

### A TREASURE CHEST OF HISTORICAL GEMS

PHILADELPHIA, USA FLIGHTS COMMENCING 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2014

This beautiful city is home to many fascinating historical landmarks. One of them is the Liberty Bell, an iconic symbol that celebrates American Independence. This city is brimming with more than just rich history, from museums to a thriving art, music and food scene there's something for everyone in Philadelphia.

To book your tickets please visit **qatarairways.com,** call 9771 4440467 or contact your prefered travel agent.

World's 5-star airline.







# High and dry

This year's World Water Day on Saturday **1** 22 March has the theme water and energy. In Nepal the two are inextricably linked. The country's failure to harness hydropower has led to a crippling dependency on unaffordable petroleum imports. Alternatives are available, but the economy is hopelessly addicted to fossil fuels. Despite its population growth, Nepal has the most abundant supply of water per capita in the world. But if there is one

glaring example of MIXING OIL AND WATER mismanagement and plain stupidity on the EDITORIAL PAGE 2

part of successive governments since 1990, then it is how we have squandered our water resources.

### **FLOUR POWER**

Improving the efficiency of traditional water mills may hold the key to rural electrification and mechanisation of agriculture processing. PAGE 16-17 **MELAMCHI MIRAGE** 

There is no end in sight to Kathmandu Valley's water shortage. Better start harvesting water.

PAGE 16-17





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

Step in for more varieties at

SPOT ADMISSION at the TOP INDIAN UNIVERSITIES for Engineering, Management, MBBS and many more courses.





# MIXING OIL AND WATER

The protests organised by political parties this week through their proxy gangsters were yet another demonstration that Nepal's democracy is still mired in its lumpen ways. It has been the timehonoured tradition that every time a government increases petroleum prices, the over-aged dropouts who call themselves "students" go on a warpath in token outrage.

2 EDITORIAL

The absurdity of the youth wings affiliated to the ruling coalition burning vehicles on the streets to protest a price hike announced by their own mother parties is lost on those who rule over us. The ruling party campus vanguards take to the streets so that the opposition youth wings do not get to lead the protests. Which is why the NC and UML unions backed out of the strike only on Wednesday morning, but by then the damage had been done.

The fact of the matter is that petroleum is only going to get even dearer and scarcer in the years to come. The government could keep the price stable by reducing the tax it levies on petrol, diesel, and aviation fuel, but that would cut one of its major sources of revenue out of which it also has to pay for the bizarre subsidy on cooking gas. The government has a monopoly on petroleum imports through the euphemistically named Nepal Oil Corruption and half the problems would be solved if we could curb the political patronage, kickbacks, and leakage that lubricates that company.

For perspective, it is worth remembering that only seven per cent of Nepalis use petroleum products for energy, 90 per cent are dependent on biomass. But the bottomline is that all our exports combined do not pay anymore for the annual petroleum import bill. Nepal is running out of Indian currency to pay for its petroleum imports and is at the mercy of the Indian Oil Corporation.

What has all this got to do with water? Well,

Flames of fossil-fueled vehicles set on fire by street terrorisers on Wednesday morning had to be doused with precious water



in Nepal, oil and water do mix. Flames of fossilfueled vehicles set on fire by street terrorisers on Wednesday morning had to be doused with precious water. Nepal's import of diesel from India has grown nearly three-fold in the last five years. Part of it is because there are more trucks and buses, but a lot of it has to do with the increasing demand for diesel needed to power generators.

If there is one glaring example of mismanagement, bad governance, and plain stupidity on the part of successive governments in Nepal since 1990, then it must be in the way we have squandered our water resources. We are burning more and more imported oil that we can't afford because we have messed up harnessing clean, renewable energy that is flowing free down our mountains.

Despite its population growth, Nepal has the most abundant supply of water per capita in the world. More than half the water in the Ganga flows down from tributaries in Nepal, yet we have harnessed less than 1.5 per cent of our hydro energy potential. A quarter of the population doesn't have access to safe drinking water and only a third of the population has electricity. These shortages are going to be exacerbated as climate change disturbs rainfall patterns and causes the permanent Himalayan icecaps to melt.

Our special coverage on page 16-17 to mark World Water Day on 22 March notes that the shortage of energy, scarcity of water, and our addiction to fossil fuels is mainly due to misguided and short-sighted policies, bad governance, gross mismanagement, and sheer stupidity. Local communities continue to manage water well, it is at the national level that it's a disaster.

There are ways to set these things right. But like all our country's woes, it will only happen with transparency, accountability, and better governance.

### **CART BEFORE HORSE**

The leadership of Nepali politics must change ('Cart before the horse', Editorial, #698). The current men in charge have lost their honour and credibility. They are despised by the people as being extremely corrupt and inept and idiotic.

Why is there a delay in filling up the remaining 26 CA seats? Why the delay in expanding the cabinet? It's going to be very difficult to deliver the constitution in the next eight months. We, the people, have suffered for long without water and electricity. There are no jobs in

Nepal and we are forced to migrate to foreign lands to earn a living. All the while the netas and mantris live a life of luxury and enjoy banquets every day. The NC does not trust the UML or the UCPN (M). The UML cannot stand the UCPN (M). The UCPN (M) doesn't get along with the CPN-M. In this battle of personal egos, 28 million Nepalis suffer. What price will the netas pay if the constitution is not delivered on time? SSP Ramesh Kharel is working hard and he has jailed notorious gangsters. If only he could jail the top 10 netas of Nepal it would do the trick.

Narayan Prasad



#### AJAZ ASHRAF

After reading Ajaz Ashraf's ('Reversing reservation', #698) I thought the Indians should include Kshatriyas and Brahmins as well in the WBOBC (Wanna Be OBC) category. That way they get 100 per cent of India's population under reservation.

Namah

### CHLORHEXIDINE

Anti bacterial sprays are better than chlorhexidine ('Belly-gazing', Sunir Pandey, #689) as there is no direct contact.

@pigreen

of MSG (known as veijin in Chinese), an artificial taste enhancer added in every kind of Chinese food. If you want locals to prosper, eat in a local restaurant and encourage them never to use MSG, which is very harmful for your health.

#### Tashi Lama

• Better to stick to plain boiled rice and potatoes. It's good for both the body and the pockets.

#### Valter Balduzzi

• And afterwards, a Top of the World cup of coffee.

Sigmund Stengel

laughing stock of the world. We have really outdone ourselves this time. Someone take these down before any more damage is done. Parajuli

• There is another sign at the airport that the Ass missed: 'Things take time in Nepal so chill out and relax'.

#### Khatiwada Santos

• Ruslan Vodka and TIA deserve each other. Thiruvananthapuram Intercontinental Airport: hardeharhar, Nepal's highest civilian honours for the Ass.



• To add to this excellent article on chlorhexidine, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that Nepal is the only country presently manufacturing the cord gel. Thousands of tubes have been imported to be used in Liberia, West Africa from the Gothatar-based company, Lomas. Just goes to show that with some support, Nepal can indeed be a manufacturing base for many pharmaceutical products for the global market.

Ranjan Poudyal

ASS

spot.

#### EATING OUT

I am a supporter of all things local and agree with your article on eateries ('Bargain bites', #698). By eating local, you are supporting your health, supporting your economy, and supporting local restaurants. But avoid Chinese restaurants as they use lots Also try the Thakali Kitchen in Thamel. and the Newari eatery down the hill northwest out of Thamel towards Balaju, owner is a marathon winner. There has never been a better time to eat out in Kathmandu.

Which crazy guy in Ruslan Vodka

thought this up? ('Visit Nepal, Read

Slogans', Back Side by Ass, #689). Is this a deliberate attempt to sabotage

Nepal's image? The TIA official who

agreed to this must be sacked on the

• Who allowed the vodka maker

It's a disgrace and makes us the

to put up these absurd signs at TIA?

David

Mahesh G

### Times





Weekly Internet Poll # 700. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com Q. What do you think of the recent hike in petrol price?

DIWAKAR CHETTRI



Publisher and Chief Editor: Kunda Dixit Editor: Trishna Rana | Associate Editor: Tsering Dolker Gurung | Online Editor: Bhrikuti Rai | Design: Kiran Maharjan Published by Himalmedia Pvt Ltd | Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur | GPO Box 7251 Kathmandu editors@nepalitimes.com | www.nepalitimes.com | www.himalmedia.com | Tel: 01-5005601-08 Fax: +977-1-5005518 Marketing: Arjun Karki, Surendra Sharma rachanas@himalmedia.com | Advertorials: Ram Krishna Banjara | Subscriptions: Santosh Aryal santosha@himalmedia.com Printed at Jagadamba Press | 01-5250017-19 | www.jagadambapr.com



#### Gerry

I love you Ass, I I just love you.
Hey Ram

# Nuisance value as a strategy

### What do you expect from someone who still admires Mao and Stalin?

The UCPN (M)'s crushing defeat in November's elections not only consigned the party to the margins of the CA floor, but for the first time since the 2000s the Maoists found themselves outside the purview of mainstream media and our common consciousness.



Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal, who is known to revel in public adulation, was conspicuous by his absence. When he did make a comeback this week with interviews to two Nepali papers, he refrained from his usual angry diatribe and hyperbolic rhetoric (*see interview, page 18*). But if you thought a few months of introspection had turned Dahal into a changed man, you couldn't be more wrong.

The Chairman admits the party's weak organisation, internal strife, and the eventual spilt with Mohan Baidya-led faction are the root causes for loss in elections. But from accusations about election fraud to foreign conspiracies, Dahal still believes outside targets had a greater influence on election results. And even as he talks about wanting to reinvent the party by improving its grassroots structure and giving chance to young blood, he is adamant about carrying on as chairman after 25 years in power because he feels no one else is deserving of the top post.

What's more, Dahal says if Mao and Stalin could lead their parties all the way to their graves, there is nothing wrong with one-man rule. Not too surprising a statement from someone who rejects pluralism, is still living in a time warp, and insists on calling himself a commander who lost one battle (elections), but not the war. Dahal's strategy now is to use his nuisance value.

He acknowledges that the party's overconfidence and misjudgment of its popularity among the masses cost them dearly. But if Dahal was honest about wanting to rebuild the trust and goodwill among the public, he should have realised that local elections is the need of the hour. Instead, he wants to postpone local polls until the new constitution is completed. His argument is that since local bodies have been without elected representatives for 16 years, another year won't really matter and bitter rivalries that are likely to crop up during elections will derail the constitution drafting process.

