


FURNITURE LAND STORE
www.furnitureland.com.np

 bedroom	 living room	 dining	 office	 garden
Tripureshwor 4-224797	Maitighar 4-266372	Maharajgunj 4-016277	Chabahil 4-481902	Pokhara 61-536596

0% Financing Options NOW Available


LAVAZZA
 ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE



Grand Hotel - Tahachal
Platinum Hotel - Tahachal
For Further Information Mail to:
lavazza@subhashingalini.com

CREATE YOUR "OWN" ENVIRONMENT

Divine Wines



For Trade Inquiry | Ph.: 01-4032624 | Mob.: 9801215111


TRANQUILITY SPA
"Balancing Body, Mind and Spirit"

☎ 01-4420424
www.tranquilityspa.com.np



AMBIENCE LIFESTYLE PVT. LTD.
Bijuli Bazar, Naya Baneshwor, Kathmandu
Ph: 4781 071, 4781 072
Email: ambiencestyle@gmail.com


PMP® TRAINING

Date: 24th-27th July (4 days course)

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

greentick
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT



SHREEJANA SHRESTHA

Polling together

Walking through the rustic countryside on the outskirts of Tikapur under gathering monsoon clouds threatening rain, it is difficult to imagine the horror of what happened here on 24 August 2015. Hundreds of protesters carrying spears and knives set upon unarmed policemen, killing eight of them and shooting a baby.

Here, beside a maize field and a small pond, was where Tharu activists chased a policeman, and burnt him alive. Further down the road, they fired on a policeman's house, killing his two-year-old son.

The country was still in shock after the earthquake, and the government in Kathmandu was trying to 'fast-track' the Constitution amidst intensifying protests for self-rule in the Tarai. The fires that were lit here in Tikapur spread across the plains the following months leaving

more than 50 dead and leading to the Blockade that ruined the economy. A report later found that four senior politicians had incited the protesters.

There is little to remind visitors of the carnage here as Tikapur Municipality prepares to elect its own local government in elections next week. The candidates are all in campaign mode, and Tharu leaders say their ultimate goal is still autonomy in a separate Tharuhat province, made up of parts of Kailali and Kanchanpur districts from Province 7 to be grafted into Province 5, where Tharus will make up 40% of the population.

The violence deepened the divide between Tharus and hill settlers like never before, but it appears that most people are trying to forgive, forget and re-establish social harmony by participating in the election on 28 June.

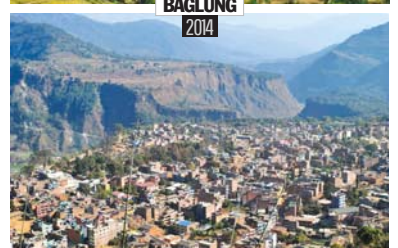
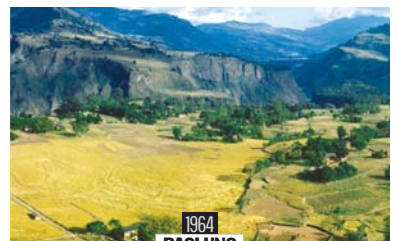
"The situation is completely different when everyone is preparing for the local election. People have already forgotten what happened here two years ago," says Bhim Bahadur Raji, an eyewitness to the lynchings.

Publicly, all of the candidates are saying the right things: they will ensure the rights of Tharus and restore social harmony. They're also confident that voting will be peaceful.

Local MP Janak Raj Chaudhari sees the polls as an opportunity to bridge the gap between Tharus and Pahadis. "We are still fighting for an autonomous Tharuhat state, but we don't want that to intrude on the local election," says Chaudhari, who is also State Minister for Federal Affairs and Local development.

Shreejana Shrestha in Kailali

Read full story **page 4**



ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

Photographs taken by Peace Corps volunteers a half-century ago offer a stark reminder of how much Nepal has changed in 50 years

PAGE 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 Call us on +977 1 4440467

QATAR AIRWAYS
الخطوط الجوية القطرية
GOING PLACES TOGETHER

POLLS APART

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba entered his official residence in Baluwatar for the fourth time in 20 years on Monday morning at 5:02AM. The reason for that odd timing was that he was waiting for the right planetary moment. He is now taking advice from *vastu* consultants for the interior decoration of both Baluwatar and Singha Darbar so that the furniture alignment will improve his political clout.

Political leaders in this part of the world often believe more in the stars than in their leadership abilities. Burmese junta leaders were into numerology. Thai generals consult astrologers before every move. In India, the main political tool is the horoscope. Our rulers have been so shaky about their position that they have often left their fate, and the fate of the country, to the planets.

Deuba is a man who was twice sacked by King Gyanendra for ‘incompetence’. The PM has a track-record of sabotaging elections in 2002 and 2005 and damaging democracy.

This time, too, all the vacillation and fumbling ahead of the four-time postponed second phase of local elections is not a good sign. Commentators are voicing suspicions that Deuba is up to his old tricks. The voting could, and should, have been done at one go on 14 May, but had to be divided into two phases to appease the new alliance of Madhes-based parties, the RJPN. There was finally hope that an ethnicity-based territorial party was trying to metamorphose

into a national party. RJPN cadre even waved Nepal’s red double-triangle banner at their rallies in the Tarai (*see Guest Editorial by Chandra Kishore below*). But those hopes were soon dashed because every time guarantees are given about amendments, every time polls are put off, they have to be postponed again because the RJPN threatens to disrupt them. It has happened again: the second phase is finally slotted for 28 June in Province 1, 5 and 7, but they had to be deferred in Province 2 till September. And now the RJPN is saying it may not even agree to September unless its demands on amendments to the Constitution are met.

Moving the goal posts repeatedly like this allows Prime Minister Deuba to shift the blame on elections to the RJPN. Many local Madhesi leaders from the RJPN are fed up, and are fielding candidates as independents. Public opinion in the Tarai is for polls (*see story on page 4*) while working on amendments, and Mahant Thakur and Rajendra Mahato are competing for influence. Upendra Yadav’s FSN is taking part as a national party.

The completion of local elections is important for stability, and the conduct of federal and Parliamentary elections later this year. The longer Province 2 holds out against local elections due to fear among RJPN leaders that they will lose, the longer this period of instability will continue.



BIKRA RAI

GUEST EDITORIAL CHANDRA KISHORE

Moderating the moderates

Kathmandu’s rulers scrambled to find Upendra Yadav’s phone number only after he had burnt a copy of the Interim Constitution and launched the agitation in the Madhes in January 2007. He had sheltered in India during the war, and was unknown to his own Maoist cadre before that.

There have been two other movements in the Tarai since then, and rumours, speculation and distrust persist in Kathmandu about what the Madhes really wants: Why did Upendra Yadav suddenly agree to local elections without an amendment to the Constitution? Why is Mahant Thakur still in the streets despite India’s pressure on the RJPN? Why are polls in Province 2 still uncertain even though two other Madhes-based parties led by Upendra Yadav and Bijaya Gachhadar are on board? Who is actually behind the RJPN?

Yadav looked like a Madhesi hardliner until recently. He insisted that polls would not be acceptable without amendments to the Constitution. Now, he seems to want elections even more than some in the Kathmandu establishment. He has slammed the RJPN for depriving Madhesis of a chance to elect their own local representatives.

To those who know Yadav, his latest U-turn was sudden but not surprising. A shrewd strategist, he believes in the principle of utility. He carefully avoided being labeled an Indian lackey. While Mahant Thakur led the negotiation panel of the Madhesi Front, Yadav focused more on agitation.

His party emerged as the biggest Madhes-based one, relegating Rajendra Mahato’s Sadbhavna to third

position. It is now Mahato who wants to prove himself to be more revolutionary than Yadav. And Mahant Thakur, who always showed flexibility in the past, is competing with Mahato to reject compromises.

Yadav realised early on that the Kathmandu establishment would not be ready to amend the Constitution the way Madhesi leaders wanted. So he decided to be part of the state and fight from the inside. He is not simply eying the post of Chief Minister in Province 2, he wants to be Prime Minister of Nepal. This is why he removed the word ‘Madhes’ from the Federal Social Forum Nepal (FSFN) and is trying to be seen as a national party.

Upendra Yadav is convinced that the FSN will emerge as the biggest party in Madhes. He thinks the RJPN is on the wrong side of history, and is probably happy that his Madhesi rivals are restricted to Province 2. He has been on a roll ever since the RJPN refused to toe the new Indian line supporting elections.

New Delhi’s new Nepal policy has shifted, and this is why the RJPN is trying to project a not-just-Madhes image. But what Kathmandu needs to understand is that it must talk to both the FSN and RJPN. The RJPN is a moderate force, but there are more radical groups waiting in the wings.



Chandra Kishore is a journalist based in the Madhes.

ONLINE PACKAGES



LIVING WITH PAIN

One in 10 women in Nepal suffers from uterine prolapse. The condition is more common in remote mountains where women have to work hard from a young age and soon after giving birth. Despite the government’s free treatment, only 20% of the estimated 1 million women with the condition have had surgery. This is a video of women in Mugu and Dhanusha districts sharing heartbreaking stories of living with this painful condition, many of them for most of their lives.



JOURNEY IN TIME

Compare photographs taken 50 years ago by Peace Corps Volunteers in Nepal with pictures of the same places today to see how much rural Nepal has changed. Feature on page 8-9, and many more images online.

DEUBA AND INDIA

Does India want to destabilise the Deuba government by supporting the disruptions of the Madhesi parties, or does India want to stabilise Deuba government by telling the Madhesi parties to contest in the elections? We have to wait and see.

K. K. Sharma

■ India will always meddle in Nepal and keep the chaos alive. As long as Nepal has corrupt leaders it will be easy for New Delhi to ruin Nepal with their help. Nepal has no honest or patriotic leader alive, all of them depend on India for their welfare. It’s a shameful situation for 30 million to be governed by remote control.

Gopal

■ India/Indians do not care who among Ram/Shyam/Ghanashyam is Nepal’s PM. They are only getting their national interest served best.

Anupam

NEPAL AND THE SEA

This is kind of nostalgic and a commendable job done by Shailendra K. Upadhyay during the 70’s (‘Landlocked mindset’, Kanak Mani Dixit, 863). Many Nepali have raised their voice at the Law of the Sea Conference and landlocked countries’ rights for access to the Sea. Various trade deals/rounds/negotiations/accord were held during that course. The initiation of UNCTAD/GATT gave birth to WTO for label playing field in trade/transit and many areas of mutual interest at bilateral/multilateral level. Free trade vs. protection is also a never-ending debate and will also be on the international agenda.

