

the new arrival winter collection

Some of our very latest winter furniture from Thailand and India. All with 1 year warranty.

led panel



sale: 72,250/- was: 85,000/-



save 15% sale: 1,27,500/- was: 1,50,000/-



save 15%



F FURNITURE LAND 4-224797

LAVAZZA
ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE

Soaltee Crown Plaza - Tahachal
Radisson Hotel - Lazimpat
For Further Information Mail to :
lavazza@subhashingalintl.com

FUN & FUN DIVINE WINE
4 LITER PACK

For Trade Inquiry Ph: 01-4092624, Mob: 9801215111

greentick
MANAGEMENT TENDU TARI

"We Offer Solutions and Advice on Human Resource Management Issues"

t : +977-1-4620741
w : www.gtn.com.np
e : info@gtn.com.np

TRANQUILITY SPA
Relaxing Body, Mind and Spirit

BUY 1 SERVICE GET 1 FREE
AT ALL OUR OUTLETS

01-4420424

POLICE

Sunglasses Collection 2015

watch&see

Durbarmarg | City Centre | Civil Mall
Blue Bird Mall, Tripureshwor
4223498



FIRESIDE: Yubhan Tamang, 39, has been cooking over a firewood stove to feed 300 patients everyday at Bir Hospital for the past one and half months.

GOPEN RAI

Pressure tactic

After last week's failed talks the government and the Madhesi parties are back to old games: wait for the other side to blink first. Three protesters were killed in Saptari this week. The security forces and the protesters are engaged in a tug of war to control movement along the East-West Highway.

Chances of resumption of talks in Kathmandu remain slim. But informal consultations continued this week between chief negotiator Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Prime Minister KP Oli, and between Oli and the Indian ambassador.

The main issue is the fate of three districts in eastern and two in the western Tarai. NC and UML hardliners want them to be part of the hill provinces, while the Madhesi parties demand they be included entirely in the two Tarai provinces. PM Oli is equally

adamant, saying this week: "I don't know how many more days I will survive, but I will work for the Nepali people till I die."

New Delhi, the third and probably the most important player in this brinkmanship, is also waiting for Kathmandu to concede to the Madhesi demand on demarcation of Tarai provinces. Realising that he cannot mend his relations with New Delhi, Oli is trying his best to be remembered as a true nationalist before his tenure as probably Nepal's shortest-term prime minister ends.

Meanwhile, Nepal's 28 million people are in the throes of a severe nationwide humanitarian crisis. Hospitals are running out of medicines, patients are dying in ambulances stuck at barricades, and nearly half the country's schoolchildren in the Tarai have not been able to

attend classes since August.

The most brutal impact of the blockade has been on the estimated 2 million people still living in makeshift shelters seven months after the earthquake. The government's inaction on relief delivery, its failure to set up a Reconstruction Authority and now the fuel shortage caused by the Indian blockade have prevented survivors from rebuilding permanent homes before the worst of the winter months arrive in the mountains. **(Field report from Upper Gorkha on page 14-15)**

SOS
EDITORIAL PAGE 2

FULL-BLOWN ECONOMIC CRISIS
AS IT HAPPENS
BY OM ASTHA RAI PAGE 4

IN THE ABSENCE OF HOPE
ONE TO MANY
BY BIDUSHI DHUNGEL PAGE 6

buizz

FALLING FOR IT

Binita Dahal freefalls over Pokhara and tells us what it felt like.

PAGE 8-9



FLY TO ATLANTA WITH TURKISH AIRLINES STARTING FROM THE 16TH OF MAY 2016. DISCOVER HARMONY IN DIVERSITY.



Europe's Best Airline
TURKISHAIRLINES.COM
01-4438363/4438436 / ktrmsales@thy.com
Voted Europe's Best Airline 2015 at the Skytrax Passenger Choice Awards.

WIDEN YOUR WORLD

TURKISH AIRLINES





KUNDA DIXIT

SOS

Leaving aside the pros and cons of India’s siege on Nepal, there can be no argument that 28 million Nepalis are in the throes of a severe nationwide humanitarian crisis.

You can argue about whether or not this is a real Indian blockade or a make-believe one. One can discuss the merits of the Madhesi cause, and if India should be backing it so openly. Whether the excessive use of force by state security was provoked can also be debated, as can the extent of public support in the Tarai for the prolonged shutdown.

But, all said and done, whatever the cause, there can be no argument that Nepal’s 28 million people are in the throes of a severe nationwide humanitarian crisis. Hospitals are running out of emergency medicines, patients are dying in ambulances stuck at barricades, and nearly half the country’s schoolchildren in the Tarai have not been able to attend classes since August.

The most brutal impact of the blockade has been on getting winterisation supplies to the estimated 2 million people still living in makeshift shelters. Seven months after the earthquake, the government’s inaction on relief delivery and its failure to set up a Reconstruction Authority has prevented survivors from rebuilding permanent homes.

Nepal’s overall poverty rate, which had fallen from 45 per cent to 22 per cent in 15 years is now expected to go up dramatically. The earthquake drove 700,000 people below the poverty line according to one estimate, and the blockade has already pushed another 800,000 into poverty. Prices of most food items and essential supplies have tripled because of the rise in fuel costs and hoarding. Inadequate medical care and the lack of transportation are eroding the dramatic gains Nepal has made in reducing infant and maternal mortality.

The slight increase in vehicular movement along the highways and in cities recently shouldn’t fool anyone. It is the ‘informal economy’ (read: smuggling and black market) taking over the supply and distribution of petroleum products. The country’s economic growth has now been scaled down to a pitiful 2 per cent this year, and we may go into minus if the blockade drags on (*see As it Happens by Om Astha Rai on page 4*).

Released on Tuesday, the government’s White Paper on the economic impact of the earthquake, unrest in the Tarai and the Indian blockade makes for sombre reading: the government’s revenue from taxes is down Rs 38 billion in the last four months alone, and the private sector’s losses have crossed Rs 200 billion. More than 200,000 people

have been laid off as industries closed down. Tourism is down by half, porters, guides and teashop owners have lost income.

The country hasn’t gone completely belly-up only for two reasons: remittances from the estimated 4 million Nepalis working outside the country, and because of smuggling across the open border. At a seminar on Tuesday, we heard that 16 VDCs of Saptari received Rs 140 million in remittances from the Gulf and Malaysia in merely two months.

How long can the country bear this? The coalition government led by Prime Minister KP Oli has convinced many Nepalis that this is all India’s doing. People don’t really need to be persuaded that New Delhi is using Madhesi grievances as an excuse to throw its weight around. But as winter sets in and the hardship reaches a critical level, the symbolism of this David and Goliath struggle is going to be lost on people standing two days to get half a cylinder of gas. The moral high ground ceases to have a strategic advantage if the misery level crosses a tipping point. It is a tribute to the legendary tolerance of Nepalis and our capacity to endure pain that we haven’t reached that stage yet.

The rulers of Nepal and India are waiting for the other to blink first. Nepal’s prime minister seems oblivious to the anger on the streets of the Tarai over his suppression and apathy, and seems to be hoping that the longer the blockade continues, the more hostile Nepalis will be towards India.

But what is much more unconscionable is what India’s prime minister is trying to achieve with the siege of Nepal and this unfolding humanitarian emergency.

Times

THIS WEEK

NAVESH CHITRAKAR (19,646 PEOPLE REACHED)

Most reached on Facebook
Selective outrage by Tsering Dolker Gurung
India's blockade of Nepal until recently was virtually ignored by the international press. Why is a siege that is much more devastating to Nepal's economy than the earthquake not newsworthy enough?

Most shared on Facebook
Selective outrage by Tsering Dolker Gurung (93 shares)

Most popular on Twitter
Indians vs. Cowboys by Ass (66 retweets, 125 favourites)

Most visited online page
Indians vs. Cowboys by Ass (2,321 views)

Most commented
In Dependence Editorial (33 comments)

YOUR SAY

www.nepalitimes.com

WE DON'T EXIST
We were working to help rebuild schools outside Kathmandu, but have since shifted our focus on supplying warm clothing and blankets to help people survive through the winter months ('We do not exist', Sahina Shrestha, #778). The situation is terrible, and it is so sad to see this happening to the lovely people of Nepal.
Stuart Leighton

SELECTIVE OUTRAGE
Just because your Facebook feed isn't full of news stories from those places doesn't mean people weren't reporting on it ('Selective outrage', Tsering Dolker Gurung, #783). In terms of Nepal, there is an embarrassing lack of on-the-ground reporting from Madhes, including from *Nepali Times* itself (although it's not as blatantly partisan as some of the other outlets).
Gagan Atreya

The Paris attack should be compared with the Mumbai attack, which received a lot of attention all over the world.
Fourchette girl

Why isn't the Nepali press bothered about the plight of the Madhesis who have been protesting for six months now? When Nepalis themselves don't care about their own citizens why should Indians? Also, claiming that Indian media articles read like "leaks" from the Indian government only exposes this journalist's already biased mind which refuses to even entertain any perspective that does not suit what she has been brainwashed to believe.
IAF101

Do you think broader coverage in the international press would change anything?
Natalie Zurbiggen

WHO WILL BELL THE CAT?
The Madhesi issue has been boiled, filtered, decanted, purified and finally crystallised into the 'real' issue after 99 days- Provincial demarcation ('Who will bell the cat?' Anurag Acharya, #783). Why? Because that is what India really cares about. All the other 7 point, 20 point, 7 amendment, 2007, 2008, agreements are all moot. All interested parties know that. Oli will give everything except the two province

Tarai model. He believes that is the precursor for 'sikkimization', and despite my pathological aversion to him (i.e. Oli), I am not able to shed my proclivity in believing some of that rhetoric.
Namah

Different expectations among Madhesi people, Morcha leaders and India has made resolution difficult as has the Oli government's lack of imagination and diplomatic finesse required to tackle the current crisis.
Binod

Times

nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll #784

Q. Who do you blame for the current crisis?

Total votes: 257

Weekly Internet Poll #785

To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Should the government accept Madhesi Morcha's demand for two Madhes provinces?