However, Nepalis had made it very clear to the candidates during last year's campaign trail that accountability at the local level and delivery of basic services, not the constitution, were their main priorities. Himalmedia Public **Opinion Poll of February** 2013, which interviewed 3,500 Nepalis nationwide in 38 districts, reflected a similar public sentiment. The survey showed that six in every ten respondents wanted elections for local councils to be held 'immediately', without waiting for Constituent Assembly polls. A further 14 per cent wanted polls after the CA elections, but before general elections.

The acrimonious and beleaguered political process of the past six years has made Nepalis cynical about whether this government can deliver a new constitution by the end of 2014. It took us three months after elections just to settle on a prime minister, we then squandered another few weeks haggling over ministerial portfolios, the 601-member CA is still incomplete, and we haven't even reached the crux of the constitutional debate vet - federalism and

local bodies should be the next natural step in getting Nepal's democracy back on track. That way whatever happens in the halls of BICC, the development and day-to-day functioning of towns and VDCs will be in the hands of ordinary citizens.

However, with the possibility of unification with the CPN-M looming, Dahal might forgo national interests and toe the line of the hardline Maoists to gain the sympathy of Baidya & Co. Doing so will be inimical to Dahal and his party's cause though. And this time, the Maoists won't even have to wait until elections to hear the people's verdict.

# **OPINION 3**



state restructuring - issues that proved to be so divisive last time that the assembly had to be dissolved.

With the constitution still a long way to go, election for

Malpi International School City Office, Heritage Plaza II, Kamaladi, Kathmandu. Phone: 977-1-4169119 Fax: 977-1- 4169121 Email: mis@mos.com.np OR malpi@mos.com.np

VISIT US AT: www.malpi.edu.np





# Finding vanishing planes

While the international search for the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 that disappeared on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing nearly two weeks ago turns to the southern Indian Ocean, in Nepal it has been an eerie reminder of how aircraft have similarly gone missing.

Two large pieces of wreckage that are possibly from flight MH370 were located from satellite imagery on Thursday nearly 2,000 km west of Australia.

In Nepal, one missing aicraft has never been found.



The Mi-17 helicopter Charlie Uniform (9N-ACU) vanished on a flight from the Base Camp of Mt Makalu to Lukla on 31 May 2002. Eight Sherpa porters and two crew members including a Russian pilot were on the helicopter which had taken off in bad weather. When the chopper could not be traced after weeks of aerial and ground search in extremely rugged terrain during mid-monsoon, the hunt was abandoned.

There were conspiracy theories at the time that it was hijacked by Maoist guerrillas, and the aircraft was in India. But members of an ornithological expedition in the Makalu Barun National Park said later they had heard the aircraft circling over a remote part of the Arun Valley, obviously lost. The accepted theory is that the helicopter hit a mountain and was buried in an avalanche triggered by its impact.

Because flying over the Himalaya is challenging due to terrain and weather, the same factors also make search and rescue more difficult than elsewhere.

In August 1962, a DC-3 Dakota aircraft belonging to Royal Nepal Airlines strayed off course on a flight from Kathmandu to Delhi and crashed killing all four crew and six passenger, which included Nepal's ambassador to India. The plane was only located ten days later by an Indian Air Force plane on a remote mountain in Dhorpatan. A Pilatus Porter rescue plane that was sent to the area also crashed.

When a Thai International Airbus 310 disappeared on a flight from Bangkok to Kathmandu in July 1992, it could not be located for four days because it had strayed completely off course in overcast conditions and crashed into the Himalayas in Langtang National Park 20km north of Kathmandu. While search and rescue concentrated south of Kathmandu, the plane had crashed to the north, and in the absence of radar tracking at the time no one knew where it was. With 113 fatalities, this was the second-worst disaster in Nepal's aviation history.

Weather and terrain were also factors in the long delay in locating crashes of other flights, including the Lumbini Air Twin Otter that hit a mountain on a flight from Iomsom to Pokhara in the monsoon of 1996, killing 18 people. When a Mi17 helicopter carrying 22 passengers, including Nepal's top conservationists disappeared near Kangchenjunga in September 2006, the wreckage could not be located for five days. The latest crash of a Nepal Airlines Twin Otter in Argakhanchi also could only be located after a day, and only because the mobile phone of a passenger could be tracked. 💟 Kunda Dixit



### Bekanntmachung für Deutsche zur Wahl zum Europäischen Parlament

Am 25. Mai 2014 findet die Wahl der Abgeordneten des Europäischen Parlaments aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland statt.

Deutsche, die außerhalb der Bundesrepublik Deutschland leben und im Bundesgebiet keine Wohnung mehr innehaben, können bei Vorliegen der sonstigen wahlrechtlichen Voraussetzungen an der Wahl teilnehmen.

Für ihre Wahlteilnahme ist u. a. Voraussetzung, dass sie

1.1 am Wahltag seit mindestens drei Monaten in den übrigen Mitgliedstaaten der Europäischen Union eine Wohnung innehaben oder sich mindestens seit dieser Zeit dort gewöhnlich aufhalten (auf die Dreimonatsfrist wird ein unmittelbar vorausgehender Aufenthalt in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland angerechnet)

oder

- 1.2 **entweder** nach Vollendung ihres 14. Lebensjahres mindestens drei Monate ununterbrochen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland eine Wohnung innegehabt oder sich sonst gewöhnlich aufgehalten haben und dieser Aufenthalt nicht länger als 25 Jahre zurückliegt, **oder** aus anderen Gründen persönlich und unmittelbar Vertrautheit mit den politischen Verhältnissen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland erworben haben und von ihnen betroffen sind;
- 2. in ein Wählerverzeichnis in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland eingetragen sind. Diese Eintragung erfolgt nur **auf Antrag. Der Antrag ist auf einem Formblatt zu stellen; er**

soll bald nach dieser Bekanntmachung abgesandt werden.

Einem Antrag, der erst am 05. Mai 2014 oder später bei der zuständigen Gemeindebehörde eingeht, kann nicht mehr entsprochen werden (§ 17 Abs. 1 der Europawahlordnung).

Antragsvordrucke (Formblätter) sowie informierende Merkblätter sind online auf der Seite des Bundeswahlleiters (www.bundeswahlleiter.de) erhältlich. Sie können auch bei

- den diplomatischen und berufskonsularischen Vertretungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland,
- dem Bundeswahlleiter, Statistisches Bundesamt, Zweigstelle Bonn, Postfach 170377, 53029 BONN, GERMANY
- den Kreis- und Stadtwahlleitern in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland angefordert werden.

Weitere Auskünfte erteilt die der Bundesrepublik Deutschland in Kathmandu.

Kathmandu, 18.03.2014

Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland Gyaneshwar Marg 690, Kathmandu P.O. Box 226 Phone: 00977-1 441 27 86 Fax: 00977-1 441 68 99 Internet: www.kathmandu.diplo.de



Jawalakhel (NTC build. back road face to east) Lalitpur-5, Tel: 55 21 335, Fax/Tel: 55 31 221 Email: gyaniintl@wlink.com.np | www.gyaniintl.com.np

# **BUSINESS 5**

# **Inspired by Hillary**

#### ATHAR PARVAIZ in UTTARAKHAND

**F** or the past six decades, Edmund Hillary has been a constant source of inspiration for mountaineers around the world. But he has also shown them why it is important to look beyond their expeditions and help people of the mountains. The schools, clinics, and airstrips that Hillary built in the Khumbu and his conservation initiatives have helped Nepal enormously.

Mountaineer, conservationist, and economics professor Harshwanti Bisht was inspired by Hillary and it was fitting that she was awarded the Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal on Monday (*pic, above*) for her work in protecting the Garhwal Himalaya in Uttarakhand, the Indian state bordering Nepal. Hillary's son Peter, also a mountaineer, conferred Bisht her medal at ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) in Kathmandu.

In 1981, Bisht along with Rekha Sharma and Chandra Prabha Aitwal were the first women mountaineers to summit Nanda Devi (7,816m) in the Kumaon Himalayas. Three years later, she was part of the Indian expedition to Mt Everest. But Bisht was not satisfied with simply conquering the highest peak in the world.

"When I was in the Khumbu in 1984, I saw how Sir Edmund Hillary's work to conserve the natural environment and to bring economic opportunities had improved the lives of the Sherpas," she recalls. "After returning home, I also felt like I had to do something for the people of the Garhwal Himalaya."







In the last three decades, Bisht has helped restore the birch forests around the sacred Gomukh temple at the snout of the Gangotri Glacier to stabilise the moraines of the receding glacier at headwaters of the Ganga. She has organised ecoawareness campaigns, propagated endangered medicinal herbs, and introduced ecotourism values in an area that has been ravaged by unregulated tourism.

Bisht's treatise on the

economics of tourism in the Garwhal is regarded as the blueprint for sustainable development in the Himalaya. "The Himalaya provides us with recreation and livelihood and it is a vital part of our biodiversity, we need to be responsible towards it," she explains.

Bisht also blames our negligence of mountain management for aggravating disasters like the 2013 floods in Uttarakhand, which killed more than 800 people. Environmentalists have traced the root of the disaster to illconceived development projects as well as unregulated tourism.

For most part of her 30 year career, Bisht has been a onewoman activist working without government or international assistance. Now she wants to see more women involved in the conservation and protection of the fragile mountain communities.

"The empowerment and involvement of women is vital for sustainable development," she says, "but for this to happen women first need to gain an equal share of the local economy."

Bisht is now collaborating with an NGO in Nepal to set up a network of women's mountaineering clubs in colleges and universities throughout the Himalayan region.

Called Mountain Power, the program will provide girls and young women experience in sports such as climbing, trekking, skiing, and rafting as well as teach them about conservation of mountain cultures and biodiversity.

Says Bisht: "As mountaineers, they will combine sports with ecofriendly income earning activities in wastemanagement, afforestation, trail improvement, infrastructure design. We will be building a network of strong female leaders across two countries."

### 😧 एभरेष्ट बैंक BIZ BRIEFS

### **Unwind Down**

Tranquility Spa opened its newest branch at Radisson Hotel. The wellness centre which began offering services in the luxury hotel from 13 March is open from 8am to 9pm every day.





