



Wedding Collection

**10% OFF**

on purchase of any bedroom set

**10% OFF**

on purchase of any living room set worth Rs. 50,000 or above

Come check out our new collection!  
Nov 25, 2013 - Feb 1, 2014



**FREE DELIVERY & INSTALLATION**



Like us on facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/INDEXFURNITURENEPAL>



*Nepali Times* wishes readers and partners a happy 2014. Wherever in the world you are, follow us online throughout the new year for augmented news and current affairs with extra photo galleries, multimedia packages, and follow-ups.

**Go online.**  
**Get more than paper.**  
**[www.nepalitimes.com](http://www.nepalitimes.com)**



# Crowdfunding Health

Achham's Bayalpata Hospital pioneers instant crowdfunding from all over the world for complicated and urgent surgeries in rural Nepal. This model of investing directly in the healthcare of another human being makes global health more accessible for a larger population.

PAGE 16-17



DEVAKI BISTA

# CHECKLIST

More than one month after the elections were held and results announced, Nepal's political parties are still trying to agree on powersharing. After the unnecessary delay, Tuesday's four-point deal finally paved the way for the defeated UCPN (Maoists) to join the Constituent Assembly. But hurdles remain.

**The checklist for 2014 include the following:**

- ✓ Each party overcome fierce internal pressure to finalise the PR list by the thrice-extended 30 December deadline.
- ✓ Interim Electoral Council finalises 26 names for the nominated list in the CA.

- ✓ The cabinet will have to consult the political forces, but should not be dictated by them in finalising the list.
- ✓ Once the 601-strong membership of the new House is finalised, it elects a prime minister and the president orders the Constituent Assembly to convene.
- ✓ A new government is set up to take the country forward and revive stalled development.
- ✓ Get all party agreement to conduct local elections by April 2014.

This roadmap may appear straightforward, but is fraught with pitfalls every step of the way. Tuesday's four-point deal may have been needed

to break the deadlock, but is an inherently undemocratic exercise that allows a group of elderly men (*above*) to bypass an elected legislature.

The PR mechanism was also designed to make the Constituent Assembly representative, but has been hijacked by the main parties who tend to nominate members to appease internal factions. Political parties have retreated to hotel resorts to finalise their PR lists over the weekend.

## TO DO LIST

### EDITORIAL PAGE 2

# MEET MILAN

Assamese singer wows music lovers in her ancestral homeland with popular love ballads that have got rave reviews.

Says Milan Newar Amatya: “My father told me not to limit myself to singing for 300,000 Nepalis in Assam, and to sing for 30 million fans in Nepal.”

PAGE 7



**LAVAZZA**  
ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE

Falcha Restaurant - Jhamsikhel  
Lakpa Chulo - Jhamsikhel

For Further Information Mail to :  
lavazza@subhashingalintl.com


Step in for more varieties at

**LIFE STYLE**  
DESIGN & DECOR




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


## GENERAL PURPOSE GENERATORS




## NEW POWER YEAR LIFE



**"FIRMAN 'New Power Year Life' — Petrol, Diesel and Inverter based Generator, Ranging from 2.2 to 10 KVA, 1 year Warranty"**



**GAUTAM ELECTRIC AND ELECTRONICS CENTRE**  
Head Office: P. Chembur, Puchana, T. 01 4150129, T. 01 4150162  
Corporate Office: Shastri Nagar Complex, 501, Tagorepark, Kulkarni  
T. 01 4230908, F. 01 4230913, info@geel.co



**GAUTAM ASSOCIATES**

Luxury redefined with Kunal

CURTAINS. CARPETS. PARQUETS. FURNITURES

Bhanimandal, Ekantakuna, Lalitpur  
[www.kunalinteriors.com](http://www.kunalinteriors.com)  
 Tel: 5546386 / 5546387 / 01-6924765

**KUNAL**  
 Living Decor  
 Since 1999



Get **SAP** training in **NEPAL**

Tel: +977 1 4785525 Ext-205  
[www.bos.com.np](http://www.bos.com.np)

## From Kathmandu to Europe with Europe's Best



turkishairlines.com | 4438363 | 4438436



TO DO LIST

On the face of it, we must applaud the agreement containing four bullet points by the four main political forces on Tuesday. The agenda items deal with finishing a draft of the new constitution within six months and passing it within one year, ensuring closure of the remaining points of the peace process, setting up the Truth and Reconciliation and Disappearance Commissions, and investigating alleged irregularities in the November elections.

The agreement, although unnecessarily delayed, opens the door now for the next steps. There is nothing in the four-point deal struck on Tuesday that had to wait a month after elections. The UCPN (Maoist) are entirely responsible for the loss of time and momentum, a behaviour we are now familiar with and have come to expect of them.

The checklist for the next few weeks is as follows:

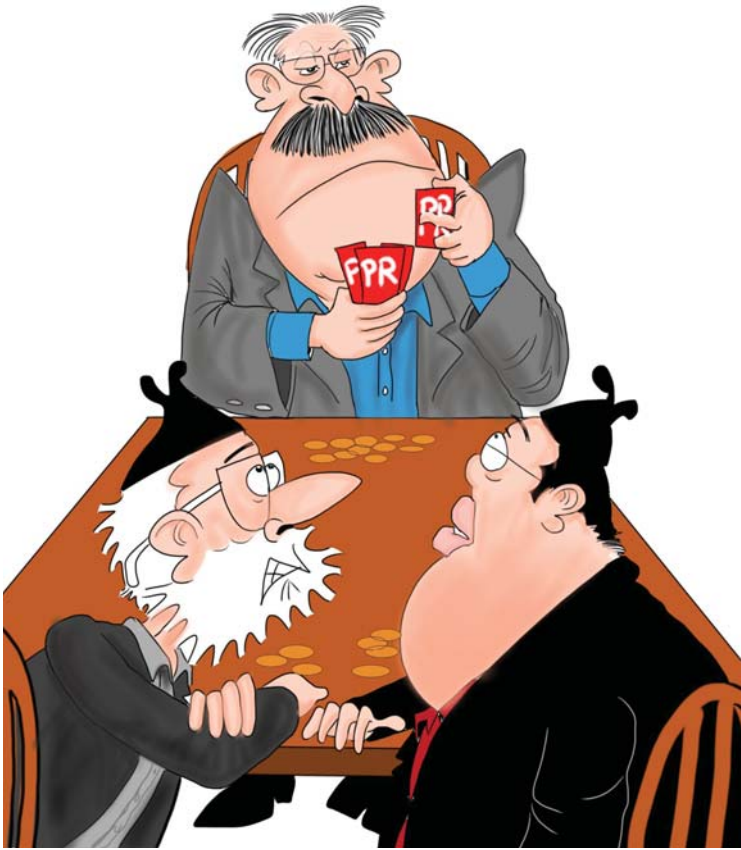
- Each party must finalise its Proportional Representation list and pass that on to the Election Commission for verification. The PR mechanism was designed to make the Constituent Assembly representative, but has been hijacked by the main parties who tend to nominate members to balance disgruntled internal factions. Every party, including the emergent RPP-N, faces fierce pressure from the rank and file to be 'rewarded' with CA membership.
- The Interim Electoral Council will then have to decide on 26 names for the nominated list in the CA. This, again, is a process to allow under-represented communities to be in the CA and also to bring in the expertise of lawyers, demographers, and social scientists. The cabinet will have to consult the political forces, but should not be dictated by them in finalising the list.

After breaking the political deadlock this week, the main parties need to move swiftly on their checklist

- Once the 601-strong membership of the new House is worked out, the Election Commission will vet it and concurrently ask the prime minister and the president to convene the Constituent Assembly and parliament respectively. The chairman and other legislative officials need to be chosen.
- Only then will the president ask the parliament to set up a government, either made up of a coalition or a consensus.
- New government is set up to take the country forward and revive stalled development.
- Get all party agreement to conduct local elections by April 2014.

This roadmap may appear straightforward, but it is fraught with pitfalls every step of the way. The four main political forces may have papered over their differences in the High Level Political Mechanism with their agreement this week, but they each face internal challenges to finalise the PR lists. Which is why the parties have asked for another extension of the deadline till 30 December. The HLPC, given its track record, will try to interfere in the nomination of the 26 extra members. Then there remains the daunting task of cobbling together the new government. Let's not expect a new CA and government before February.

Tuesday's four-point deal may have been needed to break the logjam, but it is an inherently undemocratic exercise that falls into the same trap as the last CA



of bypassing an elected legislature and retaining the monopoly on power by a handful of elderly men striking murky backroom deals.

That the Nepali Congress and UML so easily acquiesced to allowing the HLPC to be an extra-constitutional and unaccountable power centre is a pity. It shows they have still not learnt from the debacles of the past. It also proves that the UCPN (M), smarting from its electoral defeat and ridden with internal rifts and contradictions, wants a handle on power to compensate for its poor showing in polls.

The HLPC should be an advisory body and major decisions should be taken by the parties on the strength of their mandate from the people. That is what democracy is supposed to be all about.

ON THE WEB  
www.nepalitimes.com

WRONG MECHANISM

Democracy in Nepal is very different than the 'democracy' found in books and our experience since 1950 proves this point ('Wrong mechanism', Editorial, #686). So if the High Level Political Committee functions systematically, then it is a part of the Nepali political system.

KK Sharma

- In any constitution drafting process, political parties are the ultimate goal makers and they get to have the final say. So the HLPC mechanism is still needed. But, yes, the parties have to change their working modalities. The CA should not be by-passed as was done in the past and it is utterly undemocratic to demand that the decisions made by the mechanism be agreed upon unanimously. An undemocratic process cannot produce a democratic constitution.

It is now the responsibility of the NC and UML to make sure that the fresh mandate is adequately represented in the new constitution and to deliver a progressive constitution within a year. If the parties fail, the people will no longer accept their excuses.

Kamal Kishor

- All the other party leaders should hang their heads in shame for letting Pushpa Kamal Dahal arm twist them into accepting the HLPC as an official mechanism through the four-point deal. If the top politicians wanted to draft a new constitution behind closed doors, what was the

use of conducting elections anyways? It makes me so angry that even after the people showed the Maoists their rightful place in the Nepali polity, they have come back through the back alley.

Renu Shrestha

MOMENT OF TRUTH

- If we want anything meaningful to be done in regards to human rights violations that took place during the decade long 'people's war', then the first order of business is to get rid of petty politics ('Moment of truth', Anurag Acharya, #686). Of course that is asking for too much given how things work in our country. When politics influences these issues, we re-live the conflict all over again in newspaper columns, television programs, and online forums every time the topic comes up.

If Nepal is serious about healing and moving on, then the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is the only way out. Talking about restorative justice outside the framework of the TRC becomes an endless exercise in finger-pointing and scoring political points. The unwillingness of the parties and the security forces to establish such a body shows not just a fear of reprisals that the author suggests, but in my opinion, a willful desire to play the politics of pain and suffering.

Aideeah

- "[Justice for war victims] needs public pressure and unbiased campaigning by rights activists, media, and international community." And you

are not biased, Anurag Acharya?

