

Best cashmeres  
make the best  
festive gifts

NEW COLLECTION 16-17



**NATUREKNIT**  
CASHMERE REDEFINED

Scarves • Tanks • Pullovers • Cardigans • T-shirts • Wraps

natureknit.com 4254812



#### SLOW FLIGHT:

Simon Tamakhu, 13, whose house was damaged by the earthquake in Bhaktapur, flies a kite by its ruins. Families in the Valley have not yet received reconstruction grants.

BIKRAM RAJ

## Cashing in on politics

Most of the 2 million earthquake survivors who lost their homes are still waiting for government grants to rebuild, but those who have received the first tranche of cash are spending it on Dasain shopping.

Most say the grant, which has been increased to Rs 300,000, will not be enough to restore their homes anyway, so they are using the first installment of Rs 50,000 to repay debt and for household expenses.

They are also tired of waiting for politicians in Kathmandu to get their act together. There may be even more delays because Prime Minister Dahal is expected to replace the head of the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), Sushil Gyewali, with a party apparatchik. Gyewali himself was

a political appointee of Prime Minister Oli, and replaced Govind Raj Pokharel, who was a Congress candidate.

In trying to keep rivals away from controlling the NRA's grant distribution and to prevent them from reaping credit for rehabilitation, political parties have cancelled each other out and left survivors with little and late assistance.

We asked Gyewali if he was losing his job, to which he replied: "Really? No one has told me anything about that. In fact, the Prime Minister has praised my work."

With the bigger grants, the total amount needed for reconstruction of homes has shot up to Rs 938 billion, more than double of what was pledged by donors last year.

For the moment there is only Rs 343 billion in the kitty for reconstruction because there is a shortfall in what the biggest donors India and China pledged.

Former Finance Minister Ram Saran Mahat, who conducted the International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction two months after the earthquake, says the biggest challenge is to spend the money quickly and efficiently.

"The problem is not the lack of money, but our inability to use it is," he said, "further donor support will be forthcoming only if we can prove that we are using the fund properly."

BY SHREEJANA SHRESTHA

Read full story pages 14-15



## BORN TO BE FREE

Elephant safari in Chitwan is now about watching the animals, not riding them.

BY LUCIA DE VRIES  
PAGES 8-9



The most convenient way  
to book your ticket

Book online and pay cash. Qatar Airways offers the flexibility to book online and pay offline. Within 48 hours of making your reservation on qatarairways.com, you can either pay online or by visiting Qatar Airways office at Hattisar, Kathmandu.

Check-in online 36 hours prior to departure, skip the queue and save time at the airport.

Download our mobile app for greater convenience with each journey; book flights, check flight status or check-in on the go.

For more information and to book your tickets:

Visit [qatarairways.com](http://qatarairways.com) Call us on +977 1 4440467



**QATAR**  
AIRWAYS  
الخطوط القطرية  
GOING PLACES TOGETHER



# UNHEALTHY POLITICS

Govinda KC is once more using hunger to strike at the heart of the mafia that runs this country’s medical industrial complex.

Dasain is a time to eat, drink and be merry with family. But there is one person who is not eating and drinking in the coming weeks — Govinda KC, Nepal’s crusading physician who is using hunger to strike at the heart of the mafia that runs this country’s medical industrial complex. His only family are his patients. Even in the tiny room at the Teaching Hospital where he is fasting, the orthopaedic surgeon was examining patients peering at x-rays of children with broken bones.

There are those who ridicule KC for being a ‘serial hunger striker’ because this is his ninth fast unto death. They are saying what kind of fast unto death is this if he isn’t dead yet. This is the flippancy of cynics, an apathetic state and those who profiteer from sickness and disease.

However, even some of his supporters say the tactic doesn’t seem to work because successive governments have never fulfilled any of the promises they made to KC in order to convince him to give up his past fasts. KC defends his action saying there is no other way to put moral pressure on the government to fulfil his ultimatum.

His demands have remained the same: Stop further affiliations for medical colleges in Kathmandu and spread them out across the country, streamline the medical exam system and make medical education free. For the past three years, KC has also been vocal about the Commission for the Investigation of the Abuse of Authority (CIAA) overstepping its mandate to directly interfere with the medical education sector in order to protect the family-business ties of its commissioners. It has tried to influence the licensing of new medical colleges, forcing out functionaries of the Institute of Medicine who stood in the way.

Outsiders may be puzzled why medical education is such a big deal and why KC should be risking his life repeatedly to reform it. The fact is that in a country where government hospitals are understaffed, underfunded



DEVAKI BISTA

and decrepit, setting up new private hospitals is lucrative business. The return on investment on medical education is so high that businesses with political protection are deeply involved. With a downpayment of ‘donations’ of more than Rs 10 million per student, the mass production of doctors is a business that can make you rich overnight.

Nepal is run by a political cartel whose members own many of these medical schools. The political parties have infiltrated their cronies from the private medical sector into Parliament on the proportional representation quota to push legislation favourable to them.

KC called off his eighth fast in July after the UML-Maoist coalition government assured him that they would address his demands to have parliament pass the Medical Education Reform Bill, the impeachment of CIAA Chief Lokman Singh Karki and Commissioner Rajnarayan Pathak, and to follow the recommendations of the Kedar Mathema Commission.

The Medical Education Reform Bill has been registered in Parliament, but various interest groups are trying to have it dropped from the current session of the House. Govinda KC says that despite assurances to him, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal who now heads the Maoist-NC coalition, is lobbying to license yet another private medical college in Kathmandu. He also accuses MPs in parliament of not acting on evidence of corruption by the CIAA in the medical education sector because they are afraid of repercussions.

It is clear to KC that Nepal’s medical sector has a serious chronic condition which cannot be cured with a simple surgery. The malignancy has spread, and it can only be treated by excising powerful political interest groups and putting public health in the hands of independent and professional regulators with integrity.

Given contemporary Nepali politics that is a tall order. But there is hope that Health Minister Gagan Thapa will use his first tenure in government to show that he is a man to be trusted to set things right. Thapa has toned down his activism since he became minister, but even so he is in the right place at the right time to address the unhealthy politics in the medical sector.

We know what the problems are: Unaffordable and inaccessible medical care because of over-commercialisation and political protection. KC is offering us solutions, and he is on his ninth hunger strike to push for them. Let us hope Gagan Thapa doesn’t make the same hollow promises like his predecessors. His political career, and Govind KC’s life, depend on it.

Times

THIS WEEK



Most reached on Facebook

She for her by Sahina Shrestha  
"Unless women are free, men will not be free"

Most shared on Facebook

Not playing ball, Editorial

Most visited online page

Muckraking among bottomfeeders by Bidushi Dhunge

Most popular on Twitter

Muckraking among bottomfeeders by Bidushi Dhunge

Most commented

Not playing ball, Editorial

GOPEN RAI

YOUR SAY

www.nepalitimes.com

EDITORIAL

We have failed six times so far to give Nepal a durable Constitution ('Not playing ball', Editorial', #827). We are likely to fail again. What can we expect from our political leaders who just want to plunder state resources? Until we get rid of them, nothing will change in Nepal.

Arati Malla

1,334

Those who rule the country do not feel the pain of the families of those whose whereabouts are still a mystery ('1,334', Om Astha Rai, #827). Those whose parents, spouses or children were made disappeared by the army and the rebels have no say in transitional justice. Members of the committee formed to investigate enforced disappearances were handpicked by the parties that were behind these crimes. Unless an independent and powerful commission is set up, the truth will never be revealed, and the guilty will go unpunished.

Ganesh Karki

THE ASS

The Ass's comments and jokes have outlived their time and humour ('Govt mulls taxing kickbacks', the Ass, #827). Find something better to do. Learn how to investigate and report corruption and rapes. Your humor reaches a few hundreds, but there are 30 million who are dying for justice. You are not even funny anymore, Ass.