New age Turkish Airlines launched its first aircraft featuring Turkish-made galleys from Turkish Cabin Interiors, on its brand new Next-Generation Boeing 737-

800. "The airline will receive nine more airplanes equipped with TCI galleys this year," read the press release.

### **Gold Glamour**

Johnnie Walker launched a limited edition gift pack of Johnnie Walker Gold Label Reserve on Monday. The Johnnie Walker Gold Label Reserve is now available in stores in Nepal at Rs 5,630.





### **Living Well**

National Kidney Foundation Nepal in association with 'Baachaun and Bachaaun', organised a kidney health and organ awareness donation rally called 'Walkathon of Life' on Saturday. The walkathon started from Bhrikutimandap and ended at Basantapur.

### Bottles Up Glenlivet held a whiskey tasting

Glenlivet held a whiskey tasting session at Hotel Annapurna last week. The event was hosted by whisky connoisseur Sandeep Arora.



### Spreading Joy

International Money Express (IME) celebrated Fagu with the children of Maya Ghar in Kuleshwar, Kathmandu. The money transfer company organised a luncheon and donated educational materials to the children of the home.

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

Consistent, Strong & Dependable





smart paani "Conserve every drop"

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



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

# Manakamana, the film

An enlightening new documentary that is artificial at its core, but feels undeniably natural







A n elderly Nepali man and a young child sit tensely inside a cable car as it climbs up to the temple of the wish-granting goddess, Manakamana.

They stare outside, not speaking a word. The camera stays on them, and the deafening silence between the two speaks volumes about their relationship. When the pair arrive at their destination, others take their place and the cable car makes its return trip.

This unusual filming technique and its protagonists has earned the documentary *Manakamana* critical acclaim for the director duo Stephanie Spray and Pacho Velez of Harvard's Sensory Ethnography Lab. The film is being released in cinemas in North America in mid-April.

The camera plays the role of an eavesdropper of sorts, placing the audience as an omnipresent, invisible viewer. The journey to this mystical mountaintop temple takes ten minutes each way, and the film is a collage of short vignettes which record the reaction of the subjects to the ride.



*Manakamana* is not for the impatient. The fixed frame forces audiences to take in the same view throughout the whole film, which might not engage everyone. At the Locarno Film Festival last year, there were quite a few walkouts from the audience. The first passengers do not even talk, and it feels like a momentous occasion when the audio finally comes in 20 minutes into the show.

The deliberate, initial trudge of the film however does not do it any disservice, as viewers who stick around for the whole two hours will find out. The film picks up speed and eventually launches into full scale sensory input, complete with music and slapstick comedy.

Spray and Velez have managed to piece together an enlightening documentary that, while artificial at its core, feels so undeniably natural. Even without leaving the claustrophobic confines of the 5-by-5 metallic cable car, audiences will leave the theatre with an understanding of not just the mysterious wish-granting temple itself, but the kind of devotees it attracts.

Making the decision to use celluloid film instead of digital was more than just an aesthetic choice. According to Spray, "The time that elapses over a 400' magazine of 16 mm film is roughly how long it takes for a ride up or down the mountain," lending a structural integrity to the film. Perhaps celluloid was also more appropriate considering how one of the film's primary themes is the juxtaposition between the young and the old.

"Film is beautiful, and messy in just the right ways," says Velez, "a clean, crisp digital image would have felt incongruous. It would have allied the film's aesthetics with the engineers who designed the cable car instead of the locals who use it." The choice to use film, he says, sought to "combine portraiture and landscape in a more rigorous, sustained way".

The success of *Manakamana* lies in its brewing anticipation. Those expecting a typical ending or sense of coda will likely be disappointed, but the film rewards the patient viewer in other ways. Being made to stare at the same shot forces viewers to internalise everything on the screen, with compounded meaning of the quiet insights that the film is full of.

Just like how the characters stare out of the windows of the cable car and ponder the significance of the temple, audiences will get to observe the characters, and through them glean glorious insight into the human landscape. *Hariz Baharudin* 

# "Flying is not the only thing we do"

As a part of our Corporate Social Responsibility, Yeti Airlines donates Re. 1 per flight ticket to each of the following Four Social Organizations, involved in various social welfare activities.



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

Yet 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

www.yetiairlines.com

You come first

Yeti Airlines

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



orms have started. These are caused when noisture that is infused into the region is pushed up e Himalayan foothills and form enormous cumulus systems like the one we saw on Tuesday afternoon and night in Kathmandu. That one was full of sound and fury, but did not signify much precipitation. Expect more of the same into the weekend, chances of passing wind and rain, with the afternoons getting into the mid-20s and minima slowly climbing into the



26°



World's 5-star airline. qatarairways.com/np

BACK BREAKING: A team of sixty porters carry an old Germanmade Mercedes en-route to India as a trade-in for a shiny American model in January, 1950.



Cars are supposed to carry people, but in Nepal people carried cars

SURAJ KUMAR BHUJEL in MAKWANPUR

n his hometown in Chitlang, Dhan Bahadur Gole is affectionately known as

IRON MAN: 89-year-old Dhan Bahadur Gole, the last known survivor of porters who carried cars for a living, rests outside his house in Chitlang, Makwanpur.



were brought to Calcutta by ship, driven sometimes up to Bhimphedi and then carried over the mountains by porters.

Dhan Bahadur helped ferry his first car, a Daimler, when he was only 17. He was in a team of 64 other porters and the journey from Bhimphedi to Thankot (see map) took eight days. He would typically receive 5 aana (less than a rupee) as payment, so despite his name, Dhan Bahadur did not get rich carrying cars. The cars were secured onto long bamboo poles and bigger cars required up to 96 porters to heave up the trails. "We didn't even know the model of the cars we were carrying, we just called them 32, 64, 96 depending on the number of people carrying them," Dhan Bahadur remembers.

His only preparation before every journey was to weave two pairs of straw slippers. "A pair was never enough, sometimes we would wear down two pairs of slippers even before we reached Chitlang, and so we had to make more on the way," Dhan Bahadur recalls. The Tribhuvan Highway followed another route to Kathmandu via Palung, but now the road has arrived even in his home village of Chitlang.

Over a period of twenty years, Dhan Bahadur says he carried about 30 cars. When he was not carrying cars, Dhan Bahadur would porter other goods including tobacco and sugar from Bhimphedi to Thankot on his back. Once the highway was completed and jobs as a porter were hard to come by, Dhan Bahadur started selling handmade products in Thankot before opening his own farm back home in Chitlang.

"All the three porters from my village who worked with me, including the group leader, are all dead," says Dhan Bahadur. Married thrice, Dhan Bahadur has two sons and lives with his granddaughter and her family in Chitlang. 🔽

VOKLMAR WENTZEL, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Lthe "*gadi bokne buda'''*(car carrying old man). At 89, Dhan Bahadur is the last known survivor among porters from the region recruited by transporters to transport motor cars to Kathmandu in the 1930s. This was before the serpentine Tribhuvan Highway linking the capital to the Indian border was constructed in 1956, and the only way to get to Kathmandu was on foot or to fly. Cars bought mainly by the Rana or Shah nobility

### nepalitimes.com 划

Watch exclusive archival footage by S.Dillon Ripley



NEPAL'S LAST CAR CARRIER





HIMALAYAN RUSH, bike, run, race around the Begnas Lake. Rs 3,500/US\$ 50 for registration, 29 March, (01)4246534, info@himalayanrush.com

Sustain KTM, a series of photographic narratives on how we are coping with our growing city. Runs till 30 March, 11am to 7pm, except Tuesdays, Nepal Art Council, Babarmahal



**T20 WORLD CUP**, all the big boys play the shortest format of cricket. *Runs till 6 April, airs on Star Sports 4* 

Film Lab, learn film history, storytelling, scriptwriting, cinematography, editing, project handling and network with professionals. 12 April to 15 May, register at (01)4251335 Sundance festival, a weekend of live music, great food, camping, sauna, massage, and bungee. 29 to 30 March, The Last Resort, Bhotekosi, (01)4700525

Reserved, Seika Sato, PhD, talks about challenges faced by women outside their home in gender exclusionary places in Kathmandu. 23 March, 3pm, Martin Chautari, Thapthali, (01)4238050, chautari@mos.com.np

CRAFTED IN NEPAL, attend the 6th Handicraft Buyer Seller Meet 2014, and meet the artists who make them.

21 to 25 March, talk program on 22 March, 10am to 5pm, Patan Museum, Patan



**STREET ART ATTINGS**, catch the amazing work of Imagine Nation artist Sneha Shrestha on display *Runs till 4 April, 6 to 8pm, Tings Tea Lounge, Lajimpat*  DINING



**VOOTOO,** the new home of Newari cuisine, as well as a continental menu for those who don't want an adventure. *Lajimpat*, (01)4005222

**Starry Night BBQ ,** dine fine with Ciney Gurung singing for you. *Rs* 1,499, every Friday, 7pm onwards, Shambala Garden Cafe, Hotel Shangri-La, (01)4412999

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

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

Laskus Restaurant, welcome to the best taste your palates can get. Kathmandu Guest House, Thamel (01)4700800, info@ktmgh.com

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

**Saigon Pho,** spacious interior with authentic Vietnamese dishes. *Lajimpat* 

**Hotel Shangri-La**, delicious Nepali cuisine with traditional cultural show. *Rs* 999, every *Thursday*, 7pm onwards, (01)4412999

**Chopstix,** savoury Asian food cooked in true Chinese fashion sure to charm and impress. *Kumaripati, (01)*5551118

Pagoda Chinese Restaurant, Head to this jade palace if you are in the mood for Chinese with clean, green and peaceful environment. Park Village Resort, Budhanilknatha, (01)4375280, pvh@wlink.com.np



**NOYOZ,** this tiny little joint serves food that tastes like your mother's home-cooking. *Bhatbhateni* 



SARANGKOT FORDAYS RESTAURANT, have a Sarangkot special breakfast while enjoying spectacular views of the mountain ranges. Sarangkot, Pokhara, (o61)696920,

9817136896

MUSIC



SHASTRIYA SANGEET, dabble in the magic of Hindustani classical music. 30 March, 3pm onwards, Ram Mandir, Battisputali

