Nepal’s arguably most powerful government’s first budget has failed to realise its own supporters.

In their joint election manifesto last year, NCP leaders made some exciting promises like increasing the annual per capita income of Nepal to $5,000 and building 100-bed hospitals in all village councils. But Finance Minister Yuba Raj Khatiwada toned down the budget, probably because he himself has been making a pretty slow progress of the state of the economy. It seems the country simply cannot afford to lavish more money around.

Some have defended the budget by saying that Khatiwada is minister in a stable government which will govern Nepal for at least five years, and all electoral promises need not be fulfilled in the first year. But some NCP supporters themselves wonder if Khatiwada is working at cross-purposes with his bosses since there was nothing in the budget speech on Tuesday about Prime Minister Oli’s pledges.

“Most people hoped for a big bang budget, preparing the country for a great leap forward,” says economist Keshab Acharya. “But it is rudderless, it does not reflect the party’s election manifesto, and nor is it in sync with the white paper.”

Surprisingly, critics like Swarnim Wagle and Bishwo Poudel have described the budget as “realistic”, probably knowing the Finance Minister had little room for manoeuvre.

However, Khatiwada has set a target of 8% economic growth this year, contradicting the adverse economic scenario he presented in his own white paper two months ago. Economists are skeptical about the projected growth rate when indicators are so dismal.

Khatiwada mentioned big-ticket infrastructure projects like the Choura Highways, Nepal Airport, the Tarai Fast Track, East-West Electric Railway and Kathmandu to Kerung and Rasuwal railways, amounting Rs 109 billion for transport alone.

The Communist plan is to launch major infrastructure projects for massive job creation, and unleashing downstream benefits. However, such gigantic schemes have been ridiculed in social media; many say a government that cannot even upgrade roads like the Kalanki intersection (pictured, Jeff for four years has no fight to spin dreams of intercity trains.

Infrastructure expert Surya Raj Acharya pushes for big infrastructure projects like Nepal Airport, but worries that the government lacks capacity to implement them.

Om Astha Rai

GIGANTISM
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TOURISM MINISTER RABINDRA ADHIKARI
INTERVIEW
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DOES NEPAL NEED A 4TH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT?
PAGE 14-15

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GIGANTISM

It is a phenomenon seen across the world in electoral democracies: politicians falling into the temptation of pouring large chunks of their national budgets into gargantuan projects to show their magni-
ciousness. Admittedly, such big-thinking is not restricted to elected officials—it is even more prevalent in authoritarian states which lavish money on Olympic complexes, empty skyscrapers, or space programs meant to enhance national prestige beyond national well-
being. The megalomania of rulers grows to match their egos.

Nepal’s united Communist government seems to be afflicted by an insatiable strain of political grandiosity reminiscent of the historic dictators. The budget presented to Parliament by Finance Minister Bhakta Prasad Thapa on Tuesday highlights correct emphasis on youth employment and raising living standards, but at the same time grave misgivings that budget allocates huge funds to transportation projects. The main outlay is on transport infrastructure, which is key to Nepal’s future growth. The debate is whether we should put all our eggs in one basket, and go for big risks projects rather than invest in smaller and affordable ones distributed evenly across the country.

The Euro-megacity projects are planned to be built in the eastern part of the country. The main outlay is on transport infrastructure, which is key to Nepal’s future growth. The debate is whether we should put all our eggs in one basket, and go for big risks projects rather than invest in smaller and affordable ones distributed evenly across the country.

Similarly, a skim strip of the southern King Road has been binned in mud and dust for over three years. Apathy and neglect have turned the capital’s thoroughfares into obdurate obstacle courses. There was hope that the first elections to municipal councils in 20 years would make mayors and ward committees more accountable. Also, once after they took office, the chosen ones have turned out to be even more feckless and clueless: taking the easy way out by blaming Metrokhan electric pipe-laying for their incompetence.

Instead of doing what is doable, and fixing what can easily be fixed, our city fathers have taken a sudden interest in grandiose schemes like underground metro, magnetic levitation, monorails, cable cars, and even something called sky rail.

The capital city obviously needs to upgrade to an efficient mass transit system. A metropolitan area of 3.5 million people cannot rely on tiny three-wheelers to serve communities on trunk routes. It cannot have microwaves packed like sambari cases by owners of large auto-rickshaw cartels. And instead of being rewarded, a bureaucrat who was trying to rein in the bus mafia was sacked by the Industries Minister.

This bungling process, not-taking-of-the-right-road structure is pushing mega transportation projects. A national and inexpensive mass transit system has to be developed using technology and local talent. The number of vehicles in Kathmandu Valley has tripled in seven years, and their emissions make Kathmandu Valley’s air often more polluted than even Beijing or New Delhi. A public transport system in Kathmandu Valley is therefore needed foremost to protect public health. Nepal’s rulers are exhibiting a similar edifice complex about building a new airport in Nijgadh. The entire premise is flawed because it is designed as a hub to serve transport passengers, which may not be sufficient in the 1960s because of Nepal’s location, but with longer range airliners it no longer makes sense. (See report on page 14-15)

Also, there are two internationals coming up in Pokhara and Bhairahawa, hence delays due to political competition for kickbacks. Kathmandu airport itself is undergoing a $100 million upgrade to increase capacity and efficiency—also delayed due to government bungling. Besides, the airport is an existing domestic airport in Simara 10km away that can easily be expanded in future if an international airport becomes necessary and save the eastern Tarai’s last large tract of primary sa forest. The primary destination of most passengers arriving at Nijgadh will be Kathmandu, which will take at least two hours to reach after landing, even with an expressway.

So, just like with hydropower, highways, high rise, public transit, and even dams, the motto is bigger is better because bigger is bigger kickback.

With the massive scale of this project, the government plans to construct future generations of Nepal even deeper in debt.

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The landing first-past-the-post results in the 30 May - 6 June 1992 elections of the Nepali Congress (NCP) was a shock victory for the then Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai and his Nepali Congress. Baburam Bhattarai was a key figure in the Nepali Congress who played a significant role in the restoration of democracy in Nepal in the 1990s.

DEADLOCKED

The Central Steering Committee of the NCP had convened to help resolve the political impasse in the country. It had a different target group of 40 to 50 people, after the political deadlock continued to persist.

CAUTION

An open, order article on antibiotics in chicken, should be shared among all (Are you sick of chicken? (Sonia Awale, #91)).

POSSIBLY PLASTIC FREE

A great initiative to reduce plastic pollution in the country. This example should be followed by every town, city and village.