Bimal Pandey

STANDARDS FOR BEAUTY

Media and society in general need to stop setting arbitrary standards for beauty (‘Charismatic Nikita’, Sabita Shrestha, #863). That being said, we need to stop glorifying beauty pageants.

Supral Raj Joshi

DEUBA’S RULE

Deuba should dissolve all elected bodies again (‘Election in instalments’, Om Astha Rai, #863). Let’s put a Crown on his head and pronounce him King. That way he can rule Nepal with an iron fist for the rest of his life.

Mahesh Thakur

NO EQUALITY

The Nepalis practice apartheid, as do Indians (‘Modern-day domestic slaves’, Shreejana Shrestha, #863). There is little respect for law and order, only for money, caste and power rules.

David Durkan

WHAT'S TRENDING



Modern-day slaves

by Shreejana Shrestha

Slavery isn’t a thing of the past: it’s real and persists in modern-day Nepal. Follow the story of Sharmila Tharu who was forced to work as a domestic at age 5, and 15 years later is still a household helper. This powerful video helped spread awareness about domestic child labour through social media.

Most reached and shared on Facebook
(13,705 reached, 34 shares)

Blockading Qatar

Editorial

Nepalis who fled the Indian Blockade of 2015 now face a Saudi-led embargo of Qatar that threatens the livelihoods of thousands of migrant labourers working in the Gulf. The Editorial was widely shared and commented on social media.

Most popular on Twitter
(32 retweets, 42 likes)

Nepal watching from Delhi

by Akanshya Shah

Has India’s policy on Nepal changed? Akanshya Shah, who starts her new *Nepali Times* monthly column from New Delhi, DEL-KTM, tries to find answers. Go online to read the extensive feedback to the op-ed.

Most commented



Landlocked mindset

by Kanak Mani Dixit

The opportunities as well as the obligations that apply to the open sea apply to Nepal. But we remain stuck in a ‘landlocked mindset’. How can Nepal take to the high seas?

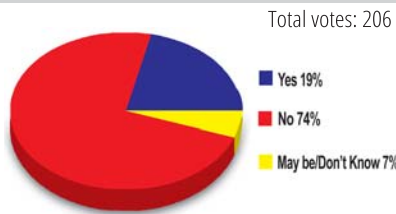
Most visited online page

QUOTE TWEETS

- Times

Nepali Times @nepalitimes
Uterine prolapse, the pain and shame of nearly 1 million Nepalis #women.http://bit.ly/2rTPzA3 @rojitaadhikari#Nepal#reproductivehealth
- Divas** @hnepalma
Only 1 million? The data appears to be under-reported.
- Rashmi Jyoti** @rj_mallik
Need to conduct awareness programs on this & the facilities provided by government in Nepal.

Q. Do you agree with the government's decision to postpone local elections in Province 2?



Weekly Internet Poll #865
To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Do you believe there will be load-shedding this winter?



TURKISH
AIRLINES

A
HAPPY EID
AL-FITR

TURKISH AIRLINES INC.
EAST WING 1ST FLOOR, 495 NARAYAN HITI PATH,
KATHMANDU, NEPAL | PH 977-1-4438363/4438436/4438856
KTMSALES@THY.COM | TURKISHAIRLINES.COM

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



Voting to forget

Two years after bloody clashes, Tikapur is trying to bury the past to hold local elections

SHREEJANA SHRESTHA
in KAILALI

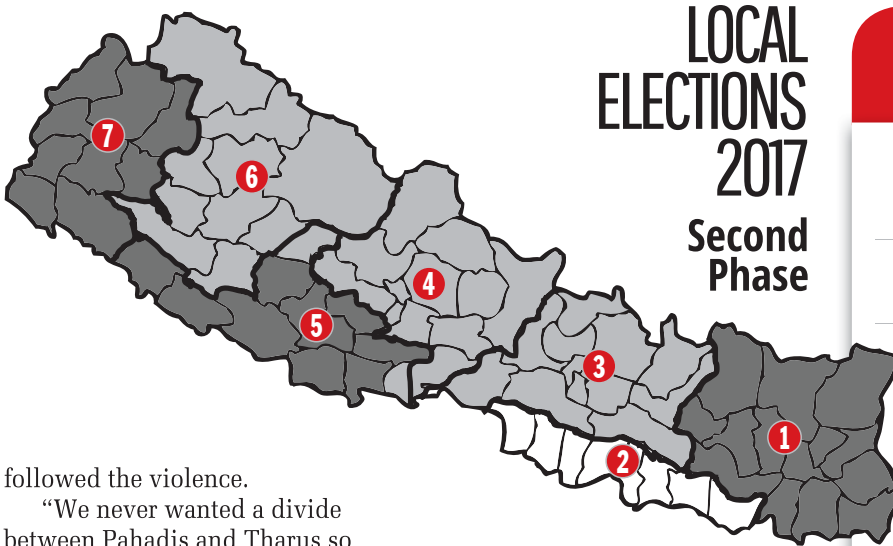
Campaigning on Tuesday near where the policemen were lynched two years ago, local MP Janak Raj Chaudhari says the election is an opportunity for Tharus to increase their access to state power. Nepali Congress candidate Jung Bahadur Saud was going door-to-door in a Tharu community, while the UML candidate was addressing a gathering nearby.

The UML's Bhim Rawal, whom many Tharus blame for opposing the demand for a Tharuhat province, addressed the gathering in Tikapur. Home Minister Janardan Sharma and IGP Prakash Aryal flew in on Tuesday

to observe the security situation.

Following the Tikapur incident, police detained at least 25 Tharu leaders, including Laxaman Tharu who is still in jail (*see box below*). Many other accused, including Resham Chaudhari, fled to India. Despite that, however, he was awarded Rs 17 million in compensation, causing outrage in the media. The government compensated hill families whose houses were set on fire, even though many homes of Tharus were also destroyed in the counter-violence after the killings.

Tharu leaders maintain that many of those detained are innocent, and that police stood by while supporters of an undivided Far West province ransacked their houses during the curfew that



LOCAL
ELECTIONS
2017
Second
Phase

28 June

Provinces with local polls 1 5 7

35 districts

6,432,686 voters

1 Metropolitan City
7 Sub Metropolitan Cities
114 Municipalities
212 Village Councils

334 Total local councils

Provinces 3, 4, 6 polls held on 14 June
Provinces 1, 5, 7 polls on 28 June
Province 2 polls deferred till 18 September

followed the violence.

"We never wanted a divide between Pahadis and Tharus so we are participating in the local polls," says Dinesh Tharu of the Nepal Democratic Party. "But we will keep fighting for a separate state based on our identity."

PARTIES' PLEDGES

Nepali Times talked to the main candidates for mayor of Tikapur Municipality



Jung Bahadur Saud, NC

"I have already been VDC chief of Dhansinhapur (now in Tikapur municipality) thrice. I was able to win because of votes from Tharus and I am sure Tharus will vote for me this time too. The Tharus and Pahadis are living in harmony. My main agenda is to lift living standards of the under-served, including Tharus, with my One House One Job campaign."



Tapendra Rawal, UML

"The Tikapur incident is a thing of the past. It hasn't affected this local election, everyone is actively participating. Our country and people should not be divided on the basis of caste and ethnicity. The Tharuhat protest is over, Tharus and Pahadis live side-by-side here. I will make both Tharu and Nepali official languages of Tikapur."



Shiva Thapa, Maoist-Centre

"We will work to restore communal harmony in Tikapur. We will provide free medical treatment to Tharus who suffer from sickle-cell anaemia, empower farmers, focus on development, promote tourism and relocate the landless."



Lautan Chaudhari, Nepal Democratic Party

"Our demand for an autonomous Tharuhat state remains, we are fighting for identity and equality by taking part in elections. Putting Kailali and Kanchanpur in Province 5 is still possible through a constitutional amendment and I will push for it once I am elected mayor. If these districts are kept in Province 7, our population will come down to 3% from 40% and we will lose our identity."

No Tharuhat



Laxman Tharu, the most prominent Tharuhat leader, is now in a jail in Kailali for allegedly being behind the Tikapur massacre. He pled not guilty, and is awaiting withdrawal of the charges against him as part of a deal between the government and Madhes-based parties in Kathmandu. Tharu spoke to *Nepali Times* from inside the prison this week.

Nepali Times: Would you have participated in local elections if you were not in jail?
Laxman Tharu: Yes, I would have. Even from inside the jail, I have urged Tharuhat leaders to contest local elections and fight for the rights of the Tharu community.

Where is the Tharuhat movement now?
The state suppressed our movement. Most of our influential leaders were arrested after the Tikapur incident, and no one is left to lead our struggle.

What is next?
I will no longer fight for a separate Tharuhat province. We were inspired by other ethnic rights movements to demand an autonomous Tharuhat state. But I don't think that is possible now. Instead, I will keep fighting for justice and equality for the Tharu community.



Darjeeling and the idea of India

I was relating a bedtime story to our six-year-old son when my wife read an SMS on her phone: ‘Enough is enough. We want Gorkhaland now.’

Her outburst that followed startled us: “This was in the making for a long time. We are unhappy with the way things are. We look at the development that Sikkim has achieved and pity ourselves.”

My wife was born in Siliguri, a Tarai city of Darjeeling District adjoining Nepal. She went to school in various places in North India, so unlike most Indians from places other than the Hindi speaking belt of India, she speaks excellent Hindi. Till now, I had not imagined her as a passionate supporter of the Gorkhaland cause, seeing her always as someone with a strong sense of belonging to the idea of India. It took me some time to realise that she can be both at the same time.

India has been, right from the beginning, a complex political entity. In fact, many westerners predicted at independence in 1947 that India would not last a decade as a nation. It’s a striking success of the nation-building project that India has survived. Most ethno-nationalist movements have barely been able to carve out a space in the popular psyche.

The ‘Indian Nepali’ community, in its struggle to enter the core of Indian nationhood, has discarded its association with Nepal and heavily relied on creating an identity around the term Gorkha. Gorkhaland is the dream of a homeland for the ‘Gorkhas’: Indians of Nepali origin. The



CONNECTING DOTS
Dinkar Nepal

main argument is that statehood to the Darjeeling area will give them a distinctive identity, separate from those in Nepal.