# **Masterclasses & workshops,** on guitar, piano, bass, drums, wind instruments, and improvisation with James Miley.

24 to 28 March, 2014, 8am to 9pm, Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory, (01)5013554, info@katjazz.com.np, www.katjazz.com.np

**Music teachers training,** Mike Nord will show how instructors can get the best out of themselves and their students.

25 to 28 March, 8am to 9pm, Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory, (01)5013554, info@katjazz.com.np, www.katjazz.com.np

**Fusion beat,** a concert where east meets west. 28 March, Patan Darbar Square,

free entrance







Thailand Campus

Earn a tier one ranked and world class American degree at Webster University Thailand (WUT)

	Nepal Republic N A Wepal Republic N	COURSE VEBSTER UNIVER
Name: Citizenship Number: Address: Email: Phone: DOB: Q.academic reference	Personal Information	THAILAND
		B
	1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,	AEPURLICA G

### Submission of Applications: 5 - 25 March, 2014 Process (Online Application) https://www.facebook.com/myrepublica

### **Educational Background**

S.L.C or Equivalent: School: Year: Percentage / Grade: Board or +2 or Equivalent: School: Year: Percentage / Grade: Board \* Just LIKE the Republica facebook page to fill in the application form or for further information visit: www.myrepublica.com

### Ma ra Malai, Albatross launch their new album.

Rs 200 (including CD), 29 March, Tone music store, Tangal

### **KCM music competition,** the stage is set for young musicians to be crowned Kathmandu's best aspiring band.

Rs 200, 22 March, Jawalakhel Football Ground,

### **Kripa Unplugged,** young aspiring musicians give their own renditions of classics.

8.30 and 10.30pm, TTV, youtube.com/ user/KripaUnplugged



**REGGAE NIGHT**, get a load of jah music from Chari Amilo Kala Samuha every weekend. *Rs* 200, 28 March, 6pm onwards, Base Camp, Jhamsikhel



KATHMANDU ON THE RUN, a tribute concert to rock legends Pink Floyd. Rs 350, 29 March, Purple Haze, Thamel



### BUDDHA MAYA GARDENS

HOTEL, add value to your travel in Lumbini with a stay at probably the best hotel in the area. Lumbini, (71)580220, 9801033109, info@ktmqh.com

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

Pokhara Grande, a swimming pool to escape from the tropic heat, a massage parlour and spa to loosen up and a gymnasium to release stressgreat options all around. *Lakeside, Pokhara* 



DHULIKHEL LODGE RESORT, located on a hilltop, the resort offers a magnificent vista of valleys, foothills, and moutains to the north. Dhulikhel, (011) 490114/494, www. dhulikhellodgeresort.com

### Water levels

The ongoing Climage+Change exhibition brings exciting programmes this week:

**22 March**, world water day, a fullday event themed on water. *10am onwards* 



**22 March**, an exhibition of submissions and winners of a poster competition on rainwater harvesting. *10am to 7pm* 

**22 March**, children will learn from artist Sunita Maharjan on how to make birds out of recycled material. *12pm to 2pm* 

**23 March,** a discussion to increase awareness of climate change impacts on Nepal's tourism industry and share good practice solutions. 9.30am to 5pm, neha.shrestha@samarth-nepal. com

Climate+Change Runs till 11 April, closed onTuesdays, Nepal Art Council, Babarmahal 9849519933, nischal@photocircle.com.np

### On the edge



Join professional and amateur outdoor athletes and hit the mountains.

Run, climb, or bike through trails, rocks and downhill slopes. Take part in dyno competitions, ice-axe pull-ups, flying fox, , rappelling, mud run, and an auto expo.

Himalayan outdoor festival 21 March, Hattiban Resort, Pharping

### **Buddha's footsteps**

Ram Bahadur Tamang, 31, a paraplegic from Sindhupalchok is all set to go on a journey from Namobuddha to Lumbini. Currently a vocational training staff and also a national wheelchair-basketball player, Ram wants to generate public awareness on spinal cord injury and also meet and motivate others like him. Help yourselves at the cash bar and restaurant to help Ram raise the necessary funds.

21 March, 5.30 to 7.30pm The Sports Bar, Jhamsikhel







### Success comes closer with Mahindra Suddico "

As my business started to expand, the business needs also started to multiply. So I was in need of a vehicle which was economical, trustworthy and that gave a great mileage. **Mahindra Quanto** has managed to fulfill all of these needs. The modern **mCR100** engine reduces fuel consumption resulting in better mileage along with the superior features such as **twin stage turbo**, **micro hybrid technology** and **digital drive assist system** makes **Mahindra Quanto** perfect for all kinds of roads, seasons, and environmental conditions. The affordable price, modern features and the goodwill of **Mahindra** has led me closer to success by transforming my business needs into opportunities.





Arbin Kumar Singh Managing Director Trading Business (Forest Wood Products)



er and

• 17.21 KMPL ARAI Certified Mileage

Certified Mileage Tiltable Steering Intellipark Reverse • Two-Din Audio Assist System System  Micro Hybrid Technology
SRS Dual Air Bags
Powerful AC and many more...

#### Authorised Dealer (Kathmandu

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

Evolution Automobile Pvt. Ltd., Babarmahal, Maitighar, Kathmandu, Ph: 01-4227068, 4261622 Authorised Dealer (Outside Kathmandu Valley):- Kanchanpur: 099-520854, Dhangadhi: 091-522058, Jumla: 087-520151, Dadeldhura:9848421838, Dang: 081-560278, Nepalgunj: 081-551599, Surkhet: 9857830462, Butwal: 071-541433, Bhairahawa: 071-527254, Pokhara: 061-532468, Banepa: 011-664302, Chitwan: 056-522168, Sindhuli: 047-520094, Janakpur: 041-528881, Rajbiraj: 031-522666, Biratnagar: 021-461178, Dharan: 025-520397, Birtamod: 023-541114,













n the last few years, Kathmandu's unprecedented Lurban growth has spawned a disorienting mess of concrete buildings, and a garbage-strewn landscape. Eight aspiring photographers struggle to make sense of this growing city in SUS. TAIN.KTM. The exhibition is the result of a two-week photography workshop conducted by photo. circle as a part of the ongoing Climate+ Change.

Through photos, Chemi Lama has penned a sorrowful love letter to the fast disappearing tree population of Kathmandu. His piece is a tribute to the 1000 trees that will be felled to make way for the expansion of Ring Road.

Ashesh Pradhan deals with the issue of mass consumerism with a more whimisical touch. Through double-exposures, waste is superimposed on the heads of various individuals. The portraits are simultaneously beautiful and disturbing, because upon closer look, the extent and the ugliness of this throwaway culture begin to sink in. Sagar Chhetri singles out the various cluttered elements that make up Kathmandu, from the

HOT MESS: Sagar Chhetri's work singles out the various cluttered elements that make up Kathmandu







# **CALL FOR** GREENER KATHMANDU

haphazard vehicles in the bus park, to a flock of pigeons, to the bewildering labyrinth of buildings that blend into a ubiquitous brown and red mass. In contrast, Sujan Karki's minimalist, blackand-white photographs of Bhote Bahal allude to the overwhelming claustrophobia he feels on a daily basis.

But not all works paint such a bleak picture. Manish Paudel's playful video installation portrays wastes as valued products (pics, *below*). Isolated shots of waste items like dolls, broccoli and pipes are cut rapidly to fast music, similar to a commercial. Through this indirect approach, the artist urges people to see value in trash, and to harness its potential through recycling.







Photographers suggest ways to manage the waste problem that has plagued Kathmandu in this latest exhibit

TRASH TO CASH: Manish Paudel's playful video installation portrays wastes as valued products.

"As someone from outside the valley, I see Kathmandu as the nation's capital where people are educated. Yet, there are garbage dumps everywhere. I began collecting garbage on the streets and back in the studio I isolated each item and photographed it as I would photograph a commercial



product," says the artist of his work.

Similarly, Anuj Arora's documentation of life in Nala village upholds it as an example that Kathmandu can look up to when adopting sustainable

#### practices.

While the works are diverse and laden with each photographer's subjective interpretation, it is obvious that they share a collective vision of a greener Kathmandu. As the exhibition suggests, there is

a need to go beyond mere social commentary. 💟 Toh Ee Ming

SUS.TAIN.KTM Exhibition Runs until 30 March 11am to 7pm (closed on Tuesdays) Nepal Art Council, Babar Mahal





# TOUCH OF CLASS

#### **KANAK MANI DIXIT**

Feeling rather inadequate for having only heard of Kangana Ranaut and never seen a film of her's, word of mouth got me to the cinema to see the unimaginatively titled *Queen*, directed by Vikas Bahl. The 146 minutes of running time were spent in delightful diversion. The film is nuanced and nearly flawless.

Populated by Partition refugees from Punjab, Rajouri Garden used to be a New Delhi satellite and is today fully part of the city. This is the home of Rani's family, a middle class livelihood marked by auto-rickshaws and 'kitty parties' made possible from the earnings of a mithai shop.

Starting with the courtship with Ravi played by Rajkumar Rao, Ranaut plays with consistency the role of the simple lass yet to 'come of age'. When Ravi asks about the sweetmeats as a means of striking up conversation, she starts off by diligently describing how each confection is made. In the end she does fall for the persistent boy and the wedding is fixed.

The opening credits start with the pre-nuptial celebrations. Things happen, and Rani ends up utilising the honeymoon ticket all by herself. The script (by Bahl) really gets going as Rani heads for Paris and Amsterdam, although at this point the director shows three different aircraft types for one flight.

Unlike the standard Bollywood use of European locales to peddle exotica and as props for song sequences, in *Queen* Paris and Amsterdam are part of the story. Bahl clearly knows how these cities function, their cultural fabric, going beyond the tourist spots to locate the pensiones, hostels, eateries, railway platforms, canals and out-of-theway streetscapes.

Rani's engagement with these cities and their inhabitants is perfectly pitched, from the attempts to cross a street to her fascination with the 'lipto-lip kiss'. In Ranaut, we have an actress with the confidence to allow close-up frames that show up facial blemishes, or to let someone else look more flamboyant, as happens with the stately Lisa Haydon, who becomes Rani's Franco-Indian buddy.

