

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

PAGE 10-11



turkishairlines.com | 977-1-4438363/4438436

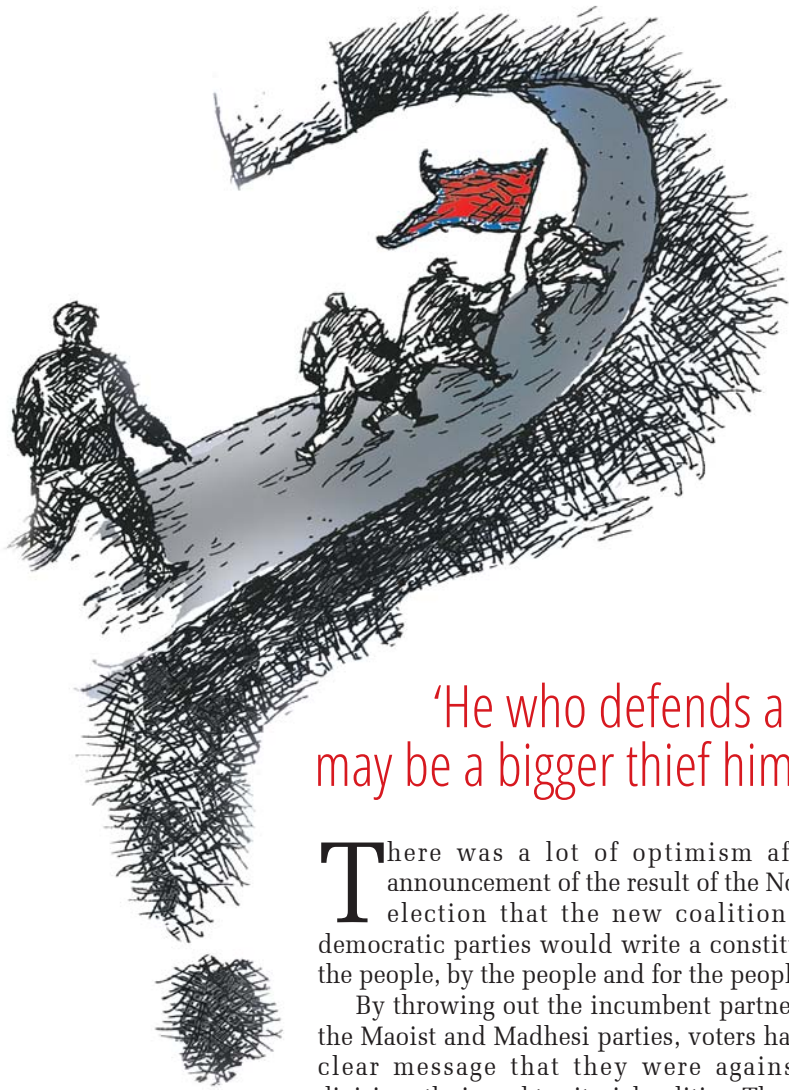
Weizen Bakery - Thamel
Mahabirs Center for Nepal Connection - Thamel
 For Further Information Mail to :
lavazza@subhashingalintl.com

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

Contact: 9801030490

Bhanimandal, Ekantakuna, Lalitpur
Tel : 5546386/ 5546387/ 01-6924765
www.kunalfurnishing.com

Call us: 554 5379 | 553 9704
www.planmytrip.com.np
www.facebook.com/planmytrip.com



‘He who defends a thief may be a bigger thief himself.’

There was a lot of optimism after the announcement of the result of the November election that the new coalition led by democratic parties would write a constitution of the people, by the people and for the people. By throwing out the incumbent partnership of the Maoist and Madhesi parties, voters had sent a clear message that they were against their divisive ethnic and territorial politics. The election could, in fact, be seen as a referendum on the main issue on which the two blocs differed: what kind of federalism the country should have. The Maoists campaigned strongly for eight or more single identity-based federal provinces,

GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER

while their Madhesi allies had a single Madhes province as their main plank. When the results came out, activists and politicians who backed ethnic politics questioned its validity and split hairs between ‘mandate’ and ‘opinion’.

The NC and UML, on the other hand, paid reluctant lip service to federalism during the campaign but were decisively against future provinces being named after particular ethnic groups. The Hindu-right RPP-Nepal, of course, was against federalism, secularism, republicanism and just about everything else.

Fivemonthsaftertheelections,the public mood is one of growing dismay. The Maoist opposition doesn’t seem to realise that it lost the election, and still wants to govern by consensus. The UML has its own internal scores to settle. And an octogenarian freedom fighter who is now prime minister seems incapable of stopping a right shift of his once social-democratic party.

Given their belief in the end justifying the means, it’s not surprising that the Maoists would want to stoke divisive ethnic politics. The Madhesi parties have predictably tried to cover up their own governance failure and disunity by selling the vision of an utopian autonomous province after which they promise everything will be hunky-dory.

However, it is with the Nepali Congress that we are most dissatisfied. Here is a party that was supposed to stand up for democracy, human rights, freedom and pluralism. It was supposed to be the party of the people, for the welfare state, for socialism with a human face.

By strongly backing the Truth and Reconciliation Bill, Congressites like Minister

of Law Narahari Acharya and second-man Ram Chandra Poudel went against everything their party has ever stood for. They proved themselves to be even more callous than army generals, police chiefs and guerrilla commanders towards the relatives of the victims of the conflict, many of them their own party activists.

People who treat universal values of justice and truth as dispensable irritants cannot write a democratic constitution that guarantees the rule of law. Last month, the NC stood silent as the Maoists hounded human rights activists who tried to raise their voice on behalf of the relatives of the victims. There is an old proverb: ‘He who defends a thief may be a bigger thief himself.’

It seems foregone conclusion that the results of the Indian elections when they are announced on Friday will represent a shift to the right in the region. Due to India’s gravitational pull, this is sure to tug Nepal’s political spectrum to the right as well. The Hindu-right RPP-N thinks it can benefit from this shift, and influence the constitution-writing process.

However, whatever the regional political trend, our own election result should not be an excuse for triumphalism among an exclusionist elite who think Nepal can continue to be centrally governed. The new constitution must be a document that reflects an evolved egalitarian polity.

By backing amnesty for wartime excesses the NC has not just subverted its own ideology, it has also sent the message that it backs impunity. When you allow people to get away with murder, you are telling them they can get away with breaking a lot of other laws as well.

YOUR SAY

www.nepalitimes.com

BEGGARS AND CHOOSERS

No sovereign country in the world allows foreign governments to hand out money to its private citizens or NGOs without its approval and direct regulation (‘Beggars and choosers’, Editorial, #706). Otherwise what is to prevent foreign governments to hire Nepali citizens to directly work for them instead of working for the country? There is nothing wrong in asking willing donors to spend money where it will provide the most benefit for the country and the people. If the donors have concerns on issues like human rights, they can stop their funding. What they should not be able to do is directly fund their own agenda, without any regulation and oversight.

Dev Batsya

■ Aid money should improve lives and raise people out of poverty, leading to sustainable growth and development. However, the truth is foreign aid has often presented more challenges than opportunities to aid recipients. In the 60 plus years since being an aid recipient, we’ve seen small improvements across Nepal, progress that would have occurred even without foreign support. The impact from aid has not been proportionate to the amount of money donated. Foreign aid’s biggest downside is that no clear, effective system has been put in place to hold aid recipients and their governments accountable for resources illegally taken from public sector coffers, a long standing, and still very present, trend from South America to Africa to Asia.

Unfortunately, the absence of that system reinforces social inequities and perpetuates cycles of political abuse that has led to a sophisticated new form of authoritarianism – one that empowers the elite, while keeping a majority of people in abject poverty.

Nepali

■ As a direct donor to Nepal through my UK charity and partner NGO working in education, and being an indirect donor via my UK taxes and DFID I feel that it is a receiving government’s right to stipulate where they require money for development, and the focus on infrastructure for example is perfectly reasonable. However, the government must realise that aid from developed nations always has strings attached whether it’s to do with demands for human rights and inclusive development in countries such as Nepal. Without this our own governments would soon lose political support from taxpayers who saw their taxes being used to prop up “inhuman and discriminatory” regimes.

All contracts have two sides to them, and it should be a simple matter for donors and government to discuss priorities from both sides so that agreement can be reached. It would be unrealistic to seek perfect consensus, but there are some clear norms which can be agreed first.

In addition, some of us have argued for a long time against major donors using aid monies on feasibility studies, evaluation projects, etc of which there are many examples where funding has been wasted. Tangible projects with tangible beneficial outcomes must be the standard applied.

Flexible1

RENEWED HOPE

The best hope and perhaps the only hope for Nepal Airlines is for the government to sell 49 per cent of its shares to a well run airline such as Singapore, Qatar, Emirates, etc and also let them have complete day to day management control (as the Sri Lankan govt. did sometime back with their national carrier) with a board directing their long term policies and objectives (‘New planes, new hopes’, Vijay Lama, #706). Let’s not kid ourselves - with the present management culture, structures and systems nothing much will change, new planes or old. For God’s sake they can’t even maintain such simple robust planes as Twin Otters, how =will they manage with MA60s and A320s?

Airline guy

■ Good to read an article with some hope about Nepal and Nepalis instead of only hopelessness. But it is up to Vijay Lama and other loyal employees of NAC to make the airline well managed once again so we can be proud of our national carrier. One step would be for NAC to immediately restart flights to India because the

cartel of Indian airlines is keeping prices artificially high to Bombay and Delhi. Also, NAC should get widebody planes and slash fares to Malaysia and the Gulf so that our fellow Nepalis do not have to spend their hard-earned money on the high fares in other countries’ airlines.

Gurung

■ European and North American aircraft manufacturers are worried that the Chinese have learnt the sophisticated art of manufacturing airplanes. But it’s their fault because they outsourced wingparts, fuselage and landing gear assembly to Chinese companies to save money. Now that the Chinese have learnt to make planes as good as Boeing and Airbus, but for half the cost, naturally, they are worried about the Chinese catching up. That is why FAA and EASA have been denying certification and arm-twisting Asian and Pacific countries from buying planes like the MA60. As Capt Lama cites, all six accidents of MA60s have been attributed to pilot error. My guess is that the local agents of western plane companies and private operators in Nepal are trying to sabotage our own national airline. With

compatriots like that we don’t need enemies.

J Basnet

ONE MAN

I don’t know much about his [Leela Mani Poudyal] history, but he certainly seems to have his heart in the right place (‘The power of one’, Damakant Jayshi, #706.) Now let’s see if his political bosses allow him to do what he really wants to do.

Namah

■ I appreciate Paudyal’s efforts to clean up the Bagmati, but the crux of the problem and solution are different. I lived in Kathmandu for three years. It is crowded, dusty and polluted. Everything’s centred here. If we had built good schools, colleges, universities or hospitals outside Kathmandu, people would not think about moving to the capital. Kathmandu cannot afford to shelter this growing population. Let us establish federal states and give them the full authority.

Rjackson33



BIKASH DWARE

Times nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll #707

Q. Do you think Baburam Bhattarai should form a new party?

Total votes: 203

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Yes | 67.5% |
| No | 28.6% |
| Don't know/can't say | 3.9% |

Weekly Internet Poll # 708
To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Who should be blamed for the 26 vacant positions in the CA?





नयाँ वर्षको नयाँ आफ्नै

नयाँ वर्षमा नयाँ हिरो चढिन्छ, लाखौं लाख खेलाइन्छ



New
splendor
iSmart
iSmart Rs. 151,000



New
Pleasure
Metal Sheet Rs. 151,500
Cast Wheel Rs. 154,500



New
Xtreme
Xtreme DSS Rs. 213,500
Xtreme DDS Rs. 222,000

यो नयाँ वर्षमा **Hero** को कुनै पनि बाइक खरिद गर्दा प्राप्त हुने रुक्याच कार्डको
Unique Code SMS गरी रु. ९,००० देखि १००,००० सम्म on the spot जित्नुहोस्
हरेक हप्ता lucky draw माफ्त एक भाग्यशाली ग्राहकलाई **रु. ९ लाख**
Hero < स्पेस > < प्राप्त हुने कोड नं > टाईप गरी २०१० मा **SMS** पठाउनुहोस्



Nepal General Marketing Pvt. Ltd.
PO Box 133, Jyoti Bhawan
1911, Kantipath, Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone: 01 4248949, 4255565, Fax: 01 4212415
Finance: 01 4261770, Email: customercare@ngmhero.com
www.ngmhero.com www.facebook.com/ngmheromotocorp



GENUINE PARTS
Always use
genuine Hero
spare parts.
(Genuine Hero spare parts are available
at very competitive prices)



**Always use
genuine Hero
10W30 engine oil**

Kathmandu Valley Balaju 4361786 • Balkhu 4281908 • Balkumari 5006184 • Bhaktapur 6613112 • Buddhabari 4104540, 4104541
Gathaghar 6638444 • Gyaneshwor 4428970 • Jorpati 4912006 • Kantipath 4225377, 4266517 • Kumaripati 5004103 • Putalisadak
4435155 • Swoyambhu 4289737 • Tinkune 4466886 • Trisuli 561421
Outside of Valley Attaria 551244 • Baglung 520174 • Barabur 526697 • Bardibas 550552 • Bhairahawa 523930 • Bhairahawa 524290
Birchowk 545227 • Biratnagar 463754 • Biratnagar 536896 • Birgunj 522772 • Birjunj 529667 • Birtamode 543248 • Butwal 542725
Chandranigahapur 540739 • Damak 581463 • Damauli 560477 • Dang 560262 • Dangadhi 522484 • Dharan 526522 • Gaidakot 502399
Gaur 521109 • Golbazar 540327 • Guleria 420608 • Hetauda 525386 • Inaruwa 561498 • Itahari 580066 • Jaleshwar 521095 • Janakpur
523644 • Kaptipastu 550160 • Kawsoti 541001 • Lahan 560955 • Laibandi 501628 • Mahendranagar 520745 • Mircharya 550803
Narayanghat 532567 • Nawalparasi 521002 • Nepalgunj 551598 • Parsa 583199 • Pokhara 537333 • Pokhara 539389 • Pyuthan
460464 • Rajbiraj 523542 • Sarlahi 521711 • Siraha 520442 • Surkhet 525196 • Tikapur 560426 • Tulsipur 520808 • Waling 440610

smart paani
"Conserve every drop"

Proud winner of
Surya Nepal Pvt. Ltd Asha Social Entrepreneurship Award



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

ONE PLANET SOLUTION

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

V A C A N C Y



Rato Bangala School
Excellence in Learning

A Level Physics Teacher

Applicants must have fluency in English, an ability to relate to children and a willingness to learn.

