In April 1915, Nepali Gurkha battalions and Allied forces were deployed in the disastrous campaign to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey and threaten Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire. David Seddon presents the first installment of a series of monthly flashbacks of Gurkha involvement in the First World War during which 20,000 Nepalis were killed.

Nepali in Gallipoli

In April 1915, Nepali Gurkha battalions and Allied forces were deployed in the disastrous campaign to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey and threaten Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire. David Seddon presents the first installment of a series of monthly flashbacks of Gurkha involvement in the First World War during which 20,000 Nepalis were killed.

JAJARKOT’S UNSUNG HEROES

Battling neglect and apathy, health workers risked their own lives to save hundreds of patients in the Jajarkot flu outbreak. But instead of lauding them, the mainstream media acted like a lynch mob.

BY OM ASTHA RAI

DESTINATION NEPAL KNOWLEDGE SERIES

April Focus: Transport infrastructure for tourism
The lesson from the Everest tragedy is to spread the benefits of mountaineering to other areas of Nepal and ensure that mountaineering fees go for the welfare of high-altitude workers.
The final redemption

The good news is that the constitution has become the only way for senior leaders to ensure a political future for themselves.

Sushil Koirala’s desperation to buy the opposition at any cost. Having lost immediate hope of regaining in Nepal’s political power centre, Dahal will take any deal that can save him from being haunted by the bloody legacy of his ‘People’s War’. A presidential lollipop will be a bonus he will not refuse, if offered.

Maoists leaders Bijay Gachhadar and Mahanta Thakur both made their choices clear when they backed the decision to call off street protests and enter negotiations, even as Umapada Yadav and Rajendra Mahato fumed at Dahal’s ‘opportunism’. While an NC leader merely smiled at my mention of the rumours about Gachhadar’s ‘return to the fold’, my guess is Thakur is looking to reassert his stature as an older Madhesi statesman, something that will qualify him for any constitutional position in the future.

It does not take a genius to figure out that the day the constitution is drafted, the UML will challenge the NC leadership. It is entirely plausible that the NC could then cobble together a coalition with UCPN(M) and the two Madhesi factions who have 105 seats among them in the legislature parliament. In trying to get the Maosists on board, Koirala and his advisors may be looking even further ahead. A stronger Maoist party could help cut the UML down to size in the future.

Koirala’s team is gearing up for the showdown. Trouble with the districts is only the beginning. It will get uglier.

Imagine if Koirala can talk Deuba out of his resolve to call off street protests and enter negotiations, even as they backed the decision to call off street protests and engage in the ongoing dialogue. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala has his own fears to manage: for any negotiation to succeed, the incentive to cooperate among the protagonists must be greater than that to outplay one another. In a reverse prisoner dilemma, both have wisely chosen to maximise their own gains rather than trying to inflict maximum harm on each other.

This inability to dictate a political course and dipping public support means the Maosists and the Madhesis are forced to engage with the ruling parties. But the government assuring the Maosists of the judicial review on the landmark Supreme Court verdict on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission / Commission on Enforced Disappearances is plain ridiculous. It demonstrates

OPINION

BY THE WAY

Anurag Acharya

Among many other things, politics is also determined by the sum of fears among its protagonists. Pushpa Kamal Dahal’s fear of disappearing into political oblivion forced him to unilaterally call off street protests and engage in the negotiations table. It is likely that the Maoist-led opposition will soon attend their first Constituent Assembly meeting, since they boycotted the February meeting, since they boycotted the February meeting.

#755

The good news is that the constitution has become the only way for senior leaders to ensure a political future for themselves. Is that a good news for all of us? @Anurag_Acharya

Beyond Ordinary ... is what to expect when you hold your next conference, retreat, event or a getaway at our unique off - site locations.

**SUMMER CASHMERE**

SELECT LIGHTER CASHMERE PRODUCTS DURING YOUR SUMMER DAYS

Think cashmere is only for winter? Think again. Nature Knit's collection features lightweight cashmere T-shirts, tunics, pullovers, scarves, and wraps that will keep you cool in the summer heat.

CASHMERE REDEFINED

Sweaters • T-shirts • Pullovers • Tunics • Wraps

info@naturekint.com • www.naturekint.com

SHOP NO: 3/69/1 SANCHARIYA KISH BUILDING, THAMEL, KTM TEL: 4376547

**SUMMER CASHMERE**

SELECT LIGHTER CASHMERE PRODUCTS DURING YOUR SUMMER DAYS

Think cashmere is only for winter? Think again. Nature Knit's collection features lightweight cashmere T-shirts, tunics, pullovers, scarves, and wraps that will keep you cool in the summer heat.

CASHMERE REDEFINED

Sweaters • T-shirts • Pullovers • Tunics • Wraps

info@naturekint.com • www.naturekint.com

SHOP NO: 3/69/1 SANCHARIYA KISH BUILDING, THAMEL, KTM TEL: 4376547

Beyond Ordinary ... is what to expect when you hold your next conference, retreat, event or a getaway at our unique off - site locations.
Nepalis need a new Electricity Act more urgently than we need a new constitution

SUJIT ACHARYA

It took Nepal 100 years to generate 700 MW of hydropower, but it took us just 10 years to add 600 MW of diesel generators. Nepal now ranks among the worst countries in the world in transmission leakage, wasting more than a third of the energy in the grid. The energy sector is in a state of disarray with piecemeal ideas, duplication and too many cooks spoiling the broth. We do not even know what our hydropower, solar, wind or other energy potentials are, and yet we have politicians spoouting superlatives every chance they get.

The chronic loadshedding is a vivid proof of the lack of vision, poor management and governance failure. Nepal’s planners should know that to achieve 1 per cent increase in economic growth energy generation needs to increase by 1.5 per cent. Nepal’s three items of import that are increasing most dramatically are petroleum products, motor vehicles that run on it, and cooking gas. We spend the equivalent of 40 per cent of the annual budget and more than half our foreign currency income buying these three items. However, if we had focused on renewable energy to drive our transportation, cooking and manufacturing, we’d have to import only minimal petroleum for buses and aviation. That would mean huge savings on our petroleum import bill, which could be invested in developing further infrastructure, boosting growth and cutting our trade deficit. That would not be any more use for Nepal Oil Corporation, and the corruption-before-shortages it spawns.

Electricity in the energy mix would reduce demand for firewood on which 72 per cent of Nepal’s still depend for cooking. On a national level, a shift to renewables would mean that Nepal’s political dependence on the outside world would also diminish as we become more self-reliant. Our prime ministers would not have to say “the keys are not in our hands” anymore. If the shift must come first in a push for electric public transport, turning petrol pumps throughout the country into fast-charging stations. There must be a policy shift to import only electric vehicles, especially for public transportation. Nissan Motors is collaborating with Bhutan to convert all government vehicles and taxis to battery-powered vehicles by 2020, there is no reason Nepal can’t do the same.

Generation of cheap electricity would allow households to switch to electric stoves, instead of gas, firewood or kerosene. It may seem like a utopian dream during these times of power cuts, but it is possible to have policies in place to generate and distribute enough electricity. Electricity proliferation can only happen when an effective law capturing this vision is put into place. But the existing Electricity Act is obsolete and defunct. We could even go as far as to say that drafting a new Electricity Act is more important for the welfare of the people than drafting a new constitution.

An Act with attractive incentives to investors would bring in outside equity into energy development. Obstruction of energy infrastructure, extortion and militant unionism could be punishable with tough laws. The Act must begin issuing one unified license on a competitive bidding basis and giving all clearances to the developer within 12 months through a one window policy. Land acquisition must be abolished and land lease started for run of river projects. Additionally, while giving better concessions to energy developers than those offered by other nations, stringent penalties for delays in getting financial closure and starting electricity production must be put into place. Local people must get 10 per cent investible shares prior to project construction so they share both potential benefits and risks — but any local person affiliated with political parties or creating disturbances should be excluded. And all the contents of this act should supersede or override the conflicting contents in any other prevalent acts or policies, thereby providing absolute and unequivocal clarity to the direction of Nepal’s energy sector.

A federal setup in the new constitution could complicate the construction of large energy projects. Transmission lines should, therefore, be under the jurisdiction of a federal company. Contracts for construction of transmission lines could go to the Nepal Army, just like for highway building.

Formation of multiple state-level distribution companies from both government and private sector must be encouraged to foster competition and improve services. Similarly, a state-level tariff commission should be set up in every federal province. Federal and state power generation and trading companies should be encouraged, and a national energy planning division should keep track of the national energy data. Micro-grids should be encouraged for remote regions.

It is time Nepal emerged from centuries of darkness, and enacting a new Electricity Act would light our way.

