Of the government, by the government, for the government

The people’s apathy with government is turning into antipathy. Across the country, as they struggled with daily survival, few were interested in the contents of the government’s Rs 618 billion annual budget presented to Parliament on Sunday. When you expect nothing from the government, you are not disappointed when it does not deliver.

So, while Mahat was preparing to present his budget at the doorstep Parliament (above), women and children in Banepa queued for a trickle of water from a spring (right). And while the UML’s chaotic party jamboree was winding down, vegetable farmers in Kalimati dumped tons of tomatoes on the middle of the road to protest low prices. Just as well, because the government hasn’t been able to stop rampant pesticide residue in vegetables from poisoning consumers.

Nepal’s rulers and the people who elected them seem to live in parallel universes. It’s a government for the government. The people be damned.

Survivors of the conflict that ended eight years ago still wait for justice and atonement. Thousands migrate every day to work in the Gulf, Malaysia and India. A new study says vulnerability of Nepali migrant workers to exploitation abroad is heightened by routine abuse within Nepal.
The UML election was not internal party democracy in action, but the politicisation of politics.

During the last year of the UML’s reign, it was very clear that the party was in a perilous position. The party was polarised between two factions: one was led by the incumbent Prime Minister, and the other was led by a former leader. The split was so deep that it threatened the survival of the party. This splits was not just about policy differences, but also about personal feuds and power struggles.

The party’s inability to move beyond its internal conflicts was a clear sign of its declining fortunes. The party’s leadership had failed to address the concerns of its members and the public. The party was increasingly seen as a vehicle for personal ambition rather than a platform for the common good.

The UML’s downfall started after the tragic death of its founder and first leader, Madan Bhandari. His death left a vacuum in the party that was never filled. The party was unable to move on from his loss and maintain its momentum.

The party’s failure to adapt to changing circumstances was another factor that contributed to its decline. The UML was slow to embrace new technologies and modes of communication. The party was also slow to recognise the growing importance of social media and the internet as platforms for political communication.

Finally, the UML’s decline was also due to a lack of innovation. The party was unable to introduce new ideas or policies that could appeal to a wider audience. The party was stuck in the past and failed to connect with the younger generation.

The UML’s failure is a cautionary tale for other political parties in Nepal. It highlights the importance of maintaining a balance between tradition and innovation, and the need for political parties to stay relevant and responsive to the changing needs of society.

This editorial is very timely, given the current political situation in Nepal. The party has been in power for a long time, and there is a growing sense of fatigue and disillusionment among its members and supporters.

The party needs to take stock of its past mistakes and learn from them. It must also engage with its critics and address their concerns. The party must also work to rebuild its base and connect with a new generation of voters.

The UML’s future is not guaranteed, but it has the potential to make a comeback if it is able to address its internal divisions and learn from its mistakes. The party must be proactive and take steps to ensure its survival. The party must also work to ensure that it is not just a vehicle for personal ambition, but a platform for the common good.
It’s Raining Bargains
Save up to 75%

Zip into Sherpa Adventure Gear for special Red Tag savings on everything in the store.
And hurry. Monsoon season ends soon.

MONSOON BLOWOUT SALE
(July 20th-August 1st)

SHERPA ADVENTURE GEAR
Lal Durba Marg (opposite the Palace Museum) Hours: Sunday - Friday 10 - 8
Saturday 11 - 6 Tel: 4443261

No additional discounts for members.
Journalists are a self-righteous bunch who relish telling people what they ought to do. We may be expected to just report, but we also like to dispense unsolicited advice on what is right and what is not, and whether they are being manipulated. The bargain already compromises the reporter, editor, or even publisher, because we cannot expect them to cover anything that may embarrass, endanger or expose wrongdoing of the very institutions they are in bed with.

Who is going to expose corruption within the opaque procurements of the Nepal Army, for instance? Will it still be possible to investigate corruption in the judiciary? Can one expect a reporter embedded with the Nepal Oil Corporation to expose graft there?

It’s a thin line between using news sources and being used by them. Journalists face this ethical dilemma regularly. Some succumb because it’s just not worth the effort to resist the temptation, others are disillusioned enough to leave a profession they idealistically believed could be an agent of change.

Journalism is simple as long as you follow the old-fashioned rules: protect news sources but more importantly protect the news from the sources. As in most things, in reporting too, the process matters as much as the outcome.

And while the desire and initiative to serve the ‘facts’ might be praiseworthy, compromising the values and ethics of one’s profession while doing so is not. Fact that come this way stop serving the cause of truth.

@rubeenaa

News reports can be subjective in terms of where they are placed, how the story is angled, who is quoted and in what order. Journalists report, but more importantly we are also supposed to interpret, analyse and explain events. And the license to do so comes from the assumption that the media or those working in the media business are people of high integrity and conscience and can be trusted upon to interpret ‘facts’ and meanings for the public.

But what if those trusted with delivering the truth or the closest version of it, have compromised their independence? Consider this: all newspapers have dedicated beats for political parties, overseen by reporters considered closest to those influential in the parties. A NC, UML or Maoist beat reporter, for instance, can be trusted to speak for his sources.

Office-bearers of the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) openly contest elections on behalf of political panels. Various professional associations of journalists, even clubs, are divided along party lines and most journalists make no effort to hide their allegiance.

It is standard practice in Nepal to elevate political leaders to god-like status often around the time they are about to rise to power or have taken up office. There is a race among reporters to be the first to profile a leader as it would bring, among many other things, the opportunity to be close to a power center and enjoy his blessings. Reporters are sometimes in such thrall of a rising new leaders that they are elevated unquestioningly and prematurely to high pedestals.

Journalists are taught not to get too close to their sources, to keep perspective, and not to accept freebies. But that has not stopped some to go out of their way to practice mutual back-scratching journalism, virtually becoming mouthpieces to their news sources in exchange for whatever has been offered in return.

The credibility of Nepali media today is threatened by embedded journalism. It is of course convenient to have news to come to you especially from institutions that are fiercely secretive like the Army or intelligence agencies. Any information from them carries news value, but there is no free lunch in the corridors of power. It is always a quid pro quo: the journalist gets a scoop, the source gets to spin.

Reporters rarely ask whose interest is served by such leaks, and whether they are being manipulated. The bargain already compromises the reporter, editor, or even publisher, because we cannot expect them to cover anything that may embarrass, endanger or expose wrongdoing of the very institutions they are in bed with.

Who is going to expose corruption within the opaque procurements of the Nepal Army, for instance? Will it still be possible to investigate corruption in the judiciary? Can one expect a reporter embedded with the Nepal Oil Corporation to expose graft there?

It’s a thin line between using news sources and being used by them. Journalists face this ethical dilemma regularly. Some succumb because it’s just not worth the effort to resist the temptation, others are disillusioned enough to leave a profession they idealistically believed could be an agent of change.

Journalism is simple as long as you follow the old-fashioned rules: protect news sources but more importantly protect the news from the sources. As in most things, in reporting too, the process matters as much as the outcome.

And while the desire and initiative to serve the ‘facts’ might be praiseworthy, compromising the values and ethics of one’s profession while doing so is not. Fact that come this way stop serving the cause of truth.

@rubeenaa

The ethics of doing so might be endlessly contested but that is how the media works, and not just in Nepal. To those who take issue with opinion pieces, it might be worth noting that even office-bearers of the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) openly contest elections on behalf of political panels. Various professional associations of journalists, even clubs, are divided along party lines and most journalists make no effort to hide their allegiance.

It is standard practice in Nepal to elevate political leaders to god-like status often around the time they are about to rise to power or have taken up office. There is a race among reporters to be the first to profile a leader as it would bring, among many other things, the opportunity to be close to a power center and enjoy his blessings. Reporters are sometimes in such thrall of a rising new leaders that they are elevated unquestioningly and prematurely to high pedestals.

Journalists are taught not to get too close to their sources, to keep perspective, and not to accept freebies. But that has not stopped some to go out of their way to practice mutual back-scratching journalism, virtually becoming mouthpieces to their news sources in exchange for whatever has been offered in return.

The credibility of Nepali media today is threatened by embedded journalism. It is of course convenient to have news to come to you especially from institutions that are fiercely secretive like the Army or intelligence agencies. Any information from them carries news value, but there is no free lunch in the corridors of power. It is always a quid pro quo: the journalist gets a scoop, the source gets to spin.

