





12A

Nepal's embassy building in London is a tangible monument to the country's independence, selling it would be sacrilege



BLUE RASPBERRY

Estate, was leased to Nepal for 99 years in 1937 when Britain and Nepal formally upgraded their bilateral relations and as a reward for helping out during the First World War. In 1980, the lease was extended for another 99 years under an agreement in which a nominal annual rent is paid.

Nepal's recent history after the restoration of democracy in 1990 is littered with wrecked hulks of institutions run to the ground by greedy and incompetent leaders. Political parasites picked on the carcasses of parastatals that they helped kill: Royal Nepal Airlines, Nepal Electricity Authority, Nepal Oil Corporation, Udaypur Cement Factory, Sajha Yatayat ... it is a sad and long list.

It's not that there wasn't corruption during the 30-year Panchayat regime under an absolute monarchy, but we have amply demonstrated that the state can be much more destructive when political parties compete to plunder. Democracy democratised corruption. Politicians persecuted during authoritarianism felt it was their god-given right to rake it in when they got to power. They didn't just tarnish their own image, but gave democracy itself a bad name.

In a country without resources, where pickings are so slim, politicians steal anything they can lay their hands on. Bureaucrats were in perpetual rent-seeking mode, kickbacks on aircraft leases was a particular favourite in the 1990s. Scamming petroleum retail was also lucrative and when the conflict began, many profited from the opaque war economy. What remained of the checks and balances of democracy were systematically dismantled in these six years since the ceasefire. Pre-paid appointments to juicy corporations became the norm in coalition politics and the last Maoist-Madhesi government was by the far the most crooked in our history.

For the past 10 years, politicians of different hues have licked their chops greedily at Nepal's UK embassy in the upscale Kensington Palace Gardens street in London. The building, which is a Crown

Nepal's 12A Kensington Palace Gardens property is today worth at least £150 million and sits on a street which is called 'Billionaire's Boulevard' and houses other diplomatic residences and mansions. Two of them belong to the fourth richest man in the world, Lakshmi Mittal. Ten years ago, the Mittals made an offer to our rulers and the embassy would have been sold off had there not been a hue and cry. Talk of the embassy sale had died out until earlier this year, when it mysteriously surfaced again under foreign minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha.

There are many reasons why selling off the embassy is a bad idea, prominent among them is the fact that it is a tangible monument to the bloodshed by tens of thousands of Nepalis in 20th century wars. The British did not give the palace to the Ranas, but to Nepali people. It was our first embassy abroad and its worth cannot be measured in monetary terms. To say that all Nepalis have a sentimental attachment to the embassy building would be an understatement.

But the real reason why the embassy should not be sold now is because our record for accountability and transparency during this messy and prolonged political transition is so tainted that the transaction is sure to be accompanied by massive fraud. Which is why there is such outrage among Nepalis in Britain who have formed a Save Our Embassy Building Citizen's Campaign (*see story on page 4*).

The Supreme Court's stay order this week on a writ filed by a Gurkha veteran's association is a small victory in the long struggle to save the embassy from a highly suspect deal. But it only buys us time to restore democracy and political accountability at home so that 12A doesn't become yet another victim of greedy rulers who have ruined this country.

ON THE WEB  
www.nepalitimes.com

PEACE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

Kul Chandra Gautam's 10 point checklist to improve the quality of basic education in Nepal hits the bull eye ('Peace dividend for quality education', #651). I want to add the 11th: technology. No load shedding in schools. Promote micro-hydro projects and bring electricity to rural schools. Invest in internet technology and connect Nepali students with the wealth of knowledge available online. Then sit back and watch how they learn things on their own and excel at the global level.

Matamu

I completely agree with Kul Gautam. This country needs more teachers, not more soldiers. 20,000 soldiers, a well-trained police force, and a lot more well-trained teachers should be enough and will lead us towards greater prosperity.

Manoj Budhathoki

I think the problem with education in Nepal is much more basic. For example, only about one fourth of students show up to class in the Tarai during summer months due to the unbearable weather. Then in places like Rolpa and Mugu schools shut down during yarsagumba picking season because children have to accompany their parents on the trip in hopes of earning more. Education, therefore, should be not be centralised but based on regions.

Bibek Baskota

Gautam mentions in his article: "Our text books perpetuate a stereotypical image of traditional

unequal Nepali society. The language of instruction is mostly Nepali or English, both neglect mother tongues and over-emphasise rote learning." This is exactly what Madhesi and Janajatis have been saying, but of course when they make such statements, it becomes 'hate speech'.

Ghale

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Great, introspective editorial from *Nepali Times* ('Too good to be true', #651). Unfortunately the media's obsession with celebrity politics and sensation is not confined to Nepal. Just look at Indian electronic media.

Satish

It's not only the media, but readers like us are also responsible for the indifference shown towards stories from outside Kathmandu and outside everyday nitty gritty politics. The country has made immense progress in the overall human development index. How many of us were aware of this fact or care enough to find out more?

Madhav Pandey

The media's goal should be to present unbiased, accurate, and brave stories to promote the overall development of the country and the people.

Basudeb

While remittances from abroad might be pushing down poverty rates in Nepal, poverty reduction on the back of remittances is completely unsustainable ('First the good news', Kunda Dixit, #651). A slight shock in the global economy could take us back decades.

We need a blueprint for development where we generate jobs within Nepal so that the youth do not have to migrate, toil, and die in foreign lands. Low wage factory jobs based on mass industrial development is out of question. Our ecosystem is too fragile to handle the Chinese model of job creation and we cannot compete with them in cost efficiency. We need micro industries, lots of them, spread all over Nepal that create jobs which pay decent money and whose products are sold for a higher value all over the world.

Abhishek Sharma

INTERVIEW WITH PK DAHAL

While people speculate which foreign country has the key to Nepal's politics, Dahal still drives everyday politics in Nepal (Interview: 'We don't need international approval for everything', #651). This man who was elected to lead the country after the historical CA election had the chance to re-write Nepal's modern history, but he let go of the opportunity and plunged the country further into crisis. He still has the chance despite admitting to being inconsistent. I am pretty sure he will come up with yet another 'formula' if this CJ-led government can't hold polls by this year.

Avani Sharma

"We Nepalis listen a bit too much to outsiders." Well Mr Dahal if you don't listen to insiders (janata) and you don't listen to outsiders, who do you listen to?

Learner

Dahal and his cadre took corruption, power politics, and coalition

crafting to new heights when they were in the opposition. It was under his direction that party members felt so much at ease flexing muscles and halting all CA proceedings for months. And now he's the one calling these tried and tested methods of getting to power 'flawed'. What a joke.

Bibek Thapa

YOU CAN'T EAT ELECTIONS

It is sad to know that farmers are abandoning traditional agriculture and becoming increasingly dependent on rice which comes from outside ('You can't eat elections', Dambar K Shrestha, #651). Educated people must help locals become self-sufficient by growing local grains that are far more nutritious than the white polished rice.

Wangmo

I'm not an expert, but wouldn't the problem be less serious if we stopped seeing rice as the only respectable food?

@adhikariaditi

THE NC'S ITCH

The NC has let down its own legacy and it is disappointing that after all the fanfare, the Mahasamiti meeting yielded nothing ('The NC's 12-year itch', Anurag Acharya, #651). Ram Chandra Poudel's political document reeks of prejudice that Janajatis and Madhesi should not be trusted with federalism. The real intention, however, is to create a frenzy of ethnic bogey to get the media, civil society, and international community to back the agenda of reverting to a centralised state.

Ghale

Q OF THE WEEK

What's your favourite place in Nepal ?

facebook

Manoj Sharma: Lumbini  
Ganesh Prasad Bahurupi: Kagbeni  
Miß Cegenation: Lamjung  
Rumi Maharjan: Mangalajar  
Madhab Duwadi: Kathmandu  
Gary Hyslop: Namche  
Bobin Shrestha: Every single street  
Harald Eikeland: Bhairawa  
Ange Nilu: Nuwakot and Manang  
Harihar Pant: Joraya, Doti  
Lonnie Hlusko: All of it! Especially love being here right now!  
Morten Rolsted: The Himalayas

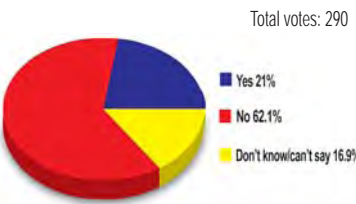
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@monarchynepal: Banks of Rapti river

This week's **Question of the Week:** 'Who is your favourite Nepali person?' go to [www.facebook.com/nepalitimes](http://www.facebook.com/nepalitimes) or [www.twitter.com/nepalitimes](http://www.twitter.com/nepalitimes)

Times nepalnews.com  
Weekly Internet Poll #652

Q. Does the recently announced budget meet your expectations?



Weekly Internet Poll # 653. To vote go to: [www.nepalitimes.com](http://www.nepalitimes.com)

Q. Where do you get your drinking-water from?





BIKRAM RAI



## BY THE WAY

Anurag Acharya

One understated fact about Nepal's decade long conflict is that many young boys and girls joined the Maoist militia. A productive youth force that could have led the country to prosperity was at the forefront of its destruction.

Seven years after the conflict ended in 2006, Nepal has made up for lost time and now has one of the highest primary school enrolment rates in the region. The number of girls going to school has doubled in the last 10 years after

the government offered free education, textbooks, and school uniforms. Female literacy has had a multiplier effect on child and maternal survival and Nepal is well on its way to meet its 2015 Millennium Development Goal targets.

What isn't as well known is that female literacy rates in particular have stopped growing because of high drop-out rates at the lower and secondary level. In the eight districts of Tarai alone, more than 200,000 boys and girls stay out of school.

When I appeared for my SLC exams 12 years ago, we were assigned to examination centres in one of those cold, dimly-lit sheds that pass off as classrooms of public schools. Despite billions having been poured into education since then, things

# Unlearning education

## Parallel education systems are driving a wedge in Nepali society, fueling youth discontent

aren't much better today.

Back then, the government had begun handing over management of the public schools to the local community. It was assumed that the locals whose children studied there would ensure financial transparency and bring quality in the classroom. Today, many community managed schools have become hotbeds of corruption with local leaders fighting for kickbacks in teachers' appointments and allocations of contracts.

Without correcting this problem first, the government is looking for another quick-fix solution by privatising the management of more than 4,000 community run schools. By abdicating its role in basic education, the government has admitted its massive failure and resigned to the fact that these schools have become unmanageable.

The Department of

Education seems convinced that partnership with PABSON, the association of private schools, will turn around public education in this country. Maybe it will, or maybe it won't. But by the time we find out whether this latest experiment in education works or not it will be too late for another generation of Nepali school-goers.