Devendra Pathak

What happened to Ramkrishni Chaudhary in 2002 was bad, but what is happening to her now is worse ('Waiting for the truth', Tula Chaudhary, #827). Her son who wanted to escape the war was detained, and possibly killed. She has the right to know who did what to her son. And those who detained, and possibly tortured and killed him must be punished.

Brinda Timilsina

Victoria Bannon@VictoriaBannon

Having lived and worked in Nepal and Sth Asia I have seen these issues up close and personal, but there are plenty of reasons to be hopeful.

Nepali Times@nepalitimes

It is not only men who dominate women in patriarchy, women are dominated by women as well @sahinashrestha  
http://bit.ly/2cxR1Ub

Bipin Adhikari@BipinLaw

Reboot or Stuck in Safe Mode ? A tough choice indeed !

Nepali Times@nepalitimes

On the first anniversary of the seventh constitution in seven decades, Nepal is stuck again @kundadixit  
http://bit.ly/2cRnB6G

Times

nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll #828

Q. Will the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons be able to find out the truth?

Total votes: 211

■ Yes: 26%

■ No: 45.5%

■ Maybe: 26.5%

Weekly Internet Poll #829

To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Do you support Govinda KC's ninth hunger strike?

Times

Nepali Times on Facebook

Follow @nepalitimes on Twitter

Follow @nepalitimes on Instagram

Publisher and Chief Editor: Kunda Dixit

Associate Editor: Om Astha Rai | Design: Kiran Maharjan

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

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

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

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



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

WIDEN YOUR  
W O R L D

TURKISH  
AIRLINES 

# DISCOVER EUROPE

WITH EUROPE'S BEST AIRLINE

KATHMANDU SALES OFFICE  
4438363/4438436/4438856  
KTMSALES@THY.COM  
TURKISHAIRLINES.COM



# True patriot

A tribute to Madhav Ghimire

GEORGE VARUGHESE

About 20 years ago, while researching the impact of foreign aid on local collective action in Nepal, a trusted friend suggested I meet a civil servant who could be relied upon to be balanced and pragmatic about Nepal’s complicated relationship with development assistance.

My friend also cautioned me not to try to meet this person on a Saturday, which I thought was a bit odd as that was the day to catch government officials for candid conversation. It turned out Madhav Ghimire used his Saturdays to spend time with his ailing father, massaging and tending to him in the rented family home in Sanepa. Over time, I would learn that devotion was a central tenet of Madhav’s being, in both his private and his public life.

Back then, Madhav was head of the Foreign Aid Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance. In those early years of our friendship, we argued the nuances of Nepal’s first foreign aid policy and the Nepal Development Forum. I spoke of the need to mind the letter of international covenants, while he insisted that the recipient country’s dignity must not suffer even under circumstances of dependence. For Madhav, a constructive balance had to be found between those would give and those who would receive. Indeed, his career was characterised by the motto of building together respectfully.

Madhav Ghimire moved quickly up



BIKRAM RAI

the ranks during the years of conflict and, it is a testament to his broad acceptability that he was chosen from among well-respected peers to lead as Secretary the newly-established Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction. It was a fraught period in Nepal’s post-conflict history, with the need to navigate the shoals of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and rebuild a broken nation.

The appointment also marked the start of the most significant and tragically short period of Madhav’s life as a public figure. We all celebrated when he was appointed Chief Secretary in 2009, for no one came better prepared to oversee the deployment of Nepal’s public administration in service of its people. We had to make up for the

developmental losses of the conflict years, and doing so in cordial partnership with the international community.

From his concern for gender-based violence as a binding constraint for social progress to his worries about inadequate preparation for administrative restructuring under the federal Constitution, Madhav the civil servant displayed the wisdom of a statesman.

From Madhav, I came to learn and appreciate the pragmatics of principled public administration, countenancing the demands of politicians and ministers while serving the public interest. Tried and tested as a civil servant through multiple administrations of every political colour, he emerged without blemish. With each appointment, he gained greater respect from the political class, the international community, and the general public.

Madhav’s retirement from the civil service was ever so brief – in a period of constitutional crisis after the collapse of the first Constituent Assembly, he was called upon to serve his country again, this time in the interim administration overseeing fresh elections for the second Constituent Assembly. He held both the foreign and home affairs portfolios and, as expected, conducted his work efficiently and without drama. He was accessible to anyone who was concerned with the Nepali people’s betterment. Madhav was a wise and sophisticated man who stayed close to his roots.

As Home Minister he ensured the seamless coordination of security and administration that made the peaceful conduct of the second Constituent

Assembly elections possible. Everyone had expected state failure, and Madhav delivered against overwhelming odds.

Over the years, Madhav and I stayed in close touch, mainly interacting on public policy matters and related institutions and individuals. Recently, our meetings had become more frequent, and looking back, our conversations had taken on a reflective tone – about the two decades of tumult we had witnessed together in our beloved Nepal, about the forthcoming changes in governance, and about how we would all cope.

In our last meeting only a few days ago we lamented the perverseness that has come to represent governance and government in Nepal, where the demos no longer seem to matter, where self-interest trumps everything, and those who seek to serve are without support and direction. We also reassured each other about the commitment and goodness that remains, especially in the civil service. Our last conversation was about how that goodness might be encouraged, protected and rewarded for the sake of Nepal’s future.

Madhav Ghimire was a man of substance and grace, and we must remember him by celebrating a life devoted to Nepal. There was so much more left in this true patriot to give to his country and people. 🇳🇵



George Varughese is The Asia Foundation's country representative in Nepal.

EPSON  
EXCEED YOUR VISION

M-Series Printers

Get the most  
ECONOMICAL  
B/W PRINTERS ever

Best for Office and  
Commercial purpose

Just  
25  
PAISA  
per print

EPSON

M200- PRINT / SCAN / COPY

EPSON

M100- PRINT

Print upto  
8000 PAGES  
with initial starter ink kit

POWER  
SAVER

JUST 12 WATTS  
POWER  
CONSUMPTION

1  
YEAR  
WARRANTY

UPTO 1 YEAR  
OR 50,000  
PRINTS

34 PPM

HIGH  
SPEED  
PRINTING

MERCANTILE  
OFFICE SYSTEMS PVT. LTD.

Authorized Distributor  
Hiti Pokhari, Durbar Marg  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 1-4440773/4445920

Kathmandu Valley Dealers:  
Lazimpat : 4410423, New Road : 4220058  
New Road : 4227854, New Road : 4260173  
New Road : 4222384, Patan : 5538849  
Putalisadak : 4266820, Putalisadak : 4415786  
Putalisadak : 4227474, Putalisadak : 4436307  
Putalisadak : 4417050

Outside Valley Dealers:  
Banepra : 011-560888, Biratnagar : 021-538729, Biratnagar : 021-532000  
Biratnagar : 023-540150, Butwal : 071-545399, Chitwan : 056-571764  
Dang : 082-561022, Dhangadhi : 091-523601, Dhangadhi : 091-521392  
Jorakpur : 041-525565, Lahan : 033-561205, Mahendranagar : 099-523872  
Nepalgunj : 081-527092, Pokhara : 061-525300, Surkhet : 083-522488  
Tulsipur : 082-562575

prabhu BANK BIZ BRIEFS

Easier stopover

Qatar Airways, Qatar Tourism Authority and Qatar's Ministry of Interior have increased transit visa stays in Qatar from 48 hours to 96 hours. Passengers of all nationalities

QATAR

AIRWAYS القطرية

with a minimum transit time of five hours, upon confirmation of onward journey and completion of passport procedures can now get free transit visa on arrival at Hamad International airport.

Cities of the World

Heineken has introduced its global campaign, 'Cities of the World' in Nepal with special edition 330ml bottles featuring six cities- London, Guam, New York, Singapore, Colombo and Langkawi.

NEW YORK

Lucky Dasain

Him Electronics Pvt Ltd, the authorised distributor of Himstar electronics and home appliances

Himstar

सबै HAPPY सबै LUCKY

पुरस्कारको भरणार

जम्ने भो दशै-तिहार

has announced the 'Sabai Happy Sabai Lucky' campaign this festive season. Scheduled to run till Tihar, customers will get guaranteed gifts on purchase of home appliances including refrigerators, LED TVs and chest freezers throughout the offer period.

prabhu BANK



# CELEBRATE WITH JOHNNIE WALKER HAPPY DASHAIN



PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY.  
Global Trading Concern (P) Ltd.