Sujit Acharya is the Chairperson of the Energy Development Council, an autonomous organization for the Nepal’s energy sector that is working on a draft of a new Electricity Act.
# Innovation for a Better Life

**OLED TV**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55E8P9</td>
<td>$1,099.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65E8P9</td>
<td>$1,699.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77E8P9</td>
<td>$2,499.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ultra HD TV**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55UJ6B 70T</td>
<td>$699.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65UJ6B 70T</td>
<td>$899.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77UJ6B 70T</td>
<td>$1,499.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LED TV**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32LS5610</td>
<td>$249.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39LS5610</td>
<td>$349.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43LS5610</td>
<td>$449.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WebOS TV Cinema 3D**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47LB6500</td>
<td>$1,299.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47LB6500T</td>
<td>$1,499.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Smart TV**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43UB820</td>
<td>$799.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43UB820T</td>
<td>$999.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LED TV**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32LB551A</td>
<td>$249.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32LB551A</td>
<td>$349.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32LB551A</td>
<td>$449.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**3D Blu-ray Home Theater**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HT-CT330</td>
<td>$399.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DVD Home Theater**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HT-CT250</td>
<td>$299.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HiFi System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HT-CT310</td>
<td>$199.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sound Bar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SK-500J</td>
<td>$199.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Double Door Refrigerator**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GC-271WLS7</td>
<td>$799.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Single Door Refrigerator**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GC-175NLS7</td>
<td>$499.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Washing Machine**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WF-1510</td>
<td>$349.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Microwave Oven**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ME-175</td>
<td>$149.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Range Hood**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AH-100H</td>
<td>$99.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vacuum Cleaner**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VC-200H</td>
<td>$199.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In April 1915, Nepali Gurkha battalions (“Gurkhas”) and Allied forces were deployed in what would prove to be a disastrous campaign to take control of the high ground of the Gallipoli peninsula in order to threaten Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire. This is the first installment of a series of flashbacks of the involvement of Gurkhas in the First World War.

The First Landings Late April 1915

By the end of 1914, the war on the Western Front was deadlocked. There were strong arguments for an offensive through the Balkans or even a landing on Germany’s Baltic coast, instead of more costly confrontations in France and Belgium.

These ideas were initially sidelined, but in early 1915 the Russians found themselves threatened by Ottoman forces in the Caucasus and appealed for some relief. The British government, encouraged by Winston Churchill, decided to mount a naval expedition to bombard and take the Gallipoli Peninsula on the western shore of the Dardanelles, with Constantinople as its objective. The British hoped to link up with the Ottoman forces attacking the region, to reinforce their defences.

In the meanwhile, the allied forces of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force – consisting of British and ANZAC (Australian, New Zealand and Canadian) troops, together with a Division of French and North African troops, known as the Corps Expeditionnaire d’Orient – largely unaware of the substantial numbers of troops manning the defences, prepared to land. The

were sunk and three others damaged. Military assistance was clearly required, and General Kitchener appointed an old friend from the Boer War, General Sir Ian ‘Johnny’ Hamilton, to command the proposed amphibious operation.

On 12 March, Kitchener told Hamilton: “We are sending a military force to support the fleet at the Dardanelles, and you are to have command. You will be given the 29th Division from the regular British Army, two divisions of Australian and New Zealand troops currently in Egypt, the Royal Naval Division and a French contingent in all, about 70,000 men.” Hamilton and his staff left London that afternoon at 5pm on Friday 13 March by train, crossed the Channel in a destroyer and travelled to Marseilles where the light cruiser Phaeton was waiting.

At sea, Hamilton considered the idea of supporting the 3rd Division from the 29th Division, but the fleet commander disagreed. He wrote to Kitchener, requesting more men and more ammunition and asking in particular for the deployment of the 29th Indian Brigade under Major General Vaughan Cox, a request he likened to “going up to a tiger and asking for a small slice of venison”. “I am very anxious”, he wrote, “if possible, to get a brigade of Gurkhas, so as to complete the New Zealand Divisional Organisation with a type of man who will, I am most certain, be most valuable on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The scrubby hillsides on the south-west face of the plateau are just the sort of terrain where these little fellows are at their brilliant best – such little ‘Gurk’ might be worth his full weight in gold at Gallipoli.”

Kitchener eventually agreed, and Lieutenant General Sir John Maxwell, the British Commander in Chief for Egypt, gladly handed over the 29th, which he referred to as “the Gurkha brigade”. In fact, as originally constituted in October 1914, the brigade consisted of the 14th King George’s Own Ferozepore Sikhs, the 69th Punjabis, the 89th Punjabis and the 1/6th Gurkha Rifles. It had sailed from Karachi for Egypt on 2 November 1914 under the command of Brigadier General Cox.

For the next six months it was engaged in the defence of the Souza Canal. Orders were received on 24 April to embark at Port Said on s.s. Dunluce Castle for the Dardanelles. The ship sailed east with its contingent of Gurkhas and Sikhs, arriving eventually to anchor off Sedd-al-Bahr at 12.30 on 30 April. The troops disembarked and landed in Cape Helles at the beginning of May, five or six days after the invasion of the peninsula had begun.

In the meanwhile, the allied forces of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force – consisting of British and ANZAC (Australian, New Zealand and Canadian) troops, together with a Division of French and North African troops, known as the Corps Expeditionnaire d’Orient – largely unaware of the substantial numbers of troops manning the defences, prepared to land. The

lands were initially planned for 23 April, but bad weather caused a two-day postponement and when they did take place, the operation did not go according to plan.

Eventually, by the end of the day on 25 April, the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force had succeeded in establishing a beach-head, with the ANZAC at Anzac Cove and the rest of the force on Helles, but at the cost of many thousands of men.

The objective now was the capture of the hills which ran roughly north-south along the main axis of the Gallipoli Peninsula. This was to be achieved by mounting a naval bombardment of the hills, while the Ottoman forces attacked from the east and south. Hamilton proposed an approach march, by night, up the three main ravines (Satli, Chalk and Aghyl). From the heads of these ravines the allies would attack and capture the peaks of Chunuk Bair and Hill Q, and having secured these two, attack Battle Hill, Baby 700 and Plateau 400 (all of the geographic local features considered strategically significant had by now been named).

In the last few days of April, while the Ottoman forces attacked the ANZAC beachhead, the French began to advance up the peninsula to where the enemy was holding, with the help of the hill of Achi Baba, around Kritsa. In the first battle of Kritsa on 28 April, the Allies under Major General Hunter Weston launched their assault with 13,500 men. As darkness descended, the French had failed to achieve their objective and suffered some 3,000 dead, wounded or missing. Three days later, Allied casualties numbered at least 6,500 and possibly as many as 8,000, nearly a third of the men engaged. Nowhere had the progress made been more than 600 yards and the Allied forces remained for the most part on or near the beaches.

To be continued in #759

Reinforcements Arrive: Early May 1915.

nepaltimes.com 2015

© Gurkha Times
Circumambulating with Swayambu Billy

LUCIA DE VRIES

When yoga teacher William Forbes suffered a serious accident in 1985, some predicted he might never walk again but fate had something else in store for the American iconoclast better known as ‘Swayambu Billy’. Forbes came to Nepal in 1970, and like many of his contemporaries, took the long road to Kathmandu overland on the hippie trail. The young adventurer flew to Luxembourg, where he bought a Volkswagen van, crashed it in Morocco and continued by local buses, travelling through Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. His wife, Susan Burns followed a few years later.

While studying yoga and meditation, Forbes met renowned teachers like Juddu, UC Krishnamurti and TKV Desikachar. He also met American poet Ira Cohen, Hettie Maclise (German actress and wife of Velvet Underground Angus Macise) and Finger Eight Eddie (Legendary guru of Goa hippies). During a 1985 trekking accident, he broke a leg in several places and suffered a concussion. Doctors warned him that it would take years to get back on his feet, if ever. So he decided to learn Sanskrit.

A couple of years later, Professor Theodore Riccardi recommended Forbes to translate the ninth-century Sanskrit texts, Nepal-Mahatmya and Himavatkhanda. ‘Slowly but surely the stories behind Kathmandu’s sacred destinations came to life,’ Forbes recalls. During the translation of the Nepal-Mahatmya Forbes came across this sentence: ‘When he arrived in the Holy Land of Nepal he took a ritual bath in the holy Bagmati River, worshipped Pashupati, and circumambulated the sacred Kathmandu Valley.’

After reading the story about the pilgrimage of Gunadhya, Forbes started a search of the forgotten routes. ‘In the fall of 1992, I started visiting the places with friends. Some were easy to identify, others I had never heard of. Finding the shrines was a true adventure. Although the temples are often located not far from the city, we often had the feeling that we visited a remote area where time stood still,’ Forbes told us.