Handing over the management of government schools to the private sector may sound like a good idea, but it smacks of desperation. There is something fundamentally wrong with this approach. Why would private schools, whose business depends on the mismanagement of government schools, invest in improving its quality?

To be sure, private schools in Nepal have stepped in to make up for the shortfall in both the quantity and quality of education in this country. The idea should not be to banish

private schools, but to improve the quality of instruction of government schools. You don't do that by handing over management to the private sector. Education is a business for PABSON, for the state it is an essential public service and there is a conflict of interest if we mix up the two.

More than half of Nepal's population is under 40 and most of them are of school-going age. We have a parallel education system in the country, but a common job market with limited opportunities. The ones with better education get the better jobs and this is driving a wedge through Nepali society, fuelling youth discontent, and exposing them to political manipulation, vandalism, and crime.

In the last three years, the budgetary allocation in education has hovered around 15-17 per cent and almost a quarter of all foreign aid last year went into the sector. This indicates our priorities are in the right place. What we need now is a more efficient use of resources.

The government can begin by updating and improving the school curriculum with an emphasis on vocational knowledge and invest in teacher training and motivation. We have run education in this country by trial and error and handing over school management to the private sector is another risky experiment we can't afford to make. 

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# FOR SALE

One of the poorest countries in the world has an embassy in the richest street in the world, and plans to sell it off

KUNDA DIXIT in LONDON

Nepalis living in Britain, led by former Gurkha soldiers, have launched a drive to build up pressure against the proposed sale of the country’s historic embassy property in the upscale Kensington Palace Gardens area of London.

The UK Chapter of Non-resident Nepalis, the Gurkha Army Ex-Servicemen’s Organisation (GAESO), Tamu Dhi, NEFIN, and others have formed the Save the Nepal Embassy Building Citizen’s Campaign to oppose the sale by the cash-strapped government in Kathmandu and to raise money for its upkeep.

“This building became ours because of the blood spilt by the Gurkhas and it is a historic symbol of Nepal’s sovereignty,” says the coordinator of the campaign and retired British Army major, Damar Ghale. “The embassy’s value cannot be measured in cash, it is priceless.”

The Nepal Embassy on 12A Kensington Palace Gardens consists of a four-storey stucco Victorian villa within a 750 acre

property bordering Hyde Park. It was built in 1865 and is now a crown leasehold property as are other buildings on the street, including the residence of the Sultan of Brunei, British billionaire Lakshmi Mittal, a Ukrainian oligarch, and other embassy residences (see pic).

The property was leased to Nepal in 1937 after the Treaty of Thapathali between the Ranas and British India which formally upgraded Anglo-Nepal relations. In 1980, the lease was extended for another 99 years under which Nepal pays a nominal annual rent.

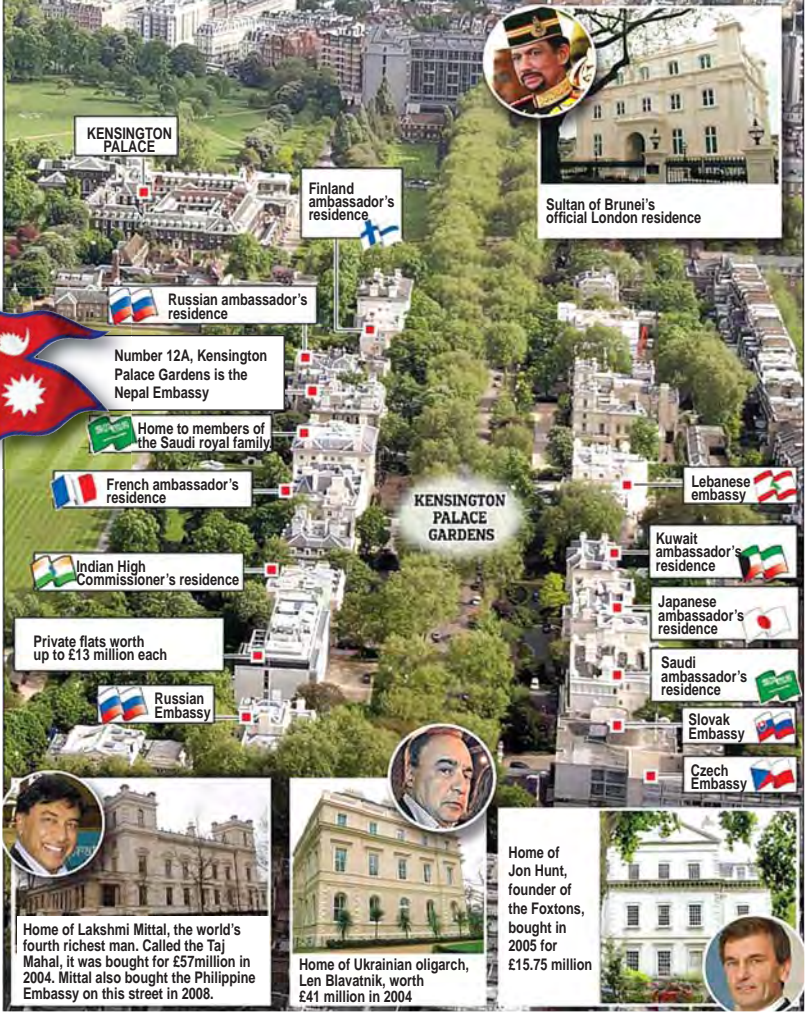
The political disarray in Nepal has led directly to the embassy’s state of disrepair. Successive governments led by the NC, King Gyanendra, and the Maoists tried to secretly sell the embassy off to the Mittals for anywhere up to £150 million, but plans were abandoned after a media uproar.

Mittal already owns #18-19, bought #9a from the Philippine Embassy for £70 million for his daughter, and also tried unsuccessfully to buy another house on the same street for his son for £117 million. The proposal to sell the embassy

was revived under the Baburam Bhattarai-led government, which set up an advisory panel led by Nepal’s UK ambassador Suresh Chandra Chalise, the ambassadors to Brussels and Bonn, and other civil servants. The committee met in London last month to inspect the property and consider the sale. However, UK-based Nepalis who met the team said the process was not transparent.

At present, the embassy is a national embarrassment. The ambassador and five other diplomats and their families live in the upper floors. The flushes don’t work, the toilets smell, and visa applicants on their way to the basement are greeted by the sound of pressure cooker whistles from upstairs. The roof leaks, the water, gas and drain pipes need to be overhauled, the façade needs a paint job, and the Nepali flag is discoloured and small. The lawn that backs into Hyde Park is run down compared to the meticulous upkeep of neighbouring properties.

Indeed, the embassy has got several reminders from the Crown Estate office to fulfil clauses in the 1980 lease agreement ‘to keep the building



**SAVE IT:** The embassy building (top, left) with an imposing Victorian façade was built in 1856, given to Nepal in 1937 and is a crown estate. Under a 99-year lease renewed in 1980, Nepal pays a nominal rent for the property located on a London street that is called ‘Billionaire’s Boulevard’. Kathmandu has been trying to sell 12A to the Mittals, but Nepal’s Supreme Court this week issued a stay order. Retired Gurkha Major Damar Ghale (left) says the court decision gives campaigners “breathing space” to launch a campaign against the sale.

in good and substantial repair, order, and condition ... not to damage trees and maintain the garden’.

“It is as if they are deliberately letting the place fall apart so that they can sell it,” says Lal Bahadur Gurung, an ex-Gurkha officer who like many here, is outraged by the plan, “this embassy represents the history and dignity of the Nepali people.”

Those in favour of selling the embassy say Nepal cannot afford the £4.5 million to overhaul the building and maintain it regularly. They propose to buy a freehold building elsewhere in London from proceeds of the sale of the

embassy property. But activists say the prestigious location comes for under £1,000 per year under the lease agreement and is a rock-bottom bargain. Besides, the embassy makes at least £450,000 in visa and other fees annually, enough to foot repair bills.

Activists here were elated on Monday when news came from Kathmandu that the Supreme Court had issued a stay order on a writ petition filed by GAESO on the sale of the embassy. Damar Ghale told *Nepali Times*: “What this does is give us breathing space.” The Citizen’s Campaign is now preparing a signature campaign and a fund-raising drive among the estimated 100,000 Nepalis in Britain and has also written to Ambassador Chalise asking him to furnish details of the 1980 lease extension, the breakdown of the repair costs, and the building survey report. Nepali architects and engineers working in UK have pledged to volunteer their services for repairs.

“This was our first embassy abroad and a symbol of our independence. The Nepali flag first flew here in 1935,” says former ambassador to UK, Singha Bahadur Basnyat, PhD. “Money isn’t everything, the address of the embassy is very significant.”

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# The New Silk Roads

Reviving the old India-Nepal-China connectivity



GUEST COLUMN  
Pradumna B Rana

After a 1,500 year history connecting Asia to Europe, the Silk Road lost out to the sea route, but there are now signs of its revival. Connectivity between India-Nepal-China should be an important part of this new trade corridor.

Actually there were two Silk Roads: the northern one that began in present day Xian in China and which branched into two routes which converged in Kashgar in Central Asia, before continuing westward. And there was the lesser known south-western Silk Road which began in Yunnan province of China and traversed Burma, Vietnam, and Thailand with two overland routes via Tibet and Nepal to India.

The Silk Routes were at their peak during the Mongol Empire in the mid-13th century when political stability fostered trade. It was during this time that Marco Polo travelled to China. Trade on the Silk Road declined after the collapse of the Mongol Empire in the 14th century and the isolationist Ming and Qing



dynasties in China were not conducive to trade.

The Europeans, therefore, used the new sea routes across the Indian Ocean. The invention of the steam engine brought down costs and led to a further increase in Europe's maritime trade with Asia along the Southern Ocean Corridor from the Mediterranean, past South Asia, through the Straits of Malacca, and up the East Asian coast to Korea and Japan.

Now, the importance of the Silk Road has once more been revived. Maritime Asia is starting to become more continental with expanding road networks, railways, and pipelines. The Qinghai-Tibet Railway will reach Xigatse this year and is to be extended soon to reach the border with Nepal. The Beijing-Lhasa expressway

has been completed until Xining, the halfway point. Connectivity within the Greater Mekong Subregion has also improved.

Chinese strategists have written about the 'Malacca Dilemma' with the Straits being a natural choke point and the need to find an alternative route. In May, an 800km gas pipeline from Kyauphyu port in Burma to Kunming will be operational. Next year, an oil pipeline will open along the same route with highways and trains following. Work on the Kaladan Multimodal Project seeking to connect Kolkata with Sittwe in Burma by sea and then India's north-east by river and road transport is on-going.