Man Bahadur

- The families want truth and justice. They have rejected 'revenge' and accepted 'justice'. But again what about their role in the whole process, questions of representation, participation, and ownership of the justice process? The challenge in Nepal seems to be who controls the process and who designs it? The 'truth' cannot be used for political gambling and it is not a 'NC-UML vs Maoist' game. There is no justice without truth and no reconciliation without justice. Let's fight against impunity-led political consensus at the top and start a fresh discussion from the bottom to reveal the truth and deliver justice for sustained and productive peace.

Ram

LOST HISTORY

It is so sad that we will never retrieve hundreds of invaluable idols and paintings that were stolen from Nepali temples that now adorn the bedroom and living rooms of people who have no spiritual or religious connection to them ('Back where they belong', Bhrikuti Rai, #686). What is more frustrating is that the government doesn't seem too bothered even when scholars have worked so hard over the years to trace the artefacts in different parts of the world. It is a shame that officials from Paris had to come here and tell our government to give an assurance that the returned idols would be well-protected. Like everything in Nepal, if the state continues dillydallying in getting our

stolen idols back we will lose a huge a part of our cultural identity.

Shamma Baniya

- Where are all the social media, pseudo nationalists when you need them? They get so riled up when someone says 'Buddha was born in India', but they couldn't care less about the hundreds of Buddhist and Hindu art pieces and idols that have been trafficked across the globe. It would be better if they spent all that pent up energy persuading foreign governments and museums to send back what is rightfully ours.

JDK

PREDATOR STATE

While only a few cases like Sita Rai get media coverage, hundreds of other Nepali workers are abused on a daily basis at Tribhuvan Airport, at the transit, and by their employers abroad ('Too little, too late', www.nepalitimes.com). We need strong laws that are strictly implemented to ensure that everyone can live with dignity. Perhaps the new constitution will introduce such laws to prevent the exploitation and trafficking of our labourers.

Radha Krishna Deo

- Compensation worth Rs 5,000 for Sita Rai and only five years of prison for the culprits. Is this for real? Those immigration officials deserve much more than five years behind bars for abusing their authority if the evidence is solid.

Dikchhyanta

SOUND OF OUR SOUL

Musician Bipul Chettri has touched many of us in a way that no other artist has in recent years ('Song of our soul', Ayesha Shakya, #686). I keep going to SoundCloud just to see if he has uploaded new songs even though I know that Bipul is not the kind who would compromise on quality for quantity. When he comes to Nepal to perform, I will be standing in the first row.

Nepali

- Bipul is proof that you can make it big in the music industry without resorting to cheap gimmicks while staying true to your roots. I wish him all the best and hope he continues to produce unadulterated, eargasmic music for many many years to come.

Gaya

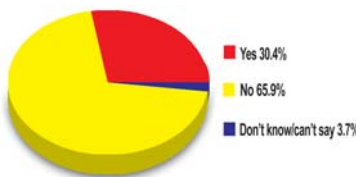
- Great music Bipul. But I smell some 'inspiration' from Diwas Gurung and Shristi Band?

ABC



nepalnews.com  
Weekly Internet Poll #687

Q. Will the political parties be ready with their PR lists before new year?



Weekly Internet Poll # 688. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com  
Q. Which of the following is more likely to happen in 2014?





# PR for PR

After more than a month of stalling the formation of a new CA, all that the three major parties and the Madhesi alliance could muster on Tuesday afternoon was an absurd four-point deal. The agreements are so obvious – forming a parliamentary panel to investigate election irregularities, establishing a group of top leaders (a euphemism for the HLPC) to conclude the peace process and assist in constitution writing, drafting the new constitution within six months, and establishing the Truth and Reconciliation and Disappearances Commissions – that one has to wonder what took our leaders so long.

Once again the greater good of the country and its people was sacrificed to the whims of one man: Pushpa Kamal Dahal. The chairman of the UCPN (Maoist) must be feeling smug that he got other leaders to agree on not only reviving the HLPC, but alleviating the undemocratic parallel mechanism to national stature. What this means is that both Dahal and his lieutenant Baburam Bhattarai will now enjoy ample leverage in the political decision-making, despite their party's upsetting loss in the November elections. Popular

## Proportional Representation was supposed to give marginalised and underprivileged Nepalis a say, but the new CA will be more exclusive

mandate be damned. With the election commission granting a third extension for the submission of the Proportional Representation lists, the Nepali Congress, UML, and Madhesi parties won't be complaining either about the protracted meetings at the Peace Secretariat. They now have five more days to settle internal disputes and weld together the names of members who will complete the 601-strong assembly.

But if anyone believed the country is close to witnessing the first session of CA-2, they couldn't be more wrong. The battle lines are just being drawn. From sons to daughter-in-laws to business heavyweights who sponsored election campaigns, each leader is looking to include a loyalist in the assembly. With no local elections in the last 16 years, the CA has also become a natural launch pad for many political aspirants.

As the tussle for seats threatens to turn into a Kathmandu-centric, Bahun-Chettri male dominated floor, parties should remember why we introduced the mixed electoral system in the first place. Since direct polls heavily favour powerful male candidates from big parties, after much debate and deliberation, the PR ballot was used for the first time in Nepal during the 2008 CA elections so that marginalised, underprivileged citizens would also have a say in the making of the constitution. And although this year's poll results confirmed Nepalis' aversion to the politics of ethnicity, their votes were not for the centralisation of power, but for devolution.

From 12 women in the 1999 parliament to 197 in the 2008, we have come a long way. But Nepali women are likely to be the biggest losers in this new CA. With only 10 women candidates winning the First Past the Post (FPTP) race, the EC called on all parties to allocate at least 50 per cent of their PR seats to women, so that the floor would have 33 per cent female representation this time round too.

However, in the absence of a clear legal provision, few are likely to follow this guideline as shown by Kamal Thapa led RPP-N which sent only nine women out of the total 24 seats. Dalit representation is even worse with only two candidates making it through the FPTP.

"Women are given tickets only out of compulsion and even then the leaders behave as if it's a waste," says Parvati DC Chaudhary from Dang-1, who was among the six winning female candidates out of the 21 that the NC fielded in the direct race. "Realistically, I don't see any of the parties allocating half their PR seats to women, but it would be good for their own image and give them more credibility."

In a country where women make up more than half the population, giving them equal number of seats in the parliament should be a no-brainer. Bringing ethnic minorities and marginalised groups into the national mainstream was one of the major commitments of the 2006 Janandolan, which all big and small parties seem to have backtracked from. Expecting the current lot of leaders to demonstrate the magnanimity and sense of fairness needed to have a CA that is as inclusive (if not more) than its predecessor is futile.

Therefore for future elections, the Election Commission should amend the PR system to have open lists which will allow voters to express their preference for particular candidates, not just parties. That way, we are not left at the mercy of selfish leaders. 🇳🇵



HERE WE GO  
Trishna Rana

www.panipokhariheights.com.np

## THIS IS THE TIME FOR INVESTMENT

Premium Residential Colony Spread Over 20 Ropanis Land in the Most Preferred Location in Kathmandu

- > Total colony area: 20 ropani 12 anna
- > House land area: 2 anna 3 paisa and above
- > 50 units of housing
- > 5m to 7.5m wide internal colony road
- > Financial scheme available
- > Round the clock security
- > Floor Plan can be customized as per Customer's Need

CONSTRUCTION IN FULL SWING

MOCK-UP READY

Marketing Office :  
5th floor, Sel-in Building (Next to Global IME Bank)  
Construction Site: Old American Embassy  
Panipokhari-3, Lazimpat, Kathmandu  
Tel: +977-01-4430773/4430798, 9802043774  
E-mail: panipokhariheights2012@gmail.com

A Joint Venture of:

CE Construction Pvt. Ltd. shiva corporate

## THE S.B. FURNITURE BEDROOMSET SALE

**BED SET**  
HUNNAH BED  
MEUDON WARDROBE  
ZICRON DRESSING TABLE  
**124,990.-**

**BED SET**  
MILLANA BED  
DAVIO WARDROBE  
ZICRON DRESSING TABLE  
**94,999.-**

**BED SET**  
KOLOZE BED  
TRERA WARDROBE  
ZICRON DRESSING TABLE  
**114,990.-**

**18% OFF** **102,992.-**  
LEXUS SOFA  
Original price 125,600.-

**18% OFF** **115,210.-**  
CAPULET SOFA  
Original price 140,500.-

**18% OFF** **11,152.-**  
ADORN COFFEE TABLE  
Original price 13,600.-

The expert for your ideal living from **THAILAND.**

Lalitpur Showroom: Patan Hospital Road, Lagankhel, Lalitpur  
Tel: 5004047, 5523864, Fax: 5524697

Panipokhari Showroom: Near Japanese Embassy  
Tel: 4006640, Fax: 4006643

**S.B. FURNITURE**





NAYANTARA GURUNG KAKSHAPATI

## Hutaram Baidya, 93

Nepal's first agricultural scientist and a lifelong campaigner to save the Bagmati River, Hutaram Baidya, died on 24 December of complications from pneumonia.

Baidya lived in Tripureswor where he saw the gradual deterioration of his beloved Bagmati from a pristine and holy river into a cesspool carrying Kathmandu's sewage, which spurred him to action. Of the 16 books he has written, four are about the necessity of saving the Bagmati Civilisation, a term that he coined and which is now used to describe the river which spawned Kathmandu Valley's unique cultural and religious heritage.

However, despite 25 years of campaigning he could smell and see till his last days how the river he was trying to save was dying in front of him. Baidya was cremated at Pashupati on Tuesday, by the banks of the river that he worked hard to save.

Baidya's early work was organic agriculture and how it was possible to achieve higher yields and wage a green revolution without agro-chemicals. At a time when Nepal had no roads, Baidya toured across the length and breadth of Nepal promoting new ways to increase harvests and introduced crops like high-yield winter wheat. He knew that agriculture in Nepal was

closely linked with forestry and promoted new varieties of trees, like ipilipil, that could boost agro-forestry.

However, being an inter-disciplinary scientist, he also realised that agriculture cannot prosper without grassroots democracy. He kept reminding people that farmers need to participate and own activities designed to improve their living standards with new farm inputs.

Baidya left behind a powerful legacy among the young citizens of the capital about the need to restore the Bagmati and it is the public awareness that he helped initiate that has led to the frequent campaigns to clean up the river and its banks.

River activist Megh Ale credited Baidya for his interest in joining the Bagmati campaign. "He told me very early on that just rafting down the river to make officials see how bad the river had become, was not enough," Ale said.

Also at the funeral were Home Minister Madhav Ghimire and Chief Secretary Lila Mani Poudel. "We will honour Hutaramji's work by carrying on his campaign, he has left us a challenge to complete his life's work to save the river," Ghimire said.

*Kunda Dixit*

# Our job

Companies need to look at the physically handicapped as a valuable human resource option

SAMIRA SHAKYA

Vacancy ads, especially those of Kathmandu-based development organisations, mostly point out that along with women and minorities, people with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Yet, there are few physically challenged people who are hired. Despite affirmative action, it is still difficult for them to find jobs.