In his introduction to the book, Forbes notes: “In these days of global warming, when the pristine Himalayan snows are shrinking, and the sacred rivers and bathing places are becoming polluted and drying up, it is important to encourage people to visit them while they are still there. At the same time, in my small way, I am giving back to Nepal the cultural riches and blessings it has bestowed on me.”

www.kathmandupilgrimage.wordpress.com

Walter Franken

Himalayan snows are shrinking, global warming, when the pristine places are becoming polluted and drying up, it is important to encourage people to visit them while they are still there. At the same time, in my small way, I am giving back to Nepal the cultural riches and blessings it has bestowed on me.

Walter Franken
DINING

Objects in the Mirror,
An exhibition of diverse media through which Kurchi Dasgupta tries to decipher her location as an anthropocene vis-à-vis failing states, war and economic inequality.
Inauguration on 2 May at 5pm, exhibition till 9 May, 10am to 6.30pm, City Museum, Darbar Marg, 9808563570, info@thecitymuseum.org, www.thecitymuseum.org

Root Down,
A festival of urban culture with film screenings, live music, skateboarding and free workshops on breakdancing and djing.
12 to 16 May, Alliance française of Kathmandu, Tripureshwor, (01)4241163, rootdownfestival@gmail.com

Mulchowk,
Select your special dinner from set ala-carte menu or regular menu while enjoying classical fusion, folk music by ‘Mul’ band.
Babar Mahal Revisited, (01)4558001

Radiant Women,
An exhibition of photographs by Natalie de Oliveira celebrating women fighting against trafficking.
25 April, Manga Hitti, Patan Darbar Square, (01)5011221, buddi.shrestha@pe-nepal.org, www.planete-enfants.org/

Up-cycling training
A workshop to teach volunteers how to present ‘upcycling’, a form of recycling that creatively turns waste into useful items, to teach school children. Open 25 weekends, 29 April, 10am to 11am, Clean up Nepal office, Mitibhanewa, 9841381046, info@cleanupnepal.org.np

Etched art,
An exhibition of etchings by recipients of the Australian Himalayan Foundation Art Award Program 2014, Sauranga Dashaindhan and Surendra Maharjan. 1 to 5 May, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babar Mahal Revisited, (01)4281804, siddhartha@nepal.com.np

Remembering the Lost sculptures,
A series of photo-realistic paintings by artist Joy Lynn Davis documenting community response to the theft of stone sculptures from Kathmandu Valley, and research about the sites where the sculptures originated.
2 to 25 May, Nepal Art Council, Babar Mahal, (01)4281805, swosti@nepalartcouncil.org.np

Women power,

Dhokaima Café,
Try Indigenous cocktails at the Rukhumi Bar.
Pazo Shoke, (01)5552113, dhokaimacafe@yahoo.com

King’s day,
A special flea market where you can sell or buy new and second hand goods, books, clothes plus promote projects, show off your talents and participate in traditional Dutch games.
24 April, Summit Hotel, Kupandole, 9851022551, 9816233101, (01)5523444, (01)5523130

Tattoo convention,
The 5th International Nepal tattoo convention. Rs.200/day or Rs.500 for 3 days. 24 to 26 April, 10am to 8pm, Yak & Yeti Hotel, Darbar Marg, www.nepaltattooconvention.com

In retrospective,

Pablo,
A solo performance by Najir Husen, which tells the story of a man whose desire can never be fulfilled. Touched, grieved and frightened by his desire, Pablo loses his mind. 27 April, 2pm and 5.30pm, Mandala Theatre, (01)41268130, 9803247787, 9840071934

Tour de Lumbini,
A four-day cycle rally to Lumbini.
1 to 5 May, 9841303867, info@tourdelumbini.org, www.tourdelumbini.org

Etched art,
An exhibition of etchings by recipients of the Australian Himalayan Foundation Art Award Program 2014, Sauranga Dashaindhan and Surendra Maharjan. 1 to 5 May, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babar Mahal Revisited, (01)4281804, siddhartha@nepal.com.np

Remembering the Lost sculptures,
A series of photo-realistic paintings by artist Joy Lynn Davis documenting community response to the theft of stone sculptures from Kathmandu Valley, and research about the sites where the sculptures originated.
2 to 25 May, Nepal Art Council, Babar Mahal, (01)4281805, swosti@nepalartcouncil.org.np

Women power,

Dhokaima Café,
Try Indigenous cocktails at the Rukhumi Bar.
Pazo Shoke, (01)5552113, dhokaimacafe@yahoo.com

King’s day,
A special flea market where you can sell or buy new and second hand goods, books, clothes plus promote projects, show off your talents and participate in traditional Dutch games.
24 April, Summit Hotel, Kupandole, 9851022551, 9816233101, (01)5523444, (01)5523130

Tattoo convention,
The 5th International Nepal tattoo convention. Rs.200/day or Rs.500 for 3 days. 24 to 26 April, 10am to 8pm, Yak & Yeti Hotel, Darbar Marg, www.nepaltattooconvention.com

In retrospective,

Pablo,
A solo performance by Najir Husen, which tells the story of a man whose desire can never be fulfilled. Touched, grieved and frightened by his desire, Pablo loses his mind. 27 April, 2pm and 5.30pm, Mandala Theatre, (01)41268130, 9803247787, 9840071934

Tour de Lumbini,
A four-day cycle rally to Lumbini.
1 to 5 May, 9841303867, info@tourdelumbini.org, www.tourdelumbini.org

Ut-cycling training
A workshop to teach volunteers how to present ‘upcycling’, a form of recycling that creatively turns waste into useful items, to teach school children. Open 25 weekends, 29 April, 10am to 11am, Clean up Nepal office, Mitibhanewa, 9841381046, info@cleanupnepal.org.np

Etched art,
An exhibition of etchings by recipients of the Australian Himalayan Foundation Art Award Program 2014, Sauranga Dashaindhan and Surendra Maharjan. 1 to 5 May, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babar Mahal Revisited, (01)4281804, siddhartha@nepal.com.np

Remembering the Lost sculptures,
A series of photo-realistic paintings by artist Joy Lynn Davis documenting community response to the theft of stone sculptures from Kathmandu Valley, and research about the sites where the sculptures originated.
2 to 25 May, Nepal Art Council, Babar Mahal, (01)4281805, swosti@nepalartcouncil.org.np

Women power,

Dhokaima Café,
Try Indigenous cocktails at the Rukhumi Bar.
Pazo Shoke, (01)5552113, dhokaimacafe@yahoo.com

King’s day,
A special flea market where you can sell or buy new and second hand goods, books, clothes plus promote projects, show off your talents and participate in traditional Dutch games.
24 April, Summit Hotel, Kupandole, 9851022551, 9816233101, (01)5523444, (01)5523130

Tattoo convention,
The 5th International Nepal tattoo convention. Rs.200/day or Rs.500 for 3 days. 24 to 26 April, 10am to 8pm, Yak & Yeti Hotel, Darbar Marg, www.nepaltattooconvention.com

In retrospective,

Pablo,
A solo performance by Najir Husen, which tells the story of a man whose desire can never be fulfilled. Touched, grieved and frightened by his desire, Pablo loses his mind. 27 April, 2pm and 5.30pm, Mandala Theatre, (01)41268130, 9808563570, 9840071934

Tour de Lumbini,
A four-day cycle rally to Lumbini.
1 to 5 May, 9841303867, info@tourdelumbini.org, www.tourdelumbini.org

It could be you!

AUDITIONS

POKHARA AUDITION

Date: 25th April 2015 | 12th Baishak 2072
Time: 10 am - 5 pm
Venue: Hotel Bahari, Lakeside, Pokhara

Organised by: IMAGE channel
Supported by: Jukson.com, Rotary Club of Nepal, Pokhara, Suncity Resort – Pokhara
For more information, log on to www.mmm.tv | www.imagechannel.com.np
MUSIC

Universal Religion,
A four-day music fest celebrating the best in electronic dance music.
24 to 27 April, Kakani. Call for tickets:
9802179066, info@urnepal.com,
kprippa@gmail.com, www.urnepal.com

Brasspackers live,
This eleven piece brass band, all the way from France, is sure to get your body moving and your soul grooving.
24 April, 8pm, Base Camp/Avun Thapa Clock,
9841226397, pareshkshrestha@gmail.com

Cool Pool Grind,
Three Nepali DJs go on tour to seven cities of the country for the coolest parties.
1 to 16 May, 9801014127,
events@timrohamro.com,
www.timrohamro.com

Jazz celebrations,
Seven jazz bands of Kathmandu perform live as part of the International Jazz Day.
30 April, 1pm to 5pm, Patan Darbar Square,
(01)5013554, sunita@katjazz.com.np

GETAWAYS

Park Village Resort,
Far away from the maddening crowd, yet so close to the city.
Budhanilkantha, 9841371927

The Yellow House,
Best and breakfast for the light traveller.
Sanepa, (01)5553869/5522078,
www.theyellowhouse.com.np