Cap for Caption Contest

The recycling project is doing a great job helping our country reduce plastic use.

WHAT’S TRENDING

Are You Sick of Chicken? By Sonia Awale

If you show them that chicken you eat isn't free, making you resistant to treatment for infections? This Nepali town’s experiment on chicken养殖 in July 1992 was the most newsworthy event in recent weeks. If you missed it last week, visit nepaltimes.com and check the widely shared article on how to get antibiotics for free in a chicken -in pathy. For readers who are health conscious, this is a must read.

Most wanted and shared on Facebook

Most commented

Most visited online page

Most popular on Twitter

QUOTE TWEETS

Nepal Times @nepaltimes Nepal Times asks 350,000 readers. Looking towards the next 10 years. #91

Ranvijay Singh @RanvijayS Instagram Commented on photo: “If you’ve ever seen a Nepali name”.

The Himalaya Times @himalayatimes “In Nepal, women often come home in the days to come.

Deependra Adhikari @Deependra Adhikari “If you’ve ever seen a Nepali name”

A very popular Twitter handle is followed by 500,000 people.

India-specific Twitter handle is followed by 250,000 people.

A very popular Twitter handle is followed by 500,000 people.

Are you sick of chicken? By Sonia Awale.

Yes: 273
No: 174
I don’t know: 6

Weekly readers (2016)

Weekly readers (2017)

Weekly readers (2018)

Weekly readers (2019)

Weekly readers (2020)

Weekly readers (2021)

Weekly readers (2022)

Weekly readers (2023)

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Weekly readers (2081)

Weekly readers (2082)

Weekly readers (2083)
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Nepal in general are wealthier than ever before in our history. The reason lies in a string of recent years when successive governments have tried to redistribute wealth through the annual budget.

It always turns out that the current budget fails and end up being wealthier because they use the budget process to

enrich themselves with salaries, allowances and perks of all kinds. Civil servants, as we saw in the recent report of the auditor general, drank 876 billion worth of tea annually, and they themselves Rs 22 billion in allowances beyond their basic salaries.

If Nepal produces so much too, a lot of that tea money is going to estate, their staff, and the people who package the tea, distribute it and also sell all over Nepal and globally.

When we see a government employee adding a floor to the house or sending children to expensive schools here and there, we know wealth gets re-distributed to the teachers and brick and cement industries. Corruption has a multiplier effect in real estate, and many non-profits and charities rent the houses they built on gifts — further redistributing the wealth. The downstream benefits also go to hardware stores, liquor and fast shops. However, when we need to upgrade the Jhapa section of the Muley road, or the 10km of the Muley to Namobuddha highway artery, it takes decades.

If the road was paid for by Nepali taxpayers, we could say that the government is doing a good job re-distributing wealth because over 100,000 people use the Muley highway every day, and the stores and shops along the way all benefit.

The current 33kg gold scam also needs to be understood in the context of wealth re-distribution. Many Nepalis believe that in an emergency, gold is the best investment. The joke in the USA is that someone made a spelling mistake while printing the US dollar. It should have read, ‘In gold we trust.’

Nepalis wholeheartedly trust gold, and so do Indians. Hence the huge upsurge in demand for the metal after demonstration. The problem with gold is that you buy it, lock it up and there is no redistribution of wealth. You use the gold occasionally at wedding banquets. The gold may not do much, but party palaces help redistribute wealth by creating jobs for waiters, drivers, the food and alcohol industries.

In a country that depends so much on foreign aid, the cynics will tell you that aid is taking money from poor rich countries and giving it to the rich in poor countries. And that is just another way of re-distributing wealth on a global scale. The prime minister has just pronounced that Nepal will be ‘heaven’ in ten years. Nepalis will probably have to die first before they can go to heaven, yet there are enough who are appraising the heaven-making process because it will involve redistribution of wealth.

There are nearly 4 million Nepalis working overseas, and their absence has created many jobs for foreigners ensuring that wealth distribution in Nepal is a truly transnational affair. If communists believe in wealth redistribution, then China is a shining example because it has the world’s largest number of billionaires. On the other hand, in capitalist America, Seattle is home to Boeing, Starbucks, Microsoft and Amazon, yet it has a huge problem with homelessness.

The number one reason for bankruptcy in the US and the world is medical bills. However, here in Nepal, the elderly and their illnesses create a huge potential for wealth distribution. Job creation and many are already getting their slice of this new economic pie.

Anil Chitrakar is President of Siddhartha.

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From luxury to necessity

There used to be a time long ago when listening to the radio was a luxury new to Nepal. And today, anyone who travels to rural Nepal can see how the media landscape has changed — there are satellite dishes on the roofs of almost every household.

Today 43% of the population consumes TV content daily, (SBACP Initiative Survey 2016) but behind this transformation of the media scene is a decade-long story of struggle.

Dish Media Limited, a broadband and transmission company with 30% market share in Nepal, otherwise known as Dish Home, was a pioneer in the field.

“Indian direct-to-home (DDTH) providers in Nepal created a hype in the early 2000s, attracting many media over the past with the promise of a growing market,” remembers Sudip Acharya, CEO of Dish Home (pictured, above).

The government granted authority to six companies to operate direct-to-home dish TV. Within a year, the market was saturated, M Vison, and Home TV by Satellite Channel merged to form Dish Home. The reason was simple: growth of the business called for more content purchase and updated satellite — meaning a large investment that would not provide quick returns, because growing the number of subscribers took time. Such risks were better shared with a team.

In 2013, Dish Home invested Rs 660 million in the business with loans from 14 banks and financial companies, but it still did not turn a profit. The company approached the market continuously and aggressively, guided by the tight to information and a mission to make TV a household necessity. Acharya says, “After years of hard work, by 2016 we can finally say that we have become a profitable media company reaching all corners of Nepal.”

Dish Home also operates many subsidiary channels such as Channel TV Show, DTV Show, The First Channel, Ramji DTV and DDTH Action Sports. It also broadcasts Indian serials and cartoons dubbed in Nepali, believing it could lead to the possibility of creating such content locally.

The main challenge for Dish Home is going fully digital to comply with the regulations of IFTU, the international governing body for communication technologies. Unlike in India or the US, where the government provides subsidies on set top boxes, adapters or other technologies to go digital, in Nepal customers go to such facilities. As a result, 65% of the company’s total subscription, mostly outside Kathmandu, is still analog. The open border with India also allows easy entry of illegal dishes.