A Level teacher applicants should be well versed in current developments in the subject area and be comfortable with theory and practice. They must also be able to handle the challenging A Level curriculum conducted by Cambridge International Examination (CIE). Rato Bangala School is a registered centre for Cambridge International Examination.

Interested candidates are requested to collect application forms from the school office or download it from www.ratobangala.edu.np and submit the application as soon as possible.

Sri Durbar Tole, Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur
Phone: 5534318, 5542045, 5522614
E-mail: rbs@mos.com.np

Maiming the messenger

Democratic regimes with undemocratic institutions can stifle press freedom

In Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and Bhutan, regimes flaunting democracy have stifled the free press by maiming the messengers.

During the final years of the armed conflict, Nepali journalists were also under similar threat. Between 2001 to 2006, at least 17 journalists were killed by Nepal's security forces, while nine others were killed by the Maoists.



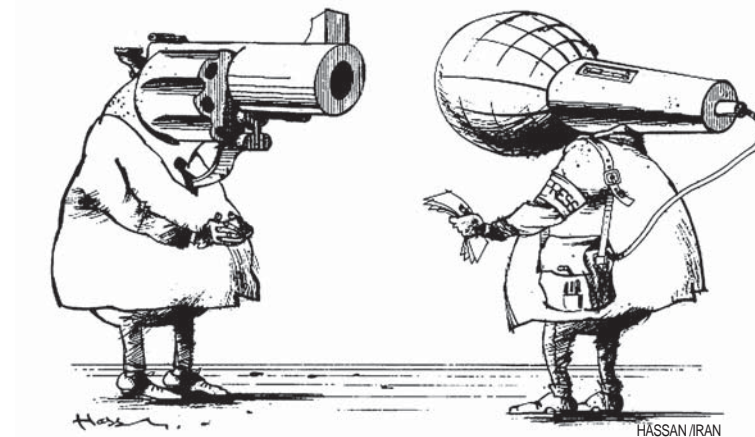
BY THE WAY
Anurag Acharya

Nepal then was among the most dangerous places to be a journalist. Things, however, haven't improved with the end of conflict, the criminalisation of politics during our long political transition makes peacetime almost as dangerous as the conflict years for the press.

A regional media conference in Islamabad on 3 May World Press Freedom Day organised by the Press Council of Pakistan coincided with the assassination attempt on Pakistani TV journalist, Hamid Mir, allegedly by the country's intelligence agency, the ISI.

Mir hosts a popular political debate program in Pakistan's *Geo TV* and is known to raise difficult questions, especially regarding the secretive ISI and its role in promoting extremism to weaken democratic rule in the country. Three years back another outspoken investigative journalist Saleem Shahzad went missing from the heart of the capital, and was found dead the next day 200 km away. He had recently released a book exposing the penetration of Al-Qaeda and other extremist groups into Pakistan's military.

Local journalists I met and spoke to claimed matter-of-factly that it was indeed the ISI which abducted, tortured and then



killed Shahzad. Yet, a year long inquiry failed to name any culprit in the report because the civilian government simply lacks political will and courage to do so.

Luckily, Hamid Mir has survived the attack and under tremendous internal and international pressure the Nawaz Sharif government has once again formed an inquiry commission to ascertain facts of the case. No one expects much out of that inquiry either.

Four days after attack on Mir, journalist and author Mohammad Hanif quoted senior Pakistani Editor Imran Aslam in his *Guardian* article as saying bluntly: "There was a time (in Pakistan) if they didn't like what you wrote they censored you. They cut out a word or a line. If they got really angry they got your editor fired. Now they just shoot you."


The saying 'you don't know what you have until you have lost it' is one Nepali journalists are well aware of, having faced restrictions from all sections of the political spectrum. The state of perpetual impunity resulting from the passage through parliament of the watered down TRC bill exposes Nepal's democratic deficit.

Nearly eight years after the signing of the peace accord, the Sushil Koirala government passed the TRC bill which received the Presidential seal earlier this week. But the process was an eyewash, intended to bring the peace process to a hasty conclusion by getting the constitution over and done with. The international community was convinced of this priority, and has maintained a baffling silence.

Powerful people will have to go down if we are to ever find out how Krishna Sen, Ambika Timilsina and seven other journalists from *Janadesh Weekly* were tortured and killed ten years ago. If we investigated the killings of journalists Gyanendra Khadka in Sindhupalchok or Dekendra Thapa in Dailekh, some senior comrades may be implicated.

To be sure, Nepali democracy and free press is under attack on multiple fronts in the recent years. The nexus between local administration, political actors, thugs disguised as businessmen, and criminal gangs who monopolise public contracts have become so powerful, reporters censor themselves to stay safe. As a result, local crime and corruption mostly go unreported, further entrenching the state of impunity.

A 2013 survey conducted by Alliance for Social Dialogue (ASD) reveals that more than 75 per cent of Nepali journalists sampled in the study felt unsafe reporting on the issue of local corruption and crime. Similarly, only 35 per cent said they felt safe reporting local administration's involvement in the misdeeds. Interestingly, 76 per cent of the journalists also say they don't discuss sensitive issues with their editors for fear of being misquoted.

Over the years, we seem to have taken our freedom for granted and failed to imagine that democratic regimes with undemocratic institutions are perfectly capable of stifling our freedoms to abate accountability. 

Times
ecofair
2014

Environment friendly lifestyle for happy families

More than 80 exhibitors, show casing eco-friendly goods and services

Nepali Times Eco Fair 2014

Organized by

Himalmedia

Nepal Government
Ministry of Science, Technology & Environment

For Stall Booking:

Arjun Karki: 9841 492 300, Surendra Sharma 9841 31 4973
Ram Krishna Banjara 98510 94 559
Himalmedia Pvt. Ltd. Patandhoka, Lalitpur, Tel: 977-1-5005601-07, Fax: 977-1-5005518
email: ecofair@himalmedia.com, www.facebook.com/nepalitimes

Event Details:

Bhrikuti Mandap, Kathmandu
5-7 June, 2014 (22-24) Jyestha 2071
Time: 10:00am to 6pm

Title Sponsor

Laxmi Bank

pottery
lokta paper
ayurvedic herbs
rain water harvesting



Empowerment through entrepreneurship

Kesha Kumari Damini shares award with Richard Branson for proving that women-run businesses can be a force for change



Rarely does one get a chance to share the limelight at an international award with Richard Branson. But when you are a woman from Nepal, and that too from the Dalit community, it is even more remarkable.

On Thursday, Kesha Kumari Damini (*pic, right*) was recognised by the Norwegian Business for Peace Foundation with six others honourees from all over the world for her initiative to lead a network of more than 60,000 micro entrepreneurs in Nepal. The annual award goes to individual business leaders who have fostered peace and stability through private enterprise. This year, besides Damini and Branson, there are four other winners including Tunisian businesswoman Wided Bouchamaoui, and social entrepreneur Selima Ahmed from Bangladesh.

Kesha Kumari is cited for her leadership and success in mobilising small entrepreneurs, mainly women, to become self-employed and overcome discrimination. Branson is the founder of the Virgin Group and is recognised for his strong stance on climate change and support for the Global Zero campaign.

"The award is presented

to influential business leaders who through their achievements have demonstrated the benefits of a constructive relationship between business and society," said Per Leif Saxegaard, Chairman of the Business for Peace Foundation. "We believe this is crucial in fostering conditions that lead to peace and stability instead of conflict."

The worldwide search for the 2014 honourees is a joint effort by the International Chamber of Commerce, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Global Compact and the Oslo-based Business for Peace Foundation.

Kesha Kumari, 51, was born in Baglung and suffered the triple marginalisation for being poor, a Dalit and a girl. Her father remarried and the family separated when she was four. She was too busy taking care of her siblings to go to school. She got married, and was stigmatised by her community for having six

daughters, and no son.

But her life changed dramatically after she attended a training program for micro-enterprise development supported by UNDP and the Australian government called MEDEP. She borrowed Rs 4,000 and bought a sewing machine.

It was a long, and hard struggle, but her customer base grew and she set up the Manisha Tailoring and Training Centre in Parbat district. During the conflict, Kesha Kumari faced threats and intimidation, but she worked hard to raise her daughters by herself and persuaded her husband to quit his job in India to help her in her business.

She is now chairperson of the National Micro-entrepreneurs Federation of Nepal which helps members with marketing their products and to lobby for policy changes in Kathmandu to recognise micro-enterprises. Two-thirds of its 60,000 members are women and a quarter of them are from the Dalit community. ■



EVEREST BANK BIZ BRIEFS



All new

Agni group, the sole authorised distributor of Mahindra & Mahindra MUVs, SUVs and tractors in Nepal, has launched the new improved Mahindra Bolero Pick-up Flat Bed. Powered by micro- hybrid technology, the new Bolero pick-up is priced at Rs 1,845,000.

Free data

Mobile service provider Ncell has joined hands with the Wikimedia Foundation to launch a new product - Wikipedia Zero. All Ncell customers will now be able to access Wikipedia, free of mobile data charges from 7 May.



Boston bound

Turkish Airlines is now flying to Boston, making the city its sixth destination to the US. Introductory round trip fares are priced at Euro 399 from Istanbul to Boston and \$799 from Boston to Istanbul.

One more

Chairman of Himalayan Bank Manoj Shrestha inaugurated the bank's newest branch in Samakhushi on Tuesday. This is the 42nd branch of the bank.



Boot camp

Jagdamba Giants, one of the six teams participating in the Ncell Nepal Premier League has begun its preparation camp at Bhairahawa. The team being captained by Shakti Gauchan will undergo 3-day coaching

and training at Bhairahawa from 11 to 13 May before the tournament starts on 14 May.

Bond closed

NIC Asia which opened its "7.25% NIC Asia Bond 2077" for issuance on 4 May has announced that the bonds are now closed. The full Rs 500 million were subscribed within 4 days of offering. The 7-year bonds carry a coupon rate of 7.25 per cent per annum.

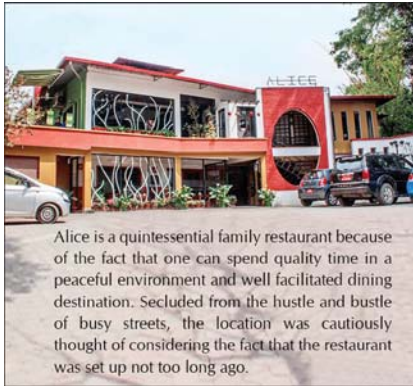


Dream luxury

Etihad Airways has unveiled the new product and service offering on its Airbus A380 and Boeing B787 Dreamliner aircraft, including The Residence by Etihad. The Residence is a completely new forward upper-deck cabin and features a living room, separate double bedroom and ensuite shower room.



Consistent, Strong & Dependable



Alice Restaurant
Garidhara, Kathmandu
Tel: 01-4429207
Mob: 98049413523
Email: alicegaridhara@gmail.com

Alice is a quintessential family restaurant because of the fact that one can spend quality time in a peaceful environment and well facilitated dining destination. Secluded from the hustle and bustle of busy streets, the location was cautiously thought of considering the fact that the restaurant was set up not too long ago.



watch&see

ESPRIT

Durbarmarg | CityCentre | Bluebird Mall

Communist cacophony

As the UCPN (Maoist)'s newly chosen central committee members met at Paris Danda on Thursday afternoon, questions about ideologue-in-chief Baburam Bhattarai's role within the party still loomed large.