Times

Nepali Times on Facebook

Follow @nepalitimes on Twitter

Follow @nepalitimes on Instagram

Publisher and Chief Editor: Kunda Dixit

Associate Editor: Tsering Dolker Gurung | Online Producer: Ayesha Shakya | Design: Kiran Maharjan

Published by Himalmedia Pvt Ltd | Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur | GPO Box 7251 Kathmandu

editors@nepalitimes.com | www.nepalitimes.com | www.himalmedia.com | Tel: 01-5005601-08 Fax: +977-1-5005518

Marketing: Arjun Karki, Surendra Sharma rachanas@himalmedia.com | Advertorials: Ram Krishna Banjara | Subscriptions: Santosh Aryal santosha@himalmedia.com

Printed at Jagadamba Press | 01-5250017-19 | www.jagadambapr.com



 | John Walker & Sons | THE ICONIC BLEND

LIMITED EDITION DESIGN

The Johnnie Walker and Black Label words, the Striding Figure Device and associated logos are trade marks © John Walker & Sons 2015. Please drink responsibly. 18+. Drinkiq.com

 Global Trading Concern (P) Ltd.



JOHNNIE WALKER.
KEEP WALKING.

Full-blown economic crisis

The current crisis is just a teaser for an even more devastating economic meltdown

“I wish I had not survived the earthquake,” said a middle-aged woman with whom I struck up conversation at a local tea stall this week. She looked upset, and didn’t speak for several minutes. I didn’t push her to explain her statement.



AS IT HAPPENS
Om Astha Rai

Then she spoke up again. “I have run out of cooking gas, the dealer is asking Rs10,000 for a new cylinder. That is half of my husband’s salary. How can we continue to live this way?”

In his first address to the nation last week Prime Minister KP Oli tried to sell Nepalis a utopian dream of an end to load-shedding within a year, introduce electric public transport in Kathmandu immediately and attain self-sufficiency in agriculture by 2017.

Oli’s words sounded hollow, unrealistic and even nonsensical – proven by none other than his own finance minister Bishnu Poodel when he released a White Paper this week. Poodel’s figures about the combined impact of the earthquake, Madhes movement and India’s blockade on Nepal’s economy were beyond dismal.

Since Madhesi protesters began blocking the Birganj



GOPEN RAI

border days after Nepal’s new constitution was promulgated on 20 September, revenue collection from the country’s biggest customs point in terms of trade volume has been nearly nil. The Department of Customs had set a target of Rs 7 billion from Birganj during October. It didn’t even manage 1 per cent of that.

India’s not-so-tacit support for the cause espoused by Madhesi leaders in enforcing a blockade has certainly complicated transit problems, but customs revenue collection was badly hit even

before the Indian blockade.

Already reeling under damage caused by the April-May earthquakes, Nepal’s economy began to dip when the Madhesi parties launched their anti-constitution movement in the Tarai 100 days ago.

Nearly 2,200 factories have been shut along the Tarai’s industrial corridors, more than 200,000 people have lost their jobs and inflow of tourists has gone down by half. The country’s economic growth rate is expected to be restricted to two per cent –

or even less if the crisis continues for a few more months.

In the past four months the government has lost Rs 38 billion in tax revenue. The accumulative loss incurred by the private sector in the corresponding period exceeds Rs 200 billion. And soon inflation rate is likely to hit double digits. This is the worst economic crisis Nepal has ever suffered. With remittance still flowing in, the banking sector is relatively less affected but there will be an epidemic of defaults.

Ironically, it is the central

Tarai districts that have been most impacted by the Madhes protests. The eight districts of this region were already ones with some of the lowest Human Development Index (HDI) scores in Nepal. Schools have been forcibly shut for over three months. Local farmers are busy blocking the border at a time when they should be harvesting paddy and preparing to plant wheat. At a program in Kathmandu this week, Janakpur-based economics professor Surendra Labh said: “If it were not for remittances, the people would have already started eating each other’s flesh in the Tarai.”

It seems that Nepal’s economic crisis is now full-blown, and Nepalis cannot endure it any more. But the economic crisis we have dealt with so far may not be the main shock. If the Kathmandu-Madhes face-off continues, it could turn out to be just a teaser of a more devastating economic meltdown.

For now, we are just worried about immediate petrol and cooking gas needs, that we have not even begun to fathom the longterm impact of this crisis. The sooner we begin to think about food and energy security and trade diversification the better will the country’s state be in the long run.

But for the time being, we urgently need a political solution so we can work to mitigate the devastating impact of the economic crisis. 🇳🇵

@omastharai

May the force be with you

Nepal needs a force for change, willing to speak truth to power and for social justice, democracy and development

Once recognised as the intellectual force behind the Maoist insurgency, a rather successful finance minister and a less successful prime minister, Baburam Bhattarai has announced that he intends to create, and evidently lead, a New Force. Clearly breaking from the UCPN(M), BRB has been pretty vague so far as to what he intends this force to be, apart from suggesting that it is “an initiative for a new approach ... a new ideology to change



THE GADFLY
David Seddon

Nepali society”. It will be a campaign not for power but for truth. The idea of intellectuals ‘speaking truth to power’ is a noble and admirable one: one thinks of men like Jean Paul Sartre, Regis Debray, Edward Said and Noam Chomsky.

Those present at a recent inaugural meeting were Mahanta Thakur, Upendra Yadav, Pradip Giri, Ram Chandra Jha, Gopal Dahit, Padma Ratna Tuladhar, Rabi Bhakta Shrestha, Khagendra Sangraula, Chaitanya Subba and others. One can only gather from this that the movement will be a broad ‘church’, adopting a critical, non-partisan approach to the political, social

and economic issues facing Nepal.

There is certainly no indication here of anything resembling a ‘Maoist’ tendency, rather a loosely articulated somewhat left-of-centre alliance of different interests. Stating that the NC, the Praja Parishad, the UML and the UCPN (M) have carried out ‘historic works’ at different times in history, Bhattarai suggested that none of these parties has been able to construct an ideology consistent with the present age and times. This has prompted the formation of a new force, he added. Devendra Poudel, a member of the New Force Campaign, however, also argued that the new force had to be forged as the objectives of the ‘People’s War’ had not been secured, despite the sacrifice of 17,000 lives.

The campaign has drawn up a nine-point commitment paper, but so far its comments on specific issues have been rather vague. On the new Constitution, for example, BRB commented that ‘it can be compared to a half-filled glass. It should be made complete by filling the remaining half through constitution amendment and the problem resolved’.

The position of the new force on the current protests in the Tarai is also fairly non-committal. It recognises that the divisions between Hills and Tarai constitute a serious problem and need to be addressed, but BRB had also indicated that he believes the protests have ‘got out of control’. The new force will need to do better than that



if it is to play any useful role in what is clearly a major political issue, exacerbated by the Indian ‘blockade’. It is all very well, and probably correct, to say that the two issues of the Madhes and of relations with India need to be addressed separately. But a stronger position is required from any movement wishing to emerge as a new power in Nepali politics.

After holding a closed two-day session with his supporters, most of them from the UCPN (M), BRB held a press conference on Tuesday to announce the first phase of Naya Shakti Nirman Abhiyan (campaign

for building new force) naming those who would be responsible for different areas of the campaign. He himself would, unsurprisingly, be the central coordinator, while his wife Hisila Yami would oversee the campaign’s international department. Adopting a quasi-federal structure, Rajendra Kirati would head activities in Kirant-Limbuwan-Kochila, Ram Chandra Jha in the so-called Mithila-Bhojpura, Devendra Parajuli in Tamuwan-Baglung-Myagdi, Bamdev Chhetri in Magarat-Awadh-Tharuwan, Bhakta Bahadur Shah in Bheri-Karnali and Nawaraj Subedi in Seti-Mahakali regions and Ganga Shrestha among the Newa. Kumar Paudel would take charge of the sister organisations, while Ram Kumar Sharma would be responsible for the ‘ethnic front’. No mention is made, significantly, of any special responsibility for women or Dalits.