Still, Dish Home is upbeat about the future. Dish Home is preparing for the World Cup Fever, broadcasting the games on DDTH Action Sports with live commentary in Nepali. “At the moment, we are keeping the identity of the commentator under wraps, but you surely don’t want to miss it,” says Acharya.

Siddhartha is a premium service, specially crafted for royalty and discerners, and now sign up for only Rs 2000 per month to get

Dining in the air

Qatar Airways launched a new onboard dining experience for its premium customers flying to Europe, with newly designed tableware, specially crafted tableware and cutlery, and new signature drink called Souq.

World class repair

Aerospace and aviation industry, maintenance, repair and overhaul arm of Turkish Airlines, signed a Global Fleet Care supplier agreement to collaborate in training and certification of technicians from different parts of the world. Turkish Airlines is now a strategic buying supplier for maintenance, repair and overhaul repair and airframe repair.

Siddhartha service

RML customers can now receive funds to Siddhartha Bank account from its pay wallet and e-wallet. All customers can also use these offers and clac (code-based) payment systems of RML pay to recharge and money transfer.
Who is playing in World Cup 2018?

Excitement is building for the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia, which begins from 14 June, with all 32 teams now traveling to Russia for the next edition of football’s showcase event.

Spectators and fans from all over the world are also arriving in Russia, where they will be able to experience Russian hospitality. With only three weeks to go until the opening match of the 2018 World Cup between Russia and Saudi Arabia at Moscow’s Luzhniki Stadium, hotels are getting filled up.

“We welcome all the teams who are coming here for the World Cup,” said goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev, wearing the shirt of reigning world champions Germany. “I think they’ll quickly be convinced that Russia is 100% ready for their arrival. Our country has staged plenty of major sporting events and important matches already. I hope every player, coach and fan enjoys Russia and its hospitality.”

After years of hard work, the host nation is eagerly looking forward to welcoming football fans and competing teams. “I hope everyone likes Russia,” said defender Sergei Ignashevich. “It’s summer here, the weather is wonderful and the people are friendly. I’m sure you’ll be happy.” fifa.com

MULTINATIONAL RUSSIA: The Russian national team, coaching and support staff this week posed for a squad photo donning the jerseys of every country competing at Russia 2018.

**COMPETING TEAMS**

**AUSTRALIA** - The Socceroos are in their 18th appearance at a World Cup. The team made the Round of 16 on two occasions. (Estonia 2002, Germany 2006)

**IRAN** - The Iranians have made the Round of 16 on two occasions. (Germany 2006, England 2006)

**JAPAN** - The Japanese have made the Round of 16 on two occasions. (South Korea 2002, Belgium 2014)

**SOUTH KOREA** - The Taeguk Warriors have been a World Cup ever-present since 1994.

**SAUDI ARABIA** - The Saudis made their World Cup debut at USA 1994.

**EGYPT** - The Pharaohs are making their first World Cup finals appearance since Egypt 1990.

**MOROCCO** - The Rifas have topped African zone Group C qualification.

**NIGERIA** - The Super Eagles have only missed one tournament since their debut at USA 1994.

**SENEGAL** - Senegal made their debut at Korea/Japan 2002, the lions of Teranga reached the quarter-finals.

**TUNISIA** - 1978, the Carthage Eagles became the first African team to win a World Cup match.


**MEXICO** - The Mexicans lost the only tournament to qualify for Russia 2018.

**BRAZIL** - Brazil are the only team to qualify for the World Cup finals. (Brazil 1950, Brazil 1958, Brazil 1970, Brazil 1990, Brazil 2002, Brazil 2014)

**ARGENTINA** - The two-time champions appeared at the inaugural edition at Uruguay 1930, the first team to qualify after hosts.

**GERMANY** - The defending world champions registered a 100% record in qualifying.

**ICELAND** - The smallest country by population ever to qualify for a World Cup.


**PORTUGAL** - A Sete de Juho de agosto are making a fifth-straight finals appearance.

**RUSSIA** - As the Soviet Union, the World Cup hosts finished fourth at England 1966.

**BELGIUM** - As Belgium, the Red Devils finished second at Uefa Group B in qualifying.

**GREECE** - The Greeks qualified for their World Cup debut at France 1998.

**DENMARK** - The Danes secured qualification with a comfortable play-off over Republic of Ireland.

**ENGLAND** - The Three Lions have made the finals 12 times from 16 qualifying campaigns.

**FRANCE** - Les Bleus are making a sixth-straight world finals appearance.

**SPAIN** - Champions in 2010, Spain’s World Cup debut was at Italy 1994.

**SWEDEN** - The Swedes were runners-up as World Cup hosts in 1958.

**SWITZERLAND** - The Swiss have reached the quarter-finals on three occasions.

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It is no secret that Nepal is one of the photogenic countries in the world. Picturesque Nepal is also reflected in its paintings, and Phewa and Machapuchre make it to any oil-on-canvas work. That is because, as Phewa, one of Nepal’s most remote districts, it takes at least two days just to get to the lake from Kathmandu—and that is by taxi. Surprisingly, it takes about the same time by long-distance night bus.

Which is why artists never really go there. However, 14 fine art students and their teachers braved the precarious journey to hold a five-day workshop and a Karnali’s first-ever modern art exhibition in Garmachhi of Mugu.

The paintings captured a wide range of natural and cultural aspects of Karnali, including the river, Chhayanath temple in Chaina village, and lifestyle of the surrounding villages. Local residents looked on with amazement as the artists staged a performance representing their experience of Karnali: they moved from one end of the town to another with painted faces and bodies, writing with chalk on the asphalt and rolling on it as the writing transferred to their bodies.

“Initially we were hesitant about the performance, wondering if anyone would understand it,” recalls Keshi Hamal, the only known fine-arts graduate and teacher from Karnali. “But we spread awareness about junk food and the health and environmental hazards they pose, we built awareness on understanding from the crowd.”

Hamal and the Karnali Arts Centre (KAC), which organised the event, also intended to get children interested in art, inviting over 2,000 students from 5 schools to the exhibition. Not only did children watch the paintings and performances with curiosity, but their parents also understood art as a career.

Mugu has been a buzz of modern art in Karnali of late, starting a decade ago when youngiers from the district entered Sunil Pokhrel’s Antran Gurukul to learn theatre, and created memorable dramas including Karnali Dakkhin Bagro Chha.