Under the traditional theory of comparative advantage, developing countries produced

labour intensive goods which they then exchanged for capital and skill intensive ones produced by the more advanced countries. All separate tasks involved in producing an item, however, were done entirely in one country. Now, production is sliced into separate fragments in production blocks around the world which are linked by efficient service links. While sea freight is still the most cost effective way of moving goods for bulky items, road transportation is quicker among neighbouring countries and air transport is necessary for perishable items.

The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity of 2010 seeks to promote physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity among

its 10 member countries and emphasises the importance of ASEAN's connectivity with neighbouring countries such as India, China, and the other members of the East Asia Summit (EAS). The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) has come up with two projects for ASEAN-India Connectivity, namely the Mekong-India Economic Corridor and the Trilateral Highway connecting India and Burma with Thailand. While the first project focuses on connecting production blocks in Southeast Asia with those in India specially the automotive industry in Bangkok with those in Chennai by sea, the second project focuses on the development of the north-east region of India.

What has been lacking so far is an effort to promote the China-ASEAN-South Asia Connectivity by reviving the Southern Silk Road. ERIA should consider a Yunnan-Burma-India-Nepal-Tibet-Yunnan Economic Corridor or a Circular Economic Corridor in Asia and sensitise the project concept and its feasibility. Such a project would lead to a win-win situation for all countries including shared prosperity between India and China in which Nepal could serve as a land bridge and production hub between Asia's two giants. ■

Pradumna B Rana is Associate Professor at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

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# Seeds of revolution

Nepal's farmers have nurtured a rich seed biodiversity that is now threatened by industrial agriculture



COMMENT  
Ben Ayers

Bhutan recently declared that it would convert entirely to organic agriculture, Nepal should do the same to preserve its organic heritage. Current efforts to increase crop production and income for Nepali farmers have been driven entirely by external forces and funded by the development industry. This has the potential to threaten Nepal's sovereignty and agro-biodiversity, discourage innovation, and to place the soils and rivers at risk.

In 'modern' agriculture, profits are concentrated in the hands of multinational corporations, finance institutions, and equipment manufacturers. This has had fatal consequences for farmers. An estimated 250,000 farmers in India have committed suicide in the past 16 years: the largest recorded wave of suicides in human history caused by farmers being trapped in a debt cycle because of industrialised agriculture.

Millions of terraces in Nepal that are planted with local varieties are themselves a living seed bank. This is a crucial component of global food security that has taken farmers centuries of close attention to cultivate. Should the current prohibition on the use of GM crops fall, natural cross-pollination has the potential to contaminate and effectively eradicate Nepal's biodiversity in only a matter of seasons.

Walk a few hours from the nearest road and you see farmers practicing inter-cropping, crop rotation, and planting dozens of different local varieties of rice and millet. There is a deep wisdom here and a base of refined local knowledge that has allowed villagers in Nepal's rugged mountains to sustain themselves.

Across the 'developed' world, organic food is largely consumed by the wealthy. In Nepal the poorest citizens in remote communities consume organic food exclusively. The massive cost of transporting fertiliser and chemicals has the side benefit that the poor in Nepal are already feeding themselves healthy food. While the government and donors must make strides to help the poor grow more food more efficiently, this should not be done at the expense of health.

Reliance on imported fertilisers and

chemicals erodes Nepal's sovereignty and removes another critical link in the food system from the hands of farmers and citizens. Fertiliser shortages last year led to widespread protests and this trend will continue as political instability further disrupts the supply chain.

Organic farming can feed everyone in Nepal. It is in fact the only way the world has been fed until now. The world records for rice and potato production per hectare were broken last year by farmers in Bihar, India – utilising only new System for Rice Intensification (SRI) techniques and farmyard manure. Methods like these have proven that low crop yields are not due to a lack of chemicals, but rather to a lack of resourcefulness and creativity.

Farmers at Everything Organic Nursery in Kavre have developed a new organic method for bed preparation vegetable that has shown potential to produce yields nearly six times that of traditional methods. Researchers at Nepal's Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science have also recently proven that utilising mixtures of human urine and compost on vegetable crops can significantly outperform chemical fertilisers.

On a recent trip to Khotang, I met farmers who had just banned the use of

all chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Neighbouring villages had seen falling crop yields in recent years, despite the increased use of fertilisers, and also said that organic food simply tasted better.

The government can start by rewarding local efforts such as these, providing support to the most remote communities, and then building outward until entire districts and regions become fully organic. This will ease the process of certification for farmers and open doors for lucrative markets for organic goods.

An organic Nepal will be healthier, less dependent on imports from other countries, and more prosperous. The country's subsistence farmers are some of the best agriculturalists on earth and they are perfectly positioned to use their expertise and ingenuity to lead a new green revolution. 🇳🇵

*Ben Ayers is Nepal Country Director for the dZi Foundation.*

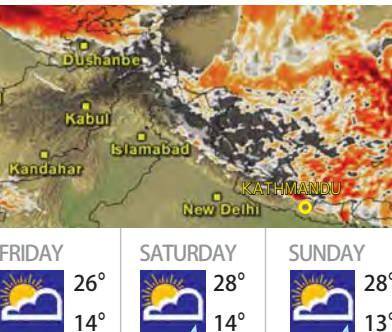
[nepalimes.com](http://nepalimes.com)

Sharing what she knows, #622  
Nepal's hunger solution, #559  
Growing much more rice, #422





The season of summer storms is upon us, which means the days will begin bright and calm as clouds build up over the mountains. The anvil heads suck in moisture through convection and the systems move from west to east on prevailing winds. The fiercest storms will be in the high mountains, the hills will get a sudden wash towards evening, and the plains may get a sprinkling. Meanwhile, high wind over the Thar desert is kicking up the sand so the rains won't wash off the dust haze.



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CINDREY LIU



SUNIR PANDEY

# SEEING GREEN

SULAIMAN DAUD

An illiterate farmer makes an extraordinary journey from a porter to a successful entrepreneur selling organic produce

Two hour bus ride from the capital past wheat and mustard fields that turn the hillsides into a mosaic of green and yellow comes Patlegaun in Kavre. At first glance, the village is like any other. But this is where 35-year-old Govinda Ghimire (*pic, above*), owner of Patlegaun Organic Farm, is building his brand of organic vegetables and fruits which are exported as far as Australia and the UAE.

Having studied only till Grade 3, Ghimire started working as a porter when he was just 12 and then moved to Kathmandu to become a cook. "My father couldn't afford Rs 10 for the exam fees, so I could not continue my education," he recalls.

He returned home to Kavre in 1996 after hearing about Organic Himalaya Nepal, a farm started by Hans Hofer, a German publisher and his Singaporean wife, Cynthia Wee. He worked on their farm which exported products to markets in Singapore that were run by Organic Himalaya.

Ghimire first started as a cook and farmhand and learnt how to make butter, jam, cheese, and juice from Luis Gasser, an Italian supervisor of the farm who had a degree in agriculture. Govinda took over after Gasser left and became an expert guide giving visitors tours of the garden so they could see the production process firsthand. But everything changed during the war.

A few years into the conflict, the Maoists threatened to seize lands around Kavre and Ghimire got together a group of farmers to drive them off. But then he was arrested by the Army on suspicion of being a Maoist sympathiser and detained. After the conflict ended, he was freed and managed to build a new life through his Patlegaun Organic Farm.

Today Govinda grows barley, strawberries, tomatoes, avocados, and cabbages that are as popular in Dhulikhel as they are in Dubai and Singapore. He

uses natural compost and locally available herbs as pesticide and conducts rotational cropping to increase the fertility of the soil. To save water and lessen dependence on fertilisers, the crops are irrigated through drip technology (*pic, left*). Through the years, Ghimire hasn't forgotten the basics he learnt from his mentors: conserve agricultural biodiversity and treat farming with a high level of professionalism.

"I was lucky to have Hans and Cynthia as my teachers," Govinda says, "now I can afford to send my children to school and my 17-year-old son says he is interested in studying agriculture. I hope he will take over my farm in the future."

Ncell featured Ghimire in its campaign to extend connectivity in rural areas. Now every time the farmer sees his photo in newspapers, his face breaks into a wide grin as he remembers his extraordinary journey from a porter to a successful entrepreneur. 🇳🇵

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EVENTS



**CHHAPROMA**, a trilogy of short films that explores the changing relations between people in post-insurgency Nepal.  
*Rs 100, 20 April, 2 to 4pm, Ratoghar, Rabibhawan, 9841442228*

**Photochop**, get out of the comfortable confines of digital image manipulation and learn the art of photo-collage.  
*Rs 1,000, 17 to 21 April, Sattya Arts, Jawalakhel, shreyans@sattya.org*

**Inked for life**, compete with tattoo artists from home and abroad at the or get tattooed on spot at the 3rd International Tattoo Convention.  
*26 to 28 April, Yak and Yeti Hotel, 9841471448/9841849786*

**Girls on wheels**, ride your scooters around town in a treasure hunt, solve puzzles, and complete tasks to win a grand prize of Rs 50,000.  
*Rs 1,500, 20 April, Kathmandu College of Management, 980103373/98415700 61/9851061065*

**Think, eat, save**, 200 million people could be fed with the amount of food wasted in Europe. Vote for bloggers who are actively urging the public to shift from conspicuous eating to conscious eating.  
*www.unep.org/wed/blog-competition/bloggers/, #WED2013*



**FREE HIT**, watch the Indian Premier League every day.  
*3pm, Bagaicha Restaurant, Jawalakhel, (01)5548148*

**Oh to be a gooner**, watch Arsenal take on Norwich as they chase the Champions League spots.  
*13 April, 7.30pm, Reggae Cafe n Bar, Thamel*

**Graphic voices**, an exhibition of the work of graphic artist Dan Archer chronicling the lives of trafficking survivors.  
*Runs till 14 May, 10am to 5pm, Image Ark Gallery, Kulimha Tol, Patan*



**PRANAMAYA YOGA**, Meditate on compassion and learn to train your mind and heart to stay open in tough times from Dolpo Tulku Rinpoche.  
*21 April, 2 to 4pm, Pranamaya Studio, Boudha*

**Greetings 2070**, an exhibition that showcases the work of 12 artists from 9 countries. *Runs till 22 April, 10.30am to 6pm, Park Gallery, Pulchok, 9741147118, (01)5522307*

DINING



**SATURDAY BRUNCH**, if you're heading to Shivapuri for bird-watching, a sumptuous meal awaits you on your way back.  
*Rs 1,400, 11am to 3pm, Poolside Garden, Park Village Resort, Budhanilkantha, (01)4375280*

**Bench Burger**, juicy burgers and much more. *Krishna Gali, Patan*

**Gaurishankar organic coffee**, stop over for a freshly brewed cup of Nepali Arabica on your way to Bhotekosi.  
*38 Kilo, Kavre*

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

**Mulchowk**, a blend of culinary expertise and charms of a bygone era. *Babarmahal*

**Boudha Stupa Restaurant and Cafe**, bide your time in the cafe's free wi-fi zone as you enjoy wood-fired pizzas, home-made pastas, and the Tibetan gyakok.  
*Boudha, (01)4485585*

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

**The Village Cafe**, serves delicious Newari home-made food with affordable prices. *Pulchok*

**Caffe Concerto Pizzeria**, drop by this Italian restaurant to start your day on the right foot. *Lakeside, Pokhara*



**YINYANG RESTAURANT**, east meets west as you choose from a variety of Thai and continental dishes. Add a little spice to your life with the pad thai or green curry. If you can't handle the heat, fall into the safety net of its western dishes.  
*Thamel, 10am to 10pm, (01)4701510*



**MIKE'S BREAKFAST**, huge breakfasts and an endless supply of coffee amidst a lush garden setting characterise this cafe, popular among tourists and locals alike.  
*Naxal, (01)4424303*



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बहार

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\*धर्मिरु लागुनेकन ।



## MUSIC



**HAMRO JAZZ**, join the launch of Nepal's first and only jazz magazine, with a live performance by the Silver Wind Quartet.