BRB has stated that he had made this commitment to creating a new force as he wished to dedicate his life after 60 to the development and prosperity of the country. While many, including the Gadfly, remain sceptical regarding the lack of personal ambition implied by this statement, there is no doubt that Nepal badly needs a force for change, willing to speak truth to power and to mobilise supporters in a genuine campaign for social justice, democracy and sustainable development. We shall be watching. 🇳🇵

@pigreen



FOLLOW-UP: Gita Pun (left) of Bankhet, Dang, is visited by HIV counsellor Poshan Raj Basnet (centre) and nurse Bhima KC during a regular check-up at her home.

Ending AIDS

SATISH PANDEY

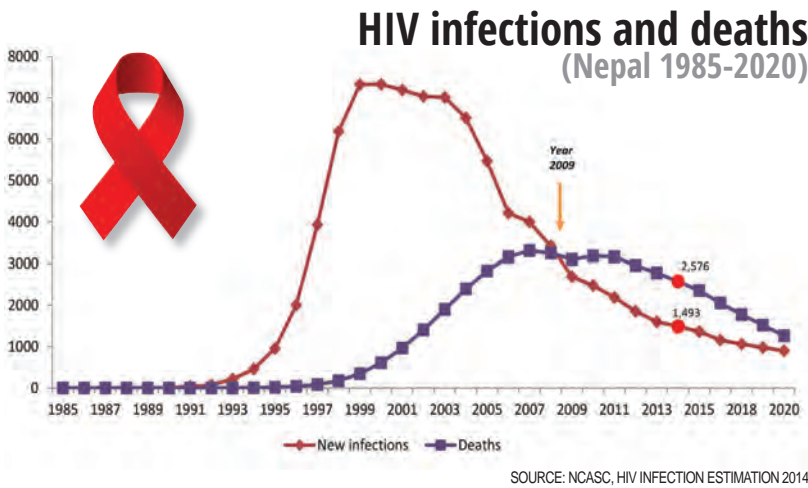
After containing a general AIDS epidemic, Nepal has seen a remarkable turnaround in either decreasing or stabilising the prevalence of HIV among high-risk groups. The most recent data suggests that there are approximately 39,000 people living with HIV in Nepal, with 29 per cent of them women. However, in the 15-24 age group, women with HIV outnumber men by 1.5 times highlighting the vulnerabilities of adolescents and young women. One of the reasons for Nepal's success is that people living with HIV are at the forefront of community and home-based care. They provide regular support for people on Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART) and also ensure access to the drugs. Despite elusive vaccine and cure, continued stigma and discrimination, the introduction and expansion of ART has transformed the situation of people living with HIV in Nepal.

Nepal's response has been backed by a sound national strategy that is grounded on evidence-based, tailored approaches. They focus on targeted interventions for female sex workers, people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men and transgender people, and male labour migrants and their spouses. This approach has yielded impressive results with stabilising or declining HIV prevalence among key populations, even though access to ART needs to be improved, and awareness campaigns maintained.

Of the people living with HIV in Nepal, 68 per cent were identified through HIV testing. Nearly 37 percent of them were women. The HIV programs have consistently tested around 2,000 people as HIV positive for the past seven years. The proportion of HIV positive among those tested has constantly dropped from around 4.5% in 2008 to 1.6% in 2014. This could be due to declining HIV prevalence among key populations, even though we need to ensure that we are testing the right people.

Nepal provides free ART through 61 sites (mostly government centres) in 55 districts. Nearly half the 11,089 people currently enrolled on ART are women. Of the 14,745 people enrolled on anti-retrovirals 24% have either died or have been lost to follow up. A recent survival study among ART patients in Nepal has shown that mortality is almost twice among men than women. Nearly 500 HIV positive women become pregnant every year, and only 33 per cent of infected women received ART in 2014.

Despite the successes, one disturbing element of Nepal's HIV epidemic is that the number of annual deaths have constantly outnumbered new infections for the past seven years despite the expansion of



anti-retroviral treatment. In 2014, it was estimated that there were more than 2,600 AIDS-related deaths while there were nearly 1,500 new HIV infections. Nepal has to improve the overall quality of lives of people with HIV to ensure their longevity. The best way to contain the epidemic is through a rapid decline in new infections. Globally, HIV programs have come a long way in the past three decades.

From initial shock and fear, we have entered a phase where it is possible to see a world without AIDS by 2030. UNAIDS has come up with an ambitious fast-track targets of 90:90:90 by 2020 in Nepal: having 90% of people living with HIV knowing their status, 90% of people identified as having HIV enrolled in ART, and 90% of ART-enrolled achieving viral suppression.

The existing programs in Nepal need to efficiently scale-up focus on testing the right people to identify new PLHIV. There needs to be adequate support including

active involvement of the communities so that those identified can be enrolled into ART which should aim for higher retention and better health outcomes and viral suppression. Ending AIDS as a public health threat is possible within our lifetime. Prevention needs to be stepped up, as well as efforts to reduce overall stigma and discrimination.

The next five years are crucial for the donors, government, civil society and other stakeholders to show commitment and solidarity in order to accelerate HIV response. Maintaining status quo or slowing down the response will undo the successes attained so far. We cannot afford this for the present and the future generations. [@SatishKTM](#)

Satish Pandey is a public health professional, and currently the Country Director of FHI 360 Nepal.

dumb. paani

smart. paani

- Rainwater Harvesting System
- BioSand Filter
- Greywater Recycling
- Wastewater Treatment System

smart. paani
SmartPaani Pvt. Ltd.

GPO Box 13989, Campus Marg, Chakupat, Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur, Nepal
P: +977-1-5261530, 5260506
info@smartpaani.com
www.smartpaani.com

PROUD WINNER OF SURYA NEPAL ASHA SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD

prabhu BANK BIZ BRIEFS



Branch opening

Prabhu Bank has opened its branch office in Putali Sadak. Founder of the bank Ram Prasad Dahal inaugurated the new branch in the presence of Bank Chairman Devi Prakash Bhattachan, and other members of the managing board.

Brand no.1

LG has been named the brand of the year by Red Dot Awards after winning 13 of its communication design contests over the year. LG also won the design team of the year.



Christmas mix

Kathmandu's Hyatt Regency Hotel has already embraced the spirit of Christmas, inviting various members of the city's social scene to contribute to the age-old tradition of mixing their Christmas cakes. The cake mix will be used to produce over 50kgs of Christmas Cake later in the year.

Samsung Gear S2

Samsung this week launched its newest addition to the company's range of wearable electronics. The Gear S2 has a versatile circular design, is just 11.4mm thick, with an extended battery life of up to three days, boasts 4GB memory and a dual-core processor. The Gear S2 is priced at Rs 34,000.



Cities take SHAPE

The Kathmandu hub of the international Global Shapers organisation hosted the SHAPE South Asia regional conference last week. The aim of the conference was to highlight various opportunities as well as identify the challenges of building sustainable cities into the future.

Outreach Nepal Shortlisted

Outreach Nepal has been shortlisted for the finals of the Agency of the Year awards: South Asia. The professional service organisation was selected from hundreds of competitive entries.



Social Entrepreneurs Wanted

SparkXNepal is launching an entrepreneurship accelerator program in March 2016. SparkX has supported over 190 entrepreneurs so far.



"Modern state of the art office complex available on rent."



- Four storied Building having area 10,000 sq ft including compound situated at Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur.
- Fully air conditioned with office network system, Telephone extension, Network cabling, UPS backup, parking area for 25 to 30 cars.

CONTACT:

Ph: 015521120, 9851044388
gyanmandala2015@gmail.com



THRIVING BUSINESS: An Indian trader transfers petrol from his bike to sell to Nepali customers at Thori, a bordertown in Parsa of Chitwan on Wednesday.

leader of the agitation who is seen spewing anger against the government during a tv talk show is seen an hour later having a laugh with government leaders on the same station. The government officials calling agitators “terrorists” at press conferences are seen having a side chat with the “terrorist”.

The negotiations are about bargaining positions for portfolios and power, with scant regard for the people’s grievances whether Madhesi or otherwise. By now, if polls were not enough (and sometimes they are not) it is increasingly clear that Madhes-based parties do not reflect the aspirations of the plains. They were lurching like hawks waiting to dive in for the spoils. The parties in the coalition also cannot be considered to be all hill elite with chest-thumping ‘Khas’ nationalism. Perhaps nothing better illustrates this than the utter disregard of this government to rebuild from what is ironically the ‘Gorkha Earthquake’, the heartland of the erstwhile Khas kingdom. One would have thought that at least the Gorkha Palace – if not the people -- would have got some attention by now.

