 01-4242727 • New Superstar, New Road, Tel: 01-4242000 • A-One Electronics, New Baneshwor, Tel: 01-4786222 TV World, New Baneshwor, Tel: 01-4780343 • A-One Sales, New Baneshwor, Tel: 01-4780412 • Kumaripati TV Center, Kumaripati, Tel: 01-5554068 Arun Electronics, Biratnagar, Tel: 9852020157 • S.L. Trading, Birgunj, Tel: 051-534221 Visit our Showroom: Triveni Complex (Putalisadak)

(Toll Free No.) 16600120003