



**INTRODUCING  
OUTDOOR  
FURNITURE**

**EMBRACE ME WITH LOVE  
COMFORTABLY SOOTHING**

**Index furniture**  
(EXCLUSIVE FURNITURE FROM THAILAND)

**FREE DELIVERY & INSTALLATION**

METROPARK BUILDING (1ST FLOOR), LAZIMPAT 4415181  
STEEL TOWER (OLD UNITY TOWER), JAWALAKHEL 5000270

LIKE US  
[www.facebook.com/INDEXFURNITURETHAILAND](https://www.facebook.com/INDEXFURNITURETHAILAND)



BHRIGUTI RA

# MOTHER OF A PROBLEM

**B**aspuri Sunar, 27, holds her two-year-old daughter who was delivered at Simikot's district hospital. Sunar works as a daily wage labourer in Simikot and is among the many young mothers in rural Nepal who have benefited from the government's safe motherhood programs. However, the district hospital doesn't have the manpower or resources to offer caesarean section leaving hundreds of women to gamble with their lives. And even when resources are painstakingly collected to provide access to quality healthcare in remote parts of the country, endemic corruption ends up killing an entire community's prosperity.

PAGE 16-17

# HYBRID ERA



Last week *Nepali Times* took out the two hybrids - the Honda Insight and the Toyota Prius - on a test spin around Kathmandu's dusty and not-yet widened streets. Flip through to find out if the two cars are worth the price and the hype.

PAGE 10-11

**LAVAZZA**  
ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE

Shree Guest House:  
Bhaktapur

Hotel Mandala:  
Boudha

Mail to [lavazza@subhashingalintl.com](mailto:lavazza@subhashingalintl.com)

Step in for more varieties at

**LIFE STYLE**  
DESIGN & DECOR



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

**SOLAR ELECTRICITY CO.(P) LTD.**

**SEC**

Solar Complex, Bagbazar, Kathmandu.

Tel: 4225253, 4227876, Fax: 4223851

Email : [lses@vianet.com.np](mailto:lses@vianet.com.np)

**EverExceed®** **SHARP** **SOLARLAND** **SunLink PV**


**UNIKOR** **kaneka**

Installing Solar PV Since 1991




GENERAL PURPOSE  
GENERATORS


**FIRMAN**  
NEW POWER NEW LIFE



**FIRMAN "New Power New Life" — Petrol, Diesel & Executive based Generators, Range from 2.5 to 100kVA, 1 year Warranty**



**GAUTAM ELECTRIC AND ELECTRONICS CENTRE**  
Head Office: B. P. Chowk, Pashaura, T-961535250. F-196155162  
Corporate Office: Bluestar Office Complex, 503, Thaparville, Katkandua  
F-101, G-200806, F-101, G-200803, E-1010004910



**GAUTAM ASSOCIATES**

**THE  
NORTH  
FACE**

Authorized Dealer:  
**Sherpa Adventure Outlet**  
Thamel, Kathmandu  
Tel: +977 1 4445101  
[www.sao.com.np](http://www.sao.com.np)

**Mahindra**  
**Rodeo RZ**

**LET'S DO MORE**

**PERSONAL INFO**

Name: **Ghital Moktan**

Age group: **25 - 27**

Hobby: **Singing, Dancing & Travelling**

Profession: **Singer/Music Arranger/Director**

I'm living my life  
to the fullest!  
**What about you?**

With Mahindra Rodeo RZ's amazing mileage, powerful 125 cc engine and other exciting features, I've been going places and doing things flaunting its sheer power. Now it's your turn to live your life to the fullest.

- 125 cc Z-Series Engine
- Digital Dashboard
- 4 in 1 Anti-Theft Key
- Front Fuelling
- MP3/ Mobile Charger

**59.38 kmpl**

"Real Customers. Real Stories."

#Images used are of the actual customer.

- Swimming
- Rock Climbing
- Fitness
- Yoga

**Mahindra**  
**Rodeo RZ**  
**SYM 125CC**

**Mahindra**  
**Ride**



DISTANT NORMALISATION

It has been the lot of the Nepali polity to suffer interminable dissonance, from deep history to the present. The latest post-conflict era has been marked by events that affect ‘normalisation’, which are mainly driven by prejudiced efforts of one party to push its agenda and the inability of the ‘democratic forces’ to protect the people.

The much-touted peace process has been a period used by the UCPN-Maoist to consolidate its position in open society. Which in itself is a natural course for the former rebel party to take, but for this purpose it has used extreme opportunism which has been destructive for society as a whole.

The party has promoted whatever is good for itself without a view to the need for normalisation so that the economy would grow and the poor would get succor. Starting with the obstacles created for consensus government which forced the Nepali Congress to stay in the opposition in the early days of the Constituent Assembly, in the following years the Maoists blocked the peace process for more than five years, sought to push through a constitution for a one-party state, and got involved in corruption the scale of which can only be imagined.

It was possibly to protect itself through an amenable chief of the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority that the name of Lok Man Singh Karki was proposed by Pushpa Kamal Dahal. This became yet another roadblock on the road to normalisation because a person was being proposed to head the anti-graft body, when the same institution had indicted him for corruption years earlier.

The anti-graft law that backs the CIAA is an exemplary one, which was possible because of the democratic window that opened with parliamentary



Nepal has one of the finest laws to tackle corruption, but in the hands of the wrong person, that law can be lethal

practice after 1990. The CIAA chief’s position has been made powerful and Nepal was at the time proud to be the country which had enacted one of the finest laws to tackle corruption.

However, in the hands of the wrong person, that law can be lethal. It can be used to bring down independent politicians, to wring the throat of entrepreneurship and promote crony capitalism and piranha foreign investors rather than genuine ones. This is why Karki seems to have been chosen by the UCPN-M leadership.

An important matter that has not been addressed in the past week’s activism is the impact on domestic and foreign investment when you place someone of such non-credibility on the chair of the anti-graft body with the express intention of cleansing one party and hounding its political opposition. This will drive away anyone wanting to genuinely invest in Nepali society and will lead to capital flight – impacting employment and continuing export of youth labour to the menial Indian and overseas market.

An additional distressing element in the Karki episode has been the widely talked about involvement of some foreign ‘elements’ in propelling him to the post of CIAA chief – which would put the said person in an unassailable position for the next six years to do the bidding of whoever would replace him in that position.

Given the complete abdication of responsibility by the NC and CPN (UML) and even the involvement of the top leadership in agreeing to appoint Karki as the head of the CIAA, it is left to the citizens as well as the party rank and file to rise against this further obstruction to normalisation.

ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

MOUNTAIN FIGHT

All said and done, it appears to me that the fist fight on Everest was a result of serious miscommunication between the two groups, but miscommunication in inhospitable environment is expected ('Mountain fight', Kunda Dixit, #654). However, no matter what the circumstances, it doesn't give anyone the right to inflict bodily harm on others.

Luv Nepal

● Mountaineering is one of the most respected sports in the world. But thanks to us money-hungry Nepalis, it has lost all its charm. With ladders across treacherous crevasses and fixed-ropes on slippery faces, virtually anyone who can pay huge amounts of money can climb to the top of the world. 'Piggy-back mountaineering' needs to stop for the sake of preserving the beauty of the mountain and preventing the huge ecological impact downstream. Only true mountaineers should be allowed to climb, keeping the spirit of the sport alive.

Sagar Panthi

SPEAKING FOR THE SHERPAS

This article is typical of the romanticism that westerners ascribe to the Sherpas ('Speaking for the Sherpas', Frances Klatzel, #654). There is no point generalising about any race or ethnic group because there are both good and bad everywhere. But there is also no excuse for 100 Sherpas to physically attack the three European alpinists no matter



what they did. The Sherpas may have had a concept of Dhi, but it looks like their tradition of tolerance and sense of community have eroded over time. There is much ugly jealousy and greed on every expedition.

R Rai

● The real problem here is that modern tourists are not really

interested in understanding the local culture and are ill-prepared to adapt to the conditions. This applies even more to modern professional adventurers who make their plans back home then fly into Nepal and try to squeeze every moment of their journey in order to achieve their goals. There is also a degree of arrogance among them due to their material wealth. Under such circumstances, conflict with locals is inevitable.

Ivan Buzasy

● The habit of resorting to violence has been institutionalised in Nepali culture thanks to the mainstreaming of the Maoists - a price Nepalis will have to pay for decades. Moreover, with the fallacious business strategy that Nepali trekking agencies, guides, and porters are following with the aim to capture the attention of the tourists and the asymmetrical federal set-up that the Maoists want to introduce, I won't be surprised if one day the Sherpa community which the author describes here so eloquently for their spiritual lifestyles are tangled up by the utility of violent methods to earn their bread.

Anonymous

CLASH OF CULTURES

More than a cultural clash, I think the brawl on Everest has to do with the young generation of Sherpas

('Clash of cultures', Editorial, #654). I am not blaming them for being intolerant. They are doing a good job and risking their lives to earn for their families. However, they should follow the footsteps of the older generation and try to maintain the reputation that has taken years to build. As far as the visitors are concerned they cannot expect a royal treatment all the time.

Phuli Sherpa

● It's interesting to know that the average per capita income of Khumbu is three times higher than the national average. However, if you remove the rose coloured glasses and look beneath the veneer, you will see this new found wealth is guarded with immense jealousy and insecurity by the local people. Just ask a Tamang or Rai from the lower hills about how difficult it is to penetrate into that world of wealth and fame and you will get a better picture. There is a lot of money involved in commercial expedition and trekking business concentrated in Khumbu and the hard fact is that the local Sherpas want to monopolise it.

Krishna S

MUDDLING THROUGH

Political parties that are not functioning democratically cannot possibly democratise the whole country ('Muddling through', George Varughese, #654). But the comedy is that our intellectuals still believe undemocratic parties can deliver democracy.

KK Sharma

Q OF THE WEEK

What do you dislike about Nepal ?

facebook

Gunjan Gautam: Lack of patriotism  
Sandesh Siwakoti Ghimire: Pessimistic nature of Nepalis  
Bejoy Gautam: Our attitude and double standards towards intolerance  
Bandana Shah: Deep rooted racism among the majority  
Paulina Acosta: Electricity problems  
Amit Dhoj Khadka: The 'ke garné' attitude  
Olav Myrholt: Disregard and disrespect for people of perceived lower status

twitter

@udaya: People who pretend to be genuine patriot  
@ShivaniBasnet: Dust and high society brats  
@sirensongs: Air pollution in KTM  
@adhikarik: Politics and haphazard urbanisation  
@impratpaphapa: Corruption

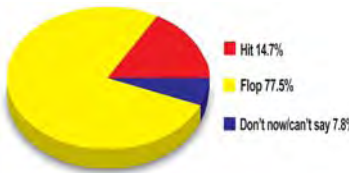
This week's Question of the Week:  
'How can we control corruption in Nepal?'  
Go to [www.facebook.com/nepalitimes](http://www.facebook.com/nepalitimes) or [www.twitter.com/nepalitimes](http://www.twitter.com/nepalitimes)



nepalnews.com  
Weekly Internet Poll # 655

Q. How do you rate Pushpa Kamal Dahal's visit to India?

Total votes: 1,224



Weekly Internet Poll # 656. To vote go to: [www.nepalitimes.com](http://www.nepalitimes.com)

Q. Do you think the Nepali cricket team will qualify for World Cup 2015?



Nepali Times on Facebook  
Follow @nepalitimes on Twitter







BY THE WAY  
Anurag Acharya

Last month, Nepal’s Supreme Court stayed the appointment of tainted former bureaucrat Lok Man Singh Karki to the head of anti-graft body, the CIAA. On Wednesday, Karki was sworn in. The court had cleared the way for his appointment by stating that in the absence of any formal recommendation, it didn’t need to intervene or further inquire into the matter. But it instructed the government to make the appointment to constitutional bodies as per existing laws. Within a week, the Constitutional Council had formally recommended Karki’s name for the post.

The following day, two bureaucrat ministers who took an unwilling part in the decision went to Shital Niwas and told the president that they wanted to resign. The ministers seemed to be reeling under more than political pressure. Everything in this case points to the dark end of Nepali politics about which not much is said, less asked.

After Karki’s recommendation, the mainstream has limited itself to anonymous quotes of leaders blaming India for exerting pressure on their party. However, there has been little analysis about why appointment to an anti-corruption body holds such cross-border significance.

New Delhi watchers in Kathmandu believe that the fluidity of Nepali politics and inevitable power realignment in



BIKRAM RAI

# The hidden hand

India’s policy of micro-managing the region rather than taking neighbours into confidence has destabilised South Asia

the near future are prompting India to consolidate its position, from where it can negotiate its stakes. It is not just about what the head of an anti-graft watchdog can do, but also about what he has power not to that has generated so much interest in this appointment. There is a realisation that the CIAA has a potential not just to investigate upon individuals in power, but also to discipline them and effectively control their behaviour.

The Indian influence in the Karki affair may not be as direct as the political tabloids suggest, but it is clear that New Delhi is repeating the mistake it made in 2009. Preoccupied with its role in

Afghanistan and upcoming elections at home, the Indian establishment left Nepal in the hands of desk officers and intelligence handlers, who have little regard for the transition to either democracy or pluralism in the neighbourhood. India’s growing military and economic might has bolstered its image as a superpower, but the country is yet to behave with the magnanimity and nuanced understanding of one. It has expanded its diplomatic influence beyond South Asia, but closer to home it commands neither credibility nor respect.

Even after 65 years of independence, the New Delhi establishment refuses to

NO HE CAN’T: Members of civil society protest against the recommendation of Lok Man Singh Karki for the post of CIAA chief in front of Shital Niwas on Sunday.

unlearn the crude diplomacy inherited from its colonial masters. Its policy of controlling the neighbourhood rather than taking the neighbours into confidence has destabilised South Asia and lowered its own image internationally.

“The Indians have leverage in all major political parties because all top leaders have, at some point, used their Indian connections to fulfil their own political ambition,” one NC leader admitted to me this week. But Nepali politics is not just driven by the burden of favours anymore. In these times of uncertainty, it is the fear of the unknown that shapes behaviour of political actors more than anything.

But more than India, the Karki appointment has thoroughly exposed Nepal’s own feckless political leadership and its hypocrisy. It has laid bare our compromised sovereignty and ability of outsiders to dictate even the appointment of commissioners. But it also presents us with an opportunity to say enough is enough and break away from the past.