Reporters rarely ask whose interest is served by such leaks, and whether they are being manipulated. The bargain already compromises the reporter, editor, or even publisher, because we cannot expect them to cover anything that may embarrass, endanger or expose wrongdoing of the very institutions they are in bed with.

Who is going to expose corruption within the opaque procurements of the Nepal Army, for instance? Will it still be possible to investigate corruption in the judiciary? Can one expect a reporter embedded with the Nepal Oil Corporation to expose graft there?

It’s a thin line between using news sources and being used by them. Journalists face this ethical dilemma regularly. Some succumb because it’s just not worth the effort to resist the temptation, others are disillusioned enough to leave a profession they idealistically believed could be an agent of change.

Journalism is simple as long as you follow the old-fashioned rules: protect news sources but more importantly protect the news from the sources. As in most things, in reporting too, the process matters as much as the outcome.

And while the desire and initiative to serve the ‘facts’ might be praiseworthy, compromising the values and ethics of one’s profession while doing so is not. Fact that come this way stop serving the cause of truth.

@rubeenaa

The truth about facts

It’s a thin line between using news sources and being used by them
MORE THAN A TABLET. SMARTER THAN A PHONE.

**Slate® VoiceTab**

3G with Dual SIM

**HP Slate® VoiceTab**

NRs. 31,500 /-
including VAT

**Quad-core Processor**
Multi-task like a pro with the precision-engineered Marvel quad-core processor.

**A tablet you want. The phone you need.**
The versatility of a full-featured tablet and capability of a phone in one powerful device.

**All access entertainment.**
The crisp HD display and dual front-facing speakers lets you bring the party with you everywhere.

**Free**
1 Year Insurance + 1 Year Warranty including battery + HP Mobile Cover (Limited edition for the first 100 customers only)

© 2014 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The Information contained herein is subject to change without notice. HP shall not be liable for technical or editorial errors or omissions contained herein.
Blood, sweat and tears

‘The vulnerability of Nepali migrant workers to exploitation abroad is heightened by routine misconduct within Nepal’

The exploitation of Nepali workers abroad has been called a form of ‘modern day slavery’, and exploded in the international media this year with one exposé after another over their mistreatment in Qatar.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damning exposé in the钩 has put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damning exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damning exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damning exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damning exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damning exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damning exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damning exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damning exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damning exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damning exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damning exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damning exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damning exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damaging exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damaging exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damaging exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damaging exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damaging exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.

The Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) of Social Science Baha has been studying the violation of the labour rights of Nepali migrant workers. Its damaging exposé in the ‘The Hooks’, an international news publication, put a lot of blame squarely on Nepali recruiters and immigration brokers.

Despite Nepal’s efforts to protect migrant workers, it is generally failing to hold private recruitment companies and individual agents accountable, and the vast majority of workers remain unable to access compensation or other forms of justice in Nepal or abroad, the study reports.
The south-west monsoon is now vigorously active over the subcontinent, trying to make up for lost time. The annual pattern in Nepal is that the moisture-laden winds from the Bay arrive from the southeast without lightning and thunder, and with persistent rain. Usually the monsoon comes in waves called “pulses” which are actually low pressure troughs accompanied by heavy precipitation. On Friday, the pressure is dipping to below 1,000hPa which portends torrential rain mainly at night through the weekend along the Mahabharat range south of Kathmandu.

KATHMANDU
COURTESY: SAVE THE CHILDREN

PEDALLING FOR A CAUSE

Three years ago, two 16-year-old volunteers decided to organise a fundraising bike race around the Kathmandu Valley. On Saturday, 19 July, the fourth annual Kathmandu Kora Cycling Challenge will take place once again. The event is expected to draw 1300 cyclists as they challenge themselves to complete routes of 50km, 75km or 100km around the Valley.

Kathmandu Kora, which takes its name from the clockwise circumambulation done by Buddhists around religious structures, was initiated in 2011 by British teenager Maxim Jones.

Before leaving for a volunteering trip to Nepal, he wanted to raise funds for his missions at the SAMATA School in Boudha and the OCCED Orphanage in Naxal. Jones contacted the Nepali tour operator Socialtours, who suggested that he conduct a fundraising cycling challenge around Kathmandu. With the help of another teen, Shishang Lama, Jones began to organise the challenge in January 2011.

Six months later, in July 2011, thirty-five other cyclists joined the two teenagers and cycled 60 km around Kathmandu. The event raised Rs 450,000 which was shared between SAMATA school and OCCED orphanage.

After the success of the first cycling challenge, Socialtours expanded the fundraising campaign and created Karma Foundation, a non-profit to run Kathmandu Kora. Each year, the INGO Save the Children identifies a new cause for the funds raised by the cycling challenge, which usually include development projects in rural areas of Nepal.

“We implement projects in zones where the government cannot operate”, explained Binita Pandey, chairperson of Karma Foundation. In 2012, Kathmandu Kora raised Rs 950,000 for the renovation of a birthing facility in Samritu, Rukum. The following year, 800 riders amassed Rs 1.7 million to build a birthing centre in Sharmali, Baitadi. This year, Karma Foundation hopes to raise Rs 2 million for the construction of a birthing facility in Pyutar, South Lalitpur.

“We often give birth in the post office”, said Bipin Maharjan, manager of Socialtours. “Seeing these horrible conditions, we chose to help a village nearer to Kathmandu this time”.

In addition to raising money for unprivileged rural areas, Karma Foundation and Socialtours hope to increase awareness among the cyclists, and their entourage, to the organisation’s cause of the year.

The organisation asks the riders to raise Rs 100 per kilometer by soliciting friends, family and companies to pledge for the cause. But this is a voluntary act and riders are not bound to collect that exact amount of money.

Although Karma Foundation receives support from agents in Australia, U.K, Norway and U.S.A, Maharjan wants Nepal to be less dependent on foreign aid.

“We are used to receiving money from other countries,” he said. “But if we are united, we don’t have to rely only on foreign funding”.

To show participants the difference their contributions can make, Karma Foundation took ten riders to witness the implementation of the project in Sharmali last year.

“It’s important for the cyclist to witness the difference they’re enabling”, said Pandey. “We want people to understand that one individual can make a big difference.”

Kathmandu Kora 2014
19 July, 7am
Patan Darbar Square
kathmandukora.net, karmafoundation.org

HELPING PEOPLE GET THINGS DONE

When it comes to maintaining a beautiful lawn, nothing makes the cut like Honda HRU197M1PODA Lawn Mower, where great feature and great performance meet great value.

Honda HRU197M1PODA BUFFALO CLASSIC, MULCH AND CATCH LAWN MOWER ...

- Ideal for large lawns and the serious contractor.
- Powerful long-lasting 4-stroke 5.5hp OHV engine feature a durable cast-iron bore.
- Lightweight, easy to push, rustproof aluminium deck with 482 mm cutting width.
- Starts first time, every time with Honda’s famous one pull easy start system.
- Smooth and easy to manoeuvre with 585 mm dual sealed ball-bearing wheel base.

Helping People Get Things Done

HONDA
POWER PRODUCTS

When it comes to maintaining a beautiful lawn, nothing makes the cut like Honda HRU197M1PODA Lawn Mower, where great feature and great performance meet great value.

Honda HRU197M1PODA BUFFALO CLASSIC, MULCH AND CATCH LAWN MOWER ...