The Darjeeling region became a part of Bengal by accident. In the early 19th century two British officers who were sent to the area to resolve a dispute between Sikkim and Nepal found the hill station suitable as an R&R base for British soldiers. Darjeeling had ‘home weather’ for the British, and they forced the King of Sikkim to cede the area to the East India Company in 1935. It was kept under the Bengal administration, and after India’s independence became part of the state of West Bengal.



Although the demand for the area to be administered separately from Bengal is more than a century old, the real struggle for Gorkhaland was the rallying point in 1986 for Subhash Ghisingh. The Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council was finally established after two years and a loss of 1,200 lives. Ghisingh then ruled the hills for two decades, but the people got little out of it. Corruption was rampant and Darjeeling lagged behind Sikkim’s phenomenal progress.

In 2007, the Indian Idol reality tv show brought the community together to vote for Prashant Tamang, and Bimal Gurung saw it as an opportunity to unite the people again for the cause of Gorkhaland. He channeled the dissent that had simmered silently

for many years into a non-violent political movement.

The term Gorkhaland officially got associated with the area when the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration was formed as a compromise, and Bimal Gurung became the new ruler of the hills. However, it stagnated again, a repeat of the Ghisingh era.

Now, an uproar ignited by the West Bengal Government’s recently-announced language policy has rallied people together again for the cause of a separate state of Gorkhaland. The hills are burning, and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata is intent on crushing the street movement.

Looking at it from Nepal, there are clear political lessons for us. One, dissent rooted in the popular psyche may lie dormant but doesn’t fade away easily, and is ready to erupt at the smallest provocation. Two, underdevelopment feeds the fires of revolt – especially when neighbouring regions are seen to be surging ahead.

There is then a tendency to blame it on ‘others’, as exploitative politicians invoke a communal identity to take advantage of the unrest.

The most important lesson for Nepal at this stage comes, however, from the strength of the idea of India as a nation. Once a strong framework for nationhood takes root in the formative years, the system builds in itself a democratic resilience that can survive and resolve conflicts without affecting the state superstructure. In Nepal’s diverse society, where the hitherto excluded are clamouring for a bigger say in decision-making under the new Constitution, it is clear that the politics of pluralism has to go hand in hand with the project of nation-building.

prabhu BANK BIZ BRIEFS

Revenues rise slightly

Nepal’s revenue rose 6% in mid March-mid June this year, and the country’s public debt is trending down the past four years due to budget surpluses led by strong revenue growth combined with subdued capital spending, so says an IMF report released this week.

Spending rose to 42% during the same period while capital expenditure in the first 11 months of the fiscal year was Rs120 billion, up 116% from last year. The execution rate, however, remained low, at 38.5% of the budget. Total remittances amounted to \$534 million in May and grew 8% in the past 3 months compared to last year, supporting the current account.



to develop the 3-star hotel, Fairfield Marriott, in Thamel, Kathmandu. IFC also got \$2.75 million from the Dutch bank FMO expand tourism infrastructure.

Turkish wins big

Turkish Airlines was a big winner at the Stytrax World Airline Awards in Paris this week, bagging four awards: Best Airline in Southern Europe, Best Business Class On-board Catering, World’s Best Business Class Lounge and Best Business Class Dining Lounge.



The Best Airline

Amid the present crisis in the Gulf, Doha-based Qatar Airways has been named



‘Airline of the year’ at the annual Stytrax World Airline Awards held in Paris.

Funding for Fairfield

International Finance Cooperation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, has provided \$2.75 million to Nepal Hospitality and Hotel Private Limited

Best First Class

Not to be outdone, Etihad Airways emerged as the best first-class carrier at the Stytrax World Airline Awards in Paris this week. It won the World’s Best First



Class, Best First Class On-board Catering and Best First Class Airline Seat.



4kswagen

You pronounce it so for reasons.



4 Years of consumable spare parts free | 4 Years of after sales service free
4 Years warranty (2 years of unlimited KMs warranty + 2 years extended warranty)
Limited monsoon offer for New Polo and New Vento only

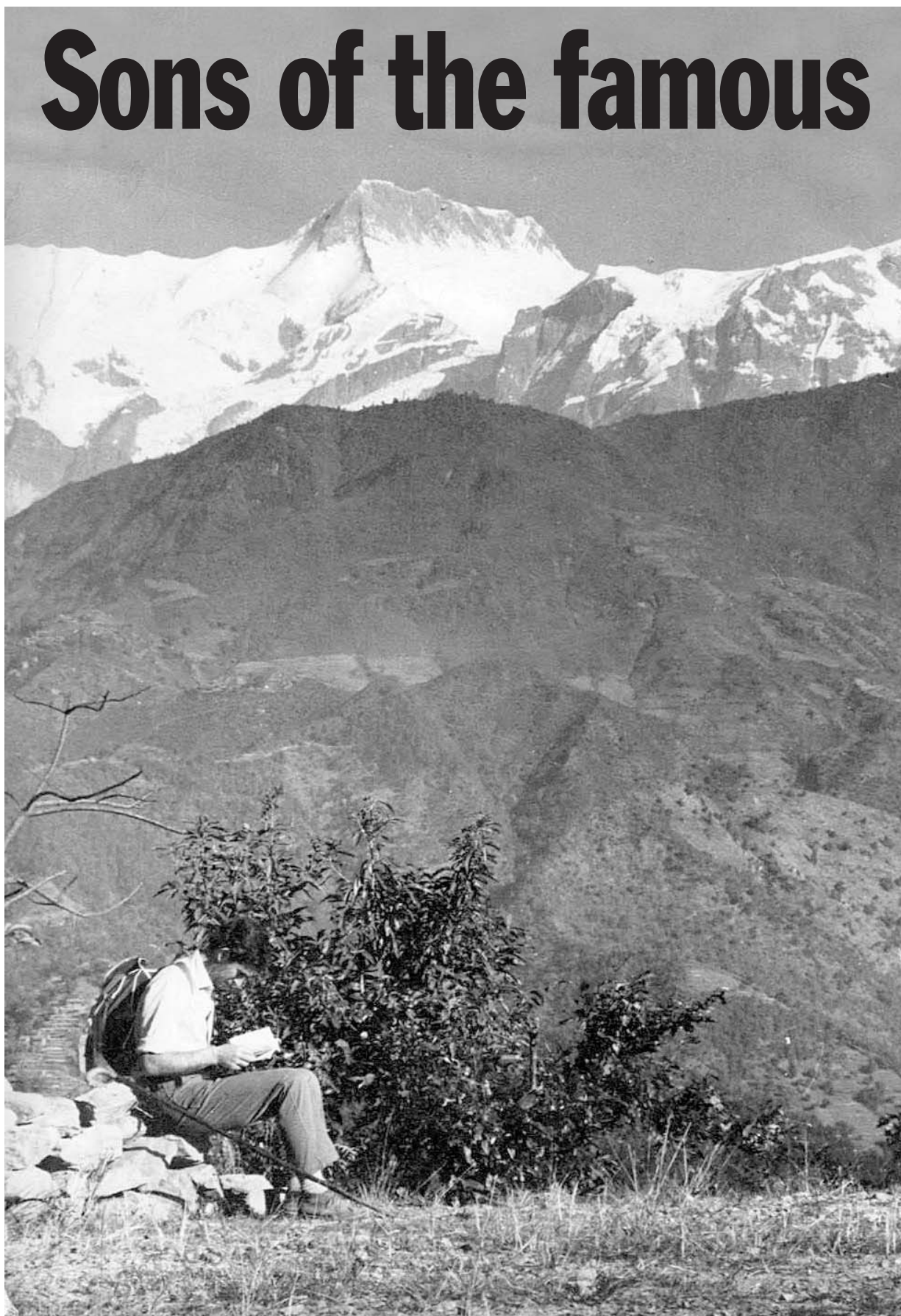


Volkswagen

fb.com/VolkswagenNepal

POOJA INTERNATIONAL Nepal Pvt. Ltd. (An ISO 9001:2008 certified company), Volkswagen Authorised Importer: Thapathali Showroom - Phone: +977-1-4100593/94/95, Mobile: Kiran (9801344201), Shyam (9841415249), Ujjwal (9801344227) Panipokhari Showroom - Phone: 01-4002651/52, Nischal (9801344284), Anil (9801344205), Anju (9801344207) Branch: Biratnagar: 021-503331, Janardan (9801344287) Kaviraj (9801344024), Dealers - Pokhara: 061-523243, 9802823717, Butwal: 071-438956, 9857021099, Narayanghat: 9855061175/9855057152, Birtamode: 023-541579, 9852672225, Nepalgunj: 081-551245, 9802051381, Dhangadi: 091-526483, 9802097121, 9841292682

Sons of the famous



PERTEMBASHERPA

It was a hot, humid afternoon in April when the telephone rang on the blue-painted desk in my Kathmandu office. "This is Senator Edward Kennedy calling from the United States."



SO FAR SO GOOD

Lisa Choegyal

Long distant calls were a rarity, and the line crackled. Could I get in touch with his nephew John who was trekking in the Everest region? "Please tell him that his cousin David has died of a drug overdose. He might want to return home for the funeral."

The son of the assassinated president was traveling in India and Nepal with a college friend on a post-university gap year in 1984, keen to see how the other half lived and to experience the social realities of the subcontinent. I had been asked by Indian friends to take care of him in Nepal, where he hung out in the Khumbu, Kathmandu and Tiger Tops.

"I look on these as my fondest days," John wrote to me afterwards, even though it turned out to be a sad time for the extremely courteous, extraordinarily good-looking, 23-year-old. Sherpa runners were sent to relay the tragic news. John aborted his trek and left early.

Princess Margaret's son, David Linley now Lord Snowdon, had visited Nepal the previous year, this time sent by mutual friends from London. Quietly humorous and unfailingly polite, he sat in my garden under the lychee tree discussing his future and gingerly patting Hodgson, the inherited street dog whose liver-coloured coat suffered from chronic mange despite his grand historic name.

After several weeks trekking though the arid landscape of Ladakh, David was enjoying Nepal's lush green vegetation. I like to think that our meanderings through the Darbar Squares and

bazar lanes, witnessing the wood carving skills of the Valley's Newar artisans, inspired David in his career as a maker of fine furniture.