For the first time after the People’s Movement, Nepal’s civil society and media seem galvanised around an issue. Parties are under pressure from young idealist leaders, who are calling on the leadership to take principled position on the issue. The country is still in transition, the elections are uncertain, and the parties will have plenty to disagree upon. But they must learn to fight their own battles, make their own mistakes, and learn from them rather than look north or south for approval. 🇳🇵

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Abt Associates, a global leader in health, technical assistance, and program implementaton, seeks qualified candidates for a potential Family Planning/Reproductive Health Project in Nepal. Brief descriptions and qualification requirements for open positions are listed below. All positions are contingent on project award.

To be considered for any position, an applicant must submit his/her CV and an application letter that provides details of the applicant's specific qualifications for the desired position to:

**Nepal\_Jobs@AbtAssoc.com**

In the subject line of the email, write the title of the position for which you are applying. If you wish to apply for more than one position, please submit separate applications for each position. Applications that do not follow these instructions, or that do not meet the stated minimum qualification requirements, **will not be considered.**

**Programme Director** - Provides overall strategic direction, management and technical leadership to the project in Nepal, and acts as the primary liaison between the project, DfID, and the government of Nepal. Responsible for ensuring responsiveness and quality of project results, guiding senior technical staff and the overall management of operational, financial and administrative aspects of the project. **Qualification Requirements:** Master's Degree (minimum) in Public Health, Health Administration, or Medicine and 15 years of related experience. Substantial experience in the areas of family planning service provision, reproductive health, health care improvement strategies, social marketing, and working with public and private health sectors is desired. Demonstrated experience managing a donor funded project in a developing country and experience with DfID contracts is highly desirable.

**Technical Director** - Leads efforts to develop and implement the project's strategies to reach clients with family planning services through non-state providers and non-traditional channels. Responsible for managing, engaging, and strengthening public sector and private sector partnerships with an emphasis on increasing family planning delivery and utilization. S/he will develop and oversee the project's demand creation strategies and total market approach to family planning service delivery. **Qualification Requirements:** Minimum of a Master's degree in a relevant discipline and 10+ years of experience, with an emphasis on family planning and private sector approaches to expanding service delivery.

**Finance & Administration Manager** - Provides leadership and direction for the management of the contract, procurement, subcontracting, financial management and reporting, and general administrative support of the program. Develops and tracks budgets, manages payroll and vendor relations, and controls all financial transactions and reporting, both for the client and for Abt associates headquarters. **Qualification Requirements:** Bachelors Degree (minimum) or a Master's Degree in Business, Administration, Finance, or Accounting and 10+ years of experience in administration, project management and/or financial management, 5 of which should be working with international donors in a development setting. Experience with DfID contracts desirable.

Interested individuals can learn more about Abt Associates' multi-disciplinary group of dedicated professionals who provide technical assistance, research, analysis, and systems strengthening services in more than 100 countries at:

**www.abtassociates.com**

SHAH RUKH KHAN  
AND HIS AQUARACER

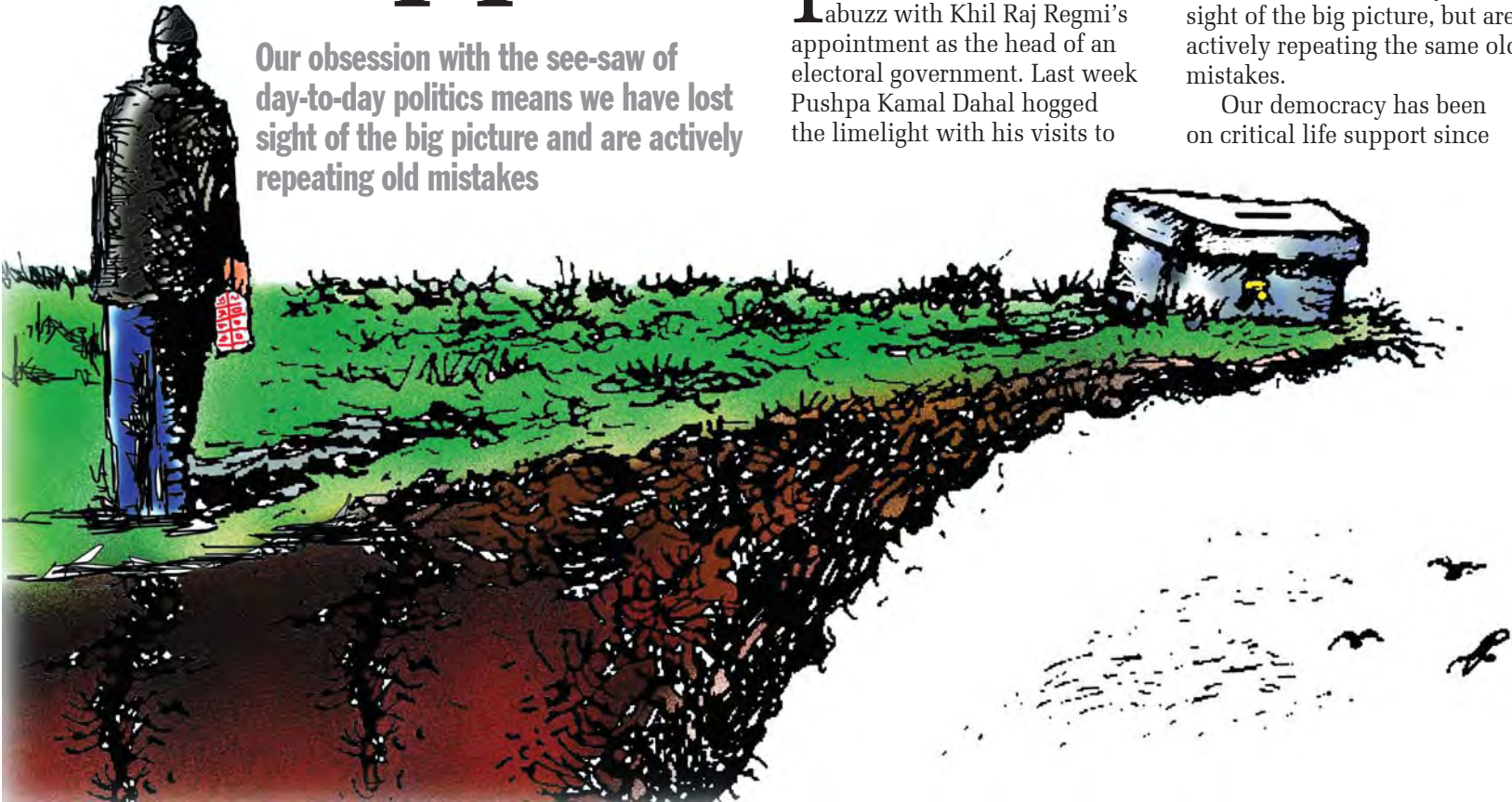
**TAGHeuer**  
SWISS AVANT-GARDE SINCE 1860

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



# On life support

Our obsession with the see-saw of day-to-day politics means we have lost sight of the big picture and are actively repeating old mistakes



NT ARCHIVE



HERE WE GO  
Trishna Rana

In early March, politically charged Kathmandu was abuzz with Khil Raj Regmi's appointment as the head of an electoral government. Last week Pushpa Kamal Dahal hogged the limelight with his visits to

neighbours in the north and south and this week it was Lok Man Singh Karki's turn. Next week it will be someone or something else who will once again take away focus from holding polls in November. The nation's short attention span means we have not only lost sight of the big picture, but are actively repeating the same old mistakes.

Our democracy has been on critical life support since

April 2010 when elected representatives failed to write a new constitution. Everything in the past three years from choosing the head of government to announcing (and then postponing) election dates has happened through dubious amendments to the interim constitution, closed door horse trading, and on the whim of ageing alpha males. Ordinary Nepalis have been completely shut out of the democratic process. From time to time small numbers gather outside Baluwatar and Singha Darbar, but public outrage too is fickle, it comes and goes.

There is also a feeling of déjà vu from 2007-2008 as we stagger towards another CA elections. Elections were postponed from June to November in 2007 because no one was ready. November came and went and parties still could not reach an agreement on which electoral system to follow. Finally after two abortive attempts polls took place in May, but not without major hiccups.

Six years on, the flip-flopping continues. The government is hesitant to announce dates, preparations for polls are moving at a snail's pace, political leaders don't seem particularly keen to get the election ball rolling, and the fringe parties are refusing to even register at the Electoral Commission. The NC, UCPN(M), and UML particularly seem low on confidence after their trips to the Tarai to gauge public opinion did not turn out as well as they had expected.

After one and half month of being the chairman of the interim electorate cabinet, Regmi finally seems to have tired of photo ops and has finally called for a meeting with all major parties including Mohan Baidya and his men on Friday. But there are too many loose strings at the moment for the meeting to produce any concrete resolution. With the commotion surrounding Karki still fresh we can expect another week or two of distraction.

Clearly, a refocus is required on the part of the CJ-led government. The only reason Khil Raj Regmi is in Singha Darbar is to hold polls, but none of the ribbon cutting ceremonies he has presided over as chief guest has done anything to boost the public's confidence. The more time he wastes in political foot dragging the more clear it will be to Nepalis about who pulls the strings.

Nepalis will have to carry the burden of the mistake Regmi and his men made on Wednesday by allowing Karki to head the CIAA for the next six years. But he still has one more chance to set things right. Whatever the conclusions of the meeting on Friday, the lawyer turned head of government will have to be more assertive and declare election dates in November with no provision of extensions whether the parties like it or not. With no other option remaining, the parties will be jolted into action and will have to get their act together.



## Message by Dr. Alexander Spachis, Ambassador of the European Union to Nepal on Europe Day 2013

Europe Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the European Union's achievements in promoting democracy, human rights, peace and prosperity on the European continent. For these efforts, the EU was awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize. We see this great honour as a call to not only commemorate our past achievements but also look forward to how we can take this work further in the future.

The 9<sup>th</sup> of May bears special significance in European history. 63 years ago, Robert Schuman called on the nations of Europe to make war on the continent impossible and spread peace and prosperity globally. This was to be initiated through gradual steps, starting with the creation of a coal and steel community. Since then, the process of European integration has come through a long journey culminating with the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, signed by the Member States in December 2007.

Since the beginning, EU Members have worked to find common solutions to collective problems. This has resulted in the gradual development of a number of policies aimed at promoting prosperity and solidarity in Europe. These include the creation of an integrated economic area involving the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital and common rules for competition and external trade. It has also led to measures to protect the environment, citizen's rights and to develop the poorest regions of the EU, just to mention a few examples.

The EU is committed to reflecting the culture of consensus, cooperation and mutual respect in its external action. Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the EU has brought under one umbrella all the elements of its external action – diplomatic, political, development, humanitarian aid, trade as well as security with a view to providing a comprehensive response to global challenges, including energy and water security and climate change.

Over the years, the EU has emerged as the largest contributor of overseas development assistance across the globe. EU external assistance includes both emergency and short-term and long-term assistance. The European Union has earned an international reputation by being responsive to the needs of those struck by natural and man-made disasters. The latest intervention in African countries hit by floods resulting in an acute food insecurity affecting millions of people underscores the effectiveness of EU's response to crises. One of the key objectives of the EU action in the world is the promotion of peace, democracy and human rights. Through the provision of electoral assistance and observation, the EU has become a leading actor in the strengthening of democratic institutions, building public confidence in electoral processes and helping to deter fraud, intimidation and violence.

Election observation provides the opportunity to assess an electoral process according to international standards. Additionally, the EU supports the reinforcement of electoral systems across the world, for example, through building capacity in, inter alia,



independent election commissions and civil society organisations. The presence of the EU in Nepal deserves special mention on this auspicious day. EU-Nepal cooperation has grown and broadened over the last three decades. Today, the European Union and its Member States combined donate nearly 40 percent of the total development assistance flowing into Nepal. The EU has become a trusted development partner of the Nepali Government. The EU has been working with the Government and the people of Nepal in the fields of human rights and democracy, education, environment, trade, renewable energy, peace building and democracy. I am pleased to mention here that, like in 2008, the EU is committed to supporting the election process in Nepal in 2013 and it is seriously considering the deployment of an EU Election Observation Mission to Nepal for the forthcoming elections.

The EU's objective in Nepal is to contribute to the consolidation of its peace process and .to its sustainable development. Hence we wish to renew our pledge to continue assisting Nepal in the days ahead. **Long live the EU-Nepal Friendship!**

**Dr. Alexander Spachis**  
Ambassador  
Head of European Union Delegation to Nepal

### European Union development cooperation with Nepal

In the last few years, EU contributions to Nepal have amounted to an average of €30 million/year, including all sources of funding from the EU budget.

EU country-specific assistance to Nepal in the areas of education, stability and peace building, and trade facilitation and economic capacity building during the period 2007-2013 amounts to €120 million.

Some examples of additional commitments under budget lines dedicated to specific activities include:

- Global Climate Change Alliance (€ 8 million)
- Uprooted People (Refugees from Bhutan) (€3million)
- food security (€4 million)
- specific human rights actions (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights) (€2.1 million)
- non-state actor development (€4 millions) and local actors (€1 million)

The combined contributions by the European Union and its Member States, including direct assistance and participation in funding by United Nations and international lending agencies, represents approximately half of the total development assistance received by Nepal.



# The moment of truth

The upcoming elections on Saturday has both nurtured hope and generated anxiety among Pakistanis and its outcome is likely to reverberate beyond Pakistan's borders



SHAHID JAVED BURKI in LAHORE

Pakistan's moment of political truth is fast approaching. On 11 May, some 40-50 million voters will elect a new national assembly. The outcome, preceded by a spike in extremist violence, is likely to reverberate far and wide. Pakistan's homegrown terrorist groups know that the country is at a tipping point and are attacking candidates and voters who favour a secular state. Hundreds of people have already been killed and more will undoubtedly die before Election Day, targeted because, if these groups prevail, they would push what is sometimes called the 'idea of Pakistan' to its logical – and extreme – conclusion.

Before 1947, the population of what is now Pakistan was about two-thirds Muslim; the remainder were mostly Hindus and Sikhs. That composition changed dramatically with the partition of the new states of India and Pakistan, when 14 million people moved across the newly drawn border. Eight million Muslim refugees fled India and entered Pakistan, and six million Hindus and Sikhs moved in the opposite direction. By the time this 'ethnic cleansing' was over, Pakistan's population was 95 per cent Muslim.