- Ideal for large lawns and the serious contractor.
- Powerful long-lasting 4-stroke 5.5hp OHV engine feature a durable cast-iron bore.
- Lightweight, easy to push, rustproof aluminium deck with 482 mm cutting width.
- Starts first time, every time with Honda’s famous one pull easy start system.
- Smooth and easy to manoeuvre with 585 mm dual sealed ball-bearing wheel base.
BFF, adopt a dog from Animal Nepal’s shelter – the local mixed breeds are healthier and better adjusted to local conditions than pedigrees. Rs 150, animalnepal.org, (01)5538068, 9841334537

The Butterfly Home Project, a fundraising exhibition and sale of arts and crafts by the children of Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC). 19 to 20 July, 11am to 5pm, The City Museum, Darbar Marg

Joystick joy, Take part in the AI All Nepal E-Sports Challenge and be second to none in hyper-real – involving Counter Strike, Dota and FIFA ‘14 teams, 18 to 22 July, 10am to 6pm, Civil Mall, call 9849659820 for registration

Muna Madan, Nepal’s favourite epic on stage again. Runs 27 July, Rs 100/200/300/500, Kastre Naryanlal, Jome

Beyond auto mode, learn how to use your camera beyond its auto function. Don’t just be a button-pusher; take control of your pictures. Registration until 18 July. 20 to 31 July, 5.30 to 7pm, Rs 400, Canon Imaging School, Mahayl Brown, New Road

Amalgam, A series of talks around the ongoing exhibition at Siddharta Art Gallery 20 July, Socio-political art, questioning the role of the artist as an informed citizen, 3pm 27 July, Street art, spreading socio-political messages through art in the local community, 3pm, Siddharta Art Gallery, Bator-Matol Restored

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

Impression, an exhibition of the works of photographers Akash Pradhan, 11am to 5pm, Cafe Mixx, Lajimpat, (01)4850010

Kickabout, your shot at glory as it trains goals at the second Animal Nepal Football Fest, 19 July, 7pm onwards, Sky Sports, Bhatavati Store, Mohan Ganj

Kathmandu kora, join hundreds of cycling enthusiasts and ride for 50, 75, or 100 km to raise funds for a birthing centre in Pashupati, Lalitpur. 18 to 19 July, jhmathur.com/Kathmandu.kora

Flagbearers, We are one of 40,000 participants to form the largest human national flag and make it to the Guinness Book of World Records. 9-August, 6 to 8pm, Tundikhel, Kathmandu

Charya Nritya, Experience Kathmandu’s version of dance meditation under the tutelage of Pranav Ratna Vajracharya and immerse yourself in nature, consciousness and compassion. Rs 1,600, 1 to 14 September, 12.15pm, inneradventuretravel.com

IDoYo Ushi No Hi, savour exquisite Japanese delicacies at Moko’s to celebrate the Japanese eel festival. 18 to 20 July, Moko’s Japanese restaurant, The Dwarika’s hotel, Battisputali

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

Vol Au Vents, go crazy with choice combination of fillings for scones, crepes and vol au vents with the Lounge’s new interactive menu. Rs 400 (exclusive of tax) onwards, The Lounge, Hyatt Regency, Kathmandu

Charya Nritya, Experience Kathmandu’s version of dance meditation under the tutelage of Pranav Ratna Vajracharya and immerse yourself in nature, consciousness and compassion. Rs 1,600, 1 to 14 September, 12.15pm, inneradventuretravel.com

Vol Au Vents, go crazy with choice combination of fillings for scones, crepes and vol au vents with the Lounge’s new interactive menu. Rs 400 (exclusive of tax) onwards, The Lounge, Hyatt Regency, Kathmandu

Lal Durbar Restaurant, authentic Nepali dinner with cultural shows. Hotel Pak Yot, Darbar Marg, (01)4248999, reservation@laldurbar.com

Trisara, with dishes like Flambeed prawns, crispy chicken, and khao soi, it would be a folly to ignore its aromas. Lajimpat

Lanhuo, for the best of Chinese cuisine at great prices. Lakeside, Pokhara
**MUSIC**

**Shastra paperback**, the best of Hindustani classical every new moon night.

27 July, 4pm onwards, Battisputali


Rs 150, 19 July, 7pm onwards, Lo Gange, Thamel

**Shastriya sangeet**, the best of Hindustani classical every new moon night.

27 July, 4pm onwards, Battisputali

**Hunkaar**, Nepali metal band Dying Out Flame are releasing their debut album Veena Kushwakam, supported by Deficile, Underset Humans, Carpar Sick, and Forensic Torture.

24 July, Rs 50, Samik Bhawan, Dharan

2 August, Rs 50 (including CD), Hetauda

**Raktayas**, 28 of Nepal’s sickest thrash/grind/death metal bands are out to get you – are you game?

27 July

**Devika Bandana**, catch the songstress with over 100 hit songs to her name in her live solo comeback performance.

Hotel Radisson, Lajimpat, Kathmandu. 9801184474

**House of music**, for five days a week, this bar and restaurant is packed with musical events that include open mic, karaoke and jam sessions.

Open Tuesdays to Saturdays, 4 to 11pm, Nerd Marg, Thamel. 9810757172

**Neydo Monastery**, a monastery and guest house, Neydo is home to many significant religious sites of the great siddhas. Leave your troubles behind and book a room.

Playing, Kathmandu. www.neydohotel.com/contact.htm

**Indulge at Hyatt Regency**, Special relax package for two: one night at hotel, complimentary spa and buffet breakfast the next morning.

Rs 9,000. For reservations, call 977 1 449 1234 or email Kathmandu.regency@hyatt.com

**Balthali Village Resort**, a small, cozy retreat with a bird’s eye view of green terrace fields dotted with ochre painted houses.

Balthali, Kavre, 9851075818

**Jhule mountain resort**, resting 2650m above sea level, the eco-resort boasts a farmhouse that stretches across a hill covered in fresh pines. Enjoy an organic homestay experience.

Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park, Lapsiphedi-3, Jhule, (01)6212399

**Music at the museum**, catch Nepal’s favourite blues guitarist in action with his band, the Ashesh trio performs at the City Museum, featuring the Thimi Dhimey Pucha.

Rs 500, 19 July, 6:45pm, The City Museum, Durbar Marg

**Devika Bandana**

**GETAWAYS**

Hotel Radisson, Lajimpat, Kathmandu. 9801184474

**Jhule mountain resort**, resting 2650m above sea level, the eco-resort boasts a farmhouse that stretches across a hill covered in fresh pines. Enjoy an organic homestay experience.

Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park, Lapsiphedi-3, Jhule, (01)6212399

**Neydo Monastery**, a monastery and guest house, Neydo is home to many significant religious sites of the great siddhas. Leave your troubles behind and book a room.

Playing, Kathmandu. www.neydohotel.com/contact.htm

**Balthali Village Resort**, a small, cozy retreat with a bird’s eye view of green terrace fields dotted with ochre painted houses.

Balthali, Kavre, 9851075818

**Jhule mountain resort**, resting 2650m above sea level, the eco-resort boasts a farmhouse that stretches across a hill covered in fresh pines. Enjoy an organic homestay experience.

Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park, Lapsiphedi-3, Jhule, (01)6212399

**Devika Bandana**

**Jhule mountain resort**

**Neydo Monastery**

**Balthali Village Resort**

**Jhule mountain resort**
Before dawn while the rest of the temple courtyard was still asleep, Bibindra Bajracharya pulled away from his bed to start the first puja of the day at Bu Bahal, a temple courtyard in Patan. As he cleaned the temple and moved about the courtyard lighting up oil lamps, devotees started to congregate outside the temple at the break of dawn.

“My main responsibility for the last seven days and the rest of this week is to look after the temple,” said Bajracharya, a 37-year-old jeweller who is from a younger generation of priests. He is part of a tradition that requires a male from every family to look after the temple for seven days.

According to the late Jesuit Nepali scholar John K Locke, there are an estimated 356 bahals and bahis in Kathmandu Valley, 165 of which are in Patan. Scattered across the entire city, bahals are a type of courtyard commonly found in Newa architecture. Bahis, on the other hand, are a sub-type of bahals. Apart from being smaller in size, they contain a number of structural differences including an elevated entrance and lack partitions in the interior residences.

Bruce McCoy Owens, associate professor of Anthropology at Wheaton College in Massachusetts, retraced Locke’s steps to research the changes undergone over three decades. He visited each one of these known bahals extensively and has documented their transformations throughout the years.

Over time, he noticed both structural changes in the bahals as well as changes within the traditions of the community. However, he does not view this negatively.

“Transformation doesn’t always mean destruction because it is an ongoing tradition,” Owens explained at a talk program in Patan this month. “Transformation is what keeps bahals alive.”

Transforming bahals

Before dawn while the rest of the temple courtyard was still asleep, Bibindra Bajracharya pulled away from his bed to start the first puja of the day at Bu Bahal, a temple courtyard in Patan. As he cleaned the temple and moved about the courtyard lighting up oil lamps, devotees started to congregate outside the temple at the break of dawn.