Being a Hindu kingdom, Nepal had many royal visitors, especially from Britain. Prince Charles has twice trekked in the

Annapurnas, his route lined with welcoming villagers, clamorous Damai bands and security personnel disguised as trees. I recced the first Royal Trek route in 1980 with Pertemba, one of Mountain Travel's star sirdars, then escorted the press pack down from the hills to ensure the

Prince of Wales was left in peace to paint watercolours of the "gin-clear" mountain views. Only the murder of John Lennon knocked the Nepal story off the front pages. His second trek followed the India visit where Princess Diana was photographed perched alone and forlorn on a marble bench in

HIGH ROAD: Prince Charles on a trek below Annapurna II in 1980, along a trail that has come to be known as the 'Royal Trek'.

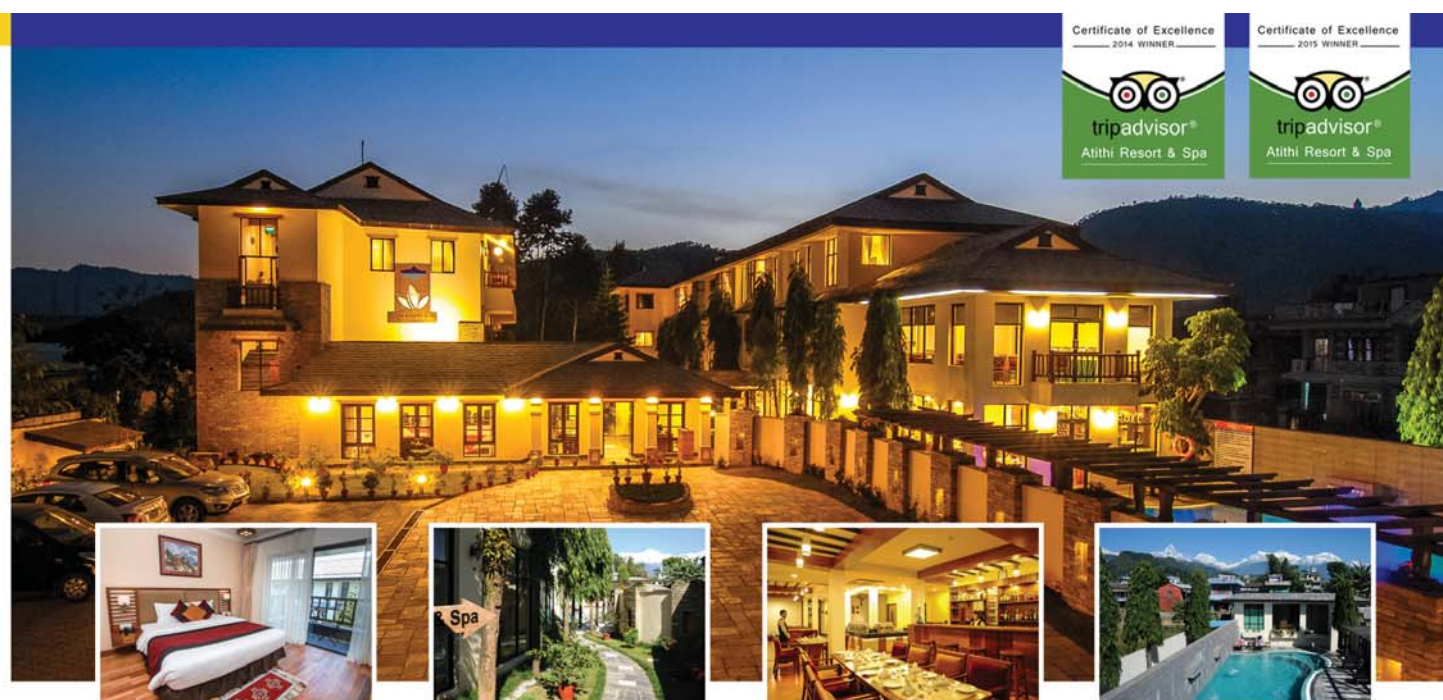
front of the Taj Mahal.

During my first decade in Nepal it was unheard of to speak of the ruling King Birendra in anything but the most deferential and respectful terms, a remote and unattainably powerful figure who was seldom seen, forever solemn and always shielded with dark glasses. Even amongst consenting adults in private, we always referred to him as "His Majesty".

The only occasion during his lifetime that I visited Narayanhiti Palace was after lining up with the customary public devotees to be blessed with a tika one distant Dasain. The line snaked down Darbar Marg, but I was undeterred. Once we entered through the towering iron gates, royal aides ushered the disconcerting foreigner to the front to the queue, despite my embarrassed protestations. When the moment came, Gopendra Bahadur Shah, last Raja of Salyan, who was retained as court photographer, favoured me with a picture that for years hung framed in my office.

From England one endearing story did permeate this obsession with royal protocol. It was related that, baulking at the restrictions of school discipline, the youthful Birendra had protested to his Eton housemaster that his father the King was considered a Hindu god, revered by the people of Nepal as a living incarnation of Lord Vishnu. "That makes absolutely no difference," retorted the tutor testily. "We are quite used to having the sons of famous people here."

There are not many things that I regret in a life characterised by seized opportunities, but one of them is declining to help John J Kennedy, Jr cash his mother's travellers cheque. The Kathmandu banks would not accept it of course, but for only \$20 I could have owned a cheque signed by Jacqueline Kennedy and mistakenly countersigned Jacqueline Onassis. 🇺🇸



CAFFÈ Italiano



LA SPA



ATITHI RESORT & SPA

Shanti Patan, Lakeside, Pokhara - 6, Email : info@atithiresort.com
Tel : 061 466760 / 466761 / 465895, www.atithiresort.com

Kathmandu Sales Office:
Lazimpath, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel : 01 4002077/4002078



Education in her blood

Nepali becomes first female South Asian dean at a university in the United States

When Shabnam Koirala-Azad was growing up in Kathmandu, she had no aspirations to be an educator. But everything she saw, inside and outside her home, pushed her imperceptibly towards her eventual profession.

Nepal was changing. With the People's Movement of 1990 there was great hope that the restoration of democracy would bring progress in health and education. Yet even back then, Koirala felt that although she was going to the best girls' schools in the country, there was something missing.

"Living in Nepal was fantastic, I look back on my childhood with a lot of fond memories and gratitude, but the way we learned didn't allow us to think creatively: the education practiced here never really met my creative needs," recalls Koirala, who has just been appointed the first South Asian female Dean at a major US university: the School of Education at the University of San Francisco.

Even as she commuted from home to school every day in Lalitpur, Koirala realised early on that her childhood was different than that of her friends. For one thing, she was growing up in a bi-cultural family: her father is a Nepali and her late mother was Iranian.

After high school, it was clear to Koirala that if she wanted to pursue higher education, she would have to leave the country. She got a scholarship and enrolled at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, a liberal arts college for women.

In the first class, her professor asked Koirala: "What do you think?" A straight-


forward question but it had an everlasting impact on her.

"I had never thought what I think or feel, or to question facts. It was during that time that I thought more seriously about pursuing education as a field of study and eventually work," said Koirala.

This impulse to educate is in her blood. She is the fourth generation of teachers on her mother's side, and her grandmother faced great difficulty as an educator in Iran because of her Bahá'í faith, which was heavily persecuted. The conditions for her teaching were dangerous and constrained. Shabnam's father is Bharat Dutt Koirala, the noted Magsaysay-winning journalist and media educator.

“When I think about education, it is not this idea of mass education for all. Instead, it is a specific education, for a specific group of people who are oppressed,” said Koirala. “Education can be empowering to people when delivered the right way.”

Koirala's experience of growing up in Nepal allowed her to see the impact foreign aid has on a developing country: the lack of follow-through and the corruption. She became more interested in how education and social change intersect. This curiosity would lead to her pursuing both a Master's and PhD from the University of California at Berkeley.

Now that Koirala has accepted her appointment as Dean, she intends to focus on maintaining her integrity while staying true to her Nepali roots. To her that means a strong sense of resilience, hospitality, compassion, understanding and patience. 

Sean Shoemaker



STUDY IN CANBERRA
CAPITAL OF AUSTRALIA

UC is ranked among the top 100 young universities in the world and consistently delivers 90 per cent graduate employment and above-average graduate starting salaries.*

JUNE 30

Meet the Representative
@ PAC ASIA Office

FRIDAY
4PM – 6PM

PAC ASIA™
STUDY ABROAD

www.pacasia.org







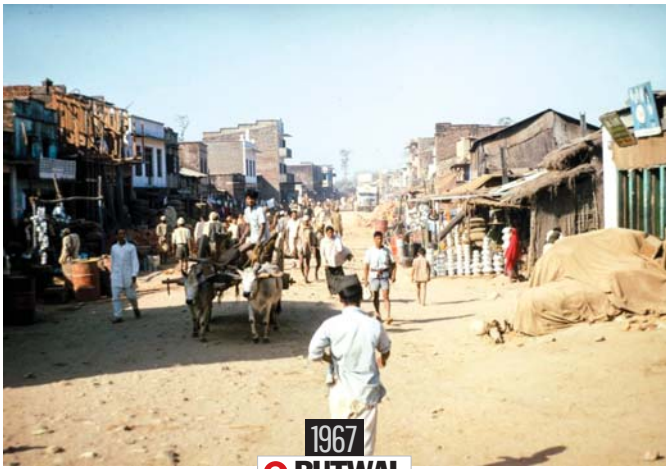
DAVE CARLSON / NIRJANA SHARMA



1965
2 BENI
2015



WAYNE STINSON / WIKIMEDIA



1967
3 BUTWAL
2015



CARL HOSTICA / WIKIPEDIA

ALL OUR YESTER

Photographs taken by Peace Corps volunteers a half-century ago are a stark reminder of how much Nepal has changed.

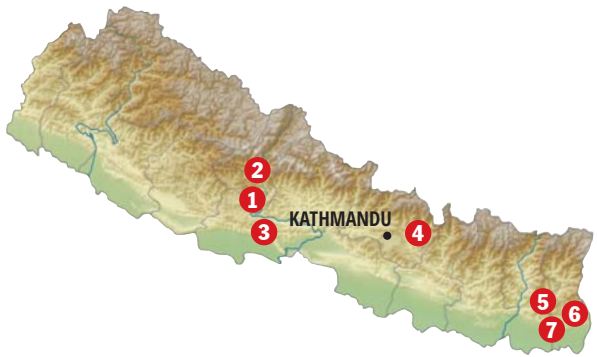
Nepal was one of the first countries to request American Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) after the program was announced by US President John F. Kennedy. The first volunteers arrived in Nepal in 1962, and many groups of PCVs followed. They were sent to live and work for two years in many towns and villages throughout the country. About 3,800 PCVs have served in Nepal and most had cameras to take pictures to send back to their families in the US or to keep as personal mementos. There are currently 68 PCVs serving in Nepal, all working in intensive agriculture and nutrition education.