JOHNNIE WALKER  
KEEP WALKING





# No-woman's land

New book looks at the combined oppression of women caught up in the subcontinent's conflicts

In most modern wars, a majority of those killed, maimed, disappeared or displaced are civilians. And even among them, it is women and children who are most vulnerable. Women have also joined the fray to fight oppression.

And yet, news reportage of battles tend to focus on the operational strategy of the military, interviews with generals and commanders in the field, and weapons used in what are called 'theatres' of war.

Indian journalists Laxmi Murthy and Mitu Varma have put together a collection of stories by women caught up in war to shine a light on a subject that few war correspondents visit. *Garrisoned Minds: Women and Armed Conflict in South Asia*, uses the work of local journalists who worked with mentors to produce chapters about women affected by militarisation in Kashmir and the Indian Northeast, Nepal, and the frontier tribal regions on Pakistan's border with Afghanistan.

Civilians are always caught in the crossfires of insurgencies, sectarian or ethno-separatist conflicts, but it is women who end up bearing the burden of ensuring not just their own survival but of their families, while at the same time protecting themselves from sexual violence.

In her introduction, Murthy analyses the patriarchy and nationalism that drive conflicts with their masculine character as a violation of the feminine construct of the 'motherland' — as if men always need to 'conquer' territories. The victimisation of women in wars, therefore, is not a by-product of conflict but an inherent part of the conduct of war itself.

In his introduction to the Nepal chapters, Deepak Thapa looks at how women came to be such a large part of the Maoist guerrilla force. Doubly downtrodden, rural women were easy recruits to Maoist mobilisers. However, as Deepak Adhikari shows in his profile of one guerrilla, they faced discrimination and abuse within the Maoist Army during the conflict as well as after. Indeed, reading the subsequent chapters by Sewa Bhattarai, one cannot help wonder if the commitment of female guerrillas to the cause of revolution was stronger than that of their male leaders. In her chapter, Darshan Karki looks at the status of Madhesi women who again face the combined oppression of an uncaring state as well as from male members of their conservative households.

In a chapter on Kashmir entitled *Widowhood of Shame*, Shazia Yousuf profiles the wife



**WOMEN IN WAR:** Kushal Rakshak, an ex-guerrilla profiled by journalist Deepak Adhikari in the book, faced discrimination and abuse within the Maoist army.

of a renegade militant who spies for the Indian security forces and is injured on the day that he is killed. Besides suffering the discrimination of being a widow, she is also ostracised by both communities. Together with another chapter by Zahid Rafiq, the book presents us the human side of the Kashmir conflict and a look beyond the so-many-killed-yesterday-in-Srinagar headlines


from the region.

The Indian Northeast was finally in the news briefly recently because Irom Chanu Sharmila decided to end her fast-unto-death after 16 years protesting rapes by Indian security forces. It took her long sacrifice for India's national media to take notice. But we see in two chapters in the book the kind of abuse Irom was trying to highlight with her hunger strike. Writes Sonjoy Barbor in the introduction to the chapters: 'In amplifying the experience of women in conflict in Northeast India, one is able to find a better understanding of the shortcomings of modern state-making and nation-building in the geographical margins of the country.'

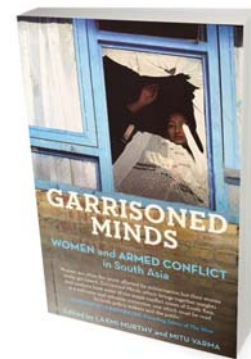
Another forgotten conflict in the subcontinent that is suddenly being thrust into the headlines is Balochistan. Four chapters in the book deal with Pakistan's restive border with Afghanistan, and how geopolitical and tribal rivalries have fuelled a conflict without end. But even the reportage that we get to see rarely look at how the women of the region, already hidden away and facing discrimination and persecution, are coping with separatism, sectarianism and terrorism.

We find the theme of double discrimination here too in a

chapter by Muhammad Zafar about the Hazara Shias who fled religious persecution in Afghanistan to settle down in Quetta, only to face the violent wrath of Pakistan's Sunnis. Hazara womenfolk bear the brunt of the violence, widows having to take care of families and girls dropping out of school.

Like other chapters in this book, *No-woman's Land* by Shazia Irram and Shasta Yasmeen reads like an anti-war novel. They portray both the tragedy of war, and how women find the strength to survive, protect families and hope for a better future amidst atrocities during wars waged by men. 

Kunda Dixit



*Garrisoned Minds: Women and Armed Conflict in South Asia* Edited by Laxmi Murthy and Mitu Varma Panos South Asia and Speaking Tiger, 2016 272 pages, Rs 800.



घरको पूर्ण विवरणका लागि  
स्क्रान् ननुहोस् ।

## अन्नपूर्ण पोस्ट

# OMG!

जहाँ छ सपना, त्यहाँ हुन्छ अन्नपूर्ण पोस्ट

**बम्पर उपहार**  
Ready to move in  
Fully Furnished Bungalow  
वा  
**नगद रु. १ करोड ३५ लाख**

मासिक उपहार - १ जनालाई

**Bajaj Platina**



साप्ताहिक उपहार - १ जनालाई

**Hi Homeglory Home Appliances**





\*सर्वहारा नगद छुट ।

Scratch Card मार्फत रु. ५०० देखि शतप्रतिशत नगद छुट वा पाउनु हुनेछ Smart Phone, LED TV, Shopping Voucher, Laptop वा Fridge

**अन्नपूर्ण मिडिया नेटवर्क**  
कॉर्पोरेट टावर, तीनकुने, काठमाण्डौ  
फोन: ८८८२३०५, ८८८२२००, ८८८२०५८  
इमेल: circulation@amn.com.np

रिजल स्टेट पार्टनर

**ROADSHOW REAL ESTATE (P) LTD.**  
TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY

**अन्नपूर्ण**  
प्रधानन्यायाधीशमा  
काको सर्वसम्मत  
आलो-दाहाल  
चर्काचर्की

रु ५०० देखि शतप्रतिशत  
नगद छुट ।

सफिद गौघर

स्मार्ट फोन

ल्यापटप

३२" एल.ई.डी. टि.भि.

फ्रिज

काठमाडौं: अन्नपूर्ण (९८५११११११), विज्ञान (९८४१४८४८४), इजोरा (९८५००४४४), दिलिप (९८४११११११), कपिल (९८४११११११), पोखरा: शिवहरि (९८५४४४४४४४), इटहरी: नरेण (९८५०४४४४४४), विराटनगर: रोशन (९८५०३०३०३०३), बुटवल: अमिल (९८५४४४४४४४४), नारायणघाट: युधिर (९८५४४४४४४४४)

वार्षिक ग्राहक दर रु ३,८००/- पुराना ग्राहकहरूले पनि नवीकरण गरी यस योजनामा सहभागी हुन सक्नुहुनेछ ।  
Bumper Prize मा २०७२ माघ १ गतेदेखि २०७३ पुस मसान्तसम्मका वार्षिक ग्राहकहरूलाई सहभागी गराइनेछ ।





Those of you who thought the monsoon was over, better think again. In a pattern that has often been repeated in recent years, and some scientists think it is related to global arming, the departure of the monsoon has been delayed till October. Usually it would stop raining by early September. Looks like we will have to wait until next week before the weather clears substantially. There will be stormy sequences interspersed with sunny spells over the weekend, with further drop in minimum temperature.

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
27° 17°	28° 17°	28° 17°

oneworld

QATAR

AIRWAYS

القطرية

Going places together - [qatarairways.com](http://qatarairways.com)



Azadeh Akhlaghi is an Iranian photographer and filmmaker, whose work - *By an Eye-Witness* - will be exhibited at the Photo festival in Kathmandu next month. She has been recreating Iran's tragic past through conceptual and staged photography in a series of photographs reconstructing the deaths of prominent figures in Iran including poets, writers, politicians, activists and students, with the events leading to the Islamic revolution of 1979 as its main focus. *Photo Kathmandu* curator, Tanvi Mishra, spoke to Akhlaghi about her project.