Shivapuri Cottage,
Escape the hustle and bustle of Kathmandu and enjoy peace, tranquility, good food, and fresh air.
Rs 3,500 per person per night inclusive of dinner and breakfast.
Budhanilkantha, 9841371927

La Casita de Boudhanath,
Enjoy a host of Mediterranean cuisine with breathtaking view of the Boudhanath Stupa.
Boudha, 9813614384

Manny’s,
Head down for some delicious Corn Fritters, Pad Thai Noodles, Crispy Crunch Potatoes and don’t forget their signature Manny’s Spicy Wings. All served with fine hospitality in an excellent space.
Jawalakhel, (01)5536919

FireSlice,
For the best Italian pizzas in town.
Thamel, (01)4250210

La Casita de Boudhanath, Enjoy a host of Mediterranean cuisine with a breathtaking view of the Boudhanath Stupa. Boudha, 9813614384

Mum’s Garden Resort,
Head out to Pokhara for a peaceful and comfortable stay in beautifully designed cottages surrounded by a lush green garden with great views of Phewa Lake and the Annapurna range.
Lake Side, Pokhara, (06)1463468,
www.mumsgardenresort.com

Gokarna Forest Resort,
A numinous paradise that relaxes you and encourages meditation, just a 20-minute drive away from Kathmandu.
Gokarna, (01)4451212, info@gokarna.net

Mum’s Garden Resort,
Head out to Pokhara for a peaceful and comfortable stay in beautifully designed cottages surrounded by a lush green garden with great views of Phewa Lake and the Annapurna range.
Lake Side, Pokhara, (06)1463468,
www.mumsgardenresort.com

Gokarna Forest Resort,
A numinous paradise that relaxes you and encourages meditation, just a 20-minute drive away from Kathmandu.
Gokarna, (01)4451212, info@gokarna.net

Super Fast इंटरनेटको Super Rate

हरेक दिन 2 MB पाइन
मात्र रु. 1/MB दे इंटरनेट
हिमाल ग्राहक योजना

1 चैत्रदेखि
हिमालको साखमा उपहार छातमा

हिमालमिळिंट्रक प्राक्क
शहीनको, तालेलाग, भीमबेला. ७०५८ चौक धर, ७०५८ गोमोट झालक, नेपाल. ८१-३३५२-३७६, ८१-३३५२-३७६, ८१-३३५२-३७६, ८१-३३५२-३७६

nuba@himalmedia.com | SMS: SUB <name> to 5004
Fifty-nine-year-old Dil Kumar Barahi comes from a family of carpenters, and owns a workshop in Kuti Saugal, Lalitpur. However every year for the past 50 years, he closes his shop for two to four months to build the Rato Machhindranath chariot. He is not the only one — all 24 members of the Barahi community do the same to help out with the Rato Machhindranath chariot, which has to be rebuilt from scratch every 12 years.

“It is part of our tradition and responsibility to build the chariot,” said Barahi.

The Barahis are a community of Newar carpenters who search for, carve and assemble the wooden parts of the Rato Machhindranath chariot. The chariot making skills are passed down through the generations. “I have been involved since I was nine years old,” said the 59-year-old Barahi.

The Barahis begin their work as early as December, scrounging forests for specific types of timber for different parts of the chariot. The rarest type of wood is saur. Coincidentally, saur is also needed for the main fixture of the chariot, the dhombar — a long wooden trunk on which the person leading the chariot sits.

“Every year it gets harder to find saur; I have no idea if there will be enough wood to sustain the festival in the future,” said Barahi.

Besides the Barahis, master vinesmen known collectively as the Yewals help to construct the chariot by weaving rope and rattan to secure the wooden structure. Rameshwor Maharjan is a member of the Yewal Society, and in the week prior to the festival, he and 40 other members scale the 65-feet tall chariot and hang precariously off its wooden edges, working for more than 10 hours a day.

Like the rest involved in the chariot making process, they are not provided with any form of insurance. But Maharjan still turns up every year. “I am proud that I can use my knowledge with ropes to preserve my culture,” said Maharjan.

The chariot makers are so dedicated to their work, that even nationwide strikes can’t deter them. During the general strike called by the Maoists in April, Dil Kumar Barahi organised a 20-bike group and insisted that the district traffic police escort them to Bungamati temple, where the chariot is constructed, so as to continue working on the structure.

“We cannot delay working on the chariot for even a day, because we have to get it ready in time for the auspicious date,” he said.

That date this year was 19 April, when the idol of Rato Machhindranath was placed inside the chariot. Three days later, the chariot was hauled from Bungamati and will travel through Bhaisipati, Nakhu, Pulchok, Gabahal, Sundhara, Lagankhel in the next few weeks, before concluding with Bhoto Jatra in Jawalakhel.

Made entirely out of wood, rope and no nails, the brand new wheels of the chariot will be hammered halfway through its journey into Patan, and the rope work will come undone. Yet, the Barahis and Yewals will continue to fix the chariot along the way, and will repeat the process next year.

But Barahi says there might be less Barahis and Yewals turning up next year. “The younger generation find it increasingly difficult to leave their jobs and work on the chariot for little daily allowance,” he said.

“There is little money and appreciation for them as compared to working in an office,” he added.

He said: “It’ll be nice if people knew about us because this is how the culture lives on.”
SONG OF THE SEA

Having now seen, and reviewed, four out of the five “Best Animated Feature Films” (barring The Boxtrolls) nominated this past season for the Academy Awards, I can safely say that the animated films are on a far superior level than the live action “Best Picture” nominations, depending, of course, on your inclinations; I have always maintained that reviewing is just about opinion and taste.

Song of the Sea was an underdog nominee in the animation category, coming in pretty much under the radar, an Irish production that hardly any one has seen, especially alongside its heavy hitting competitors like How to Train Your Dragon 2, and Big Hero 6 - which won the award. Like The Tale of the Princess Kaguya - a film out of the Japanese Studio Ghibli, Song of the Sea is a folk tale made unforgettable by its spectacularly beautiful, tear inducing visuals, produced by a relatively small Irish studio named Cartoon Saloon based out of Kilkenny, Ireland and written and directed by Tomm Moore, one of the key people at the Studio.

The makers are keenly attuned to the beautiful and the weird, honing in on all that is captivating and terrifyingly melancholy in Irish folklore. The Song of the Sea encapsulates overlapping mythologies, dealing with faeries, selkies, a talking owl, and adds one very dedicated English sheepdog named Cú who pretty much steals the show.

As Ben grows up resentful of Saoirse, who six years later is still unable to speak, they are looked after by Cú’s watchful presence as both Conor and Ben try to deal with their loss. It is only when Saoirse discovers how to play her mother’s seashell horn that the magic that has always been lying under the surface of this charming film comes fully into the picture (pardon the pun). Suddenly the world of these children and their fluffy loyal dog becomes saturated with women who must leave their children to return to the water in their natural seal forms, men who are turned into stone out of grief, and talking semi-malevolent owls.

This witty, sweet, exquisite film is one that lacks just a little cohesion in its story, not that the children will mind, but it is the adults who will be left dumbstruck by its sheer beauty.

nepaltimes.com

MUST SEE
Sophia Pande

Song of the Sea

BEAUTY QUEENS: (left to right) Miss Nepal first runner-up Dipshya Vaidya, Miss Nepal Evana Manandhar and second runner-up Medha Koirala at the finale of the Miss Nepal 2015 pageant on Saturday.

WOMEN POWER: Winners of the Celebrating Womanhood Navadevi Awards pose with their trophies at a function on Sunday.

HI, HELLO: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

MADE PUBLIC: Dhal Bahadur Khadka, the prime suspect in the murder 18 years ago of Father Thomas Calne, founder of St Xavier School Social Service Centre was arrested by Police on Tuesday.

BEAUTY QUEENS: (left to right) Miss Nepal first runner-up Dipshya Vaidya, Miss Nepal Evana Manandhar and second runner-up Medha Koirala at the finale of the Miss Nepal 2015 pageant on Saturday.

M-Series Printers
Get the most ECONOMICAL B/W PRINTERS ever

Best for Office and Commercial purpose

EPSON

PHOTO RAPHAEL

Japanse Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.

PHOTO SUNITA BHAKTA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chats with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as they arrive at the venue of the Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on Wednesday.
**THE NEPAL CHRONICLES**

A s a student of history, Elizabeth Hawley first came to Kathmandu in 1960 during a tour around Asia. She never left, staying in the same house in Dilli Bazar for the past half-century.

As a journalist, mountaineering archivist, tourism executive, honorary consul for New Zealand, and head of a charity, she has seen it all. Hawley, now 92, served as a correspondent for Reuters and *Time-Life* and had a ringside view of recent history; from the 1960 Mahendra coup, through the Panchayat years, the 1980 referendum, the Indian blockade, the first pro-democracy movement, the conflict, the palace massacre of 2001, the ceasefire, end of the monarchy, and the current transition.