Deadpan conscientiousness, if there is such an expression, marks of Rani's character, as when Ranaut recites to a disinterested Dutchman the various names in different parts of India for the concoction panipuri. In one scene, an Italian chef is aghast when Rani dumps spices on his creations, and the episode in the Amsterdam sex shop is best left for the reader to experience in the hall.

The film is full of thoughtful little touches

### *Queen* is fine entertainment, about a New Delhi girl in Paris and Amsterdam.

that communicate well with the audience – Rani discovers that burping is one proof of feminist liberation, and practices it. Another time, she gets rowdy in a night club stage, takes off her cardigan and swings it around as if to toss it, but then stuffs it into her huge handbag.

The foreigners who populate *Queen* are real characters rather than oddball white folks in badly acted cameos, as tends to be the rule with Mumbai blockbusters. Here, after the Delhi family and Haydon's character are left behind, the co-actors who hold up the film are Rani's male hostel roommates in Amsterdam – the Jeffrey Ho (as Taka), Mish Bokyo (Olexander), and Joseph Guitobh (Tim).

Vikas Bahl's control of the cinematic medium is deft, no spoon-feeding here. When Rani looks out of her hotel window as she arrives feeling alone in Paris, it would have been so easy to show a vista of the Seine promenade. In Amsterdam, as Rani jettisons the invitation card meant for her wedding as catharsis, the audience is not shown it frontally and has to use imagination.

The director uses the looming presence of the Eiffel Tower as a prop to harass Rani in her forlorn state, remaining in view as she seeks to escape from boulevard to street to lane. It is an obvious cinematic mechanism, and someone may have done it long before Bahl, but it works well in *Queen*.

The pacing is perfect, with moments of grief punctuated by episodes of great humour. There is the half-drunk Rani trying her dance moves in front of a Paris taxi-driver preoccupied with her cellphone. As Rani comes of age, her dress changes and the kurta is left behind, and a European city sophisticate returns to Rajouri Gardens. The large handbag, used as a security blanket, is nowhere to be seen.

It requires skill to carry an audience through more than two hours of film, not counting the interval interruption, that too without the regular pot-boiler formula of melodrama and song-dance routines. Together, Vikas Bahl and Kangana Ranaut succeed in delighting us throughout.



Not a usual resort..... .....refresh yourself

> 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

ATITHI RESORT & SPA

## 12



### THE MONUMENTS MEN

t's always puzzling and a bit of a shame when a perfectly Loompetent director makes a sub-par film. George Clooney's latest endeavor The Monuments *Men* is therefore somewhat of a



disappointment with a haphazard script, disjointed story line, and stilted dialogue. Still, there are aspects that redeem it just enough to recommend watching anyway.

This is mainly because Cloonev being Cloonev has managed to gather the most tremendous cast to support his wannabe heroic venture about real life heroes. There are the likes of Bill Murray who plays Sgt. Richard Campbell, Matt Damon as Lt. James Granger, John Goodman as Sgt. Walter Garfield, Jean Dujardin as Lt. Jean Claude Clermont, Hugh Bonneville

as Lt. Donald Jeffries, and of course George Clooney himself as Lt. Frank Stokes. This quite stellar cast makes up the Monument Men who are a group of art experts and historians who are charged by the American President (Roosevelt) to try and preserve the millions of art works looted from Europe by the Nazis, a move catalysed by Hitler in particular who dreamed of opening his very own Fuhrer Museum.

There are many vignettes involving retrieving masterworks such as the Ghent Altarpiece - a religious panel painted by Jan Van Eyck, stolen from the Cathedral at Ghent, a Madonna and Child by Michelangelo which is looted from Bruges, and scores of other artworks by Vermeer, Renoir, Cezanne (to name just a few) that have been removed from the private houses of Jews, and numerous other public spaces.

Particularly striking also is the storyline involving Claire Simon (Cate Blanchett) a French curator

who has made copious notes on art works and their provenance (history of ownership) as they pass through her helpless hands on their way to Nazi storehouses. At first reluctant to handover her invaluable notes to James Granger, fearing that the Americans will requisition the art works for themselves, she finally relents after witnessing the Monument Men's actions.

This is a film about the historical value of art and the importance of preserving masterworks for the coming generations. It is a little sad, then, that a film with such lofty ambitions, while being perfectly watchable, fails in creating feelings of neither fervour nor commitment regarding this quite crucial issue - even with so much in its favour.

I would recommend going back and watching some of Clooney's earlier films - in the past he has made gems like Good Night, and Good Luck (2005) about Edward R. Murrow the famous American broadcast journalist who stood up to Joseph McCarthy during the 1950s, and The Ides of March (2011), which deals with the moral corruption inherent in any kind of politics.

The Monuments Men meanwhile will remain as a strange blip in what will hopefully be a long and successful career for Clooney as a thoughtful and talented actordirector. 💟

nepalitimes.com	<b>b</b>
Watch trailer	



HAPPENINGS



UNDER CONTROL: A fire fighter attempts to douse a burning motorcycle set on fire at Sankhamul by members of the 16 student unions who called a bandh on Wednesday.



ICC-CRICKET.COM

HOWZAT: Sharad Vesawkar of Nepal (right) plays a shot as Bangladesh captain Mushafigur Rahim attempts to catch the ball at the ICC T20 World Cup in Chiitagong, Bangladesh on Tuesday. Bangladesh won the match by 8 wickets.



**M-Series Printers** 



BARGAIN BUYS: Tourists shop for accessories at a roadside stall in Thamel on Monday.



HAPPY HOLI: A group of youngsters celebrate Holi, the spring festival of colours, in Thamel on Sunday.

# Of family and reunions

Prajwal Parajuly has had quite the literary debut. Even before the release of his first book, *The Gurkha's daughter*, this native of Gangtok was already known in the writers' circle for being the youngest Indian to sign a two-book deal with the major publishing house Quercus. Once the short story collection was out, people got to see what the buzz was really about.

Although the themes of the stories in *The Gurkha's daughter* are those that have already been tried and tested by other writers from the sub-continent, Parajuly's book struck a chord with readers mainly because of his writing. His simple style is captivating and thankfully avoids the use of pompous language, a disease that has afflicted many of writers in English from down south. The book was short listed for the Dylan Thomas prize in 2012 (the year of its release), and announced the arrival of Parajuly as an upcoming talent.

With *Land Where I Flee*, his debut novel that was released late last year, Parajuly once again proves his simple story telling prowess and shows that he is more than just

a one-hit wonder.

The story revolves around a planned reunion of three siblings with their grandmother Chitralekha Neupaney, the family matriarch for her Chaurasi, the 84<sup>th</sup> birthday, an important landmark in Hindu-Nepali traditions. Chitralekha runs a textile business and is both respected and feared in her hometown of Gangtok. Her overbearing nature has kept her grandchildren at bay and years have passed since the three last paid her or each other a visit, and all dread the meeting in equal measure.

Agastaya, the eldest, is a successful oncologist and lives in New York. His unmarried status is often the subject of puzzlement among the family. Manasa is an Oxford educated over-achiever who has been reduced to her father-in-law's caregiver and her dissatisfaction with life is brilliantly portrayed in her bitterness. Bhagwati, the youngest, is meeting her grandmother for the first time after running away with a boy from a 'lower' caste. What follows is an interwoven tale of



Land Where I Flee Prajwal Parajuly Quercus 266pp sibling ties and the complexities of a modern-day family relationship. *Land Where I Flee* is also as much about individuality as it is about family and brings to surface the difficulties of seeking for identity in a society that prides itself on its togetherness.

Like *the Gurkha's Daughter*, Parajuly injects issues of the subcontinental mindscape (caste, identity, fear of acceptance) into this one with such clarity that any individual, regardless of their origin, will find a connect with the story and mainly its characters. These are everyday people like us who are neither heroes nor villains, with each having a side for one to love and hate. For instance, while you resent Chitralekha for being dominating, her acceptance of a transgender Prasanti as a househelp (one of the most colourful and cleverly written characters I've come across in recent literature) makes her equally admirable.

At 266 pages, *Land Where I Flee* is a short novel, one with a simple plot told simply and paced well. There are no boring passages that you skip and the narrative maintains a page turning fluidity. Even though you are done with the book in a day, the characters stay with you for much longer. **C** *Tsering Dolker Gurung* 

The name is fitting enough, positioned as it is on Lazimpat's embassy-laden lane and aims to cater to the embassywallahs and Kathmandu's hoity toities- a place to see, be seen and be talked about. At least that was the impression I had gained about this restaurant that opened its doors four months ago. I'm glad this talk didn't deter me from going to check it out for myself, for I walked in brimful of prejudices only to have them smashed to smithereens.

Firstly the place itself, if I had to describe it in a word, it would be 'soothing'. The largely brown and white décor, the open courtyard, the gurgling fountain, Katie Melua on the stereo- the ambience provides solace. We were there late afternoon on a weekday, and though there were quite a few patrons around, the feeling of openness and space made us feel as if we could disappear into our own world, cocooned from the outside sounds, impending deadlines and all.



and comforting- a healthy start to what would prove to be a rich and satisfying cullinary experience. The waiter's recommended Bacon Wrapped Potato (Rs 250) tasted like it sounds- a profligacy of carbs and fats that was accompanied by the most delicious dip. The Chicken Wings Salad (Rs 375) is big enough to order as an entrée. Marinated and fried wings served with fresh julienned vegetables with a delightful tangy Thai dressing- the crispiness of the vegetables nicely offsetting the salinity of the fish sauce. On the menu, the Duck Breast (Rs 1070) was said to be accompanied with

sesame roasted red cabbage and tomato chili jam. What was

excellent fresh made brownies a la mode. Or if you want you can choose one of the offerings from How to get there: On the Lazimpat road, cross the Japanese Embassy and enter the lane that leads to Bhanu Bhakta School. Embassy is right at the entrance to the lane.

The food isn't too shabby either. We started with a simple bowl of Miso Soup (Rs 125), plain served was said breast on a bed of mashed potatoes and roasted vegetables in a rich peppery steak sauce. Not bad tasting at all, especially the duck which was well-marinated and cooked perfectly- crispy skin and the meat retained its moistness and gamey flavor, but I'm still bereft at not getting the promised tomato chili jam.