AZADEH AKHLAGHI/PHOTO KATHMANDU

# Staging the past

**Tanvi Mishra: What made you begin work on *By an Eye-Witness*?**

**Azadeh Akhlaghi:** It began with a political shock in the aftermath of post-election uprisings in Iran in 2009, and one of the astonishing consequences was that many old political figures, murdered intellectuals and journalists came into the spotlight after decades. They emerged from the ruins of history. Even though they died many years ago, their souls took part in the movement, you

could feel their presence out on the streets of Tehran. I believe rising up for freedom is also an attempt to redeem the oppressed history of your past, it is a demonstration of our gratitude to them.

I also tried to mark out the turning points of Iran's contemporary history. Most of the depicted killings are not only tragic, but crucial turning points in the particular kind of struggle they represent. My last criterion was this: At the moment of their death there was no camera to record the incident, thus there is no visual documentation of it. A kind of visual void is felt in each case, and this project was aimed at filling that void, with a historical delay.

**The execution of images is very detailed, extremely cinematic and its production is reminiscent of a film set. What was the process?**

I looked at numerous cases of brutal murders in the recent history of Iran, between the

constitutional revolution of 1908 till the Islamic revolution of 1979 and the eight years of Iran-Iraq war, and chose 17 characters. My main goal was gathering political activists of different parties like the national front or the leftists, to poets, writers, journalists, intellectuals, all the way to athletes, from ones who espoused armed struggles to ones who subscribed to non-violent resistance, to those whose weapon of choice were pens. During the research stage, I was working by myself. I went to libraries and archives and collected as much data as I could. I had to go through the newspapers, written words, confidential documents, witness reports, newspaper articles or radio reports and so on. I collected the available documents, brought them together and reconstructed the moment. These photographs represent the most likely scenarios of their death.

**You have put yourself in each of the images, always covered with a red**

**scarf. Why did you choose to do this?**

I could never reconstruct the moment as it originally happened. I tried to be as factual as possible, but the more I studied the more I became sure that historical precision is simply impossible. So, instead, I focused on capturing the spirit of the moment. That is why I put myself in each of the images to emphasise that the whole image is what I, as an artist, had witnessed.

**It is ultimately a project about death - how did it impact you personally?**

Well, it was quite depressing. I could consider the five years I worked on the project a very sad and depressing part of my life. My mind was fully occupied with the characters, however, after exhibiting the series, I was able to overcome depression. I started working on my new series immediately.

**What was the response of the Iranian public to these images?**

The Iranian public reacted to the images very passionately. Lots of people came to the gallery, there were people who had never been into a gallery, they came because they heard about it, and among them were friends of the characters, the relatives or others who deeply sympathised with them. Many of them burst into tears, they came up and hugged me, it was full of passion and sorrow. There were some people who travelled all the way from other cities just to see their heroes on the walls of a gallery in Tehran. Even now, after five years, I still receive many emails from Iranian people all around the world who had just seen the images on social networks or in a show somewhere. Talking of or publishing a book about many of these figures was prohibited. Silence surrounded their death for many years. Now, people contact me and talk about the images, among them there are some eye-witnesses who would like to give me some information about their loved ones.

NEW THINKING.  
HYUNDAI NEW POSSIBILITIES.

CRETA

THE PERFECT SUV

“I AM PERFECT  
I AM CRETA”

Anil Gurung  
Captain, National Football Team

HYUNDAI Laxmi

SOLE DISTRIBUTOR OF HYUNDAI FOR NEPAL

[www.laxmihyundai.com](http://www.laxmihyundai.com)





Saraswati Kali enjoys her daily bath in the river.

LENA QUENARD

# BORN TO BE FREE

Instead of riding them to observe wildlife, elephants themselves are now tourist attractions

LUCIA DE VRIES  
in CHITWAN

Raj Kali is 42, and walks surprisingly fast and light-footedly along a forest track in the Amaltari buffer zone of Chitwan National Park. Her trunk sways as if it has a life of its own: Sniffing out edible greens, snapping the branches of acacia, and slipping it into her mouth while on the move. Her friend, Dibya Kali is 46, and follows close behind. Visitors are guided by naturalist Shambhu Mahato on a jungle walk to observe the rhinos wallowing in a muddy pool by the river.

Earlier this year, Nepal’s oldest safari resort Tiger Tops discontinued its most popular activity: Elephant-back jungle safari, and unchained 12 captive elephants including Raj Kali and Dibya Kali. Tourists are no longer allowed to ride or touch them, taking selfies and feeding the elephants is prohibited. They are instead invited to observe the animals as they go about their daily lives.

Customers at this internationally-known jungle resort in Chitwan do not miss going out

on elephant backs, in fact they like this unique and intimate glimpse of the daily life of elephants, which gives them a different kind of respect and understanding of these majestic animals.

Unchaining the elephants was not an easy decision for Tiger Tops’ Kristjan Edwards. “I remember going on a picnic with friends in the jungle as a child, taking some of the elephants with us. They would be left grazing, there is no more powerful an experience than being with elephants who are allowed to be on their own,” Edwards says.

After being approached by a local animal welfare organisation with a proposal to stop elephant-back safaris, Edwards admits he was interested but not immediately convinced. It was after meeting Carol Buckley, founder of Elephant Aid International, that he saw the way forward.

Being a former mahout herself, Buckley understood elephants, and knew that they are very expensive to keep. Any change would have to be economically viable, and that is how the idea of letting visitors observe elephants at close range instead of riding them was born.

“Moving away from elephant safaris 50 years after we



introduced them, seemed too big a step, but I had seen young elephants being trained at the breeding centre. It was horrifying, they are scarred for life,” Edwards recalls.

Buckley, who helped the Chitwan National Park unchain its working elephants, used solar-powered electric fencing to corral the elephants instead of chaining

them. A camp featuring six tents and a dining hall overlooking the corrals, enables visitors to observe the elephants as they forage.

“It took time for the elephant drivers to warm up to the idea,” admits lodge manager D B Chaudhary, “they were worried about losing their job and about losing control of the elephants. But slowly the mahouts learned to



**SPECIAL OFFER**

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

**Subscribe to Nepali Times**

**&**

**Get a free coupon of**

*"Balancing Body, Mind and Spirit"*



on your choice @ Star Hotels OR



Vacuum Flask OR



Re-chargeable light



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





**UNCHAINED:** Instead of riding them, tourists conscious about animal rights prefer to watch them instead.

LENA QUENARD

trust the new approach.”  
Not all mahouts are completely convinced, yet about leaving their stick and bullhook behind. Ratan Mahato wonders what he will do when his elephant Hira Kali gets frightened and starts running. But if the bond between a mahout and an elephant is strong the animal will respond to verbal or physical commands. Six months after the

experiment began, the health of elephants has improved, they no longer have problems with their feet, lice and ticks have gone, and they don’t have digestive issues either. The elephants are now inseparable from the friends they are grouped with.  
For Edwards, the upcoming autumn tourist season will be a test to see if the experiment

has worked. There are positive reviews already. International tour operators think elephant viewing rather than elephant safari will be a draw. “This is exactly what we have been waiting for,” says Prachanda Shivakottee from Explore Himalaya. “If we want to save Chitwan as a destination we have to be innovative, and offer experiences that are sustainable,



LUCIA DE VRIES

The sight of elephants bathing in the river during a monsoon downpour has a primordial feel.



LUCIA DE VRIES

Naturalist Shambhu Mahato now walks tourists into the jungle instead of riding with them on elephant safari.



LUCIA DE VRIES

Tourists try their hand at making kuchi, the elephants’ favourite snack made of rice, straw and molasses.

culturally appropriate and do not harm animals.”