Over time, an increasing proportion of this population began to demand the creation of an Islamic state in the areas that were now Pakistan. The upcoming election will determine how far the country will go along this route. Pakistan is not the only Muslim country seeking to redefine its political and economic future. Similar processes are playing out in other large countries in the western part of the Islamic world. By contrast, other large Muslim countries like Indonesia and Malaysia have succeeded in establishing political orders that serve all segments of highly diverse populations reasonably well. That may eventually happen in the western Islamic world as well, but only after a struggle of the type occurring now in Pakistan.

The large countries in this part of the Islamic world – most notably Egypt, Pakistan, and Turkey – are attempting to address four problems, the most challenging of which is to define Islam's role in the political system. Turkey seems to have found an answer, prodded in part by its wish to join the European Union. A conservative ruling party with

deep religious roots is content to leave religion to private observance, with no direct influence on public policy. The issue remains less settled in Egypt, while in Pakistan a small but highly motivated part of the population has embraced extreme violence as a form of political expression. The role of the military in politics also needs to be resolved. Once again, Turkey has taken the lead; in both Egypt and Pakistan, the men in uniform have returned to their barracks, but they have not lost influence over public policy.

Then there is sectarianism, particularly the growing strife between Sunni and Shia Muslims. This conflict may be exacerbated by the outcome in Syria. If Sunnis triumph there, they may become more assertive in countries that have large Shia populations. It is not often recognised that Pakistan has the world's second-largest Shia population, after Iran, with roughly 50 million adherents. They have been mercilessly attacked in Karachi and Quetta in recent years, with more than 400 killed.

Finally, there is the question of the Muslim world's relations with the West, particularly the United States. The old post-Ottoman 'grand bargain' – Western acceptance of authoritarianism in exchange for the secure flow of oil, use of sensitive sea-lanes, and some tolerance for the existence of Israel – has broken down. What replaces it will be determined by the shape of the new political order that finally emerges in the western Islamic world. In other words, more is at stake in Pakistan's upcoming election than just the future of Pakistan.

There is growing recognition, some of it grudging, that the coalition led by the Pakistan People's Party has managed to create a political structure built on fairly stable foundations. This is a real accomplishment in a country that was on a political roller-coaster for most of its history. But the coalition proved unable to translate political success into strong economic performance.

For the last five years, Pakistan's annual GDP growth has averaged just three per cent – half the rate needed to absorb two million new labour-force entrants every year. If growth does not pick up, the ranks of the unemployed and underemployed will swell, increasing the size of the pool from which extremist groups find fresh recruits.

The upcoming election has both nurtured hope and generated anxiety among Pakistanis. It could go either way. And, for good or bad, where Pakistan goes other Muslim countries could follow. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)



Shahid Javed Burki, former Finance Minister of Pakistan and Vice President of the World Bank, is currently Chairman of the Institute of Public Policy in Lahore.

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Winning flight

Qatar Airways has been awarded the Best Cabin Crew in the world voted by readers of Business Traveller Middle East. The Doha-based airline, voted for its five-star service, was felicitated at Arabian Travel Market (ATM). Qatar Airways also announced the expansion of its route on three continents with a huge increase in capacity in Pakistan during the ATM.



### What a phone!

International Marketing Services, the authorised distributor of Samsung mobile phones, launched the much anticipated Samsung GALAXY S4. The sleek and powerful S4 comes preloaded with Ncell data voucher with 1GB data per month for three months. Samsung Galaxy S2 and S3 can also be upgraded through an exchange offer at Samsung Premium Brand shop.

### New partnership

Project for Agriculture Commercialisation and Trade and NMB Bank have signed an MoU to provide credit facilities for PACT's grants. The bank and PACT aim to enhance benefits for smallholder farmers and agro businesses said the press statement.



### Power packed



Triveni Group has introduced water pumps and fans from Crompton Greaves that manufactures industrial and commercial power products. Triveni will soon bring Crompton's lighting solution, home appliances, and high end power products in the Nepali market.

### Cool times

CG Brand has introduced new double door refrigerator models. The CG-D200PF has a capacity of 190 litres and is equipped with frost free technology that helps in faster cooling and works without stabiliser protecting it from fluctuations in power.



### Jumping joy Himstar

Him electronics, distributor of Himstar products has introduced "Dhiki Chyau" offer. Customers will receive sure shot prizes with the purchase of refrigerators and television sets through a scratch card.

### Smells good

Plantec Coffee introduced a new range of products including roasted coffee beans and instant coffee. According to the press release Plantec coffee estate grows fine plants imported from Papua New Guinea.





## GLACIER HOTEL POKHARA

*Just beside the Fewa Lake*

**Special Features:**

- 25 Deluxe Rooms With Mini Bar
- Telephone • Multi-Channel Television
- Attached Harbor Cafe' Restautant
- Room Service • Travel Desk
- Doctor on call • Children's Playground
- Lovely waterfront Cozy terrace
- Amazing Land Cruiser Trips To the Himalayas
- Mini Hikes/Over Night Treks
- Luxury overland Rent a Car Service
- 24/7 security • Customer friendly Hotel
- Special offer for Nepalese & expertiese
- FREE WI-FI connections






日本語話せます、

**For Reservation Please visit:**  
 Tel: 977-61-463 722/206 964 98510 71792 | Fax: 977-61-463 164  
 Email: [sales@glaciernepal.com](mailto:sales@glaciernepal.com), [glacierht@mail.com](mailto:glacierht@mail.com)  
[www.glaciernepal.com](http://www.glaciernepal.com), [www.hotelglacier.com](http://www.hotelglacier.com)



# It's not cricket

As in cricket, so in politics, the worth of your skills can only be assessed on its turf



LOOK OUT

Ajaz Ashraf

A year ago, India's batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar and Bollywood star Rekha, among others, were nominated to the Upper House of parliament, the Rajya Sabha, under Article 80 of the Indian Constitution. This provision empowers the president, acting on the advice of the Union government, to nominate to the Upper House 12 people who have distinguished themselves in avenues such as literature, science, art, and social service, but who are disinclined to wade into the turbulent waters of electoral politics. The rationale behind Article 80 is to provide a certain heft to the debate in the Upper House.

But the performances of both Tendulkar and Rekha have been abysmal in the first of their six-year term. Tendulkar's attendance in the Rajya Sabha is just one percent, against the average of 77 per cent, according to PRS Legislative Research. Worse, Tendulkar did not sign the attendance register even once in the winter session of 2012, nor has he in the current session.

Tendulkar is, no doubt, among India's most remarkable jewels. It is also said he apportions a percentage of his financial resources for charity. Nevertheless, the Congress Party, weaned on the patronage system, fallaciously and shamelessly saw in Article 80 an opportunity to embrace the famous and the popular as its mascots, cynically ignoring the question of their suitability in parliament.

We all knew Tendulkar just wouldn't have the time to attend the Rajya Sabha, busy as he is playing cricket through the year around the world. Would it then be wrong to conclude that the Congress is contemptuous of public institutions? Our



political class has a curious tendency to treat public institutions as their personal fiefdom, adamantly persuading even the reluctant to accept nominations to the Rajya Sabha.

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar said about her stint in the Upper House, to which the BJP-led NDA government nominated her: "My tenure in the Rajya Sabha was anything but happy. I was reluctant to be inducted into parliament. In fact, I pleaded with those who urged

me into Rajya Sabha to let me off ... what did I know about politics? I'm sure Sachin knows more about it than me."

It is for Tendulkar to judge whether his knowledge of public life befits the Rajya Sabha, but this much can be safely said: as in cricket, so in politics, the worth of your skills can only be assessed on its turf. Tendulkar simply refuses to walk into the Rajya Sabha. However, he did generously turn down the government bungalow allotted to him in Delhi.

Film star Rekha is unlikely to know much about politics either, judging from her public engagements. It is even debatable whether she could be said to have achieved artistic excellence, more famous and appreciated as she was for her glamour than her acting skills or contribution to Hindi cinema. Her attendance record in the Rajya Sabha? Just four per cent. Considering her film appearances have become rare, her poor attendance makes you wonder what could account for her absence from the Rajya Sabha, other than plain indifference.

The nomination of Rekha is so bereft of logic that it gives credence to speculation that it was done to taunt and torment cine-star Jaya Bachchan, who is also in the Upper House as a Samajwadi Party member. The rivalry between Rekha and Bachchan had spawned many headlines in the past, but at least in the Upper House the latter has established an unassailable lead. Her attendance, though lower than the average, is 57 per cent. She has participated in debates 16 times and has asked 146 questions. In a few sessions she even notched an attendance of over 90 per cent.

Perhaps the fact Bachchan is an elected member prompts her to take her Rajya Sabha duties seriously. For instance, even former cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin in the Lok Sabha has an attendance of 76 per cent. His and Bachchan's records testify that cricketers and film stars are not innately unfit to discharge their parliamentary duties. Ultimately, it all depends on individual sensibilities. As of 2 May 2013, there is still one slot for a nominated member vacant. Hopefully, in filling it, the ruling UPA government will refrain from playing to the gallery. India's already beleaguered institutions could do without further battering. [ashrafajaz3@gmail.com](mailto:ashrafajaz3@gmail.com)

www.worldlink.com.np

**WORLDLINK**

## DOUBLE ZOOM OFFER

Save upto Rs. 23278\*

No Buffering! No Delays!!  
Nepal's fastest broadband Internet

**CABLE ZOOM**  
10 Mbps

**Double Data Volume**  
on any CABLE ZOOM plan

buy 20GB → get 40GB

**Double Bandwidth**  
on any Unlimited Cable plan

buy 512 kbps → get 1 Mbps

**Reduced Installation Charge**

old Rs. 3000 → new Rs. 1000

**For SMS inquiry: Type ZOOM & send to 5465.  
Hurry!! This offer is for Baisakh only. For more details visit our website.**

**HEAD OFFICE**  
Jawalakhel, Lalitpur, PO Box 8207, Nepal Tel: 5523050, 9801523050  
Email: sales@worldlink.com.np

**BRANCH OFFICE**  
Bhaktapur 6619512 Chabahil 4465289 Kalimati 4673016 Maharajgunj 4650889  
New Baneshwor 4471583 Putalisadak 4421108 Biratnagar 021-530020

This offer is applicable for Cable Internet only. \*Conditions apply.

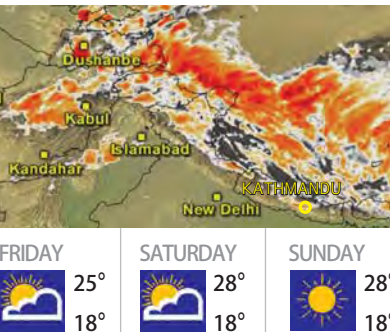
**COME VISIT US @ OUR NEWLY RENOVATED SHOW ROOM**

*Please feel free to enter the world of furnishing...*

**New Madan Furnishers Pvt. Ltd.**  
Sahid Sukra Marg, Kupondole  
Tel: 5523236, 5520318,  
Email: nmfpvtltd@yahoo.com



Early morning rain followed by afternoon showers has cooled the temps, bringing the Celsius mark to below 30 in the valley. Friday and Saturday will be partly cloudy with light rain in the evening. Elsewhere, the temperature will be mainly fair, sunny, and pleasantly warm.



QATAR

AIRWAYS

القطرية

World's 5-star airline. qatarairways.com



PICS: BIKRAM RAI

## DIWIZ PIYA

It's 7 at night, almost dinner time. But your friends are begging you to join them for a round of futsal. No, futsal isn't a new brand of beer. Derived from the Portuguese word 'Futebol de Salão' meaning 'hall football', futsal is a scaled down, indoor version of football. Played between two teams of five players for 40 minutes on an artificial glass turf, the game is so popular in Kathmandu today that there are now nine centres across town.

Just two years ago there was only one arena at the Godavari Alumnae Association (GAA) in Thamel. Started by brothers Nawang Nima Lama and Tsering Norbu Lama, the centre recently celebrated its second anniversary last month. And despite the growing competition GAA is still



the most popular ground. "When I was living in Bangkok, I really loved playing futsal and I thought it would be the perfect game to introduce in Kathmandu," says Nima.

With open spaces dwindling at a phenomenal pace in Kathmandu Valley, children today no longer

have places to play or meet with friends in the neighbourhood. futsal is gradually filling in this gap. Pranay Singh, 18, is a regular at GAA and admits he is addicted to the game, "Once you play futsal, you don't want to play any other sports," he says.

Since it's not as rough as its

With open spaces dwindling at a phenomenal pace, Futsal, a scaled down indoor version of football, is becoming immensely popular among urban Nepalis

cousin and can be played on a small ground with a small group of friends, futsal is immensely well loved by young and old. "It's perfect for the kids, they can meet their friends and get much needed exercise," says Pinky Rai, who takes her daughters to play futsal every Saturday. Schools, colleges, businesses, and organisations are now putting together teams and battling it out in tournaments.