Hawley was like Helen Thomas of UP, the famous doyenne of the White House foreign correspondent corps. Like Helen Thomas, Liz was always at the important press conferences, and was inevitably asked the toughest questions. And she always had a followup, which made a lot of Nepali ministers very nervous.

Most of the news from Nepal in those days was about mountaineering, and Hawley didn’t just cover them for Reuters, she carefully documented every climb. The joke is that a mountaineer hasn’t officially summited a Himalayan peak until Liz Hawley says so. Many mountaineers found their post-expedition debriefing in front of Miss Hawley in Kathmandu more challenging than the climb itself.

Through all those years, Hawley wrote meticulous reports for her boss at Tiger Tops, Jim Edwards. While looking through her library one day, the Himalayan historian Mikel Dunham came across the Hawley Files, by chance opened the pages for 1 June, 2001 with notes on the royal massacre and was immediately engrossed. He immediately felt the book would be an invaluable chronicle of Nepali politics. He got another long-time Nepal resident and Hawley’s colleague at Tiger Tops, Lisa Choegyal, to volunteer to pore through and transcribe the notes.

The results are two thick volumes of text more than 2,000 pages long, which will serve as an important reference tool for journalists, academics, diplomats and the donor community in Nepal. The text is scrupulously based on verified facts, there are no rumours, gossip, speculation, or a political bias here. However, it is not a collection of dry dispatches, between the lines one catches a glimpse of Hawley’s commitment to democracy, freedom and social justice.

Dunham and Choegyal have taken the trouble to make the volumes user-friendly with an index, a glossary of terms and acronyms. This is not a book one reads cover to cover (although you could also do that) but to refer to for facts, dates, and the circumstances of historical events in Nepal in the past 28 years.

In wire service journalism they tell you to stick to the Who, What Where When. Liz Hawley’s *The Nepal Scene* has answers to all those questions. The price tag is worth it, and especially so because proceeds will go to the charity, Himalayan Trust.

Kunda Dixit

---

**Bhauju House**

I n a small alleyway, a stone’s throw from the Patan Kumari house lies a hole-in-the-wall eatery that serves up gratifying Newari grub.

The eatery does not have a proper name but locals affectionately call it ‘bhauju ko ghar’ or bhauju’s house. The ‘bhauju’ running the place is Rita Maharjan, a petite housewife who whiskers around the cramped eatery with ease, serving up plates of delicious aanda chiura (egg with beaten rice).

Aanda chiura (Rs 65) is by far the most popular dish the eatery serves. It’s a pairing that will make the trip to the dimly lit eatery worthwhile. If you are in for a filling meal, order the Buff Chili (Rs 85). The slices of buffalo meat fried together with dried chilli can be a little chewy, but crispy at the same time. The hint of heat makes the dish even more appetising.

Adventurous diners can try the raw buffalo meat (Rs 80) instead. The raw buffalo meat is mixed together with coriander, and comes with a squeeze of lime juice, giving it a refreshing taste. Vegetarians can opt for the aloo tama (Rs 25), a potato and bamboo shoot dish served in a hot and sour broth. This dish also provides a nice contrast from the dry and salty dishes like aanda chiura and buff chilli.

Using simple ingredients, and serving up no more than four types of dishes, the ‘bhauju’ eatery running for more than 19 years. In that period, the eatery has garnered its own legion of regulars and has also gained popularity with locals in the area. The reputation of the eatery might have grown, but its physical space has – amusingly – shrunk. “We used to be a big eatery but we started leaning out part of the stall’s space to workshops,” said Maharjan.

Right now, the eatery can barely fit 30 people and according to locals, if you arrive after 6.30pm, chances are that it will be hard to find a seat.

But perhaps it is the charm of a small, back alley eatery that attracts loyal customers. It is unpretentious, cheap and serves up sinful but delicious foods.

Unlike Hinachha, which is over-hyped, the ‘bhauju’ house is a hole-in-the-wall eatery that might possibly be Patan’s best kept foodie secret.

Cynthia Chau

How to get there: Bhauju house is a small eatery on the left of the alley beside Kumari Party Palace in Gaheshah.

---

**Blended with Select Spices and Himalayan Herbs**

**Our Pride... Nepal’s No. 1**

---

**Bhauju House**

---

**The Nepal Scene Chronicles of Elizabeth Hawley, 1988-2007**

*Volumes 1 and 2 *

Editors: Lisa Choegyal and Mikel Dunham

*Vaja Books* 2015


Price: Rs 6,000
Hi all,

Very few people know exactly what they want to do with their lives, most people settle with what seems to be more convenient. Others, instead of giving in to social norm, choose to follow their gut/heart/instinct: they might not be there yet but they are most likely on their way to find it. I believe you should follow your heart, pursue true happiness, find an opportunity in every setback and never give up. When you find the right job/ career/ partner you will just know because somewhere deep within, you always knew.

Hey Anjana

I have always wanted to become someone important but I also do not want to work so hard that I don’t have a life. I also feel I am interested in so many things. I think my biggest problem is that I do not believe in myself. In school and college, I didn’t work too hard but I always did well. I also got my master’s degree and I am working as a banker, the money is good but I hate the job. The only thing that keeps me going is that I love math but once I took a public speaking class and really liked it. I feel it is important to be articulate in the management profession. Is it about soul searching? I really do not know what is right for me.

AR: It is very common to not know what you want to do with your life - we’re always trying to figure things out. You just have to trust that it will work out but you have to make the effort. Achieving big dreams comes with inevitable obstacles. See every barrier as a chance to do better. It is hard to predict what your future career will be like, but it does not mean we do not try. The truth is, the path to success and happiness is not easy- people will fail, and have rough times but you should have a goal in mind and work towards it. Do not lose faith. Do you want to look back and see you stayed at a job you hated for years? Do something to change your situation. Take the risk (while using your common sense) - sometimes not taking the risk is the biggest risk of all. We all know what we love to do. Your instincts already know what you want, so instead of suppressing it- go explore and every step will bring you closer to the right one. It will take time, maybe days or years but it will come to you. The question is, can you wait? Don’t waste your life on anything less than what you are worth. You may not know what you want now, but you will always know what you do not want.

Finding the right career is like finding your perfect partner, you can either settle with what others suggest or think is right, or you can keep looking till you find what you really deserve. Cliche but you will know when you find the right one. Don’t settle. Good luck.

Anjana is a certified mental health rehabilitation technician and has four years of experience in adult mental health in Maine, USA.

GIZMO by YANTRICK

After Apple first introduced the concept of wearing the iPod Nano on our wrists, consumers started anxiously waiting for the world’s most valuable company to launch its own smartwatch to match up with Pebble and other Android models. Wearable technologies today should deliver seamless compatibility with our other electronic devices, including the ability to do everything our smartphones already do and more.

At first glance, the new Apple Watch appears to have lived up to our expectations – allowing you to send and receive messages, calls, and mail right from your wrist. Heart-rate sensors along with built-in native apps to monitor your health and fitness, and turn-by-turn navigation using Google Maps and haptic feedback so you do not have to keep checking your watch. Its tap and sketch messaging capabilities using the Force Touch feature also makes this a very fun gadget to have, but perhaps only if your friend has one too to receive your messages. However, early hands-on reports revealed a rather steep learning curve for new users, which is very uncharacteristic of Apple’s products. For the first time, there is an online guided tour in order to familiarise new users with the controls on the Apple Watch, even before any of the 2.3 million pre-orders are shipped.

Most of the features work as advertised, but heavy usage of the device takes a toll on its surprisingly short battery life. Ironically you can do in order for the battery to last a few days is to check the time only without using other features. This also means you have another gadget to worry about charging before you head to bed, in addition to your tablet, laptop and smartphone – more of a hassle than the convenience that smart devices should be providing.

What is still consistent with other Apple products though is the team’s meticulous attention to detail. The special alloys used in manufacturing the different beautifully designed Apple Watches is evidence of its high level of craftsmanship and engineering. The array of straps and types of Apple Watch – Nomal, Sport, and Edition series – also makes it highly customizable.

YANTRICK’S VERDICT: With its costly price tag and features that will ultimately fail without a good battery life, it does make one wonder if we are really in need of a smartwatch. The Apple Watch goes on sale on 24 April but Nepal might have to wait a little longer.

GSK

“I recommend Sensodyne for all day every day sensitivity protection.”

-Dr. Spiro Condos, dentist practicing in the US

World’s No.1 Sensitivity Toothpaste
*Brush twice daily for continuous protection

24x7 SENSITIVITY PROTECTION

247 SENSITIVITY PROTECTION
Fresh Gel
Refill in 1 oz.
Pointless Activity (Revolutionary)

When it comes to whipping up the masses to perform meaningless tasks nobody compares with the Maoists.