The people are exhausted. They cannot know how much longer this impasse will continue. The idea of a prosperous and just Nepal is a mirage. The immediate impulse may be to respond, to rebel, to march. But what would it be for and whom would it be against? Importantly, who is a suitable alternative to KP Oli, or this government? And it is in searching for this answer that the absence of hope is most felt. [@bidush](#)

In the absence of hope

The people are exhausted, they cannot know how much longer this impasse will continue

One of the most striking features of the political developments of the past few weeks has been the exponential growth of the shadow economy. There is a major national fuel crisis, and yet



ONE TO MANY
Bidushi Dhungel

traffic has resumed in the capital and more and more cars and motorcycles are plying the roads. Petrol stations are closed, and

yet fuel is not in short supply. Pictures of children selling petrol in empty mineral water bottles along the East-West Highway have made the front pages more than once. The brokers of Kathmandu and manpower agents have halted their official businesses in exchange for the black market fuel business. Even private homes along the border have been turned into petrol and gas godowns. One cylinder of gas is going at Rs 8,000 and Rs 6,000 for just the gas. Petrol started at Rs 500 per litre but the laws of supply and demand operate even in the black market, so prices have crashed to Rs 300 per litre. Still three times

higher than normal, but at least it is available. Diesel is selling at Rs 200 per litre and can be found everywhere except at the pumps. Industry is now on the verge of closure, inflation will continue even if this crisis is resolved. The government estimates production to fall by 34 per cent this year and inflation to be up 100 per cent for some time to come. The country’s economy is hanging by a thread, and that thread is remittance from overseas Nepalis. The people find themselves in an even deeper depression than the economy. Even the most entitled among us are wishing we were anywhere but

here. The state has again opened fire on its own citizens, killing four this week. Agitators also continue to create havoc: setting an ambulance ablaze and killing a baby, destroying vehicles carrying essential medical supplies. A pervasive sense of hopelessness, and that by now famous idea about fatalism, has gripped us all. Polarisation has taken to new heights and developed new meaning entirely. Leaders on all sides are not backing down, and yet the photos at negotiations show them all smiles and laughter as though they were sitting down to enjoy a brandy and cigar after dinner at the gentleman’s club. The same



Imitating nature

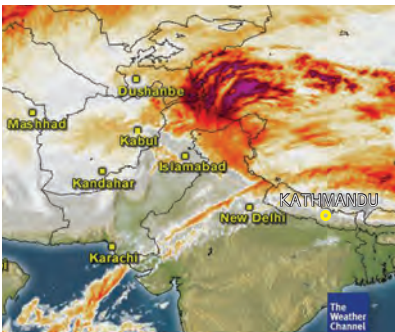
Nepal’s most modern printing facility, Jagadamba Press, now makes natural colours come alive with its state-of-the-art equipment.



City Office
Bakhundol, Lalitpur
Tel: 977-01-5529210/11

Printing Plant
Hattiban, Lalitpur, Nepal
Tel: 977-01-5250017/18
sales@jppl.com.np
URL: www.jagadambapress.com





Industrial pollution from the northern Indian plains blown our way by prevailing winds are an annual winter phenomenon. But this year the thermal inversion layers has started earlier than usual. The upper level of the haze is at 3,500m, and the end result is that the lower the elevation you are at the more the sunlight is filtered. This is why the maximum temperature has already come down to 20 degrees even though there isn't much cloud cover. Expect smoggy mornings, pale sunshine throughout the day into the weekend. A westerly front will bring clouds, but not much precipitation early next week.

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
20° 9°	20° 9°	22° 10°

QATAR

AIRWAYS

القطرية

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

PASANG'S

TIMELINE

2002

Began rockclimbing

2006

Became Nepal's first female mountaineering instructor

2006

Summited Nangpai Gosum II

2007

Summited Everest from the Tibet side

2011

Lead expeditions to Ama Dablam and Putta Hiunchuli

2014

Climbed K2

2015

Nominated for NatGeo Adventurer of the Year

BREAKING BARRIERS

A Nepali mountaineer-turned-relief worker is in the race to win NatGeo's Adventurer of the Year

Pasang Lhamu Sherpa shares her name with Nepal's most iconic female mountaineer. And just like her namesake who in 1993 became the first Nepali woman to climb Everest, the 30-year-old mountaineering instructor from Solukhumbu is determined to overcome gender stereotypes, and make her mark in a field dominated by men.

In 2006 Pasang completed a diploma course in mountaineering from France's National School of Ski and Alpinism, becoming the first Nepali woman to achieve an instructor license. She went on to summit the unclimbed Nangpai Gosum II (7,321m). A year later she climbed Mt Everest from the Tibet side, followed by successful expeditions to Ama Dablam (6,812m), and other small peaks including Lobuche, Island and Meera Peaks in Nepal.

Last year Pasang fulfilled her long-standing dream (*pic*) of planting the Nepali flag atop K2 (8,611m) in Pakistan with friends Dawa Yangzum Sherpa and Maya Sherpa. The trio set a record for being the first Nepali women to achieve the feat.

"Many people have this misconception

that because I am a Sherpa this was a field I was groomed for," says Pasang who is actually the first in her family to take up mountaineering. "What they don't seem to know is that even within the Sherpa community women are usually discouraged from following this career path because of the job's physically strenuous nature and the risk it involves."

Pasang herself was unsure about working in the mountains until later in her teen years. She completed college, took up rock climbing as a hobby and eventually moved onto mountaineering. The rest, as they say, is history.

Despite an increase in the number of women guides in the country Pasang says she is the sole woman climbing instructor. She has trained dozens of climbers including the Seven Summits Women's team, a group of Nepali women who climbed the highest mountains in each of the seven continents last year. At present Pasang divides her time between Nepal and the US, where she works as a guide with Alpine Ascent International during summer.

Pasang has been nominated for this

year's NatGeo Adventurer of the Year along with ten others from America, Afghanistan, Brasil, Germany, South Africa and Switzerland. She is currently leading the public poll with more than 50 per cent of the votes.

"I think what sets me apart from other nominees on the list is that I have not only been recognised for my mountaineering work, but also for efforts to help victims of the earthquake in remote villages," says Pasang.

When the earthquake hit central Nepal in April, the Lukla native was drinking tea with a client near Base Camp on Mt Everest. After the initial tremors stopped she heard a loud boom and looked outside to find that the Base Camp had been hit by an avalanche.

"It was the scariest thing I'd ever seen," she recalls. But instead of heading down to Lukla to catch a plane out Pasang rushed to Base Camp to help with rescue. She was especially worried about an Indian group that she had met only a day before, but was relieved to find them safe.

"The scene at the base camp resembled a war zone. Gas cylinders had been blown up into pieces, only poles of the tents remained, it was incredibly heartbreaking" she remembers.

Once in Kathmandu she and her husband got together with friends and began to raise

money to buy food and tarps which were first distributed to villages on the outskirts of Kathmandu. Pasang regularly posted about the group's relief efforts on Facebook which helped in attracting more supporters. Her large network of friends all over the globe also helped the fundraising.

The couple then shifted their focus to villages in Gorkha, dispatching emergency supplies and organised health camps. They are now preparing to distribute blankets and warm clothes to Salyantar in Dhading. Both husband and wife are dedicated to helping the needy and want to move onto rebuilding homes for quake victims if they can gather the required fund.

After their successful summit of K2 in July last year Pasang and her friends had made plans to climb Kangchenjunga to further spread their message about the impact of climate change on the mountains. That dream is on hold for now.

She says: "All three of us felt it would be selfish to raise funds to set personal records when the money could be used to help those most in need."

Tsering Dolker Gurung

nepalitimes.com

■

To vote for Pasang Lhamu Sherpa





FALLING FOR IT

You can now skydive in Pokhara.

BINITA DAHAL

When I first saw pictures of skydiving near Mt Everest last year, and heard of the price tag (*see box*) I thought I would never be able to afford it. But now that skydiving is offered in Pokhara, the price is relatively reasonable, especially if it is a once-in-a-lifetime treat.

The next thing to overcome was the fear of jumping off an aircraft and freefalling through the air. But once I watched some of the videos of skydiving in Nepal on YouTube I knew I had to do it. My friends who had done it before told me it was less scary than bungee-jumping. I called up a friend who had bungeed with me some years ago, and he first balked not because of the jump but

because of the cost. However, once he saw the video he messaged back: “*Hunchha*, I’m in.” I came across information about the skydiving trip in Pokhara which was organised from 12-15 November on social media and called up Explore Himalaya which also organises skydiving in the Everest region. So, on 15 November, we met up with the tandem master Ryan

Jackson in Pokhara for a detailed briefing about techniques, body posture during freefall and safety issues. I was in capable hands: Jackson has done more than 5,000 jumps and quite a few of those have been in Nepal. We hopped into a helicopter and I got strapped with Jackson and had to actually sit on his lap while we climbed above Phewa Lake amidst the stunning backdrop

of Machhapuchre and the Annapurnas. We got the thumbs up when the helicopter reached 12,000ft and jumped off. During the 40 second of freefall, I did not get a feeling of falling. In fact, it was more like flying. The air rushing past felt like a thick cushion that kept us afloat. I could hear myself screaming with the excitement, a feeling of exhilaration I have



Parahawking

A combination of paragliding and falconry, parahawking was developed by British falconer Scott Mason in 2001 and pioneered in Pokhara. Single tandem flights start at Rs 21,000, with Rs 1,000 from every flight donated to vulture conservation projects within Nepal.

www.parahawking.com
+977 615 286 98



Ultralight Flights

Pokhara offers ultralight flights ranging in duration from 15 to 90 minutes. Prices for a 15-minute flight around Pokhara begins at Rs 12,000.

www.flypokhara.com
+977 614 666 63



Zip Lining

HighGround Adventure's famed zip line will drop you 2000 vertical feet reaching speeds of up to 120km/h. A descent on this exhilarating cable costs Rs 7,200.

www.highgroundnepal.com
+977 614 663 49



Paragliding

Several companies offer paragliding within Pokhara. Experience scenic views of the city, Phewa Lake and its surrounds from high above. Prices start at Rs 8,500.

www.sunrise-paragliding.com
+977 614 631 74

8 ADVENTURE SPORTS



ALL PICS: JEAN-PHILIPPE AUDHUY

never before experienced in my life. Two photographers who were freefalling alongside, steered themselves with their hands and came close enough to give me a high five and even pose for photographs and video.