Local artists credit Min Shamb, a member of that generation, for opening the doors to modern art in Mugu. While Shamb went on to gain international success with his first movie Kulo Pothi, very little of Mugu’s engagement with modern arts has gone back to Mugu itself, with local residents unaware of modern styles of painting.

“Painting is the beginning of all forms of visual arts,” says Biraj Bhatt, president of KAC. “Other art forms like film and sculpture draw from colour, composition and design of paintings. So it is important to start making children aware of painting. We hope eventually to develop their creativity by encouraging them to make art.”

KAC hopes to also engage with the rest of Nepal through modern art. KAC has always been focused on traditional art, facilitating documentation and enactment of folk tales, songs and dances in the past, Karnali’s visually rich traditional arts including clothing, jewellery, dances, sculptures, and architecture remain isolated, and this is what KAC intends to change through painting.

“We want to showcase our traditional arts and make Karnali visible in the mainstream. To connect with the world and build a niche for Karnali’s artwork, we have to use modern means,” says Neupane. “Also, our way of life is fast disappearing, and painting is a way to archive it, too.”

With two paintings already sold in Garmachhi, the artists are positive about the scope for modern art in Mugu itself. KAC is exhibiting the paintings in Kathmandu soon.
Duksang Sherpa

Prithvi’s earthy art

Exploring the universal theme of ‘attachment’, Prithvi Shrestha blends various dimensions of existence, from the physical to the divine, into his subjects. His art is a reflection of life itself. Fifteen of these paintings created over the past year are now on display at the Siddhartha Art Gallery.

Inspired by the natural and physical surroundings, Shrestha’s art shows us manifestations of attachment and connectedness that we subconsciously have with everything. Through themes of rituals, festivals, mythologies, marriage and death, the artist expresses nuances — and how we long for it, even after life ends.

"Everything is connected, whether we consciously realise it or not. The actions of one affects all. And because everything is essentially connected through energy, there is attachment,” explains Shrestha, whose calm and serene persona is reflected in his paintings, all of which exude softness and gentleness.

Shrestha examines the delicate balance and inherent attachment we have with nature, culture, rituals, interactions and the increasing intrusion of technology that has seeped into and changed every aspect of our real and virtual worlds.

“Our lives used to revolve around god, nature and culture, out of which sprang everything else. But now, technology has entered this space. We humans are now adjusting to this new element which has changed traditional ways of interaction,” Shrestha says, painting a new painting titled ‘My Animal Self’. In it, the artist depicts himself with animals and there are deer in the background — all symbols of how technology impacts our everyday lives.

Every painting has the physical presence of a body in the form of animals and humans, the energy body through bubbles of power surrounding the figures, and a symbolic circuit board depicting the ever pervasive reach of information technology.

Shrestha is known for using himself as the subject of his artwork, the reason being that he has more artistic freedom when the subject is himself. He explains: “It is mainly so that I can do whatever I feel like with the subject, without having to explain much.”

“Attachment” is Shrestha’s fifth solo exhibition after seven years, and in that time he has been busy with numerous group exhibitions, workshops and performances, travelling within Nepal and abroad.

Shrestha, 42, says he wanted to be an artist from as far back as he can remember: “I was lucky to have an encouraging family who supported my decision, which made things a lot smoother for me.”

A student of fine arts from Tribhuvan University, Shrestha says he was inspired by his exposure to Japanese art culture during his college years, which fuelled his drive to create and cultivate a rich art culture in his own country.

Shrestha was the first recipient of the Himalayan Light Art Scholarship which made his current exhibition possible. The scholarship is sponsored by Chinese artist Zhao Jangin, who was greatly impressed by Nepali artists during his 2015 visit and exhibition in Nepal. He established the scholarship in collaboration with the Siddhartha Arts Foundation.

The Himalayan Light Art Scholarship supports up to two Nepal artists each year for the production and exhibition of their work. Says Zhou: “We hope to create an exchange for Chinese and Nepali artists in the future and promote a trans-Himalayan art exchange.”

Attachment by Prithvi Shrestha
Siddhartha Art Gallery
22nd May-20th June
Sunday-Friday 11am to 5pm
Saturday 12 noon to 5 pm

ATTACHED TO ART

Watch this video portrait of Nepali artist Prithvi Shrestha, and listen to him explain how he depicts the attachment to the physical and meta-physical pervading our everyday lives. And how art is changing with information technology.
Prithvi’s earthy art

Dukshang Sherpa

Exploring the universal theme of attachment, Prithvi Shertha blends various dimensions of existence, from the physical to the divine, as his subjects bubble with energy.

Shertha’s acrylic on canvas works take us on a journey of understanding various forms of attachment from the mundane to the spiritual, from personal possessions to life itself. Fifteen of these paintings created over the past year are now on display at the Siddharta Art Gallery.

Inspired by the natural and physical surroundings, Shertha shows us manifestations of attachment and connectedness that we subconsciously have with everything else. Through themes of rituals, festivals, mythology, marriage, and death, the artist expresses openness — and how long we live, even after life ends.

“Everything is connected, whether we consciously realize it or not. The actions of one affect all. And because everything is essentially connected through energy, there is attachment,” explains Shertha, whose calm and serene persona is reflected in his paintings, all of which exude softness and gentleness.

Shertha examines the delicate balance and inherent attachment we have with nature, culture, rituals, interactions and the increasing intrusion of technology that has seeped into and changed every aspect of our real and virtual worlds.

“Our lives used to revolve around god, nature and culture, out of which sprang everything else. But now, technology has entered this space. We humans are now adjusting to this new element which has changed traditional ways of interaction,” Shertha says, painting to a painting titled ‘My Animal Self’. In it, the artist depicts himself with animals and there are deer in the background — all symbols of how technology impacts our everyday lives.

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Attachment by Prithvi Shertha
Siddharta Art Gallery
28th May to 28th June
Sunday to Friday 11am to 5pm
Saturday 12 noon to 5 pm

ATTACHED TO ART

Watch this exclusive portrait of Nepali artist Prithvi Shertha, and learn in his own words how he injects the attachment to the physical art into physical painting as a sensory art. And how art is changing with information technology.

