The great march

Prime Minister K P Oli's political roller-coaster of a career has rocketed to new heights, thanks to a trip to Beijing. Now, the prime minister is promising a more stable ride to prosperity for Nepal.

Oli met Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday, and the symbolism of two powerful Communist leaders of neighbouring countries shaking hands was not lost on anyone. The question now is: how much in Oli going to borrow from China's methodology of prosperity?

After Oli and Xi met, Nepali and Chinese officials announced a joint venture to build a hydropower project in the Marsyangdi cascade (600 MW), Kali Gandaki Gorge (164 MW) and Tribhuvan Gahuni (75 MW), China will also help Nepal establish a $10 million cement factory, a $40 million fruit processing facility, and promote the tourism industry.

Then on Thursday, Oli and his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang signed 10 more MoUs on even more ambitious projects: the Kerang-Kathmandu Railway, cross-border transshipment lines, trade corridors and connectivity. A detailed survey of the trans-border railway will be completed in six months, and the first Chinese train will arrive in Kathmandu in six years. All this is expected to boost further Chinese investment, trade and tourism.

President Xi will visit Kathmandu next year, the first Chinese head of state to do so in 22 years. In 2016, when Oli visited China during his previous tenure, he made New Delhi anxious by deliberately showing a Beijing tilt. India punished him by allegedly helping topple his coalition, but Oli's nationalistic stand gave him an election victory last year.

Oli has now patched up with Indian Prime Minister Modi, and is deftly balancing Nepal's ties with both neighbours. Chinese leaders have constantly reminded Nepal's leaders of the need to work with India. Oli seems to have taken that advice to heart.

"Oli's China visit will not irk India because he has already taken Modi into confidence, and New Delhi and Beijing now have a better rapport," says MP Abhishek Pratap Shah.

What worries some, like political analyst Hari Sharma, is that Oli may be too enthusiastic in replicating the Chinese path to prosperity by copying its centralised one-party control.

He says Xi and Modi are the two sides of the same coin, and Oli seems to admire their style and ideology. "The establishment wants to prove that Nepal's problems all stem from political polarisation, and a strong and stable government is a cure-all," Sharma says. "Oli now looks emboldened about controlling power like Xi or Modi as a pretext to achieving stability and prosperity."

Emulating the Chinese model could bring stability, but Sharma warns it will undermine the core values of democracy, pluralism and an open society. Om Astha Rai
WHAT CHINA REALLY WANTS

W

ithin two months of assuming power, Xi Jinping is set to lead the most powerful government in Nepal's democratic history. Prime Minister K P Oli has visited India and China in the last two weeks.

The last time Oli was in China in early 2018, he was just coming out of a infamous Indian Blockade, and he was heading a coalition that would soon collapse as the Maoists suddenly switched sides.

At that time, Oli's main agenda was to discuss his case at India and send the message that Nepal could, if pushed into a corner, lean on China. He agreed with Chinese leaders on a treaty (treaty) arrangement and a route for the sea to China through a Chinese port as part of the Belt and Road Initiative. They also talked about Chinese financial aid along the northern border to diversify Nepal's sources of imports. The extension of the Tibet Railway from Kunming to Kathmandu and Lumbini were discussed.

Even though they were largely symbolic, the deals were designed to allow for disengagement in the Indo-China media. It worked. The New Delhi press and establishment went into predictable paroxysms over 'Chinese intrusions into Nepal'.

The handshake between K P Oli and Xi Jinping on Wednesday was not just between Nepal and China, it was between two monopoly Communist parties that now enjoy near-unechallanged rule over their countries.

One thing hanging over this visit is that Oli is now seen in Beijing to be a bit fickle and erratic. Back home, Oli's nationalist hue has been somewhat tarnished — he is seen to have been overboard to please an India he once portrayed as a menacing bully.

For the past two centuries, Nepal has always walked a tight rope, trying to balance relations with its two big neighbors. Successful rulers of Nepal have already tried to play the Chinese and the Indians to their advantage. Although that worked in the 1960s, it hadn't since — until 2016. Beijing tried to press home the advantage of strong anti-Indian feeling in the Nepali public post-Blockade on investment, trade and Tibet.

Nepal is now at a critical juncture in its history. It is a time when it has to decide whether to forge ahead or fall behind. The country is at a crossroads, and the choice it makes will determine its future.

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Sonia Awale

OPEN AIR

The first step in reducing air pollution is letting the public and governments know how bad it is.

Christa Hasenkopf
OpenAQ

Data this winter showed that Nepal’s mountain cities and the Tarai had some of the worst air quality in the world – sometimes dirtier than Beijing and Delhi. On 29 April this year, the AQI for Kathmandu was nearly double that in Beijing (133) and New Delhi (67) measured at the same time.

Christa Hasenkopf, atmospheric scientist and co-founder of OpenAQ, world’s first real time air pollution data platform, was in Nepal this week for a series of workshops on ensuring that air pollution measurements have an impact on policy formulation and decision making by raising public awareness and sensing government officials.

Hasenkopf had previously worked in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, which also has high levels of pollution, and says making real-time pollution data available to the public can move governments to act.

“Nepal has had more political will for air pollution than many places I’ve visited before,” she told Nepal Times in an interview. “By no means has the issue been solved, but what’s happening here is in terms of engagement and passion for air quality and how it has evolved is phenomenal.”

For the past two winters Kathmandu has been blanketed in dust raised by post-earthquake reconstruction, endless road widening, and pipe-laying work for the Melamchhi project. This added to vehicular pollution and smog from the Indian plains that also included heavy smoke from crop residue burning this year.

Kathmandu was shrouded in a perpetual pall of dust and smoke.

Hospitals reported record numbers of patients with respiratory illness including Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases, bronchitis, asthma, emphysema and lung cancer.