Rs 200, 26 April, 7.30 to 11pm, House of Music Thamel

**Suramya Sandhya**, acclaimed Hindustani classical singer Guru Dev Kamat will give a rare performance. 20 April, 3.30pm, Academy Hall, Kamaladi

**Earthwatch**, live music over dinner every Friday.

Rs 1,299, Park Village Resort, Budhanilkantha, (01)4375280

**Guerilla gig**, top bands Jindabaad and Albatross will perform with lots of others at the historic Patan Museum.

Rs 350, Patan Museum, 9841315997, 9851161414

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

## GETAWAYS

**Shivapuri Cottage**, good food and fresh air, far from the madding crowd.

Rs 3,500 per person per night inclusive of dinner and breakfast, Shivapuri, 9841371927, 9802012245, info@shivapuricottage.com

**Mind and body**, take advantage of a 10 per cent discount on all treatments.

Himalayan Peace and Wellness Centre, Budhanilkantha, 9801066661

**Haatiban Resort**, climb up to Chandragiri in the morning for a royal view of Kathmandu Valley and jog down to the hotel for a relaxed evening.

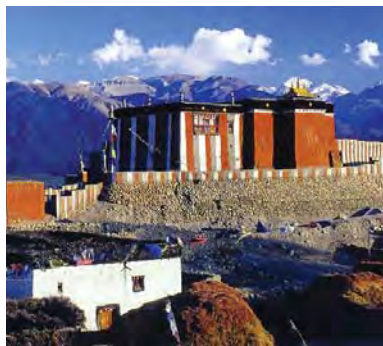
Pharpi, Kathmandu, (01)4371537/56



**THE LAST RESORT**, test your limits with canyoning, hiking, rock climbing, rafting, mountain biking, bungee jumping. Bhotekosi, Sindhapalchok, (01)4700525/1247

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

## Above the clouds



For this month's lecture, the Cultural Studies Group of Nepal presents British architect and conservationist John Sanday. As a leading architectural conservator in Asia, Sanday's projects in Kathmandu include Hanuman Dhoka, Narayanhi Palace, and the Swayambunath stupa. He is also involved with the American Himalayan Foundation's programs in Lo Manthang. He will discuss the challenges of conserving historic wall paintings of the temples and the historic walled city of Lo Manthang, as well as a new project to rebuild gompas and dzongs in Bhutan.

25 April, 6pm, Shankar Hotel Rs 400 for non-members, half price for students, tea/coffee included csgnepal@yahoo.com, www.facebook.com/CulturalStudiesGroupOfNepal

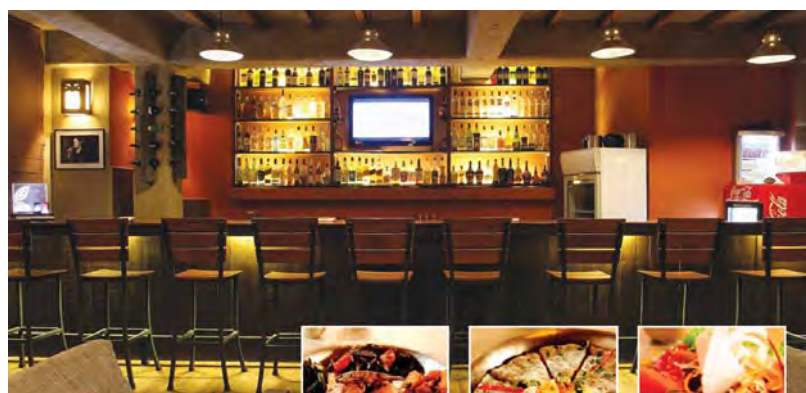


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## Genesis of Colours



Marcos Duprat is a respected artist in Brazil and is also his country's ambassador to Nepal. He has managed to not just combine two professions, but use his nomadic diplomatic job to influence his paintings with the landscapes and cultures of the places where he has been posted.

Duprat's paintings have a narrative of the interplay of light and how it pervades the landscape outside

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

Duprat has been busy since he was appointed Brazil's ambassador to Kathmandu two years ago and the exhibition of his works at the Siddhartha Art Galley that opens Friday, has 20 oils that he has done since he came to Nepal in addition to five other

works painted between 1997-2010.

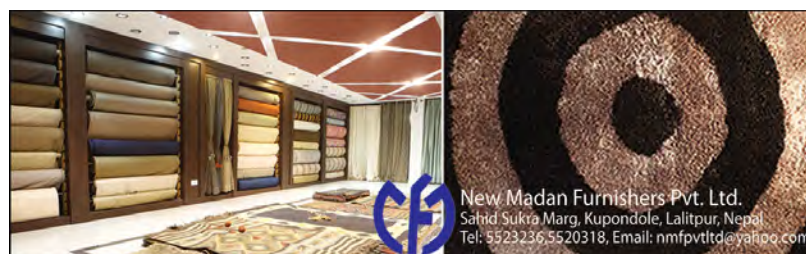
"Light is a common denominator of my work," says Duprat, "the special light of Kathmandu Valley and the symbolic presence of the mountains are inspirations for my art."

19 April - 2 May  
Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revisited



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# Get inked

TSERING DOLKER GURUNG

Long before red hearts, colourful butterflies, oversized skulls, and misspelled names of loved ones became permanent accessories among Nepal's urban crowd, tattoos were an important ritual in the Newar and Tharu communities (*see box*). However, it took more than two decades for the body art to gain mainstream acceptance.

Today, an increasing fascination among the young and young at heart has opened doors for tattooists, making it a viable profession. Monthly income of a professional artist in Nepal can range anywhere between RS 30,000 to 100,000, something that pioneer tattooer like Mohan Gurung (*see below*) couldn't have imagined a decade ago when there were just a handful of studios struggling to do business.

With new parlours mushrooming every few months, customers are spoilt for choice. But there is a catch. Since tattooing is not recognised as a separate profession, owners currently register their studios as small cottage industries (like handicraft

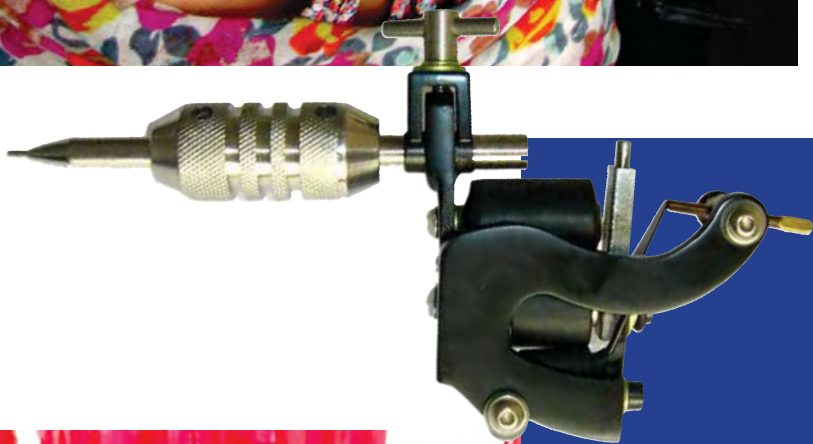
or photography enterprises) for which they don't have to show any proof of training. Without certification or a monitoring mechanism, many studios fail to meet international health and safety standards.

The good news is that local artists determined to maintain a level of professionalism have stepped in to fill this gap. For the past three years, Mohan's Tattoo Inn and Muaz Entertainment have been bringing together ink lovers for the annual Nepal Tattoo Convention.

"We want to expose young, aspiring artists to the techniques of international tattooists so they understand the importance of following hygiene and safety guidelines," explains Bijay Shrestha of Muaz.

This year's festival will run for three days from 26 to 28 April at Hotel Yak & Yeti and see over 70 well-known local and international artists collaborate and compete against each other.

"Very few Nepali tattoo artists can afford to attend conventions outside the country. At this festival they get a taste of the international scene and can exchange ideas



## NEEDLIN



## Mohan Gurung

Longest tattoo session: 23 hours  
Weirdest tattoo: Can't mention it in a paper (laughs)

Mohan's Tattoo Inn  
Thamel  
(01)4700620  
mohantattooinn@yahoo.com  
www.mohanstattooinn.com

Mohan Gurung's name is synonymous with tattooing, but the man started at the very bottom. After a trip to South Korea ignited a passion for body art, he spent hours practicing on friends and perfecting his skills.

Although his family were not supportive, he opened a small studio in his hometown of Pokhara in 2000 and then another one in Kathmandu. From a one-man shop, Mohan's Tattoo Inn in Thamel is the most popular and busiest studio today where local and foreign clients queue up for months to pre-book. With almost two decades of experience, Gurung has not only single-handedly trained many young budding artists, but is also responsible for bringing credibility and professionalism to the job.

"Ten years ago, people looked down on us and treated us like we were thugs," admits the humble veteran in his soft voice, "so it feels great to see our art being appreciated and tattooists getting the respect they deserve."

## Sabita Maharjan

Longest tattoo session: Six hours  
Weirdest tattoo: A tribal lizard inside the ear

Tike Jhya Tattoo  
Pyaphal Chok, Basantapur  
(01)4260786  
tikeattoo@yahoo.com  
www.tikejhyatattoo.com

One of the few female tattooists in Nepal, Sabita Maharjan trained under her husband, Prahlad, a popular tattoo artist before taking the plunge. "The first time I picked up a needle, I was scared. But my husband let me tattoo his leg. I haven't looked back since then," she says with immense pride. Together, the duo run Tike Jhya studio in Basantapur which is ranked among the top five tattoo parlours in the country.