The Nepali New Year 2072 found your columnist wondering where this country might be if the last two decades weren’t lost to war and subverting by a gang of hustlers who still hold the country hostage. The recent banda, pointless as ever, reminds us of countless wasted days that turned into wasted years spent distracting the people with mindless pursuits.

Moving Target

Foreign Hand

Most ideologies, whether religious or political, encourage a certain amount of pointless activity to reinforce loyalty and distract from their failings, politicians from all parties try to divert attention from their incompetence. But credit where credit’s due; when it comes to whipping up the masses to perform meaningless tasks nobody compares with the Marxists.

Remember when the party mobilised thousands in digging trenches to save the country from invasion by Indian imperialists? The civil war itself was the most disastrous pointless activity in Nepal’s history: 17,000 dead, a society traumatised and the economy in ruins just so the Maoists could get a seat at the feeding trough that passes for democracy.

The Great Leap Forward was perhaps the most disastrous pointless activity that China undertook, a suicidal move that created the Great Famine (1958-62) in which some 35-45 million Chinese perished. As a grand finale, he launched the Cultural Revolution (1966-76), quite possibly the most insane pointless activity in human history.

Though the scale was vastly different there is something eerily familiar in such tactics. Throughout Nepal’s conflict and beyond, countless campaigns were inflicted on society only to fade into oblivion, proving them pointless. The Maoist ban of Bollywood films was a personal favourite (the hand invites readers to send in their faves) as cadres forcibly shut cassette shops to purge Nepal of insidious Indian pop culture. Without Bollywood our politicians were the only pokers left on stage, perhaps the campaigns’ secret purpose was to eliminate the competition and be the only show in town.

Land seizure campaigns were another populist charade that went nowhere, considering all properties were eventually returned to the owners and many people still remain landless. Then along came the pointless anti-alcohol campaign, ridding entire districts of booze. This concept never stood a chance, one could argue such pointless activity drove many to drink even more.

The Hrithik Roshan riot in 2001, named after a Bollywood actor who refused to halt the campaign, was perhaps the most insane pointless activity that China undertook. Mao ordered the masses to kill sparrows in the Four Pests Campaign. Millions of villagers banged drums until birds dropped from the sky, dead from exhaustion. Suddenly without predators, a plague of locusts took over and the famine that was feared turned into wasted years spent distracting the people with mindless pursuits.

Taking pointless to new heights, Mao ordered the masses to idle in factories turning useful implements into furnaces to make steel. When he visited an actual steel mill and realised the process wasn’t as simple as melting woks and pitchforks he refused to halt the campaign, more concerned about maintaining revolutionary zeal than the impending famine. Taking pointless to new heights, Mao ordered the masses to idle in factories turning useful implements into furnaces to make steel. When he visited an actual steel mill and realised the process wasn’t as simple as melting woks and pitchforks he refused to halt the campaign, more concerned about maintaining revolutionary zeal than the impending famine.

The anti-alcohol campaign was another populist charade that went nowhere, considering all properties were eventually returned to the owners and many people still remain landless. Then along came the pointless anti-alcohol campaign, ridding entire districts of booze. This concept never stood a chance, one could argue such pointless activity drove many to drink even more.

The Hrithik Roshan riot in 2001, named after a Bollywood actor who refused to halt the campaign, was perhaps the most insane pointless activity that China undertook. Mao ordered the masses to kill sparrows in the Four Pests Campaign. Millions of villagers banged drums until birds dropped from the sky, dead from exhaustion. Suddenly without predators, a plague of locusts took over and the famine that was feared turned into wasted years spent distracting the people with mindless pursuits.

Though the scale is vastly different the Maoists have degenerated into yet another activity that can only be labeled pointless, especially since Nepal already has a constitution. The most inclusive assembly in history showed itself to be a shanty to all who demand attention from the government for good governance alone. With peace came militant unionism, spouting ridiculous demands that shut factories nation-wide. What was the point of all that, except perhaps to create a pool of disgruntled unemployed to use for the endless parade of pointless demonstrations?

History shows where our comrades got their technique. Nobody beats Mao at turning a crisis into a campaign, being more concerned about maintaining revolutionary zeal than the impending famine. Taking pointless to new heights, Mao ordered the masses to idle in factories turning useful implements into furnaces to make steel. When he visited an actual steel mill and realised the process wasn’t as simple as melting woks and pitchforks he refused to halt the campaign, more concerned about maintaining revolutionary zeal than the impending famine.

The anti-alcohol campaign was another populist charade that went nowhere, considering all properties were eventually returned to the owners and many people still remain landless. Then along came the pointless anti-alcohol campaign, ridding entire districts of booze. This concept never stood a chance, one could argue such pointless activity drove many to drink even more.

The Hrithik Roshan riot in 2001, named after a Bollywood actor who refused to halt the campaign, was perhaps the most insane pointless activity that China undertook. Mao ordered the masses to kill sparrows in the Four Pests Campaign. Millions of villagers banged drums until birds dropped from the sky, dead from exhaustion. Suddenly without predators, a plague of locusts took over and the famine that was feared turned into wasted years spent distracting the people with mindless pursuits.
A few days later, a three-member team led by physician Dipak Pun reached Paink on foot to support Giri and together they worked 18 hours a day treating 1,200 patients. When Giri fell ill, he was rushed to Khalanga on a horse, then taken to Nepalgunj on a jeep from where he was flown to Kathmandu.

“At one point there were so many patients that there was no space inside the sub-health post. We treated patients in the verandah and worked late into the night burning firewood to keep the cold away,” Giri told us in a feeble voice.

The challenge was to reach patients who were too weak to be taken to the sub-health post. Bir Bahadur Chhetri, 60, died in Paink after suffering fever and headache for days. His 18-year-old son, Prakash, had also fallen sick and was not able to walk to the sub-health post. Giri walked one hour to their house, but himself fell ill along the way as he was climbing a steep trail.

“I had not slept enough for more than a week and was feeling exhausted,” he recalls. “I had been weakened by overwork.”

Amidst widespread criticism in the media of the government’s perceived failure to tackle the Jajarkot epidemic, the contribution of health workers like Giri has been overlooked.

“It’s true the government was slow to react to the epidemic, and a lot of the help was too little too late,” Jajarkot CA member Rajeep Shah told Nepal Times. “But there were huge logistical and other challenges.”

District health officer Pun also worked tirelessly despite showing some symptoms of flu himself, while treating hundreds. “In the eight days I spent at Paink, not a single patient died in the health post,” he told us by phone from the Jajarkot capital on Wednesday. “Yes, the government could have reacted faster, but we could not have done more given the limited resources we had.”

The uproar over the government’s failure also discouraged health workers toiling day and night to save people’s lives in Jajarkot.

Battling neglect and apathy health workers have saved hundreds of lives in the flu outbreak.
Health worker Bibhant Shah said the relentless negative coverage in the media has thoroughly demoralised many working in Jajarkot like him. When he reached Paink, the outbreak had been contained, so he walked to Dhime, where there were no doctors. “But some Kathmandu media reported that I had fled Paink and left people to die,” he said by phone, adding that the Kathmandu media exaggerated the extent of the outbreak. Even so, he credits newspapers for highlighting the epidemic and forcing the government to act.

As of 21 April, 25 deaths had been reported in Archhane, Paink, Sakala, Pajaru, Talegaun and Nayakwada VDCs of Jajarkot district. Not all the fatalities were a result of H1N1 influenza, commonly known as swine flu.

Krishna Khatri, epidemiologist in the Jajarkot public health office, told us: “Only four deaths were caused by swine flu. Others were either newborns or the elderly already suffering from asthma, high blood pressure and tuberculosis.”

Doctors are investigating if there might be other causes behind the Jajarkot outbreak. But samples of saliva and blood collected from the worst-affected villages of Jajarkot have tested negative for other water-borne and vector-borne diseases, including typhoid.

“No virus other than swine flu has been detected in Jajarkot,” says Baburam Marasini at the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division in Kathmandu. “But more than swine flu, it is low immunity caused by poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy and lack of sanitation that led to the fatalities in Jajarkot.”

Given this, public experts say, the Jajarkot outbreak appears to be more of a failure of state structure than the result of late response by government authorities.

What raised the death toll was that Jajarkot has very few roads, the population is spread out over the rugged mountains, and the sick have to be carried to health posts or the one single hospital in Khalanga.

Health worker Ram Krishna Giri (left) treated hundreds of patients before he himself was infected with swine flu. He is now recuperating at a hospital in Kathmandu.