I didn't get to sample the desserts, by this time I was incapable of eating anymore for they are not stingy with their portions, but I believe they serve the Illy coffee bar. The menu is extensive with Nepali, Indian, Thai and Japanese dishes on offer. Yes, it is slightly on the steeper side but if you're looking to sample Embassy's dishes on a budget, go visit them during lunch time- their 'Value Lunches' are served between 11am -3pm daily.

I can see why this place would be so popular among our affected classes and celebrities and Page 4 wannabes, (when asked about the parking facilities, the waiter did inform me that though they

### Great Food Deserves Carlsberg







# A new bite

The viral illness called Chikungunya came to the world's attention in 2005-2006 after five decades of obscurity. During this time, there were large scale outbreaks that swept through East Africa and India, including the eastern Indian Ocean islands. In addition, for the first time, it struck a country with Western



health care facilities, Reunion (a French overseas territory). Then it even presented as a mysterious illness in certain parts of Italy, and for a while the Italians did not know what hit them.

It took some detective work on the part of Italian scientists to figure out that the vector (carrier) of this debilitating disease came to town in motor vehicle tires imported from foreign countries. The Italian scientists found out that the mosquito vector carrying the Chikungunya virus was very comfortably lodged in small water droplets inside the rubber tire. This seemed to suggest that these mosquitoes were of a hardier variety than the Anopheles mosquito which helps transmits the malaria parasites.

When a disease is prevalent in India, the Indian border with Nepal becomes porous not only for free human travel but also for "emerging diseases" like Chikungunya. Recently, laboratory-confirmed cases of Chikungunya have been reported by the Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital in Teku. The first group of patients came from Dhading district, which neighbours Kathmandu.

The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) has also been conducting surveillance in Kathmandu, but even Kathmandu clinicians do not know much about this "new" disease. Chikungunya is a viral illness that is closely related to dengue. Both are transmitted by the vector mosquito (Aedes aegypti) and cause a similar set of symptoms.

The patient usually complains of fever, headache, back pain with a skin rash present. A remarkable distinction between this illness and dengue fever is the inflammation (arthritis) of the small joints of the hands in Chikungunya patients, which is usually not found in dengue fever.

For Chikungunya, as in dengue, there is no specific antidote, only paracetamol and other symptomatic treatment. There is also no vaccine available. Protective clothing, using insect repellents (odomas) and other measures to prevent day-time mosquito bites (as opposed to night-time mosquito bites for malaria transmission) are important means to avoid this disease. Public health measures like not letting water collect in used tires, flower pots, and plastic containers where the mosquito can breed are obviously important. The good news is that in most instances this disease, like dengue fever, is self-limiting and most people eventually recover.

Both dengue and Chikungunya may be brought to Kathmandu by migrant workers and others from the Tarai district (where both dengue and Chikungunya are thought to be more prevalent). The specific mosquito vectors are apparently in plentiful supply here, and when people afflicted with the disease come to Kathmandu, the Aedes aegypti mosquito enjoys a hearty blood meal including the virus from them. The same mosquito then happily bites another victim and transmits the virus.

UNN

Finally, the emergence of Chikungunya is a good example of rich-country travelers being sentinels for diseases from poor countries. Since 2005 thousands of travelers from South Asia have been afflicted with this disease, and as a result, investigators in well-resourced countries were able to study and provide awareness about this new emerging illness.

### **GIZMO by YANTRICK**

My café

Antrick's workdays are littered with coffee breaks, but with the boss raising a skeptical eyebrow from his cubicle, such trips to the office kitchen aren't always possible. Now thanks to Bunn, a USbased company that manufactures coffee and tea machines, Yantrick has a private coffee maker at her desk that lets her brew a mean cup of joe in seconds and keep the boss happy at one go.

Bunn's My Cafe MCU (Mobile Coffee Unit), promises quick and easy brewing of whatever hot beverage you want, however you want it, from piping hot tea to fresh ground coffee, and everything in between. Made of just metal and plastic, My Cafe is not much to look at in terms of design, but it is sturdily built and has a simple charm.

The minimalist design translates to the MCU's interface too. There are just two buttons: a 'brew' button and a 'pulse' button that you press if you want to brew your drink in slow, controlled bursts to strengthen the flavour. When you first plug in the My Cafe, it will automatically heat up and from there, brewing is as easy as pushing a button. As the machine does not store any extra water, you will need to pour water in before each cup. You simply fill your mug with water and pour it

> straight into the machine, meaning you will get the perfect amount every time, without ever needing to measure ounces. Cleanup is a breeze, too. Just dump out the used grounds and give the drawer a quick rinse.

> What it lacks in style, My Cafe more than makes up for in substance. With a set of detachable brewing drawers that slide in and out of the machine, the machine can brew

just about anything you throw at it and that too in seconds.

There is one drawer for ground coffee, another one for teabags and coffee pods, another drawer for K-Cups, and a fourth that works as a quick hotwater dispenser, so no matter what you are craving, My Cafe has you covered. You

will get the hang of brewing your drink after just a few uses and once you do, making a standard cup of coffee/tea is a breeze.

My Cafe is a brewer built to last with a generous two-year warranty. And retailing for around Rs 20,000, it is also one of the more affordable machines in the market. A mug so good you will forget your favourite barista within weeks.

Yantrick's Verdict: This Bunn product is pure versatility packaged in a minimalist disguise. As quick-brewed hot beverages go (especially coffee), My Cafe saves you the hassle of making frequent trips to the kitchen or your neighbourhood coffee shop.



### "I recommend Sensodyne for all day every day sensitivity protection."

-Dr. Spiro Condos, dentist practicing in the US





### World's No.1 Sensitivity Toothpaste

'Brush twice daily for continuous protection Sensodyne is a registered trademark of GlaxoSmithKline Group of Companies. 21 - 27 MARCH 2014 **#699** 

# **Citizen journalists in the citizen party**

India's Aam Aadmi Party fields seven journalists in April's elections

s India's elections draws nearer, there is a scramble among journalists to join the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), but what is prompting them to plunge into politics?

You could say they wish to acquire power, enticed to it because they have glimpsed over years of reporting the privileges the political class enjoys. Or, maybe, the choice



of AAP represents a desperate gamble to find an alternative to employment in the media. Or you could accept that they are idealistic and want to reform the system.

But one thing is sure, you cannot accuse the journalists who have joined AAP of being 'insiders', the term used to describe those who wield power inside the Ring Road of the Indian capital. Indeed, the new breed of journalists joining the AAP is different from the older generation of hacks-turnedpoliticians like MJ Akbar, Rajeev Shukla, Pritish Nandy, Chandan Mitra.

Akbar, for instance, became an editor in his early twenties, scaling the pinnacle of glory and fame through his successful launch of *The Telegraph* from Calcutta. The Congress under Rajiv Gandhi fielded Akbar in the 1989 general elections as



the modern face of Muslims. He won, but the assassination of his mentor in 1991 saw the old guard shove him off centre stage, from where he hurtled back into journalism, unable to regain his famed touch.

Unlike Akbar, Rajeev Shukla was never the paragon of professionalism, but quite the envy of those wishing to be networked into Lutyens' Delhi. His talent for negotiating with the political class was evident during the Rajya Sabha election of 2000: he bagged the maximum number of votes in UP even though no national or regional party had endorsed his candidature.

Pritish Nandy bridged the seemingly irreconcilable worlds of poetry and politics through his valiant effort to inject modernity into the staid *Illustrated Weekly of India*. The magazine was shuttered, but Nandy subsequently shuttled his way into the Rajya Sabha courtesy the Shiv Sena. BJP was the vehicle Chandan Mitra rode to the Rajya Sabha, too, and now is the owner-editor of *The Pioneer*.

The seven journalists who got the AAP's tickets are a different breed. Though AAP calls Rajmohan Gandhi a journalist, he is better slotted in the category of scholars. Despite being Gandhi's grandson, he isn't your typical insider. When did you first hear of Jarnail Singh? Right, when he flung a shoe at Union minister P Chidambaram in protest against his reply over the anti-Sikh 1984 cases.

Mukul Tripathi? He came into limelight only two years ago, through his allegation against Salman Khurshid that he had siphoned off funds earmarked for the handicapped. Who in Delhi had heard of Manorom Gogoi, deputy editor in the Assamese channel DY 365? These four aren't even satellites orbiting around Delhi's power centre.

Once upon a time, Anita Pratap could have boasted a hotline to the resplendent residents of Lutyens' Delhi, not the least because she had been the correspondent of *Time* magazine for nearly eight years. But she had been largely forgotten in Delhi. Many didn't even know she was still in India.

Ashish Khetan is more a name in journalism than outside it, having won plaudits for his sting operations. His journalism has been edgy, and he has been trying to kick-start his website, an option journalists are likely to consider increasingly in a professional ambience in which the freedom of expression belongs to media-owners, not the hack, and where the revenue is shrinking rapidly. They are all outsiders, citizen journalists of a citizen party.

**REGION 15** 

Activists and journalists have a symbiotic relationship – the former require the media to focus on issues they are campaigning on, the latter see them as sources for stories. This is precisely why the early nucleus of the AAP consisted of journalists Manish Sisodia and Shazia Ilmi.

But this tradition isn't new to the country. India's anti-colonial struggle saw Tilak, Gandhi, Azad, et al employ journalism as a vehicle to broaden and deepen the national movement. India's first parliament had 45 members classified as writerjournalists, the second saw the figure rise to 50. Then cynicism and pessimism set in: the fourth Lok Sabha had only 24 people in this category, plummeting to only eight in the last one.

So will the 2014 election lead to a renaissance of journalism and politics? Ah well, they must first get elected for that. *ashrafajaz3@gmail.com* 





Chambord

Coffee Maker









Brazil

Cafetiere

Travel mug



Vacuum Travel Mug



Contact: +977-1-6612232/0885 Website: www.rajarshigurukul.edu.np E-mail: contact@rajarshigurukul.edu.np

### **ADMISSION OPEN** GRADE: ONE - SIX

Form Submission Deadline: 28th March 2014, Friday Entrance Examination Date: 31st March 2014, Monday Venue: Rajarshi Gurukul, Sallaghari, Bhaktapur

(Selected students and parents will be informed regarding interview date)





Child Centered Approach

School Kitchen serving Hygienic & Nutritious Food





Thoughtfully Designed Child Friendly Infrastructure

AJARSHI GEOGRAFIA

A School With Nepal's Best Infrastructure, We Care...