This was a whole new dimension than the other falling sport: bungee jumping. For one thing, it lasts longer, and you have less a feeling of falling through

space and more of floating. It is also much more exciting than the more sedate paragliding. The only scary part is when you jump off the aircraft, which just lasts a few seconds. After that, the adrenalin takes over.

After 45 seconds, Jackson pulls the chord, the parachute unfurls above us with sudden deceleration, and we glide. My only regret was the feel of floating



NOT SO CHEAP


After the success of Everest skydive, Explore Himalaya is now offering Annual skydiving trips to Pokhara. Skydivers are flown 12,000ft above Pame Danda, west of Phewa Lake, the dropzone for the jump.

Although not cheap, skydiving in Pokhara is relatively affordable compared to Everest skydiving. Nepalis are charged Rs 75,000, for Indians it is Rs 80,000 and it costs US\$800 for foreigners.

So far 100 foreigners have skydived in Everest since it was launched in 2008. For the Everest skydive solo jumpers pay US\$25,000 and a tandem jump is priced at US\$35,000.

explorehimalaya.com

did not last longer. Jackson let me steer the parachute so I could take us down to the drop zone in Pame.

Being back on the ground was comforting, but I was already missing the excitement of the fall. 

 nepalitimes.com

■ Watch video of Skydiving in Nepal 

S TO TRY IN POKHARA



Paddle Boarding

Rent a paddle board and experience Phewa Lake at your own leisure. One hour, half day and full day rentals are available with charges ranging from Rs 800 to Rs 3,000.

www.standup-nepal.com
+977 980 660 1684



Kayaking

Kayaking is another alternative for touring the glassy waters of Phewa Lake yourself. Boats can be rented for an hour to full day and prices range from Rs 200 to Rs 650.

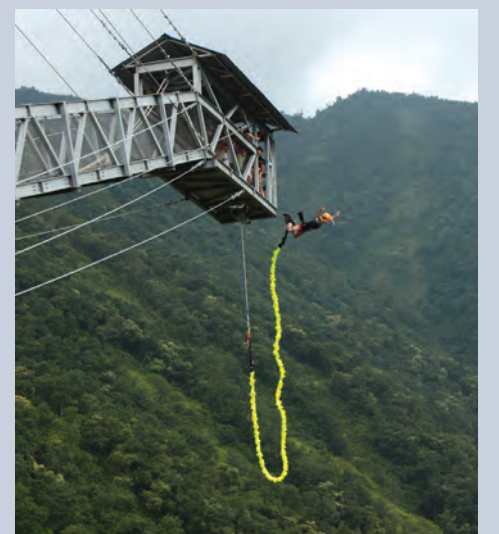
www.raftnepal.org
Phone: +977 615 226 57



Rafting

A half day of rafting on the upper Seti River starts at around Rs 5,000 depending on the season.

www.paddlenepal.com
+977 147 002 39



Bungee & Swing

Introduced only last year by Highground Adventures, the company also responsible for bringing zip lining to Pokhara, bungee is fast becoming one of the most popular adventure sports in the lake city. A single jump costs Rs 7,200.

www.highgroundnepal.com
+977 614 663 49

EVENTS



Brick by Brick,

Eleven Nepali artists share their perspectives on the current needs of the country through their artworks. (see review on page 11)
Until 27 November, Park Gallery, Lalitpur, (01)5522307, parkgallery.com.np

Mixed Media,

Works by Maureen Drdak and Youdhisthir Maharjan on display.
Until 9 December, Siddhartha Art Gallery, (01)4218048/4433930, siddharthaartgallery.com

Ambient Valley Festival,

Featuring Nepal's famous alternative artists and musicians, with live art, music and breathtaking Himalayan views.
27 to 29 November, Shivapuri National Park, 9849513017/9801038501



Critical Mass,

A monthly meet-up of cyclists followed by a brief ride.
5.30 pm, 27 November, Basantapur, Kathmandu



Look Back in Anger,

John Osborne's play, directed by Shankar Rijal, portrays the disillusionment among youth in the 1950s.
5.15 to 7pm, until 2 December Mandala Theatre, Anamnagar

Climate March,

March to push for right climate plans.
29 November, 1pm, starts at Thapathali Bridge.
Register: powershiftnp@gmail.com

Help rebuild,

A special fundraising print sale to contribute towards the rebuilding of heritage sites in Patan by Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT).
www.photoktm.com/#support



Les Héritiers,

Screening of the French film by Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar.
3 December, 5.30pm, Alliance Francaise, Teku Road, (01)4242832, alliancefrancaise.org.np



Christmas Bazaar,

Shop for gifts from local artisans, enjoy traditional festive biscuits and mulled wine.
13 December, 11am to 6pm, Bikalpa Art Centre, Pulchok, Lalitpur

Farmers' market,

Local producers gather to sell organic vegetables, dairy products, artisanal bread and pastries and home-made goodies.
8am to 1pm, Le Sherpa, Lajimpat, every Saturday, (01)4006587, 9802028777

DINING



Mezze,

A great atmosphere, friendly staff, and reliably satisfying pizza with a view of the Old Palace.
DarbarMarg, (01)4223087

Beer tasting,

Sample 10 of Nepal's finest brews and learn which flavours you like best.
27 November, 6pm, dvara, Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur, Rs 600

Bodhi books & Bakes,

A bookstore-cum-patisserie.
Maharajganj, 9851193262

Dhokaima Café,

Beat the cold with indigenous cocktails at the Rukhmuni Bar.
Patan Dhoka, (01)5522113, dhokaimacafe@yahoo.com

Helena's,

Something of an institution in the tourist district, the restaurant has the best desserts in town, and offers unparalleled view of the Valley from its rooftop.
Thamel (opposite the Pilgrim's Book House, (01)4266979



Dan Ran,

The best Japanese food this side of the Bagmati.
Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur (01)5521027

Quiz Night,

Sal's Pizza hosts weekly quiz contests.
Every Monday, 7pm, Lajimpat (behind the Indian Embassy), 9813570076

Kairos Café,

Offers excellent coffee and traditional British pub food.
Jawalakhel (behind the zoo), 9813173747

MUSIC

Reggae Sundown,

Drum and Base Reggae by DJ Mama Disquo (Briony).
29 November, Base Camp, Arun Thapa Chok, Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur, Rs 100

Monkey Temple Live,

Set list consists the band's original songs as well as covers.
27 November, 6pm, Irish Pub, Lajimpat

Nepal Music Festival,

Nepal's biggest volunteer-run music and culture festival, includes performances by noted bands and fun activities.
28 November, 12 to 8pm Bhrikuti Mandap, Pradarshani Marg, www.nepalmusicfestival.org



Music workshop,

Free workshop and master classes with classical pianist Joana Rolo.
28 November, 11am, Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory, Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur, (01)5013554, katjazz.com.np

Folk Music Festival,

The fifth edition of the International Folk Music and Film Festival.
26 to 29 November, Rastriya Naach Ghar, Jamal



Back again,

Celebrated singer Bipul Chhetri will perform for the third time in Kathmandu.
19 December, Sano Gaucharan Ground, Gyaneshwor

GETAWAYS



Yoga retreat,

Leave the chaos and clutter of daily life behind and slip into the tranquil, restorative space of this Yoga Intensive.
28 to 29 November, Hattiban Resort, Pharping, Rs 13,000, pranamaya-yoga.com

The Yellow House,

Bed and breakfast for the light traveller.
Sanepa, (01)5553869/5522078, www.theyellowhouse.com.np



Park Village Resort,

Far away from the madding crowd, yet so close to the city.
Budhanilkantha, (01)4375280, pvh@wlink.com.np

The Last Resort,

Bungee jump and other adventurous sports on offer.
(01)4700525/4701247, thelastresort.com.np



Kasara Resort,

A luxury resort located in the lush setting of the Chitwan National Park. For those who value their privacy and prefer a more secluded stay, Kasara offers two private villas with private pools.
Chitwan (01)4437571/4438570, kasararesort.com

Put your **body, mind,** and **spirit** in harmony



Call today: 98510 54729 (Santosh)
01-500 5601-07, Fax: 977 1 5005518 | subs@himalmedia.com



Subscribe to Nepali Times

Get a free coupon of



on your choice @ Star Hotels

SEAGRAM'S



IT'S YOUR LIFE.
MAKE IT LARGE.

In a brooding atmosphere heavy with eerie violins and the threat of an emotional thunderstorm, John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* as presented by Garden Theatre opens in a small drab apartment set in 1950s working-class England. As the production artfully explores a battlefield of contrasts, relationships, and disappointment, the audience journeys with the characters through their attempts to love one another in a world that rejects them as strongly as they have rejected it.