Organisations want to publicise the fact that they are inclusive in vacancy ads, but when it comes to filling those positions the announcements do not necessarily result in the employment of people with disabilities. Part of the reason is that employers don't want to bear the burden. But that is not the whole story.

Could it be that, despite being educated and skilled, most Nepalis with disabilities are not sure about how to navigate the daunting mores of a job market, let alone to find out whether a prospective employer has disabled-friendly infrastructure at the office.

A year ago, the Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Children, National Federation of the Disabled-Nepal, the Association of

International NGOs (AIN) and its INGO members, Merojob.com, Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ), and FNCCI joined forces to hold a one-day Job Fair in Kathmandu for the disabled. More than 1,000 visitors and 500 people with disabilities attended it at the World Trade Centre in Tripureswor.

By the end of the day, Merojob.com had collected almost 600 CVs of people with disabilities and matched them with prospective employers' requirements. Twenty-eight people with disabilities got full-time employment in organisations such as Sherpa Adventure Gear, Karuna Foundation, Vienna Bakery, Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, FNCCI, and Siddhartha Development Bank.

Many employers reported that at first they did not know what to make of employees with disabilities. There was curiosity on both sides. But once the work started, they generally found the new employees were eager to learn, were hardworking and productive. Most said that they would make hiring qualified employees with disabilities an explicit aspect of future recruitment plans.



### Career Opportunities with British Council Nepal

British Council Nepal has a new Country Strategy focusing on teacher training, examination reform, digital learning, examinations delivery and the development of a centre for professional development and cultural convention space.

To help us deliver this new strategy we are looking for a young and dynamic individual to lead on examination reform in Nepal, specifically the SLC, as our **Education Manager**.

**You will have an education and/or business background, will have experience of project management, excellent English language skills, and most importantly will understand what it means to work as part of a multicultural international organization.**

This post is for a fixed term of 3 years. This is a re-advertisement on amended terms and conditions.

We welcome applications from all sections of the community as we are committed to a policy of equal opportunity. As part of this process we encourage women and members from ethnic minorities to apply.

Please note that the British Council Nepal office receives a high number of applications to vacancies, most of which are rejected because the applicants fail to fully complete the application form. Please read the instructions carefully.

Further information about these posts including detailed Role Profiles (job description) and an official application form can be downloaded from the British Council's website <http://www.britishcouncil.org/nepal/about-us-career-opportunities.htm>

All applications must be on the official form and should be e-mailed to [recruitment@britishcouncil.org.np](mailto:recruitment@britishcouncil.org.np), no later than 5pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014.

The British Council believe that all children have potential and that every child matters - everywhere in the world. The British Council affirms the position that all children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse as set out in article 19, UNCRC, 1989.



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



# to reach out



PICS: RABIK UPADHAYAY/WATERAID NEPAL



**WHEELCHAIR FRIENDLY: A demonstration toilet (above) at the second annual Job Fair for the physically challenged in Kathmandu last week (left). Two per cent of Nepal's total population is physically handicapped.**

Buoyed by this success, the ministry got together with other agencies and UNICEF earlier this month to hold the second Job Fair. This time, the theme was to 'break barriers and open doors for an inclusive society and development for all'. The fair broke new ground by having sign language interpreters and volunteers to escort, guide, and assist visually impaired and other physically-disabled attendees.

There were organised discussions on the challenges employers face when hiring people with disabilities, on

how self-employment was a viable option, how to revise and present CVs that play up one's strengths. There were more than 25 stalls that showcased products, services, and information, either created by or catering to the disabled like the one of a model urban office toilet aimed at influencing the mindset of commercial property developers.

Nepal's National Census 2011 showed that more than 500,000 Nepalis, or about two per cent of the total population, is living with disabilities, half of them women. What the job

fairs showed was that even against such difficult odds, many younger people with disabilities, especially in the urban areas, have educated themselves, acquired skills and are in search of opportunities.

They represent a significant, but hitherto untapped potential for Nepal's labour market. Companies need to look at this not just as a part of their corporate social responsibility, but as a valuable human resource option for qualified and motivated staff. The annual job fairs have succeeded in driving this message home. 🇳🇵



Samira Shakya is a Program Officer at WaterAid in Kathmandu.

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

Different but able, #574  
No right of passage, #642

## EVEREST BANK BIZ BRIEFS



### Best foot forward

The week long leather products and shoe fair began at City Hall on Tuesday. Organised by Leather Footwear and Goods Manufacturers' Association Nepal, the 10th edition of the festival will run until 30 January. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Finance Minister Shankar Prasad Koirala said, "Leather industry is among the fastest growing in Nepal so we need to promote local products to ensure its growth in the future," said Minister Koirala. Nepali leather products have secured 55 per cent share in Nepal's footwear market, a huge growth from 15 per cent a decade ago. The organisers expect 200,000 visitors at the expo.

### GOAL

Qatar Airways gifted a jersey of the famed Spanish football club, Barcelona, to Hansha Raj Sanjyal at Hattisar, Kathmandu. Sanjyal was among the 10 lucky winners for the airlines' worldwide campaign.



### Where's the party?

The first Johnnie Walker Black List Party will be organised in Kathmandu on 25 January. Exclusive passes to the invite-only event can be won by registering with the unique code available with every promotional pack of Johnnie Walker Black Label or Johnnie Walker Double Black.

### Game time

Premier International School concluded its annual sports week on 21 December. Premier hosted various sports events and students took part in mass drills to mark the closing ceremony where all the winners received medals for their performance.



**EVEREST BANK LIMITED**  
(A joint-Venture with **punjab national bank**, India)

**Consistent, Strong & Dependable**

**If it is not SNOWING..., it is SUNNY.**

Enjoy the views and the sun  
Leisurely walks and play for the children  
Comfort and warm hospitality  
Over CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR at

**Charikot Panorama Resort**  
Dolakha District  
Contact Ktm: 5529463, Charikot: 049 421 245  
E-mail: thapamaag@gmail.com, www.charikotresort.net



**HIMALAYAN JAVA COFFEE**  
Promoting Nepali coffee since 1999

**Now brewing at  
Mandala Street, Thamel**

With Tapas and Wine after 5 pm









# MEETING MILAN

RISHEERAM KATTEL

When Milan Newar Amatya won the 'best contemporary female singer' at last week's Radio Kantipur Awards, it was a culmination of more than a decade of hard work. Her journey had started in 2003 when she came second in the All India Musical Competition.

The contest catapulted Milan to fame among Nepalis in her hometown of Guhati, Assam and local fm stations were swamped with requests for her songs. Even after the euphoria over the event had subsided, Milan kept herself busy with live performances and managed to release her first album, *Kanchi*, in the same year.

At the heights of her popularity, her father Ganesh Newar suggested that she give her talent a shot in Nepal. "He told me not to limit myself to the 300,000 Nepalis in Assam, when I could sing for 30 million fans in Nepal," recalls Milan.

So in 2010, she moved to Kathmandu and within a year released a self-titled album. After establishing her presence on the airwaves, offers for playback singing began to pour in. Milan, who has previously sung in Assamese, Mishing, Bodo, and Rajasthani, was the voice behind the hit song *Slowly slowly* from the recently released Nepali film *Kali*.

Now a household name in Nepal, Milan also performs regularly for the Nepali diaspora across the globe. In 2012, she won the 'best female pop singer' at the Image Awards.

"I am glad I moved to Nepal because nothing compares to working and performing in my ancestral homeland," says the 30-year-old, whose grandfather

migrated from Sankhuwasabha. "Since my family lives in India, my husband who is from Kathmandu is my biggest supporter here."

Although Milan started vocal training only in college, she says she fell in love with the stage at a young age. The naturally gifted singer grew up listening to Bollywood classics of Lata Mangeshkar and Nepali legends such as Tara Devi, Aruna Lama, and Narayan Gopal, and would eagerly copy her idols during school performances and local concerts. At 13 she recorded her first song for an Assamese music album.

## Assamese singer woos music lovers in her ancestral homeland

"When I come on stage, whether it is in Nepal or India, my only concern is to make sure the audience is enjoying every bit of my performance," she explains. "Seeing the crowd cheering me on and singing along is very satisfying."

Currently the singer is busy preparing for her soon-to-be-released album, which she says will be a fusion of all genres of music she grew up listening to. Says Milan: "I am grateful to the Nepali music fraternity for welcoming me to the industry with so much love and support. They inspire me to make music every day."

[nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com) Watch music videos



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.

 JYOTI

Syokar Trading Company Pvt. Ltd.  
Honda Car Showroom, Dhobighat, Ring Road, Lalitpur  
Tel: 5549741/9721383223 Fax: 977-1-5549742  
Thapathali Showroom Tel: 4246235  
Email: hondacare@syokar.com.np  
www.honda.com.np







**MAGHE SANKRANTI**, a month of reading Swasthani, a pilgrims' tales of the Kathmandu Valley of yore.  
15 January to 14 February

EVENTS

**Tell your story**, make a 1-2 min video about how girls are changing the world; contest open to girls aged 12 to 25, winner takes \$10,000. Deadline 31 December, [www.letgirlslead.org](http://www.letgirlslead.org)



**SALUT**, be one of over 550,000 students all over the world to learn the French. Session starting on 27 January, Alliance Francais Centre, Teku



**CRITICAL MASS**, join hundreds of cycling enthusiasts to promote cycling culture and road safety in Nepal. 27 December, 5pm, Basantapur

**Tree of life**, an exhibition of the paintings on the Mithila cosmos by



**XAVIER'S CALLING**, reminisce the sublime and the ridiculous of your school days with fellow alumni. 28 December, 10am onwards, St Xavier's School, Jawlakhel

SC Suman. Runs till 6 January, 5.30pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babarmahal

**Happy Holidays**, celebrate the coming of Gregorian new year in style. 31 December

**Early days**, a workshop for new photographers and hobbyists who want to explore possibilities of a career in photography, free gift hamper worth Rs 1,000. Rs 2,999, 25 to 31 December, 7 to 9 am, Image Park, New Road, 9841279544, 9841240341

**Winter camp**, give your children a chance to make good use of their holidays by learning music, arts, and drama. 29 December to 10 January, 10.30am to 4.30pm, Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory, Jhamsikhel, (01)5013554, [www.katjazz.com.np](http://www.katjazz.com.np)

**Momo for change**, clothes donation drive for Heartbeat Foundation, with all the momos you can eat. Rs 300, 29 December, 2 to 6pm, Kamalpokhari

**Climate+Change**, an awe-inspiring educational science exhibition about climate change and Nepal's Himalaya. December to April, Nepal Art Council, Babarmahal

DINING



**LAL DURBAR RESTAURANT**, authentic Nepali dinner with cultural shows. Hotel Yak & Yeti, Darbar Marg, (01)4248999, [reservation@laldurbar.com](mailto:reservation@laldurbar.com)

**Lhakpa's Chulo**, Nepali dal-bhat, Newari khaja, Swiss Rösti, Italian Risotto, and Thai green curry - take your pick. Jhamsikhel