Doug Hall was a PCV in Nepal in 1968-1969. A few years ago he digitised some of his old Nepal photos and posted them on Facebook. A few Nepalis commented that he should preserve those photos because they had historic importance. He then realised that hundreds of PCVs from the early years also had photos that should be preserved. His wife Kate Rafferty Hall was also a PCV in Nepal, and together they began a project to collect, digitise and catalog as many Nepal photos from the 1962-1975 period as possible.

“We realised that there was some urgency to do this as the volunteers posted in Nepal in the 1960s are now aged 70 and older,” Hall told *Nepali Times*. “Some have died and their old Nepal photographs have been discarded by their heirs, thus lost to history.”

After three years of work, the archive now has over 19,000 photos from more than 120 volunteers, adding to the existing collections of period photos from Kathmandu Valley, the Ranas and Shahs, and studio photos of families from much earlier than 1962.

The unique nature of the collection that the Halls have put together is that its focus is the lives and events



of typical Nepalis in towns in the Tarai, Hills and Himal from half-century ago. There are photos of tea shops, men fishing, children shepherding animals, weddings, building of bridges, Panchayat elections, mud fights during rice transplanting, families at their homes, porters carrying heavy loads, local festivals, women bringing home fodder for their animals, pujas, craftsmen making brassware, *haat* bazars, etc.

The collection is searchable by keyword, description, location, date and contributor. The Halls have provided Nepal Picture Library, Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, Taragaon Museum and others with complete searchable sets of the photos.

This *Nepali Times* centerfold has images from the Halls collection and more recent ones from the Internet of the same places to provide a sense of how much things have changed.

Says Hall: “Change and development may seem slow to people living in a community, and they may not realise how much their town has changed over 50 years. Old photographs can be informative and perhaps even startle the viewer.” 🇳🇵



The Peace Corps photo archive project was initiated by Doug Hall and Kate Rafferty Hall (*left*) who were both volunteers in Nepal in 1968-69, and got married.

Go online to view more before-and-after photographs, and for the archive, visit the PC Nepal Facebook page and <http://roundsimaging.com/galleries/nepal-photo-history-contributors/contributor-display-albums/>

nepalitimes.com



The Peace Corps in Nepal

The Peace Corps came to fruition after Senator John F Kennedy delivered an impromptu speech to students at the University of Michigan in 1960 in which he challenged Americans to “break the bonds of mass misery” by volunteering one to two years in the developing world. Kennedy would be elected president, and training began for the first batch of Peace Corps volunteers at US colleges, universities and private agencies.

Nepal was one of the first countries to accept Peace Corps volunteers in 1962, and since then nearly 3,800 have served in Nepal. Despite the differences in culture, language and economic status between Nepal and the United States, PCVs have made great strides in the area of small business development, education, health, environment and youth development. They have served in Pokhara before it was linked by highway to Kathmandu, in Janakpur and Nepalganj in the Tarai, from Ilam in the east to remote Humla in the west.



“Our true legacy can be found in the relationships made between the volunteers and the Nepalis they came to know, live and work with. These bonds of friendship and mutual respect produce a better Nepal and a better U.S.,” says Troy Kofroth, Director of the Peace Corps in Nepal.

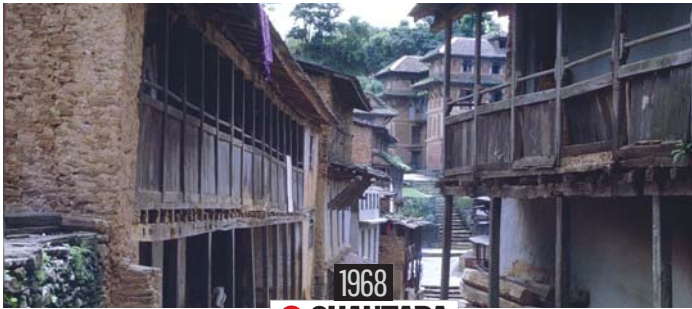
The Peace Corps continues to build upon its agricultural development program through new volunteers by focusing on four activities: soil management and improvement, bio-intensive gardening, fruit and nut tree production and nutrition education. In addition to these activities, it intends to put additional emphasis on gender and youth participation.

The program was suspended abruptly in September 2004 after two improvised explosives were set off by the Maoists at the US Information Centre in Gyaneswor. The Embassy immediately withdrew all volunteers from Nepal, deeming it unsafe for them here. In 2012, six years after the peace agreement was signed, the Peace Corps returned to Nepal to work mainly in nutrition and agriculture.

Sean Shoemaker

R DAYS

f-century ago offer a
ed in 50 years

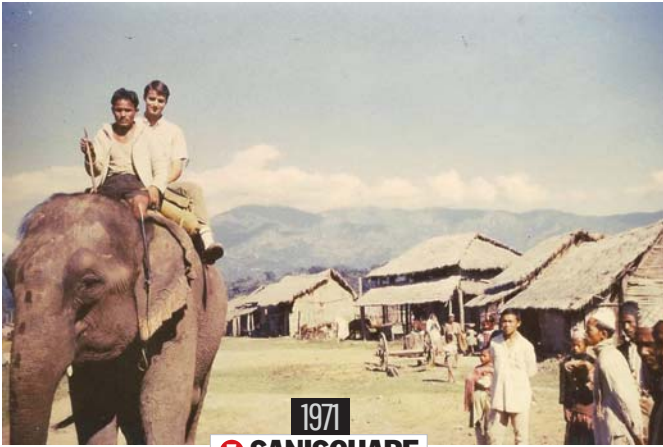


1968
4 CHAUTARA



2017

KATE RAFFERTY HALL/JEEVAN NEPAL



1971
7 SANISCHARE
2015



BETH PRENTICE/AMBIKA PRASAD REGMI



1971
5 HILE
2015



BOB NICHOLS / SURENDRAAATHPAHARIYA



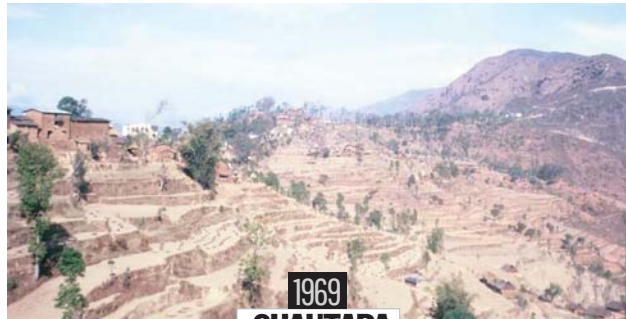
1971
6 ILAM
2015



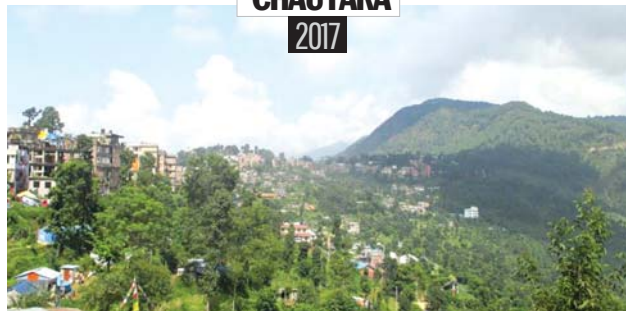
JOHN HUGHES / TIKARAM GHIMIRE

NEW FOREST

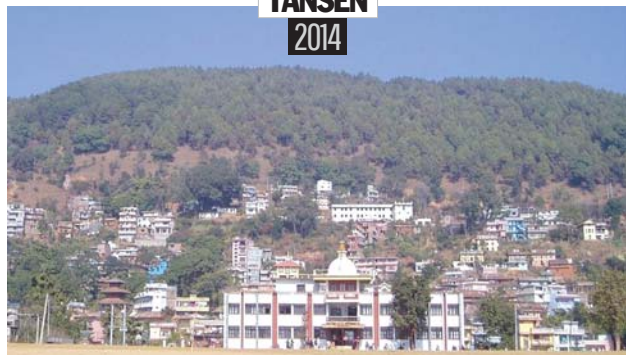
The big change in Nepal's mid-hills over the last 50 years has been the spread of community forestry. Pictures taken half-a-century apart by Peace Corps volunteers.



1969
CHAUTARA
2017



1973
TANSEN
2014



EVENTS



Go take a hike

Gear up for a hike to Ranikot starting from Lankuri Bhanjyang, going through lush forest and finally reaching the top to get a view of the Himalayas and Kathmandu Valley.
24 June, Meeting point: Bhrikuti Mandap Exhibition Hall Complex, Rs 900 (for those without t-shirts), Rs 400 (for those with t-shirts), (01)4266559

Poetrybug

Poetry lovers unite for a day full of lively discussions on 'These Fine Lines' poetry anthology, followed by a live poetry reading session.
24 June, 2 to 4 pm, Yala Mandala, Kwalkhu Road, Patan, Registration: <https://goo.gl/nbdMNH>

Watching Israel,

Don't miss the opportunity to watch selected Israeli films at the 11th Israeli Film Festival. Moviegoers can choose from two films that will be screened for three days.
28 to 30 June, 2.30 pm and 5.30 pm, OR2K Restaurant, Lakeside, Pokhara, <http://embassies.gov.il/kathmandu>

Mud fest,

Celebrate this rice-planting festival by getting soaked in the rain, playing in the mud and mingling with locals. Includes a Newari fest at the end of the day.
24 June, 7 am to 3 pm, Khokana, Rs1950 for adults, Rs 999 for children, free for children below 4, <http://www.socialtours.com>



Bootcamp,

Participate in readings and discussions on different pedagogical ideas, theories and methodologies in a workshop led by Niranjan Kunwar.
1 to 29 July, Quixote's Cove, Jawalakhel, Rs 5000, (01)5536974

Vocal workshop,

Register to learn singing techniques from renowned jazz vocalist Diandra Danieli, hosted by Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory.
5 July to 30 August, (01) 5013554 <http://www.katjazz.com.np/vocal-teacher-diandra-danieli/>