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HD Technology: Full HD Smart TV
Resolution: 1920 x 1080 pixels
Features: PotCare, Smart Hub, USB connection, one remote control, Evolution kit for software update, peer to peer contrast enhancement, TV as mobile mirroring, smart mode, Dolby Digital Plus, Smart View, Bluetooth audio, and more.
Offer: 1 + 2 cash back, 2 years warranty, 6% EMi on purchase, gift vouchers from Turkish Airlines, KIC hotels, Nayabasha Hospital and a lucky drawer for gift hampers.
OFFER PRICE: 133,300

SONY
Model: KD-49X7000F Bravia
Screen: 49 inch Edge LED
Operating system: Linux
HD Technology: 4K Ultra HD Internet TV
Resolution: 3840 x 2160 pixels
Features: 4K picture processor 4T, 4K X Reality PRO, Bluetooth and Smartphone connectivity, TRILUMINOS display, dynamic contrast enhancer, 4K X-tended Dynamic Range, Motionflow XR, 3D Ready, and more.
Offer: 20% cash back
OFFER PRICE: 124,000

Skyworth
Health tech integration
Model: 5500 Big Screen Android
Screen: 55 inch LED
Operating system: Android 6.0
HD Technology: 4K Ultra HD
Resolution: 3840 x 2160 pixels
Features: Powerful front soundbar, Dolby Digital and DTS
TrueSurround, metal frame design, Bluetooth connectivity, voice control, cinema and sports mode, Google Play Store, Google Cast
Offer: Up to 20% cash back
OFFER PRICE: 97,356

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Kathmandu, Nepal
Email: jnind10@gmail.com
SAMSUNG, LG, Skyworth and Sony all incorporate those latest features like 43-55 inch screens, 4K or full HD resolution, smart features, fine sound system and LED backlight.

Many companies are offering discounts up to 27% and gift vouchers this season. Some high-end brands are also offering limited editions. Skyworth's thinnest Wallpaper OLED, Samsung's 100% burn-in resistant QLED, Sony's smallest Bravia OLED. They will surely have a hole in your wads, but you won't mind when the games kick off.

"Get beyond your initial budget and purchase a higher-end TV with internet and the option to upgrade, so that you won't regret the decision for at least 5-6 years," advises Alok Gupta at Samsung in Kathmandu.

On your way to foreign meetings and invest in a high-end digital projector with a surround sound system to watch the action on your wall's virtual stadium. With TVs coming in all sorts to cash in on the football fever, this might be a good time to go for that flat-screen 4K you have been eyeing. These gadgets will entice FIFA, offering to your home entertainment system, and will be around for the 2023 games in Qatar.
EVENTS

Bird watching
Bird watching at Godawari Botanical Garden.
2 June, 7am onwards, Godawari Bus park, 9840905256

Himalayan travel mart
A travel trade show event for Himalayan Tourism Industry.
1-2 June, 8am-8pm, H2H Nepal Chapter, Gokarna, (01) 404016

Trisara food festival
A portferi blend of food, music and ambience, the most anticipated festival is finally here. Artists like Sawappa Sumun, Roshan Shriya, Jiew Shilcu, Trisara Adhikari, Subheda Rai Koirala and Sunita Mahat, performing at the event.
2 June, 1-7pm, Trisara, Lamjung, (01) 401200

Places Blues night
Old school Blues in The Midnight Riders is a weekend night call for a balanced comb of healthy food, drinks and music.
2 June, The Midnight Riders Restaurant and Bar, Thamel, (01) 470413

Nepal int’l book fair
2nd Nepal International Book Fair discussion program schedule at Bhairahi Maidan Hall.
Networking Educational Accessibility
2 June, 11am-12pm

My Kind of Kathmandu
2 June, 2pm-3pm
The Girl From Kathmandu: Tense, Dead Men (of Nepal) and Woman’s quest for Boulder by Cam Simpson
2 June, 1:30-2:30pm

Book Launch & Discussion on the book Youth of An Industry by Morita Shyam
1 June, 1:30-2:30pm

Discussion on an upcoming editing of English Nepali Comprehension Dictionary by Prof. Shumari Baj Pathak
1 June, 1:30-2:30

Book Talk Programme on Nepali from Fiber by Dharma Ratah Yami
1 June, 1:30-2:30pm

MUSIC

Grand Norling Hotel
Enjoy a calming and relaxing stay at the hand which provides spacious bedrooms with adjoining bathrooms, a large balcony with sights of the golf course, mountains, and deer herds, and not to forget, the garden.
Gokarna, (01) 4070077

Club Himalaya
For amazing mountain views and a refreshing weekend escape, special packages available.
Nagarkot, (01) 4473663

DINING

Embassy
Enjoy your meal in this centrally located restaurant known for its lively ambience and assorted menu. Try the Deep Fried shredded beef, served on a bed of mashed potatoes and roasted vegetables in a rich peppery beef sauce.
Opposite to Japanese Embassy, Lamjung, (01) 841220

ayleaf
Drop by the garden restaurant for Burmese dishes such as Burmese Tofu, Tine, Khao Suey, Tike, Mahanga (fish noodle soup) and other signature pork dishes.
Tangle, opposite Altec Bin, (01) 447449

Embers
A spacious yet cozy place serving a blend of continental and Nepalese cuisines. Try their traditional marinated boneless chicken kebab served with vegetable, rice and chutney.
Asha’s Gold, Patan, (01) 5533306

GETAWAY

Rupakot Resort
Get pampered in the lap of luxury amid stunning views of the Annapurna range.
Mindesto, Rupakot, (01) 4050667

The Last Resort
Sunny spot, Fotumal swamp, or white water rafting, take an adventurous trip to Brakhe Kosi River near the Tibetan border.
Shreekosh, Shingpouchok, (01) 470805

Megahuli Serai
Relax with fine dining and wildlife safaris in Chitwan at Taj Sauraj’s luxurious lodge.
Dharmasthali Resort, (01) 7210620

Kathmandu, 25 - 31 May

AIR QUALITY INDEX

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Kathmandu’s average daily quality was below the unhealthy and moderate days on the week. This pollution levels are very high throughout the day means that minimums from early waking, breakfast to midday to just before going in the valley for walking/hiking/fishing/paragliding less than 3.5 hours into the air, and tracking it at around. As we keep removing the pollutants from the air in the morning and evenings when the pollution levels are highest, and further restrictions along the lines. The city centre is particularly hazardous.
https://np.epapers.nepalbodies.gov.np/air-quality-monitoring/
Clash of cultures in Bhaktapur

The cancellation of a $10 million project to restore Bhaktapur’s damaged monuments is a lesson for future projects in a federal Nepal

Sewa Bhattarai

At a donor conference after the 2015 earthquake, more than $4 billion was pledged to Nepal by the international community, multilateral banks and aid agencies. Germany was prompt in signing a reconstruction agreement with the Finance Ministry in December 2015, for $30 million.