#### AYESHA SHAKYA in KAVRE

Improved water mills are transforming rural Nepal with efficient agroprocessing and electricity

I t is conventional wisdom that hydropower is 'modern' technology, but Nepalis have harnessed the energy of falling water for centuries. There are an estimated 30,000 water mills all over Nepal, traditionally used in villages to grind grain.

With some investment and a little upgrading, a traditional water mill (called *ghatta*) can be modified to hull rice, extract oil, and even generate electricity. The Multi-purpose Power Unit design has been available to Nepali farmers since the 1980s, however, it is in the last decade with the crippling shortage of electricity that it is being pushed as an alternative source of energy for rural Nepal.

Considering that the national grid will take at least 25-30 years more to reach remote areas, it is the most costeffective option to provide electricity in the near future. Nearly half of households in Nepal still do not have electricity, and even those that do suffer severe power cuts. The government has heavily subsidised solar panels for rural areas, but seems to have so far failed to push more efficient water mills.

The improved water mill replaces the wooden paddles on traditional *ghattas* with metal turbines (pic, above) on ball bearings that are more efficient. With increased energy output, its potential as a source for agro-processing as well as electricity generation is enhanced.

At Phoksintar of Kavre district, the Centre for Rural Technology Nepal (CRT/N) has demonstrated that improving existing ghattas can transform rural agriculture processing with mechnisation. In 2007, CRT/N received the prestigious Ashden Award from Al Gore for its work with improved *ghattas*.

Biplav Kafle of CRT/N

# What to do while waiting

### **BHRIKUTI RAI**

Provide the service of the service o

As the Valley exceeds the limits of growth, and water supply cannot cope with demand, there are tens of thousands of Kathmandu households like the

Shrestha's which have to rely on tankers for water supply.

22.03.2014

"We've been buying water for the last seven years after the mains went dry," says Shrestha whose family of four



Kathmandu Valley's population has now surpassed 3 million and daily water demand has crossed 350 million litres, but the Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited (KUKL) is able to supply barely 90 million litres in the dry season and 120 million litres in the wet season.

> Mains water supply is rationed to one hour every third day if you live in one of the lucky neighbourhoods. Ironically, while the

modern water system doesn't work, there are long lines of buckets and pots at traditional water spouts built by Malla kings 400 years ago and are still functioning (*right*).





explains: "During the day, local residents use the improved mills to grind grain such as corn and rice and in the evening and night they use the same machine to light up their homes."

Some 28 households benefit from electricity that is supplied from 6pm to 6am.

The Centre works with the Dutch group, SNV and the **Alternative Energy Promotion** Centre (AEPC) to make an improve mill design from the 1980s even more efficient and versatile. The program got a boost from the German **GIZ/Energising Development** (EnDev) in 2013 to focus more on the electrification component of improved water mills.

From 2002-2010, more than 7,000 improved mills were installed in districts such as Panchtar, Ilam, Sindhupalchok, Dhading, Jumla, Dadeldhura, Dolakha and Surkhet. In Kavre district alone, the program has replaced kerosene lamps with electricity in 200 households in four VDCs.

The output power capacity of an improved water mill is

0.5-3.0 kw and it can grind 20- 50kg of cereal grains per hour, whereas a traditional ghatta can only produce 0.2-0.5kw and grind just 10-20 kgs of grain per hour. The improved mills are also easier to maintain and have a longer lifespan.

"Once the installation is done, we visit frequently to check if the water mill is well maintained. The lifespan of traditional water mills was only two years, but the improved mills last up to ten years," says Shiva Sharan Shrestha of Kavre's Ghatta Owners' Association.

Improved mills have the capacity to transform rural lives by removing drudgery, saving time and bringing electric lights to homes in remote areas. And as Kavre has demonstrated, it is the village women and children who benefit the most.

"Before the improved water mill was installed, we used kerosene lamps for lighting. Kerosene was smoky and expensive, and often we would run out. But now we have bright electric lights

all night, it has become much easier to work," says Kanchi Maya Ghising of Phoksintar.

The improved mills do not just replace the traditional ghatta, but also the manual *dhiki* and *janto*. They save time and minimise the workload of women and children involved in agro-processing and allowing them more time for farming, caring for children and participating in community affairs. Phoksintar has a nine member user committee which manages the mill and distribution of electricity, two of them are women.

Nepal's improved water mill program aims to put up 4,000 new units by 2017, and will be on its way to convert all traditional water mills and also install new ones. It is quite possible that rural Nepal will soon have more reliable electricity than the cities. 💟

### nepalitimes.com

Watch video Improved water mills improve lives, #110 Wheels of change, #354 Getting out of grinding poverty, #173

### Rain, rain, come again

ust like electricity rationing is here to stay for at least another six years, the water shortage is bound to get worse in the coming years before it gets better.

The only option may be to harvest rainwater where it falls: on your roof. It is simple, it is free, it is logical, and it is the only solution. The only trouble is that 80 percent of the rain in Kathmandu falls between June and September. This rain has to be stored in big enough tanks so that it lasts the dry season from from October to May. This means rainwater storage in Kathmandu is more expensive than other parts of the world.

Still, a round-the-year rainwater cistern is the only one-time expense. A basic roof rain collector costs Rs 50,000, with additional expense depending on the size of the storage tank. This may sound expensive, but if you factor in peace of mind, it is a viable proposition.

In 2012 Kathmandu Valley Water Supply Management Board under the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works launched a campaign to harvest and recharge five million litres of rainwater inside the Kathmandu Valley but the campaign wasn't so successful. "People are a lot more aware about rain water harvesting now, but they aren't willing to spend thousands of rupees to install the system," says Rabin Man Shrestha of the KMC.



### Water and governance

Poor governance and instability are preventing Nepal from taking advantage of its abundant water resources and ensuring water security for its people, a new analysis shows. Researchers at the University of Southampton in UK argues that Nepal needs an integrated water management system that takes into account the links between water resources, governance, and accessibility, and the water-energy-food nexus.

"Integrated water resource management requires active role of institutions," says John Duncan, co-author of the analysis published in Environmental Science Policy last November. Such an environment is lacking in Nepal and will subsequently affect water security and sustainability, says Duncan.

Nepal's rivers flow southward into India and contribute an average 45 per cent of the total flow to the Ganges river, with the contribution rising to over 70 per cent during the monsoon season. The paper emphasises the importance of transboundary basin management and that future water security can only be ensured through an integrated approach with increased understanding of the Ganges system, including the rainfall it receives and its surface water and groundwater. Lead author Eloise Biggs says: "Transboundary governance is needed to ensure that water is fairly and equitably managed from national to local level.' Read abstract online

# ne Melamch





If KUKL could only control leaky mains pipes, it would save 75 million litres a day. Leakage increased after pipes were damaged during road windening in various parts of Kathmandu.

"Our regular maintenance operation has been affected due to the road

expansion and there is no coordination between various departments," complains KUKL spokesperson, Milan Shakya.

KUKL and the government are all waiting for Melamchi to bring water from snowfed rivers north of Kathmandu through a 26km tunnel, but the much-delayed project is not due to be completed for another three years. And even if it is, the Valley's water mains have to be upgraded to ensure proper distribution.

There are also plans, without date estimates, to pipe water from nearby Yangri and Larke rivers, to augment Melamchi with a further 340 million litres daily. But experts are sceptical about Melamchi being completed by 2016 and suggest looking at alternatives

like household rainwater harvesting. "Storing rainwater is the best and easiest way to ensure water supply and recharge the falling groundwater table," says Rabin Man Shrestha of the Environment Management Division at Kathmandu Metropolitan City.

The moral of the story seems to be: don't ask what the municipality can do for you, just start storing your own rainwater. Or, like Revita Shrestha, you could keep buying expensive tanker water, but the prices are sure to go up and its quality is iffy. 💟

### nepalitimes.com

Private water for the public, #620 Patching up Melamchi, #355 Not a drop to drink, #350 Private water, public debate, #335

# **Between Left and Right**

Himal Khabarpatrika, 16 March

हिमाल

Interview with UCPN (Maoist) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal.

### Himal Khabarpatrika: You've been party leader for a long time, how do you evaluate your years in power?

Pushpa Kamal Dahal: Situations rather than personal ambition made me the leader back then. I wanted to give direction to the communist revolution, so I united all factions that believed in Maoism, popular revolt, and armed struggle. Mao and Stalin were supremos until they died, but that isn't scientific because staying in power forever gets difficult after a communist revolution faces counter-revolutions.

### But he keeps saying he is your supporter. Has this changed?

Our worldviews are different and this sometimes leads to conflict. But both of us have been together since day one. He was a politburo member when I was general secretary and a deputy when I was chairman, so in that sense he is my supporter.

### Would it be correct to say Bhattarai doesn't want you as party leader?

I think he meant that both of us must step down and hand over leadership to the next generation. But that doesn't solve anything and will instead break the party. Both of us can't leave until the peace process is completed and the constitution is drafted. I told Baburam last year that we should make preparations so he can lead the party, but it is up to him to win everyone's hearts.

### Do you think Baburam Bhattarai and you are preventing young blood from taking up leadership positions in the same way seniors frustrated you in your early days?

Social transformation is a job that only the knowledgeable can accomplish - this is what Marxism means. I have gone to great lengths to recruit the intellectuals into our party. Baburam, like hundreds of other committed communists throughout the country, was promoted to leadership level because of my efforts. We still emphasise knowledge and intelligence, so I don't think we are blocking the way.

### But these days both you and

### Bhattarai are surrounding yourselves with yesmen.

Society's conflicts find their way into all parties. Factions exist and no great leader or philosopher can change this - even Marx could do nothing to dismantle cliques. We are worried about the next generation of leaders because we have failed to groom our successors.

### What about internal struggles in the party?

They are also part of society's class struggles. Which doesn't mean both must be handled the same way. But I accept that critics are often labelled 'enemy', 'traitor', even 'agents' because of slight differences in understanding.