**WUNJALA MOSKVA**, treat your palette to Newari and Russian dishes in the lush garden with ancient trees and trickling streams. Naxal

**Ghar-e-kabab**, serving the best of north Indian cuisine, with live Sarod recitals on some days. Hotel Annapurna, Darbar Marg

**Dhokaima Cafe**, exquisite ambience, friendly service, cosy bar, place to see and be seen at. Patan Dhoka

**Degaa Resto Lounge**, for mouth watering Newari and Indian cuisine. Kumaripati

**The Yellow House**, enjoy sumptuous breakfast prepared with organically source ingredients and the freshest bread on this side of town. Sanepa

**Backyard**, reasonable prices and modest and simple food have made this restaurant a favourite among Nepalis and foreigners alike. Jhamsikhel



**TASS AND TAWA**, savour a wide variety of Nepali meat dishes and reserve your palate for the heavenly Chusta. Pulchowk, Kathmandu

**Barista lavazza**, the newest addition to the Valley's European inspired coffee-culture cafes serves excellent mochas and lattes, don't forget to try their grilled chicken sandwich. Jawlakhel

**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

M-Series Printers

Get the most **ECONOMICAL B/W PRINTERS** ever

Best for Office and Commercial purpose

Just **25 PAISA** per print

Print upto **8000 PAGES** with initial starter ink kit

**POWER SAVER** JUST 12 WATTS POWER CONSUMPTION

**WARRANTY** UPTO 1 YEAR OR 50,000 PRINTS

**HIGH SPEED PRINTING** 34 PPM

**M200- PRINT / SCAN / COPY**

**M100- PRINT**

**MERCANTILE OFFICE SYSTEMS PVT. LTD.**

Authorized Distributor:  
Hiti Pokhari, Durbar Marg  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 1-4440773/4445920

Kathmandu Valley Dealers:  
Lazimpat : 4410423, New Road : 4220058  
New Road : 4227654, New Road : 4280173  
New Road : 4222384, Patan : 5536649  
Putalisadak : 4266820, Putalisadak : 4415786  
Putalisadak : 4227474, Putalisadak : 4436307  
Putalisadak : 4417050

Outside Valley Dealers:  
Banepa : 011-860688, Biratnagar : 021-538729, Biratnagar : 021-532000  
Biratnagar : 023-540150, Buxwell : 071-545399, Chitwan : 056-571784  
Dang : 082-561022, Dhangadhi : 091-523601, Dhangadhi : 091-521392  
Janakpur : 041-525565, Lahan : 033-561205, Mahendranagar : 099-523872  
Nepelgunj : 081-527092, Pokhara : 061-525300, Surkhet : 083-522488, Tulsipur : 082-562575

**EPSON**

EXCEED YOUR VISION

MAKEWAVES 2013

Good earthy food

Bhumi Restaurant & Bar  
Lazimpath, Kathmandu  
Ph:- 01- 4412193

Bhumi Services (P) Ltd.  
**Bhumi**  
Restaurant & Bar

Thamel 4262768

Pulchowk 5521755

Bhattharuni 4426587

Now open at Boudha 4916446

**Roadhouse Cafe**  
where the good times roll

wood-fired pizza,  
coffee and more!



## MUSIC

**Education for peace**, Nepathya finish off their seventh nation-wide tour with a climax in Kathmandu.  
29 December, Patan Darbar Area, (01)4412469/4437893, nepalaya.com.np

**Andromakers**, let the all girl duo charm you with their jingles.  
Rs 200, 13 January, 6pm, Café des Arts

**Shastriya Sangeet**, dabble in the magic of Hindustani classical music every new moon night.  
1 January, 3.30pm, Ram Mandir, Battisputali

**SAROD SANDHYA**, watch maestro Suresh Raj Bajracharya and his group The Sarodists as they tug at your heartstrings with contemplative raags.  
4 January, 2.15pm onwards, Patan Museum



## GETAWAYS



**PARK VILLAGE RESORT**, New Year offer for Nepalis to win a trip via Qatar Airways. Welcome the new year with live music by Jyovan Bhujra  
Rs 2,499 for individuals, Rs 9,500 for couples, 31 December, 7pm onwards

**Dhulikhel Mountain Resort**, turn a new leaf by taking advantage of New Year's offer.

Double/twin for Nepali/expats/foreigners at Rs 5,000/USD 75/USD 85 and single supplement at Rs. NRS.1500/USD 15, taxes extra.  
Reservation: (01)4420774/6, (011)490660, sales@dmrnepal.com, reservations@dmrnepal.com

**Glacier Hotel**, good value and friendly service for travelers on the lap of Lake Phewa.  
Gaurighat, Lakeside, Pokhara, (61)-463722, www.glacienepal.com

**Waterfront Resort**, spend your New Year's Eve at the lake city of Pokhara and you might win a trip to Hong Kong or Bangkok, with live music by Acoustrio and Jessica Pradhan.  
Rs 1,999 per head, Rs 8,500 per couple, Rs 15,299 per head with zipline, 31 December, 7pm onwards



## Winter's bone

As the rest of European football take a breather, the English Premier League brings you season-defining fixtures thick and fast.

**28 December**, Norwich City vs Man Utd, 8.45pm

**29 December**, Newcastle vs Arsenal, 7.15pm; Everton vs Southampton, 7.15pm; Chelsea vs Liverpool, 9.45pm

**1 January**, Swansea City vs Man City, 6.30pm; Liverpool vs Hull City, 8.45pm; Arsenal vs Cardiff City, 8.45pm; Man Utd vs Tottenham, 11.15pm



## Free verse

**Shrawan Mukarung:**  
*In the city, town, and country, they call me – wild flower, but out there I have another name.*

**Viplav Dhakal:**  
*Maybe it's a call from the oil wells of Kuwait, "How are you, my queen?" from the king of her hearts! Or maybe a missed call from that police constable! Or maybe her mother, like as a kaans flower, calling from back home – "Did you eat, dear?" Or maybe it's that stupid Jhilke from the village "Where are you taking the goats, Nirmala?" Once more the cuckoo begins singing Why else would her heart skip a beat when that morbid tune started ringing?*

Poets Shrawan Mukarung and Viplav Dhakal in conversation.

27 December, 4pm, Nepal-Bharat Library, New Road Gate, (01)4413174

## New year galore



Nepal's communities celebrate the lunar new year in the following months.

**30 December**, Tamu Losar, the Gurung community all over Nepal celebrates the new year as well as the end of winter. There will be plenty of merrymaking in Pokhara and

Kathmandu, with Gurung men, women, and children dressing up in traditional costumes and dancing to the beats of Sorathi and Chudka songs.

**15 January**, Maghi Parba, Tharu cultural holiday  
**31 January**, Sonam Losar, Tamang New Year  
**2 March**, Gyalpo Losar, Tibetan New Year

THIS NEW YEAR  
GO ON A JOURNEY AND  
CREATE LONG-LASTING  
MEMORIES.

Quanto  
LIVE THE WEEKEND LIFE.



**Sole Distributor:**  
**Agni Incorporated Pvt. Ltd.**  
Uttardhoka, Kathmandu, Nepal

**Authorised Dealer (Kathmandu)**

**Evolution Automobile Pvt. Ltd.**, Babarmahal, Maitighar, Kathmandu, Ph: 01-4227068, 4261622

**Authorised Dealer (Outside Kathmandu Valley):** Dhangadhi: 091-522058, Nepalgunj: 081-551599, Pokhara: 061-532468, Bhairahawa: 071-527254, Biratnagar: 021-461178, Kanchanpur: 099-520854, Dang: 081-560278, Dharan: 025-520397, Rajbiraj: 031-522666, Surkhet: 9857830462, Jumla: 087-520151 Birtamod: 023-541114, Butwal: 071-541433, Banepa: 011-664302, Chitwan: 056-522168, Janakpur: 041-528881, Sindhuli: 047-520094



# When snow fell in Bardiya

Nepathya concludes nationwide concert tour with a message of peace and education



The Nepali folk-rock band Nepathya had got to Gulariya last week as a part of its nationwide concert tour and had just started into its all-time favourite hit, *Bheda ko Oon Jasto*. The audience, couldn't keep still and were all up dancing to its jaunty rhythm and beat when snow started falling on the stage (pic, centre).

Nepathya's event managers had organised artificial foam to descend on the stage right on cue as the lyrics described how snowflakes in the high villages of Rasuwa resembled puffs of wool. The students on the front rows couldn't sit still anymore and jumped up to dance, not just here but in every other of the 10 packed performances held all over the country in Nepathya's just concluded Education for Peace Concert Tour.

The tour happened at a time when schools were still being disrupted by political activities and as the band returns to Kathmandu for a final concert at Patan Darbar Square on Saturday 29 December, it has raised awareness about the importance

of the links between education and peace. The tour started in Chitwan and went to Jhapa, Sarlahi, Kapilbastu, Bardiya, Dang, Tanahu, Myagdi, and Kaski.

Nepathya founder and leadman Amrit Gurung is convinced about the importance of quality education for Nepal's future and says that despite the end of the conflict, education is still being affected by politics and violence. And everywhere that Nepathya performed, Gurung's message underlining the importance of education was greeted with wild cheers of approval from the young audience. The optimism and euphoria following the election results also affected the positive vibes at every venue.

Gurung says he was pleasantly surprised by the overwhelming support not just during his performances of evergreen hits like *Resham*, *Bheda ko Oon Jasto*, *Talko Pani*, *Chhekyo Chhekyo*, but also when locals turned up spontaneously to garland him and take him around town in rallies reflecting Nepal's ethnic diversity.

Besides the hits, Nepathya also sang



songs with a message of peace, tolerance, and unity. Every concert ended with an evocative rendition of *Rato ra Chandra Surya*, which has become Nepal's unofficial national anthem.

In between songs, Gurung solicits responses from the audience with messages like: "This country doesn't just belong to politicians, it is ours too. Let's brighten Nepal's future by keeping schools free from politics." More than 40,000 school students were displaced during the conflict and missed school.

In an interview with *Nepali Times*, Gurung said he has never been as emotionally affected by the support he got as during this concert tour. The singer exhorted audiences everywhere to not forget that they are Nepalis first and only then from different

communities and the country can be strong and prosperous if it is united.

When Gurung introduced members of his band to the audience, he emphasised the fact that each of them came from different ethnic backgrounds. "Look at us here on stage, we represent Nepal's diversity, but we make music together. Similarly, our nation can move forward if we work together."