It is late afternoon when 10-year-old Sandra Kali wades into the Narayani river, only her trunk and hump are above the water. She nudges closer to her mother Hira Kali and friend Saraswati Kali, and soon the three are seen frolicking in water, tumbling and trumpeting with delight.

Says naturalist Shambhu Mahato: “When we stop bothering them, the elephants become like children. They are happy and playful, and if we are kind to them they trust and obey us.”

  
**nepalitimes.com**  
Watch video





Managed By Banyan Tree Nepal





**NOT TOO FAR NOT TOO CLOSE**

Weekend or weekdays Pataleban Vineyard Resort is the place to rejuvenate yourself with friends and family. A perfect gateway to get refreshed from your daily hectic routine.

We are here for your service with,

- Deluxe / Superior Rooms with Packages
- Family Retreat
- Day Conferences
- Resident Conference Packages
- Family / Corporate Day Picnics
- Orientation Programs
- Team Building Activities
- Wine Testing
- Day Hiking
- Forest Walk
- BBQ Facility

**Contact US:**

Chisapani-5, Baad Bhanjyang, Kathamndu, Nepal  
Tel: 00977 1 4316377, 9841679364  
Kathmandu Sales Office:  
Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 00977 1 4005220  
Email: info@patalebanresort.com  
www.patalebanresort.com



## EVENTS



### Save the date,

The Pix, photography quarterly, is in Kathmandu to launch 'Scope: The Nepal Issue' and hold an exhibition. Don't forget to mark your calendar for an exciting weekend.

30 September - 7 November  
10 am to 5 pm, Taragaon Museum (01) 449 1234



### Farmer's market,

For organic local food, chef brunches and wide green spaces visit farmer's market at Le Sherpa and The Yellow House.

Every Saturday, 8 am to 12 pm, LeSherpa, Lajimpat. Every Sunday, 9 am to 12 pm, The Yellow House, Sanepa, (01) 5522078



### Mountain bike race,

Get yourself ready for a three-day marathon-distance mountain bike race. The event features kids formula race, sprint race, downhill race etc.

16 December to 19 December, 7 am to 9 pm, Shuvatar International School, 9813011678/9841806310

### Morning Coffee Queries,

For interesting business ideas and experiences, entrepreneurs, students and start-ups can participate in Monday morning coffee queries.

3 October, 9 am to 11 am, Bodhi Books and Bakes, Maharajgunj

### Piano lessons,

Register for jazz piano lessons and get to know about jazz theory, harmony, improvisation, and composition, with Indian musician and jazz pianist Shanoi. Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory, Jhamsikhel, (01) 5013554



### Breast Cancer awareness,

Participate in a Walkathon organised by Rose Foundation Nepal to raise awareness about breast cancer and promote breast self-examination.

22 October, 8.30 am to 3 pm, Starts at Patan Darbar Square and ends at Jawalakhel football ground, 9813688226/9803557302/9849035012, rosefoundationnepal.org



### Yin yoga,

Calm your mind with an hour of yin-inspired yoga followed by a singing bowl session.

1 October, 6.30 to 8 am, Sooriya Wellness Yoga Studio, sooriyawellness@gmail.com, Fee: Rs 1,500

### MISS MOTI-VATION

KRIPA JOSHI



## DINING



### Mul Chowk,

Relish in a sumptuous Samay Baji meal while watching the lakhe nach, kumari nach and and vairab nach at Mul Chowk as part of its post Indra Jatra celebrations. 24 September, 4 pm onwards, Mul Chowk, Baber Mahal Revisited, (01) 4259801, 9860662252, machowkres@gmail.com

### Red Carpet,

Look down at the busy and happening Darbar Marg while dining at a lavish, cozy place that serves mouthwatering cuisines. Sherpa Mall, Darbar Marg, (01)4257705



### Hyatt Regency,

Celebrate Oktoberfest with Hyatt and enjoy delectable dishes like bratwurst, frankfurter, sauerkraut with a side of warm salads and pretzels.

24 & 25 September, 12.30 to 4 pm, The Café, Hyatt Regency Kathmandu, (01) 5178334, Rs 2300 per person plus taxes (including swimming)

### Downtown,

Go Indian at this restaurant, although it serves Chinese and Continental food too. Don't miss out on the Biryani. Pulchok Road, (01)5010751



### Grill Me,

A restaurant with a warm ambience that serves delicious grilled delights. Jhamsikhel, (01)5535294

## MUSIC



### Midnight Riders,

The Midnight Riders trio will be performing their best songs during the Fuel for Motion event.

1 October, 11 am to 11 pm, Genesis Café, Panipokhari, 9841466304

### D Mollify,

Spend Friday evening with D Mollify and good food and drinks.

30 September, 6pm to 10 pm, The Hut, Maitighar, 986-0030658

### Open mic night,

Grab the mic and sing your heart out at the House of Music every Tuesday. House of Music, Thamel, 9851075172



### Music mania,

Gear up for the third edition of Blackout Pride Phase featuring bands like Ugrakarma, Taamishra, Absorb, Undefined Human and more.

12 November, 12 to 6 pm, Thamel Reggae Bar, Thamel

### Unwind with Ciney,

Enjoy listening to one of Nepal's most popular singers sing live.

Every Friday, 7 pm onwards, Shambala Garden Café, Hotel Shangri-La, Lajimpat, Rs 2000 per person, (01) 4412999 Extn. 7520,7508.

## GETAWAY



### Pataleban Vineyard Resort,

16 km west of Kathmandu city, the resort is a perfect place to spend your weekends with food and wine. The resort offers astounding views of sunset and the Himalayan range of Langtang, Ganesh, Manaslu and Annapurna.

Chisapani, Kathmandu, 9841679364, pataleban@mail.com.np

### Dhulikhel Lodge Resort,

Located on a hilltop, the resort offers a magnificent vista of valleys, foothills, and mountains to the north. Dhulikhel, (01)490114/494, dhulikhellodgeresort.com



### Hotel Shambala,

Take the weekend off and lounge by the gorgeous infinity pool located on the hotel's rooftop. Bansbari, Kathmandu, (01) 4650251

### Hotel Landmark Pokhara,

For the best views of Phewa Lake. Enrich your stay with the cultural performances every evening.

Lakeside Pokhara, (61) 462908, 9851059096



### 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

## THE WELL WILL NOT LAST FOREVER

Overpumping will deplete ground water, but rainwater harvesting is sustainable



- Rainwater Harvesting System
- BioSand / Water Filtration
- Greywater Recycling
- Wastewater Treatment System

smart  
paani  
SmartPaani Pvt. Ltd.

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



- ✦ Flooring/ Furnishing
- ✦ Imported Sofas/Recliners
- ✦ Rods
- ✦ Rugs
- ✦ Mattresses
- ✦ Wallpapers
- ✦ Bed Covers

Enter the world of furnishing...

Banking Partner  
**N - BILINSTALLMENT** Available at 0% interest to Nabil Credit Card Holder  
**New Madan Furnishers Pvt. Ltd.**  
Kupondole, Lalitpur, Nepal  
Tel: 552 3234, 552 0318 Fax: 553 6927  
info@nmfurnishers.com | www.nmfurnishers.com





ALINA TAMRAKAR

# Preserving the intangible

Kathmandu's monuments may have collapsed but their heritage is alive

CHANDANI KC

The April 2015 earthquake destroyed and damaged nearly 3,000 monuments of cultural and religious significance. More than a year-and-a-half after the disaster, many of the buildings are still in ruins or are propped up.

However, even though the structures may have collapsed, the heritage behind Kathmandu's history and culture have survived. The Valley's communities are a part of its living heritage and have maintained it after every earthquake, over the centuries.

After the most recent earthquake, there was a debate about the involvement of the community in the reconstruction process. After every natural disaster, government agencies tend to focus on physical reconstruction and not the socio-cultural bed rock on which they are built.

Each tangible structure in Kathmandu is supported by its intangible heritage -- the rituals, festivals and practices that monuments are associated with. The traditional rituals that were held in the Valley after the earthquake, despite the physical destruction played a significant role in helping people cope with the disaster, and adapt to it.