Osborne's play follows the story of Jimmy (Divya Dev Panta) and Alison Porter (Akanchha Karki), a young and unhappily married couple who appear hell-bent on ripping one another's self-esteem to shreds. Living with them is Jimmy's best friend Cliff Lewis (Sulakshan Bharati) who, over time, has also become a very close friend and ally to Alison. Helena Charles (Gunjan Dixit) joins in the second act as the snobbish friend from out of town. These four educated, disillusioned, and vulnerably insecure people represent a group of angry intellectuals that Osborne may have belonged to when he wrote the play at the age of 26.

Though some elements of the production may be contextually irrelevant in Nepal 60 years later, many theatre goers will relate to the brooding angst and dissatisfaction of the characters. Their unhappiness with the world creeps into



KAUSAL RAJ SARKOTA

Looking back

their relationships, creating one destructive interaction after another, and in turn making the infrequent tender moments so much more heartbreaking to witness.

While at times the play seems to be a platform for Jimmy Porter (and therefore John Osborne) to complain about all that is wrong with the world (much in the style of Holden Caulfield), the cast does a fine job of using the text to examine the complexity of platonic, erotic, and familial relationships.

Bharati's energetic yet tender performance as Cliff comes as a welcome contrast to the brooding and pained Jimmy who seems only able to show love when it's too late. This unlikely pair of longstanding friends is nonetheless destined for success both on the stage and within the world of the play, with a great physical and emotional connection only true friends can display.

A more likely yet more tragic pair of friends, Alison and Helena have seen their

lives go in quite different directions: Alison suffocates in her marriage while Helena thrives in her acting career. But circumstance reunites them just in time. Helena, as well as Alison's father (Colonel Radfern, played by Suraj Malla), is a remnant glimpse into the upper-class world of sophisticates that Alison left behind to be with Jimmy. These four characters—friends, enemies, lovers, allies—clash throughout the play, ultimately brimming over with unhappiness and only a splash of love.

During the entire performance an image of Marlon Brando as Stanley Kowalski, the brooding and abusive yet

unforgettably charming icon of American theatre, hangs over the dingy apartment these characters share. Whether as inspiration, aspiration, or parallel for the playwright, the main character, or both, the image serves as a flashback to other ill-fated relationships of the stage. This visual cue and the powerful performances from the cast leave the audience questioning why these friends hurt each other in such awful ways, and how they could possibly love—or believe they love—one another in spite of it all. Perhaps the answer lies within our own relationships, which we are inevitably left to consider after attending this worthwhile performance. 🇳🇵

Rose Schwietz

Look back in anger
Design & Direction Shankar Rijal
Until 1 December
Mandala Theatre, Anamnagar
(01)4249761, 9851200052



PICS: SEULKI LEE

The smell of fresh paint and live music greet guests at the 'Brick By Brick 2072' exhibition at Park Gallery in Patan of 20 works by 11 young Nepali artists.

Sponsored by RYOT, a multimedia online news channel, this is the second stage of a five-phase project involving artists in video, exhibitions, murals. The art pieces will be later auctioned off in the United States to build up to 50 homes destroyed in the

earthquake.

Park Gallery's loft-like exhibition space spotlights on stencil art, oil paintings, miniatures and graphic art pieces. The works were made to draw young Nepali artists' experience and observations about the 25 April earthquake.

"In the beginning there was a meeting with 12 artists who were eager to do something but they didn't have resources to give or skills to help rebuild homes,"

recalled David Samayoa, the 23-year-old Mexican curator. "The title 'Brick By Brick' reflects the desire of young Nepali artists to see reconstruction."

Around 20 pieces of artwork are meant to be sold in the United States after a series of exhibition in New York and Los Angeles next year. The pieces show different styles and characteristics of 11 individual artists, but the common theme is the livelihoods of Nepalis before and after the earthquake.

Signature images of Nepal to foreign visitors such as Bob Marley stickers, care-free playful children, and a man smoking a traditional long pipe are next to new images made during April quake. There are five professions depicted: pilot, doctor, officer, rescuer, volunteer in miniature figures and image of family holding each other during disaster on the canvas.

Some of the pieces are also displayed outside the gallery. For example: Aditya Aryal's stencil piece of a smiling girl's face is printed on some rickshaws

Buy 1 art piece, build 3 homes

and walls in Kathmandu Valley. With the participation of young musician Tshering Sherpa, the exhibition is presented the soundscape of Nepal in trap/future beats from the southern United States.

Tshering who is also known by his ananym 'GNIRESHT' performed in the opening and linked his music to one of the artworks. Viewers can find the piece with his name on the first floor and use earphones to listen to his music.

The 'Brick By Brick 2072' team is aiming to build at least 50

houses in quake-affected areas in Nepal. The auction is an important part of the exhibition to show that art can be converted into homes.

"One solid house costs around \$800-1,000 to build. So the bids in US will start at \$2,400 and be called Art for three houses," explained Samayoa who came to Nepal to volunteer four months ago. 🇳🇵

Seulki Lee

Brick By Brick 2072
Until 27 November at Park Gallery, Pulchowk, (01)5522307

REMO

Research & Monitoring System

GENERATE INFORMATION ON MAPS

DATA COLLECTED IS CENTRALIZED SIMULTANEOUSLY

SAVE EFFORT TIME MONEY

REMO is Research and Monitoring System that can capture, analyze and visualize data together. Tremendously useful and cost effective, REMO opens a new frontier on how surveys are conducted. Smartphone-enabled and tablet-compatible, surveys can be created in a fly and modified on the go. Data Collected gets seamlessly aggregated on the system allowing web-based access that dynamically produce meaningful reports in real time. Using complex algorithm, data is instantly converted to intelligence.

redefining research

Rooster Logic Pvt Ltd.
Campus Marg, Chakupat,
Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur, Nepal

T : (+977 - 1) 526 1530
M : (+977) 9851164335, (+977) 9860307694
E : info@roosterlogic.com

"1st Nepali System to be deployed in all 75 districts; 200,000+ sample size"

SPECTRE

A Bond film - for those who are so inclined towards the suited, suave, womanising, martini drinking, reckless but irresistible, fictional character who is also known as 007 - is a thrilling prospect.



MUST SEE
Sophia Pande

Now in its 24th iteration, and the fourth film starring Daniel Craig, the series has arguably been at its strongest. Craig's tenure as the urbane, psychologically complex, possibly fatally flawed spy started with *Casino Royale* (2006) in an origin story that traces his first real affair of the heart with the lovely, treacherous, heartbreakingly vulnerable Vesper Lynd who was played to winsome perfection by the stunning Eva Green.

Already a cynic, and a killer with a license, Bond's character becomes even more nebulous and opaque through his multitudinous pursuits of arch villains over the course of *Quantam of Solace* (2008), the unforgettable *Skyfall* (2012) - where we learn about his boyhood and his home. It is therefore rather unfortunate that the series culminates

with *Spectre*, a problematically long bore of a film that basically has several interminable, linked set pieces that do very little to enhance a plotless film.

Daniel Craig looks tired, stony faced by his own boredom and weary of the inevitable, unbelievable shenanigans he must resort to in order to expose the shadow behind Spectre - a character that Bond fans will recognise as a reboot of an old villain from the canon, complete with a fluffy white Persian cat.



Much too has been made of the 50-year-old Monica Belluci as the latest Bond woman. Don't hold your breath - as gorgeous and intelligent as she is, she does not transcend the archetype of the typical 'bed 'em and leave 'em' Bond female.

If that is progression it is easily negated by the 47-year-old Bond's (Craig's actual age) real love story with Dr. Madeleine Swann - played by a 30-year-old Léa Seydoux. Surprisingly or unsurprisingly, the 17-year difference between the two was conveniently ignored by the industry and the world which could not stop itself from commending the makers on casting Belluci, an 'older' female actor.

Running at 150 minutes, *Spectre's* main problem is its length (I found myself looking at my watch, more than once), and stilted by Craig's pouty, blasé performance - a not too subtle hint that he's done (though he is technically under contract to film a final fifth film).

Personally, I think the man needs a break and we need a new Bond. For what it's worth, my candidate of choice is the fantastically debonair Tom Hiddleston - after his turn as the morally corrupt but incredibly likeable villain Loki in the Marvel films - he could bring a darkness and life to Bond that has hitherto been impossible. 🇳🇵

nepalitimes.com
■ Trailer

HAPPENINGS



GOPEN RAI

PARTY CHANGE: Former Maoist leader Baburam Bhattarai (centre) along with supporters announced the launch of a two-month campaign for formation of his new party at Babarmahal on Tuesday.



GOPEN RAI

HELPING NEPALIS: President of Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) Shesh Ghale (right) hands over medicines worth Rs.3.8 million to Health Minister Ram Janam Chaudhary at the Department of Health Service in Teku on Tuesday.



GOPEN RAI

IN MEMORY: Madhesi leaders observe a minute of silence to remember 50 people killed in the Madhes protests at Maitighar in Kathmandu on Monday.



GOPEN RAI

WINNING DUO: Former UN Assistant Secretary-General, Kul Chandra Gautam presents the UNICEF Award to Amy Benson and Ramyata Limbu (behind in green) for their film *Drawing The Tiger* at Film South Asia festival on Sunday.