“My main responsibility for the last seven days and the rest of this week is to look after the temple,” said Bajracharya, a 37-year-old jeweller who is from a younger generation of priests. He is part of a tradition that requires a male from every family to look after the temple for seven days.

According to the late Jesuit Nepali scholar John K Locke, there are an estimated 356 bahals and bahis in Kathmandu Valley, 165 of which are in Patan. Scattered across the entire city, bahals are a type of courtyard commonly found in Newa architecture. Bahis, on the other hand, are a sub-type of bahals. Apart from being smaller in size, they contain a number of structural differences including an elevated entrance and lack partitions in the interior residences.

Bruce McCoy Owens, associate professor of Anthropology at Wheaton College in Massachusetts, retraced Locke’s steps to research the changes undergone over three decades. He visited each one of these known bahals extensively and has documented their transformations throughout the years.

Over time, he noticed both structural changes in the bahals as well as changes within the traditions of the community. However, he does not view this negatively.

“Transformation doesn’t always mean destruction because it is an ongoing tradition,” Owens explained at a talk program in Patan this month. “Transformation is what keeps bahals alive.”

Keeping up
with the times

within the community to care for the Buddhist shrine within the temple on a 15-day rotation basis. He also sweeps, cleans and leads prayer rituals three times a day while still working in his nearby jewellery store.

Although the process has been challenging, he feels proud to carry on his family’s tradition. “Yes, I have a full-time job and other responsibilities, but I’ll always have my job,” he said.

Bu Bahal is over 800 years old, and the community’s tradition for its upkeep and rituals have survived generations evolving with the times. Said Bajracharya:

“In the past, you had to wear a traditional dhuti to perform these rituals, and you had to stay inside the bahal for 15 days. Today, I can still work and eat outside.”

He adds: “I have taken the responsibility and I hope the younger generation will do so too. Even though many young men from the bahal are working overseas now, I hope that they will still come back to fulfill their duties.”

Bipin Bajracharya, 28, understands that he will be required to participate in the bahal’s Buddhist rituals when he is older, but it is still in the distant future, and remains the furthest thought from his mind. “These traditions are mainly for the older generation. Young people are not really involved,” he said.

In the past five years, young people from some 15 families have moved out from Bu Bahal to work or study. Although they might return for holidays, the chances of them coming back for good are low.

“They usually go out to earn money, and then come back and build houses. Not in the bahal, but in the ancestral lands in the outskirts of the city,” Bipin explained.

The reason for this exodus can also be attributed to space constraints within average-sized homes in bahals. With rapid modernisation and increased affluence over the years, families now prefer to live in much bigger spaces than what a bahal can offer.

“Bigger is always better,” said Bipin. “There are not many rooms in my house. If I get married, and my brother gets married, there’s no way we can still stay here together.”

Bipin’s family is planning to move to another property in Bagdog in two years to afford the family more space.

Uttam Ratna Dhakal, 70, from Nag Bahal in Patan moved out of his family home 40 years ago due to limited space for him and his two brothers.

Though space was ample in his father’s time, it soon ran out as the family expanded. It came to a point whereby it was impossible to divide the house up further. After Uttam left, his brothers followed suit. Today, the family home is locked up and abandoned. Eight other homes within the Dhakal part of Nag Bahal are also deserted.

Uttam and his family still return to their bahal twice a year for annual feasts and celebrations, but his links to the bahal are not as strong as before.

“It’s happening on a large scale. It’s very natural that families are growing, places are too small, and at the same time, the demands are increasing in terms of services. Now people want a water tap in the house, proper washing facilities, cars – and sometimes that’s not possible there,” Uttam said.

Like a thread being pulled from a fine garment, community ties are starting to unspool as families continue to move out from their ancestral homes. Today, Punyaraj is unsure if the traditions he is unsure if the traditions he

There are fewer people to look after rituals at Patan’s temple courtyards as the younger generation leaves

LOUISE EVANGELINE NG

A part of his daily routine, 74-year-old Punyaraj Bajracharya ambles towards the temple courtyard in his bahal for evening prayers. After much effort, his chest heaving he takes a deep breath, and sits on the temple steps.

Just three years into his tenure as an aju, or elder, of Bu Bahal he will carry out this daily ritual for as long as he lives. Punyaraj (pic, below) is part of a group of 12 elders who oversee the bahal’s rituals and prayers.

The role of aju indicates seniority and wisdom, and he is revered by the community. Punyaraj’s ties to Bu Bahal, which consists of Bajrachayas and Shakyas, run deep within his bloodstream - both his father and grandfather were aju in their time as well.

As part of his daily routine, 74-year-old Punyaraj Bajracharya ambles towards the temple courtyard in his bahal for evening prayers. After much effort, his chest heaving he takes a deep breath, and sits on the temple steps.

Yet, this celebrated tradition, which has remained a cornerstone of Bu Bahal’s identity for generations, is now at risk of being lost as the younger generation moves on and moves out.

Bipin Bajracharya, 28, understands that he will be required to participate in the bahal’s Buddhist rituals when he is older, but it is still in the distant future, and remains the furthest thought from his mind. “These traditions are mainly for the older generation. Young people are not really involved,” he said.

In the past five years, young people from some 15 families have moved out from Bu Bahal to work or study. Although they might return for holidays, the chances of them coming back for good are low.
One day a young woman called Ila (played by the unassuming and lovely Nimrat Kaur) sends a traditional stacked lunchbox, or dabba (as they are called in India), to her uninterested husband at his workplace. Taking advice from the Auntie upstairs (a never seen but hilariously opinionated elderly neighbour), she has prepared a special recipe and hopes to cook her way into her husband's heart.

The lunchbox goes astray and so begins a quiet but captivating epistolary relationship between Ila and the receiver of her deliciously cooked meals, delivered by way of the famous dabbawalas of Mumbai. It is hard to believe that such a subtle, deeply sophisticated film is the work of a debutant, and yet it is indeed Ritesh Batra’s first film. Just as impressive is that Batra managed to convince the peerless Irrfan Khan to play the slightly surly, uncommunicative, about-to-retire accountant who accidentally receives Ila’s fragrant meals. As Khan’s character (whose name is revealed via a thoroughly tongue in cheek scene at Ila’s apartment) learns to appreciate the gift lunches, he and Ila strike up an exchange of notes that initially begin with banalities like “the food was too salty today,” and progress to candid exchanges about their lives and dreams.

It is not difficult to believe that the poor neglected Ila would succumb to cooking meals for a complete stranger, especially after we see her meager interactions with Rajiv, the thoughtless and possibly unfaithful husband. As for Irrfan Khan’s character, a widower who has reconciled himself to accepting his loneliness, Ila is a beacon of all that is thoughtful and generous. This is not a film about grand gestures, destiny, or even “true romance” as we have come to know it through mainstream cinema. Instead this wonderful story deals with the minutiae of life that makes it worth living – the small kind acts, the home-cooked meals, the everyday jokes, the appreciation of the people who truly care for you.

As Ila and her new friend slowly find their way towards each other, you wonder, as so often happens in real life, if they will actually miss each other because of the debris that surrounds them – their pasts, their duties, their own crippling fears. Beautifully observed and filmed in a Mumbai rarely seen in Bollywood films, The Lunchbox is one of the most enchanting films I’ve seen in a long while. It is no wonder that when it premiered at Cannes in 2013 it won the Critics Week Viewer’s Choice award.

The Lunchbox is now available on DVD with English subtitles.

MUST SEE
Sophia Pande

Auntie upstairs (a never seen but hilariously opinionated elderly neighbour), she has prepared a special recipe and hopes to cook her way into her husband’s heart. The lunchbox goes astray and so begins a quiet but captivating film about a rather unorthodox epistolary relationship between Ila and the receiver of her deliciously cooked meals, delivered by way of the famous dabbawalas of Mumbai.

It is hard to believe that such a subtle, deeply sophisticated film is the work of a debutant, and yet it is indeed Ritesh Batra’s first film. Just as impressive is that Batra managed to convince the peerless Irrfan Khan to play the slightly surly, uncommunicative, about-to-retire accountant who accidentally receives Ila’s fragrant meals. As Khan’s character (whose name is revealed via a thoroughly tongue in cheek scene at Ila’s apartment) learns to appreciate the gift lunches, he and Ila strike up an exchange of notes that initially begin with banalities like “the food was too salty today,” and progress to candid exchanges about their lives and dreams.