Most facilities charge between

Rs 1500-2000 per hour with weekends and rush hours (early mornings and late evenings) slightly more expensive and crowded. So what are you waiting for? Jump aboard the futsal mania and start bending it like popular Brazilian star Falcão. 🇵🇹

**The Futsal Arena, GAA Hall**  
Thamel, (01)4433515, 9851046836

**X-cel Recreational Centre**  
Baluwatar, 9841595814

**The Futsal Factory**  
Swoyambhu, 9841224822

**Prismatic Futsal and Recreational Centre**  
Sanepa, 9841934471/9841243840

**Anta Grass Recreational Centre**  
Mandikatar, (01)437576

**Sherpa Futsal Centre**  
Mahankal, Boudha, (01)4481937

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.

www.honda.com.np



EVENTS



**CINEMANDU**, screening of *Highway*, a Nepali movie dealing with the culture of bandas (strikes). 10 May, 4 pm onwards, Nepal Bharat Library, Nepal Airlines Building Sundhara, (01)4243497

**SAATH Flea Market**, sell your junk jewelries, decoratives, toys, books, magazines anything and everything that is eating up space in your house and help children living with HIV. Every last Saturday of the month, 9am to 12 pm, 1905, Kantipath, 9851154488, info@saathnepal.org



**FLY AWAY**, a bird race organised by Bird Conservation Nepal to mark World Migratory Bird Day. Rs 150, 11 May, 6.15 to 11 am, Botanical Garden, Godavari, (01)4420213

**Danse du Ventre**, omi, shimmy, twist, and turn as you learn the ancient art of belly dancing. Rs 2,500, 10-14 May, Steps Dance Studio, Kupundole

**Everest cycling marathon**, cyclists Avi Cohen and Daniel Moores are riding across the Tibetan plateau from Lhasa to Kathmandu as they raise funds to help impoverished communities in Nepal. Contribute at [www.indiegogo.com/projects/everest-cycling-marathon-for-a-just-world](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/everest-cycling-marathon-for-a-just-world)

**Ukus mukus**, an exhibition of drawings, prints, and multimedia by artists Kanchan Burathoki and Palistha Kakshapati depicting the drudgery of everyday life in Kathmandu. Runs till 12 May, 10.30am to 6pm, Park Gallery, Pulchok, (01)5522307

**Kathmandu Bike Festival**, bike stunts, live music, good food, and an inter-school cross-country

championship for bike lovers. 19 May, Gyanodaya Residential School, Khokana

**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](http://www.unep.org/wed/blog-competition/bloggers/#WED2013)



**ITALIAN FOOD AND FILM FESTIVAL**, watch famous Italian movies while feasting on authentic Italian food. Rs 950, 9 April to 28 May, 6 pm onwards, Black Pepper Cafe and Pub, Jhamsikhel, Patan

**The Nepal Diaries**, a collection of photographs by Gary Wornell taken and edited entirely with an iPhone. 10-12 May, Installed outdoors in Basantapur Durbar Square, next to the museum gate

**Ncell Purple Saturday**, good food, live music, cultural dance and gaming zones, a fun filled fest with family and friends. 11 May, Darbarmarg

**Wheel-a-hoops**, wheelchair basketball training to promote and improve physical, mental, emotional, and social strength of persons with disabilities. 10-12 May, 10am to 4pm, Covered Hall, Tripureswor, 9801082797



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

**7th Anniversary of Yalamaya Classic**, enjoy a quiet night of classical music on the second day of every Nepali month and then head over to Dhokaima Cafe for drinks and a warm meal. 16 May, 5.00pm, Yalamaya Kendra, Patan Dhoka, (01)5553767



**HIMALAYAN FILM FESTIVAL**, West Coasters, get ready for your fix of Nepali culture, society, politics, and food at the first annual Himalayan Film Festival. Featuring documentaries and films like *The Sari Soldiers*, *Himalayan Gold Rush*, *The Desert Eats Us*, *Road to Peace*, *Soongava*, and *Highway*, the festival will explore issues that Nepal is trying to grapple with at the moment. 15-19 May, Berkeley, Oakland and San Francisco. [www.himalayanfilmfest.com](http://www.himalayanfilmfest.com)

DINING



**FUJI BAKERY**, tucked in Chakupat this bakery offers homemade goodies like apple pie, pain du chocolat, and banana cake. Chakupat, Lalitpur

**Golden Dragon**, breathing fire, roasting duck. Jhamsikhel

**Byanjan Grill**, its open patio is a great place to sit, enjoy a book, take in the view, and gorge on delicious cuisine when the hunger kicks in. Barahi Chok, Lakeside-6, Pokhara, 061-466271



**BENCH BURGER**, juicy burgers and much more. Krishna Gali, Patan

**Cafe Du Temple**, famous for its delicious food, warm ambience, and a beautiful roof top view. Patan Darbar Square, (01)5527127



हरेक नागरिकसँगै Laptop Bag

रु. ३,८०० मा नागरिक दैनिकको वार्षिक ग्राहक बनी छुटा Laptop Bag तुरुन्तै प्राप्त गर्नुहोस् । यो योजना रिपब्लिकामा पनि उपलब्ध छ । रिपब्लिकाको वार्षिक ग्राहक दर रु. १,७०० मात्र ।

ग्राहक बन्नका लागि CIR टाइप गरी ५२२५ मा SMS गर्नुहोला ।



थप जानकारीका लागि  
**नेपाल रिपब्लिक मिडिया**  
जे.डि.ड. कन्प्लेक्स बागदरबार, काठमाडौं  
फोन: ०१-८२६८६५६, ८२६५९०० (ext. २०८/२०५), ईमेल: [circulation@nagariknews.com](mailto:circulation@nagariknews.com)  
नेपालगञ्ज ०८१-५५९२९८ । पोखरा ०६१-५८०३१० । बुटवल ९८८७८२६३८ । नारायणगढ ९८८५९५९७३७ । विराटनगर ०२१-८२९२२८

अवधि बाँकी रहेका ग्राहकहरुले पनि नविकरण गरी यस योजनामा सहभागी हुन सक्नेछन् ।



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

**New Dish**, grab filling meals like pork momos, spring rolls, and chop sueys with excellent value for money. *Khiccha Pokhari*

**Cafe Cheeno**, comfortable and elegant, this is the perfect place to have a cup of coffee and chat with friends on a cold day. *Patan*



**SAL'S PIZZA**, almost round, almost cheap, always delicious, the cheesiest pizzas in town. *Lajimpat, behind Jazz Upstairs*



**Dechenling**, the place to head for Bhutanese and Tibetan cuisine, its pleasant and spacious garden is ideal for big gatherings. *Thamel*

**Noyoz**, this tiny little joint serves food that tastes like your mother's home-cooked dishes. *Bhatbhateni*

**Kotetsu**, authentic Japanese dishes that cater to your needs and taste buds. *Lajimpat*

## MUSIC



**COLD CAVE**, enjoy the melodic synthscapes with jackhammer beats, the guys from Philly and the big apple are here in town. *Rs 200, 11 May, 7 pm, House of Music, Thamel*

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



**EARTHWATCH**, live music over dinner every Friday. *Rs 1,299, Park Village Resort, Budhanilkantha, (01)4375280*

## GETAWAYS

**Temple Tree Resort and Spa**, a peaceful place to stay, complete with a swimming pool, massage parlour, and sauna, it'll be hard to leave the premises once you enter. *Gaurighat, Lakeside, (61)465819*

**Balthali Village Resort**, a small, cosy retreat with a bird's eye view of green terrace fields dotted with ochre painted houses. *Balthali, Kabhre, 9851075818*

**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*



**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. *Pharping, Kathmandu, (01)4371537/56*

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

**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 Griha Chowk, Pokhara, Tel: 061-306570 U.K.: Aldershot, London, Tel: 0044-7824332127, 1252409272 Hong Kong: 12/F Gofuku Tower 62-64, Wooning Street, Jordan KLN, HONG KONG, Tel: 00852-27838955, Fax: 00852-25538966

Good earthy food

Bhumi Restaurant & Bar  
Lazimpat • 4412193

**Element™**  
Auto-coding™  
Blood Glucose Monitoring System

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

- Automatic code Setting (No manual coding required)
- Painless with only 0.3µl Blood sample
- Only 3 seconds measuring time
- Meal/Exercises/Medication Setting (Glucose control per daily routine)
- Alternate Site Testing (for frequent test user: Taken from Arm, Thigh, Palm...)

Available at:  
R.K Pharmaceuticals  
SRD Building, New Plaza, Putalisadak  
Tel: 4415227  
and leading Chemist Shops

Marketed By:  
Meditron International  
Putalisadak, Kathmandu.  
Tel: 4436928/29/30  
E-mail: meditron@srd.com.np

## Writing Nepal- A Short Story Competition

**La. Lit**, a literary magazine that celebrates the beauty of writing, is organising a short story competition titled 'Writing Nepal'. The competition aims to encourage new Nepali talents writing in English and will be judged solely by Samrat Upadhyay. All the finalists will be considered for publication in the forthcoming issue of La.Lit magazine with the top three winners getting cash prize worth Rs 10,000, Rs. 5000, and Rs

2,500 respectively.

The contest is part of a project titled 'The Writer in the World' supervised by Upadhyay at Indiana University. Entries can be sent to editor@lalitmag.com

**LA.LIT**  
A LITERARY MAGAZINE

Deadline for submission:  
25 May, 2013

www.lalitmag.com  
www.facebook.com/events/140133446166196/

**Boudha Stupa Restaurant & Café**

Experience the real taste of **"Gyakok"** (the hot pot with **T- Momos**, varieties of meats and many more...)  
**-wood-fired Pizza**  
and free **Wi-Fi** for lunch and dinner @

FOR RESERVATION:  
Tel: 012130681/M: 9841484408

NEW YEAR 2070 OFFER !

**UNLIMITED**  
BROADBAND INTERNET WITH CABLE TV CHANNELS  
@ **RS 1,000 / MONTH**

DOUBLE THE BANDWIDTH @ SAME PRICE

**FREE** CABLE MODEM + **BITDEFENDER ANTI VIRUS WITH INTERNET SECURITY 2013 (PC OR ANDROID)**

OFFER VALID IN KATHMANDU VALLEY ONLY

For further details, please contact

T: 01 4429616 ext: 219,220

E: rfmarketing@subisu.net.np

Follow us at www.facebook.com/subisu

ONLINE PAYMENT FACILITY:

नेपाल इन्वेस्टमेन्ट बैंक लि.  
NEPAL INVESTMENT BANK LTD.

भारत बैंक लि.  
Himalayan Bank Limited

PayBill

true  
CABLE  
exceeding expectations

**SUBISU**  
CABLE NET



\*CONDITIONS APPLY



# Here come the

## Nepali Times takes the Toyota Prius and the Honda Insight

KUNDA DIXIT

The first thing to remember about driving around in a hybrid or electric car in Kathmandu's sidewalk-less streets is that pedestrians don't hear you coming. The second thing is to pat yourself on the back for not pumping about six tons of carbon a year into the atmosphere that you would have if you'd been driving around in a full-fossil car.

But if you are the type that doesn't care about your carbon footprint, or likes the big roar of a powerful engine and a heavy car that sits solidly on the road, then hybrids are not for you. It's also not for you if you are price-conscious because hybrids are up to twice as expensive as a similar-capacity car by the same manufacturer. And if looks matter to you, then the inexplicably ugly hind quarters of both cars may be a turn-off.



"The Honda Insight makes you a more responsible driver."

Saurabh Jyoti, Honda

Last week we took out the two hybrids now available in Kathmandu, the Honda Insight and the Toyota Prius, on a test spin around Kathmandu's dusty and not-yet-widened streets. Both offer quiet,

comfortable rides, with the added feel-good bonus.

Comparing the Insight and the Prius is like comparing apples and orangutans. The two may be hybrids with motor-assisted charging, but are vastly different in size, fuel efficiency, controls and, of course, price.

The Insight sample vehicle we drove was a 2009 model which is why the dashboard and upholstery looked a bit dated, but newer models have more contemporary design elements. It already had the colour-coded instrument panel that reminds you of a Dreamliner cabin: glows green when you are driving efficiently and turns to blue when you are guzzling gas.

Although the temperature outside was 31 Celsius, the aircon cooled the cabin quickly with a self-confident blower even when idling on battery mode. The insulation and the UV-coated windows retain the cool and reduce the greenhouse effect.

As with many of us used to stick shift, my left leg kept doing a kneejerk search for the clutch pedal. You can drive the Insight on 'Eco' mode or 'Sports' mode depending on whether you are eco-conscious or eco-reckless. The car automatically goes into Sports mode if you take off like a rocket when the light turns green, or resort to make-or-brake overtaking on the Hatiban uphill. Needless to say, it makes little difference to Planet Earth if you drive the Insight in Sports mode, or you drive a 1.6 litre petrol Civic.

## REVA review

The new Reva e20 has not made the kind of impact in India that many expected and with the roll down of petrol prices last week, there will be even less of an incentive there to go for the stylish remake of this electric pioneer.

The e20 is not '20', the 'e' stands for electric and the '0' for oxygen and its pick up has been sluggish mainly because of the price tag in India of INR 600,000 which means with our taxes and markup it can be anywhere up to Rs 2 million when it arrives in Nepal. Given the brand value and hassle-free experience of present Reva drivers, however, many would be tempted to upgrade.

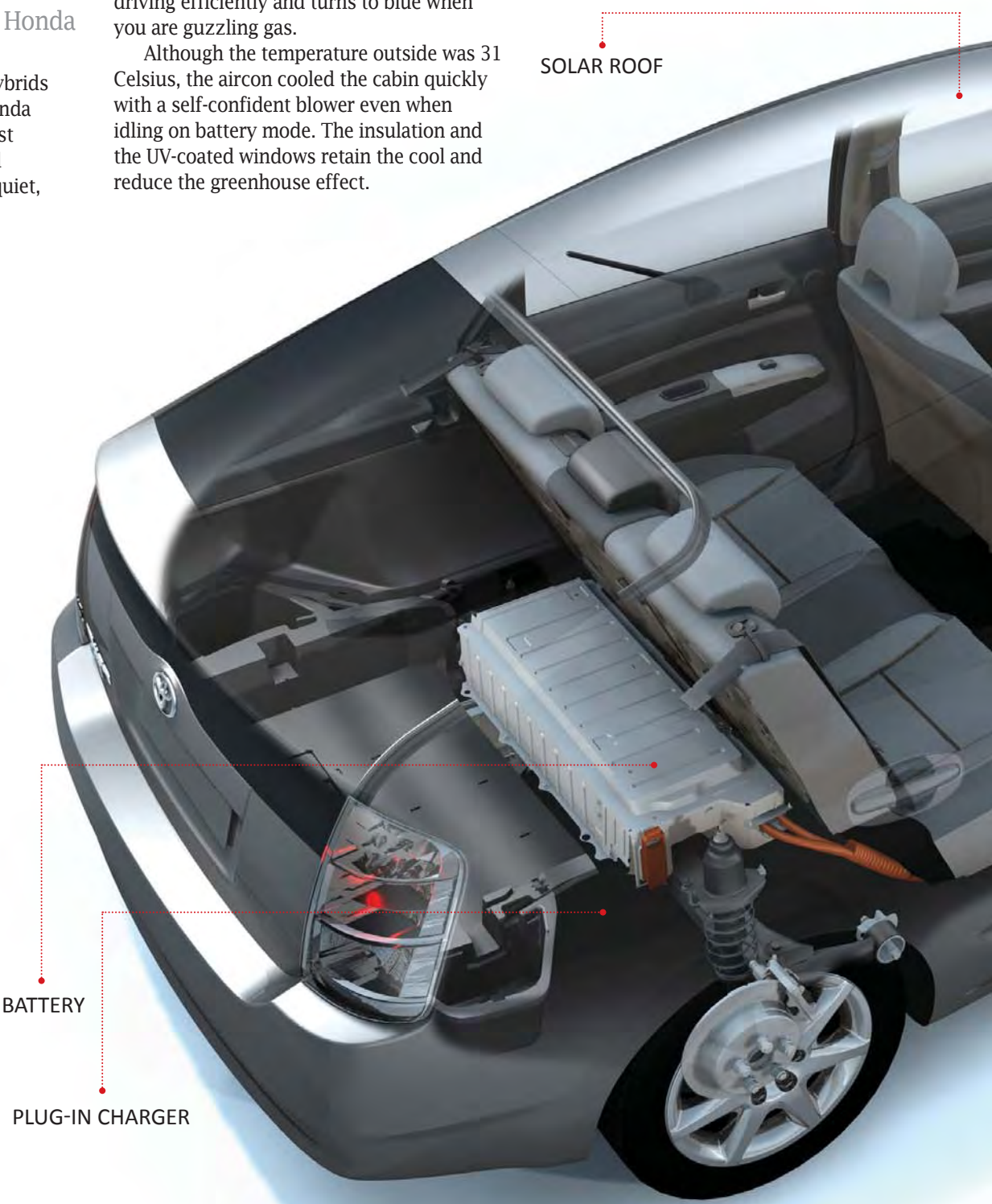
Compared to the old Reva, the new model looks less like an insect, is roomier inside, and has more safety features. The bonnet has the spare wheel laid horizontally instead of protruding from the bottom. The grill, which gives the e20 the nerdy look of a regular car is actually the a/c and intake for battery and motor cooling.