Three years and three agreements later, a part of the negotiations suddenly broke down last month, as the German government decided to withdraw from a project to restore monuments, schools and streets in Bhaktapur destroyed by the earthquake. This was surprising, since Germany, involved in Bhaktapur’s restoration since 1876, had allocated a third of its total outlay for earthquake reconstruction to Bhaktapur.

Embassy in Kathmandu contracted German Development Bank (KfW) as an implementing partner in heritage conservation. The bank has been active in Nepal’s hydropower, health and sustainable development projects. Being a bank, KfW had different and stricter operating procedures than the German aid agency GIZ and other non-profit.

Previously, Bhaktapur had rebuilt monuments like the historic 13th World Faluce with local means and expertise. KfW’s rules required international bidding, and its inability to alter this procedure as demanded by fiercely independent-minded Bhaktapur leadership after last year’s elections, led to a deadlock.

“Locally led construction gives better quality at lower cost,” says Mayor Sunil Prajapati, pointing out that Bhaktapur is already working with local user committees to rebuild damaged monuments, and 27 have been restored by the municipality and the Department of Archaeology.

However, these are smaller monuments with budgets up to Rs1.5 million each, and larger complexes like the Patuji Math, Phasi Dega, National Art Museum (formerly a Rana palace) still await restoration.

Piecing together accounts of the negotiations from both sides, what appears to have led to the deadlock was a clash of cultures. The Germans, used to lack of frequency in other projects in Nepal, wanted to ensure full compliance with the rules of its bank. On the process, Bhaktapur’s leaders, on the other hand, didn’t want to be told what to do when they felt perfectly capable of carrying out their own restoration.

The main point of dispute appears to have been KfW’s insistence that the reconstruction contract be open to a global tender process, international consultants and the possible use of modern construction materials as has been done in previous German restoration here, including the octagonal Chaste Dega.

Bhaktapur has always aspired for independence, not just from foreign donors, but Kathmandu. Its political landscape has been dominated by the Nepal Worker’s and Peasants Party (NWPP) under Nepalese Man Bijikashi who is not shy about his own admiration of the North Korean ideology of self-reliance called ‘Juche Idea’.

Mayor Prajapati is from the NNP and won a landslide in last year’s municipal elections. In an interview with Nepal Times last week he sounded defiant: “We will not tolerate foreign interference in the name of aid. We will not let our sovereignty be compromised.”

Hijikashi has now retired from politics, especially because Bhaktapur stood to lose so much promised aid at a time when cash crunch is the main reason for delays in reconstruction. Prajapati was adamant: “Without foreign aid, it may take us longer to rebuild these monuments, but we have now decided that it is the best way.”

Some experts are not convinced that losing the KfW aid was good for Bhaktapur. “That amount would have been enough to reconstruct all of Bhaktapur’s monuments and more,” said Rahul Puri, Bhaktapur’s noted heritage conservationist. “It is a great loss for Bhaktapur that the two parties could not come to an agreement.”

For others, this is a lesson in how not to negotiate in Nepal’s new federal state structure, where local elected leaders are more vocal about what they want. Bhaktapur’s politicians may have blocked the agreement when they found architects and engineers at KfW College would lose out in the bidding system. Meanwhile, KfW could have predicted the fiercely independent spirit of Bhaktapur’s leaders, and fielded locals who spoke Nepal Times from Monsoon Deugol in Bhaktapur.

HEAD TO HEAD

We thank those who help us, but ultimately it is our decision. Foregoing aid may look like a loss from outside, but it is in the long term benefit of the town.

Sunil Prajapati, Mayor of Bhaktapur

At a time when only 75% of the aid pledged in 2015 has actually materialized, and only 16% of the money has been disbursed, the cancellation of a $10 million restoration initiative for Bhaktapur was a big loss for the country. Nepal Times has tried to piece together what went wrong.

This was the first time that the German Embassy in Kathmandu contracted German Development Bank (KfW) as an implementing partner in heritage conservation. The bank has been active in Nepal’s hydropower, health and sustainable development projects. Being a bank, KfW had different and stricter operating procedures than the German aid agency GIZ and other non-profits.

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Those involved did actually try their best. If one modality of cooperation does not work, for a short period of time, it is not the end of the world, is it?

Roland Schäfer, German Ambassador to Nepal

Consultants: KfW required international technical consultants on board. Bhaktapur believed its Khwopa Engineering College had the expertise in reconstruction.

Materials: KfW asked Bhaktapur to be open to using concealed modern materials like cement and steel. Bhaktapur refused to compromise on the use of local materials.

Bidding: Bhaktapur was adamant on employing local user committees for construction. KfW said it rules required an international tender.

Style: For Rana-era buildings like Nepal Art Museum, KfW preferred to rebuild in existing neo-classical design. Bhaktapur wanted to go further back to its Malla-era style.

Dispute Resolutions: Bhaktapur objected to the clause ‘taking all disputes to German courts’. KfW said this was standard language in international contracts.
Solo: A Star Wars Story

The new film about Han Solo, one of the most beloved characters of the Star Wars universe, starts off slowly but, to be quite frank, a bit boring during its opening sequences. As I watched the dull, clichéd origin story of Han Solo (played to the best of his ability by Alden Ehrenreich) unfold, I felt déja vu that this film could possibly ruin what started off promisingly as a fun, more than competent possible future classic addition to the Star Wars universe precipitated by Disney’s acquisition of Lucasfilm. Fortunately, the film picks up after Han finally meets his real true love, the furry Chewbacca, who more or less steals the show with his expressive moans in a few memorable, hilarious moments. Thankfully, Ehrenreich’s Han is not alone, his other first true love, Qi’ra, who significantly ups the quality on show, is played by the lovely and immensely likable Emilia Clarke, who made her name through the Game of Thrones TV adaptations as Daenerys Targaryen.

As the two battle to stay together in a universe that is incredibly cruel to those who do not wield power, money, and have access to cosmic super fuels that power a ship’s ability to jump into hyperspace, they meet a few characters that have now become part of the Star Wars lore, starting with Lando Calrissian (played by Donald Glover), and, of course, the Millennium Falcon, who by now should be acknowledged as a character in her own right.

Things pick up, there are surprises, none of which I can relay here, partly because that would spoil your fun, and partly because of the outside of the Star Wars fan universe, I would sound crazy trying to distill a complex plot involving glowing fuel, distant universes, strange galaxies, lightspeed, and sassy dirtbags to a reader base that may not be able to process that level of fantastical space related detail in mere written form.