It is not difficult to believe that the poor neglected Ila would succumb to cooking meals for a complete stranger, especially after we see her meager interactions with Rajiv, the thoughtless and possibly unfaithful husband. As for Irrfan Khan’s character, a widower who has reconciled himself to accepting his loneliness, Ila is a beacon of all that is thoughtful and generous. This is not a film about grand gestures, destiny, or even “true romance” as we have come to know it through mainstream cinema. Instead this wonderful story deals with the minutiae of life that makes it worth living – the small kind acts, the home-cooked meals, the everyday jokes, the appreciation of the people who truly care for you.

As Ila and her new friend slowly find their way towards each other, you wonder, as so often happens in real life, if they will actually miss each other because of the debris that surrounds them – their pasts, their duties, their own crippling fears. Beautifully observed and filmed in a Mumbai rarely seen in Bollywood films, The Lunchbox is one of the most enchanting films I’ve seen in a long while. It is no wonder that when it premiered at Cannes in 2013 it won the Critics Week Viewer’s Choice award.

The Lunchbox is now available on DVD with English subtitles.

MUST SEE
Sophia Pande

Auntie upstairs (a never seen but hilariously opinionated elderly neighbour), she has prepared a special recipe and hopes to cook her way into her husband’s heart. The lunchbox goes astray and so begins a quiet but captivating epistolary relationship between Ila and the receiver of her deliciously cooked meals, delivered by way of the famous dabbawalas of Mumbai.

It is hard to believe that such a subtle, deeply sophisticated film is the work of a debutant, and yet it is indeed Ritesh Batra’s first film. Just as impressive is that Batra managed to convince the peerless Irrfan Khan to play the slightly surly, uncommunicative, about-to-retire accountant who accidentally receives Ila’s fragrant meals. As Khan’s character (whose name is revealed via a thoroughly tongue in cheek scene at Ila’s apartment) learns to appreciate the gift lunches, he and Ila strike up an exchange of notes that initially begin with banalities like “the food was too salty today,” and progress to candid exchanges about their lives and dreams.

It is not difficult to believe that the poor neglected Ila would succumb to cooking meals for a complete stranger, especially after we see her meager interactions with Rajiv, the thoughtless and possibly unfaithful husband. As for Irrfan Khan’s character, a widower who has reconciled himself to accepting his loneliness, Ila is a beacon of all that is thoughtful and generous. This is not a film about grand gestures, destiny, or even “true romance” as we have come to know it through mainstream cinema. Instead this wonderful story deals with the minutiae of life that makes it worth living – the small kind acts, the home-cooked meals, the everyday jokes, the appreciation of the people who truly care for you.

As Ila and her new friend slowly find their way towards each other, you wonder, as so often happens in real life, if they will actually miss each other because of the debris that surrounds them – their pasts, their duties, their own crippling fears. Beautifully observed and filmed in a Mumbai rarely seen in Bollywood films, The Lunchbox is one of the most enchanting films I’ve seen in a long while. It is no wonder that when it premiered at Cannes in 2013 it won the Critics Week Viewer’s Choice award.

The Lunchbox is now available on DVD with English subtitles.

MUST SEE
Sophia Pande

Auntie upstairs (a never seen but hilariously opinionated elderly neighbour), she has prepared a special recipe and hopes to cook her way into her husband’s heart. The lunchbox goes astray and so begins a quiet but captivating epistolary relationship between Ila and the receiver of her deliciously cooked meals, delivered by way of the famous dabbawalas of Mumbai.

It is hard to believe that such a subtle, deeply sophisticated film is the work of a debutant, and yet it is indeed Ritesh Batra’s first film. Just as impressive is that Batra managed to convince the peerless Irrfan Khan to play the slightly surly, uncommunicative, about-to-retire accountant who accidentally receives Ila’s fragrant meals. As Khan’s character (whose name is revealed via a thoroughly tongue in cheek scene at Ila’s apartment) learns to appreciate the gift lunches, he and Ila strike up an exchange of notes that initially begin with banalities like “the food was too salty today,” and progress to candid exchanges about their lives and dreams.

It is not difficult to believe that the poor neglected Ila would succumb to cooking meals for a complete stranger, especially after we see her meager interactions with Rajiv, the thoughtless and possibly unfaithful husband. As for Irrfan Khan’s character, a widower who has reconciled himself to accepting his loneliness, Ila is a beacon of all that is thoughtful and generous. This is not a film about grand gestures, destiny, or even “true romance” as we have come to know it through mainstream cinema. Instead this wonderful story deals with the minutiae of life that makes it worth living – the small kind acts, the home-cooked meals, the everyday jokes, the appreciation of the people who truly care for you.

As Ila and her new friend slowly find their way towards each other, you wonder, as so often happens in real life, if they will actually miss each other because of the debris that surrounds them – their pasts, their duties, their own crippling fears. Beautifully observed and filmed in a Mumbai rarely seen in Bollywood films, The Lunchbox is one of the most enchanting films I’ve seen in a long while. It is no wonder that when it premiered at Cannes in 2013 it won the Critics Week Viewer’s Choice award.

The Lunchbox is now available on DVD with English subtitles.
Sky High at the China Town Restaurant

When my editor told me about a new lounge at Lajimpat that his Kathmandu colleague had to and asked me to go review it, I was most excited by the name of this new place - Sky High. I imagined it to be on the rooftop of one of these towering high buildings that have cropped up and, if notable for nothing else, at least provide a bird's eye view of the city. Imagine my disappointment when I discovered that it was merely on the third floor of the building that houses the Big Mart department store - not nearly high enough to drown out the cacophony from the busy street below and definitely not deserving of such lofty name.

The menu was offered from the China Town Restaurant, a floor below. The head waiter explained why this was so, telling us its long history. China Town restaurant opened 21 years ago and was the first of its kind to serve authentic Chinese cuisine in Kathmandu and the first private restaurant to hire a Chinese chef from China (sic). As time passed and many other restaurants opened, the owners realised that they weren't attracting any new customers. A decision was taken to revamp their terrace as a lounge, offer live music three times a week and an open mic on the other days, and thus Sky High was born. The food and kitchen, however, is still clearly the domain of the China Town Restaurant.

We were there for a leisurely lunch and after hearing the backstory, we promptly descended into the cool dining room below. Although an attempt has been made to create a relaxing, soothing space on the terrace, it is swelteringly hot in the afternoons. The Beijing Soup (Rs 120 for a small bowl and Rs 200 for a big one) was thick with minced bits of chicken, prawn and pork and suitably satisfying. The plate of cold cucumber (Rs 150) was replenished with flavours of fish sauce and fermented black beans, tanginess from freshly squeezed lemon sauce and a mild sweet and spicy, humble yet delightful, aftertaste from the sweet soy sauce. I liked that the cucumbers were served sliced thickly and retained their crunch and moisture.

We skipped the other appetisers and rushed headlong into our spicy oriental lunch. The pork ribs (Rs 400) were ribs in name only, as they could have been cut into any part of the meat and were drenched in a sauce so thick as to be slightly cloying. The spicy fried steam fish (Rs 425 for half and Rs 800 for the full piscine) was, in a word, delicious. It comes with fins, tail, head (inclusive of a beady staring eye intact) and all its bones. This dish calls for careful detailed eating but it is worth the effort. The tender flesh flakes off easily and is cooked so delicately, it almost melts in the mouth. The sweet brinjal dry chilli (Rs 190) was a revelation into why the humble eggplant deserves to be named among the most versatile vegetables in the world. It not only transcends cultures and cuisines, but so wonderfully absorbs and takes on a variety of sauces that it is the case here too - crisp and buttery soft at the same time, sweet and spicy, humble yet delightful.