Having worked as a professional artist for almost four years now, the 22-year-old has faced her share of challenges in a field that is still heavily male-dominated. "When customers find out that they are going to be tattooed by a female, they assume the quality of art will be inferior compared to those done by male tattooists," she says. But there are loyal clients who specifically request for Maharjan because they feel safer under her needle.





CINDREY LIU

and learn new styles from veterans across the globe," says Gurung.

What's in this for you? You can get tattooed on the spot by any artist of your choice. So pick a design and pre-book. Your Facebook cover photo is begging for change, this is your chance. 🇳🇵

*Nepal Tattoo Convention 2013*  
26 to 28 April, 10am to 7pm  
(6pm on the last day)  
Rs 200 per day  
[www.nepaltattooconvention.com](http://www.nepaltattooconvention.com)

#### Stamp from the past

In Newari tradition, tattoos are believed to ward off evil and sickness. Tattooing is popular especially among the Tharu women. Known as godna in Tharu language, tattoos are inspired by natural elements. The tikaniya (artist) uses normal needles and natural black ink from lamp soot. The part meant to be tattooed is rubbed with cow dung and later cleansed with water. Then begins the painful process of marking the designs and pricking with the needle.

# G HANDS



## Sudeep Khadka

Longest tattoo session: 13 hours  
Weirdest tattoo: Poop

**A**tattooist at JADS, Sudeep Khadka entered the profession by fluke. While studying for bachelor of fine arts, he saw friends making tattoos and got hooked. He then spent hours scouring the internet for lessons on body art and also trained under John Maharjan.

From building a tattoo machine at home from scratch using a tape recorder, motor, and pins, to tattooing professionally, Sudeep has come far, but he confesses that he still feels the nerves kick in before starting a new tattoo. "Tattooing is not an easy job. We are working with people's bodies and their emotions. We can't mess that up," he says.

## Think before you ink

- Ask friends or family who have tattoos to recommend good studios and artists.
- Visit studios to see how clean they are. While you probably won't be allowed to enter the work place, you can see how much importance owners place on hygiene by checking out the 'public' areas of the parlour.
- During your visit, ask if needles are changed for each client, if the seating area is cleaned regularly, and whether artists wear medical gloves.
- Go through the artists' portfolio and look at their new and healed works to see if they have done designs that you are looking for. If the artists are experienced they will be able to suggest the size and design as well.
- Don't let price be a deciding factor. If you are not willing to pay, then you should probably not be getting inked.

## (Don't) forget about the price tag

Tattoo studios in Kathmandu don't have a fixed price. Clients are charged on an hourly basis. Depending on how experienced and popular an artist is, he /she might command anywhere between Rs 1500-3000 per hour. The price also depends on how intricate the designs are, the colours used, and the size of the tattoo. Unlike retail therapy, getting inked is neither a means to curb boredom nor to nurse a broken heart. So loosen those purse strings a bit.



PICS: BIKRAM RAI

## John Maharjan

Longest tattoo session:  
Approximately 80 hours divided over 15 sessions on a back piece  
Weirdest tattoo: Can't think of any  
[www.jadstattoos.com](http://www.jadstattoos.com)

**A**self-taught artist, John Maharjan started tattooing as a teenager 10 years ago. Now 27, he runs JADS Tattoo Inc in Thamel. Unlike some of his colleagues, John says he was lucky to be supported and encouraged by his mother from the very beginning.

"When I started out, things were very different. Nobody respected the art form, most saw those with tattoos and tattoo artists as drug users and criminals," he says. "Perceptions are changing and the condition of artists is also gradually improving." Maharjan is also happy to see customers becoming more mature and putting more thought into what they want rather than just getting inked with meaningless motif.



# THE INTOUCHABLES



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

*The Intouchables*, a French film from 2011, is based on the true story of a rich quadriplegic Parisian named Philippe who hires an unorthodox caregiver against all conventional wisdom. Their story, portrayed in this albeit very Hollywood version, is irresistibly touching, even for the most hardened, cynical viewer.

When Philippe (François Cluzet) first encounters Driss (Omar Sy), he has been waiting for hours in a long line of potential caregivers. Driss, a tall, young Senegalese man fresh out of prison for robbery is visibly impatient when he strides into

the interview room, demanding a signature guaranteeing that he has applied for the job even if he is rejected so that he may eventually go on his welfare benefits. Although initially a bit taken aback by Philippe's state, Driss and he have several dry and witty exchanges, Driss's attitude being fairly unsympathetic to Philippe's state, as Philippe becomes increasingly animated, partly spurred on by a hitherto never felt before antagonism.

When Driss finds himself hired for a trial period of four weeks, he reluctantly moves into Philippe's astonishingly luxurious mansion. It is a testament to Omar Sy's undeniable comedic acting skills that every scene he inhabits is infused with humour, sometimes a little slapstick but always charming, enhanced by his physicality - Sy having the uncanny ability to move himself both clumsily and gracefully, as he wants, when the moment is appropriate.

Cluzet too is a wonder in the film, especially considering that he can only really express himself above his neck. With his kind eyes, his reluctant laugh and his air of refinement despite his terrible circumstances, Cluzet embodies the tragedy of a life that has been cut short, limited on every level except cerebrally.

As the two companions drift through the film's episodic structure, their bond becomes stronger, partly through a shared sense of the absurd and partly through a certain understanding that develops between them despite the vast

differences in their upbringing. This film's charms, of which there are many, lie in the extraordinary rapport between the two lead actors. Both are obviously individually very talented, but the alchemical result of their interactions is what makes viewing such a pleasure.

Even in situations that are partly goofy and partly just plain hard to believe, the two actors carry the scenes with a lightness and compassion that is hard to find in such a heavy subject.

*Rust and Bone*, another French film (reviewed previously in this column), dealt with a similar subject, but in an entirely different manner. While that film dealt its blows with a sledgehammer, unabashedly milking the viewer's emotions through melodrama, *The Intouchables* chooses the opposite method, lightening even the most heavy of subjects with humour and laughter.

Obviously neither film is true to the real horror and anguish of people who find themselves suddenly without the use of their limbs, not even *The Intouchables* which clearly departs quite frequently from the reputed 'trueness' of the story upon which it is based.

There is very little that one can say about this other than the fact that perhaps the only way such painful subjects can be brought to mainstream viewers is through a veneer, either of high melodrama or, in this case, compassionate comedy.

It is clear that the viewer today needs subjects of ease to slip into in order to access the escapist zeitgeist that has taken over the world of commercially successful cinema. Under these difficult circumstances, one may as well laud this incredibly well intentioned, highly enjoyable product by the writing-directing duo Olivier Nakache and Éric Toledano. With sleight of hand and a lightness of touch, these two have made one of the most touching and memorable films I've seen in a long time. 🇳🇵

nepalitimes.com

Watch trailer

**GIZMO by YANTRICK**

## I want to ride my bicycle

Tired of the traffic and the snaking petrol queues, Yantrick opted for pedal power this week and hopped onto Chain Jomsom S2. We hear our dear leader Baburam Bhattarai, the poster boy for all things Nepali, was one of the first to take a ride. Now we're not entirely sure if the former PM enjoyed Jomsom as much as Mustang, but the two-wheeler with its light suspension and smooth gear changes proved a good companion for Yantrick on the notoriously narrow and bumpy roads of Kathmandu.

A Nepali company called Chain started designing and assembling Jomsom S2 about a year ago at its garage (with parts flown in from China) with a simple goal: build bikes that are strong enough to survive the rigours of city riding and light enough to carry on those difficult slopes. Looking at how quickly Jomsoms are going off the walls the team seems to have succeeded. The bike feels equally at home on dirt and rocky trails as it does on gravel roads and can even withstand pavements, however it is not suitable for extreme biking.



BIKRAM RAI

The most basic Jomsom S2 model (Rs 30,000) is equipped with an impressively wide gear range. It has 21 gears and the speed can be shifted to seven levels. With an aluminium 6061 frame, S2 is well crafted, and includes a zoom suspension fork and handle bar, V brake, Shimano Acera rear and front derailleur. These features offer smooth shifting, near silent transmission, and long-term durability. And the kenda tyres ensure a comfortable ride even on potholed roads.

If you are willing to dish 20k more, you can get the S2 upgraded to include RST suspension fork, Trutaive handle, disk brake, Shimano Alivo rear derailleur, Maxxis tyres and tube, 27 gears, and nine speed. And for those who want their bikes a particular shade of grey (or red, green, blue) the makers are more than happy to customise colour, size, and parts to meet individual needs.

One of the main reasons to opt for a Jomson S2 over other brands is its competitive price. While most mountain bikes cost Rs 50,000 on average and a city bike between Rs 20,000 and 35,000, the standard S2 will make your wallet lighter by only Rs 30,000.

Epic Mountain Bike sells Jomsoms at its showroom in Jhamsikhel and even exports the two wheelers to Bhutan. The company is setting up a new branch at Naxal next month with plans of opening another in Dharan. The bikes can also be found in Pokhara. 🇳🇵

**Verdict:** Jomsom S2 is an affordable bicycle for daily commute, running errands, and for short trails off the road. But if you need something more professional, look elsewhere.

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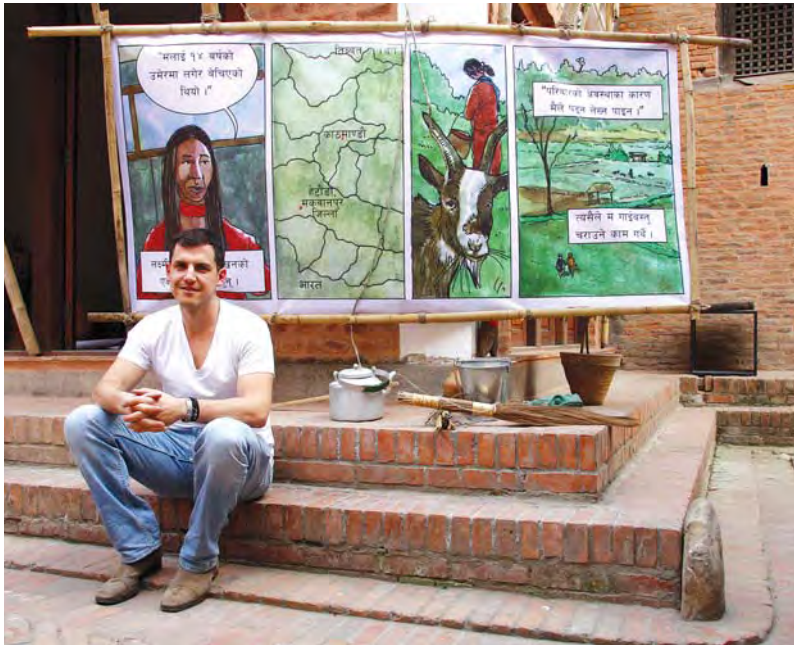
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CINDREY LIU

For the past year and a half, graphic journalist and Fulbright fellow Dan Archer travelled to Bhaktapur, Kavre, Makwanpur, Dang, and Mahendranagar gathering testimonies from trafficking survivors. He adapted these stories into comics and the exhibition will open this week at Image Ark Gallery. *Nepali Times* caught up with Archer just as he was getting ready for the opening of his exhibit.