The main problem here, even when the film takes off, pardon the pun, is that Ehrenreich is no Harrison Ford, and just as this year’s Tomb Raider mistakenly cast the dull as dishwater Alicia Vikander, who could not rise up to her predecessor, the scintillating, simpering Angelina Jolie, so too is Ehrenreich cursed by the shadows of Ford, though admittedly he never falls as short as Vikander’s embarrassingly bland Lars Croft.

The film is set up for further cinematic development, and I for one would jump at the chance to see more of Chewy, Lando, Qi’ra, and another young woman who comes late into the film but is so righteous that it would be worth a sequel just to see more of her.

Do not be discouraged, if you can get through the first interminable twenty-five minutes of this particular Star Wars film, you’ll have a lot of fun. So enjoy your Star Wars immersion. I found myself thinking about the film later on, and wondering how the characters might develop, always a good sign for a film that began so woefully.

Watch trailer online
nepaltimes.com

TEMPLE TEMPLATE: Prithi B Pant of Nepal Investment Bank and Norwegian Ambassador Lone Bjørn Johannessen sign a Rs 12.7 million grant agreement to restore the Baktapur temple destroyed in the 2015 quake. Minister Gyawaling J.B. Sherpa, Rural Reconstruction Minister Ramji Dangol, then Mayor Chitrak Bin Chaudhary and Deputy Mayor Gita Subedi look on. Pant and Mayor Mahatnlar pledged another Rs6 million each for the restoration.

EVEREST 65: (From left to right) honorary New Zealand Consul General Lisa Chagbu, British Ambassador Richard Morris, New Zealand Ambassador Joanna Kemppinen, Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Sabina Aryal Adhikari and China Group of KAMA Nepal at a function to mark the 65th anniversary of the first ascent of all three on 25 May at the British Embassy.

TOILET TALK: More than 30 sanitation experts from 35 countries gathered in Kathmandu for a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation sponsored initiative to set standards for a new generation of toilets that do not produce waste.

STITCHING THE SOCIAL FABRIC: International Women’s Sewing Group celebrates its 60-year anniversary in Kathmandu on Monday. The group was started in 1957 by Tarcea Shrestha, Lady Sopies (wife of then British Ambassador) and Lottie White (social worker and Rastriya Times).
it takes the whole day to reach Syamrup from the highway in Chitwan. Four hours by jeep and five hours walk across rugged mountains. Approaching the village, there are people and children in ragged clothes. The elderly look ill and there are young children crying baby sibs.

These Chepang villages do not have roads, electricity, education or health. On the next ridge is the village of Kanda, where eight villagers died eating poisonous mushrooms ten years ago. Houses destroyed by the earthquake have been roughly patched up with metal sheets.

Syamrup’s only school has two small classrooms crammed with students – one room has children from Grade 1-3, and other has students from Grades 4 and 5. The damaged classrooms are being repaired, but it may take years.

Most students drop out after Grade 5 because higher classes are four hours walk away across jungle mountains. Some kids repeating Grade 5 just like her mother. There are no buses to the next village which has become a focus for researchers. Children’s study habits have changed because the school stops at Grade 5, and many girls get married off soon after, thinks Bipasha Bahadur Chepang. “The problem is lack of awareness because of lack of education,” he says.

Simana Praja has been in Grade 5 in Syamrup for the last three years, she says it is too difficult and expensive to continue her studies elsewhere. “If I had been able to continue my studies I would be in Grade 8 by now.”

Captions
Stuck: Children are eager to learn as they begin schooling, but soon feel stuck because the nearest school with grade 6 is 4 hours away.

More than a decade ago, Dimpya Chepang, 13, attended grade 5 classes for three years in a row, so that she would not forget how to read. Her three children face the same fate.
Does Nepal need a 4th international airport?

In 1994, when Nepal was identified as the site of Nepal’s planned new international gateway, traffic congestion at Kathmandu Airport was not as bad as it is today. It was difficult then to justify a new international airport so far from Kathmandu.

So, Nepal was projected to be not just an airport serving the capital, but a regional hub for international destinations. Since the 1990s, however, traffic volume has increased rapidly, and there is now a new political approach to delaying the project for decades.

Today, ultra-long-range airliners do not need refueling and transit stops. The trend is towards point-to-point service with equipment like the Boeing 787 or Airbus A350. However, traffic volume has exceeded the Tribhuvan International Airport’s current capacity, and Nepal may find private sector destinations difficult to accommodate.

The government has been moving forward with private sector involvement, and a new international airport has been proposed.

In an interview with Nipal Times, Father Development and Civil Aviation Minister Baburam Adhikari announced that the bidding process will start in six months and the construction will be completed by 2022.

Cost analysts estimate that the airport will cost $12 billion and will be completed by 2024.

But there are two more international airports coming up in Bhairawa and Pokhara...

You cannot compare Bhairawa and Pokhara with Lhasa. Even Kathmandu will match Lhasa’s airport scale and scope. It will be an international hub — a real game changer for Nepal’s economy. International flights from over 100 cities will be landing every day. The airport is set to accommodate millions of passengers by 2022.

Why not upgrade nearby Simara airport instead of creating a new one? Simara is not good enough. It has a very small runway and is not suitable for larger aircraft.

Simara airport is not a good enough option for an international airport. The runway is too short and does not have sufficient runway length.

This is a good opportunity to develop the airport. The airport’s location is within two hours of Lhasa and 24 hours of Mumbai. It is a strategic location for a new international airport.

But Simara is just 10 km away from Lhasa. Yes, but even that short distance makes a huge difference.

Nepal has only one entry point for international flights from Indian air space. We don’t need more routes through Pokhara, Bhairawa, and Lhasa. We need a new airport in the Kathmandu region.

Nepal is a landlocked country and does not have the luxury of having multiple entry points.

But where are the local people? They are saying that it is not a good idea. People think that it is better to have a new airport in the Kathmandu region. However, this is not a good idea.

Are you seriously proposing a new airport in Kathmandu? It is a serious issue because we will face traffic congestion at Kathmandu Airport by 2030.

Nepal will face traffic congestion at Kathmandu Airport by 2030. The airport will need to expand every year and the government has already allocated 127 billion to the airport project.

We need more international airports in Nepal, but we need to think about the location and the scale of the airport. The拟建的新国际机场将对Nepal的经济造成重大影响。
pushed by politicians seeking fame and fortune, and will put future generations of Nepali in debt.