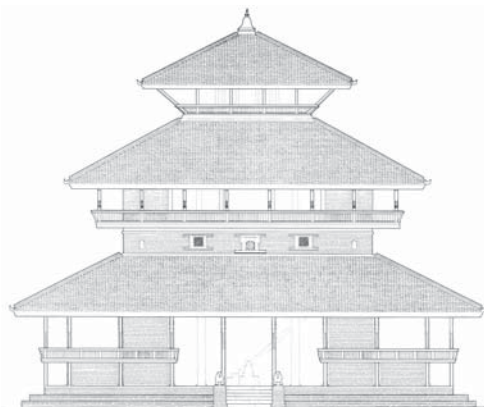
Last year's weeklong Indra Jatra festival went ahead barely few months after the earthquake even though its important temples had been razed to the ground. Maju Dega temple from the base of which people watched the chariot procession is in ruins, the Trailokya Mohan Narayan

temple where important re-enactments of Lord Vishnu's incarnations are performed is now a mound of debris, and the Kumari Ghar, residence of the living goddess is still propped up with timber support.

Kathmandu's narrow alleys through which the chariots are pulled were in a precarious state last year due to collapsed and teetering houses. Nevertheless, it was remarkable to see people observing the chariot procession with even more vigour and pride than before, proving the value they attach to their cultural heritage.

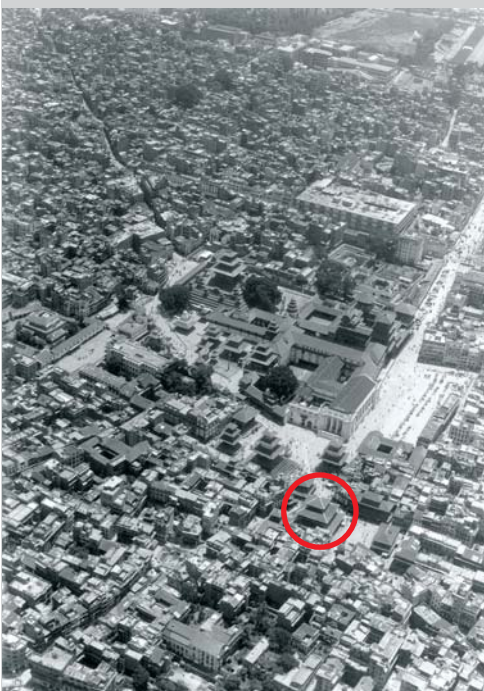
Despite the complete destruction of the 12th century Kasthamandap, the local community has continued to perform daily offerings to the gods inside. A fence has now been put around the ruin by the Kathmandu Metropolitan City to protect the structure, yet the community continues its daily rituals by putting offerings on the locked gate of the fence.

A natural disaster tests the sustainability of a community's culture. Kathmandu Valley has been tested often by earthquakes, and after every calamity has adapted its practices, activities and rituals and has continued observing them. Guthis play a very strong role in keeping the intangible heritage alive, which is why Guthis should be involved in the reconstruction of Kasthamandap and all other monuments destroyed or damaged by the earthquake.



WOLFGANG KORN

## Kasthamandap



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

Kasthamadap, also known as Maru Sattal (*circled*), built in 1143, was the oldest standing structure in Kathmandu when it collapsed on 25 April 2015. It was also the largest public building in Kathmandu Valley for many years, and stood at the main crossroads of the old settlement of Kathmandu. The town got its name from Kasthamandap, a building with countless legends and myths, and had strong Hindu and Buddhist associations. Guthis of Kathmandu organised various festivals and rituals using Kasthamandap as a base. Despite the structural disaster following last years earthquake, guthis have adapted and continued with their festivals.

## In guthis we trust

Numerous guthis associated with Kasthamandap have kept the festivals associated with it alive even if the structure itself collapsed in last year's earthquake, killing 10 people. Of the three main trusts, Ta Chata Guthi conducted by the Tamrakar clan from Piganani Tol and Sa Guthi run by the Jyapus of Bhimsenthan Tol, have continued to function even if the building is not there.



ALOK TULADHAR

## Chiniya Kaji Tamrakar, of the Ta Chata Guthi

The Ta Chata guthi is believed to be at least 1,135 years old. We have 60 members, and a group of ten is given the task each year of organising the annual alms giving festival. On the first day, they cook rice on the northwest corner of Kasthamandap, on the second day, they take it out and offer it to the priests. The alms-giving is done in a mandala made out of four wooden planks in front of the Singha Sattal. Legend has it that Maru Satal got its name Kasthamandap from this very wooden mandala (Kastha=wood and Mandap=mandala). On the third day, all guthi members are served rice pudding and the eldest member is given responsibility over the Ta Chata (big ladle) and the pan which are supposed to be made from the same timber used to build Kasthamandap. This annual festival has taken place after the earthquake as well, but adjusted in the absence of the structure.



ALOK TULADHAR

## Nhhuche Narayan Maharjan of Sa Guthi

Sa Guthi is believed to have been established nearly 900 years ago when Kasthamandap was first built, and every year since it has performed a flag hoisting ceremony in January called Busa Dan. It brings together various castes of the Newar community. On the first day, a cow is bought from a city on the outskirts of Kathmandu and kept in the house of the thakali, the eldest member of the guthi. Next day, a water vessel is worshipped at the platform located on northwest corner of Kasthamandap by priests of Karmacharya caste, while the cow is worshipped by priests of Rajopadhyay caste. The flag is hoisted atop Kasthamandap by the Manandhars, to the sound of music played by the Khadgis. After the earthquake, there was no Kasthamandap on which to hoist the flag, so guthi members raised it from the middle of the ruins and completed the other rituals.





# GHOSTBUSTERS

I really thought that seeing four awesome women chasing down ghosts would make for a pretty new *Ghostbusters* this summer. I was wrong. Despite my adoration of some of Paul Feig's former productions like the hilarious, totally tongue-in-cheek *Spy* from 2015 (previously



**MUST SEE**  
Sophia Pande

reviewed in this column), which also stars Melissa McCarthy, and was both written and directed by Feig, this new venture is a bit of a sorry spectacle.  
*Ghostbusters* the reboot, starring the great comedienne Kristen Wiig, McCarthy, Leslie Jones, and Kate McKinnon, starts off promisingly, with some hilarity, and a few

promising zingers that give false hope. Kristen Wiig, a great and versatile comic performer, unfortunately, is given a pretty terrible character as Dr. Erin Gilbert, a physicist who was haunted as a child, and her progression over the course of the film as a clumsy, socially awkward professorial type who appears not to be that bright is nothing short of painful.  
It is the writing that is at fault here. Paul Feig and Katie Dippold who collaborated previously in the sharp, funny script for *The Heat* (with Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy as a classic odd couple team in a female re-imagining of the buddy cop genre) have failed to come up with a story that also successfully re-imagines the beloved *Ghostbusters* classic from 1984. Instead, afraid to stray too far, Feig and Dippold have created

a hackneyed pastiche of the original, starring characters that are versions and not originals.  
The plot is incredibly facile, the jokes are not good enough, and the dénouement is so silly that I actually had to pause and roll my eyes before having the stomach to continue. As an unabashed feminist who had no reservations about an all female *Ghostbusters* cast, this film does not fail because of the women, it fails, as with other bad remakes from past years because the director has not taken risks. Sticking too close to the original has handicapped Paul Feig and his talented cast.  
Chris Hemsworth brings some much needed levity as Kevin Beckman, the male version of the ditsy blonde stereotype that he plays with so much cheeky glee that it almost makes up for the lack of other really funny jokes in a film that is much too self-conscious that all its leads are women.  
The *Ghostbusters* film should have been pure fun. So much of it has lived on in the minds of the people who grew up with the characters in the eighties, that it is indeed a heavy burden to remake. Unfortunately, aside from the zany theme song that has barely been changed, everything else could really have done with a massive overhaul; after all, if you're gonna remake it, then go for it, don't pull your punches like a scaredy cat. 🇳🇵

[nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com)  
■ Trailer

## HAPPENINGS



RSS

**GRANTED:** A meeting of the National Reconstruction Authority in Kathmandu on Sunday decides to increase the housing grant to Rs 300,000.