**Nepali Times:** Tell us about your work in Nepal and how the project took shape.  
**Dan Archer:** When I first arrived here in October 2012, I gave a short presentation during one of the Pecha Kucha nights. After the presentation, Ingrid Chiron of Image Ark Gallery approached

me and suggested that I use my art for social justice. But I didn't want to be the person who parachutes in, takes pictures of poor desperate people, and then returns to his comfort zone. I wanted to listen to firsthand stories, instead of taking clichéd snapshots. I had worked on human trafficking between Russia and Ukraine earlier, so I have some understanding of the topic. My work in Nepal is also part of a larger research project at Stanford and Vanderbilt universities which aims to assess the impact of visual awareness-raising materials.

**Why comics?**  
What I really like about comics is that they're very malleable. They appeal to a large demographic and are a better medium to engage younger, harder to reach audiences like children. When I take sketches, I can involve the subjects in some sort of dialogue. I feel comics are a real grassroots media: you don't have to depend on a projector

or electricity, they are just there for everyone to see.

**How challenging was it to gather stories from victims of trafficking?**  
I prefer to use the term survivor because it's hard enough for the women and I certainly want to get away from the victim stereotype. I feel that there's this myth being built around in NGO circles and at times I've been guilty of doing the same. One of the stories I cover is called *The White Knight*, where I try to deconstruct the image of the white westerner who comes in and saves the day. I want the viewers to understand that the women have become stronger and reintegrated into society after overcoming immense suffering.

**How did you approach the protagonists of your story?**  
I met the protagonists through NGOs and at workshops. But I wasn't interested in the trauma like other journalists. Instead I wanted to focus on how the traffickers managed to appropriate the women and the position they found themselves in. I think this approach gave the survivors some comfort.

**What was the hardest aspect about the project?**  
Anything of sexual nature is naturally very tough to explore, especially for those who've been through child abuse. Sometimes just seeing them is hard enough. One of the survivors I talked to, Bimala, is just nine-years-old and now she's working in a brick kiln. To see them like that and then to leave them, that was the most difficult part.

**Have you met the protagonists of your stories since you last saw them?**  
It's hard to visit people in the far-west for logistical reasons. I've been to Bhaktapur several times to meet Bimala, I also saw the circus performance several times.

**How else have you kept yourself busy?**  
I teach English and art at Change Nepal in Thamel. Before I leave the country, I want to train as many students as I can, mostly children so that they can tell their own stories. My goal is to give words to people who otherwise wouldn't have the means to express themselves, just like the women in my stories.

Graphic voices from Nepal: An investigation of human trafficking  
16 April to 14 May, 10am to 5pm except on Saturdays  
Image Ark Gallery, Kulimha Tol, Patan,  
(01)5006665, 9851016572  
www.graphicvoices.com  
www.archcomix.com  
www.image-ark.com



SOMEPLACE ELSE

Situated at the end of the cluster of up-market restaurants in Jhamsikhel, Thakkhola Thakali Cuisine (TTC) has carved a niche among scores of other eateries offering Chinese, Indian, and continental varieties. TTC skips the MSG-enhanced fare dished out by many and specialises in Nepali food of the Thakali kind.

We chose a tidy squat-down table in the corner and started with alu anda timmur (Rs 125, eggs and potato fried in Szechwan pepper), sukuti fry with timmur ko chhop (Rs 270, deep fried, dried mutton served with Szechwan pepper powder), and alu butter with lasun ko chhop (Rs 105, potatoes pan fried in butter and served with

# Thakkhola Thakali Cuisine

garlic sauce). It was the latter that took us completely by surprise, its mild buttery taste in sharp contrast with the wild, tangy garlic sauce served alongside. Next time we'll take two and suggest that you do too.

Our main course ran the entire gamut of Thakali food in rice, dhindo, and roti. The rice ensemble (Rs 250) and the dhindo set (Rs 195 vegetarian, Rs 295 with meat) both come with what have become essential elements of a Thakali meal: meat curry (we chose chicken, but the restaurant also offers mutton and fish), gundruk ko achar, and rayo ko saag. The dhindo, basically cooked by pouring buckwheat flour into boiling water, was soft, not too bitter, and went well with the rest of the spicy supplements.

The Ghoken set (Rs 225) with alu sukuti jimbu (potatoes and dried mutton cooked in jimbu) came with four buckwheat pancakes and a generous helping of fried meat and potatoes. Despite being cooked in smouldering butter, the spongy pancakes were bereft of greasiness and made



for a fulfilling lunch. The garlic sauce we had retained from the entree served to be an excellent companion to both.

After dipping each morsel in the sauce of another, we decided to wash it all down with a glass of chhyang each. At Rs 90 a serving, this was the only anomaly in a restaurant that was otherwise pretty light on our wallets (we paid a little over Rs 1,500 for a group of



PICS: CINDREY LIU

Himalayan route in Mustang gave birth to such a popular staple in Thakali khana that it has today come to denote 'typical' Nepali cuisine. TTC will show you just why. *H Kali*

*How to get there: turn right from the fire brigade bus stop in Pulchok and head towards Dhobighat. Turn left at the second four-way crossroad and TTC is on the other side of the road.*





# Kicking butts

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

One out of every five death in the developed world is related to cigarette use. In Nepal alone, more than 15,000 die annually of smoking related cause. Smoking has been linked to an increased risk in mouth, throat, and lung cancers, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and stroke. Epidemiological studies show that the risk of lung cancer in a smoker is about 25 per cent more than a non-smoker. Tobacco use is also associated with cataract, delay in peptic ulcer healing, higher rates of complications during pregnancy, and impotence in men.

And yet people keep smoking. There are more than one billion smokers in the world, 30 million new smokers join every year. Over a quarter of Nepalis smoke regularly. What drives people to indulge in this self-destructive behaviour? While the tar, carbon monoxide, and smoke from burning tobacco are dangerous, it is nicotine that makes smoking remarkably addictive and maintains a potentially fatal grip on the minds of smokers. It is imperative to make this



BIKRAM RAI


distinction between addictive and dangerous substances to understand how to quit the habit. So how exactly can you kick butts?

Stopping 'cold turkey' (or suddenly) may be great if you are extremely motivated, but for many people counseling is an integral part of quitting. As part of the counseling process, the healthcare provider should negotiate a 'quit date' with her patient, typically two to three weeks after

the appointment. Counseling should be combined where available with pharmacological interventions to improve success. The drug option is based primarily on providing only nicotine to the smoker without the tar and carbon monoxide.

Nicotine replacement therapy comes in different forms: nicotine patches, lozenges, nose and oral inhalers. Some even resort to electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) which use electricity from a small battery to vaporise a nicotine-containing solution which the smoker can inhale. Unfortunately nicotine replacement therapy is

not generally available in Nepal.

Curbing tobacco use is critical to promoting public health and preventing the harmful outcomes related to cigarette use. However, due to the hugely satisfying effects of nicotine, sustained success rates (called 'quit rates') in smoking cessation are a measly 20 to 30 per cent. So the best advice we can give here is not to start smoking in the first place. 



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### HAPPENINGS



BIKASH DWARE

**DÉJÀ VU:** Leaders of CPN-UML during a politburo meeting at the party headquarters in Balkhu on Tuesday.



BIKRAM RAI

**PART-TIMER:** Haribansha Acharya collects tickets from passengers during the inauguration of Shajha Yatayat bus service in Kathmandu on Saturday.



SUNIR PANDEY

**NO DISCOUNT:** Women vendors sell junk food and puja items near Manakamana temple on Sunday.

### READERS' PHOTO



JAMIE MITCHELL

**IN THE WOODS:** A woman separates branches of wood to make fire at the banks of Koshi River near Prakashpur.





LOOK OUT

Ajaz Ashraf

India's opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) simply can't figure out why communal riots under its rule are never forgotten, while those under Congress governments are.

This has assumed special importance as the BJP is inclined to project as its prime ministerial candidate Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, whose alleged fanning of the 2002 riots continues to haunt him and his party.

Indeed, it is actually the Congress that has palpably failed to control communal hotheads from running amok periodically. Yet the party still garners a substantial chunk of the minority as well as secular votes. Why then is it the BJP that has the 'communal' label?

For one, a riot is an extreme manifestation of the BJP's politics which is predicated on addressing the grievances of Hindus, real or imagined.



The origin of these grievances lie either in India's medieval past or in public policies after independence which the party perceives as favouring minorities.

This worldview pits India's Hindus against the minorities, particularly Muslims. In other words, the inter-community tensions signifying the abnormal in politics, have no possibility of closure in the

asking Muslims to voluntarily relinquish the Babri Masjid. There are similar demands for the relocation of mosques abutting the Krishna and Shiv temples in Mathura and Varanasi.

These symbols of pan-India Hindu mobilisation are augmented through disputes over other places of worship of local significance. For variety, Christian priests are also attacked for allegedly converting

immediate future.

This is stoked at state, district and India-wide levels. The Ram Janmabhoomi movement sought to meld the Hindus into a monolith, through a demand

Hindus to Christianity.

In this culture of inter-community tension, fanned and allowed to simmer, the riot is the logical culmination of an insidious process. The salience of tension-riot in the politics of BJP is why a localised inter-community conflict under its rule acquires a countrywide resonance. The 2002 riot of Gujarat was horrifying because it was viewed to have been ideologically driven and, therefore, bound to be replicated elsewhere.

By contrast, the riots under the Congress, even the ones its activists spearhead are instrumental rather than ideological. Barring the anti-Sikh pogrom of 1984, the riots under the Congress rarely spill beyond a parliamentary constituency or two. The motive behind such mayhem is usually a local Congressman wanting to win an election from a constituency, a riot or communal tension rarely

becomes a tool for political mobilisation countrywide. The 1984 riots were the exception. Though 20 years too late, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, a Sikh himself, apologised to the entire nation "because what took place in 1984 is the negation of the concept of nationhood in our Constitution".