Proceeds from the sale of tickets to the concerts will be donated to families of conflict victims and for the education of underserved children. 🇳🇵

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

Back to rock, #682  
Photo gallery  
Videos of the concert

LUXURY  
AS MAGICAL AS  
NATURE

Barahi  
Jungle  
Lodge  
CHITWAN  
NEPAL



Barahi Jungle Lodge: Andrauli, Meghauri-1, West Chitwan, Nepal. Eml: [info@barahijunglelodge.com](mailto:info@barahijunglelodge.com)  
Pokhara Office: Barahi Path, Lakeside, Pokhara-6. Tel: +977 61 460617, 463526 Fax: +977 61 461572 Eml: [info@barahi.com](mailto:info@barahi.com)  
Kathmandu Reservation Office: Tel: +977 1 4429575, 4429820 Eml: [jungle@barahijunglelodge.com](mailto:jungle@barahijunglelodge.com)

[www.barahijunglelodge.com](http://www.barahijunglelodge.com)

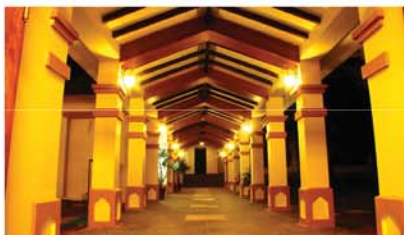




- 1** Students at the Nepathya concert in Ratnanagar, Chitwan on 6 December. Special seats were allocated for students at all venues.
- 2** Amrit Gurung singing *Bheda ko Oon Jasto* in Gulariya, Bardiya on 16 December as artificial snow fell.
- 3** The band gets a traditional welcome in Biratchok, Morang.
- 4** Gurung with teachers and students of Himalaya School in Damak. The building behind was constructed with proceeds from the Nepathya concert.
- 5** The Nepathya team bus along the East-West Highway in Sunsari.
- 6** The band performing in Damak on 10 December.



ALL PICS: ROCKY



Shanti Patan, Lakeside, Pokhara-6, Tel: 00977 61 466760, Fax: 00977 61 466762, Email: info@atithiresort.com  
Kathmandu Sales Office: Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Tel./Fax: 00977 1 4002077/4002079, www.atithiresort.com





When Kar Wai Wong’s greatly anticipated film *The Grandmaster* premiered at the Berlin Film Festival earlier this year, I could hardly contain my excitement and anxiety. Excitement because each and every single one of Wong’s films are a visual treat: lush, lyrical, filmed with great



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

attention to detail, and shamelessly romantic. Anxiety because, since 2007’s slightly disastrous *My Blueberry Nights* (Wong’s first film in English) he has produced nothing of significance. So it is with relief that I gleaned that *The Grandmaster* had been met with more than critical adoration.  
For those who are unfamiliar with Wong’s oeuvre, I will alert you in advance that his films are pure art house, meandering through almost non-narrative, and almost

always leaving gaps in narrative that make one either intrigued or irritatedly scratching one’s head – depending on your ability to immerse yourself in this particular director’s magic.  
*The Grandmaster* is no exception. The film follows the life of Ip Man (played by the great Tony Leung who is a fixture of Wong’s films) a master of the Wing Chun school of Kung Fu in the 1930s. Ip Man, by his own admission, has lived a life of ease and privilege for his first 40 years, happy in his marriage to his beautiful cultured wife Cheung Wing-sing (played by the radiant Song Hye-kyo) until a clashing of the Kung Fu cultures of northern and southern China upsets his equilibrium. What follows requires at least a basic knowledge of Chinese history of the period if you don’t want to miss the depth and nuances of key parts of a story that hardly bothers to explain the historically complex period in which it is set.  
There are many characters

in this intricate and sometimes confusing film so pay attention and be patient. All of the storylines intertwine and pay off, albeit some in more satisfying and others in slightly more subtle ways – but then again, that is the mystery that captivates most Kar Wai Wong fans.  
It is impossible to talk about *The Grandmaster* without mentioning the stunning cinematography by Philippe Le Sourd, a departure from most of his previous films which were shot by the savant Christopher Doyle. Regardless of Doyle’s legacy though (at one point one could not speak of Wong’s films without mentioning Doyle – they were that intrinsically linked) Le Sourd has more than stepped up to the challenge, rendering this film unforgettable with beautifully lit sets and camera work that is extraordinarily sophisticated.  
As with most great works of art, *The Grandmaster* does not give us pre-determined truths, happy endings, or any kind of tangible story arc for that matter. Rather we have to satisfy ourselves with the emotions that play across the faces of great actors like Leung, Hye-kyo, and of course Zhang Ziyi (who plays Gong Er – a highly skilled martial artist herself).  
This film is the work of a mature and subtle filmmaker, a man who has honed his skills over the years. It could, in fact, be called the work of a grandmaster of cinema. 🇳🇵

nepalitimes.com

Watch trailer

**TAKE ON THE WORLD**



**AMERICAN TOURISTER**  
Since 1923

the week in pictures brought to you by

**AMERICAN TOURISTER**  
Since 1923

**JAMAL**  
Durbarmarg - Jamal Sadak Crossing  
Tel: 4244856

**PULCHOWK**  
Ground floor below Laxmi Bank  
Harihar Bhavan Pulchowk  
Tel: 5524812

**KUPANDOLE**  
In front of Hotel Himalaya  
Tel: 5526989

**HAPPENINGS**



DEVAKI BISTA

**NEW OLD DEAL:** Leaders of the main political parties settle on a four-point deal during a meeting at Babarmahal on Tuesday afternoon. As part of the agreement, the High Level Political Mechanism will remain intact.



DEVAKI BISTA

**WORDSMITH:** Poet Madhav Prasad Ghimire (centre) is felicitated by Saint Lawrence College at Chabahil on Tuesday for his exceptional contribution to Nepali literature.



BIKRAM RAI

**HEAVY STUFF:** President Ram Baran Yadav lifts the FIFA World Cup trophy at Dashrath Stadium on Saturday. The trophy will make its way to 89 countries before the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.



BIKRAM RAI

**BUILDING BLOCKS:** A labourer carries bricks at a kiln in Bungmati on Monday.

Change your role  
Change the world  
Join WaterAid

**Regional Advocacy Manager – South Asia**  
Delhi, Dhaka, Islamabad, Kathmandu

Deadline	22.01.14	An articulate communicator and persuasive advocate with strong skills in policy analysis, you must know how to influence people, policy and politics in South Asia. Widely read, open minded and a champion of change, you'll need a demonstrable track record of working successfully with regional networks, campaigns and initiatives.
Interviews	w/c 10.02.14, 18.02.14	
Salary	Competitive with excellent benefits	

WaterAid is looking for a Regional Advocacy Manager – South Asia to play a vital role in our mission to transform lives with safe water, sanitation and hygiene in the world’s poorest communities.

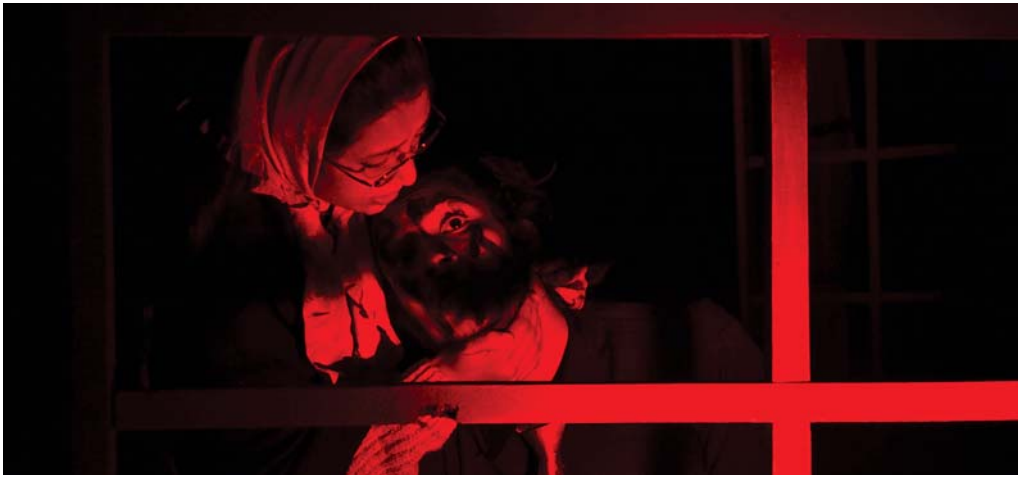
You’ll lead the delivery of key regional initiatives relating to advocacy, policy analysis and research, and have a pivotal role to play in driving global advocacy. You’ll increase our influence and build on our success, while developing strong local partnerships and promoting change.

A graduate in development studies, public policy, administration or a related field, or with equivalent experience, you should understand technical and social issues relating to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). WASH knowledge and ability to get up to speed quickly with human rights, governance and transparency, economics, environment, and development would be a major advantage.

Visit [www.wateraid.org/jobs](http://www.wateraid.org/jobs)

Registered charity numbers 288701 (England and Wales) and SC039479 (Scotland)





SUNIR PANDEY

Before *Prayogshala* (Nepali for laboratory) gets underway, the folks at Mandala Theatre inform us: the ensuing drama is an experiment of six scenes from six different Henrik Ibsen plays. The outcome is a pastiche on patriarchy and the lengths women (are made to) go to preserve it, woven together by the always handy theme of enacting a play about making a play.

Aside from playing Elida of *The Lady from the Sea*, who is torn between her husband of 10 years and a reappeared lover of the past, actress Chanda has to deal with a moody director who casts her

opposite a vapid colleague, a self-avowed veteran of the stage. Her character lacks freedom and is dependent upon men at crucial points of her life, but Chanda herself is fighting 'suitors' at the workplace a century later.

Srijana is willing to quit acting and become totally reliant on her fiancé even though she plays a housewife (Helen Alving of *Ghosts*) wrecked by her philanderer husband. Although she is totally devoted to her late husband, even opening an orphanage in his name, Helen knows she is compelled to keep mum to safeguard her reputation. Srijana, on the other hand,

# Prayogshala

isn't totally convinced of her impending marriage.

Scenarios like these lend themselves easily to adaptation, but some of the scenes in the play portray a post-industrialist

## REVIEW

Europe that doesn't yet have a Nepali counterpart. For example, parts of *The Master Builder* are more a parody of nepotism than a battle of the sexes as intended in the original text. And *Hedda Gabler* is too forcefully done to address issues of rivalry and sexual intrigue (if any) in Nepali academia even though it alludes to the sort of chauvinism reflected in Nepali idioms like pothi baseko (belittling women's efforts).

All this sets the stage, as director (of the meta play) Somnath Khanal changes actors and entire sections during the dress rehearsal of his dream play, *A Doll's House*. We gather that Junu's Nora is threatened by Krogstad who plans to blackmail her husband Torvald. And while Nora dismisses

Dr Rank's infatuation, Junu has to deal with the affection of Suresh, who plays Rank. And as Torvald's selfishness drives Nora out of their house, Junu's husband arrives with similar convictions to further blur the lines between rehearsals and real life.

The European settings and idealist dialogues of the mock-play take centre stage for most of *Prayogshala*, but it is the often seamless transition from a 100-year-old body of work to the unspoken norms of present Nepali society that saves the play from digressing into a stale khichdi.

Sunir Pandey

*Prayogshala*

Director: Rajan Khatiwada

Script writer: Samuna KC

Cast: Somnath Khanal, Suresh Sapkota, Junu Bista, Chanda Rai, Srijana Adhikari  
Mandala Theatre, runs until 3 January (except Mondays), 4.30pm, Rs 200 (Rs 100 for students), 016924269

# RETRO



A newcomer to the famous 'restaurant lane' of Jhamsikhel, it was safe to say my eyes, as well as my stomach were in for a feast. Had I not been a first-timer, I may have missed Retro and opted instead for the fancier (and better known) Moksh opposite it. However, my weakness for the vinyl, rock and roll, and good old neon signs made my decision a no-brainer.