RSS

**WITHOUT A TRACE:** Two days after former Home Minister Madhav Ghimire's car plunged into Trisuli River, Home Minister Bimalendra Nidhi inspects the accident site on Tuesday. His body has not been found yet.



BIKRAM RAI

**TELL THE TRUTH:** After Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal reportedly briefed his party about a secret deal with the CIA Chief Lokman Singh Karki, youth hold a rally in Kathmandu on Saturday demanding a probe.



BIKRAM RAI

**IN THE SPOTLIGHT:** Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Walter V Robinson gives the keynote speech during the Second Asian Journalism Conference at Kathmandu on Saturday.



NEPALAYA

**SINGING FOR UNITY:** The Nepali folk rock band Nepathya performs to a packed audience at the Manhattan Centre in New York on Saturday, with vocalist Amrit Gurung singing his hit songs as well as newer compositions.

RAYMOND WEIL  
GENEVE

PRECISION  
IS MY INSPIRATION

Scan for  
watch details

**SULUX CENTRE**  
SOLE DISTRIBUTOR & SERVICE CENTRE  
Hotel Woodland Complex, Durbarmarg, Kathmandu, Nepal.

raymond-weil.com



# Blackmailing academia

Editorial in *Kantipur*, 28 September

The Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) has once again overstepped its mandate, this time to smear Social Science Baha and the Alliance for Social Dialogue (ASD) with unsubstantiated charges of 'irregularities'. This fits the pattern with which the CIAA has been hounding other institutions and individuals in the past, the purpose of which seems to be to harm the credibility and the respect the Social Science Baha and the ASD have gained in intellectual circles.



The CIAA is not sanctioned to investigate private or non-government institutions, the Constitution only gives it the right to look into corruption by public officials. If there is a need to investigate an NGO, the right body to do that is the Social Welfare Council. But in clear violation of the Constitution, the CIAA has been looking into the activities of NGOs, banks and private sector entities which, just like the accusations against Social Science Baha and the ASD, are prejudiced. The CIAA has no business interfering with academic institutions whose job it is to use donor support to fund research and in academic exercise and to foster debate on public policy.

The CIAA has selectively used details contained in documents furnished by the ASD and Baha itself, and pretending that they were uncovered during investigations made the charges through a public statement. The CIAA has thus violated laws of protection of privacy with the intention to defame them. The role of thinktanks like the ASD and the Baha in supporting pluralism and generating ideas is important to address some of the distortions during this political transition to support the democratic process. It is unfortunate that a responsible state institution like the CIAA is seen to be against the values of democracy. The Commission should now apologise to the ASD, Baha and other organisations that it has been targeting, and to desist from repeating such activities in the future.

कान्तिपुर

Saindra Rai in  
[www.nepalkhabar.com](http://www.nepalkhabar.com)  
27 September



Hours after 19 people were killed in yet another bus plunge in Dhading on Tuesday, former Prime Minister and UML Chair K P Oli sought time from the Speaker to deliver an hour-long speech in Parliament. He spent most of it to slam Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's foreign policy, but did not utter a word about the Dhading accident.

Dhan Bahadur Ghale, an MP elected from the Constituency of Dhading where the disaster took place, was listening to Oli. But neither did he think it necessary to bring up the issue of road fatalities before Parliament, even though so many people from his own constituency had just been killed.

Again, most of the people who perished in the Dhading crash were earthquake survivors. They were returning to their village of Marpak after receiving the first instalment of reconstruction grants of Rs 50,000 from the district headquarters of Dhadingbesi. But that tragedy did

# Deathly silence



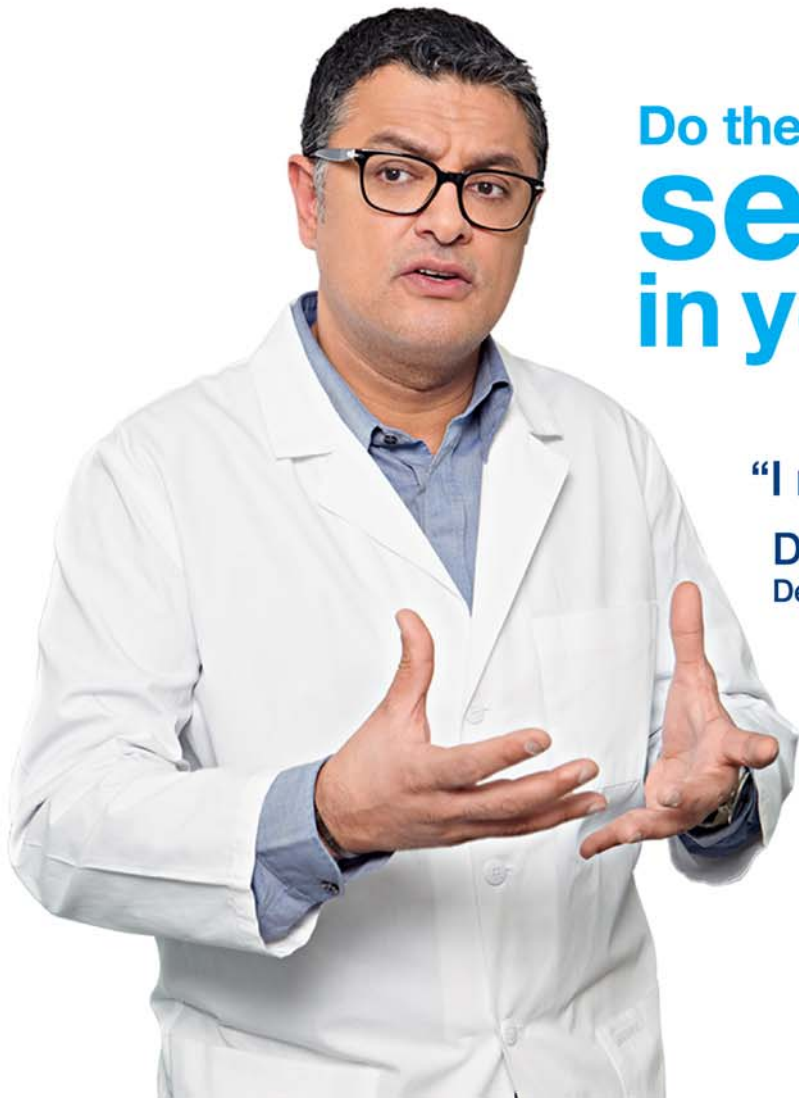
SANUBABU TIMILSINA

not move Ghale, the opposition or the government. The dirt track connecting Dhading besi with Marpak was built a decade ago, and had been damaged by landslides in several places after Monday night's rains. In addition, the bus was overloaded.

It had the all-too-familiar list of causes: Poor road condition, overloading and violation of traffic rules. The syndicate of transport entrepreneurs that prevents the administration from taking action. Political parties did not raise this issue adequately in the House, not even Ghale who is from the opposition bench.

A few weeks ago, 27 people were killed when an obsolete and overcrowded bus fell off the edge of a dirt road in Kavre. Then, 22 people were killed when a bus driven by an exhausted driver plunged into the Trisuli, and this week, former Home Minister Madhav Ghimire's car fell into the same river. He has not yet been found. (*See page 4*)

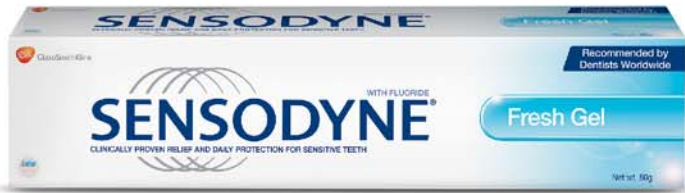
Government promptly forms a probe panel after every plane crash, but there is no inquiry into bus accidents. And the opposition party is also indifferent because everyone is only obsessed with power games in Kathmandu.