Kathmandu Kora,

Join hundreds of cycling enthusiasts and ride 50, 75, or 100 km to raise funds for a cycling trail in the Bungamati Area of Kathmandu Valley.
15 July, 7 am onwards Patan Darbar Square <https://www.facebook.com/ktmkora/>

Artist in residence,

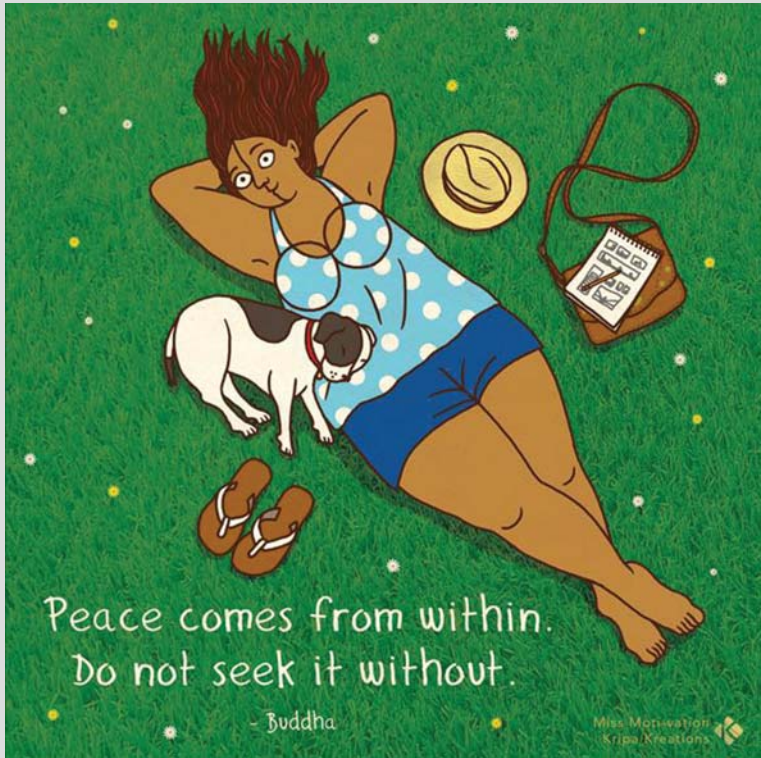
Attend the seventh season of artist in residence with works of artists CC Chang and Chen Siao Chi of Taiwan, Kapil Mani Dixit of Nepal and Jupiter Pradhan of Nepal on display.
23 to 30 June, Gallery MCUBE, Lalitpur www.gallerycube.com

Inviting submissions,

Submit your documentaries for the 11th edition of Film Southasia to be held in Kathmandu from 2-5 November 2017.
Deadline 15 July, <http://www.filmsouthasia.org/film-south-asia>

MISS MOTI-VATION

KRIPA JOSHI



MUSIC

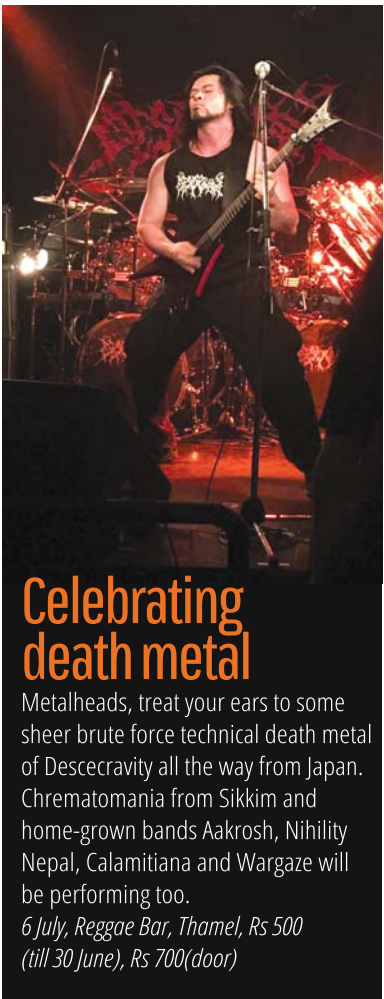


Musical tribute,

Kamero will be playing rap metal, rap rock and alternative metal songs as a tribute to Rage Against the Machine & Tool.
8 July, 2 to 5 pm, Purple Haze Rock Bar, Thamel, 9841539392

Saturday Night Live,

Sway to the rhythms of alternative rock band Innov8 and spend your weekend with friends and family.
30 June, 6:30-9:30 pm, Ai-La Lounge. Restaurant, Kumariapati, 9801018683



Celebrating death metal

Metalheads, treat your ears to some sheer brute force technical death metal of Descecravity all the way from Japan. Chrematomania from Sikkim and home-grown bands Aakrosh, Nihility Nepal, Calamitiana and Wargaze will be performing too.
6 July, Reggae Bar, Thamel, Rs 500 (till 30 June), Rs 700(door)

Jay Sean live,

Book your tickets now to listen to British singer and songwriter Jay Sean perform live in Kathmandu.
12 July, 7 am onwards, Deja Vu, Darbarmarg, Rs 2500, 3500, 5000, 9860344642



Fete de la Musique,

Celebrate this year's International music day by participating in the annual Fete de la Musique where various artists will be performing.
23 June, 3 to 10 pm, Alliance Française Kathmandu, Free entry

DINING



Chez Caroline,

Authentic ambience, exquisite French food, glorious sunshine and more.
Babar Mahal Revisited, (01)4263070

Dhokaima Café,

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

BBQ nights,

Head down to Patan for some scrumptious barbeque and take in the sights and sounds of the gallery and handicraft workshop in the artisan village.
23 June, 5 to 10.30 pm, Yala Mandala, Kwalakhi, Lalitpur, (01)5536690



Dan Ran,

The best Japanese food this side of Bagmati. Try one of the bento boxes with a fresh lemonade.
Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur (01)5521027

Pastavaganza,

Satisfy all your Italian cravings with a range of homemade pasta for dinner.
21 to 30 June, Rox Restaurant, Hyatt Regency, Boudha, (01)5171234

Mezze by Roadhouse,

Spot a superstar at one of Kathmandu's most popular restaurants.
Mercantile Plaza, Darbar Marg (01) 4223087



Embers,

A large and cosy place that serves a blend of continental and Nepali favourites.
Krishna Gali, Pulchok, (01)5534766, embers.ktm@gmail.com, www.embers-restaurant.com

Lakpas' Chulo,

Offers a modest selection of recipes from around the world. Quiet and warm ambience.
Jhamisikhel, (01) 5542986

Fuji Bakery,

Tucked in Chakupat, this bakery offers homemade goodies like apple pie, pain du chocolat, and banana cake.
Chakupat, Lalitpur

GETAWAY



Atithi Resort & Spa,

A quiet sanctuary that fuses Nepali tradition with modern amenities, complete with a fancy pool and a cosy restaurant.
Lakeside, Pokhara, (06)1466760, info@atithiresort.com

Pataleban Vineyard Resort,

Japanese-influenced eco-resort with great views, jungle walks and picnics. *Chisapani, Kathmandu, 9841679364*

Meghauli Serai,

Enjoy the monsoon offer at Taj Safari's Meghauli Serai and spend a relaxing time fine dining and going for wildlife safaris in Chitwan.
Chitwan National Park, 9801301969/9851001548

The Yellow House,

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

Gokarna Forest Resort,

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



Hotel Barahi,

Enjoy a great view of the lake, cultural shows, a big swimming pool to beat the heat this summer and scrumptious pastries from the German Bakery in the hotel premises.
Lakeside, Pokhara, (061) 460617/463526

Club Himalaya,

For amazing mountain views and refreshing weekend escapades, special packages available for Nepalis and expatriates.
Nagarkot, 4410432

Temple Tree Resort and Spa,

A peaceful place to stay, complete with a swimming pool, massage parlour and sauna. It'll be hard to leave once you go in.
Gaurighat, Lakeside, (061)465819



Mango Tree Lodge,

Culture walks, rafting in the Karnali, wildlife exploration, and jungle safari at Bardia National Park.
Bhetani, Bardia, info@mangotreelodge.com



KUNDA DIXIT

Moving after shaking

Over 2,600 families in villages threatened by quake-induced landslides need to be urgently resettled before the monsoon

OM ASTHA RAI
in SINDHUPALCHOK

Bipana Lama (*right*) had just turned 18, and was preparing for her wedding with 27-year-old Tok Lama when the earthquake struck central Nepal on 25 April 2015. Their homes in Golche village of Sindhupalchok near the Chinese border were destroyed, but the couple went ahead with the wedding in a temporary hut in a shelter in Selang village.

Like 2,600 other families in central Nepal, the Lamas don't just have to rebuild their homes. They have to relocate the entire neighbourhood to a safer area because Golche is in danger of being buried by falling boulders.

Bipana gave birth last rainy season, but three monsoons later the family is still in a camp for survivors in Selang, waiting for the government to relocate them.

"We miss our village, but we can't go back because there are still rocks falling off the cliff. No one lives there now, only ghosts," says Bipana. Many of the bodies buried in the slides were never recovered.

Bipana has fond memories of happy but subsistence living in Golche, growing maize, wheat, millet and potatoes. Now, she looks after her 1-year-old son while Tok roams Selang looking for day jobs. He says: "The quake turned our lives upside down, made us homeless, but at least we are still alive."

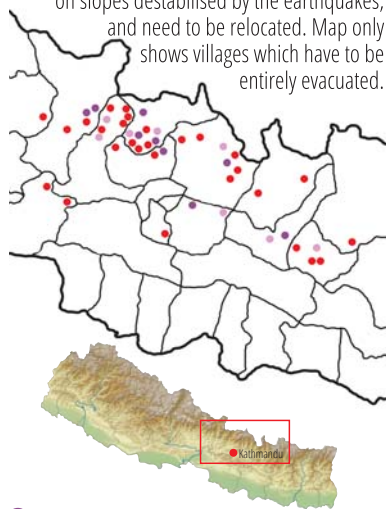
Sixty-four families, mostly Tamang, moved down to Selang, and will join 250 other relocated households in an integrated



OM ASTHA RAI

Vulnerable villages

Over 2,600 families in 136 villages are living on slopes destabilised by the earthquakes, and need to be relocated. Map only shows villages which have to be entirely evacuated.