BIKRAM RAI

SUPPLY ON: Motorcyclists ferry large amounts of petrol bought at Thori in Parsa through Chitwan National Park on Wednesday.

MERCANTILE OFFICE SYSTEMS PVT. LTD.

Job Title: R & D Officer

Status: Full- time, Contract

Mercantile is the pioneer in **Information and Communication Technology in Nepal**, and has been providing total system solutions - hardware, software, communication and other value added services, including Pumori, the largest selling core banking system.

We have opening in our Pumori team for the position of **R & D Officer** who will be responsible for researching emerging technologies in software and database development in order to influence the future direction in the design and development of the product.

Research areas include:

- Delphi Development
- iOS, Android De(Native and Hybrid Technologies)
- Security (Network, Database)
- SQL Server Development

The incumbent will have following skills, experience, qualification and knowledge:

- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Experience with object oriented languages (Delphi, C# dot net, Java Script)
- Ability to work individually as well as in a team
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Minimum 2 years of exposure to software development methodologies, software configuration management and software engineering standards
- University graduate in Information Technology

Interested eligible candidates are invited to send their applications and CVs to hr@mercantile.com.np by 7th December, 2015

Déjà vu

pahilopost.com, 25 November

A look back at the headlines, news and articles published in the Nepali press during the 1989 Indian blockade shows what is happening in Nepal today is merely a recap of what Nepalis went through 25 years ago. Here are some examples:

1. In 1989, India had imposed a blockade on Nepal seven months after a 6.9 magnitude earthquake hit eastern Nepal. This time, India's blockade comes just five

months after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated central Nepal.
2. Just as present, newspapers back then were replete with news about fuel shortages. The only difference is: people queued up for kerosene back then but they are now lining up for petrol and cooking gas.
3. Prime Minister KP Oli has said India is treating Nepal as if the two countries are at war. Oli is echoing what prominent civil rights activist Devendra Raj Pandey said in 1989: "India is treating us as if we are at war".



4) India denies imposing blockade against Nepal, saying cargo trucks are passing through border posts unaffected by Madhesi protests. An article published in *Deshantar* on 2 April 1989 reads: 'India, through Indian media, is claiming that it has not stopped supply of essential commodities to Nepal. But even goods purchased before

the blockade remain stranded on the Indian side.'
5. Newspapers back then too had published news about disruption in supply of medicines and medical equipment.
6. Newspapers currently face a shortage of newsprint paper. Newspapers back then were also forced to reduce pages.
7. Even during the 1989 blockade, politicians and intellectuals talked about the importance of being self-reliant. Newspapers gave ample space to articles carrying similar messages.

8. Nepalis living around the globe have been demonstrating against India's blockade. In 1989, Nepalis demonstrated in front of the UN headquarters in New York urging the international community to put pressure on India to lift the blockade.
9. Nepal had tried to play the 'China card' even in 1989 by importing fuel from its northern neighbour. The 30 April issue of *Deshantar* reported that three tankers had reached Khasa from China.
10. Nepalis are criticising their leaders for ignoring lessons of the 1989 blockade. Newspaper clips from 1989 show Nepalis had lambasted their leaders even back then for forgetting the first Indian blockade of 1971.

Speak up

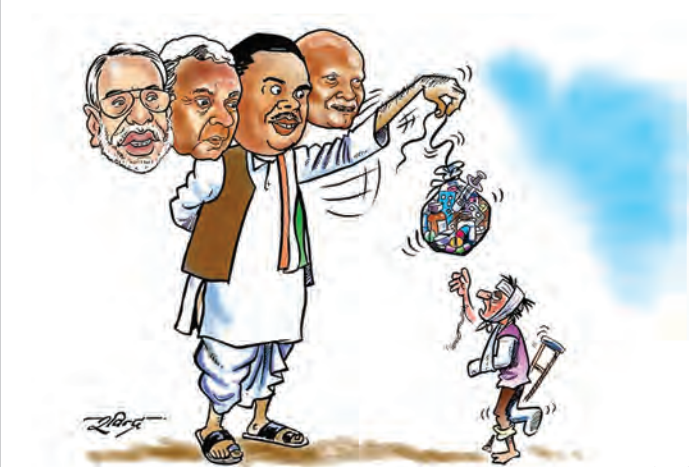
Chandra Shekhar Adhikary and Jagdishwar Pandey in *Kantipur*, 22 November

Diplomatic missions in Kathmandu seem to be unaffected by India's blockade of Nepal.
The international community which is usually vocal about any political development in the country has surprisingly stayed silent on the current blockade.
A few countries have released individual statements expressing concern over the humanitarian crisis caused by acute fuel shortage, but the missions here have yet to condemn India's actions.
Each day the Nepal Oil Corporation

कान्तिपुर



receives more than a dozen recommendation letters requesting supply of fuel to various embassies. The government has made special provisions to provide fuel to diplomatic missions.
According to an employee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, had the government not made such provisions, then the international missions would have been forced to speak up against the blockade.
The United Nations mission in Nepal has also kept quiet on the issue.
The SAARC Secretariat which is based in Kathmandu and is currently headed by Nepal has also remained silent. According to experts on diplomatic affairs, Nepal has failed to open a discussion on the subject through the Secretariat. The government has shown no concern towards making the diplomatic missions understand that the ongoing internal conflict and Indian blockade are two different things.
"It is Nepal's responsibility to reach out to them, but so far we have not been able to do so," says Bhes Bahadur Thapa, former Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Rabindra Manandhar on Twitter, 22 November

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"If someone is trying to capture Nepal's lands, then go to the border and fight a war."

Madhesi leader Upendra Yadav in an interview with *onlinekhabar.com*, 26 November

Enjoy bonuses worth the value of the phone

When you buy an Ncell Loaded smartphone, you will receive bonuses equal to the value of the phone thereby making your smartphone FREE!

For more information please dial for free 17105
Ncell, Here for Nepal | www.ncell.com.np



Ncell Loaded

Smartest way to buy a Smartphone



HUAWEI Ascend Y625 Rs. 13,450/-



cromax Bolt D303 Rs. 6,050/-



COLORS X25 Zoom Rs. 4,950/-



HUAWEI Y3C Rs. 8,250/-



WINTER EMERGENCY FOR QUAKE

KUNDA DIXIT
in GORKHA

The double impact of the earthquake and blockade pushes an already deprived region into deeper crisis this winter

Beneath a deep blue Himalayan sky and hemmed in by mountains on all sides, winter has come early to the villages of Upper Gorkha. The pastel green Budi Gandaki tumbles past the settlement of Ghap, which used to be a busy stop for trekkers on the Manaslu trail before the April earthquake.

The earthquake destroyed the Nubri Primary School in Ghap. But delays in approving standard designs for schools and budget allocation for rebuilding

means that seven months after the earthquake, students are taking lessons in 30,000 tented classrooms like these across the mountains of central Nepal.

Down the Valley in Phillim, it is the same story. Eighty students at the residential Buddha Secondary School spend nights in tents because dormitories were damaged by the earthquake. The girls are crammed into a small room in one of the few buildings still intact.

For Principal Mukti Adhikari an even more pressing problem is finding enough rice to feed the children. Landslides triggered by the earthquake blocked the trail so supplies haven't got through. Even the helicopter lifeline is disrupted now because of the blockade.

"The first blockade was

caused by the earthquake, this is our second blockade," says Adhikari ruefully. "If we can't find rice we have to close the school and send the children home."

The blockade hasn't just hit transportation of supplies to these villages cut off by landslides. A shortage of raw materials in Kathmandu means relief agencies haven't been able to source enough sleeping bags, blankets and tent material. Even supplies that are available cost up to three times more now.

It is not just the blockade that has deepened the misery of the estimated 2 million people in 14 districts who are facing winter in makeshift shelters. Political disarray in Kathmandu has meant that the Reconstruction Authority is not functioning,

and much of the money pledged by international donors lies unspent.

Relief agencies and private groups who were filling the gap have now been hit by the fuel crisis and haven't been able to get urgent supplies before winter. The UN, which was operating five MI-8 helicopters had to ground them because of a funding crunch and lack of fuel, and there is a backlog of 1,000 tons of supplies to airlift before it terminates operations by end-December.

"We are concerned that delays caused by the lack of fuel will lead to a second humanitarian crisis this winter," says the head of DFID in Nepal, Gail Marzetti, "the situation is serious especially for children and the vulnerable."



TENTED CAMPS: Grade Four of Nubri Primary School in Ghap of Upper Gorkha is conducted in a tent. Boys in the residential school in Phillim (*below, right*) sleep in tents because their dormitory hasn't been rebuilt seven months after the earthquake.