They say the hub argument doesn’t work anymore because longer-range aircraft do not need stopovers, and anyway, the cost of aviation turbine fuel in Nepal is double than other airports in the region. Nepal Airlines is also not ready to be a long-haul carrier that can use Nigad for international transit passengers.

Aviation analyst Hemanta Aryal says: “Nepal can build a hub airport, but whether it will actually evolve into a hub depends on how convenient international airlines find it.”

Aryal argues that any international airport needs a big enough catchment area, and for Nigad that will be Kathmandu. “If passengers cannot reach Kathmandu within a hour after landing at Nigad, this multi-billion dollar airport will fail,” he says.

“So, the key to Nigad’s success will be how fast the fast track to the ‘Tera’ will be.”

Minister Adhikari argues that only 10% of passengers flying into Nigad will be to or from Kathmandu, the other will be using it to fly on to international destinations, or reach domestic points. But aviation experts are skeptical, and say the whole hub concept is outdated and misplaced.

Retired Nepal Airlines captain Y B Bhattarai, who at the time was the plan to develop Nigad as an international hub ‘a flight of imagination’. He says the government should have considered geopolitical realities, and the modern aviation market in the Asia-Pacific.

“Let us build Nigad, but only after taking into account that Nepal’s air space is enclosed by a country that does not give us anything easily or freely,” he says. “Nigad’s future as an aviation hub is in India’s hands, and building a mammoth airport without taking air routes into account is like putting the cart before the horse.”

Sharan is a member of a task force that will recommend ways to improve aviation sector. He has experience of Indian air traffic controllers restricting elevation and route clearance for flights to and from Nepal. India has refused inbound air routes through Bahundanda and Jakharkot because its air forces base is near the Nepal border. This is unlikely to be resolved in talks with the Airports Authority of India next month.

Meanwhile, congestion at Kathmandu airport being used as a justification for Nigad. Some critics say the airport’s $100million ADB supported expansion project is being deliberately delayed to justify Nigad. Airport, taxiway and terminal building extension and better air traffic management could ease the present congestion, and keep Kathmandu airport viable for decades more.

Despite its cost, however, Nigad now seems to be a political air-soft. Even infrastructure experts like Surya Raj Acharya say: “We should have built Nigad at least a decade ago.”

The last patch of Char Kose Jhari

The Char Kose Jhari used to be a strip of dense natural jungle in the Tarai separating the Chure Range from the Indian plains. After the eradication of malaria, the forests were cleared by settlers from the northern and from India. Construction of the East-West Highway in the 1970s, transmission lines, the 1980s referendum, all helped to strip this primary hardwood forest to a few remaining patches.

Nigad airport and the expressway linking its Kathmandu will overcome the last remaining expanse of this once vast jungle. In all, the Nepal Army is preparing to lose 3.4 million trees in a swath of 80km – wiping out the last remaining migration corridor for endangered wildlife such as tigers, depopulating the buffer zone of the Tarai Wildlife Reserve, and removing vegetation that recharges groundwater. Conservationists also worry that a huge potable water rights in a nature sanctuary will also disturb wildlife.

Although the government claims that setting the available timber from the site will fetch nearly Rs7 billion, it will prevent 22,500 tons of carbon from being sequenced in the vegetation annually, which in turn will deprive Nepal of earning Rs50 million annually from the global carbon fund. The economic value of oxygen lost due to deforestation for Nigad airport is huge: Rs 250 billion, and that is not counting the airport’s own carbon footprint.

Biodiversity expert Prabhu Budhathoki, a former member of Nepal Planning Commission, explains: “This is going to be the most serious deforestation of the Tarai in the last 50 years, it will affect wildlife, and also damage hydrological ecosystems and agriculture.”

Budhathoki argues that keeping the forest for Nigad airport is a bad precedent, and show that juggling is expensive and have to make way for new physical infrastructure. The airport is the latest example of the need to balance economic needs with environmental protection, even though the main argument against the project is its cost and economic viability. The airport has piled challenges against environmental infrastructural expert Surya Raj Acharya maintains that the airport is so necessary that losing 3.4 million trees is “nothing compared to its economic advantage”.

MEMORIAL OF A MILITARY SECRETARY NOW IN ENGLISH

Published by Fineprint Pvt Ltd, Bishalnagar, Kathmandu, Tel: 4443203/4421661

The massacre that tolled the death knell for the monarchy: The deadly night that altered the course of Nepali politics and society. The inside story of the royal palace, told in gripping detail by the man in the eye of the storm.

Buy the book online at www.bookworm.com.np
Heavenly abode

Nepal used to be run by a coterie of four families, and thanks to the principle of democratic centralism pursued by the Nepal Communist Party (Buddhist-led). It is now under control of a two-man syndicate.

The dispensation has decreed that there is no reason for MPs with criminal records to resign just as yet from the August House — they can stay till September. MPs also threatened to boycot Parliament unless their discriminatory excuses for legislative development were increased.

For those of you who just tuned in, here is a brief recap: Nepal as we know it will go to a habitual syndicate are barren. Better sense has prevailed in the nick of time, however, and we have been saved from the savages of transparency and accountability. Where, that was close.

Attention lacking, go on a strike to be allowed to sight off roads in the route from India, task castles staged a show of force for the rights of fleeing passengers, and estates granting hajmep inspection by exigency continue to commit adultery on food. It is now the turn of gold smugglers who have threatened to go on strike unless the “testing” at Englewood International Airport (TIA) is relaxed. For their year-end’s pro-management service to the nation, all police, immigration and customs officials and agents will be rewarded the nation’s highest gold medals on the Republic Day. We cannot forget their contribution to usher Nepal into a golden era of federation and monarchy.

The bus mafia has now thankfully been allowed to ply unhindered because of prompt action by Minister Raghubir Mahato. Now that God child Shangri has been forgiven for mauling a journalist in Bhaktapur next to a presidential pardon? Nepal will soon be the first country in the world to discern military menace.

We can make legal greater again by removing all interdicted Democratic People’s Republic of Nepal (DPRK, Underlined) can only attain stability and prosperity if roads are allowed to shoot other clauses without fear of arbitrary arrest or enforced disappearance, whichever comes first.

And to end this bulletin of news, here is the point you should not miss: Prime Minister Oli has announced that lapdogs who can’t use laptops will no longer be rechristened, and they cannot pin other Nepalis in heaven in ten years time.