The national convention in Biratnagar earlier in the month was a PR disaster for the Maoists as Bhattarai and his supporters walked out of meetings.



HERE WE GO
Trishna Rana

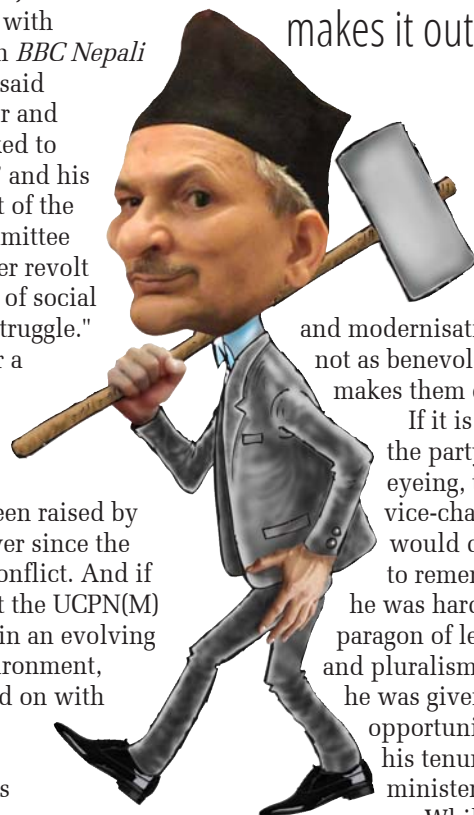
Bhattarai, who has been reiterating the need for '*rupantar*' (transformation) of the party and a new order on social media and interviews ever since the UCPN(M)'s embarrassing defeat in last November's elections, is clearly miffed at Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal's unyielding iron fist and the party's autocratic

structure. On his twitter account brb_laldhwoj this week he wrote: 'Debate within UCPN (M) is how to transform a war-time over-centralised monolithic Party into a participatory democratic-centralist Party.' (*sic*)

In an interview with Rabindra Mishra on *BBC Nepali* on Wednesday, he said "historically, power and position have worked to suppress the truth" and his decision to stay out of the party's central committee was a part of a larger revolt because every type of social change requires a struggle."

The demand for a complete overhaul of the highly centralised power structure of the Maoist party has been raised by the rank and file ever since the end of the armed conflict. And if senior leaders want the UCPN(M) to remain relevant in an evolving socio-political environment, they must deal head on with this issue sooner rather than later. But Bhattarai's calls for democratisation

Baburam Bhattarai's call for democratisation in the UCPN(M) is not as benevolent as he makes it out to be



and modernisation are not as benevolent as he makes them out to be.

If it is reins of the party that he is eyeing, the former vice-chairman would do well to remember that he was hardly a paragon of leadership and pluralism when he was given the opportunity during his tenure as prime minister.

While the

BILASH RAI

PhD-PM became an instant darling of the local media and the international community and managed to win the public's heart with various populist gimmicks, the façade quickly fell apart. His association with criminals like Bal Krishna Dhungel and the indiscriminate plundering of the state's treasury under his watch sullied his name and image to a large extent.

Furthermore, the same man who is now calling for greater transparency and democracy within his own party, relinquished all forms of democratic process after May 2012 when the first Constituent Assembly was dissolved. For 10 months, Bhattarai clung to his prime ministerial seat, resisted public and political calls for resignation, and even allowed himself an extension after not being able to conduct polls by 22 November that year as he had promised.

Bhattarai doesn't have a strong record of promoting democratic practices within his party. Even as cadre were demanding that top posts in the central committee be decided through elections, he never got behind them. And when the party decided to downsize the 266-member CC to a 99-member committee, Bhattarai wanted to add more so more of his men (and women) could be included.

His democratic credentials as a senior statesman are not exemplary, either. He has not been open to criticism or opposition and is known to regularly attack and accost his detractors through op-eds in newspapers and on social networking sites. Bhattarai doesn't exactly make the case for the most eligible candidate to replace the reigning potentate.

While analysts contend that walking out of the national convention is definite proof that Bhattarai has no intention of returning to the party fold and the UCPN(M) is headed for another vertical spilt, the former prime minister, even with his new found hubris, must be aware of the current fate of Mohan Baidya and his men. Despite repeated threats of 'returning to the jungle' or starting off another armed struggle, the CPN-M has become a marginal voice in Nepal's political landscape.

For now, Bhattarai's safest bet for claiming the top post will be to tolerate Dahal's antics, fulfill his duties as chairman of the CA's Political Dialogue and Consensus Committee, and ensure that the new constitution is finished in time which will also allow him to rebuild the trust and goodwill among his own cadre as well as the general public.

How important are you to us?

We always have one aircraft on stand-by just for you!

FLY
ON TIME

At Yeti Airlines, we move heaven and earth to fly you on time. We take care of every detail, from a flight schedule that minimizes delays to managing operational difficulties arising from aircraft technical snags, bad weather or air traffic congestion - your safe, comfortable and on-time passage is our priority! We are the only airlines to have one aircraft always on standby, ready to swing into action when required. All this to reach you to your destination on time.

At Yeti Airlines, you always come first.



Yeti Airlines

You come first

www.yetiairlines.com

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

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

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



The abundant sunshine of the past week will continue at least into the weekend. Although the hot sun is baking the plains and there are major afternoon updrafts, there isn't much moisture in the high pressure system over central Nepal to lead to any localised convection rain. The slight shift in wind direction has also blown away the dust from the desert, reducing the filtering of sunlight which will raise the maxima to up to 33 degrees in Kathmandu. Expect some cloud buildup on Sunday afternoon.

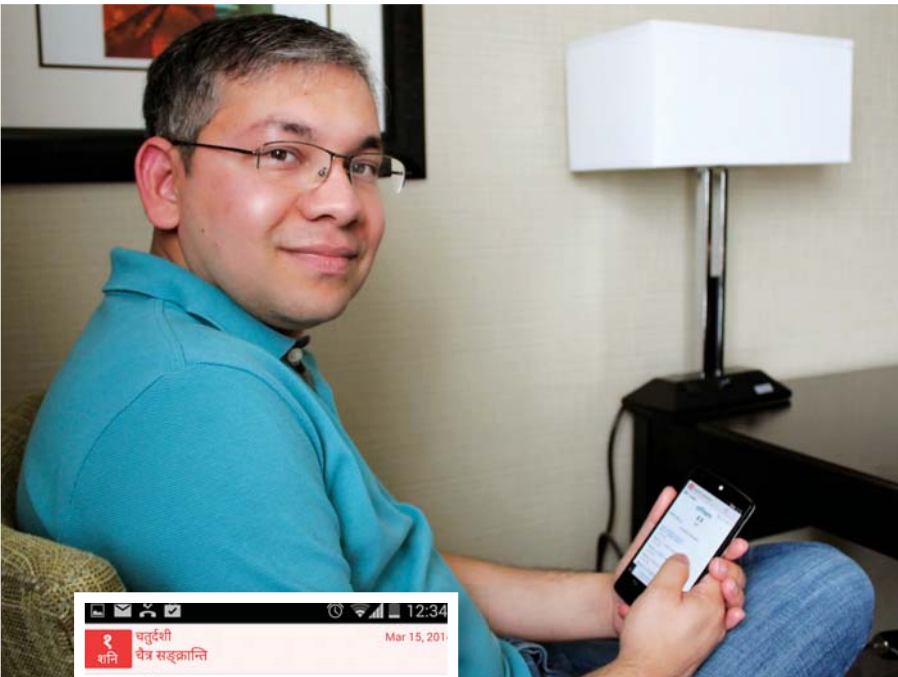
QATAR AIRWAYS
الخطوط الجوية القطرية
World's 5-star airline. qatarairways.com/np

FOR NEPALIS BY NEPALIS

Nepali software developers have been prolific in creating smart phone apps

GANESH ACHARYA

Need to check how much a taxi to Thamel should cost, update on the latest load shedding schedule, or how to say 'I like your dress' in Newari? The App Store maybe global but their apps are local thanks to Nepali developers who have created hit applications targeted at Nepali users.



What's the date?

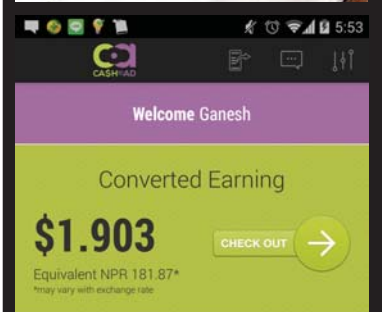
basic Nepali calendar to a one stop solution for information on currency exchange rates, news and daily horoscopes.

Nepali Dictionary and *Hamro Keyboard* help typing in Nepali in mobile phones and also checks spellings and suggests new words. During the second Constituent Assembly election, Uprety also posted live updates of the poll results through these apps.

"I feel proud that these apps which are a result of my personal interest have made lives easier for over 500,000 Nepalis," says Uprety who takes out two hours everyday from his day job to work on his hobby.

Shankar Uprety works in an American software development company and is the man behind popular apps like *Hamro Patro*, *Nepali Dictionary* and *Hamro Keyboard*. The three apps have been downloaded over 500,000 times in Android and iOS platforms.

"We wanted a smart solution for Nepalis abroad to keep track of the festivals and important celebrations," says Uprety who has expanded *Hamro Patro* from the



Watch and earn

Cash On Ad is a unique app that pays subscribers money for watching advertisements on their phones. For every six second view of the ad, it pays the viewer one rupee. According to Bishwas Dhakal of *Cash on Ad*, the app has been downloaded 200,000 times. The app was launched three months ago and the developers are presently working on its new version. They feel it can be used worldwide by advertisers to reach niche audience.

Batti gayo!

Software developers Elija and Chandraman Shrestha (*pic, above*) got tired of photocopying revised power schedules that changed every few months. So the conjugal team of software developers came up with *Nepal Load Shedding Schedule*, an app to keep tab on every-changing power cut schedules. The app proved to be a hit: over 400,000 users downloaded it within a week of its launch on the Google Play store.

"Users give us a lot of suggestions about what they like and want to see incorporated, so we learn as we go," says Elija who worked on the software with her husband. Over three dozen versions of the app has been uploaded on the Playstore.



Apart from the popularity, the app also brings them close to USD 300 in revenue each month. "We even had to change servers after getting high traffic, but we didn't want to stop people from accessing easy information just because our operating costs increased," says Chandraman Shrestha.

"However it would be the happiest day for us when load shedding ends in Nepal and this app is no longer needed."

5 Nepali apps worth installing



NEPALI SUPER JOKES
Read jokes in Nepali and English.
50,000-100,000 downloads
4.2 stars



RADIO NEPALI
Listen to more than 170 Nepali radio stations on your android device.
100,000-500,000 downloads
4.3 stars



TAXI FARES NEPAL
Find out whether your taxi driver is a cheat.
10,000-50,000 downloads
4.3 stars



NEPAL YELLOW PAGES
Offers more than 30,000 data from 460 different categories.
500-1000 downloads
3.8 stars



NEPALI NEWS
Your daily dose of news from Nepal at your finger tips.
50,000-100,000 downloads
4.3 stars

CITY
THE GREATER DRIVE

One Push Engine Start/Stop Button with Smart Key Entry System
Alloy Wheels & Turn Indicator on Electrically Foldable ORVM
Electric Sunroof
Air Conditioner with Touch Screen Control Panel & Cruise Control
Rear Parking Camera
Advanced Integrated Audio with 5" Screen & CD Player
Hands Free Telephone Control on Steering Wheel

Syakar Trading Company Pvt. Ltd.
Honda Car Showroom, Dhobighat, Ring Road, Lalitpur
Tel: 5549741/9721383223 Fax: 977-1-5549742
E-mail: syaka@syakarhonda.com
Thapathali Showroom Tel: 4246235
E-mail: sony.car@syakarhonda.com
www.honda.com.np

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

HONDA

EVENTS



Movie day,
watch two French films
Camille Rewinds and *The Tree*.
16 May, 8.30am & 6pm,
Alliance Francais, Teku

City Museum Kathmandu,
head down to Darbar Marg's newest
gallery on the block for personalised
guided tours.
*Tours run daily, accommodates up to
15 people, info@thecitymuseum.org*



Cha cha cha,
learn one month's worth of salsa in
four days.
*Rs 1,000 for singles, Rs 1,500 for couples,
Monday to Thursday, 7.30 to 8.30am/5
to 6pm/6 to 7pm, Salsa Dance Academy,
Bhatbhateni*



Solitudes,
an exhibition of the work of Finnish
photographer Päivi Wells.
20 May to 6 June, Image Ark Gallery, Kulimha
Tol, Patan Darbar Square

Who is a feminist?
Find the answer at a feminist reading
group by Chaukhat.
23 May, 3 to 5pm, Martin Chautari,
Thapathali

Tuning Earth and Sky,
a rare collection of the works of artist
Jimmy Thapa.
*Runs till 21 June, Galleria Ishine, Kupandol
Height, Sanepa*