ALL PICS: KUNDA DIXIT

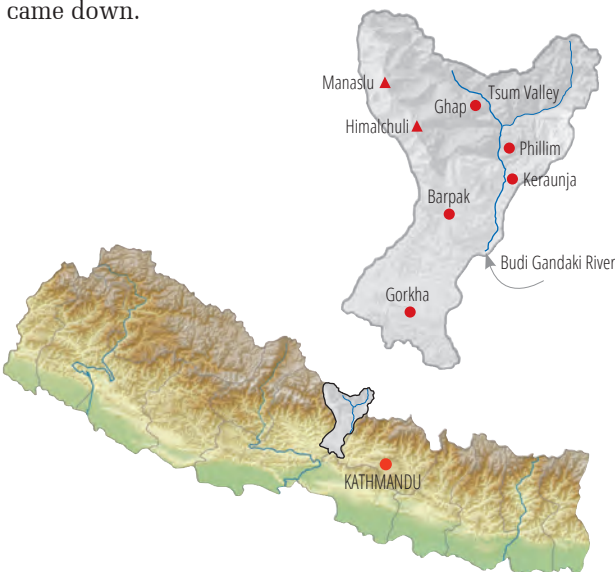


The town that fell through the cracks

“For the first two weeks after the earthquake in April we couldn’t find a place to land in Barpak,” recalls Yogendra Mukhiya, helicopter pilot with Fishtail Air, “they were flying in everything -- even forks and spoons.”

Indeed, being close to the epicenter, Barpak and nearby Laprak were nearly completely destroyed on 25 April. Relief workers and reporters got there first and images of destroyed homes in the two towns went global.

Yet, just across the Budi Gandaki in the villages of Uiya and Keraunja survivors watched rescue and relief helicopters fly up and down the valley with few bothering to land. Nearly all the 402 houses in Keraunja were flattened by the quake and the ones that survived were crushed when a mountainside came down.



Even though the number of people affected and the extent of the damage is much higher, Keraunja has got very little help. The VDC secretary left after the earthquake and hasn’t come back. The homeless have been living in makeshift shelters on terraced farms on nearby slopes now for seven months. Unlike Barpak, the town isn’t as well off and there are fewer Gurkha ex-servicemen sending money home for rebuilding.

Luckily this year’s monsoon was below normal, so the landslide did not cause more destruction. But here at 2,600m the nights are getting bitterly cold and there are nearly 2,000 people living in tents and in tin shacks. Families have firewood stoves inside tents, and this week three homes were destroyed when a fire swept through the shelter.

Fearing epidemics, Oxfam has now built latrines and the People In Need (PIN) is helping with tents, blankets and smokeless stoves.

“It is a race against time,” says PIN’s Sudip Joshi, “we need to get the supplies in before the snow comes, but we are facing transportation bottlenecks because of the fuel crisis.”

In the longer term, the village needs to be relocated because of the threat posed by the landslide above it. The District Administration in Gorkha is ready to resettle, but local politics has delayed plans.

But most families here would like to stay near their homes, and have no time to think that far ahead. After having survived the earthquake, the landslide, the monsoon and coping with the blockade, the most immediate priority is to muddle through this winter.

SURVIVORS

DFID has been supporting the airlifts to remote areas, and also works with partners to distribute supplies and manage shelters in hard-to-reach places like Prok, Keraunja and Tsum.

“Our immediate priority is to get thicker tents, blankets, sleeping bags, gloves, foam mattresses and smokeless stoves in the next week to as many shelters as possible,” says Sudip Joshi of the Czech relief agency, People In Need, which mobilises local communities to design distribution to the most vulnerable groups first.

Despite the challenges and setbacks, Gorkha is cited as the district which has managed earthquake relief best, coordinating the activities of nearly 100 relief agencies since April. CDO Udhhav Timilsina is

a no-nonsense bureaucrat who is impatient to see results, and he is angry about the delay in getting rice to the school in Phillim.

This week he set up a task force to ensure that the trail damaged by landslides and floods in Yaru Bagar is immediately repaired so mule trains can take supplies up the Budi Gandaki even if helicopters aren’t available.

Timilsina wants to have a technical assessment before a conference in Pokhara next week that will showcase Gorkha’s experience in earthquake response to see if it can be replicated in some of the other affected districts.

He instructs his team: “We need to get things moving right away. I will not tolerate any more delay in opening the trail.” 🇳🇵





Fly with us to more of the U.S.A.

Explore America and see the wonders that the land of opportunity has to offer. Experience award-winning luxury onboard to Qatar Airways' expanding U.S.A. network.

New York • Washington • Houston • Chicago • Philadelphia
Miami • Dallas / Fort Worth

For more information and to book your tickets please visit qatarairways.com/np, call +9771 4440847 or contact your nearest travel agent.

World's 5-star airline.



Without a Modicum of Doubt

Everyone knows that Indian Prime Minister Modi has a soft spot for Nepal. He came here first as a pilgrim and then as a messiah, he has adopted a Nepali and would like to adopt Nepal as well. I don't have a Modicum of doubt that there isn't a minute in a day that he doesn't give a thought to our nation's welfare and wellbeing.

Mr Modi has consulted arm-chair experts and Nepal-watchers in New Delhi and after long and thoughtful consideration imposed a blockade on Nepal for our own good. It is his ingenious way to make Nepal a strong and united country. Guess what, it's working!

Not since the Anglo-Nepal War (which we lost) are Nepalis as united as we are today. Just look at the names our commies give themselves: CPN Unified Marxist-Leninists, CPN (Unity Centre) and the Unified Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (which at press time had broken up into five unified pieces).

Only very few people know this, so don't tell anybody I told you that NaMo's secret strategy is to keep Nepal in India's vice-like grip until Nepalis can



learn to stand on their own four feet and be more self-reliant and self-obsessed. He has given us a chance to contribute to reducing greenhouse gases by moving to a renewable energy economy and be less dependent on fossil fuels. He has promoted The Cow as our national animal by taking us back to burning its dung. And since he is such a fan of President Xi Jinping, he has convinced us that our salvation lies in increasing trade and cooperation with Communist China.

And still there are those ungrateful Nepalis on Facebook who are lampooning NaMo, calling him names and making unkind cartoons. Stop it already. (Direct quote: "We are keeping careful tabs of FB posts. You are either with us or against us.")

Anyhoo, it is good to see that the legendary ingenuity of Nepalis has taken over and we're coming up with ever-cleverer ways to turn this crisis into an opportunity for opportunists and profiteers. We could go on and on listing all the examples that illustrate the can-do attitude of the citizens of this country, but in the national interest we will only present a few here:


1. Most restaurants in the Thamel Autonomous Region have Modified their menus to make best use of the limited fuel available. For example, Wood-fired Pizzas used to be the exclusive domain of Nepal's hill elite. Now it's for the proletariat as well -- all pizzas are wood-fired. And just to set themselves apart, fancier eateries are serving Cowdung-fired Pizzas. (Extra topping of fresh patties with anchovies optional.)
2. Our friendly neighbourhood momo shop ran out of gas long ago so it has concocted a range of energy-efficient unsteamed dumplings that have duck kachila fillings served with sesame sauce seasoned with peanut paste and timur.
3. The hottest new food fad in town is the He-buffalo Steak Tartare. Fittingly, it is served RAW.
4. In Kalanki, Bajeko Sekuwa Corner is offering Blockade Barbecue of goat innards roasted over old tyres. A customer swore by the new dish: "There is a tangy new flavour to the meat that I had never tasted before."
5. Among the amendments Parliament is debating this week is to change the country's official name to: Democratic Black Market Federal Kleptocratic

Secular Socialist Paradise of Nepal (United).

6. To honour border traffickers who risk their lives daily keeping our nation's supply lines open, parliament has also voted to nominate Old Smuggler as Nepal's New National Drink.
7. Nepal's distilleries are now being converted into refineries, producing bio-ethanol instead of vodka. (Driver to Mapase Police: "I haven't had a drink, but my bike has.")
8. Empty gas cylinders have been put to good use as road dividers.
9. The shortage of essential medicines means that private hospitals have not been able to force patients to undergo expensive and unnecessary operations. This has enabled the public to save Rs 10 billion over the last two months, according to one unusually reliable guesstimate.
10. Nepal used to spend Rs 60 billion a month to import petroleum. The blockade has saved us so much money that we now have a trade surplus with India.




The Ass

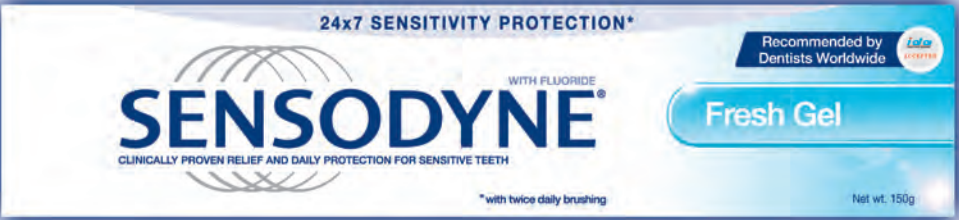


"I recommend Sensodyne for all day every day sensitivity protection."

-Dr. Spiro Condos, dentist practicing in the US



24x7 SENSITIVITY PROTECTION



24x7 SENSITIVITY PROTECTION[®]

WITH FLUORIDE

SENSODYNE

CLINICALLY PROVEN RELIEF AND DAILY PROTECTION FOR SENSITIVE TEETH

Recommended by Dentists Worldwide

Fresh Gel

*with twice daily brushing

Net wt. 150g

World's No.1 Sensitivity Toothpaste

*Brush twice daily for continuous protection

© 2014, GlaxoSmithKline. Sensodyne is a trademark of GlaxoSmithKline group of companies.

0 0 7 8 4