The food is filling and the portions generous. Also, it is very reasonable; our meal for two came under Rs 1500. This probably explains its popularity because ultimately we all are in search of a restaurant that serves good food at prices that won't break the bank. Ruby Tuesday

Great Food Deserves Carlsberg

That calls for a Carlsberg

---

Sky High is the third floor of the building that houses the Big Mart department store – not nearly high enough to drown out the cacophony from the busy street below and definitely not deserving of such lofty name. The menu was offered from the China Town Restaurant, a floor below. The head waiter explained why this was so, telling us its long history. China Town restaurant opened 21 years ago and was the first of its kind to serve authentic Chinese cuisine in Kathmandu and the first private restaurant to hire a Chinese chef from China (sic). As time passed and many other restaurants opened, the owners realised that they weren't attracting any new customers. A decision was taken to revamp their terrace as a lounge, offer live music three times a week and an open mic on the other days, and thus Sky High was born. The food and kitchen, however, is still clearly the domain of the China Town Restaurant.

We were there for a leisurely lunch and after hearing the backstory, we promptly descended into the cool dining room below. Although an attempt has been made to create a relaxing, soothing space on the terrace, it is swelteringly hot in the afternoons. The Beijing Soup (Rs 120 for a small bowl and Rs 200 for a big one) was thick with minced bits of chicken, prawn and pork and suitably satisfying. The plate of cold cucumber (Rs 150) was replenished with flavours of fish sauce and fermented black beans, tanginess from freshly squeezed lemon sauce and a mild sweet and spicy, humble yet delightful, aftertaste from the sweet soy sauce. I liked that the cucumbers were served sliced thickly and retained their crunch and moisture.

We skipped the other appetisers and rushed headlong into our spicy oriental lunch. The pork ribs (Rs 400) were ribs in name only, as they could have been cut into any part of the meat and were drenched in a sauce so thick as to be slightly cloying. The spicy fried steam fish (Rs 425 for half and Rs 800 for the full piscine) was, in a word, delicious. It comes with fins, tail, head (inclusive of a beady staring eye intact) and all its bones. This dish calls for careful detailed eating but it is worth the effort. The tender flesh flakes off easily and is cooked so delicately, it almost melts in the mouth. The sweet brinjal dry chilli (Rs 190) was a revelation into why the humble eggplant deserves to be named among the most versatile vegetables in the world. It not only transcends cultures and cuisines, but so wonderfully absorbs and takes on a variety of sauces that it is the case here too - crisp and buttery soft at the same time, sweet and spicy, humble yet delightful.

The food is filling and the portions generous. Also, it is very reasonable; our meal for two came under Rs 1500. This probably explains its popularity because ultimately we all are in search of a restaurant that serves good food at prices that won't break the bank.
Fever heard of Plantar Fasciitis? It is Latin for ‘sole inflammation’, and leads to pain on the heel pad. The plantar fascia is a band of tissue that runs from the heel and supports the arch of the foot. A 45-year-old surgeon at a local hospital started experiencing pain in his right heel as he was operating on his patients. He would typically feel better for some time when he soaked his feet in hot water. The pain was worse in the morning so he soaked his feet in hot water. The pain was worse in the morning so he soaked his feet in hot water.

He took ordinary pain medicines, using ice for temporary relief. Obese people and athletes who are constantly pounding their feet may also may suffer from this ailment. Athletes who are running from the heel and supports the arch of the foot. The pain will improve within a few days. The pain may decrease with a proper warm up before vigorous exercise. In severe cases, there may even be localised swelling in the heel if regular exercises are continued despite the pain.

Unfortunately there is no single, effective treatment for plantar fasciitis. Educating patients about their condition can be an integral part of therapy. Athletes with plantar fasciitis may need to modify their activity and opt for temporary rest. Obese people may need to lose weight. Not walking with bare feet and using shoes with good arch support and cushioned heels may help. Massage and stretching the fascia in the morning, for example, by rolling the foot over a can while you are sitting, can provide temporary relief.

Some doctors will inject steroids locally into the fascia, but this is a drastic measure for pain control. In most instances the pain will improve within a week or so even without any therapy. Importantly, plantar fasciitis is not related to nerves as this is primarily a problem of muscle and connective tissue, so if there are any neurological symptoms (numbness or weakness of the affected heel) an alternative diagnosis has to be sought.

In Western countries where there is no current tablet like the P501. Everything about the SM-P901 is intended as a work and multimedia powerhouse. The battery life of 10 hours is acceptable. The SM-P901 excels due to the extra screen space. The SM-P901 is also decked out with regular Note series features like front and back cameras (2MP and 8MP respectively), an IR blaster, 3G capability, and the S Pen, which really comes with a whopping 3GB of RAM, resulting in a multi-tasking on another level. The SM-P901 is bundled with a Samsung's powerful Exynos 5 Octa processor. It comes with a whoping 3GB of RAM, resulting in greater detail in everything from icons to videos, along with fantastic viewing angles, whether you are watching HD movies or getting work done.

The SM-P901 runs on Google’s Android mobile operating system which is powered by Samsung’s powerful Exynos 5 Octa processor. It comes with a whoping 3GB of RAM, resulting in greater detail in everything from icons to videos, along with fantastic viewing angles, whether you are watching HD movies or getting work done.

Yantrick’s Verdict: For those that believe bigger is better, there is no current tablet like the P501. Everything about the SM-P901 is intended as a work and multimedia powerhouse. The battery life of 10 hours is acceptable. Yantrick’s Verdict: For those that believe bigger is better, there is no current tablet like the P501. Everything about the SM-P901 is intended as a work and multimedia powerhouse. The battery life of 10 hours is acceptable.

Yantrick’s Verdict: For those that believe bigger is better, there is no current tablet like the P501. Everything about the SM-P901 is intended as a work and multimedia powerhouse. The battery life of 10 hours is acceptable. Yantrick’s Verdict: For those that believe bigger is better, there is no current tablet like the P501. Everything about the SM-P901 is intended as a work and multimedia powerhouse. The battery life of 10 hours is acceptable.

Yantrick’s Verdict: For those that believe bigger is better, there is no current tablet like the P501. Everything about the SM-P901 is intended as a work and multimedia powerhouse. The battery life of 10 hours is acceptable. Yantrick’s Verdict: For those that believe bigger is better, there is no current tablet like the P501. Everything about the SM-P901 is intended as a work and multimedia powerhouse. The battery life of 10 hours is acceptable.

Yantrick’s Verdict: For those that believe bigger is better, there is no current tablet like the P501. Everything about the SM-P901 is intended as a work and multimedia powerhouse. The battery life of 10 hours is acceptable. Yantrick’s Verdict: For those that believe bigger is better, there is no current tablet like the P501. Everything about the SM-P901 is intended as a work and multimedia powerhouse. The battery life of 10 hours is acceptable.

Yantrick’s Verdict: For those that believe bigger is better, there is no current tablet like the P501. Everything about the SM-P901 is intended as a work and multimedia powerhouse. The battery life of 10 hours is acceptable. Yantrick’s Verdict: For those that believe bigger is better, there is no current tablet like the P501. Everything about the SM-P901 is intended as a work and multimedia powerhouse. The battery life of 10 hours is acceptable.
The Contempt of Court Bill submitted to the legislature parliament earlier this month by the NC-UML ruling coalition has come under fire from lawyers and journalists. Minister of Law and Justice, Narhari Acharya, who is the chief architect of the Bill, defends it saying it will streamline and clarify current rules on coverage of the judiciary.

The Bill has defined what constitutes contempt of court: insulting the judgement of a court or judges, obstructing the implementation of justice, influencing cases that are subjudice, and recording of courtroom activity without permission from the court. Anyone found guilty of contempt of court can be sent to jail for one year and fined up to Rs 10,000, or both.

Critics are suspicious of the Bill because it came after strong media criticism of Acharya’s support for the nomination of eight new judges to the Supreme Court in May, some of whom were allegedly tainted. Acharya, who is also one of the members of the Judicial Council, is said to have prepared the draft of the bill on contempt of court in consultation with fellow members and several other judges.

A Contempt of Court Act, media freedom activists say, would seriously curtail freedom of expression guaranteed by the constitution. The Bill appears to have been hurriedly drafted with the intention of pushing through the legislation to muzzle the media. Most countries have Contempt of Court laws, but if it is used to restrict the ability of journalists to write on the wrongdoings of judges, then the reputation of the judiciary itself will suffer. In a country where there have been frequent exposés of corrupt judges, stifling such investigative reports would undermine democracy.