Physician Moritz Tagemann (above) of the Chaurjhari Hospital examining a patient at Archhane in Jajarkot on Monday.
**“Spread awareness, not panic”**

Interview with Jajarkot-based physician Dipak Pun in Himal Khabarpatrika, 18 April

Himal Khabarpatrika: How is the situation in Paink?
Dipak Pun: Compared to two weeks ago, the situation at Paink has improved by 80 per cent. We have a team of eight health workers who has been toiling round-the-clock. However, the epidemic is still spreading to other villages. Currently, Talegaun VDC has the most number of patients infected with H1N1.

What’s the main reason for the outbreak?
We found that a lot of patients first went to see faith healers and shamans rather than visiting health clinics. Lack of awareness among the public, problems in hygiene, weak health, inaccessibility to health services, contaminated water reduced their immunity when they were exposed to the virus.

What preventive measures can we adopt?
It’s important to avoid crowds and maintain a distance while speaking to others. Try not to shake hands or share hugs. Also, wearing a mask and increasing the intake of fluids is important. Get a check up when you have a cough or cold.

Did the state neglect Jajarkot?
That’s not exactly true. We have been receiving medicines, but if the infection had been identified sooner so many lives wouldn’t have been lost. The sub-health post at Paink didn’t have a lab, and we made one after reaching there. We also called health workers from neighbouring districts. None of the patients we treated lost their lives.

What should the government do next?
A sense of panic has gripped villagers after the disease was confirmed to be swine flu. The state now needs to be more careful and alert. We need to spread the message of prevention and awareness, not terror. Swine flu can be treated. Also, it is time for the government to send a new batch of health workers to relieve those who have been working tirelessly for the past few weeks. As preventive measures, health workers and medicines should also be sent to places where there have been no infections so far.

Donor pull out

Kantipur, 23 April

Four donors have discontinued support for the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF), objecting to a legal provision that allows the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to grant amnesty for perpetrators of grave human rights violations during the conflict.

The UK, Switzerland, Norway and Denmark have refused to provide financial support for the second-phase of the NPTF saying the Act that was passed last year to form the TRC and the Commission to Investigate Enforced Disappearances (CIED) violates international laws and is against United Nations policies.

At the NPTF board meeting on Wednesday, only the European Union (EU) and USAID signed an agreement to keep up their support of the NPTF’s second-phase programs.

After the Maoists signed a peace accord with the government in 2006, the four countries had been supporting Nepal’s peace process and reconstruction of physical infrastructure damaged during the war. They had also been lobbying against amnesty for human rights violators. But the bill was passed with amnesty provisions, and the countries decided to pull out of the NPTF.

The NPTF has so far spent more than Rs 23 billion, 40 per cent of which was contributed by donor countries. But Rs 100 million of the budget for the Fund’s first-phase activities has not yet been spent, and there is pressure on the government to use this money only for holding local body elections.

Amnesty provisions in the TRC Bill was criticised by conflict victims and international human rights organisations, but these concerns were unheeded when the bill was passed.

The amnesty in the first phase of the (NPTF) has so far spent more than Rs 23 billion, 40 per cent of which was contributed by donor countries. But Rs 100 million of the budget for the Fund’s first-phase activities has not yet been spent, and there is pressure on the government to use this money only for holding local body elections.

Donors had also been lobbying against amnesty for human rights violators. But the bill was passed with amnesty provisions, and the countries decided to pull out of the NPTF.

The NPTF has so far spent more than Rs 23 billion, 40 per cent of which was contributed by donor countries. But Rs 100 million of the budget for the Fund’s first-phase activities has not yet been spent, and there is pressure on the government to use this money only for holding local body elections.

Amnesty provisions in the TRC Bill was criticised by conflict victims and international human rights organisations, but these concerns were unheeded when the bill was passed.

The amnesty in the first phase of the (NPTF) has so far spent more than Rs 23 billion, 40 per cent of which was contributed by donor countries. But Rs 100 million of the budget for the Fund’s first-phase activities has not yet been spent, and there is pressure on the government to use this money only for holding local body elections.

Donors had also been lobbying against amnesty for human rights violators. But the bill was passed with amnesty provisions, and the countries decided to pull out of the NPTF.

The NPTF has so far spent more than Rs 23 billion, 40 per cent of which was contributed by donor countries. But Rs 100 million of the budget for the Fund’s first-phase activities has not yet been spent, and there is pressure on the government to use this money only for holding local body elections.

Amnesty provisions in the TRC Bill was criticised by conflict victims and international human rights organisations, but these concerns were unheeded when the bill was passed.

The amnesty in the first phase of the (NPTF) has so far spent more than Rs 23 billion, 40 per cent of which was contributed by donor countries. But Rs 100 million of the budget for the Fund’s first-phase activities has not yet been spent, and there is pressure on the government to use this money only for holding local body elections.

Amnesty provisions in the TRC Bill was criticised by conflict victims and international human rights organisations, but these concerns were unheeded when the bill was passed.

The amnesty in the first phase of the (NPTF) has so far spent more than Rs 23 billion, 40 per cent of which was contributed by donor countries. But Rs 100 million of the budget for the Fund’s first-phase activities has not yet been spent, and there is pressure on the government to use this money only for holding local body elections.

Amnesty provisions in the TRC Bill was criticised by conflict victims and international human rights organisations, but these concerns were unheeded when the bill was passed.

The amnesty in the first phase of the (NPTF) has so far spent more than Rs 23 billion, 40 per cent of which was contributed by donor countries. But Rs 100 million of the budget for the Fund’s first-phase activities has not yet been spent, and there is pressure on the government to use this money only for holding local body elections.

Amnesty provisions in the TRC Bill was criticised by conflict victims and international human rights organisations, but these concerns were unheeded when the bill was passed.

The amnesty in the first phase of the (NPTF) has so far spent more than Rs 23 billion, 40 per cent of which was contributed by donor countries. But Rs 100 million of the budget for the Fund’s first-phase activities has not yet been spent, and there is pressure on the government to use this money only for holding local body elections.

Amnesty provisions in the TRC Bill was criticised by conflict victims and international human rights organisations, but these concerns were unheeded when the bill was passed.

The amnesty in the first phase of the (NPTF) has so far spent more than Rs 23 billion, 40 per cent of which was contributed by donor countries. But Rs 100 million of the budget for the Fund’s first-phase activities has not yet been spent, and there is pressure on the government to use this money only for holding local body elections.

Amnesty provisions in the TRC Bill was criticised by conflict victims and international human rights organisations, but these concerns were unheeded when the bill was passed.

The amnesty in the first phase of the (NPTF) has so far spent more than Rs 23 billion, 40 per cent of which was contributed by donor countries. But Rs 100 million of the budget for the Fund’s first-phase activities has not yet been spent, and there is pressure on the government to use this money only for holding local body elections.

Amnesty provisions in the TRC Bill was criticised by conflict victims and international human rights organisations, but these concerns were unheeded when the bill was passed.

The amnesty in the first phase of the (NPTF) has so far spent more than Rs 23 billion, 40 per cent of which was contributed by donor countries. But Rs 100 million of the budget for the Fund’s first-phase activities has not yet been spent, and there is pressure on the government to use this money only for holding local body elections.

Amnesty provisions in the TRC Bill was criticised by conflict victims and international human rights organisations, but these concerns were unheeded when the bill was passed.
NRs. 26 billion was allocated for road construction in 2014-2015 fiscal year. What was spent on new roads built in Far Western Nepal to promote tourism there?

Tourist arrival by air in 2013: 594,848

Average % of incoming tourists by air since 1964: 83%

Tourists by air in 2024: 1,782,010
(Based on National Tourism Strategy)

International flights in 2014: 287/week (14,924 per year)

Air movement was around 12,000 arrivals in 2013 (CAAN, 2014)

Will we need 3 times as much international flight movement, 72,000 arrivals and departures per annum, within 10 years? How many planes will go to Lumbini instead?

It would be difficult to achieve the target (developing country status for Nepal by 2022) with the resources we have at present. That means we need to mobilize resources from other sectors—the private sector and development partners. Investment pours into the country only when we are able to create favourable climate for businesses. More investment means more economic activities and more employment generation. We have to overcome impediments to infrastructure first. Only then will the private sector bring investments.

NPC Vice-chairman Govinda Raj Pokharel

Tourist arrival by air in 2013
Tourist arrival by air in 2024

Average % of tourists by land since 1964: 17%

Main land ports: Bhairawa, Kodari

Overland tourists by 2024: 364,990

Airport upgrading is critical to further developing nearby Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, into an attractive cultural and tourism destination. The number of foreign visitors to Lumbini is rapidly rising in the recent years, and airport improvement will help in further opening Lumbini and linking it with international tourist circuits in South Asia as well as to the rest of the world.

Kenichi Yokoyama, ADB Country Director for Nepal
Where to fly to?