Story of a bulb,
Spanish experimental photographer
Ana Alvarez's exhibition of the series
of photography walks taken in
Kathmandu. 18 to 25 May, 3pm onwards,
Siddhartha Art Gallery,
Babar Mahal Revisited

Open house,
featuring the work of artists Arpita
Shakya, Ashuram Khaiju, and Palpasa
Manandhar.
*Runs till 7 July, 11am to 6pm,
Gallery Mcube, Chakupat*

Retrospective,
a look back at the oeuvre of senior
artist and cubism enthusiast Surendra
Pradhan. *Runs till 18 July, Park Gallery,
Pulchok, parkgallery.com.np*

Life is flow,
an exhibition by photographer
Susanna Ferran and poet Frederic
Hoffman accompanied by sound
healer Chaitanyashree.
*Runs to 22 May, Image Ark Gallery,
Kulimha, Patan Darbar Square*



Opening night,
DJs, slam poetry and movie screenings.
23 May, Alliance Francais, Teku

Selling books,
buy and sell used books.
14 June, 10am to 4pm, Alliance
Francais, Teku



This country is yours
16 May, 5.30 to 6.30 pm, screening of film *Sweat drenched
land* by Arun Pradhan
17 May, 3 to 4pm, gallery-walk through with acclaimed
photographer Surendra Lawoti
22 May, 4 to 5.40pm, discussion on the visual
representation of marginalised groups
25 May, 4 to 5.30pm, Surendra Lawoti in conversation with
audience
31 May, 11am to 7pm, get your portfolios reviewed by
Surendra Lawoti
*16 May to 1 June, 11am to 7pm, Nepal Art Council,
photocircle.com.np*

Tee off,
get ready for the sun and go
watch corporate leaders battle it
out in the greens.
*17 May, 7am onwards, Royal Nepal
Golf Course, Airport road, Gaushala*

DINING

Dan Ran,
the best Japanese food this part of town.
Jhamsikhel

Embassy,
soothing ambience with an extensive
menu. *Lajimpat*

Froyo,
beat the heat with a cup or two of this
world famous frozen yogurt. Metro plaza,
Uttardhoka

Phat Kath,
offers French-ish food, a takeaway
crêperie, low tables and hookahs for
hippies, tables and chairs for normal
people, and a formidable hip hop
soundtrack for everyone. *Thamel*



Trout it all about,
the Olive Garden at Radisson Hotel is
offering fish lovers a reason to rejoice.
Special trout dishes in any style of your
preference, 6.30 to 10.30pm, Rs 1500 plus
taxes per person.



Haus Café,
pastas, pizzas, desserts, Haus does
everything with equal perfection. *Pulchok*

Now...
News At
Your **Fingertips**

Experience change while reading news with the Nagarik News App & step up towards a new platform. Get News anytime, anywhere at your fingertips and also get a chance to be the first one to upload and share crucial news and photos.



NAGARIK NEWS
APP

Download the
Nagarik News App

Get updated, Get it Now.

Technology Partners



Available in
Android and iOS Platforms



MUSIC

**Arohan-awarahan,**

go see the best of Nepali classical music at the 8th anniversary of Yalamaya Classics. 16 May, 5pm onwards, Yalamaya Kendra, Patandhoka, (01) 5553767

Dance-mandu,

party with 20 sets of performers from Nepal and India, with other attractions like cocktail bar, children's play area, djembe jamming, and a fire juggling show. 17 May, 10am onwards, Norling Resort, Gokarna

**Rocking Friday,**

join in the merriment as Kathmandu's The Spirit-X belts out a mixed bag of classic rock, blues, and rock n' roll. 16 May, 8pm onwards, House of Music, Thamel

Starry Night BBQ,

catch Ciney Gurung live as you chomp on your meat stick. Rs 1499, 7pm onwards, Fridays, Shambala Garden Café. Hotel Shangri-La, (01) 4412999

Kripa Unplugged,

young aspiring musicians give their own renditions of classics. youtube.com/user/KripaUnplugged

**Free launch,**

the Nepali underground band Divine Influence play live to release their new EP Scarecrow. 17 May, Purple Haze

Rashid in Kathmandu,

go watch the great Indian vocal maestro Ustad Rashid Khan live, accompanied by Jyoti Goho, Satyajit Talwaker, Murad Ali Khan, Yaswanth Golcha, Manoj Gautam, and Salikram Ghimire. Rs 1000/2000/3000/5000, 23 May, 5.45pm onwards, Royal Academy Hall

**Take a bow,**

catch the jazz violinist Guillaume Blanc live. Free entrance, 6 June, Jazz Upstairs, Lajimpat

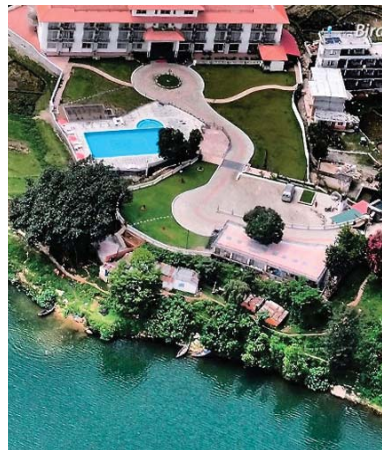
GETAWAYS

Barahi Jungle Lodge,

the first eco-jungle lodge of Chitwan directly overlooks the Chitwan National Park, spa, boutique guest room, individual and two-in-one private villas, including a suite with a private swimming pool. Andrauli, West Chitwan, www.barahijunglelodge.com

Atithi Resort,

a perfect place to stay, nearby pool, massage, sauna, and delicious food of your choice. Shantipatan, Lakeside, Pokhara, (61) 466760, (01) 4002077

**Waterfront Resort,**

take advantage of the summer discount and while away in the lake city. Rs 8,999 per person for two nights and three days, Sedi Height, Pokhara, (061) 466370/04, 9801166311, waterfronthotelnepal.com

Weekend brunch,

start your weekend with a sumptuous breakfast at the corner of Kathmandu, swimming included. Rs 1,499, 11am to 3pm, Park Village Resort, Budhanilkantha, (01) 4375280/952, ktmgh.com

India week

Indian Cultural Centre in association with U-turn events is organising a week-long Indian cultural fest starting 16 May. "The event will provide a platform to spread the rich Indian culture in Nepal," read a statement issued by the Centre. "We aim to further boost bilateral, cultural relations with Nepal."

The event kickstarts with the ambassador's culinary challenge at Hotel Annapurna, followed by a long list of events which include an Indian carnival, food festival, film festival, marathon, and exhibition of Rabindranath Tagore's paintings. Troupes of Sarod players, Bhangra and Manipuri dancers will also be performing outside Kathmandu at Pokhara, Birganj, and Chitwan during the week-long fest. Indian classical singing maestro Ustad Rashid Khan will end the event with a performance accompanied by Nepali artists Manoj Gautam and Salikram Ghimire.

17 to 23 May



ARTIST TALK

Born and raised in Dharan artist Subash Thebe graduated from Middlesex University London in 2011 in BA Fine

Art. After seeing the works of Gerhard Richter, Anselm Kiefer and most notably Jason Martin, in flesh, Subash began to explore abstraction and created paintings, inspired by classical music, which were eventually named after the title of the score. His recent works engage a variety of different themes and discourses; responding to the contemporary socio-political issues as seen through the lens of mainstream media. Hear this contemporary Nepali artist talk about his work this week at KCAC.

18 May, 3pm onwards, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babar Mahal

Mahindra XUV 500

THE MOST AWARDED SUV

XUV-500 W4

@ AMAZING PRICE

47.50 LAKHS

BOOKING OPEN

XUV 500

MORE REASONS TO OWN THE XUV-500 W4

LUXURIOUS INTERIOR
& MANY MORE

DUAL AIR-BAGS

ABS with EBD

EXPERIENCE THE DRIVE FOR YOURSELF

Mahindra Rise.

AGNI INCORPORATED PVT. LTD.

Uttardhoka, Kathmandu, Nepal, Tel: 4414626, 4414628, Fax : 4416718, Email: marketing@agniinc.com.np, URL: www.agniinc.com.np

Branch: Birgunj, Tel: 051-521456, Workshop: Balaju Industrial Area, Tel : 4350994, Spare Parts Outlet: Kuleshwor Kathmandu, Tel: 4277140

Authorized Service Center: Balkhu: Tel: 4277864, Jorpati, Tel: 4910533, Balkumari, Tel: 5520460, Charikot, Mobile: 9843422525, Manthali, Mobile: 9844044012

Authorized Dealers: Birtamode, Tel/Fax: 023-540696, Dharan, Tel: 025-520397, Biratnagar, Tel: 021- 461178, Rajbiraj, Tel: 031- 522666, Janakpur, Tel: 041-528882, Lahan, Tel: 033-561895, Sindhuli, Tel: 047-520094, Rautahat, Tel: 055-520096, Hetauda, Tel: 057-524341, Banepa, Tel: 011-664302, Birgunj, Tel: 051-530609, Chitwan, Tel/Fax: 056- 522168, Narayanghat, Tel: 056-521511, Pokhara, Tel: 061-532468, Butwal, Tel: 071-414203, Bhairahawa, Tel: 071-526198, Dang, Tel: 082-560278, Jumla, Mobile: 9848047873, Surkhet, Tel: 083-525270, Nepalgunj, Tel: 081-551599, Kanchanpur, Tel: 099-520854, Dhangadhi, Tel: 091-522058

www.mahindraxuv500.com facebook.com/mahindraxuv500 twitter.com/mahindraxuv500 youtube.com/mahindraxuv500

For Test drive Call

9802095500

9801085500



Yes, you can actually see stars reflected on the mirror surface of Rara Lake

ON HEAVEN

BINITA DAHAL
in MUGU



If there was a list of the ten places in Nepal to see before you die, then this jewel of a lake tucked away in the remote mountains of the northwestern corner of Nepal would be it.

Rara, even the name evokes longing, beauty and isolation. The beauty will probably remain, but Rara is not remote for much longer. A road linking it to the Karnali Highway is nearly complete, and by June the upgraded airfield at Talcha will open. It will theoretically be possible to fly out from Kathmandu in the morning and be on the shores of Rara before lunch.

The old way is to fly to Jumla via Nepalganj and do the three-day walk. This is not a trek in the usual

meaning of the term in Nepal: there are no lodges or restaurants. You climb past horse pastures up to Danfe Lekh, aptly named after Nepal's national bird, the impeyan pheasant. It was dark by the time we reached the pass which was still covered in snow.

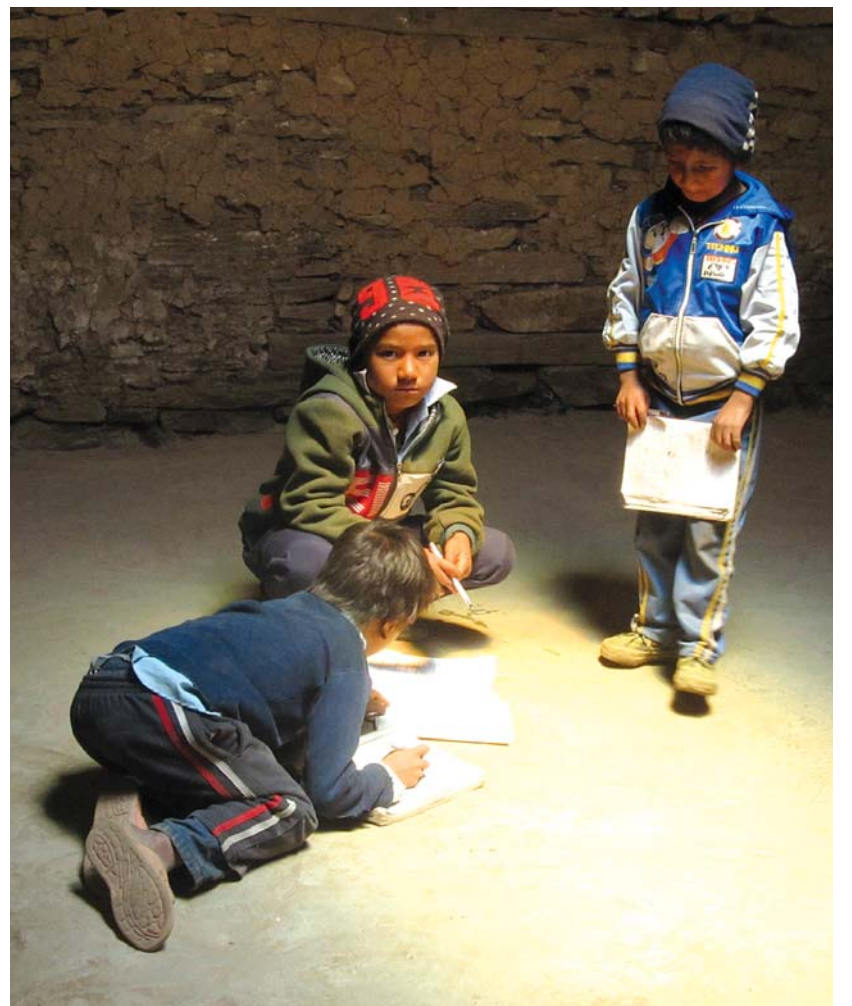
The night stop at Khali lived up to its name, it was completely empty by the time we got there. We knocked on the door of a house and asked to stay the night. The hospitable owner offered to cook rice, dal and bean curry. His wife Phulmaya offered her blankets even though we were complete strangers. This is the hospitable Nepal before 'trekking' arrived.