- Villages with over 50 households
- Villages with 25-50 households
- Villages with less than 25 households

SOURCE: NRA

than transmigration of families moved from national parks and wildlife reserves: "Relocation is always tricky, but it is trickier because we are not forcing anyone. We are just offering options and incentives."

The NRA plans to finish the first phase of relocation in two years, but that will cover only a quarter of families living on slopes destabilised by two massive earthquakes in 2015. In 15 affected districts, the NRA and the Department of Mines and Geology (DMG) have identified 2,629 households that need to be either protected from rockfalls or relocated.

Whole settlements, not just a few houses, need to be

DOUBLE DISASTER:

After the 25 April 2015 earthquake devastated Kerauja village, situated 10 km from the epicentre in Upper Gorkha, it was hit by a rockfall. It is now on a government list needing urgent relocation.

Bipana Lama, with her husband and baby (*left*) waited two years in a shelter for the government's resettlement plan in Selang, Sindhupalchok.

relocated in 60 of the 136 places identified by the NRA as being vulnerable (*see map*). The NRA is covering some big settlements in the first phase itself, but many other villages will have to live through the danger for a few more monsoons.

Rajendra Prasad Khanal of the DMG says: "In those settlements where only a few households face landslide threats, mitigation measures will work. But in others where all households face landslide threats, the sooner we can relocate people the better."

Relocation also means dislocation. Most families have an emotional attachment to home villages where their ancestors lived for generations. Moving to a new place also means losing livelihoods and starting life all over again.

"We understand these sensibilities, and this is why we are not forcing anyone, but their lives will always be at risk if they do not relocate to safer places," said Pokharel during a trip this week to Selang, where earthquake-displaced families are desperately waiting for the NRA to begin resettlement.

Tanka Bikram Silwal, a 45-year-old cardamom farmer, lives in a temporary shed near his earthquake-damaged home, two hours walk from Selang. Most of his neighbours have abandoned their houses because of falling rocks, but Silwal is staying on because he has to take care of his farm.

"Income is good here, how will I feed my family if I go away? This is where I have spent my entire life. But if everyone leaves, I will also have to go," he says. ■

THE EAGLE HUNTRESS

Last year in January, at the Sundance Film Festival where independent films premiere on a prestigious, fiercely competitive platform to gain recognition, and perhaps even more importantly, distribution, *The Eagle Huntress* – a movie about a young Mongolian girl, Aisholpan, was picked up by Sony Pictures Classics for US distribution. It was a massive achievement for a documentary film. It takes time for independent films to be




Set in Mongolia and narrated with nuance by Daisy Ridley, who became famous with *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015), this breathtaking documentary begins with a traditional male eagle hunter setting his bird free after seven years of captivity. He thanks the bird for her loyal service, sacrifices a sheep for her to feed upon, and walks away after taking off her hood and fetters so that she may roam free for the remainder of her life. It is a thoughtful, deeply moving beginning, and one that sets the tone for the film.

The filmmakers slowly and patiently document Aisholpan's life with her family, and her longing to become an eagle huntress, following in the footsteps of her father and

grandfather. Director Otto Bell has an understanding of the importance of Aisholpan's persona in a film like this, and he gives her room and space to breathe. Getting to know this young, brave, physically and mentally strong girl is one of the real pleasures of this film. That aspect, among others, is genuinely enhanced by the vivid but not showy cinematography of Simon Niblett.

Aisholpan faces many challenges, but her confidence, backed by her father's unwavering trust in her, helps her through her journey as she trains, becomes fit enough to capture her own eaglet, compete in the national eagle hunting tournament, and finally, become a huntress in the harsh, wintry Mongolian wild.

Populated by interesting, articulate people, amazing scenery and a culture that we may never have access to aside from this film, *The Eagle Huntress* is a classic story of a bonding between girl and eagle, father and daughter, culture and wilderness, and an unforgettable coming of age for a lovely, free-spirited child who follows her dreams, which, due to her hard work and determination, come true. If you want to learn a bit about Mongolia, and one of its most riveting traditions, find this uncommon film. 



Watch trailer online

nepaltimes.com

HAPPENINGS



BIKRAM RAI

WE MISSED YOU: Vice President Nanda Kishor Pun presents a bouquet to President Bidya Devi Bhandari upon her return from Geneva on Sunday. Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and Speaker of the Parliament, Onsari Gharti Magar were also on hand.



RSS

HOW HIGH CAN YOU GO?: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, Deputy Prime Minister Gopal Man Shrestha and Indian Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri among others trying out yoga moves to mark International Yoga Day in Kathmandu on Wednesday.



NEPALARMY

HONOURING HEROES: Lt Col Gregory D Pipe of the US Army receives the Gallantry Medal from Chief of Army Staff Rajendra Chettri on behalf of six US marines killed in a helicopter crash in Dolakha during a rescue mission after the 2015 earthquake.



BIKRAM RAI

PRIVATE PRAYERS: Muslims offer prayers at Kashmiri Mosque in Kathmandu at the end of the holy month of Ramadan on Friday.



KUNDA DIXIT

BASKETS FROM WHEELS: Play continued on the fifth day of the ongoing Turkish Airlines ENGAGE Empowering wheelchair basketball league on Saturday in Patan.

M-Series Printers

EPSON
EXCEED YOUR VISION

Get the most
ECONOMICAL
B/W PRINTERS ever
Best for Office and
Commercial purpose



M200- PRINT / SCAN / COPY

M100- PRINT

Print upto
8000 PAGES
with initial starter ink kit



JUST 12 WATTS
POWER
CONSUMPTION



UPTO 1 YEAR
OR 50,000
PRINTS



HIGH
SPEED
PRINTING
34 PPM

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 : 4268820, Putalisadak : 4415788
Putalisadak : 4227474, Putalisadak : 4436307
Putalisadak : 4417050

Outside Valley Dealers:
Banepa : 011-860888, Biratnagar : 021-538729, Biratnagar : 021-532000
Biratnagar : 023-540150, Butwal : 071-545399, Chitwan : 066-571784
Dang : 082-561022, Dhangadhi : 091-523801, Dhangadhi : 091-521392
Jorakpur : 041-525565, Lahan : 033-561205, Mahendranagar : 099-523872
Nepalguni : 081-527092, Pokhara : 061-525300, Surkhet : 083-522488
Tulsipur : 082-562575

Airports update

www.onlinekhabar.com,
22 June



After two devastating earthquakes in the spring of 2015, the number of tourists visiting Nepal plummeted to a six-year low. Last year, visits rebounded to pre-earthquake numbers, encouraging Nepal to set an ambitious target of bringing in 2 million tourists annually by 2020. However, tourism entrepreneurs say it will be difficult to achieve that target without upgrading the only international airport in Kathmandu, and building other ones outside the capital.

Here is an update on progress in building future international airports:

Bhairahawa
Construction of Gautam Buddha International Airport in Bhairahawa has once again ground to a halt. Birendra Prasad Shrestha, spokesperson of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), says work stopped because of the Chinese contractor and its sub-contractor. The Rs 6 billion project, partially funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), was to be completed this year. But frequent obstructions have postponed the deadline to December 2018.

Pokhara
China CAMC Engineering Co will begin construction of the Pokhara international airport next year, and is expected to be finish by 2020. Nepal is taking a loan for the project from the Export-Import Bank of China.

Nijgadhi
The land acquisition process is underway, and the government has decided to involve the Nepal Army in clearing the field in Bara district for the project. But no agreement has been signed so far, and even the CAAN is not sure when this project will take off and be completed.

Kathmandu
The Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) extension project is also moving very slowly. The Spanish contractor was to complete this ADB-funded project in 2019, but it was fired last year for ‘non-performance’. The CAAN has called for fresh bids to complete the project, which now has been split into three components.



Ballot power

Editorial in *Nagarik*, 20 June

नागरिक

The Madhes-based RJPN and the Netra Bikram Chand-led Maoist party are boycotting local elections, but their cadres are contesting as independent candidates. This is proof that the ballot is superior to the bullet in a democracy.

Ballots have brought revolutions that even armed struggle has not achieved. In Nepal, the Maoists failed to topple the monarchy even after 10 years of bloody war, but an elected assembly abolished the 240-year-old monarchy. The RJPN and the Biplav Maoist have chosen not to study recent history, and are resorting to violence to push through their agenda. Their local cadres, however, know where real power lies and how to achieve it.

In Thabang in Rolpa district, independent candidates of the Biplav Maoists are in the electoral fray to become village chief and deputy. In this once-stronghold of the rebels in the midwestern

hills, people boycotted the last local elections in 1997. None of them turned out to vote in the second Constituent Assembly elections, either. But this time, Amrit Gharti of the Biplav faction is contesting polls on 28 June to become Thabang village council chief. This confirms that competing in elections is the only way to gain power. The central leadership of the Biplav Maoists has failed to understand what its cadres in Thabang have already understood.

Ditto for the RJPN. Its cadres are independently contesting elections in Rupandehi, Kapilvastu and Banke districts in defiance of their party's central-level decision to boycott and disrupt elections. It also shows that RJPN leaders, who live mostly in Kathmandu, do not have the pulse of their own grassroots supporters and have not grasped the general public mood in the Madhes. Parties that ignore the ground reality and do not heed the voices of the people cannot be called democratic. The RJPN and the Biplav Maoists must understand this at the earliest.



“He is an RJPN candidate. He asked for votes, but said: don’t tell anyone”

नागरिक

Rabin Sayami in *Nagarik*, 10 June

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“The bullets did not work. We are now trying the ballots in Madhes”

Ram Awadh Gupta
An independent mayoral candidate in Rupandehi from RJPN

SENSODYNE



Do these cause
sensitivity
in your teeth?



“I recommend Sensodyne.”
- Dr. Satbir Golar, dentist practising in the UK.



World’s No.1 Sensitivity Toothpaste*

* Offer valid on 70g packs of Sensodyne Fresh Gel and Fresh Mint in select cities/outlets till stocks last. Price depicted above is in Indian currency.
*Retail Value Sales data 12 months ending 30th April 2016.

The pain and shame of



Ram Shakhi Mukhiya, 70

Ram Shakhi of Hariharpur in the Tarai is a mother of six who kept her prolapsed uterus a secret for 34 years. A friend told her she could get free treatment in Janakpur, so she asked her son to take her there. Ram Shakhi was weeping when she told us: "My son and daughter-in-law said to me, why do you need an operation in this old age? Aren't you ashamed?"