Retro spans two floors, the ground of which is dedicated to a bar and lounge with ample space for the live bands that play here. As I took in the interiors, I couldn't help but feel a little disappointed at the owner's cliché choice of frames and vinyls plastered across a few corners and how contemporary the joint felt. The smells wafting in from the kitchen,

however, more than made up for the minor setback.

I was pleased to see the menu had an extensive list of mostly Western and some Nepali dishes and for my 'first course' decided on the cream of chicken soup (Rs 190), which was rich and deep, yet not at all heavy, add to it pieces of tender chicken and herbs and you have yourself a reliable (albeit safe) starter. I later added the vegetable sandwich (Rs 190) which came with the usual suspects (cucumber and tomato) and old French fries accompanied with tomato sauce (surprise, surprise). The sandwich was dry despite the coleslaw and was overall, below average.

Deciding my palette needed a little adventure, for my main

## SOMEPLACE ELSE



course I ordered the grilled herb marinated chicken sizzler (Rs 350), which came with a side of mashed potatoes, gravy, and seasoned vegetables. And finally, something hit the mark. True to

its name, the dish arrived on a bed of lettuce with a sizzle to die for and mouth watering tenderness. The meal could have done without the mashed potatoes as the seasoned vegetables mixed with noodles were ample, however both were satisfactory. The highlight of this dish was in any case, the chicken, which was marinated to perfection with thyme, coriander, and an array of other herbs. To my delight, the sizzler remained blisteringly hot throughout the course and easily outflanked its predecessors.

Retro is definitely worth a

visit if you ever get bored with the Jhamel usuals and crave a mean sizzler, however it is by no means the best of the lot. My recommendation, head out with friends on a Tuesday, Friday or Saturday night to enjoy the ambience of the live bands and Retro's array of cocktails, beers, and spirits and if you're in the mood, flavoured sheesha.

Meghna Bali

*How to get there: Enter Jhamsikhel road from the Pulchok fire brigade, cross St Mary's School wall and look for a large Moksh signboard on the right. Enter the alley, Retro is on your right.*



## MODULAR KITCHEN

Starting from Rs. 2 Lakhs onwards



## BED ROOMS

as per Vastu & fengsui



## LIVING ROOM



## ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS

Let professional take care of your dream

**NPM Interior & Architechtrual Design specialized in Apartment furnishing.**

**ONE STOP PROPERTY SOLUTION**

[www.NPMIINTERIOR.com](http://www.NPMIINTERIOR.com) | [www.NEPALPROPERTYMARKET.com](http://www.NEPALPROPERTYMARKET.com) | [www.fb.com/npminteriors](http://www.fb.com/npminteriors) | Email: [info@npminterior.com](mailto:info@npminterior.com)

01-6922373 | 9813898383 | 9851106065





MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

# The silent epidemic

Antibiotics are the wonder drugs of the 20th century. But as organisms become increasingly resistant, the effectiveness of many antibiotics is declining.

Resistance arises as a result of microbes mutating and forming strains that overcome the effectiveness of the antibiotics. One reason these mutant strains form is because of the

be established and implemented regarding the use of antibiotics with and without prescription.

Another major underappreciated reason for antibiotic resistance in humans is the use of antibiotics in animals (for example tetracycline in chicken feed) in subtherapeutic doses to promote growth. No one knows for sure how antibiotics help animals grow bigger, but one speculation is that suboptimal development caused by unsanitary conditions is compensated by the addition of antibiotics to animal feed.

There are strict regulations in the developed world to curb the practice of adding antibiotics. As early as 1971, on the basis of recommendations made by a committee chaired by Professor Michael M Swann, the UK withdrew authorisation for several substances including tetracycline and penicillin to discourage growth promotion in animals. In 1986 Sweden, which has been a worldwide leader in decreasing antibiotic resistance, banned the use of all drugs

meant to increase the size of animals raised for meat. Rest of the Scandinavian countries followed suit in the 1990s. In 2006 all antibiotic-based growth promotion was abandoned by the European Union. Surprisingly, none of these rulings affected the market for animals raised for meat.

The US Food and Drug Administration recently introduced a major policy to phase out the indiscriminate use of antibiotics in cows, pigs, and chicken raised for meat. There is data to show that about 23,000 Americans die annually from antibiotic-resistant infections. Since the 1970s, health officials had warned that the overuse of antibiotics in animals was leading to the development of infections resistant to treatment in humans. However, whenever federal officials tried to reduce the use of antibiotics in animals, the powerful food industry and its substantial lobbying power in the Congress was successful in countering these moves.

Many antibiotic-resistant infections are also common in the developing world. From urinary tract infections to neonatal infections, doctors in Nepal and India are finding it more difficult to treat these common diseases with the old standby antibiotics. They now have to resort to the next generation of more powerful and expensive antibiotics setting the stage for a time when ultimately all antibiotics lose their usefulness.

One important way of dealing with this problem would be to follow what Ramanan Laxminarayan, a leading scholar and vice president for research and policy from the Public Health Foundation of India, recently suggested when he was in town. It is time for even countries like India and Nepal to use antibiotics in animals only for treatment of infections. Indiscriminate, subtherapeutic use for growth promotion must be stopped by the respective governments so that antibiotics meant for saving human lives continue to be effective. 🇳🇵



DHANVANTARI

Buddha Basnyat, MD

indiscriminate use of the drugs. In Nepal and India, antibiotics can be easily purchased over-the-counter without a prescription, which leads to overuse and then resistance.

One could argue that in countries like ours where there is a severe shortage of doctors in remote areas, antibiotic use without prescription may be essential in curing illnesses and perhaps even saving lives. However, clear guidelines need to

GIZMO by YANTRICK

## BOOK IT

Amazon's Kindle Fire line of tablets is known for offering great specs at decent prices and its third-generation HDX 8.9 inch tablet follows in that fine tradition with top of the line hardware at almost budget price tag. With a premium design on board and hardware to rival Apple's iPad tablets, the HDX 8.9 is certainly the best tablet Amazon has made till date.

Released in November 2013, the HDX 8.9 is now lighter, thinner, and faster than its predecessor, the HD 8.9. The device's matte-black unibody superbly complements its beautiful screen to lend the tablet a premium feel. At just 0.3 inches thick and weighing a measly 374 grams, it is also one of the lightest in its class. The HDX 8.9's display is currently unsurpassed in terms of pixel count, with a screen resolution of 2560x1600 pixels working out to an Apple Air/Mini beating 339 pixels per inch, resulting in a bright, crisp, and vivid screen, which allows for a display that makes viewing photos, videos, web pages, and games a real pleasure.

HDX 8.9's great design and high-definition display are perfectly backed up by its 2.2 GHz quad-core and combined with the Adreno 330 graphics processor and 2GB of RAM, results in faster app launch times, smoother multi-tasking, graphics-intensive gaming, and better overall performance. The device runs on Amazon's Fire OS

3.0, which is built using Android that is highly-customised by and for Amazon, with little to no trace of Android on the device at all. The result is simple and quick interface, which is extremely easy to get used to.

The newest Kindle is stocked with a decent eight megapixels rear camera capable of recording videos at full HD resolutions

(1,080p) and a front-facing 720p camera. The HDX 8.9 is also one of the few tablets to use dual on-board speakers to produce truly stereo sound.

The gadget is slightly let down by limited non-expandable 16GB storage, although 32GB and 64GB models are also available, which are naturally more expensive. Amazon also does not offer the range of apps that are available in Google's Play Store or Apple's App Store.

However, these inadequacies can be forgiven when you consider the overall package that the HDX 8.9 offers, especially the 12 hour battery life. And at Rs 40,000, the device is light on your pocket and your wallet. For those on a tighter budget, a seven inch HDX model is also available for around Rs 25,000. 🇳🇵

**Yantrick's verdict:** Kindle's HDX 8.9 is a truly masterful blend of design and performance and the perfect Christmas gift for the nerd within.



## Enjoy this Christmas & New Year with our Privilege offer.

At Yeti Airlines, you always come first.

### Terms and conditions:

- Offer only for Nepalese and Indian Citizens till the end of January.
- Special discounted one way transportation cost, Rs. 400/- per person.
- Seats are limited and subject to availability.
- Please review full terms and conditions at the time of booking.

Main Attraction  
Elephant Race  
26 to 30  
Dec.

Buy a single ticket to Bharatpur  
Get Free  
1 night's stay with complimentary breakfast

Buy a return ticket to Bharatpur  
Get Free  
2 nights' stay with complimentary breakfast

FLY  
ON TIME



**Yeti Airlines**  
You come first

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

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

For any service suggestions, call 977-1-4465888 (Ext. 621) or email us at feedback@yetiairlines.com

www.yetiairlines.com



Last Monday a local court in Goa extended the judicial custody for Tarun Tejpal, founder and editor-in-chief of *Tehelka* magazine, for a further 12 days after his initial 12-day custody expired. Tejpal was arrested by the state's police on 30 November, after a junior reporter accused him of sexually assaulting her at a hotel in Goa.



LOOK OUT

Ajaz Ashraf

The Indian media has been agog over the Tejpal case ever since. In the deafening howl, the shrill tv talking heads, however, refrained from asking a question on the original sin: is it ethical for editors and senior journalists in positions of power to have consensual sexual relationship with their subordinates?

Inherent in this question is the assumption that in an unequal relationship involving the boss and his subordinate, consent is often manufactured insidiously and silently. The subordinate understands the cost involved in turning down the boss' overtures. She can also fathom the benefits accruing from a liaison: an out-of-turn promotion, for instance. It's a bias the courts in the United States have, rather archaically, called 'paramour preference', which invariably vitiates the work environment.

But even as media slammed the *Tehelka* editor, they desisted from mentioning the phenomenon of paramour preference that is rampant in Indian media houses. It isn't possible they are oblivious of it. Some of the talking heads have been guilty of it themselves. This phenomenon of bosses hitting on women journalists under them arises from the peculiar nature of



ROLE REVERSAL: Tarun Tejpal, founder and editor-in-chief of *Tehelka*, speaks with the media at Delhi airport while on his way to a court hearing in Goa on 29 November.

REUTERS

# Sex and the office

The *Tehelka* scandal has led to the question of whether consensual sex with subordinates at the workplace is harassment

power in the media. The power to decide who is good or bad, or which story needs to be killed or played up, is in its very exercise, to a great extent, subjective. The responses of two editors to a story can be remarkably different.

It is this subjectivity which leads to intellectual harassment of both men and women journalists. At times, it is because of ideological differences between them and their editors, or because their stories militate against their interests or of the owners. However, for a woman whom the editor covets, intellectual harassment, or the threat of it, becomes an impossible move to counter in the amorous

game of securing consent to his predatory advances. Either the person resigns, or remains reconciled to her marginalisation, or succumbs to the pressure to preserve or further her career.