Mahindra, which bought Reva from its previous owner in 2011, is hoping for a big export market to build on the 6,000 or so units sold in Europe. There are about 80 old models in Kathmandu, where owners are mostly happy with its performance.

Mahindra has also made the interior spiffier, without the golf cart look of its predecessor. The dashboard is all digital and has Prius-style LEDs to show power flows and charge levels. The biggest difference is in propulsion and performance. The lithium ion batteries under the front seat give the car a much improved mileage of 100km (85km with a/c) and a shorter charging time of five hours in a standard 15 amp socket. The e20 is also a phone, believe it or not, and will be transmitting its performance to your local dealer. Big Brother is watching how much juice you have left in your battery.

There was a time when owning an electric car in Kathmandu was a statement. Now it is a necessity. Despite the price tag for the new Reva, the savings in fuel costs and even more on time saved not waiting in line for it, would still make the new model a worthwhile proposition.



## The Chinese are coming



If your electric car is too small for the family and a hybrid is way beyond your reach, the Chinese-made Baoya may just be the petrol-free vehicle for you.

Built on a Malaysian Naza chassis with US-made electronics and Chinese batteries, this electric car looks no different than any other compact on Kathmandu's streets. What the Baoya lacks in looks it more than makes up for in performance and seems to have outgrown the slightly sloppy image of its earlier experimental models that were unreliable and had shoddy finishing. Baoya also makes electric vans and is sold in Nepal by NEVI.

The electric hatchback has a range of up to 110km on a full charge of its waterless batteries that pack 48 kwh and it takes four hours to charge it to 80 per cent. Like the Reva-i, it has regenerative braking and a/c, but unlike it, it is much more spacious, has power steering and power brakes.

nevi@wlink.com.np



# e hybrids

## ight out for a spin on the Ring Road

The engine turns off by itself when you brake at the light and restarts when you press the accelerator. Depending on whether your a/c is working the Insight's brain decides when it needs extra power from the 98 horsepower engine and works on full battery mode when it doesn't need the engine to kick in.

You get a slightly Orwellian sense because the Insight's computer brain is always watching your driving style and tells you where you could improve. It even gives you green medals if you accelerate smoothly



DEVYANI SHIWAKOTI

“The Prius is a viable car because of its amazing mileage and will pay for itself.”

Ritu Vaidya, Toyota

and brake gently.

Honda's Saurabh Jyoti, who has been driving this Insight around Kathmandu for the past year or so, says he is getting 20 per cent more mileage than when he first got the car because of his improved driving habits. He says proudly: “The Insight makes you a more responsible driver.”

From the Honda showroom we drove in our trusted electric Reva-i across town to the Toyota office to try out the Prius and were immediately struck by its dimensions. Compared to the Reva, the inside is humongous, even bigger than the Insight. The second-generation Prius which we test-drove had more oomph than the Insight. The 1.6 litre engine is part of the reason, but the battery also packs more energy.

For such a big car the Prius is, if you pardon the sexism, almost effeminate in look and feel. The gear knob is like a mouse and the curvaceous dashboard and instrument panel remind one of an all-glass cockpit. The Prius was more comfortable and quieter even though its engine was 130 horsepower. The hatch is so big you can pack in four big suitcases and still have space to spare.

With the automatic everything, you soon get the feeling that the new Prius is designed like a fly-by-wire Gulfstream III. This is a car whose motto is: ‘I think therefore I am’. And it shows you what it is thinking through digital IP graphics constantly updating you on what is powering your car at any particular moment. This can be a bit distracting for first-timers like me because you are taking

your eyes off the road to admire yourself for being such a green driver.

The car seems to have a mind of its own and moodily shuts off the engine on an uphill, but keeps the speed with battery power. “What happened there,” you ask. But the Prius doesn't reply and just climbs silently on. The great thing about the Prius is that the engine shuts off when the car is doing less than 40 kmph, which is most of the time in Kathmandu's traffic.

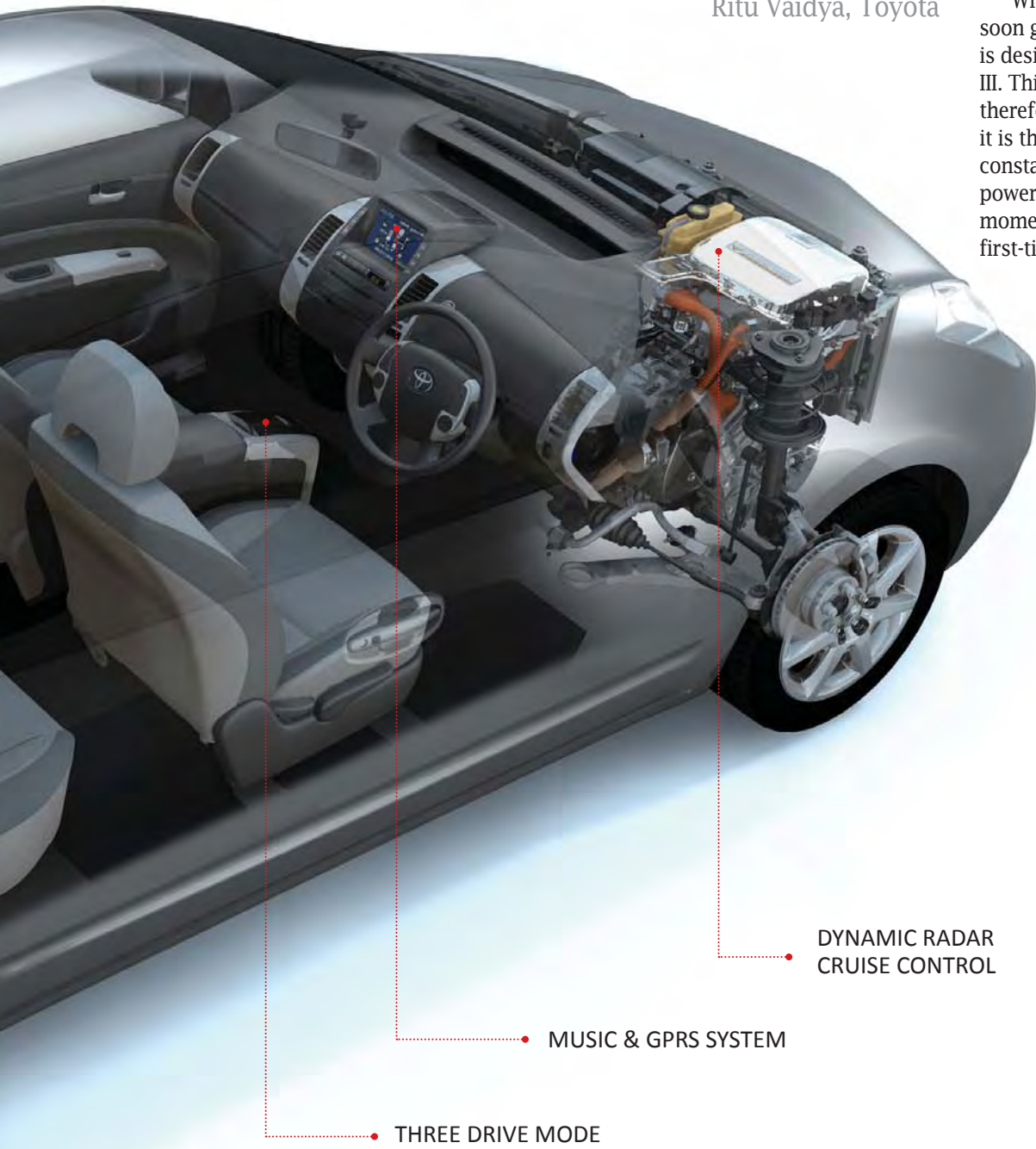
The Prius has a low clearance, which can be a problem at Naubise on the drive to Pokhara but it glided over the Ring Road potholes without an ouch. Toyota may want to import the smaller Prius C four-door hatchback compact to Nepal since it will be less pricey and better suited to Kathmandu streets. The Prius we drove had the dimensions of a SUV, so it's a good thing they've widened the Lajimpat road.

Says Toyota's Ritu Vaidya: “When the tax is reduced, the Prius will be a viable car because of its amazing mileage and will pay for itself.”

But with the current price tag of Rs 13 million, duty-unfree Nepalis may not be too interested in greenwashing themselves despite Toyota's slogan for the Prius: ‘Luxury with responsibility’.



Kunda Dixit has been called the ‘electric editor’ for his efforts to promote non-fossil vehicles in Nepal.



## HOW THEY STACK UP



TOYOTA PRIUS  
2013



HONDA INSIGHT  
2013

5 l/100km	Mileage (city)	7.1 l/100km
6.6 l/100km	Mileage (highway)	6.1 l/100km
600km	Range on tank	800km
4.5 tons/year	CO2 emission	2.9 tons/year
1.3 l	Engine size	1.6 l
Rs 7.5 million	Price with taxes	Rs 13 million

Nearly 9,000 cars, SUVs, and jeeps are sold in Nepal every year. The country spends Rs 75 billion a year importing diesel and petrol from India. Cutting petrol and diesel consumption by improving vehicle efficiency by just 10 per cent would save the country Rs 7.5 billion a year.

The best way to do that would be to provide tax incentives for electric and hybrid vehicles. But except for an excise rebate for pure electric vehicles, successive governments have been reluctant to give up the lucrative source of revenue from a whopping 240 per cent in taxes on cars.

Now that there are technocrats running the government, the Nepal Automobile Dealer's Association (NADA)

## TAXING DRIVE



PICS: CINDREY LIU

is giving it one more try to convince officials that the country (and the planet) will benefit from reducing petroleum consumption by encouraging electric and hybrid vehicles.

Says Honda's Saurabh Jyoti: “At the moment you have to be an environmentalist, or pretend money doesn't matter to you, to buy hybrid cars. Unless hybrids are made affordable, our petroleum consumption will continue to grow.”

NADA is lobbying to cut the customs duty from the present 80 per cent to 20 and remove the excise and road tax in accordance to the policy on electrics. This would make the Insight and the Prius more comparable pricewise to similar size petrol sedans.





# Like Someone in Love



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

Summer is here and with it a slew of classic summer blockbusters. While I am unabashedly anticipating films like *Iron Man 3* and *Star Trek Into Darkness*, this week I would like to champion true art house, independent cinema, the likes of which are hard to find in Kathmandu.

So, imagine my delight when I stumbled across *Like Someone in Love*, a film by the great Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami that initially came out at the Cannes film festival last year to a great deal of acclaim and went into wider release earlier this year.

Along with other greats, like Michael Haneke, Kar Wai Wong, and Ken Loach (to name a few), Kiarostami is a contemporary filmmaker who has been working at his craft for many decades. His previous films include *Taste of Cherry* (1997), *The Wind Will Carry Us* (1999) and *Certified Copy* (2010), the last of which was his first venture outside his home country.

*Like Someone in Love* is his second film set outside of Iran and it is very much in keeping with his opaque but carefully controlled style. Set in Japan and

with dialogues in the Japanese language, the story centres around a young girl called Akiko (Rin Takanashi) who is in Tokyo studying sociology at university and finances her studies through selective prostitution.

One evening Akiko is sent by her handler to the house of an elderly man, a former professor and translator. When she arrives she is emotionally wrung out having been forced to fulfil her obligations to her employer rather than be allowed to see her grandmother who is in town for the day from her village.

When the elderly professor Takashi Watanabe (Tadashi Okuno), who is the epitome of a benevolent grandfather figure, moustache, and all, receives her, it seems almost as if he is greeting a grandchild rather than a prostitute. He has cooked her a broth that is famous in her region and seems only to want to drink wine over dinner and chat. Exhausted and slightly out of it, Akiko falls asleep instead after she makes a few half-hearted overtures.

The next morning Takashi drives Akiko to university where she has an exam. As he waits for her to finish he witnesses an encounter between Akiko and her fiancé Noriaki (Ryô Kase) a violent and opinionated young man who is apt to fly into an abusive rage whenever Akiko doesn't return his calls (which happens to be quite often).

What follows is a comedy (or tragedy rather) of errors when Noriaki mistakes Takashi for Akiko's

grandfather.

Kiarostami has always been able to imbue even the most quotidian of scenes, in bars or in vehicles, with a sense that the larger world beyond the frame, though it may be unseen, is as fascinating as what we are seeing onscreen. His characters live and breathe their roles, even as he directs them in a language that he does not speak, a testament to his skills as a director.

Perhaps what is most extraordinary about this film, which is also its most valuable lesson to budding directors, is the sense of adventure inherent in the filmmaking process. Kiarostami's framing is never conventional, his script seemingly meandering until the explosive end, and his understanding of his characters (he almost always writes the screenplay) exactly right.

This filmmaker knows how to make seemingly 'small' films that resonate far beyond their viewing length. With subtlety, extraordinary understanding and understatement, *Like Someone in Love* though perhaps a struggle to watch for those who might prefer more action in their films, is an art form to aspire to, a rare piece of work that speaks volumes with every frame. 📺

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

Watch trailer

**GIZMO by YANTRICK**

## Born again

To put it simply, Samsung Galaxy S4 begins where the S3 ended. At first glance, it looks a lot like its predecessor, but the new and much improved features make the S4 a much smarter choice. So just what does the newest Galaxy offer? A better question would be what doesn't it offer?