Her neighbour Piyariya Devi Mahato, 40, is one of few women who has had surgery for her uterine prolapse, but her right leg is numb and she cannot walk because of the operation.

ROJITA ADHIKARI

in MUGU and DHANUSHA

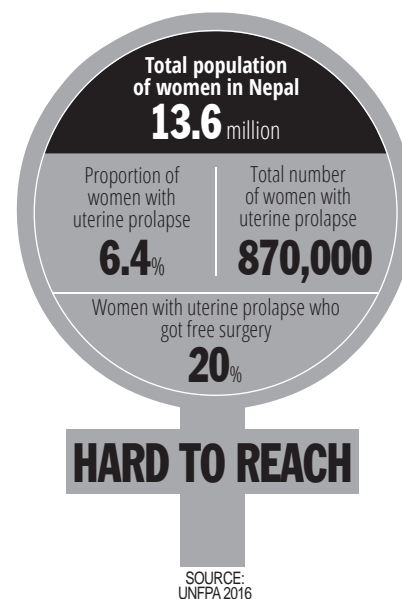
Uterine prolapse, a condition which afflicts one in every 10 women in Nepal, is caused by the weakening of the ligaments that provide support for the uterus, which then slips out of the vagina.

A recent survey showed that despite the government's free treatment scheme launched in 2008, only 20% of women with uterine prolapse have been reached. The rest, like Chukka Nepali (right) and Biura BK (below left) in Mugu are still living with the painful and degrading condition, facing additional ostracisation from family and society.

Uterine prolapse is more common in the far-western mountains and eastern Tarai among women who do back-breaking work from a very young age, while giving birth and raising children.

Nepal's entrenched patriarchy is one reason the condition persists among mainly the poor and uneducated. There is a clear correlation between areas of the country where the status of women is low and prevalence of the condition. Uterine prolapse makes all the other risk factors, like malnutrition of teenage mothers, short-spaced births, hard physical work soon after childbirth and domestic violence, much worse.

After a 2006 UN report showed the extent of the problem, the government announced free treatment for the estimated 200,000 women in need of immediate corrective surgery.



HARD TO REACH

SOURCE: UNFPA 2016

However, after a survey showed surgeries in mobile health camps were not up to mark, the Ministry of Health restricted operations to district and zonal hospitals, and slashed the budget. Only 1,600 surgeries were performed in 2015.

Naresh Pratap KC of the Family Health Division explains that is because the estimates for uterine prolapse are exaggerated: "The numbers are much less, which is why very

few women are coming for surgery. That is why we reduced the budget."

But the reality here in the rugged, arid mountains of Mugu is very different. In the village of Charapa alone I found six women with Stage 4 uterine prolapse. In the Tarai, there were eight women with the condition in the small village of Hariharpur alone.

Samita Pradhan of the group Centre for Agro-Ecology and Development (CAED) says uterine prolapse is a hidden problem and is much more widespread than reported: "We work in 20 districts and 1 in 4 women who agree to talk with us has some form of prolapse."

Treatment camps run by NGOs in Makwanpur recently found that out of 900 women examined, 200 had the condition. This could just be the tip of the iceberg because of the shame and fear of ostracisation from the community.

The government allocates Rs12,000 for every surgery and Rs500 as transport allowance in the Tarai and Rs1,500 for mountain districts, which is inadequate. But there is no money for post-operative care, another reason patients do not seek free surgery. The government's free operation is mainly for Stage 4 uterine prolapse, which means tens of thousands with less serious symptoms do not qualify for surgery.

Nurse Saroja Ghimire at the district hospital in Gamgadi says women come for treatment when the pain gets intolerable, and they often have to be referred to Karnali Zonal Hospital for surgery. "About 90% of the women go home dejected because they cannot afford to go to Jumla," she says.

"The government's free treatment is benefiting many women but it is not enough," says Giulia Vallese of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). "Also, free surgery alone is not enough. We need to address the comprehensive needs of women who need surgery." 🇳🇵

LIVING WITH PAIN



Watch a video of women in the mountains of the far-west and eastern Tarai who are forced to live all their lives with uterine prolapse because of poverty, illiteracy and lack of access to free surgery in government hospitals.

nepalitimes.com



Biura BK, 28

Biura is a Dalit mother of three school-going sons from Nigale village. She was 14 when her first baby was born, and while collecting firewood soon after giving birth she felt her womb come out. She is in constant pain, and is worried that her husband will leave her because she cannot fulfill his physical needs.

Three months ago Buira's pain became intolerable and she went to the district hospital in Gamgadi, where the doctor told her that she had 4th degree prolapse and referred her to the Karnali Zonal Hospital in Jumla. She was offered Rs1,500 transport allowance, but it would have cost her Rs10,000 for bus fare and lodging costs for herself and a minder. So she never went.

1 million Nepali women



Chukka Nepali, 41

Chukka is a mother of six in one of the remotest villages of Nepal's remotest district: Mugu. She had to fetch firewood and collect fodder a few days after giving birth at 14. Being a chronically undernourished mother at a young age, and doing relentless back-breaking work soon after delivering caused her uterus to slip out, and she has since lived with that painful condition, which got steadily worse with every new birth.

Chukka Nepali was already suffering double discrimination for being a woman and a Dalit, but the uterine prolapse made her even more of an outcast. Neighbours taunted her children, saying their mother was a witch.

"They said my womb fell out because I was evil, and God punished me," Chukka told us. "For the past 25 years besides the physical pain I had to endure mental torture." Her husband is the village tailor who makes just enough to feed his family and cannot afford free surgery because of other costs involved.

ALL PICS: ROJITA ADHIKARI

Saraswoti Devi Thakur, 40

Saraswoti Devi, from Dhanusa district, has been living with a prolapsed uterus for the last 14 years after giving birth to her second baby. She tells us in a barely-audible whisper: "Till three years ago, I used to just tuck it back in and keep working in the fields, but now the womb does not go inside, it is painful to work." Raising the family is difficult enough with an alcoholic husband who beats her up every night, but the prolapsed uterus has made life infinitely more difficult.

She knows the hospital offers free treatment, but her husband doesn't allow her to go, saying: "Who will do the work here if you go to hospital?"

"I feel tired all the time, I have a white discharge and it is difficult to walk. My husband doesn't understand that I am in pain, no one does," Saraswati says.



Happy to be rid of it

Shreebati Devi Mahato, 70, has lived in Lalvitti village of Dhanusa district all her life, and for most of it she had this thing hanging out of her. She gave birth to 11 children, seven are alive and four died at childbirth.

"I lived in hell for most of my life when my womb dropped, I had back pain, and couldn't walk," says Shreebati who had free surgery at Janakpur Zonal Hospital six months ago. "Now I can walk. I am in heaven."



ELEVATE
YOUR EXPECTATIONS



OLD
DURBAR



BLENDED RESERVE WHISKY

A BLEND OF ENGLISH GRAIN SPIRIT AND 8 YEARS OLD PEATED SCOTCH MALT WITH SPRING WATER FROM THE HIMALAYAN FINISHED IN OLOGGIO SHERRY BARRELS IN NEPAL

BLACK CHIMNEY

FIRST BARREL

SECOND BARREL

ADAM WALLIS



CHARRED OAK BARRELS
FLAVOURFUL, SMOKY &
INTENSE CHARACTER



http://www.facebook.com/olddurbar

The fine print

Allow me warn readers at the outset that this week's column contains information that some may find disturbing. You are therefore advised to read this fine print before proceeding any further:

DISCLAIMER
Unauthorised attempts to illicitly change or download this asinine content, or to engage in any activity using these writings to damage the country's international prestige and sovereignty are strictly forbidden, and were such activities to be undertaken with malicious intent, the writer (hereinafter referred to as The Ass) will not be held liable in any court of law, including under universal jurisdiction at The Hague, and said Donkey cannot be sued for libel or defamation in anyone else's sphere of influence except in the location of his current domicile; and he hereby declines all responsibility for any disseminated material construed to be objectionable in this life and other pr lives, if any. This colum content herein, includir insinuated as being bet the lines, is secured by Copyright, Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights, the Internationa Convention Against Torture, as well as the Statute on the Inalienable Rights of all Animals Great and Small To Be Protected from Grievous Bodily Harm, pursuant to existing national legislation and international treaties that Nepal has signed, is been in the process of ratifying, or is not observing in letter and spirit despite having signed five decades ago. Users are allowed free access to copy, import, export, download, upload, unload, through any means electronic, mechanical, electro-mechanical, telephone, telefax or telepathy, any horsing around herein — provided no mention is made either of the editor or publisher. And, oh yes, this item contains some flash photography because my high-end DSLRs, although capable of capturing images in poorly lit locations, needed to avoid motion blur and/or camera shake and not desirous of notching up the ISO level because that, ipso facto, would have increased noise, distorted the colours and brought down the dynamic range of the image.

Right, now that we have those legal niceties out of the way, and there is no way you can sue the Ass' ass off any more, we can get on with the rest of the column with my remaining word-count this week which is 85 words plus-minus 10.

Our subject today is the news item concerning the bull that inadvertently fell into a pothole in Goringhe Municipality. Despite heroic efforts of onlookers providing unsolicited advice to extricate the ox, it took all day because rescuing bulls from the Melamchi Trench is easier said than done — the law of gravity was just insurmountable.

A bulldozer (so named for its ability to dredge bulls) was finally able to winch the animal out of the hole that he had got himself into.

Officials from the Department of Roads and Craters said Wednesday's incident had proven beyond reasonable doubt that the dimensions of Kathmandu's potholes are now ISO9002 certified: "Our potholes used to be of substandard size, but we now know a city bus can easily fall into one of our bullholes."

The Metropolitan Traffic Police, meanwhile, has converted the problem of the sudden increase in the bovine population of Kathmandu's streets into a solution by turning bullocks into traffic islands.

Cows henceforth are required to cross at zebras, even if it means falling into bullholes.

The Ass



NEW THINKING.
HYUNDAI NEW POSSIBILITIES.



CRETA



I AM PERFECT
I AM CRETA

Anil Gurung
National Football Player



CRETA



HYUNDAI | Laxmi

SOLE DISTRIBUTOR OF HYUNDAI FOR NEPAL
www.laxmihyundai.com



00864

CDO Regd No 194/056/57 Lalitpur, Central Region Postal Regd. No 09/066/67