### Do you think Bhattarai's recent statements are in line with the decisions made at the Hetuada general convention in February 2013? It would be best to ask him. Although Hetauda's

# जसोतसो आफेनो बचाऊ

What do you consider as the biggest mistakes of your political career? When we entered the peace process, I didn't do enough to balance ideology and pragmatism. That has been a great mistake which I could have prevented in 2006. I couldn't maintain cooperation with other parties and this led to the failure to formulate a constitution on time. It was also wrong of me to prevent GP Koirala from becoming the first and I shouldn't have hurried to dismiss the then Army Chief Rookmangud Katuwal. Later, while preparing for the second CA elections, we became overconfident, we overestimated our worth among the common masses and as a result we

were defeated. But we had no choice except to participate in polls. At least we're on the right track now because we have a parliament.

### Do you think we'll have a new constitution within a year and are those in power consulting with you?

The last four months suggest that we can't guarantee a constitution in a year's time. For some time now, we have not been consulted. I don't think the UML and NC alone can write the constitution. They need to sit down and discuss with everyone.

### What is the reason behind not wanting to have local elections before the constitution is completed? Do you fear you'll lose again?

In fact, we stand to gain more than anyone else if local elections are conducted soon. But we need a constitution more than polls. We can draft a constitution within six months and then hold polls. If we do it now, the animosity among the parties will be reflected in the new document. And we don't have enough time to prepare or proper laws to conduct it.

### Dangerous for men too

Ambika Bhandari, Jan Astha, 19 March

आस्था

Nepali men working in the Gulf are increasingly susceptible to rape at the hands of their male colleagues. One of my roommates had to travel to Jabel Ali in Dubai five months ago where he was almost raped by a Pathan. The man began by complementing my friend on his good looks and then forced him to accompany him to his hotel room. When my friend ran away the Pathan chased him down in a taxi. There was a small market nearby so my

friend dispersed into the crowd and saved

himself. We also heard about a Nepali migrant worker in UAE who killed his Pakistani roommate after a fight at a hotel. Later, the media clarified that the man was simply trying to defend himself while

his roommate tried to rape him. But the lower court in Abu Dhabi sentenced the Nepali to death.

There are many incidents of sexual violence against men that go unreported in the Gulf region. "We have heard that after men are raped, they are just left to die. But such cases hardly come out in the media," admits a local from Pokhara who is currently working in UAE.

Social mobiliser, Surva Chand, who also works in UAE says that many Nepali men are tricked by locals on the pretext of helping them and they go missing as soon as they land at the airports.



Batsman: Government XI Bowler: Public XI Ball: Fuel hike

कोन्तिपुर Batsayan in Kantipur, 17 March

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

decisions were passed unanimously, Baburam was prime minister back then and this influenced many things. His statements don't even match the decisions taken at recent central committee meeting, let alone the general convention. Now he keeps talking about 'new power' other than our party and this contradicts the decisions taken at the convention, our party's values, and our concept of development.

nepalitimes.com	ւիս
Longer version	



**F** I have led the party for 25 years now, but that is not too long. Mao was chairman for 45 years and Stalin a further 10-20 years.

> UCPN (M) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal in an interview to Himalkhabarpatrika, 16 March





#### **NIMADOMA SHERPA**

fter climbing Mt Everest in 2008, seven of us 🖌 📕 Nepali women have been on a mission to climb the highest mountains in seven continents. After Everest we did Elburz in Europe, Kosciuszko/ Targangil in Australia, and Kilimanjaro in Africa.

Fifth was Aconcagua, at 6961m the highest mountain in South America and also the tallest outside Asia. The Andean climb was going to be different in many ways. This time we had to fully support ourselves unlike previous climbs before. We had trained very hard and the excitement of getting closer to the completion of the mission was getting unbearable when we took the long flight from Kathmandu to Argentina on 11 February.

There was also the comfort of knowing that we were with our team. At Base Camp (pic, above), as we sang, danced and laughed, word spread that the Nepali women had arrived. Climbers from other expeditions would come to talk to us about our mission and about Nepal. It was heart-warming to see how much respect and admiration our country has in the climbing fraternity.

We hadn't trained so hard before, not even for Mt Everest, because we knew that we had

as far as they could.

When we reached 6,300m they insisted that the team split in two. Chunu Shrestha, Asha Kumari Singh, Pema Diki Sherpa and I continued with our guide Maxi. Roger, another guide, was left with Shailee, Maya and Pujan.

We continued up the big

rocky face of Aconcagua, with few tricky traverses. Before reaching the summit we got a call from Shailee, Maya and Pujan. They had turned back, but were safe and sound. This was a huge disappointment; we had hoped that they would catch up with us.

When we reached the

# mountains in seven continents

summit, there wasn't the usual elation. We called the three friends again, and were all in tears. They congratulated us and said, "You are our heroes." It was a bittersweet moment. But yes, we had done it.

We took out the Nepal flag and the banners of all our sponsors. When we got down to be reunited with our friends at Camp II, we felt they had made a good decision to turn back at the right moment.

After the ascent, the team promoted Nepal in South America. We met with professional women from Brazil and they were impressed to hear how United Nations World Food Programme's afternoon meal scheme back home in Rolwaling was the reason I could complete my schooling. They were also



interested to hear that I now visit schools all over Nepal with my team to motivate youth to believe in education.

Together with Nepal Tourism Board and the Embassy of Nepal in Brazil we also took part in promotional events in Buenos Aires and Sao Paolo. It has been a tough journey so far, and we have made it because of the trust and faith of many. And now it's two more challenges: Mt McKinley the highest mountain in North America and Mt Vinson Massif in Antarctica later in the year. 💟

7 Summits Women Team will speak at CSGN at Shankar Hotel, 26 March, 6pm

### nepalitimes.com

Women on top, #691 Seven women, seven summits #613

One of Nepal's finest progressive education school, Wendyhouse School, with a long history of child-centered education announces

# Admission from Grade

We take the learning process beyond traditional academic subjects by applying methods that promote independence, curiosity and creativity as well as by imparting various vocational skills for students from grades 1-9.

### Our progressive teaching-learning process is assisted by following technologies:

### Educomp SmartClass™

Educomp SmartClass equips the classroom with exhaustive repository of well researched, digital modules of lessons (consisting of audio-video, 2D and 3D animations and graphics) on almost every subject.



to carry everything ourselves up the mountain, pitch tents and cook even though we had guides. Their job was to primarily show the way.

Expeditions to Aconcagua are normally 18-21 days with the summit target on the 14th day. The weather forecast showed that 23 February was our only summit window. We had no choice but to cut down our acclimatisation days and push for the summit on the ninth day. On the windy morning of 23 February, we started for the top.

Despite the wind we were all doing fine. Shailee and Maya were feeling cold, but we all kept pushing on, hoping that the sun would warm us up. They were both using old mittens, which had worked well on Everest, but seemed not enough for the chilly wind of the southern Andes. Shailee and Maya didn't want to slow down the team, and were trying to go

### Fedena™

Fedena is the world's most powerful school management software which brings the parents and guardians much more closer to day-to-day operations and events at the school along with its various other features.

### Entrance Examination: 16th Chaitra, 2070



Tamakoshi Marg, Bishalnagar, Ktm, Nepal Tel:+977 1 4411612 Fax:+977 1 4413454 E -mail: info@wenddyhouse.edu.,np

# 20 BACK SIDE

### Times

www.nepalitimes.col

21 - 27 MARCH 2014 #699



# **Relocate Kathmandu**

omrade Awesomeful misses having the spotlight on him as the most powerful alpha male in Nepal. This is why he has lately been giving interviews left and right. Mostly left. One rabbit he pulled out of his hat is to start reunification talks with Kiran Kaka. Something seems to have happened while Baida Ba was in Belgium last month, where Eurobaddies told him not to be such a stick in the mud, warning him also not to come back any more to fundraise until he first reunited with the mother party. So, the two signed a two-point agreement on the only two issues on which they think alike: condemn the Interpol notice on the killers of Krishna Adhikari now living in UK and a vehement rejection of local elections. Aside from that, the two do not share a worldview on anything else. Even Comrade Cloudy, who has been the main go-between, knows that the day Chairman Aweful gets back with Baidya Buwa will be the day that BRB will quit the Cash and Comrade Big Plop will quit the Dash. And we will be in the horns of a conundrum what to call this new fusion of Dash and Cash. Suggestions welcome.

adultery by mixing water in kerosene, kerosene in diesel and diesel in petrol. "Some people call this adulteration, but we call it price stabilisation," said a well-lubricated source at the Ayal Nigam whose losses have crossed Rs1 billion.

### ମେର

Meanwhile, the Ass has come up with a solution that will solve in one swell foop all our multiple crises, including load-shedding and overcrowding of Kathmandu. It can now be revealed that



century. There are other side benefits: by obliterating Kathmandu Metropolis and the Patan Sub-Metropolitan City from the face of the earth we will also have solved the garbage crisis, the pollution crisis, corruption at the airport, prostitution and the problem of stray street dogs.

#### ମେର

The question then arises, where should the capital of the New Nepal be located? That is a very good point, and luckily for you I have been doing my homework

and have shortlisted the following:

• The government wants to bring water from Melamchi but the people of Melamchi don't want to give it to us. Solution: if Melamchi doesn't want to come to Kathmandu take Kathmandu to Melamchi.

• Okharpauwa residents have refused refuse from Kathmandu. Solution: Relocate Nepal's capital to Okharpauwa and no one will notice because both are garbage dumps.

• Jomsom. Nepal's capital must be located in a place that has the best apple brandy. Ministers can ride mules to work.

• By relocating the capital to Kalapani, we kill two birds with



**DIWAKAR CHETTRI** 

ARRCHHH!!

### Finally the SEASON of PROTESTS is here!!



Feels GOOD to be BACK in BUSINESS!



In Economic News, the latest is that NAC has run out of planes and NOC has run out of money. Despite world crude prices falling below \$110 a barrel in the past month, NOC has decided to raise prices at gas stations by implementing an ingenious method which is a highly classified state secret. But if you promise not to tell anyone, the Ass can divulge off the record that the plan entails allowing distributors to commit

the plan entails building a hydroelectric dam at Chobar. This will create a massive reservoir submerging Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur and return the Valley to its pristine pre-historic lakeside ambience. This ingenious idea will remove 80 per cent of Nepal's electricity demand while generating 8 billion gigawatt hours of power and removing load-shedding till the dawn of the 22nd

- two stones: we regain stolen Nepali territory, and the capital will be so far from the rest of Nepal no one is ever going to bother us again.
- Shift Nepal's capital to New Delhi.
  Everything's being decided there anyway.

The Ass