In any democratic framework, the judiciary can be subject to the same level of scrutiny as the parliamentary and executive branches. Section 4 of the Bill in particular must be reviewed before it is passed by parliament. It says undermining the public trust of the judiciary can lead to a contempt of court charge. This provision is vague and can be misused against anyone. It says spreading misleading information about court proceedings can come under contempt of court, but ‘misleading’ is not defined thus opening up the media to selective witch hunts.

Section 4(d) provides excessive protection to judges and could inhibit the media from exposing instances of judicial corruption. Similarly section 4(h) says that media houses can be charged if they publish any information on restricted cases. But it has not defined on what grounds the court can restrict cases. Under these rules, this column would be considered a contempt of court.

Section 13 which defines the sanction must be reviewed. The objective of the Contempt of Court Act should be to uphold the authority and impartiality of the courts, but this is not protected or commanded. Rather it is earned by safeguarding the fundamental rights of citizens. The role of media is to expose biased verdicts with evidence, not to protect the dignity of court. The respect towards judiciary and justices must come spontaneously, they shouldn’t seek enforced silence from the media.

Another provision in the legislation is the one-year prison term for infringement which is excessively severe. The purpose of the imprisonment and fine in the contempt of court is symbolic: a warning not to abuse freedom of expression. The court and the justices cannot take advantage of charges of contempt of court to ensure their dignity by forcing journalists not to write.

Journalists must be accountable for what they write but shouldn’t be threatened by justices in the name of maintaining the dignity of the judiciary. They must own respect but what they are doing is seeking forceful respect through the new act. If the parliament passes the proposed bill on the same grounds, that will contravene many provisions of existing national and international laws.

The main question is the timing of this Bill, closely following the controversial appointment of new justices which came under severe criticism in the media. Discussions on the bill must continue, as should consultations with the stakeholders and it should be reviewed in the context of contemporary laws on freedom of expression, the right to information and other international human rights provisions.

Binita Dahal is a reporter at BBC Nepali Service.

Himalmedia is looking for Marketing Executives to augment the current sales team of its trend-setting products: Nepali Times, Himal Khabarpatrika and their online editions.

Although previous experience in media sales is a big plus, apply if you think you have strong marketing, inter-personal communication and presentation skills.

We are looking for goal-oriented, committed and hard-working young professionals aspiring for a career in media.

Selection will be weighted in favour of female candidates, two-wheel riders, knowledge of MS Excel, Indesign, web design for multiple platforms and applications.

Why wait? Let’s scoot off.
Commissions of convenience

“We can’t live as victims forever, we need closure. If the sacrifice of our relatives is recognised it would help the healing process.”

TRISHNA RANA

For war victims and human rights activists gathered at the Supreme Court on the morning of 10 July for the hearing on their writ petition, it was to be a tedious and frustrating day. More than 200 victims had filed a petition demanding amendments to the Commission on Investigation of Missing Persons, Truth, and Reconciliation 2070 Bill tabled in parliament in April. But hopes of a speedy hearing were crushed as the bench of three justices postponed the case citing lack of time, without an alternate date. The court’s indifference left victims and human rights activists wondering once again if the government is trying to intentionally delay the process.

“Yes, it’s not possible for the state to meet all the demands of victims or provide compensation for all our loss. But it can prepare good policies and programs, provide education to war-affected children,” said Suman Adhikari, one of the petitioners whose father was executed by the Maoists in 2003. “If the government makes an effort to win our hearts and shows a genuine desire to pursue justice, then we are willing to own up to their crimes and ask for forgiveness,” said Dhakal.

The existing draft bill fails to meet international standards of prosecution and reparation. However, the larger and more central goal of the bill is to reach to the heart of the conflict so as to ensure non-repetition not just of the crime, but the oppression and prejudice that led to violence in the first place.

For this to happen, justice mechanisms have to go beyond the narrow, legalistic approach to seeking reparations. They need to include provisions that promote institutional reform and bring about changes in domestic laws. Our bill is silent on both counts. Said Raut: “Long-term reforms like amending security policies and regulations are a must if we are to make sure there is no repetition of past mistakes. Improvements within political parties and state institutions are also required as these organisations are better suited to serve the people and our future generations can feel that they have to access justice.”

A successful Commission is one that listens and documents the experiences of mistreatment, sufferings, and struggles of people during war even if they are not direct victims. It might be hard to verify each and every violation making prosecution impossible, but as experiences of other post-conflict countries have shown, sharing the pain of the past with the larger community can be a means of healing itself.

Said Manjila Dahal: “We can’t live as victims forever, we need closure. If our stories are heard, if the sacrifice of our relatives is recognised and if we are made to feel like their contribution led to change and prosperity in the country, then it would help our healing process.”
JANAK BAHADUR RAUT, 39, is chairperson of Conflict Victims’ Society for Justice which works with survivors from both sides of the war. On 15 April 2005, Raut was detained by security forces on accusations of treating Maoist combatants at his health clinic. He was kept blindfolded, subjected to electric shock and other forms of physical and mental torture for 18 days at Shivadal Barrack in Gorusinghe.

“The government still does not have proper documentation on the number of victims who were tortured during the war,” admits Raut. “When we ask why, officials tell us ‘There were so many people who were beaten and tortured, how are we supposed to keep track of all of them?’”

It took Raut more than two years to recover from his injuries and trauma, and he is still weak. Raut filed a case at the district court in 2007 and in a hearing on January 2008, the court convicted Colonel Kumar Lama, ordered disciplinary action against him, and asked the government to provide compensation.

In 2013, Lama was arrested in the UK under the universal jurisdiction on torture. The Nepal government has been trying to get him released through bilateral negotiations.

SUMAN ADHIKARI, 38, heads the Conflict Affected Orphans Society and has been actively campaigning for justice for more than a decade. His father Muktinath Adhikari was the headmaster at Padmini Sanskrit Higher Secondary School in Duradanda, Lamjung district. Muktinath was murdered by the Maoists on 16 January 2002 on suspicions of being an “informer” and for not donating 25 per cent of his Dasain bonus to the party.

The harrowing photo of the teacher’s lifeless body tied to a tree has become emblematic of the brutality faced by thousands upon thousands of Nepalis during the 10-year conflict. Immediately after the murder, the Adhikaris lodged a complaint with the district police, but there were no investigations. In 2011, the family filed a First Information Report against three suspects (Devendra Poudel, Sadhuram Ghimire and Dhruba Adhikari). A day later, Poudel was made the coordinator of the District Peace Committee of Lamjung.

Says Adhikari: “The state tells us not to talk about justice because it will derail the peace process. What kind of peace is it where the victims cannot raise their voices? This will only sow the seeds for future conflict.”

MANJIMA DHAKAL, 23, is a reporter at The Rising Nepal. Originally from Hamdi in Gorkha, Manjima was seven when her father Rajendra Prasad Dhakal was disappeared from Tanahun district by the police on 8 January 1999. An active member of the Maoist party, Dhakal was a lawyer and chairman of the Gorkha District Bar Association, and it wasn’t the first time he had been detained.

In 2009, the Supreme Court finally named police inspector Kush Bikram Rana as one of the prime culprits and provided the family compensation and education. Except for compensation for legal fees, Manjima says none of these measures have been implemented. As the eldest of three children Manjima had to protect her siblings from a tragic past and she has been active in the fight to uncover the whole truth about their father’s disappearance.

There is a sense of vulnerability, frustration, and hurt in Manjima’s voice as she says: “Many in Nepal have turned the transitional justice process into a means of livelihood and the longer it is drawn out, the better for them. But I want this to get over with as soon as possible because we have lived with mental anguish for far too long, not knowing what happened to our father.”

Justice bearers
Prakash raising livestock

Himalkhabar.com, 15 July

The controversial son of Maoist Chairman Prachanda, Prakash Dahal (pic, above) has now turned into a livestock farmer. Prakash bought a pig farm from Maoist leader Gopal Kiranti in March, and had previously also bought a dairy farm in Chitwan.

Prakash says his latest foray into livestock farming is aimed at encouraging Nepali youth to look for jobs within the country, and not leave for work abroad. “I would like to request all the youngsters to toil in Gulf countries to work hard in Nepal,” said Prakash, who has in the past, been in the news for all the wrong reasons.