The second day my two companions decided the trail

was too difficult and turned back, sending me a note with a villager on the trail. I had to press on by myself, and followed the old foot trail that now has tractors and Swaraj trucks groaning and lurching on it. My feet were hurting and the dust from the vehicles did not make this a pleasant walk.

But the first sight of the azure blue Rara wiped away all the discomfort. I made my way to the army camp that guards the national park and the nearby guest house which is called (what else?) Danfe. My father, who had flown in ahead via Talcha joined me there.

The next morning, watching the dawn sky reflected on the mirror surface of the lake and the sun rising from behind the Dolpo mountains, was a sight that cleansed my soul.

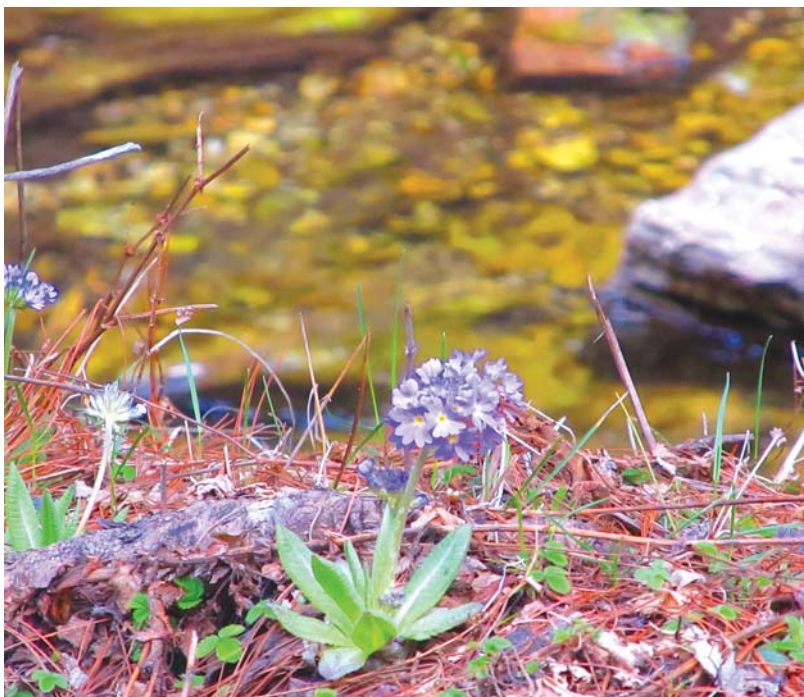


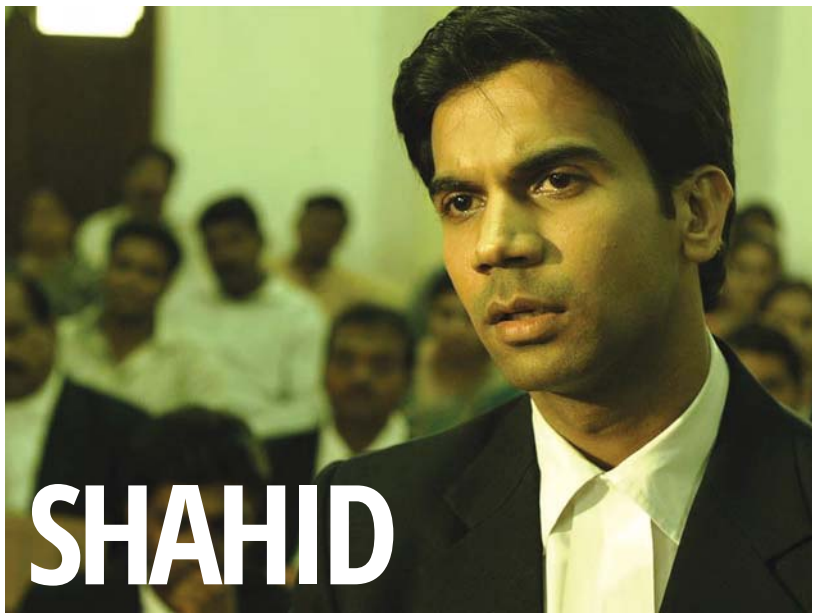
N'S SHORE

Rara is one of those places that make you glad to be alive to be able to witness such beauty. That night I saw that the saying "*Rara ma tara talkancha*" is actually true: the stars are actually reflected on the lake.

You can spend hours watching the lake change colour with the time of day, exploring the surroundings, the Shiva Temple and the summit of Murma Top at 3700m. By end-May the flowers will be out and the waterbirds migrating back from Siberia will have arrived.

There are sights that your mind never forgets for the rest of your life. My father woke me up at 2am to see the moon rise over the lake. The water radiated an otherworldly light of its own. A sight so sacred it was like seeing the dawn of the creation of the universe. 🇳🇵





In this part of the world, organised attacks on civilians and the reactive policing that follows often get played out in the media but never make their way into films. Indian filmmaker Hansal Mehta treads where Bollywood refuses to glance in *Shahid*, a biopic about lawyer Shahid Azmi who was shot dead in 2010 for fighting pro-bono cases on behalf of those wrongly accused of terrorism.

The film starts with the young Shahid (Raj Kumar Yadav) narrowly escaping death in 1992/93's Bombay Riots and then training as an insurgent in the mountains of Kashmir. Unable to handle the physical and ideological teaching, Shahid escapes back to Bombay but is imprisoned on arrival for purported links to terrorist groups. In Delhi's Tihar Jail, the impressionable youngster has

to seek a careful balance between ideologues who want to recruit him and others who want to reform him. Ultimately, the latter's efforts prevail and Shahid gets acquitted.


Once outside and leading a free life, Shahid chooses to study and practice law. He starts his own firm and fights on behalf of the underdogs for nominal fees. This is how he meets Maryam, a divorcee mother who becomes his wife. The new husband is also married to his work, mostly fighting for bystanders who get scapegoated after terrorist attacks. Case after case, we see Shahid get the innocents out of jail. Soon, both the media and unseen enemies want him stopped for their own reasons.

The real-life Azmi was renowned for getting 17 acquittals in seven years, and director Mehta

spends most of the film enacting his brilliant career. Shahid's early journey to Kashmir and his time in jail are shown rather briefly. These 'formative years', when Shahid goes from innocent witness to wannabe rebel and his latter transformation from a traumatised prisoner to a lawyer for the misjudged, should have been crucial in a character study like *Shahid*. We are told our hero wants to fight for the voiceless but we aren't convinced why.

However, the film is worth the trouble of finding a DVD just for Raj Kumar Yadav's performance. Recently awarded the Best Actor award at India's National Film Awards (NFA) for "portrayal of the journey of a Muslim young man who is persecuted, who rebels and ultimately comes back to fight injustice as a committed law abiding lawyer", Yadav

drives *Shahid* from start to finish.

From 2010 to 2013, Mehta was on a self-imposed break, tired of making cheesy and formulaic Bollywood films. His comeback has been vindicated somewhat with his reception of the Best Direction award at the NFA for *Shahid*, "a story that is an inspiring testament to the human spirit". The next film featuring both actor and director is *CityLights*, based on the BAFTA nominated *Metro Manila*, which is all set to release on 30 May.  **Sunir Pandey**

MUST SEE

nepalintimes.com

Watch trailer





the week in pictures is brought to you by

SPRING SUMMER 2014

NEW COLLECTION NOW IN STORE

SHOE · A · HOLICS

Jamal 4225627 Pulchowk 5524812

HAPPENINGS



BIKASH DWARE

LET'S TALK: UCPN(Maoist) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Prime Minister Sushil Koirala and CPN-UML leader Madhav Kumar Nepal during the three party meeting at Baluwatar on Monday.



BIKRAM RAI

NEW HOMES: Visitors examine apartment models at the Real Estate Expo in Bhrikuti Mandap on Saturday.



KRISHNA SINJALI

ROYAL AFFAIR: Locals welcome former King Gyanendra Shah at the inaugural program of the Rajbanshi festival in Jhapa on Saturday.



HARIZ BAHARUDIN

SAY CHEESE (L-R): Nishchal N. Pandey of the Centre for South Asian Studies in Kathmandu with Former US Secretary of State George Shultz, Mallika Joseph from India and Ambassador Humayun Kabir from Bangladesh at a seminar at Stanford University Hoover Institution last week.

Realise. More



EPSON
EXCEED YOUR VISION

HEAT, HANDS OR HUMIDITY,
EXTREME PRECISION
SURVIVES IT ALL.

**Fade/Water/Rub resistance.
Extreme durability. Extreme precision.**

The new Epson SureColor™ SC-T3070/T5070/T7070, for 61cm/91cm/112cm-wide architectural drawings/renderings, come with the extreme precision of the Epson Micro Piezo TFP print head, coupled with high-speed cartridge drive technology. And with Epson UltraChrome™ XD Ink – an extremely durable ink formulation that is not only water resistant but also lightfast and rub resistant, you can now get archival-quality, long-lasting prints that will build and grow your business and revenues well beyond the usual.

CONTACT TODAY!

MERCANTILE
OFFICE SYSTEMS PVT. LTD.

Authorized Distributor
Hiti Pokhari, Durbar Marg
Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 1-4440773/4445620



NayanTara Gurung Kakshapati spoke to Lawoti about his ongoing exhibition.

What led you to start this project? What inspired you to look at these issues?

A lot has happened in Nepal in the last twenty-five years. I wanted my work to be about this transformation in Nepal. I wanted to make a body of work of contemporary Nepal that was socially, politically and visually engaging. As the work developed, I decided to focus on the six marginalised groups and their activists during Nepal's constitution writing process. I chose to work with these six groups because they are some of the key identities that have been historically marginalised and who face a tremendous representational deficit in the current constitution writing

The voiceless faces

Taking Kathmandu as the geographic setting, and with focus on activists of six social and political movements during the constitution writing process, photographer Surendra Lawoti's (*pic, left*) exhibit *This Country is Yours* aims to provide space to "the historically marginalised."

process. This work aims to facilitate recognition of these identities and the larger issues that surrounds them.

As a photographer, how do you feel about visual representation of marginalised people or lack thereof?

Visual culture in Nepal is not as developed as in the West. Most of visual representation of Nepal is done through the exotic lens - images of mountains, temples, rustic portraits of ethnic people and so on. I think there is a lot to be done in representing the marginalised in a respectful way. One of main reasons why I wanted to work with the six groups is that these activists are barely represented visually. It is my hope that my photographs serve as records of our historic moment.

How have you dealt with insider/outsider issues in this body of work?

My work is based on intensive research - reading, talking to people, interviewing people, and explaining the scope of my work and its potential dissemination to the participants. It is also a long-term body of work. I am not parachuting in with a fancy camera and am shutter happy for a day or two. I try to understand the underlying issues, its nuances as much as I can to blur the boundaries of the other.

THIS COUNTRY IS YOURS

16 May to 1 June, 11am to 7pm
Nepal Art Council, Babarmahal



SURENDRA LAWOTI

Screening of *Sweat Drenched Land* by Arun Pradhan, 16 May, 5.30 to 6.30pm
Gallery walk-through with Surendra Lawoti, 17 May, 3 to 4pm,
mail@photocircle.com.np to register

Panel discussion on 'Visual representations of marginalised groups or lack there of', moderated by NayanTara Gurung Kakshapati, 22 May, 4 to 5pm
Artist talk with Surendra Lawoti, 25 May, 4 to 5.30pm
Surendra Lawoti offers portfolio reviews for Nepali photographers and visual artists, 31 May, all day, mail@photocircle.com.np to register



PICS: RUBY TUESDAY

LA DOLCE VITA

La Dolce Vita has been around since 1986 and is one of the few restaurants in Kathmandu to be able to boast of such longevity. The secret to its success seems to lie in its conviction that it doesn't have to jump onto "serve everything and cater to everyone's demands bandwagon", but to quietly plod away, determined to provide the best quality Italian food in Nepal. And it is a philosophy that has clearly worked. Travellers recommend this tiny gem of a place to others and for Kathmanduites in the know, there is no other place quite like it if the craving for pizzas and pastas in rich sauces rise.

Located on the busiest intersection of Thamel, it is always amazing to see how quiet and relaxing it is inside. Spread out over three floors, earthy, rustic and comforting, La Dolce Vita is the

perfect place to slip away for some discreet people watching. I prefer it in the afternoons when it is less noisy largely due to the lack of wanna-be rock bands blaring out bad cover versions of 70s rock hits raucously from neighbouring rooftop restaurants.