The Congress is forgiven because the riots under it are often (not always) the handiwork of organisations belonging to the Sangh Parivar. It's a conclusion several commissions of inquiry appointed to probe riots have reached. The tension-riot remains the Sangh Parivar's defining strategy of achieving its ideological goal of turning India Hindu. This is why the riots under the BJP are remembered and not those under the Congress, which too has been guilty for the spilling of blood and untold misery. [ashrafajaz3@gmail.com](mailto:ashrafajaz3@gmail.com)

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# RED ALERT

Donation drives and social networking bridge the gap in supply of transfusion blood in Nepal

JUANITA MALAGON

It's early Saturday morning and Shankar Ghimire and his son-in-law are the first ones in queue at the blood camp organised by Red Cross Society at Sifal Chaur in Kathmandu. The 55-year-old director of a pharmaceutical company donates every six months and encourages family and friends to do the same. Unfortunately, there are too few people like Ghimire that there is a chronic shortage of blood in Nepal's hospitals. Prem Sagar, 49, is also in line awaiting his turn. He has donated blood 133 times and

does so every three months. Today, Sagar has woken up early, skipped breakfast, and given his blood. "Blood regenerates every three months so why not help others with what you have," he says with a grin. At Sifal Chaur, blood samples are tested for hepatitis B and C, HIV, syphilis and donors get their blood pressure and history of past donations checked. Earlier, donors used to get a payment for giving blood, but the government banned the practice in 1982. Today a lot of schools, colleges, and businesses conduct their own blood camps and male donors still far outnumber female. "We have to reject a lot of women because most Nepali women in the countryside are anaemic," explains Manita Rajkarnikar of the Red Cross-run Central Blood Transfusion Service (BTS). The Red Cross runs a network of 85 blood centres and hospitals in 62 districts and supplies 500 bags of blood every day. However, demand for blood always outstrips supply in Nepal. Since there are no exact figures on how much blood is needed, demand is managed on a day-to-day basis. As supply dwindles, more blood drives are organised. It isn't just the supply, even transportation of blood is a problem. In Nepal, the onus is completely on the patient's family which has to collect a cool box for blood transport from the hospital, travel half way across the city to BTS's office in Exhibition Road, pick up the blood bag, and bring it

back to the blood unit at the hospital for transfusion. BTS charges Rs 760 per blood bag along with tests for diseases, blood group, and cross-matching. "Our blood bank is not in a position to cater even on a daily scale, forget about crisis situations," says journalist Arpan Shrestha. Two years ago, Shrestha began seeing requests from friends for blood on Facebook. So he started I-Blood Kathmandu to bring together donors and patients through the help of social networking. With more than 3,200 Facebook fans and nearly 1,000 Twitter (@ibloodnepal) followers, I-Blood centralises requests for blood on the web and helps spread the message to a larger audience. Today there are more than 20 similar groups on Facebook and Twitter and the response from donors has been impressive. There are other signs of progress. The Australian government has donated 15 serological centrifuges to the Central Blood Transfusion Service to improve the quality of blood. A seismic-resistant blood bank will be built at the Teaching Hospital with US support to supply transfusion services to 75 per cent of hospitals in Kathmandu. Despite these efforts, Nepal's blood shortage is serious even during normal times. During disasters like earthquakes, it will be a matter of life or death.

Central Blood Transfusion Service, Red Cross (01) 4225344/4229344 Exhibition Road, Kathmandu

## BLOODY FACTS

- Red blood cells carry oxygen and plasma has proteins that allow coagulation and healing. White blood cells help the immune system and fight infections. Platelets help the blood clot.
- Nearly 10 per cent of the human body weight is blood. On average an adult individual has 11 pints of blood and can safely donate about one pint at a time every three months.
- Blood can be used more effectively if it's separated into components and can meet the needs of more than one patient.

## BLOOD GROUPS OF DONORS IN NEPAL

Blood group	NATIONAL		IN KATHMANDU	
	% Positive	% Negative	% Positive	% Negative
A	28.4	0.8	30.5	0.7
B	36.5	0.9	25.0	0.8
O	28.9	0.9	32.0	0.8
AB	13.2	0.4	9.9	0.3
NATIONAL	97	3	97.4	2.6

Source: Central Blood Transfusion Service

## Infections detected in donated blood in Nepal 2011-2012

HIV	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis C	Syphilis
0.15%	0.47%	0.39%	0.37%

## BUSTING MYTHS:

- Myth: A patient can be infected with HIV from blood tansfusion.  
Fact: A sterile, new disposable needle is used for each donation, blood is tested before it is offered for transfusion.
- Myth: Vegetarians don't have enough iron and cannot donate blood.  
Fact: Vegetarians can donate blood, iron in the body is replaced within 6-8 weeks, provided the donor maintains a healthy diet.
- Myth: Donating blood is bad for health.  
Fact: Only about 470ml of blood is taken out at one time and plasma volume returns to normal in 24 hours, while red blood cells are replaced by the bone marrow in 3-5 weeks.

Sources: American Society of Haematology, Central Blood Transfusion Service, WHO, and Blood Connect.



**FIT TO DONATE?**

Healthy adult between **18** and **60** years old

Weigh at least **45** kg

Have more than **12** gm of haemoglobin in the blood





# Transfusion through social networks

Internationally, social media has proven to be a fast, direct, and reliable way to reach the right people at the right time when requesting for and donating blood. And it is catching on in Nepal as well.

A woman with maternity complications in Kathmandu needs a rare type of blood and her relatives put out a notice on Facebook. Within minutes, she has five potential donors. An accident victim is being rushed to Kathmandu from Mugling and needs blood urgently. Friends tweet his blood type and a dozen relatives and acquaintances show up at the hospital ready to donate. With nearly two million Facebook users in Nepal and Twitter picking up fast among the urban middle class with smartphones, social networking is much more accessible than it used to be.

But alerting potential donors about blood transfusion emergencies is not the only role of social networks like Facebook and Twitter. Spreading information of facts related to blood, location, successful stories, those engaged in donation, and encouraging others to donate are trends of information that these kind of pages on social media tend to follow worldwide.

On Facebook and Twitter the information displayed is similar across the world: they show photos of donors, key facts of donation, videos, staff working at transfusion centres, successful cases, and requests for blood.

The difference is the number of likes or followers. For example, the official page of the Blood and Transplant Service for England and North Wales has nearly 250,000 likes. New Zealand Blood Service's Facebook page has almost 20,000 likes, Blood Bank in Kenya has 919 likes, blood donors' page in


Maldives has 284 followers, and an Argentinean local NGO has more than 19,000.

In Nepal, @ibloodNepal has nearly 1,000 followers and more than 3,200 Facebook fans. It centralises requests on

blood types and helps spread the message to a larger Nepali audience through the web. There are 20 other similar groups in Nepal.

On the other hand, hashtags on Twitter with

words like #BloodDonation, #BloodDonor give those who need blood or who want to donate blood a tremendous and immediate reach, especially when they are tweeted and retweeted.

Virtual help also reaches YouTube with videos related to campaigns on donation and apps for smart phones to search for donor centres or mobile blood drive. 

*Juanita Malagon*

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# Marriages of convenience

Yubraj Gyawali, *Setopati.com*, 16 April

सेतोपाटी

Exactly a month ago, Khil Raj Regmi became Chairman of the Interim Council of Ministers without resigning from his chief justice’s post, solely through the efforts of major political parties. To come to power Regmi courted leaders, betraying a lawyer’s code of conduct. He even filled his cabinet with retired bureaucrats nominated by the parties just to keep them happy. President Ram Baran Yadav too played along and approved an ‘obstacle-clearing’ order that propelled Regmi to top post, without thinking about the long-term impacts on the country’s politics and constitution.

In the beginning, the CJ-led government completely kowtowed to the four-party mechanism that, in one leader’s words, still held the keys. But now that Regmi and his ministers feel power is firmly within their hands, they are gradually moving out of the mechanism’s shadow. Regmi has provided clear indications that he won’t let himself be dictated by the big four and despite mounting pressures from the parties to announce an election date, he has stood his ground. Regmi even told UCPN (M) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal that polls cannot take place without proper preparation. His opinions are at odds with the mechanism.

Highly ambitious and experienced, Regmi knows that the president or the Supreme Court are the only two entities who can challenge his power and so far he has maintained a very cordial with Yadav, keeping the president up-to-date with every little decision and detail. Yadav too has reciprocated. There are plenty of examples. The president flatly refused the Election Commission’s proposal that it should have the authority to control the civil police, the armed police, and the national investigation department during the polls and instead he passed a bill which decided that the EC’s power should not exceed recommendations.

However, the legitimacy of both the Regmi-led government and the four-party mechanism has been vehemently opposed by fringe parties. For the first three weeks, the chairman and the president paid no attention to opposing voices

and purposely kept Mohan Baidya and Upendra Yadav out of discussions. But with continued pressure on the streets and warnings from foreign emissaries to hear their concerns, Regmi was forced to warm up to Baidya and co.

Although Regmi has been adamant that his government is constitutional, the chief justice in him is aware that there is a large group that is out to prove the illegitimacy of his alliance with the mechanism. This relationship has now become a burden for him. Unfortunately he cannot even completely disown the four parties because they provide him with a cushion.

It will be interesting to see Baluwatar and



MIN RATNA BAURACHARYA

Shital Niwas come together in a marriage of convenience in the months ahead. Yadav stood above the constitution and misinterpreted its definitions to appoint Regmi as interim head of the executive. Regmi’s legitimacy is currently being deliberated at the apex court and if the SC decides that the appointment was unconstitutional then Yadav and Regmi’s positions will be in danger. To safeguard their existence, both will try to propose and pass ridiculous bills. And if polls are not conducted on time, the president will probably clean his hands by seeking a new player to begin a new political equation.

# Lashing out

Shivaraj Khatri, *Khaptad News National Daily*, 15 April

खप्तड न्यूज

While rest of the country was busy celebrating new year last week, Kabita BK in Mangalsen of Achham district didn’t even have time to sit down and finish her meal. The entire day she was trying to get away from her younger brother-in-laws who were beating her with bundles of nettle as part of a new year ritual prevalent in the far-west. “My brother-in-law broke into my room and started flogging me continuously. My skin is red and it stings really badly,” she says almost in tears.

Like Kabita, thousands of women in far-western Nepal are terrified of new year’s day. On 1 Baisak every year, younger brother and sister-in-laws lash their elder brothers’ wives with branches of stinging nettle because they believe this process will protect them from skin disease and allergies. “A few days before the celebrations, I get very worried and feel sick,” admits Kabita. The same ritual is observed during Bisu festival as well.

Family members usually outnumber the women making it impossible for them to escape and the ritual turns into a day-long torture. “I cannot even defend myself because there are too many floggers and they are much stronger than me,” says Kabita holding a bunch of nettle shoots herself as she tries to fight back her in-laws.