When the Baburam Bhattarai led government sanctioned Rs 20 million for an expedition team to Everest that included Prakash in 2012, the decision was bitterly criticised. The same year, Prakash eloped with Maoist student activist Bina Thapa Magar who was also a member of the same expedition, leaving behind his wife and son in Kathmandu.

Maoist leaders Prakash Adhikari, Ranjit Tamang and Indra Bhushal are Prakash’s partners in the business.

Prakash was actively involved with the party for 15 years but doesn’t hold any post today. “I realise I have made mistakes in the past, and I am now working to correct those and change myself,” wrote Prakash in a Facebook status. In the same post, he claims all his family property were spent on the building of the party and he had to borrow money for his business from his maternal uncle.

“I do not have any responsibility in the party, neither am I in a position to do anything,” he writes. But in a conversation with this magazine, Prakash said he would like to take forward his political career and business together. Prakash says his next venture is beekeeping and plans to buy some hives soon.

More deliveries

Khem Raj Rijal, Goodbye National Daily, 10 July

In remote Goltakuri, Dang, they do not have transportation throughout the year and even drinking water is difficult to manage. But in the last 12 months, 120 pregnant women delivered their babies at the tiny sub-health post, exceeding the number of institutional deliveries at the Rapti Zonal Hospital in Tulsipur.

“Relentless campaigning for infants’ health has also increased the number of attendees at vaccination camps. Every year, almost 200 women give birth at the sub health post in Goltakuri,” says ANM Yamkala Budhathoki, before returning to give saline water to a patient.

In remote Goltakuri, Dang, they do not have transportation throughout the year and even drinking water is difficult to manage. But in the last 12 months, 120 pregnant women delivered their babies at the tiny sub-health post, exceeding the number of institutional deliveries at the Rapti Zonal Hospital in Tulsipur.

“This is because we are experienced and people have immense trust in us,” says Kaushila KC, a maternal and child health cadre at Goltakuri.

“The government is the only one that helps us with the materials,” says KC. “We have transportation, facilities, and other things required to provide adequate health care to our people.”

The District Public Health Office in headquarters Ghorahi has plans to upgrade facilities at Goltakuri SHP. DPHO Chief Keshab Raj Pandit says he wants to contract more health workers at Goltakuri, so that the 24-hour maternal services there can be better implemented. KC and Budhathoki have also been requesting for funds to build more buildings because the current SHP offices are small and cramped.

A journey to embark, together

Nagarik News App

Why Join NRM Reader’s Club?

1. Receive weekly emails of the most read news articles from our online portals.
2. Get 10% discount on monthly/yearly subscription of Nagarik Dainik and Republica English Daily.
3. Get up to 25% discount on direct personal ad space on both Nagarik and Republica, such as Condolence, Congratulation, Classified etc. on the condition these ads are placed on specific dates.
5. Get 50% discount on monthly/yearly subscription of Nagarik Dainik and Republica English Daily.
6. Free digital copy of requested news articles as per its availability.
7. High probability of involvement in CSR activities, seminars and other discussion programs organized by Nepal Republic Media.
8. Get 10% discount on monthly/yearly subscription of Nagarik Dainik and Republica English Daily.
9. Get up to 25% discount on direct personal ad space on both Nagarik and Republica, such as Condolence, Congratulation, Classified etc.
10. Get a personalised NRM Privilege Card.

Constitution

Bank note: Rs 50 million

Basu Kshiz in Annapurna Post, 12 July

“Give us what we asked for in the budget, or else we’ll make you pay through your teeth.”

Khem Raj Rijal, Gorakshya National Daily, 10 July

“Give us what we asked for in the budget, or else we’ll make you pay through your teeth.”

More deliveries

Khem Raj Rijal, Goodbye National Daily, 10 July

In remote Goltakuri, Dang, they do not have transportation throughout the year and even drinking water is difficult to manage. But in the last 12 months, 120 pregnant women delivered their babies at the tiny sub-health post, exceeding the number of institutional deliveries at the Rapti Zonal Hospital in Tulsipur.

This is because we are experienced and people have immense trust in us,” says Kaushila KC, a maternal and child health cadre at Goltakuri.

Relentless campaigning for infants’ health has also increased the number of attendees at vaccination camps. Every year, almost 200 women give birth at the sub health post in Goltakuri. Complicated cases are referred to private hospitals that are better facilitated.

Women who give birth at health posts are given a ‘golden bag’ which consists of two sets of clothes for the baby, one for the mother, and a mosquito net. They are also given travel expenses up to Rs 500 and other token financial incentives to come for routine checkups.

Laxmi Chaudhari, a local who brought her daughter-in-law to give birth at the health post, says villagers are satisfied with the service but laments how the government remains far and inaccessible, particularly when it comes to addressing problems faced by the residents of Goltakuri.

Why Join NRM Reader’s Club?

1. Receive weekly emails of the most read news articles from our online portals.
2. Obtain digital copy of requested news articles as per its availability.
4. Get 25% discount on direct personal ad space on both Nagarik and Republica, such as Condolence, Congratulation, Classified etc. on the condition these ads are placed on specific dates.
5. Free digital copy of requested news articles as per its availability.
The government has said it will take action against individuals and groups opposing infrastructure development. In his budget speech on Sunday, Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat announced a special program to deal with those who create obstructions to energy, hydropower, and infrastructure projects.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

The budget has set aside Rs 26 billion for infrastructure development. It has special provisions for a detailed project report for the Kathmandu-Tarai fast track to be completed within six months. It has allocated money to open up the tracks for the Mid-Hill Highway and also construct 20 bridges on it. Money has been set aside to connect Dolpa and Humla by road. More than 527km new road will be pitched and 498km gravelled in the next 12 months while 227km new dirt tracks will be opened up.

The government will now be able to take legal action against those who delay national development projects on any ground. There are plans to draft a law that will deal with land acquisition and property evaluation. The government will also amend the Environment Conservation Act so that pending projects will soon be able to begin their Environmental Impact Assessments.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.

Mahat also said the private sector would get subsidies for investment in hydropower. Private companies that complete construction in the next nine years will be exempted from income tax for 10 years and will have to pay only half the total income tax for the next five years.

Mahat has allocated Rs 26.17 billion for the energy sector. He also announced load-shedding would end in the next three years because projects like the Upper Tamakoshi, Trisuli IIIA, Chameliya and Kulekhani III would get special provisions in the budget.
Now that the #WorldCup and the #UMLConvention are both over, the country can move on to the next point on the agenda, which is to speculate about Clown Prince Paras and the soup he has got himself into again in Thailand. Luckily, the Thais have a soft spot for royalty and ex-HRH can thank his lucky stars he wasn’t in Singapore when caught with pot, because he’d be facing a firing squad by now. Meanwhile back home, Clown Prince Comrade Prakash, whose sowing of wild oats has been a source of great embarrassment for his awesome Dad, seems to have mended his ways and has taken to raising pigs.

We were happy to see that the Underfed Marxist-Leninists decided to reinstate portraits of their patron saints Comrade Karl and Comrade Vlad inside the Convention tent last week, but only after the departure of invited foreign delegates. The UML are finally true Euro Communists because of the €€€€ they get from party faithful in Europe.

To move with the times, the Marxbad-Leninbads debated whether to rebrand and reposition the party by shedding the hammer and sickle flag. The comrades are in the horns of a dilemma: they have to distinguish themselves from the Baddies who have the same symbol, but on the other hand they have to show that they haven’t dumped the dream of transforming Nepal from a Himalayan Shangri-la to a Communist Utopia.

The party took a great leap forward by staging a high-tec convention last week, although the drone it deployed at the inaugural ceremony very nearly decapitated the entire Bum Dev Clique as it lip-synced the Internationale from on stage. If the UML party symbol is to be changed, the Ass would suggest the following makeover to reflect its new technocratic image:

And while we are at it, we could also revamp the Nepali Congress flag. Everyone has forgotten what the four stars stand for, so we have changed the flag to remind us of the constant infighting.

There is a great deal of soul-searching going on within the Cash Maoists after its election defeat, so here is a suggestion for a new party mnemonic to reflect its fresh new outlook.

And how can we leave out the Dash Baddies and their constant threats to take the country back to war? They too need a makeover to reflect their pyrotechnics with this new icon.

The Ass