My fellow food explorers on this jaunt to La Dolce Vita were of the meat and pasta loving variety and I had been forewarned that they would not tolerate nibbling on



salad greens or biting off delicate bits of antipasti. So we dove right into the mains and started with the Pizza Hawaiian (Rs 550).

La Dolce Vita is owned by the same brothers who own the widely popular Roadhouse Cafés and the wood fired oven thin crust pizza did not disappoint. Most pizza aficionados would shudder at the thought of pineapple on a pizza. But I happen to love the sharp sweet bits of pineapple that clash so delightfully with the rich fattiness of the mozzarella. The cheese bubbles and wraps itself around the little fruity chunks; the ham provides a salty burst of flavor - what's not to love? Also I will admit that I feel it is a healthier option- the fruit being better than say sausages and salami- my other two favourite pizza toppings.

Everything sounds better in

Italian- case in point - the Braciola de Maiale alla Griglia (Rs 650) which is a honey glazed pork chop with wedged potatoes and steamed veggies. The language transforms the humble chop into one of lip smacking deliciousness and thankfully the actual dish lives upto the rather fancy name. Yes, another dish with sucrose added to it and yet another case of the sweetness of the honey bringing out the full range of flavors of the meat but I loved the slightly charred edges on the meat, even using the bread to mop up the remaining sauce rendering my plate spotless.

If there was one dish that I would recommend wholeheartedly- it would be this- the Ravioli di farmagio di Capra e Spinaci (Rs 525). My love for meat is well-documented so just the fact

that I would willingly choose this vegetarian dish says a lot about how good it was. Perfectly cooked pockets of pasta encase a delicate mix of goat cheese and spinach and this comes with a decadent béchamel sauce with generous lashings of parmesan cheese, accompanied with thick chunks of hearty beard to sop up the remaining goodness.

This is a place to go and have a long leisurely meal, take breaks between courses, and then make sure that even if you can't eat another bite, have enough space left in your tummy for an excellent cup of freshly brewed espresso. Lounge on one of the sofas at the terrace garden while sipping on your coffee after all La Dolce Vita is the good life... a good, good life. 🇳🇵

Ruby Tuesday

How to get there: La Dolce Vita is right opposite the Kathmandu Guest House gate in Thamel.



Great Food Deserves Carlsberg

That calls for a 

Still neglected

The term 'neglected illnesses' refers to diseases in the developing world that remain scourges without remedies in sight, even though the academic understanding has improved.



DHANVANTARI
Buddha Basnyat, MD

Some years ago the medical journal *Nature* published the genomic sequence of the organism which caused the plague (Black Death) in Europe in the middle ages. The bacteria was reconstructed from the remains of buried victims. Genome sequencing of many organisms has happened rapidly, but has this 'basic science' enhancement of our knowledge helped us in a practical sense? Not really.

About 12 years ago the genomic sequencing of the typhoid bacteria (*see pic*) was carried out. Many scientists at that time wrote ecstatically about how this would lead to revolutionary changes in typhoid fever treatment. Sadly, more than a decade later we have made no obvious progress in taking care of typhoid patients. The academic thrill of discovery did not translate to more effective patient outcome.

Because typhoid can affect anyone in Nepal (from highly-placed officials to high-altitude climbers to school children) we all continue to suffer from the lack of prompt, proper diagnosis and treatment for this ubiquitous

disease despite a huge gain in theoretical knowledge. What happened?

After the laboratory scientists sequenced the typhoid bacteria they moved on to other 'virgin territories' in sequencing. The problem is that diseases like typhoid, typhus, rabies, hepatitis E, and snake bites really do not have a spokesperson or lobby groups, and are truly considered biblical diseases generally confined to the developing world. There is, for example, no financial incentive to take advantage of the typhoid bacterial sequencing to make cost-effective, accurate diagnostic tools to help with patient care in typhoid fever.



Compare typhoid fever with HIV/AIDS which continues to make important gains in prevention and treatment. This favorable bias towards diseases like HIV is obvious in the funding pattern of the US National Institute of Health (NIH) and even the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Of course, if we had clean drinking water and improved sanitation and plumbing, typhoid would disappear, but that would require

tremendous political will.

With summer we are already seeing outbreaks of a host of diseases such as hepatitis which has already started causing problems in Biratnagar. It has been reported as hepatitis A or E, but available rapid diagnostic tests are not always reliable and many cases of hepatitis E may be missed. Sophisticated tests like PCR (polymerase chain reaction) are generally expensive and unavailable in Nepal, so a proper diagnosis is often not made, hampering proper management of the case.

Another neglected problem rampant in the Tarai are snakebites. Year after year there continues to be a shortage of life-saving anti-snake venom, which means more farmers and their families are going to fall victims.

Rabies is not a seasonal disease and is generally present in the same intensity the year around. But thankfully at least for dog bite victim, the Health Ministry administers the expensive anti rabies vaccine for free. Often rabies affects children and even a small puncture wound by a rabid dog's teeth may potentially cause rabies. So it is crucial to obtain the vaccine and importantly also to clean the dog bite wound with soap and water and iodine very carefully as the rabies virus tends to stay at the bite site.

Targeted assistance from charities like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation would focus attention on disease that have been neglected for too long because they afflict mainly the poor in poor countries. 🇳🇵

GIZMO by YANTRICK

Tab that kids

So you've recently bought a top-of-the-line tablet, but even before your fingers begin to get comfortable with the new device, your child takes it away from you to play (whatelse but) Candy Crush. When you do get your device back, most likely only after your child goes to bed, chances are it will look nothing like the sleek new gadget you had purchased only hours ago.

Like adults, children these days are gadget crazy. Most get their first tablet/smartphone even before their teens and as with every tech-freak, want to own the latest in the market. Keeping this in mind, Samsung recently released a children's version of their popular Galaxy Tablet, the Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 Kids Edition that is tailored to keep both the parents and their children happy.

Despite its brightly coloured exterior, the kids edition, is essentially the same device as the Tab 3. However, there are a few tweaks. The Kids Edition comes with a rubbery surround case which protects it from low-level drops. There is also an additional case which includes a carry handle that can be converted into a stand (*see pic*) and a large stylus on a string.

The 7-inch screen offers a decent resolution of 1,024 pixels x 600 pixels, and although the video quality fails to qualify as HD, it produces bright and vibrant pictures. There are two cameras on board, a 3 MP one on the rear and a 1.3 MP version on the front, both of which can be used with the kids' apps.

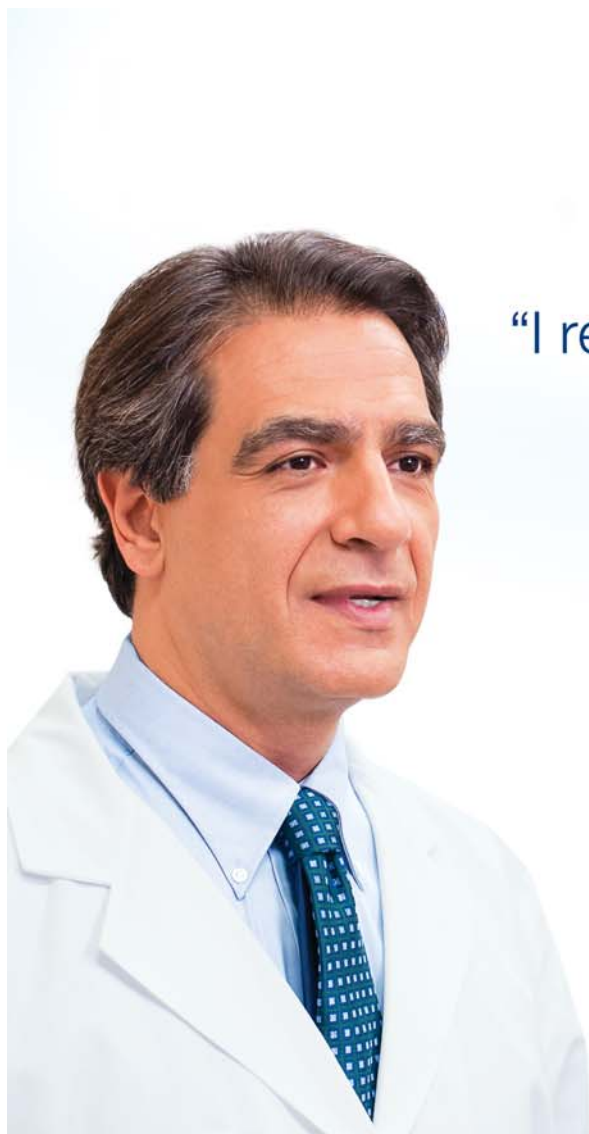
The Tab 3 Kids Edition is powered by a dual-core 1.2GHz processor, and is backed by 1GB Ram, which keep most of the kids' apps running at optimum speed, although the speed gets sluggish while playing more advanced games. Two modes of video display are available: standard Android screen and the Kids Mode, a simple colourful interface, which makes it easy for your little ones to find their way around.

With 8GB of on-board memory, the tab offers a plenty of room for apps, videos, and music but if your child has a large appetite, then you can always expand the memory upto 32GB via a microSD card. But if you are worried about your child spending too much time on this new purchase, relax. The built-in parental controls and time limit settings ensure that parents get to regulate web and Google Play access and manage the time usage.

Your little ones are guaranteed to have a ball of time accessing a wide range of games and apps on this one. And, you are never too old to hold one yourself. If people do see you playing with one, just switch to normal mode and claim you are checking emails. At Rs 20,000 it is also much more wallet friendly than many of other tabs on sale. 🇳🇵




Yantrick's verdict: The Tab 3 Kids Edition might just be the best gadget in the market for children today.

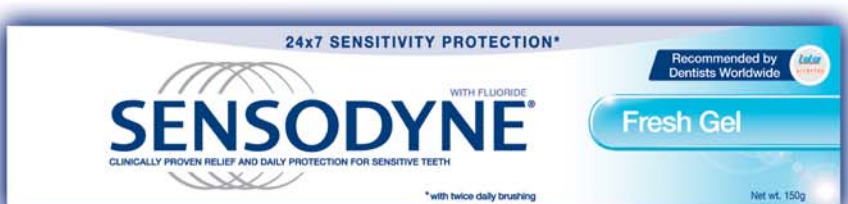


"I recommend Sensodyne for all day every day sensitivity protection."

-Dr. Spiro Condos, dentist practicing in the US



24x7 SENSITIVITY PROTECTION



24x7 SENSITIVITY PROTECTION*

SENSODYNE WITH FLUORIDE

CLINICALLY PROVEN RELIEF AND DAILY PROTECTION FOR SENSITIVE TEETH

Recommended by Dentists Worldwide

Fresh Gel

*with twice daily brushing

Net wt. 150g

World's No.1 Sensitivity Toothpaste

*Brush twice daily for continuous protection

Sensodyne is a registered trademark of GlaxoSmithKline Group of Companies.

© 2013, GlaxoSmithKline

By the time you read this column in Nepal, the results from India's mammoth month-long elections will be coming in and there is one thing we can predict: the Congress will be blown out of power. What is uncertain is the magnitude of its impending defeat.



LOOK OUT
Ajaz Ashraf

India's grand old party faces an existential crisis that Sonia Gandhi's son and heir apparent, Rahul, may not be able to overcome. The crisis has both immediate and long-term implications.

In the short-term, the party needs to analyse the reasons for its defeat and the ouster of the Congress-led coalition government of Manmohan Singh, the only prime minister other than Jawaharlal Nehru to have completed two five-year terms in office. This remarkable feat has been diminished by inflation and economic slowdown.

But what really damaged the government was the slew of massive corruption scandals. You can say the Congress entered the 2014 electoral race with a torn hamstring, that it is victim of the worldwide recession, over which it had little control. It's possible to claim, therefore, that the debacle of the Congress is a hiccup, and not an existential crisis.

But Congress does face a crisis



PRESSBRIEF.IN

of perception. Beginning 1989, it has won over 200 seats in the 545-member Indian lower house of parliament only twice – in 1991 and 2009. In 1991, it won because the coalition government comprising regional groups proved notoriously unstable.

The BJP couldn't become a national alternative as it failed to find allies in pockets where it was absent. No less significant was the sympathy vote the Congress mopped up following the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi during the 1991 elections. In other words, the Congress won in 1991 not on its strength but because of the weaknesses of its rivals.

This was the dominant theme of the 2004 elections as well: the BJP-led coalition government's slogan of 'Shining India' triggered a reaction among the teeming poor who thought their poverty was being mocked. They gave the Congress 145 seats, and a surprising shot at governance. It

interpreted the mandate to introduce a slew of social welfare measures because of which it swept past the 200-mark in the 2009 elections.

When out of power, the Congress wins because of the failures of others. In power, it woos the electorate through pro-poor policies, and its innate capacity to mean something



INDIA ELECTIONS
2014

The rise and fall of the Congress

India's grand old party faces an existential crisis



crisis in the Congress is the splintering of its social support base, comprising upper caste Hindus, Muslims, and Dalits. In 1990, the government of VP Singh set aside a quota of jobs for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) much to the chagrin of upper castes, who felt betrayed by the Congress because of its reluctance to oppose this administrative measure.