The S4 comes jam packed with a lot of features that will take some time to master but once you get the hang of it, you'll not stop touching your phone. S4's colourful 5-inch HD, 1080 super AMOLED screen is absolutely beautiful and ideal for watching videos. With a 441 ppi pixel density, the images appear refined, sharp, and detailed without any blur edges. Yantrick watched the trailer of *Iron Man 3* and was blown away by the precision in details of images. Now, add a blazing quad-core processor and the S4 is your gaming heaven.

The phone runs on Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean, has 2GB RAM, and comes with 16GB, 32GB, and 64GB internal memory. Although it is currently only available in 16GB model, the internal memory can be extended using a micro SD card. The S4 comes with basic preinstalled apps like calculators, music player, Google services like Gmail, navigation, chrome, and also Samsung's apps like S memo, S Health, S translator (which works much like Google translate). The speakers placed at the rear provide fairly loud audio. But be careful not to place your hands on the back-mounted speaker otherwise the sound gets muffled.

- Display:** 5 inches
- Weight:** 130 grams
- OS:** Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
- Memory:** 2GB
- Storage:** 16 (8.8GB free space), 32 or 64GB
- Removable storage:** up to 64GB microSDXC
- Battery:** 2600 mAh Li-ion
- Rear camera:** 13 megapixels 1080p
- Front camera:** 2 megapixels 1080p
- Audio:** Mono speaker with Qualcomm DAC or Wolfson Micro WM5102 audio chip



The screen is super sensitive and if you are too busy eating a burger when the phone rings, don't worry about getting your set dirty. The Air gesture lets you accept calls, browse photos or the web, and change songs with a quick sweep of your hands across the screen and voila. The Air view, which was first featured on the Galaxy Note II, allows you to preview mails and photos from the gallery by simply hovering your finger above the screen. Samsung seems really determined to turn us all into budding magicians.

Equipped with a sharp shooting 13 mega pixel camera along with a 2 mega pixel front facing camera, the S4 is a good enough substitute for digital cameras. Also on offer are a myriad of tricks that allow everything from dual shots to smart pause.

At Rs 71,900, owning the new kid on the block will burn a hole in most of our wallets. But fret not. Nabil Bank and Laxmi Bank are offering easy monthly installments at zero per cent interest. You can even exchange your old Samsung S2 and S3 by forking out some extra cash.

Galaxy S4 is available at Samsung Mobile Plaza, Royal Singhi Plaza, Darbar Marg. 📺

**Yantrick's verdict:** if you are willing to splash some real cash for a do-everything smart phone, then Samsung Galaxy S4 is the right pick.

# See Beyond the Usual

with Brilliance that moves the world!

## 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'S 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](mailto: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



# The Kathmandu rage

Yasmin Reza's comedy is a riot and is accurately adapted to portray Kathmandu's burgeoning bourgeoisie



Two sets of trendy middle class Kathmandu parents meet to find out why the son of one smashed the face of the other. Rajan Bajracharya and wife Shanti Upadhyay-Bajracharya host Binod Kumar Upreti and his wife Anita Shrestha-Upreti in their high-rise apartment one evening to declare truce. The seemingly civil gesture extended by one couple soon degenerates into full-scale war. The couples don't say what they mean, threats

are masked in a veneer of smiles, but as the rum starts to take effect, they all start saying what they really, really mean. In doing so, the pretentiousness, shallow materialism, elastic morals, and egotism of the upper middle class in Kathmandu is laid bare. When the audience at Vajra's Studio 7 laughs, it is laughing at itself. Shanti, the epitome of liberal values, insists on penance from her son's attacker. The very

social Rajan proceeds to rebuke his mother for calling him to consult about her illness. The lawyer Binod, with his alpha male swagger, is perennially on the mobile defending his client, a company that makes dodgy medicine. When Anita, Binod's second wife vomits all over Shanti's precious coffee table books, all notions of made-up civility evaporate. The four sophists are perfect specimens of Kathmandu's ivory tower society,

mispronouncing names of imported kitsch, only to be reminded of the correct diction by a condescending neighbour who offers to polish Shanti's English. Yasmin Reza's play was a hit on Broadway and was turned into a film in 2011 by Polish filmmaker Roman Polanski. The Nepali adaptation is in English, with Binod and Anil sometimes breaking hilariously into Newari and Nepali. There are snide asides to Colonel Lama's arrest for wartime torture in the UK and every time the sliding window of the hermetically sealed apartment is opened, it wafts in the roar of traffic below and the overpowering odour of a river turned into a sewer. This is Studio 7's first performance in which all the Nepali actors are talented professional film artistes. They are on stage for one-and-a-half hours without any breaks. Sabine Lehmann and Ludmilla Hungerhuber make cameo comic relief appearances. *The God of Carnage* is a must-see in this sweltering Kathmandu summer and is as real as the stench of the Bishnumati below. Sunir Pandey

*The God of Carnage*  
Cast: Karma, Samuna KC, Subaash Thapa, Jharna Bajracharya  
Directed by Sabine Lehmann  
Set design by Ludmilla Hungerhuber  
Music by Zogoro

Rs 800, 3-19 May, Fridays to Sundays, 7.15pm,  
(01)4271545, info@hotelvajra.com

## Crave Bakery



SOMEPLACE ELSE



It's not the wisest idea to open a bakery in that part of town where the pioneers of baking reside, but the owners of Crave have taken the plunge and are a welcome addition to Patan's sprawling food map.

On the outside, Crave looks just like another over-priced joint on the other side of the bridge along the Jhamsikhel line. But once you take a look at the menu, you'll be surprised to find out just how reasonable the prices are. A quick bite for three comes under Rs 500. Cheers to Crave for that.

The place also offers good choice of drinks, both hot and cold to go with the baked goodies, a welcome change from the other popular bakeries which only serve instant coffee. However, think twice before settling on an order as not all that glitters on the menu is gold. A word of advice: choose an item that you see the least of on the shelf.

We tried something hot, something cold, and something a little extravagant: spiced latte



(Rs 160), mint ice tea (Rs 140), and blended choco-chip mocha (Rs 180). The latte was lukewarm, but had a nice layer of honey at the bottom. Although excusable on a scorching hot day, the barista would do better to maintain the temperature when winter comes calling. The emerald green ice tea (*pic, right*) while served beautifully in a tall slanted glass, failed to match up to its exotic presentation in taste. Instead of refreshing tea, what we had tasted like a bad concoction of cough syrup and candies. Blended choco-chip

mocha (*pic, left*) was a much better choice. The drink was thick and the chocolate syrup artistically swirled around it added a nice touch. More choco chips instead of wafer would have made the drink perfect.

Among all the orders, mushroom quiche (Rs 60, *pic centre*), was the favourite among our

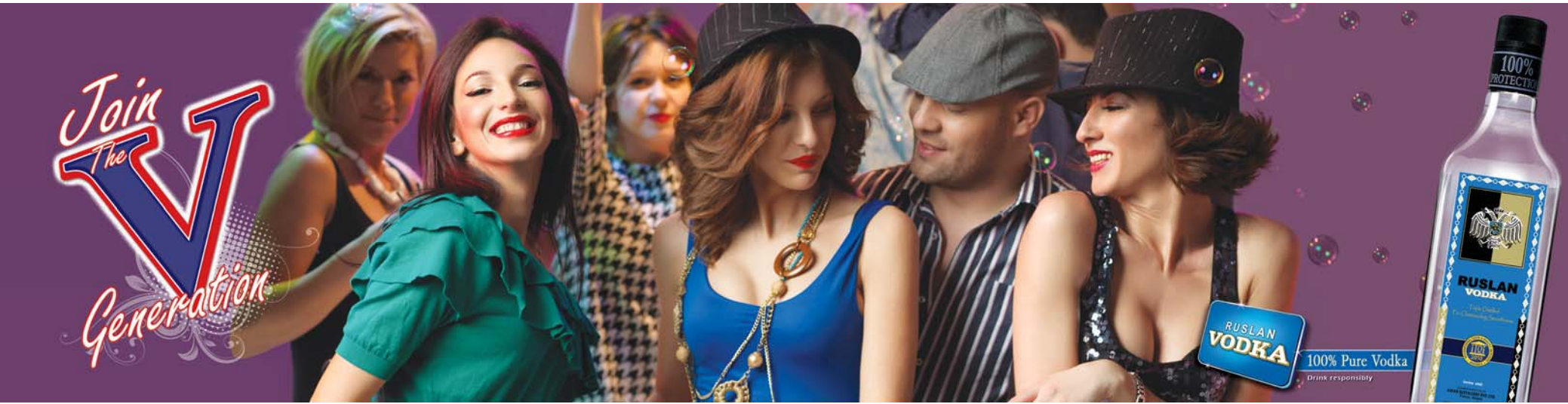
group. The pastry crust dish with mushroom, capsicum, fried onions and cheese fillings was a savoury treat. We were lucky to sample the last remaining piece at 2 in the afternoon. Our other orders - chicken croissant (Rs 50) and cheese Danish (Rs 45) - although not disappointing weren't the best we have had. Crave's saving grace, however, came in the form of a rich chocolate pastry. The cake was buttery, rich, and smooth and had just the right amount of moisture.

Although Crave doesn't yet boast of a signature item that will



have customers thronging from all around the Valley, the cafe is perfect for a quiet hour off of work to grab a quick bite and enjoy a cuppa. The staff is extremely friendly and won't scowl at you even if you spill a bottle of water on the polished floor. Bon appetit. Tsering Dolker

*How to get there: Crave is located right next to Bhat Bhateni Supermarket at Krishna Galli, Patan.*





# Mastering the mountains



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

**N**ews of the fist fight between the Sherpas and three international Alpine-style climbers on Mount Everest left the world astounded this past week. Many versions of the event emerged in the media debating how and why the brawl happened and its effect on mountaineering and tourism in Nepal. But in this column we will focus on what makes Sherpas physiologically well-adapted to performing arduous tasks like fixing ropes at high altitudes.

The difference in the adaptive mechanism between high altitude Tibetans (from whom the Sherpa people derive their ancestry) and the recently-settled Han Chinese in the Tibetan plateau (4,500m) is enormous. Tibetan women generally have uncomplicated pregnancies in Tibet compared to the relatively complication-ridden pregnancies of the Han Chinese. In fact this problem is so acute that most expectant Han Chinese mothers move to lower altitudes for safer delivery. Even before birth, people of Tibetan origin are better adapted to hypoxia (low oxygen).



Furthermore, infants born to Han Chinese parents may have pulmonary hypertension (increased blood pressure in the blood vessels of the lungs) leading to heart failure. This condition is seldom seen in a newborn Tibetan infant. If a Han Chinese infant survives the first few years, she finds herself at greater risk of chronic mountain sickness (CMS). Unlike acute mountain sickness (AMS) which we see regularly in the Himalaya, CMS is caused by excessive production of red blood cells and may lead to heart failure and strokes due to 'sludging' in the circulation of blood.

From intrauterine life to infancy to adulthood, Tibetans seem to have a protective

mechanism that helps them cope with altitude. By combining this natural flair with training, they are able to perform difficult tasks like putting up ropes and setting up camps and are by far the best high altitude workers.

These physiological findings have been corroborated by the molecular discovery by Peter Ratcliff and Greg Semenza (both will probably share the Nobel prize soon) of the potentially protective hypoxia inducible factor (HIF) gene. According to a flurry of recent medical reports people with Tibetans ancestry possess this HIF gene, but not the Han Chinese. No wonder the Sherpas are the ultimate masters of the mountains. 🇳🇵

## HAPPENINGS

the week in pictures  
brought to you by  
**SHOE · A · HOLICS**

**new arrivals  
spring summer  
2013**

Ground floor Mayalu Center  
Jamal Sadak beside Samsonite  
Tel 4225627

Ground floor below Laxmi Bank  
Harihar Bhavan Pulchowk  
Tel 5524812



BIKRAM RAI

**CROOKED HEAD:** Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Damodar Prasad Sharma (*left*) administers the oath of office to the newly appointed chief of CIAA, Lok Man Singh Karki (*right*), at Sital Niwas on Wednesday morning.



NEPAL ARMY

**NICE TO MEET YOU:** Chief of Nepal Army Gaurav Shumsher Rana (*right*) greets United Nations Under Secretary-General Gyan Chandra Acharya (*left*) at the army headquarters in Bhadrakali on Wednesday.



KUNDA DIXIT

**FINALLY FREE:** Vice-president Parmanand Jha (*centre*) and other officials attend a program to declare Accham as an 'open defecation free' district.

## READERS' PHOTO



ANIL K MAHAJU

**MIRACULOUS CATCH:** Villagers fishing near the Koshi Bridge in eastern Tarai.



100,000 visitors, 80 exhibitors, with variety of musical performances  
Live model presentation of eco-friendly products  
**Nepali Times Eco Fair 2013**  
5-7 June 2012 (22-24 Jestha 2070)

Organized by



### For stall booking

Arjun Karki | Surendra Sharma | Ramkrishna Banjara  
9841492300 | 9841314973 | 9851094559

Himalmedia, Patandhoka, Lalitpur  
Tel: 5005601-05

email: [ecofair@himalmedia.com](mailto:ecofair@himalmedia.com) | [www.facebook.com/nepalitimes](http://www.facebook.com/nepalitimes)

### ECO FAIR DETAILS:

**Date:** 5 to 7 June 2013

**Venue:** Nepal Academy Premises  
Kamaladi, Kathmandu

**Time:** 10:00 Hrs until 18:00 Hrs



PRIYA JOSHI

A leopard wandered into the golf course near the airport one morning last December. It preyed on the guard dog and livestock and had the entire neighbourhood terrified. When asked for help, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and District Forest Office were infuriatingly nonchalant in their response and said the wild animal “wasn’t really a threat”. Four months later in April, the leopard was ruthlessly beaten to death by locals of Gothatar and paraded around town like a trophy (pic, right).

As human encroachment into wildlife habitats continues to grow, man-leopard encounters are becoming increasingly common in Kathmandu. Driven out due to competition or dwindling prey, this leopard, like its ancestors, probably used the green trail along the Bagmati to foray into the city in search of easy livestock who have long lost their protective instincts.

Numerous leopard sightings and rescue efforts are made in the Valley every year. But many encounters result in tragedy for the wild cats because we don’t have a proper rapid response system. Although the Central Zoo in Kathmandu has a darting team, by the time the bureaucratic channels give it the go-ahead, it is often too late for the animals to be rescued.

However, what made last month’s incident stand out were the gruesome photographs and videos of the leopard being circled, trapped, taunted, and attacked until it retaliated like any other trapped animal would. The photos allowed the animal to have a ‘face’, a beautiful, terrifying face, and showed us that it wasn’t just a casualty of human-animal conflict. It was a casualty of our primitive, barbaric nature that we boast to have evolved out of.