The line dividing consensual relationship from sexual harassment is fuzzy. India's Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, which was passed following the outrage over the gang-rape in Delhi last December, has added Clause C to Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code, which reads: 'Whoever, being – (a) in a position of authority or in a fiduciary relationship; ... abuses such position or fiduciary relationship to induce or

seduce any woman either in his custody or under his charge or present in the premises to have sexual intercourse with him, such sexual relationship not amounting to the offence of rape, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment ... which shall not be less than five years, but which may extend to 10 years and also be liable to fine.'

In other words, the new clause takes into account the inherently unequal relationship involving the boss and a subordinate and provides ample scope for the latter to claim that her consent for sexual relationship was induced or prised out. It is possible to argue that the Act borders on

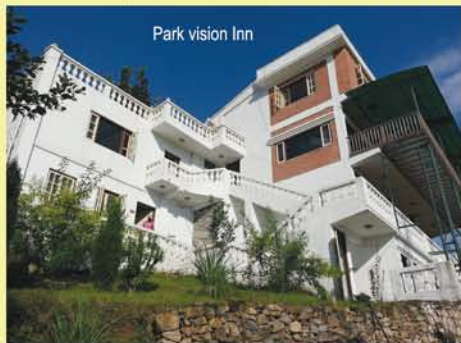
being draconian. Nevertheless, editor-subordinate relationships are also discriminatory to others in the office, creating as they do an illegitimate locus of power, fanning suspicions of the boss being biased towards his partner and consequently unfair to others and creating a conflict of interest.

Considering the provision of The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, Indian media houses need to evolve a code of ethics requiring the journalist in a supervisory role to report his romantic dalliance to the HR. One of the two could, as is done in American companies, be transferred to another department, thus addressing the conflict of interest provision and obviating the possibility of inviting the penalty under Section 376 C. Since the editor supervises the entire editorial team, the transfer of his love interest to another place or department won't enable him to evade the provisions of Section 376 C. For him, you can say: "No sex please with the office staff, you are the boss." [ajazashraf@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ajazashraf@yahoo.co.uk)



## Park Vision Inn

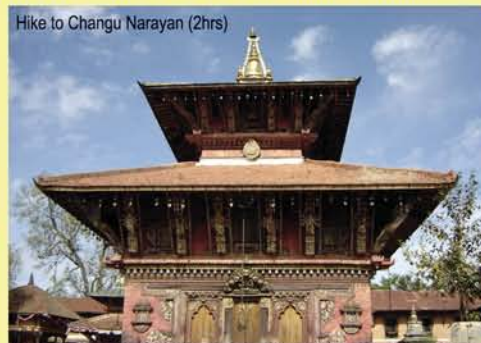
Park Vision Inn, Telkot your weekend getaway with magnificent views. Just 23 km from Kathmandu on the way to Nagarkot.



Park vision Inn



Lobby



Hike to Changu Narayan (2hrs)



Enjoy spectacular Landscape



Room



Restaurant



walk to waterfall (30min)



For Reservations: Park Vision Inn, Telkot Height, Nagarkot, Bhaktapur, Nepal | Tel: 552 4512, 509 1339, 01- 620 5839 | Email: [parkvisioninn@wsn.com.np](mailto:parkvisioninn@wsn.com.np)



# CROWDING IT OUT

An innovation that may revolutionise surgical care is taking hold in rural Nepal



KUNDA DIXIT

Most Nepalis don't have access to surgery, for things as common as cesarean sections, burns, cancer, or vehicular accidents. One in 10 of the diseases can be treated with surgery, yet the rural poor have no access.

Tired of hearing excuses on why surgery wasn't possible for the rural poor, Nyaya Health which works with a hospital in Achham in western Nepal, has built an innovative new crowdfunding model. Patients who require complex care grant permission for their story to be told online and then anyone

around the world can directly fund a portion of their cost of care for as little as \$10. Funders are given updates on the patient's status.

The stories of patients on the site, captured by photographer Robert Fogarty of *Dear World*, reveal the transformation crowdfunding has brought patients who otherwise would have gone untreated. A 60-year-old farmer wrote she would "age without fear" after her fracture was repaired with surgery. A new mother held her baby and shared the message that they "could have died at home" were

it not for a funded safe birth and a young boy who fell from a guava tree and fractured his leg said, "Now I can be a doctor."

In 2013, the website raised money for 86 urgent operations in its hospital in Bayalpata of Achham. Nyaya Health's strict rules on transparency help recruit donors and improve efficiency. Patients can be identified and their stories put up online for funding within one day.

"The idea that surgical care is too expensive and that it cannot be scaled, simply isn't true. And this crowdfunding

model is further disproving that idea," says Nyaya Health CEO Mark Arnoldy.

Nyaya Health is becoming known for its remarkable ability to refute ideas many hold about delivering healthcare to Nepal's poorest, Arnoldy says, and the crowdfunding idea is the most effective yet.

Practitioners say crowdfunding has the potential to become a model for rural healthcare in developing countries, transform popular understanding of poverty and health issues, and hold healthcare providers accountable.

Nyaya's Arnoldy sees crowdfunding as a step in the right direction of being able to provide this type of comprehensive care for the poor. "Most important for us as healthcare providers is that crowdfunding is much more than a new source of financing," he says.

"The very standards it inherently demands as a model - that patients are identifiable and costs will be made transparent - have led us to create a new national referral network in Nepal," he explains, adding that case costs advertised by the Nyaya Health campaign include everything from diagnosis to follow-up care.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has stated that referral care for patients once they leave the clinic after an initial diagnosis is a common weakness of health systems in developing countries.

Says Arnoldy: "This model of investing directly in the




healthcare of another human being makes global health more accessible for a larger population."


The Nepal government is so impressed with Nyaya's contribution to medical care in Achham and surrounding districts that last month it signed a new partnership agreement, doubling its cash funding and providing pharmaceutical goods from its supply chain.

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

Crowdfund globally, act locally, #660



**31st December 2013**  
**7 pm onwards**  
**Rs 4999 nett per person**  
**Rs 7999 nett per couple**  
**Rs 2999 nett per child**  
 (Below 12 years)



## FIERY NIGHT

WITH LIVE BAND

## CONNECTION

ON

## NEW YEARS EVE

AT HOTEL HIMALAYA

*For Reservations call*  
**5523900**

- Lavish International Buffet
- Free Flow of Drinks
- Dj Peaks
- Door Prize Galore





# Electing for good health

We can build on the hope generated by last month's polls by conducting local elections soon

**GLOBAL AND LOCAL:** A staff at Bayalpata Hospital (*left*) in Achham takes down details of an expecting mother for possible crowdfunding through the internet. Voters line up at district headquarters in Mangalsen (*centre*) to cast their ballots on 19 November in the hope that government services will improve.


themselves, they are unlikely to translate immediately into material benefits for voters and their families. The chasm between politics and policy, policies and implementation, and implementation and social justice, is wide. This is a generational process. Perhaps an even more critical step is to conduct local elections, the democratic exercise that ensures accountability at the grassroots.

Local elections will bring local self-governance and the decentralisation process that started in 1990 and was truncated by the conflict, a full circle. It will mark a true end to the process where district officials are beholden to central leaders rather than local people.

This is most apparent in healthcare. Nepal has some of the most progressive health policies in the world — indeed, they would be a model were it not for extreme challenges

in implementation. The obstacles are largely local: can doctors and midwives be held accountable for their actions, can hospitals and health posts be managed efficiently and effectively, can the right vaccines and medicines get to patients at the right time? These challenges can be addressed by local elections, since VDC and DDC council members will be forced to be more accountable if they are elected.

As a physician, a father, and a global citizen, the images from last month's elections for the Constituent Assembly in Achham will remain in my mind forever. The voters cast their ballots and returned along the dusty trails to their home villages, their thumbs marked not just with ink, but with pride and perseverance.

I was reminded of the great civil rights leader Martin Luther King's convocation to social action: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."  *Duncan Maru, MD, PhD, is co-founder of Nyaya Health.*

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

Accountable to the poor, #678

## DUNCAN MARU in ACHHAM

They had started streaming down the narrow trails not long after sunrise. The hills of Achham, bathed in golden morning light, provided a stunning backdrop to the line of men and women making their way down towards the village school.

Throughout the day they continued to come: people from all castes, young and elderly with canes, folks with disabilities. Teachers. Farmers. Midwives. All to participate

in last month's elections, defying threats of violence and overcoming disillusionment with candidates to exercise their democratic right.

Why did Nepalis in Achham and other citizens throughout the country turn out in such great numbers? After two centuries of democracy, we in the United States struggle to hit 50 per cent turnout in elections, but in Nepal the national turnout was nearly 80 per cent. Whatever the nihilism, alienation, and despair that people face on a daily basis, a majority of Nepalis seem to

aspire for progress. They hope for better schools, energy and water infrastructure, and quality healthcare.

My experience as a pediatrician here at Bayalpata Hospital of Achham has shown me that parents will stop at nothing for their children's health and future. That is why people voted: there was conviction, at a mass, national level, that voting would somehow help them and, importantly, the next generation.

Yet, historic as these elections were in and of



PURNA BAHADUR KHADKA



**smart paani**  
"Conserve every drop"

- Rain Water Harvesting System
- BioSand Filter
- Grey Water Recycling
- Waste Water Treatment System







**ONE PLANET SOLUTION**


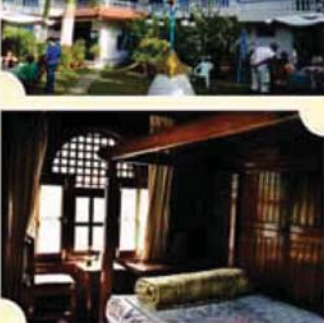

**SmartPaani Pvt. Ltd.**  
GPO Box 13989, Campus Marg, Chakupat  
Patan Dokha, Lalitpur, Nepal  
+977-1-5261530, 5260506  
info@oneplanetsolution.com  
www.smartpaani.com

For inquiry please SMS us through TYPE  
**'SMARTPAANI' & YOUR NAME;**  
Send to 5002

# GLACIER HOTEL POKHARA

*Just beside Phewa Lake*

For Reservation, please visit:

## GLACIER HOTEL POKHARA

Gaurighat, Lakeside-6, Pokhara, Nepal. T:061-463722/206964, F: 061-463164, M: 9851071792  
E: glacierht@mail.com, sales@glaciernepal.com W: www.glaciernepal.com





FRIENDLY TIES: Vice-minister of the International Department of Communist Party of China, Ai Ping (middle), meets UML Chairman Jhalanath Khanal on 19 December.

federalism with our politicians are true, then it means that there is not much difference in the way the two countries deal with us. However, on a day to day basis, our relation with India is far more extensive than with China.

RA: The perception among Nepalis is that China won't use us for selfish gains. I leave it to you to decide the merit of that belief, but Nepalis regard China with a kind of leniency that no other nation enjoys.

How worried do you think is India of China's expanding sphere of influence in Nepal? LRB: Naturally there is competition between the two, just as there is competition between the US and China. India feels that Nepal traditionally belongs under its area of influence. But it is up to us to make ourselves stronger.