Worse, the party did not support the policy of job quota either, thus alienating both the OBC and Dalits. The demolition of the Babri Masjid mosque in 1992 during the watch of Congress Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao in 1992 led Muslims to desert the mother ship.

In the last 25 years, there has been a proliferation of parties in India representing the interests of lower castes who have greater allure for them than the famed charisma of the Nehru-Gandhi family. The diminishing importance of charisma is inversely proportional to the rationalisation of India's politics, evident in the slogan the 'lower' castes have coined: Our Vote, Our Rule'.

Sonia Gandhi's children, Rahul and Priyanka, can rebuild the Congress by taking to the streets, not by waving at people from vehicles. ashrafajaz3@gmail.com

COME VISIT US @ OUR NEWLY RENOVATED SHOW ROOM

*New Arrivals
Wallpapers, Carpets and
Furnishing Materials*

New Madan Furnishers Pvt. Ltd.
Kupondole, Lalitpur, Nepal
Tel: 552 3236, 552 0318 Fax: 553 6927
info@nmfurnishers.com | www.nmfurnishers.com

Make each moment memorable

Marketed by
NEPAL CRS COMPANY

Dizire
Make each moment memorable

“My husband and in-laws



Patriarchal values in a male-dominated society keep the dowry system alive in Nepal

AYESHA SHAKYA

A frail figure, heavily bandaged, lies on a bed at Bir Hospital in Kathmandu. She has a distant expression on her face which is writ large with the fatigue from her excruciating trauma.

Rihana Sheikh Dhaphali (pic, above) is just 19, and she was married last year. Her voice is barely audible as she recounts how

her husband, Farid Sheikh, and in-laws set her on fire two months ago in Banke district for not bringing enough dowry. Rihana was seven months pregnant. Her husband and mother-in-law had been nagging her persistently about bringing a motorcycle, wrist watch and buffalo as dowry, even though there had been no request for it initially.

“Both my husband and mother-in-law would threaten me to bring dowry from my parents,” Rihana said weakly. “First

they only shouted at me, then they started hitting me. I didn’t tell anyone what was happening, not even my parents. I just kept things to myself and cried alone.” Farid then started torturing his wife, often burning her with cigarette butts.

On 17 March, he tied Rihana’s hands, and while his mother-in-law poured kerosene, he lit a match and set her on fire. Although she sustained severe burns over the lower part of her body, Rihana was locked up in her room and not taken to

hospital for three days.

When her condition worsened, Farid took her to a hospital across the border in Bahraich in India, threatening her not to tell the doctors what happened. Later, she was brought back to Bheri Zonal Hospital in Nepalganj. But as her health deteriorated, Rihana lost her baby, and the human rights group, INSEC, arranged for her to be taken to Kathmandu.

Police in Banke say they are investigating the crime, but Farid Sheikh

Waiting for rain

For residents of Siraha, Kathmandu is too self-absorbed and too far away

The sun beats down mercilessly, baking the fields and dry river beds. There has been no rain for months here in the eastern Tarai, and the fallow fields wait for the monsoon that is at least a month away. It feels like this part of the



INTERESTING TIMES
Mallika Aryal

plains went straight from winter to summer this year, skipping spring.

A group has gathered in front of the health-post in the village of Bishnupukarti of Siraha district after a long hot day in the fields. Under the shade of a tin-roofed porch, they sit murmuring to themselves. One gets up to bring a round of chiso, and the conversation veers towards

farming, the heat, water scarcity, and their concern about the monsoon.

The Indian border is 30km away, and the nearest town is in the throes of election fever. The conversation inevitably turns to how a possible BJP win will affect Nepal. Most people aren’t sure, and someone asks: “When is the election?” Goma Shrestha is auxiliary nurse but is interested in politics. She tells the group: “We live next to the world’s largest democracy where they are voting and we don’t know when it is?”

The disinterest about Indian politics may be understandable, since it doesn’t affect ordinary people in the Tarai directly. But this lack of interest is not just limited to Indian politics. They’re not really interested in talking about Nepali politics, either. “We are ordinary people, we don’t want to talk about politics,” says Ram Yadav, “in fact, we’re sick of it.”



BIKRAM RAI

The village neighbours the constituency where Maoist Supremo Pushpa Kamal Dahal supposedly beat the UML candidate by a thin margin of 900 votes in November elections. It has been five months, and once more the politicians they elected have forgotten the voters. “The last election was just for show, to pacify poor people like us, real politics happens in Kathmandu

behind closed doors and it is messy and selfish,” said Hile Lungdi.

Nearby is the highway town of Lahan, the epicenter of the Madhes uprising in the winter of 2007. The fatal shooting of 16-year-old Ramesh Mahato in a clash with the Maoists on the main road in Lahan sparked the Madhes Movement.

Seven years later, the anger seems to have dissipated here.

“The Madhes Movement was supposed to decentralise power away from Kathmandu,” says Pritam Sah, “instead the leaders got entangled with Kathmandu politicians and now the movement has become defunct and its achievements amount to nothing.”

The neglect and apathy is evident everywhere in the absence of the Nepali state. The only visible sign of change is that the roads are being widened. Hundreds of thousands of people of the Tarai, desperate for jobs, are voting with their feet and have left or are leaving for the Gulf or Malaysia.

But getting a citizenship certificate or passport is another ordeal. “We have to walk around for two days just to get a recommendation from the VDC for a citizenship certification because the ward office can’t do it,” says Jeevan Phunyal, “when we finally get to the VDC, the secretary is absent.”

There is frustration with local

left me to die”



PICS: BVS

45 reported dowry-related violence incidents in 2013

WOREC

and his family are believed to have fled to India.

Piyush Dahal, chief of the Burns Unit at Bir Hospital said her legs were heavily contracted and the wounds were oozing with pus when she arrived. So far, doctors are trying to prevent infection, and are waiting to perform skin grafts.

Says Dahal: “Burns related cases are always very critical if infections set in. We restrict visitors, but allow family members because she needs psychological support. It is not just about physical healing, emotional support goes a long way to help patients forget the pain.”

Unlike many bride burning cases

where the girl’s parents don’t want to be involved, Rihana’s family has been by her side all along. Her father, Samin Sheikh, says he was not aware of what his daughter was facing at her in-law’s house. Rihana has seven siblings and one of her sisters, Hasina Banu, is with her at the hospital in Kathmandu. The family has appealed for Group AB+ blood for transfusion before the operation.

Burn Violence Survivors (BVS) which works with victims of domestic violence and burns victims, has taken up Rihana’s case and is paying for her treatment. Apart from the operation, doctors are focusing on nutrition and physiotherapy, two factors

which are crucial in enabling Rihana to walk again. BVS also helps patients with rehabilitation and skills training for income generation so that they can be financially independent once she is well again. Although the agency offers legal help to patients to take their tormentors to court, most women who survive attacks back down after threats from in-laws.

“If Rihana’s family don’t change their mind considering legal actions against her husband and in-laws, it would be a test case for the rest,” says Wendy Marston of BVS, “but we can only support them, not push them.”

From her hospital bed, Rihana says she wants her husband and in-laws to face justice. “I used to lead a happy life before my marriage. Now look at me, my husband and in-laws have just left me here to die,” she adds.

Although illegal, the dowry system persists because it is so deeply rooted in the patriarchy prevalent in Nepal, especially in the Tarai region (see map). In India, the incidence of bride burning is increasing despite a law against dowry being in place since 1961. In 2010 police said there were 8,400 cases of dowry deaths in India. Many more are said to have been unreported.

Activists note that education and middle class values have not reduced the incidence of domestic violence against women. They say entrenched patriarchy and the culture of consumerism has further encouraged dowry demands. Because of the cultural similarities, the same trends are visible across the border in Nepal as well.

“Women are aware of the dowry system but they don’t yet have the capacity to speak up against it,” says Sabitri Pokharel, program coordinator in the secretariat of Mahila Adhikar Manch. “We need to empower women so they are able to stand up for their rights and choices. We need to educate children on the dowry system so that as adults they learn to oppose it.” She says the new constitution needs to ratify laws on the dowry system so perpetrators of violence

don’t go unpunished.

According to Women’s Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), the most common form of domestic violence are beating and burning, normally perpetuated by the husbands or in-laws. Last month, WOREC started a “No to Dowry” campaign in two Tarai districts where the prevalence of dowry violence is said to be highest, Dhanusha and Siraha. The agency is using pamphlets, posters and street drama to spread awareness during the campaign. 🇳🇵

Burns Violence Survivors (BVS)

<http://www.bvsnepal.org.np/>
For donation: Ace Development Bank Ltd Naxal, Narayan Chour Ward No 1 Kathmandu, Nepal
Bank a/c #: 004004000000129007
Swift Code: ACDENPKA
To donate AB+ blood for Rihana: Bir Hospital



ANGRY BRIDES

An online game against dowry that is inspired by Angry Birds has got nearly 300,000 likes on Facebook. The game was developed by the matchmaking site shaadi.com and allows players to attack greedy grooms (a pilot, a doctor and an engineer) with a choice of projectiles. The grooms try to dodge the missiles, while presenting dowry demands. If the groom is hit, the player wins money that is donated to an online anti-dowry fund.

To play: <http://angrybrides.im>

leaders and simmering anger towards the centres of power in Kathmandu. The disinterest of the people of Siraha with politics and their leaders is because they don’t expect anything from them.

However, they believe local elections could improve their lives a bit. Elected local leaders would be more accountable, and pay more attention to their needs than faraway and self-absorbed leaders in Kathmandu. The people in the plains are worried that the despair will once more boil over because they have been without government for so long.

Says Pritam Sah: “Kathmandu stopped listening to us long ago, and unfortunately, we’ve learned to live with that. But if anyone is still listening to the people of the Madhes we have just one request — write the constitution and announce local elections. What you do in Kathmandu is your business. Give us back our local leaders.” 🇳🇵

SPECIAL
SUMMER PACKAGE
FOR NEPALESE
NATIONALS

Limited Offer till
31st August 2014

Luxury
as magical as
nature

2 Nights / 3 Days Package

NRP. ~~18,000~~ Per Person Now NPR. 12,000 Per Person
Child Policy : 50% for the child below 12 years
Subject to 10% Service Charge & 13% VAT

Package Includes:
Accommodation in twin sharing deluxe boutique villa with meals and wildlife activities as per the package.

Cost does not include: Transfer, Bar bill & Laundry.

For further query: Please contact 4429575/4429820/9851093437
Email: barahi@wlink.com.np / bjl@barahi.com

www.barahijunglelodge.com



BIKASH DWARE

At Baluwatar

Jana Aastha, 14 May

आस्था

Conversation at Baluwatar between NC, UML, and UCPN(M) leaders about appointments to the Supreme Court.

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala: “The judiciary will be wrecked if you block everything we do. Is that what you really want?”

Law Minister Narahari Acharya: “We’ve done everything by the book. Looking at each case individually will be too much trouble.”

NC’s Krishna Prasad Sitaula: “Exactly, it’s time to get this over and done with.”

Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat: “But some say dismissing temporary justices and promoting others is manipulation. It would be wrong to proceed if that turned out to be true.”

UML’s Madhav Nepal: “Let’s drop them if we are acting unconstitutionally, otherwise let us just nominate them.”

UCPN(M)’s Narayan Kaji Shrestha: “What do you mean by obstacles? Democracy is about checks and balances. You have to investigate each case separately. What are the reasons

for dismissing temporary justices and recommending 8 names for 16 posts?”

UML’s Ishwar Pokhrel: “Our official stance is that we shouldn’t pass this at all.”

UML’s Bamdev Gautam: “We will come back with our official position after discussing this at a meeting.”

UCPN(M)’s Pushpa Kamal Dahal: “You have been planning to capture the Supreme Court for 20 years. Not one of those recommended justices meet the criteria.”

Sushil Koirala: “Why are you obstructing everything? Don’t you want us to get anything done?”



हिमाल

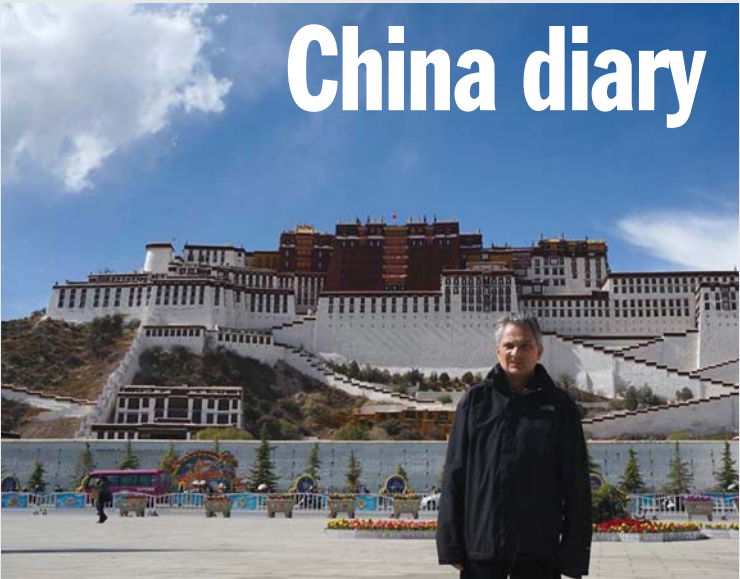
Bilash Rai in Himal Khabarpatrika, 27 April - 3 May

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“Bhattarai wrote months ago that we needed a new power, but in Biratnagar he went along with the Chairman’s proposal. He has become a player, not a politician.”