Throughout history, humans have shown intolerance towards other animals whom we deem



NIRANJAN SHRESTHA/AP

# Preying on the predator

The leopard beaten to death last month wasn’t a casualty of human-animal conflict, it was a casualty of our intolerance and barbaric nature

as competition or threats. Predators such as wolves have been wiped out from large parts of the world, including Nepal, because of this. Perhaps this fear and the rush of adrenaline are what caused the mob to gang up against this lone creature last month. Perhaps they killed it out of fear, but perhaps also out of pent up frustration and this lone leopard became an easy target. Maybe a primitive part of them resurfaced; a part that has been lulled by years of complacent living in the capital.

The images sent ripples far beyond the Valley and perhaps the outside world is looking disdainfully at us, the same way Kathmandu folks look disdainfully at the people living in buffer zones and conservation areas after they have killed a leopard for killing their

livestock. We conservationists in Kathmandu write articles, give trainings, and try to ‘educate’ people living near or within protected areas about the importance of conservation. We want them to put aside their fear and hatred towards an animal that has just wiped out their crops or their livestock and instead help in its protection, often without compensation. The people living in and around protected zones are now aware

about the whys and hows of conservation.

Perhaps now it’s time for those of us in Kathmandu to practice what we preach. We need to educate the ‘educated’ and give awareness trainings in cities and towns so that the next time there is a leopard, fox, jackal, jungle cat or a snake in our midst, we do not attack it, but stay calm, call the rescue team, and assist in its rescue. 🇳🇵

*In case of encounters with wildlife around the Valley, call the District Forest Office: (01)4444948*



*Priya Joshi is a wildlife researcher. She currently works with the Centre for Molecular Dynamics Nepal conducting wildlife genetic research in Asia.*



**Roadhouse Cafe**  
where the good times roll

wood-fired pizza,  
coffee and more!

**TRAIN SMARTER**

**TIMEX IRONMAN**

Marketed in Nepal by:

**Exclusive Brand Outlet**  
**The Time Factory**  
Civil Mall, Phone : 01-4254708





One man’s greed has robbed Humla’s people of accessible and quality healthcare in their district

# DOCTOR WHO ?

BHRIKUTI RAI in SIMIKOT

Perched on a hill overlooking the black topped Simikot airport in Humla, Citta Hospital is an anomaly in one of the remotest regions of the country. The spacious three building complex with clean corridors, well-stocked medicine cabinets, and cosy interiors stands in stark contrast to the reality outside.

Supported by Citta USA Yeshe Lodoe Lama (*pic, above*), a local from Burause village, established Citta Medical Centre in 2004. Over the years, Lama upgraded the centre which was initially housed in a two storey mud structure into a 15 bed hospital equipped with an operation theatre and special emergency wards. Humlis, who have been neglected for far too long by Kathmandu, were overjoyed to finally have access to world-class health services right at their doorstep and proud of the boy next door. Unfortunately, their euphoria was short-lived as it soon became apparent that the doctor with a golden heart was scamming them all.

Rumours of financial

irregularities and mismanagement of funds had been simmering for a long time. To begin with, Lama bought land for the hospital in his father Tsering Lama’s name and appointed his family members and relatives on the board over time. Seventy-year-old Tsering is registered as a caretaker at the hospital and pockets Rs 10,000 every month.

The hospital is even known to sell donated medicines at exorbitant prices. “In the beginning we were so happy to get free medicines and have doctor who would stay in the district for the long-term,” says 50-year-old Jadendra Sunar of Simikot who works as a construction worker nearby, “but now we are made to pay Rs 400 just for vitamins and doctor Lama is here only during health camps.”

Supported by artist Michael Daube, executive director of Citta USA, the hospital had an annual budget of almost \$ 90,000 until funding was stopped last year in September after Daube discovered that his doctor friend might not even be a real physician.

Volunteers over the years had raised concerns over Lama’s medical qualifications, but the donor naively ignored these early red flags.

The last straw came in the summer of 2012 when a team of Spanish doctors conducting a health camp at Citta tipped off Daube. “If Lama knew anything about general surgery, he would realise that 100 surgeries per day in one surgical room is impossible,” says Marta Faig, a Spanish physician who stayed at the hospital for over a month. It looks like Lama, who claims to be an MBBS graduate from Banaras Hindu University, has not even graduated from high school (*see box*).

Daube first met Lama in 1997 at a monastery in Sarnath, India where Lama was ‘studying’ medicine and sought of Humla. In a district with health indicators much worse than rest of the country, a skewed doctor to patient ratio (two doctors for every 10,000 population), and decrepit government hospitals that regularly run out of essential medicines, it was all too easy for Lama to convince the well meaning American to invest. Says Daube: “All these



MICHAEL DAUBE

## Hotel Humla

With Simikot turning into a base camp for trekkers going up towards Mount Kailash and Mansarovar in Tibet, the Lama family plans to foray into the tourism industry and convert the hospital into a hotel. According to one of the family members, Lama registered the land in his father’s name so that he could diversify his business later on.

“I have overheard board members many times talking about how they will eventually develop the hospital into a high end hotel if funds run out,” reveals a source on the condition of anonymity, “it seems like this was the plan all along, no wonder the infrastructure was built so quickly.”



**TEMPLE TREE**  
RESORT AND SPA



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





WANDA VIVEQUIN

**LONG WAIT :** Patients queue up outside Citta Hospital during a health checkup in 2008. In the absence of a long-term doctor, the hospital's premise and medical equipment are used only during health camps.

Local authorities too seem to be aware of Lama's dirty games. "Questions about his credentials have been raised for quite a while, but there wasn't much we could do," explains Rabin Khadka, chief district health officer at Simikot. The hospital is notorious for overprescribing and overcharging for antibiotics and vitamins. Many Humlis have ended up overdosing on antibiotics and turn up at the district health office, sometimes close to death says Khadka.

But it's not just Daube that Lama hood winked. Countless other donors were caught in the elaborate trap says Wanda Vivequin, a freelance writer based in Canada whose work at Citta became the subject of a documentary film bringing in more money to Simikot.

When we caught up with Yeshe Lama in Kathmandu, he casually brushed aside these allegations and said selfish foreigners wanted to take credit for his years of hard work and were trying to tarnish his reputation. "I started the hospital to serve the people of Humla and have been running it with the board's money for all these years. There has been absolutely no outside support except during health camps," he claimed. When we asked him why Citta became HEED Nepal, he said the name change was necessary after the initial nine year project ended due to financial problems.

Daube, however, is determined to see Lama punished for the blatant plunder of funds meant for the impoverished people of Humla and says he won't let Nepal's bureaucratic red tape deter him. "Yeshe is the perfect example of how one man's greed can hijack an entire community's prosperity," he explains. "What is done cannot be undone, but the man needs to know that he can't get away so easily." 🇳🇵

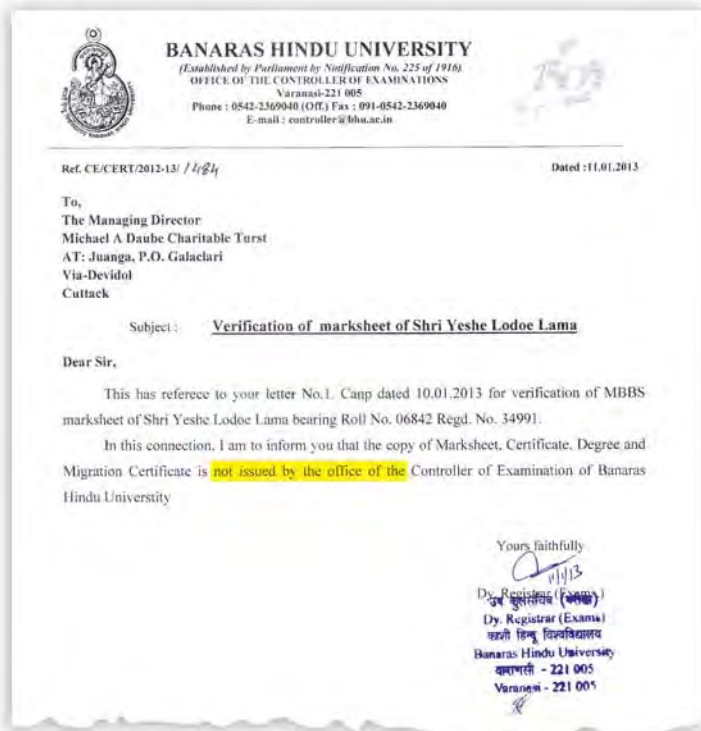
years I thought I was helping a young doctor who sacrificed a lucrative medical career in the city to improve the health of fellow Humlis."

Now being run as HEED Nepal, the hospital employs 14 people including a nurse, two health assistants, two auxiliary nurse mid-wives, health assistants, and administrative staff, but the doctor is hardly ever in town. Despite being fully equipped, the brand new machines remain wrapped in plastic sheets and only patients with minor cuts, injuries, or respiratory problems are treated. Staff nurse Dikki Sherpa says the number of visitors has sharply declined ever since the controversy.

In February, Daube lodged a complaint against Lama at the district administration office in Kathmandu for misappropriating funds. Although Lama submitted

audit reports, Daube says they were neither timely nor transparent. Records at the Social Welfare Council also show that the 'doctor' never updated information about the organisation after registering it in 2004.

Many former staff have come forward as witnesses and alleged Lama of everything from creating fake audit reports to taking heavy cuts from employees' salary. Pema Sonam (name changed) a nurse who worked at Citta a few years ago wasn't too shocked to learn about the scale of corruption. "Most people who work there are Yeshe's relatives which makes it easier for him to embezzle money," she admits. "There are two account systems: one to show the donors and the other to track the real amount of medicines that are sold to patients."



## Playing doctor

When Yeshe Lodoe Lama and Michael Daube were planning on setting up Citta Hospital in Simikot, Lama willingly provided copies of his medical degree from Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Since Lama was registered as a medical doctor at the Nepal Medical Council (licence number 4734), Daube did not feel it was necessary to verify the 'doctor's' credentials. However, as complaints about Lama's medical incompetence kept getting louder, Daube was compelled to double check. What he uncovered left him astounded.

Officials at BHU confirm that the documents Lama presented were never issued by the university. NMC officials, on the other hand, say they aren't aware about the forged degree. "It's not possible for us to check the degree because thousands of students sit for NMC's exams," says Anita Lama, administrative officer at NMC.



## Good neighbours

While the Citta Hospital in Humla is marred in controversy and has failed to make any real impact on the health of the district, Citta USA's work in India's health and education sector have been remarkable. Established in 1996 in Juanga, Orissa the hospital here serves almost 1,000 patients monthly and even performs surgeries and emergency outreach programs. The organisation also partnered with Vivekananda Public School in 2001, which is one of the leading public schools in Orissa today. The success rate of students in the recent state exams was so high that students from private schools are showing a keen interest to enrol here.

Run by managing director Govinda Chandra Lenka, the setup of Citta in India is very similar to the one in Nepal. "I am not sure if we lucked out in India, but it's surprising how two similar projects could end up with such different results," says Daube. "After my experience in Simikot I know I have to be more careful and do detailed ground work before jumping into another venture."

# FLY ON TIME

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

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

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



**Yeti Airlines**  
You come first

www.yetiairlines.com



# Why not Lokman?

Annapurna Post, 5 May

अन्नपूर्णपोस्ट

A few organisations and individuals have been strongly opposing the Constitutional Council’s decision to nominate former chief secretary Lok Man Singh Karki as the chief of the Commission the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA). Looking at the manner in which they are challenging the move, it seems like Karki is the single biggest threat to democracy in Nepal. However, if this is the case then the foundations of our democracy must be very fragile.



BIKRAM RAI

It is important to understand the motive of the media houses who consider themselves the agenda setters of the country and other individuals who are against Karki becoming chief. Why are major national dailies dedicating entire front pages to Karki’s issue? These stalwarts of democracy accuse Karki of suppressing the 2006 Jana Andolan. But why didn’t they speak out when other suppressors of the people’s movement were promoted to high posts in the government and police?

Another accusation is that Karki was appointed by the then royal regime. Good god our memory. The same TV station run by a media house which so vehemently opposes the appointment of Karki as CIAA chief was inaugurated by former crown prince Paras Shah. Media owners who once were submissive to the royal regime have now suddenly turned revolutionary and Karki has

become a prime target for them. However, the real reason behind the attacks is that these people have amassed untold wealth by ransacking the treasury and evading taxes are scared and are likely to be punished if Karki comes to power. Karki had said during a speech that if he becomes CIAA chief, he would take immediate action against defaulters who have stolen from the government and even internationally renowned businessmen would not be spared. No wonder a certain section of society is terrified by the prospect of losing their ill-gotten money.

Although the media is trying to portray the current situation as a result of differences within the four-party mechanism, Karki was selected through a unanimous decision by the mechanism. UCPN (M) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal recommended him and others like the UML, NC, and UDMF agreed on it.

What is most unfortunate is that even the esteemed Supreme Court is getting dragged into the controversy. However, media houses who are so proud of their freedom today must not forget the role the SC played to protect them during the difficult days of the royal regime. Protesting against the judiciary for not allowing reporters who wear t-shirts is harmful because the SC might not be able to defend the media in the future.

The time has come to see if the CJ-led government can stand up against the threats from a few media houses. If it fails to appoint officials under pressure, then it will prove itself to be a spineless institution.

Nepal’s interim constitution guarantees the right to information to all citizens. Why cannot Karki hold the post of CIAA chief? Nepal’s are eager to find out more. If his appointment is blocked because of intimidation from a handful of individuals and organisations who have plundered the state exchequer, then it will be a mockery of the democratic norms of this country. We don’t think having Karki as chief will in anyway endanger the fundamental values of democracy.

# Racing ahead

Editorial, Khapthad News, 8 May

खप्तड ख्याज

From Wednesday onwards Achham officially became an ‘open defecation free’ zone. By doing so it has sent a strong message across Nepal: the nation must change the way it looks at the district. The fact that one of the most remote areas of the country has left behind other more developed districts in terms of hygiene and sanitation is a great moral victory for the people of Achham.

The manner in which the poor and marginalised came together to build toilets, sometimes eating only one meal a day to make their district open defecation free should serve as an example for rest of Nepal. It should also act as a wakeup call for other districts in the far-west to make hygiene and cleanliness a priority.