Do these cause a  
**sensation?**  
in your teeth

"I recommend Sensodyne"

Dr. Satbir Golar,  
Dentist. Practising in the UK



**No.1 DENTIST RECOMMENDED BRAND FOR SENSITIVE TEETH#**

\*As per TNS Dentist Toothpaste Research, December '13 conducted in India. Use as directed on pack. Visit your dentist regularly. SENSODYNE is a trade mark of the GSK group of companies.

© 2016, GlaxoSmithKline Asia Pvt. Ltd.



MUSIC FOR UNITY PEACE & COMPASSION

LYRICS BORN USA ROCKET MEN GERMANY AFURIKO FRANCE /JAPAN  
JANYSETT MC PHERSON CUBA/FRANCE ANGE TAKATS AUSTRALIA  
CADENZA COLLECTIVE NEPAL RABIN LAL SHRESTHA NEPAL  
KJC N.A.JAZZ ORCHESTRA NEPAL GANDHARVA NEPAL

**20-26th OCTOBER**

For more information: [www.jazzmandu.com](http://www.jazzmandu.com)

EVENT PARTNERS





# Reconstruction grant is Dasain allowance

Earthquake survivors are using the first tranche of their home reconstruction grant for everything but reconstruction

SHREEJANA SHRESTHA  
in KAVRE



PICS: SHREEJANA SHRESTHA

Nearly one-and-half years after the earthquake, Radhika Dahal received the first instalment of government's housing grant, Rs 50,000 this week. Immediately, she used part of it to pay off a loan she had taken last year to build a temporary shelter.

The 41-year-old mother of three had built a tin hut after the earthquake destroyed her house in Panchkhal, and is planning to spend what is left of the grant for Dasain expenses.

"The reconstruction grant will not be enough to rebuild our house, so we will use it to pay off our Rs 100,000 loan and to buy new clothes for my children," Dahal said.

Dahal is in no particular hurry to rebuild her house which will cost Rs 900,000. Like many families in the earthquake-devastated districts, and as a single mother, her immediate priority is to pay off the loan and celebrate the festival.



WORLDLINK को २१ औं वर्षको अवसर प्रस्तुत गर्दछौं २१ गुणा खुसी बनाउने यो अफर

२१ वर्षदेखि LINK गर्दै खुसीलाई विश्वासमा थपियो आत्मविश्वास, हृदयदेखि धन्यवाद दिन्छौं तपाईंलाई

अब तपाईंको घरमा  
FIBER INTERNET र  
100+ TV CHANNELS जडान

रु. २९\*

यो योजना २१ दिन वा दर्ता गर्ने पहिलो २१०० जनाको लागि मात्र उपलब्ध छ ।

नेपालभर फैलिएको हाम्रो सञ्जाल

WORLDLINK

For registration and more information: SMS <call> to 35465  
Dial 9801523052 (Inside Kathmandu Valley), 9801242424 (Outside Kathmandu Valley)  
www.worldlink.com.np | facebook/wlink.np



redefining  
research

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.

rooster logic

Rooster Logic Pvt Ltd.

Head Office : Campus Marg, Chakupat, Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur, Nepal  
Corporate Office : 2nd Floor, Hotel Association of Nepal, Gairidhara, Kathmandu, Nepal  
E : info@roosterlogic.com T : (+977) 441 9107 M : (+977) 9851164335

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

**25% OFF EVERYTHING**

**DASHAIN TIHAR DHAMAKA offer**

**Happy Dashain & Tihar 2073**

BEDROOM | LIVING ROOM | DINING | OFFICE | GARDEN

**FURNITURE LAND STORE**

Tripureswor, 4-224797 | Maitighar, 4-266372 | Maharajgunj, 4-016277 | Chabahil 4-481902 | Pokhara 61-536596  
www.furnitureland.com.np  
sales@furnitureland.com.np





“I will think of building a new house only after receiving the second instalment,” she says.

The delayed disbursement of the housing grant by the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) and uncertainty about when the rest of the money will come has meant that many families are using the first instalment of Rs 50,000 to meet household expenses.

Krishna Prasad Mishra, 50, also withdrew his first instalment this week and on the same day paid off part of a loan he had taken to build his temporary shelter. His family of five had nowhere to go and nothing to eat after their house collapsed.

“I can’t think of immediately building a new house with the government grant because I have my wife’s medical bills,” says Mishra, whose wife was diagnosed with cancer. He has sent his son to Saudi Arabia to earn money to meet expenses.

Here in Kavre, villagers have

**TIMELY GRANT:** Immediately after receiving the first instalment of the housing grant, Radhika Dahal (*left*) spent part of it to pay off her loan, and is planning to use the remaining amount for Dasain expenses.

Guru Prasad Gautam (*above*) and Krishna Prasad Mishra (*right*) are also celebrating *Dasain* with the money given to them to rebuild their houses.

long stopped complaining about the delays in grant disbursement. They don’t expect much from the government, and if and when the money is distributed most say they are not going to use it to rebuild.

Pramesh Gautam was overjoyed when he collected his Rs 50,000 this week. He says the rest of the money will not enough be enough to pay for transporting building materials to the site of his ruined house. “Most people here are preparing to celebrate the festival with the money they



just received because the grant money is not enough to build houses,” says Gautam.

The NRA recently raised the total housing grant from Rs 200,000 to Rs 300,000 to be provided in several instalments. It has just distributed the first tranche of Rs 50,000 to nearly 400,000 households in 11 districts after Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal gave a deadline of 45 days to get it done.

Panchkhal Municipality has



signed agreements with 6,200 households including 100 here in Jyamirkot village to provide the first instalment of the housing grant.

Despite overwhelming evidence that most grantees are using their money to meet festival expenses and pay off loans, Basudev Bhetawal of Panchkhal Municipality says families should use the grant money only for rebuilding purposes in order to avoid any

legal hassles later.

“The victims will not receive the second tranche of the housing grant if they do not rebuild their homes as per approved designs,” he says, “they are not supposed to spend it on anything else.”

But it doesn’t look like the people of Kavre are listening to him.



# Honey

## FOR A FITTER YOU

### STAY FIT, FEEL YOUNG.



# WORLD'S PUREST VODKA

NO SUGAR SYRUP, GLYCERIN OR ADDITIVES ADDED  
AVAILABLE IN 750ML, 375ML & 180ML  
[www.8848vodka.com](http://www.8848vodka.com) | [facebook.com/8848vodka](https://facebook.com/8848vodka)

100%  
WHEAT  
VODKA

Special Price available  
for expatriates having  
Duty Free privilege

DUAL AIRBAGS

ABS WITH EBD

ELECTRONIC  
STABILITY PROGRAM

HILL LAUNCH  
ASSIST

ALLOY WHEELS

**GO FORD, G.O. Automobiles Pvt. Ltd., Thapathali, Kathmandu**  
Thapathali Showroom: 4244254, 4257001, 9801201235, E-mail: [info@ford.com.np](mailto:info@ford.com.np), Website: [www.ford.com.np](http://www.ford.com.np)

• Biratnagar: 021-463593, 9802032225, 9802079406, 9802079409 • Birgunj: 051-533186, 9802951102, 9855021471, 9802951104  
• Narayanghat: 056-526672, 9855066171, 9802960171 • Butwal: 071-415033, 9857031014, 9802656281 • Birtamode: 023-544830, 9852677189  
• Nepalgunj: 081-551248, 9802522771 • Dhangadi: 091-416515, 9858421850, 9801728082 • Pokhara: 061-541285, 9856036160, 9856056150  
• Dang: 082-560794, 9857830336 • Bhairahawa: 9857031014 • Banepa: 011-691231, 9801186379, 9851053363, 9851052312 • Hetauda: 9802951101

\*Terms and conditions apply. Features and specifications shown may not be part of standard fitment, may vary from model to model and can change without any notice. Colours are indicative only and may vary due to printing constraints.

Like us on: [www.facebook.com/fordnepal](https://www.facebook.com/fordnepal)