UCPN(M) leader Mani Thapa speaking about Baburam Bhattarai, Budhabar, 14 May



China diary

Baburam Bhattarai, Naya Patrika, 14 May

नयाँ पत्रिका

I recently returned from a family trip to China. My 84-year-old father wanted to make a pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar so we made arrangements to visit China. I was especially interested to learn more about the economic prosperity of Tibet and meet the officials there.

On the first day, I discussed bilateral initiatives with Deputy Minister Guo Yezhou, from the Communist Party of China’s International Bureau. I am thankful to the Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu, the Communist Party of China and the government of the Tibet Autonomous Region for ensuring that our trip was memorable. Although this was a purely family visit, the Chinese officials made it possible to sit for several political meetings in the week long trip.

We were concerned about whether or not my father would be able to cope in the 5,000m altitude on Kailash Mansarovar area but everything went smoothly. After visiting the scared

pilgrimage site, I met the chief of Nagri and discussed the possibility of building roads connecting Humla, Hilsa to Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet. This would benefit both the countries and make the region more accessible to tourists.

Chinese officials repeatedly raised the issue of how the development and progress Tibet has made is painted in a negative light internationally. After seeing the development in Tibet which has struck a balance between cultural preservation of places like the Potala Palace and economic progress, I feel this is a valid concern. The development model of Tibet is an excellent one, that can be emulated by all.

Nepali politicians are always slotted as anti India or anti China depending on the country they favour to visit. But I have always opposed such tags and think that Nepal can instead be a bridge to connect two of the biggest economies in the world. After my trip, I feel that there is no stopping China from becoming the economic power house of the world and there is so much Nepal can learn from the development there.

Love for sale

Nisha Rai, Setopati.com, 11 May

सेतोपाटी

She worked as an auxiliary nurse at a hospital in Siraha. He had just passed the civil service exams. They fell in love and decided to get married. The parents, reluctant at first, eventually agreed and the wedding preparations began.

The date was set for 11 May. But, three weeks before the wedding, the girl attempted suicide. Why? Her parents weren’t able to meet the dowry demands from the boy’s family. Initially, Rs 300,000 was sought in the name of dowry. The girl begged her father to collect the sum anyhow, saying she couldn’t marry anyone else, and even promising to pay back the debt. The family agreed and arranged for the cash with much difficulty.

Once the invitations were sent out, the boy’s family had more demands: they now wanted a motorcycle and a laptop.

The families sat together to bargain. The boy said he would give the girl’s family a year’s time to make necessary arrangements. If the demands are not met, then there would be no wedding.

The girl returned home disappointed. She was worried about what people would say, how would she live without the love of her life. She couldn’t sleep at all, and decided ending her life was the answer. The bottle of pesticide that she consumed didn’t kill her but hospitalised her for a week.

After her discharge, the girl’s family filed a complaint against the boy’s family demanding an investigation. The boy was then taken in for questioning by the police.

I was covering the story for a radio program and called the girl to inform her that the boy had been arrested. In her feeble voice, she told me she knew. She also said that the two families had agreed to resolve their differences. “We are getting married today,” she announced.

I wish the newlyweds all the best for their life and I hope the boy accepts and learns from his mistake. Dowry practice is prohibited by the law in Nepal, but a quarter of all cases of violence against women are believed to be caused due to dowry demands from the groom’s family.



CAUGHT

13 May, Facebook entry of Ujjan Shrestha’s sister Sabitri Shrestha. One of those accused of killing Ujjan, Pushkar Gautam (pic, left) was arrested in Kathmandu on Tuesday.

facebook

Our entire family is grateful to the government and the police for arresting Puskar Gautam, who was involved in the murder of my brother, Ujjan Kumar Shrestha. But we fear that there will soon be protests against the arrests. Despite such protests, we do not want the government to back down from punishing the culprits. We request the government and the police to implement the Supreme Court’s order by arresting the main mastermind behind the murder, Bal Krishna Dhungel, within 24 hours and bring him and the rest to court for a proper investigation so that justice can be restored.

Purity is the diamond of soul



Nepal Pashmina Industry

PO Box: 1956, Soaltee Mode, Kathmandu, Nepal
TEL: 977 1 4273 292 | FAX: 977 1 4270 092
SHOWROOMS: Kalimati, Soaltee Mode: 4272 292
Soaltee Hotel: 4270 947 | Tridevi Marg: 4410 947 | Thamel: 4264 775



“I need to know why”

The war is not over for relatives of those killed and disappeared during the Maoist insurgency

GOPAL GARTAULA
in JHAPA

Samjhana Adhikari of Surunga was 22 when she decided to join the Maoist party. She was among a group of six other comrades who had left for Siliguri in December 2002 for training in India. She was never seen again.

Her group was caught by Indian Police at the Siliguri bus park and extradited to Nepal. Till about a month there were reports that the group was being held at the Charali Army Base in Jhapa district. But no more information after that.

“Whoever it was who disappeared that group, we want to see them face justice,” says Samjhana’s brother, Netra.

In the group was Suresh Pokhrel. His brother Gopal tried everything to find him, but still clings to the hope that he is alive. “We want to find him or his body, if they think they can get away with politically-motivated pardons, our patience will break.” Along with Suresh and Samjhana, the others last heard to be in the notorious Charali Base were Chaturman Rajbanshi, Ghana Subedi, Tara Rijal, Misi Dhimlal.

The conflict



intensified after the Maoists took on the Royal Nepal Army in November 2001, with massive human rights violations by both sides. While the security forces detained, tortured and disappeared suspected Maoists, the rebels targeted “class enemies” using extreme brutality to execute them and sow terror.

Nagen Sunuwar and Sambhu Khadka were teenagers living in Dharampur of Jhapa. The Maoists abducted them from their homes, and took them to a forest in Mainachuli in southern Ilam. After torturing him mercilessly, the Maoists decapitated Sambhu in front of Nagen's eyes, later they dismembered his body and scattered his limbs.


Nagen was also beaten,



PICS: GOPAL GARTAULA

THE WHOLE TRUTH: Tika Maya Bantawa holds a photograph of herself and her husband, Chetan, who was killed by the Maoists in 2004. Narmaya Chapagai's husband bled to death in her lap after the Maoists shot him in Ilam in 2002. When they returned and threatened to kill her son unless she gave them money, she fled with her four children to Jhapa.

Tika Maya Bantawa (*pic, left*) was 30 when Maoists came to their house in Damak and tried to force her husband, Chetan, to join them. Their three daughters, Sumnima, Pratima and Paruma were small then and Chetan had said he needed to take care of them. A few days later, on 23 March 2004, the Maoists returned in a motorcycle and shot him dead.

In the past ten years, Tika Maya has raised her children on her own, subsisting on a farm without irrigation, and owes money lenders Rs 300,000. From time to time, she admits wanting to just give up, but says she has to keep struggling till her daughters are older. She tells us: "I want to look the perpetrators in the face and ask them why they made me a widow. I want them to face justice. That would give me some relief." 



Free Wikipedia Browsing

Access to the largest online library for free

Explore धेरै ज्ञान

Browse wikipedia.org for free via Ncell Mobile Internet and broaden your knowledge.

Ncell, Here for Nepal www.ncell.com.np

Visiting external links from Wikipedia will be subject to charge as per standard data rates. Opera, BlackBerry and other proxy browsers do not support this service.

Once is More Than Enough



Anyone embarking, disembarking, or just barking, at Kathmandu airport these days will have noticed that the Department of Immigration has streamlined the forms you have to fill to go in and out of this country.

Nepal is known as a land of tolerance that allows diesel thieves caught in flagrante to block highways in protest, taxis that tamper meters to go on strike demanding the right to cheat passengers, nominates Supreme Court justices who are polygamists, gamblers, and drug traffickers, and illegal crushers are allowed to protest police action by stopping supply of gravel to Kathmandu's road-widening.

To reflect this broad-mindedness the Department of Immigration has completely revamped documentation to reflect the fact that besides being federal, secular, democratic and kleptocratic, Nepal is now also pro-choice (*see pic*). To further showcase our tolerance, we propose an even more inclusive Arrival Card that will demonstrate to visitors that Nepal is not for the faint-hearted.

The idea is to keep bored passengers busy throughout a flight so that they don't stage a sit-in protest outside the cockpit demanding better food and more beverages.

The exam paper is divided into a multiple choice Objective Section and a Subjective Section for personal essays. Below is a sneak preview of the prototype in-flight immigration exam. Only those who pass this onboard test will be allowed to enter Nepal.

Family Name: _____
Middle Name: _____
Given Name: _____
Not-given Name: _____
Nom de Plume: _____
Nom de Guerre: _____

Date of Birth (if applicable): _____
Date of Expiry: _____
Place of Birth: _____
Zodiac sign: _____

Nationality at Birth: _____
Nationality in Previous Incarnation: _____
Are you a nationalist: _____
☐ Jindabad
☐ Murdabad
☐ Allahabad

Sex (tickle only one): _____
☐ No, thank you
☐ Yes, please
☐ Once in Bombay

Permanent Address: _____
☐ Semi-permanent address: _____
☐ Underground Address: _____
☐ Keynote Address: _____

Race: _____
☐ Human
☐ Inhuman
☐ Everest Marathon
☐ Yak Attack

Pre-Occupation (tick at least three): _____
☐ Trafficking
☐ Cheating Migrant Workers
☐ Gambling
☐ Diesel Theft
☐ Bribing Judges
☐ Illegal Quarrying
☐ War crimes

Object of Journey (encircle one):
☐ Pilgrimage
☐ Asylum Seeking
☐ Meddling in Nepal's Internal Affairs
☐ Tryst with Destiny
☐ Tourism
☐ Terrorism

Answer three of the following four questions in no more than 140 characters:
1. Where was Buddha born? (Only for Indian passport-holders)
2. What am I doing here?
3. Climate change is a hoax. Discuss.
4. Which country has the world's highest mountain and the smallest man?

Customs Declaration
Are you carrying any or all of these items that are a threat to national security (tick appropriate box):
1. More than two bottles of dutiable Molotov Cocktails
2. Plastic Baby Tricycles
3. Five or more Perambulators
4. Binoculars in excess of everyday requirement
5. More than 50,000 poultry chicks in checked-in luggage
6. Indian black money in 500 or 1,000 denominations unless accompanied with separate envelope

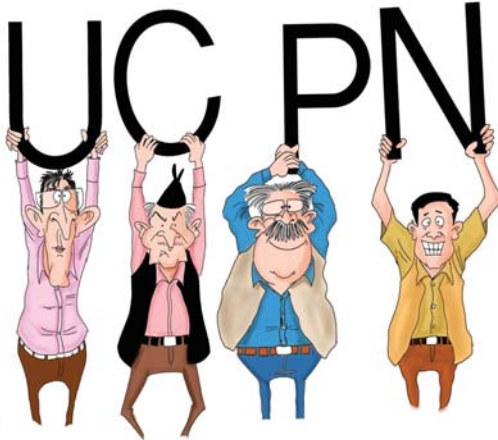
Warning:
Green Channel is not a Green Light. Walking through the Green Channel with Dutiable Items may lead to confiscation of goods, penalty, prosecution, a medal, or an ambassadorship. However, running through the Green Channel is allowed, just don't get caught. Perambulator smugglers will face a Rs 50,000 fine, or 50 lashes with a parliamentary whip, or both. Congratulations, you have passed the test. You may now enter Nepal.

The Ass



PAST PRESENT FUTURE

DIWAKAR CHETTRI



A TREASURE CHEST OF HISTORICAL GEMS

PHILADELPHIA, USA
FLIGHTS COMMENCING 2ND 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 preferred travel agent.
World's 5-star airline.



R U trying to buy/invest or sell your property ???

R U looking for a property management ???

R U searching for interior designer & architect.

R U looking for a tenant or property to rent out ???

NEPALPROPERTYMARKET.COM
One Stop Property Solution

R U searching for realstate legal solutions ???

R U searching for a rental spaces for residence/office/business ???

R U planning to make your own house ???

R U looking for plumbers, masons, electricians, carpenters ???

Head Office: Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: 014414417, 6922373, 9741145917, Branch Office: Putalisadak, KTM., Nepal. Tel: 014422426, 4426560
info@nepalpropertymarket.com / www.nepalpropertymarket.com / www.npminterior.com / www.nepalbizmart.com / www.fb.com/nepalpropertymarket