According to some locals, even those who do not have brother and sister-in-laws are required to whip themselves with nettle to keep this long-standing tradition alive.

## NEPALI TWEETS

मुसाल विवेक  
१२ वर्षमा खोलो फकिन्ट भन्थे साझा फकर आयो, अब मान्छेहरुको बुद्धि ति फकियोस। नयाँ वर्षको कामना।  
Like rivers, the Sajha bus has also returned in 12 years. Hope people's brains will also return. Happy New Year.

इशान  
#occupybaluwatar सन्ध्यावादको विशेषता नै यसको निरन्तरता थियो। सो निरन्तरताले नेतागण र प्रशासनको अहङ्कार तोडेर थियो। अन्त्य गर्नुहुदैन थियो।  
#occupybaluwatar Satyagraha's continuity had smashed the administration's ego. It shouldn't have been halted.

PrakatKumar Shishir  
सहि समाचार पढ्न भोलीपल्टको पत्रिका पढ्दा हुन्छ। आजकल सचिवालय धेरै आउन थालेको छ।  
#सचिवालयको #भूलयस  
It is best to wait for tomorrow's paper for accurate news. These days there are a lot of corrected news. #rectified #mistake

विश्वल वामने  
सुनको भाउ धेरै लै घटेको रैछ आफ्नो दान झरेर सबै मा सुनको दान हाले ति दुले जस्तो छ अब त पि करोडको हासो हास्य पर्छ अनि डि  
The price of gold has nose-dived, looks like everyone will soon have gold teeth and flash million dollar smiles.

## WEEKLY BAZAR POLL #9

In weekly polls conducted with the support of The Asia Foundation, Himal Khabarpatrika asks 375 respondents in 14 cities across Nepal every Monday for their opinion on contemporary issues.

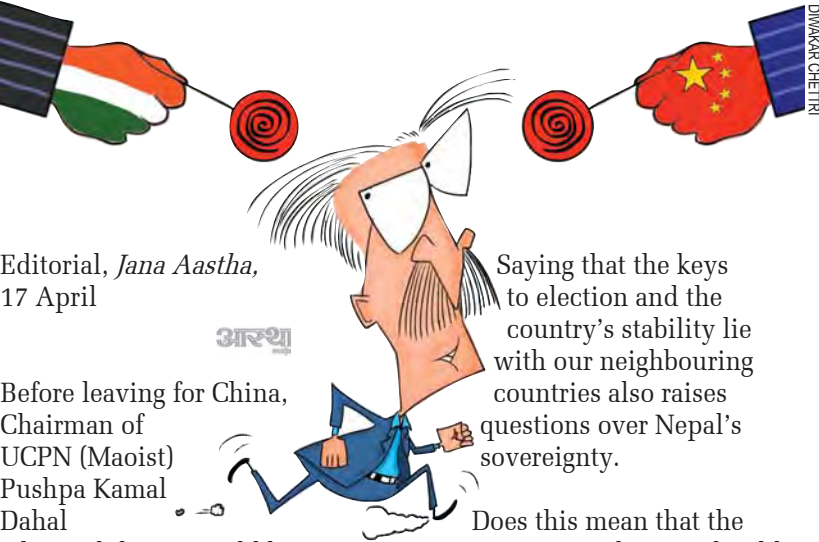
1. The Constituent Assembly was allegedly dissolved because the parties couldn’t agree on the form of federalism. Do you think Nepal should be a federal state?

Yes 46.3%  
No 41.2%  
Don't know 12.2%  
Won't say 0.3%

2. What kind of federal structure should we adopt?

North-south states 52.9%  
Current development regions 13.2%  
Separate mountains, hills, plains 9.2%  
Ethnicity 8.0%  
Current zones 4.6%  
Don't know 4.6%  
Language 4.0%  
Current districts 2.9%  
Won't say 0.6%

# Find those keys



Editorial, *Jana Aastha*, 17 April

Before leaving for China, Chairman of UCPN (Maoist) Pushpa Kamal Dahal admitted that it would be difficult to hold free elections without the support of China and India. A leader of his stature bowing to the influence of foreign players shows his faltering confidence in the current political process.

Dahal’s statement reflects the parasitic mentality of our ruling class who is accustomed to taking orders from outside.

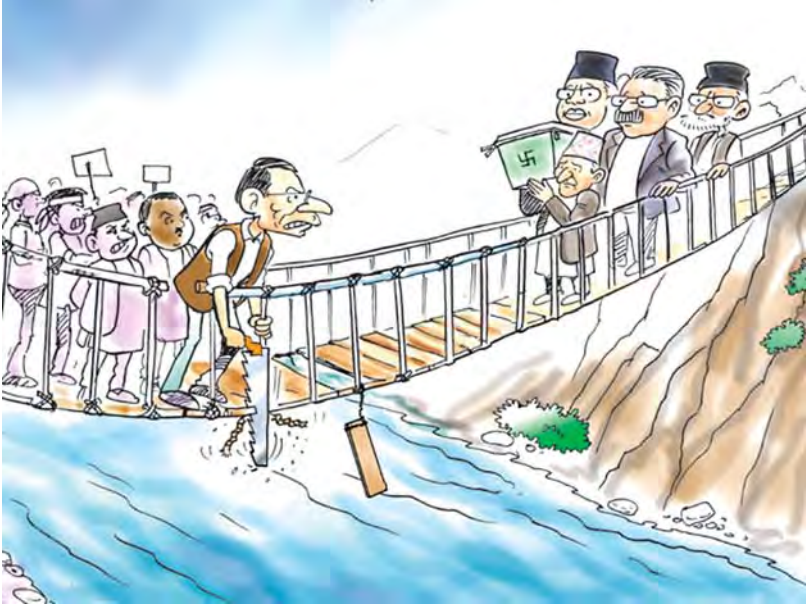
Saying that the keys to election and the country’s stability lie with our neighbouring countries also raises questions over Nepal’s sovereignty.

Does this mean that the upcoming CA election should be held according to the wishes and needs of outsiders instead of Nepalis? Dahal will probably seek financial assistance from the Chinese for elections. If that is the case then maybe we should let the Indians decide the election constituency of the Nepali leaders.

The leaders have to

understand that Nepali people are desperate to see the new constitution written through a second round of CA elections. If the parties are truly determined to hold elections they don’t need approval or assistance from other countries. Yes, we have to maintain strategic diplomatic ties with our neighbours given our geopolitical compulsions, but that doesn’t mean they get to have a final say in all our internal matters.

Seeking support and goodwill for polls is acceptable, but it becomes greatly worrying when a national leader on an official trip says that the aim of his visit is to seek stability. Isn’t it the parties’ responsibility to ensure stability in the country? It’s time we stopped being carrom men and took the reins of the country in our hands.



नेपाल Rabindra, *Nepal*, 14 April

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK



UCPN(M) leader Barsa Man Pun, *Naya Patrika*, 16 April

“We brought them into power because they said they could hold elections within June, but now they make excuses that June is impossible. We suspect they’re doing this to remain in power for longer.”



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# Doctorate in Dacoitry

U H-OH. Bad timing to set fire to a hydropower plant. Which means we have to invent even more creative ways to generate electricity to cope with increased power cuts this week. The Ass brought together Nepal’s best scientific minds for a brain-storming session and here is what we came up with:

1. Implement weekly load-shedding by zones. For example: Eastern Development Region (Mon, Wed, Fri), Central Development Region (Tue, Thurs, Sat), Western Development Region (Thu, Sun, Tue) etc. The beauty of this plan is that the schedule can be immediately transferred to future ethno-federal provinces.
2. Add a power plant to the new electric crematorium in Pashupati. Heat generated from burning bodies will be fed into boilers to steam turbines to generate 15MW of peak electricity. This power can be recycled to power the crematorium during load-shedding hours.
3. A lot of methane generated by the Bagmati is going to waste, we can tap the un-natural gas and pipe it to a multifuel generator.
4. Cars stalled in traffic can hook up to road-side power sockets to pump

electricity into the grid

5. Idle rickshaws can be commandeered to generate pedal power to feed Kathmandu’s peak demand.

On the week that Nepal entered the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest tv broadcast in world history, another Nepali is trying to unseat North Korean tv by transmitting the most boring news and current affairs program ever. Which shouldn’t be difficult since we now have a government led by bureaucrats cutting ribbons. With the 24-storey high rise in Purano Bus Park getting the go-ahead we can also soon claim to have the world record for the tallest building in the world without a functioning lift.

Yet another feather in Nepal’s cap this week as the country’s Maoists were recognised as the inventors of the pressure cooker bomb, a design used by the perpetrators of the Boston Marathon bombing. If they had bothered to patent the design, the Maoists could have raked in millions in licence fees by now from terrorist groups around the world.

Since Nepal is now known as probably the most crooked country in the world, it behoves us to ensure that title by opening a School for Scoundrels. Our institutes of higher learning are steeped in old-fashioned values like ethics, integrity, and hard work and do not prepare young Nepalis to survive in the dog-eat-dog world out there. The School of Scoundrels (affiliated to the Charlatan Heston University in the USA) will produce the necessary manpower so that the country will not have a future shortage of kleptocrats, arsonists, kidnappers, and street-smart pickpockets.

Competition is fierce for wannabe crooks desirous of pursuing higher studies in hooliganism since everyone wants to be a ruffian these days. The institute has a strict screening policy that shortlists only the scum of the earth and from that group carefully selects outstandingly evil geniuses with a demonstrable ability to break the Fourth Commandment (or is it the Third?).

Freshers immediately get down to serious academics with a specially-designed four-year postgraduate course under a special Rascals-in-Residence program.

This is followed by an interdisciplinary PhD course in pursuance of a Doctorate in Dacoitry. Post-docs will have to complete a compulsory one-year internship in a hotbed of corruption so they garner valuable real-life experience in ransacking the treasury.

**Full descriptions of the courses on offer:**  
Introductory Course for Smugglers  
Course guide: Prof Dr Tusker  
Level: Intermediate  
Nepal has run out of Indian currency as a result of a balance of payments crisis, so there are tremendous job opportunities in this field as we try to fill the shortfall. This course allows students to explore creative new ways to conduct border crossings for their precious cargo and invites them to view this practice within the broader framework of SAFTA.

**Extortion as a Force in Nation-Building**  
Faculty Supervisor: Comrade Johnny  
Cash of the Dash Baddies  
Level: Junior  
This course offers students an extensive and intensive experience in all kinds of extortion, including purloining, kidnapping for ransom, graft, and blackmail. It is also an expensive course, which in itself is an example of extortion. Partial scholarships available for deserving candidates and free firearms training.

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यो योजना १ बैशाख २०७० देखि १२ जेठ २०७० सम्म लागू हुनेछ ।