So what must Nepal do to protect itself from unwanted intrusion by its northern and southern neighbours? RA: We have to maintain the goodwill of our two neighbours, so that we can take advantage from both. If we encourage them to divide us up among themselves, it will be against Nepal's national interest.

LRB: We need our politicians to commit to development and come up with strong foreign policies. Many of our embassies are currently empty, including the very vital one in Delhi. We need to fill these posts and develop a culture of assessing our ex-ambassadors' performance.

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

Listen to interview

# Bridging the gap

BBC Nepali Service, 21 December



Interview with Lok Raj Baral, former ambassador to India, and Rameswor Acharya, former ambassador to China.

BBC: Do you think Chinese interest in Nepal's internal affairs is growing? Rameswor Acharya: As a neighbour as well as an emerging superpower, China is certainly concerned about Nepal as well as the rest of South Asia. It is eager to establish itself as a major diplomatic force in the SAARC region and bring about a change in the balance of power.

Lok Raj Baral: When Nepal was a Hindu monarchy, China did not have much to worry. But in the past few years, our democracy has become increasingly volatile and there is a big gap in our foreign policy. So China is afraid that this might directly affect what goes on in Tibet.

In the past, China was more concerned about security issues. Now it seems to be keenly involved in Nepal's politics going as far as discussing federalism with our top

leaders. Why this change in policies? RA: Like I said before, China is determined to re-align the balance of power within South Asia. Because we are caught in transition right now, the Chinese are worried that other power centres might use Nepali territory to attack their sensitive points in Tibet. Chinese diplomats have regular contacts with local as well as national level politicians and also with our security forces. No wonder rumours are swirling about our neighbour not wanting too many states, whether ethnic or geographic, in the northern areas.

LRB: Earlier, it was a state-to-state relationship, but now we hear that Chinese officials are holding official meetings with leaders of every party. Who knows how many informal meets they might have had?

When India interferes in Nepali politics, people get easily offended. But they seem to have a different perception about China. Does this work in China's favour? LRB: In theory and for the sake of diplomatic formality, we may say that China and India are on an equal footing with us. If reports of Chinese representatives discussing issues of

# Poor prince

Bhuwan Sharma, Naya Patrika, 13 December



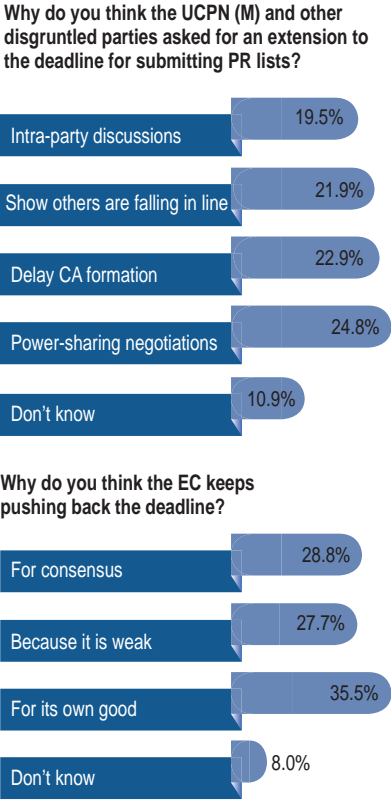
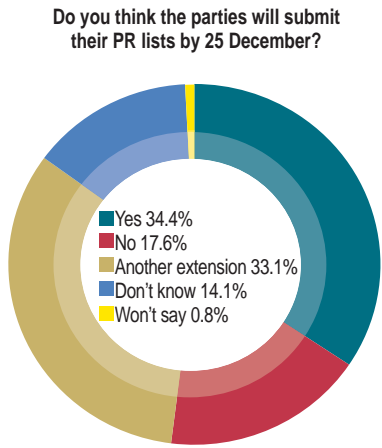
Former crown prince Paras Shah who has been undergoing treatment at a rehabilitation centre in Changai, Thailand is said to be in trouble after failing to pay his monthly medical bills. Shah was admitted to the centre in March after suffering from a heart attack, which resulted in a two week stay at Bangkok's Samitivej Sukhumvit Hospital. Paras' monthly bill of 150,000 Thai baht (approximately Rs 450,000) was being footed by his father, ex-King Gyanendra Shah. However, Gyanendra has been unable to send money to his son for some time now. Friends say failure to make the necessary payment has led the former prince to question the future of his treatment at the centre. Even Paras' Thai girlfriend Kanika Lin, who he had earlier proposed to bring home to Nepal,



is believed to have stopped providing him financial support. His wife Himani Shah seems to have stopped caring either. Paras is expected to be released at the end of the month and friends say that rehab has done him good. "We have noticed a huge improvement in his health and he also has a more positive outlook on life now," explained one. Paras moved to the Thai capital three years ago and since then hasn't made a single trip back home. When he was hospitalised in March, his parents and wife paid him a visit. Gyanendra wants his son to return to Nepal only after making a full recovery and has been urging the ex-crown prince not to hurry.

# Weekly bazar poll

In weekly polls conducted with the support of The Asia Foundation, Himal Khabarpatrika asks 376 respondents in 11 cities across Nepal every Monday for their opinion on contemporary issues. This week's question was about proportional representation in the next Constituent Assembly.



# Dwindling prosperity

Parbat Portel, Nepal, 23 December



The eastern town of Dhulabari of Jhapa district, which until 10 years ago was a thriving market for foreign goods especially among Indian customers, looks deserted. With India opening its market to international trade and investment, its towns and cities are flooded with Chinese goods at much cheaper prices than in Nepal. Dhulabari's local economy, which was heavily reliant on imports, is now bleeding dry with the dearth of Indian shoppers. In the last decade most businessmen from Dhulabari, who traded in Chinese products, moved to the other side of the border to Siliguri and now have shops

at Golden Plaza and Shanker Market. "What's the point of staying if there is no business?" asks Sadhuram Agrawal, a Nepali who was forced to shift bases. Since the duty on Chinese electronic products for India is lower compared to us, it has also led to an increase in the smuggling of such goods from India into Nepal. Local businessmen blame the Nepali government for failing to implement investment friendly policies and for its misplaced economic priorities. Keshavraj Pandey of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry says, "More than 25 per cent of all trade and investment has left Dhulabari and if the state doesn't introduce sound policies now, most of the town's income will flow to India."



1, 2, 3

कान्तिपुर Abin Shrestha in Kantipur, 24 December

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“Some leftist friends want to purge the dialectic tradition so badly that I can see why the international communist revolution has gone defensive.” UCPN (M) leader Baburam Bhattarai on Facebook, 24 December

CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES & ENERGY EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES

ecoLED

eco

SOLAR

96 Samanantar Marga, Maharajjung, Kathmandu  
T 977 1 4016762 M 9801165068  
E info@meroecoprise.org

www.meroecoprise.org



# JOHNNIE WALKER. BLACK LIST

BUY JOHNNIE WALKER FOR YOUR CHANCE  
TO  
WIN EXCLUSIVE PASSES  
TO THE MOST GLAMOUROUS PARTY IN TOWN



Experience the luxurious world of Johnnie Walker at the exclusive Black List party on 25th January. With celebrity guests and spectacular entertainment, this invite-only event promises to be the most talked about party in Kathmandu.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN TWO EXCLUSIVE BLACK LIST PASSES, BUY A PROMOTIONAL 1 LITRE PACK OF JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK LABEL® OR JOHNNIE WALKER DOUBLE BLACK™, AND REGISTER ONLINE.





Character makes a man,  
color personifies it

asianpaints roÿale LUXURY EMULSION

Color Personified

For more information email to: royale.play@asianpaints.com.np

asianpaints



# Loser takes all

Some countries have a first past the post system of direct elections where the winner takes all, others have a weighted process where candidates are nominated under a proportional representation system, many countries have a combination of the two. But only in Nepal do we have a political system where, after an election, the loser takes all. There is nothing to stop a losing candidate from being a prime minister and losers can delay the process of government formation by insisting on a parallel mechanism to bypass parliament that, of course, they should lead. One month after the elections, the losing parties set out a list of five conditions and all the winners said was: “Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.” Leading the process of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory is the Kangres, which seems so nervous about making mistakes in government that it is willing to let others lead it.

The man in the Con Gress inner

circle who has always played the devil’s advocate is none other than Comrade Kristian Sitaula, who came out of nowhere to be the NC’s Alpha Male during Girjau’s reign. Together with Kaji Naran Kamred, he is always seen on the phone reporting back and taking instructions from anonymous interlocutors during breaks in meetings at the Peace Secretariat.

The Mao Buddies not only asked for (and got) a High and Mighty Political Mechanism, but threw a tantrum when the others refused to let Comrade Lotus Flower lead it. In the end, the two parties that had won the election rolled over and waved their eight collective paws in the air, agreeing to everything the Mau Mau wanted just to get them to agree to take part in the CA. In the final analysis it can be said that the NC, UML, and five hangers-on Madhesi parties decided to let Pukada save his ass by letting him

save his face. It was a hole the Great Helmsman, who once proclaimed himself Nepal’s most powerful man, dug for himself. The only thing PKD could do to assert himself was to feebly add a handwritten ‘Prachanda’ after Pushpa Kamal Dahal in the list of signatories to the hardcopy of the four-point communiqué issued on Tuesday.

It looks like Chairman Awesome’s travails are just beginning as he faces a renewed mutiny within his ranks. His nemesis and rival, BRB, is pushing hard for PKD to relinquish one of the two top party posts and to bear responsibility for the party’s abject defeat in the elections. Because his grip on the party structure is not so strong, Laldhoj has taken the battle into cyberspace. The faceoff on Facebook between PKD loyalists and BRB has now reached a crescendo. After his thinly-veiled attack on his boss in a Facebook post, BRB was attacked from all sides, including by Dear Leader Prakash who let off a blistering fusillade on behalf of Comrade Daddy. Comrade Laldhoj had to resort to The Almighty in a Christmas Day FB post in which he quoted Voltaire to allude to his colleagues in the party: ‘God save me from my friends – I can protect myself from my enemies.’ Hint. Hint.

The final straw for Awesome is to be labeled a ‘revisionist’. In numerous interviews he has said that he hates the word and all it denotes. Which is why BRB knows that calling PKD a ‘revisionist’ is the worst insult, worse even then calling him the offspring of a female dog.

The Ass



## PAST PRESENT FUTURE

DIWAKAR CHETTRI

Wow! Great movie.



The posters are better than the movies.



Now, we make our own movies.





World’s 5-star airline.

QATAR AIRWAYS القطرية

WE COVER THE WORLD WITH OVER 125 DESTINATIONS

From January 2014 you can enjoy 5-star comfort onboard our Airbus A330 aircraft, daily from Kathmandu to Doha and beyond.

Explore the world onboard one of the youngest fleets. Fly via Doha, your gateway to journeys as rewarding as the places you visit.

For more information, visit [qatarairways.com/np](http://qatarairways.com/np), call +9771 4440467 or contact your nearest travel agent.