Achham has received negative publicity for far too long. When other Nepalis think of the district they imagine a place ravaged by HIV/AIDS and one where people still practice chaupadi tradition. Today’s declaration, however, proves all those detractors wrong and shows that the people of Achham are equally dedicated to social improvement. This point should be specially noted by those who came from the capital to attend the program and should make changes in their behaviour towards the district.

## NEPALI TWEETS



बिमल बिर्छोडा

Follow

लोकमान ! लोकमान ! लोकमान ! ए बाबा ! तुलै मान्छे हुन की केही, यहाँ त हल्का तुली अनि फोहोरी मान्छेको मात्र हुन्छ, असल को त हुन्छ !

Lokman! Lokman! Lokman. Is he some big personality? In Nepal only those with power or tainted individuals are talked about. No one bothers about good people.



युजव पाँड्याल

Follow

डिमिजन ३ विजेता नेपाली क्रिकेटरहरु कहिले नेपाल फर्कदै छन् ?? हाँ लोकमानले तिनिरुलाई छायामा पारे ।

When are our Division 3 champions returning home? Lokman is about to overshadow them.



rukmanee maharjan

Follow

धमिलो पानीमा माछा मार्ने समय हो वा प्रयास हो (खिलराज रेग्मी सरकार, लोकमान काकी, चार दल, सबोच्च अदालत र अन्नपूर्ण पोस्ट लगायत) सबैको ।

Is it time or is everyone - Khil Raj Regmi government, Lokman Karki, four parties, the Supreme Court, and Annapurna Post – trying to fish in muddy waters?

## WEEKLY BAZAR POLL #12

In weekly polls conducted with the support of The Asia Foundation, Himal Khabarpatrika asks 375 respondents in 12 cities across Nepal every Monday for their opinion on contemporary issues. This week’s result of interviews about food habit in day to day life

### 1. What do you prefer for lunch and dinner?

Rice  
Lunch: 91.1%  
Dinner: 59.5%  
Roti  
Lunch: 3.7%  
Dinner: 15.5%  
Dhido  
Lunch: 0.6%  
Dinner: 1.7%  
Rice and roti  
Lunch: 4.0%  
Dinner: 22.4%

### 2. How often do you consume meat?

Once or twice a week: 30.2%  
Three to four times a week: 20.7%  
I don’t – 17.5%  
Once in a fortnight: 9.2%  
Once a month: 6.3%  
Every Saturday: 5.5%  
Only during festivals: 5.2%  
Every day: 4.9%  
Won’t say: 0.6%

# Team work interrupted



NAGARIK

Barun Paneru, Nagarik, 30 April

नागरिक

Team Hospital in Pokhara, one of the largest medical institutes in the region, has been on lockdown for the past two weeks. After previous agreements with the NGO Human Development and Community Service (HDCS) expired, hospital employees

padlocked the gates, demanding a guarantee for continued employment.

The hospital was started by an international organisation called TEAM in 1969 and handed over to HDCS five years ago after it was ruled that international foundations should not be involved in day-to-day operations of such institutes.

Team has served the people in the hills of far-western Nepal for the past 45 years. Hundreds of patients from neighbouring Dadheldhura, Bajhang, Achham, and Bajura would visit the hospital everyday for checkups. Now most of them are stranded and those who can afford are forced to make longer journeys to Kailali and Kanchanpur for even minor illnesses.

“The hospital gates were locked when I reached there,” says Surendra Bohara of Bithhad. Bohara has no money to travel to the plains for treatment.

There are already reports of vandalism, equipment worth millions have gone missing, and medicine supplies from the markets in Kailali have also been disrupted. But local leaders say the government still hasn’t shown much interest in their plight.



Past:  
His Majesty’s order

Present:  
His Majesty’s Four Party’s order

कान्तिपुर

Abin Shrestha in Kantipur, 7 May

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“If our party can build such a massive building in five months, then why can’t we build the nation in five months.”

Kamal Thapa, President of RPP-N  
Naya Patrika, 7 May 2013





# Lost in numbers

Hom Prasad Lamsal, *Himal Khabarpatrika*, 5-10 May

Raju Ahmed of Bhandara, Chitwan once asked a question to undersecretary of Home Ministry Bishnu Poudel that left him speechless: “I have a voter’s ID card from last elections, so how am I not eligible this time?” Months later, Ahmed is still caught up in the citizenship battle with the state. His chance of getting a citizenship by descent passed away with his father’s death and acquiring a

citizenship through his mother is next to impossible given the bureaucratic red tape.

The importance of citizenship cards have grown ever since the new rule for voters’ registration came into effect. Citizenship cards are now required for voter registration which means millions of Nepalis like Ahmed won’t be able to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming elections.

A study conducted by the Forum for Women Law and Development (FWLD) shows that as of July 2011 there are over 4.3

million Nepalis of eligible age who are without citizenship cards. As of 1 July 2011, 34 per cent from the mountainous region, 28.5 per cent from the hills, and 17.5 per cent from the Tarai don’t have citizenship according to the study.

Ever since the state started distributing citizenship cards a large chunk of the population has always been left behind. Between 1952 and 1986, over 2.8 million citizenship cards were distributed while eight million citizenship cards were distributed from 1989 to 1990.

In 1994, a nine member high level committee headed by MP Dhanpati Prajapati was formed to study contentious issues related with citizenship. The study revealed that out of 11.3 million people over the age of 16 only 8.8 million had citizenship certificate. In 2007, the government task force distributed 2.6 million citizenship cards in the rural areas.

A similar study by Patan Campus in 2006, found that more than 800,000 Nepalis who were 16 years and older were

**STATELESS IN MOTHERLAND:** 21 Madhesis from five Tarai districts who are without citizenship cards staged a silent protest in front of the PM’s residence in Baluwatar in March.

without citizenship certificates. The study was based on the 2001 census, which found that the population of people over the age of sixteen was more than 13.2 million.

A study conducted by the National Dalit Commission in 2004, estimated that 33 per cent people from the Dalit community did not have citizenship certificates. Among 39,660 members of the Dalit community aged 16 and above surveyed in the study, it was found that 14,056 were stateless.

The Election Commission of Nepal estimates that over two million individuals aged 16 and above do not have citizenship certificates as of 19 August 2011. The largest number of people without citizenship cards reside in Manang with 43 per cent followed by 42.5 per cent in Humla, 41 per cent in Mugu, 14 per cent in Dailekh, 11 per cent in Saptari and nearly two in Kanchanpur.

Executive Director of FWLD and advocate Sabin Shrestha says that the government needs to make quick changes to the laws so that the millions of stateless people living within the borders of Nepal can get their basic rights to citizenship and become eligible to vote in the next elections.





# International Class Golf in Nepal

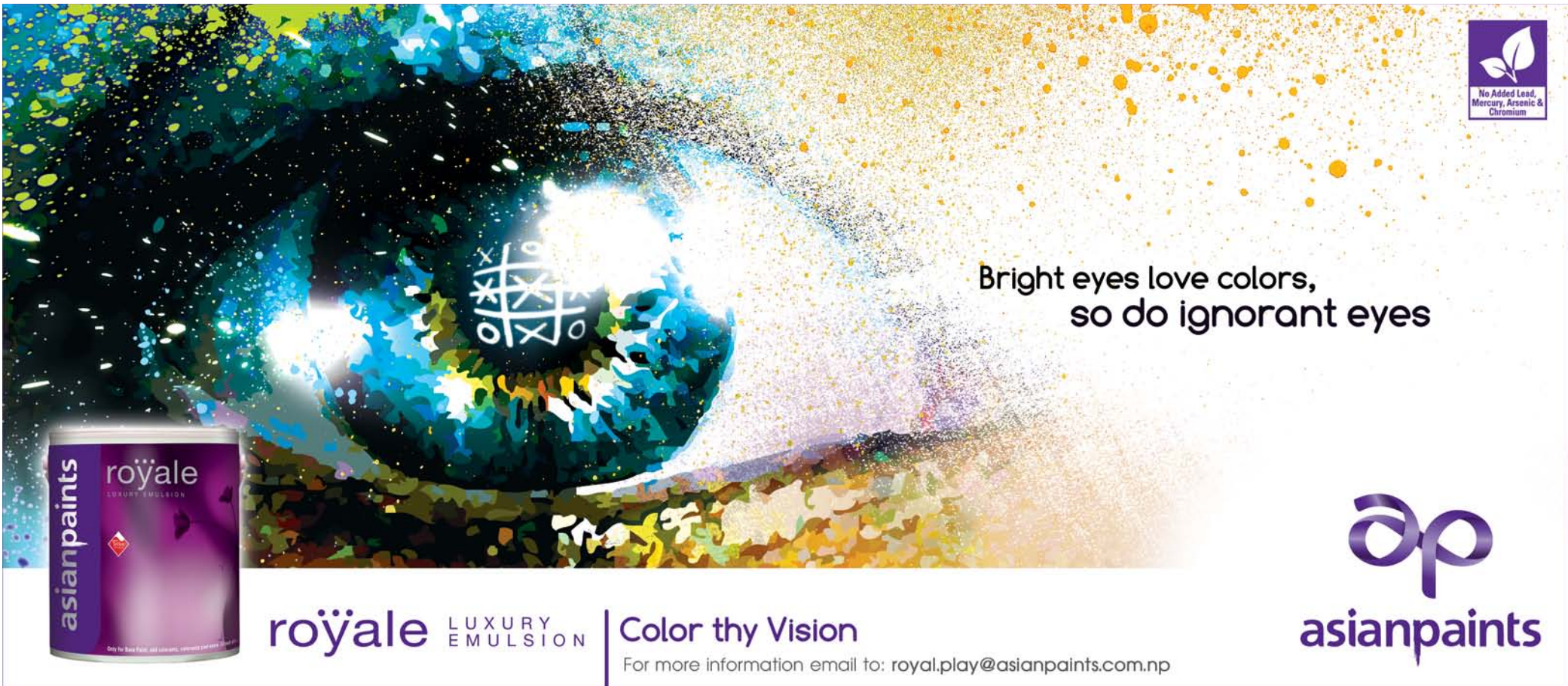
## Surya Nepal Masters 2013

Private Limited

Gokarna Forest Resort, Kathmandu  
7th - 11th May, 2013







Bright eyes love colors,  
so do ignorant eyes

Color thy Vision  
For more information email to: royal.play@asianpaints.com.np

asianpaints

Whose father can do what?

As the fhit hits the san about Loktantra Man Sing, the secret deal that led to commissioning commissioners has emerged. A meeting of the High Level Political Committee last month apparently bowed down to the wishes of an even Higher Level All-mighty Mechanism (HLAMM) to parcel out the positions of the constitutional organs. Members of the Four-Party Dictatorship brought their nominations to the meeting in little chits of paper. It was finalised that Comrade Gutch’s favourite, LMSK, would head the CIA. And for inexplicable reason, he was also the fave candidate of the handlers Uncooked, Inc. There was a hue-and-cry, but PKD and BKG came to Sing Man’s defence: “Yes, he is a royalist. Yes, he a national record holder for corruption in high places. Yes he ordered the violent suppression of pro-democracy process. But he is the fox that is going to guard the chicken coop. He’s our man. Let’s see whose father can do what.”

The NC and UML leadership seem to have dozed off during that meeting to discuss band-fand because it didn’t register just how controversial that would be, or maybe they were half-awake and were rubbing their hands at the prospect of the Baddie-Maddie partners falling flat on their faces. Either way, the kangresis were happy enough to have their candidate become the General Auditor and the Baddies rammed through their nominee for the head of the PSC, none other than First Aunt Yummy. The UML leadership had already got their man, Mr Blue Throat, to head the Election Commission, so they’ve been the ones playing holier-than-thou.

Despite PKD’s headline-grabbing visits north and south last month which restored Awesome’s kingmaker role in Nepali politics, the visits went almost completely unnoticed in those countries. China’s state media totally ignored the meeting between the leaders of

the two countries and Indian tv channels were too preoccupied with crises to even notice. But this didn’t matter at all to the Chairman, since it was a visit to bolster his standing within Nepal among the parties, and especially, to present himself ahead of BRB. The photo op with the North Neta and South Neta were all important. All this has boosted Lotus Flower’s confidence level to such an extent that he now considers himself invincible. The plan is to ensure elections can’t happen until the Baddies are sure they will get their two-thirds. And as long as the Baidya faction is going to split the Baddie vote, or the Madhesis remain at each other’s throats, elections are going to be put off on one pretext or the other. The latest excuse put forward by the Regmi regime is: snow in November.

The beauty of appointing Kleptokrat Karki as the head of the corruption watchdog is that he is going to be much more powerful than KRR or

the technokrat kabinet. The man is now going to have the power to clip the wings of anyone that his mentors take a dislike to. For the next six years politicians will have to pay off the CIAA before they can take kickbacks. And you can be sure that Nepal will take great economic strides because the control on constructive corruption will be controlled.

By now we have tried just about everything to stop corruption. First we passed laws against it. That didn’t work. We tried sending officials on governance junkets to Singapore, they just came back with electronic consumer items and bribed their way through customs. We doubled their salaries and tried five-day weeks so they could moonshine on weekends, but the hanky-panky just got worse.

There is some hope that the Human Genome Project, which has sequenced our

chromosomes, will now be able to pinpoint the exact genes for greed. People who are genetically susceptible to purloining public funds can be detected well in advance if their DNA has versions of the gene responsible for secreting the hormone, corruption-enhancing-receptor protein (CERP). And if they do, they can be barred from holding public office. By splicing the gene for the Madagascar tree hornet (known for its selfless devotion to the welfare of the hive) into the human sequence responsible for CERP, you can actually craft a transgenic, honest human being.

If that doesn’t work, we only have one other option: legalise corruption. That way, all transactions will be transparent and above board. A 7% Graft Surcharge on underhand deals can be used to finance development projects. Corruption will actually contribute to Nepal’s per capita GDP.

EXCHANGE OFFER

कुनै पनि पुरानो Fridge ल्याउनुहोस्  
Yasuda तथा Daewoo को नयाँ Fridge लानुहोस् ।





Yasuda

को लक्किक ड्र कुपनले बनाउनेछ  
तपाईंको नयाँ वर्ष साच्चिकै

Happy

हरेक हप्ता जिउनुहोस्  
42" LCD TV

Yasuda को कुनैपनि रु. ५०००/- वा बढीको सामान खरिद गर्नुहोस् र पाउनुहोस् छुट्टा Lucky Coupon जसले जिताउन सक्नेछ तपाईंलाई 42" LCD TV हरेक हप्ता ।