Tribhuvan International Airport recently shut down for four days from March 4-7, just at the beginning of the spring trekking season. An estimated 80,000 people were stranded at TIA and inbound airports. Would an international company handling management of TIA have provided better services to the thousands of affected tourists and migrant workers?

The Gautam Buddha Airport in Bhairawa is being expanded. In 2012, the airport had 4,172 total flight movements and 118,367 passengers. The airport is 15 km from the Lumbini heritage site. If it is to serve as a regional international airport and attract 760,000 passengers annually by 2030 what area impacts will it have on the Lumbini Heritage area with the expansion of economic activity and reduction in air quality? (CAAN, 2013)

Let’s take a road-trip!

Since 1963, approximately 17% of tourists coming to Nepal have come overland. In 2013, almost 95% of those tourists came via Kodari (Chinese border), and Bhairawa (Indian border). Over the last 10 years, more than 30% of these land tourists, on average, were same-day visitors. Many that come to Lumbini on day long trips do not even get registered in official statistics. (NTS, 2013)

Will they be used?

New and improved roads may encourage tourism and other economic activities. But if the roads are going to be closed with bandhs, why build them in the first place? Tourists would prefer walking in green trails than black-topped ones, wouldn’t they?

Can we take tourists in Kathmandu to these district HQs that are within a day’s drive from the capital?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance (km)</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>199</td>
<td>Surkhet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>176</td>
<td>Lamjung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>Gorkha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Rasuwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>Dolakha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>236</td>
<td>Syangja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Terai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>Chitwan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Dhading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221</td>
<td>Kanpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>189</td>
<td>Kaski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Kailali</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who pays?

Impaired trekkers, from an accident or medical issues, can today be airlifted straight to Kathmandu by chartered helicopters. These evacuations can cost around $2,000-5,000, depending on distance from Kathmandu and altitude. Travellers are therefore encouraged to buy insurance. But, as more commercial helicopter companies find it profitable to airlift distressed trekkers, what role will local health posts play in disaster response? How will the expanding commercial helicopter industry complement future disaster response systems?
When it comes to off-road capabilities, few vehicles can compete with Land Rovers. These high-powered, sturdy 4WD can easily navigate bumpy, steep, rough and muddy roads, and often get to places which are inaccessible in other vehicles.

While older models may look like they could belong in a museum, dozens of classic Land Rovers are still used to transport both goods and people in Nepal’s eastern hilly districts. Designed in 1948 in Britain and modelled after US-made jeeps, Land Rovers were initially a status symbol and featured in James Bond movies. But in rural Nepal, these vintage vehicles are primarily used by rural commuters along new rough and tumble feeder roads.

Grishma Subba of the East Nepal Taxi Association, says: “Land Rovers are reliable because they can easily move up and down hills as on roads in the plains.”

Subba says Land Rovers have also boosted eastern Nepal’s agro-economy by helping transport produce to market from rural farms. As many as 56 Land Rovers operate in Ilam district alone.
The discovery this week in Humla of a species of wild yak thought to be extinct has brought hope to scientists that biodiversity in the Himalayas is alive and kicking, so we can all sit back, relax and have a pleasant flight, remembering to keep our seatbelts loosely fastened at all times while the construction is being carried out.

Earlier this year, a Pallas Cat that everyone thought had gone the way of the Dodo was found lurking behind the Annapurnas, leading us to believe that not everyone in Nepal has won a DV lottery yet. Speaking of which, the Wild Ass that once roamed the Roof of the World in large herds are, according to latest scientific research, still merrily making collective asses of themselves. All this goes to prove that news about the demise of donkeys is wildly exaggerated.

Before Nepal was known as a roof of the world, it was also known as the home of the Wild Ass that once roamed the Roof of the World in large herds. But how many of us, sitting here in Kathmandu, answer the call of the nature? How much do we actually value the boondocks. Will we ever know we’re looking at a Greater One-Eared Yak thought to be extinct? Will we learn to cannibalism which means everything is hunky-dory in the boondocks. Are we just content with shooting the breeze, as it were, and kicking, so we can all sit back, relax and have a pleasant flight, remembering to keep our seatbelts loosely fastened at all times while the construction is being carried out.

In fact, the most encouraging revival of wildlife in Nepal in the past decade has been within the Ring Road. Carnivores that were hitherto found only in fossilised remains from the Pleistocene once more prowled the corridors of power in the Jurassic Park of Singha Darbar. Invertebrates now populate Bahu Water. Pre-historic reptiles from our erstwhile Animal Kingdom are again hatching from eggs at harvest time, can deliver speeches that last at least a day, and slithering about in the Constituency Assembly. There are even occasional reports of man-eater politicians turning cannibalism which means everything is hunky-dory in the boondocks.

How many of us, sitting here in Kathmandu, answer the call of the nature? How much do we actually value the wild? Will we ever know we’re looking at a Greater Himalayan Red-vented Twit when we see one? Will we be able to pick out through our binoculars a sabre-toothed ex-gorilla in Paris Danda? How about the Wooly Mammoth inside various quasi-gobblement corporations? Can we identify the exact species of rodent that scurries to cannibalism which means everything is hunky-dory in the boondocks. Are we even occasional reports of man-eater politicians turning cannibalism which means everything is hunky-dory in the boondocks. Are we just content with shooting the breeze, as it were, and kicking, so we can all sit back, relax and have a pleasant flight, remembering to keep our seatbelts loosely fastened at all times while the construction is being carried out.

The discovery this week in Humla of a species of wild yak thought to be extinct has brought hope to scientists that biodiversity in the Himalayas is alive and kicking, so we can all sit back, relax and have a pleasant flight, remembering to keep our seatbelts loosely fastened at all times while the construction is being carried out.

In fact, the most encouraging revival of wildlife in Nepal in the past decade has been within the Ring Road. Carnivores that were hitherto found only in fossilised remains from the Pleistocene once more prowled the corridors of power in the Jurassic Park of Singha Darbar. Invertebrates now populate Bahu Water. Pre-historic reptiles from our erstwhile Animal Kingdom are again hatching from eggs at harvest time, can deliver speeches that last at least a day, and slithering about in the Constituency Assembly. There are even occasional reports of man-eater politicians turning cannibalism which means everything is hunky-dory in the boondocks.

How many of us, sitting here in Kathmandu, answer the call of the nature? How much do we actually value the boondocks. Will we ever know we’re looking at a Greater One-Eared Yak thought to be extinct? Will we learn to cannibalism which means everything is hunky-dory in the boondocks. Are we just content with shooting the breeze, as it were, and kicking, so we can all sit back, relax and have a pleasant flight, remembering to keep our seatbelts loosely fastened at all times while the construction is being carried out.

In fact, the most encouraging revival of wildlife in Nepal in the past decade has been within the Ring Road. Carnivores that were hitherto found only in fossilised remains from the Pleistocene once more prowled the corridors of power in the Jurassic Park of Singha Darbar. Invertebrates now populate Bahu Water. Pre-historic reptiles from our erstwhile Animal Kingdom are again hatching from eggs at harvest time, can deliver speeches that last at least a day, and slithering about in the Constituency Assembly. There are even occasional reports of man-eater politicians turning cannibalism which means everything is hunky-dory in the boondocks.

How many of us, sitting here in Kathmandu, answer the call of the nature? How much do we actually value the boondocks. Will we ever know we’re looking at a Greater One-Eared Yak thought to be extinct? Will we learn to cannibalism which means everything is hunky-dory in the boondocks. Are we just content with shooting the breeze, as it were, and kicking, so we can all sit back, relax and have a pleasant flight, remembering to keep our seatbelts loosely fastened at all times while the construction is being carried out.

The discovery this week in Humla of a species of wild yak thought to be extinct has brought hope to scientists that biodiversity in the Himalayas is alive and kicking, so we can all sit back, relax and have a pleasant flight, remembering to keep our seatbelts loosely fastened at all times while the construction is being carried out.

In fact, the most encouraging revival of wildlife in Nepal in the past decade has been within the Ring Road. Carnivores that were hitherto found only in fossilised remains from the Pleistocene once more prowled the corridors of power in the Jurassic Park of Singha Darbar. Invertebrates now populate Bahu Water. Pre-historic reptiles from our erstwhile Animal Kingdom are again hatching from eggs at harvest time, can deliver speeches that last at least a day, and slithering about in the Constituency Assembly. There are even occasional reports of man-eater politicians turning cannibalism which means everything is hunky-dory in the boondocks.

How many of us, sitting here in Kathmandu, answer the call of the nature? How much do we actually value the boondocks. Will we ever know we’re looking at a Greater One-Eared Yak thought to be extinct? Will we learn to cannibalism which means everything is hunky-dory in the boondocks. Are we just content with shooting the breeze, as it were, and kicking, so we can all sit back, relax and have a pleasant flight, remembering to keep our seatbelts loosely fastened at all times while the construction is being carried out.