Moreover, findings from a study conducted by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago last year showed that worsening air pollution is decreasing life expectancy of South Asians, and of Nepal by up to four years.

All this has provoked a public outcry and increased awareness about health implications of poor air, but the government has been slow to act. It just revoked a law banning vehicles more than 20 years old, and emission tests and green stickers can be easily bypassed. Even so, change is in the air since local governments are elected last year after 20 years.

“There has been a very visible change since last year’s local elections,” noted Saba Siaha, Science, Technology and Health Officer for South Asia based at the US Embassy in Kathmandu, “people in cities like Kathmandu and Pokhara are well aware of the hazards of air pollution and are speaking out.”

While public awareness has spurred private institutions and the government to monitor air quality, battling pollution requires a long-term effort along with public engagement and political will, and Nepal lags far behind on the policy front, like neighbouring Claims that is switching to electric vehicles and green energy.

“Nepal has made progress to air quality data. This gap in information is a major problem when advocating for policy change,” said Hasenkopf, adding that while access to open data and its dissemination to the community through media, academic papers on public health, and social networking sites can have a huge impact, the next step is to ensure clean air at the policy level.

Sonia Awale

Food and football

It is a great downpour when you have to mop the kitchen during a much anticipated World Cup match. You want to watch the exciting game, but you also want a nice spread of snacks to enjoy the action along with it. This is the perfect time when a food delivery system comes handy. Making the love of football fans a little easier, Foodmannc recently launched a World Cup campaign, ‘Chase Your Team’ with discounts of up to 40%. The campaign allows customers to predict the results of a game after ordering a meal. If your prediction is right, you win a 10% discount voucher along with some points. The contestant with highest number of points at the end of the tournament will get a chance to win a 43” Samsung FHD Smart TV.

“Through this campaign we not only wish to be a part of the football experience, but also offer our customers great deals,” says Manish Adhikari, Founder of Foodmann.

Besides the Order, Predict, Win campaign, Foodmann also has combo meals and discovers food items. Orders can be placed until 11:00 pm: Tasty and convenient.

Drinks

Brick (Save 32%) 50 pieces of Chicken Steam mas Rs 100
BFS (Save 18%) Super trio combo: 4 Ice-Cream, 1 if to go, 8 Barbeque Chips Chicken Rs 150
OUNT (Save 23%) Newari Meal Platter large Rs 999

The Crust Pizza (Save 40%) 12” (with 12 variants available) Rs 916-164

VALUE MEALS

Bawlachi (Save 24%) Non Veg Combo

1 Chicken lollipop, 3 Chicken Tikka, 1 Chicken Chilly, 1 Chicken Chilly Rs 200
2 Veg Combos
1 Bowmandy, 1 Harabachi Kaju, 3 Veg Lollipops, 2 Veg Chillys, 1 Chicken Combo Rs 160

OURNAL (Save 23%) Newari Meal Platter large Rs 999

Beverages

BEVERAGES OFFER Black Label (Save 6%) Rs 909 Chips ‘n Regal (Save 6%) Rs 913 Jack Daniels (Save 7%) Rs 982 Khukuri Rum (Save 10%) Rs 1,179

AMAZING OFFERS

Champagne (Save 10%) Oshtrich (980/-) Khukkura Timur : 770/-
Grilled Ostrich masala Rs 900 Staff

Generic (Save 20%)

20% on all chicken products.

Glenmorangie (Save 20%)

Swift car

CG Motors, distributor of Suzuki has unveiled in Nepal has launched a few more service to Mykonos, Greece, via

Island dreams

Tour operators have added Mykonos, one of the biggest cities of Greece, its network, operating three times a week from 16. The flight time to the trip are fast and comfortable. You can book your trip at www.suzukicars nepal.com.

Budding bilateral trade

Nepal-Pakistan relations between Pakistan and China (CPEC) a joint venture is set to sign a deal on October 31. Both the countries have signed a framework agreement to develop a multimodal transportation system.

Doha to Mykonos

In addition to Mykonos and Doha, Qatar Airways has launched a few more weekly service to Mykonos, Greece, via

Futuristic lubricant

The Pouring Point lubricant company launched a new packaging range for its flagship brand MEX LUBRICANTS. Designed by M.T. Tao Bac, the package features futuristic 4ml capsules, tamper evident caps, biodegradable paper and ice pack. On the front, come in 4 colours: red, blue, grey and green.

pratapchandra.com
Nepal in grip of World Cup fever

Monika Deupala
in Bhaktapur

The World Cup fever 2018 happening in Russia this month has excited the world, as more than 3 billion people across the globe tune in to the matches.

The greatest soccer showcase may have united the world, but the teams have divided it into rival territories. People in some areas of Kathmandu Valley are ardent supporters of Latin American teams like Brazil and Argentina, while others are rooting for European giants like Germany, Spain and England because of the popularity of celebrity league players.

The fan base is even segregated by neighbourhoods here in Kathmandu, with some fans rooted to Brazil flags and people wearing yellow jerseys, while people in an adjacent locality are fierce Argentina loyalists.

Deupala Oli of Jhapa, who now lives in Kathmandu, posted on his Facebook wall a video of himself performing a pujai and chanting a Samkar mantra, praying for Argentina's win. His wife and little daughter, both wearing Argentinean jerseys just like him, also sat cross-legged devotionally throughout the ritual. But Messi failed to convert a penalty, and the Argentines were frustrated by Iceland, a World Cup first-timer with just 300,000 people and amateur footballers.

Two football fans — one supporting Brazil and the other rooting for Argentina, have released a duet on YouTube in which they praise their own favourites.

Large flags of Argentina and Brazil hang over Bhaktapur's alleys, and have themselves become as much of a tourist attraction as the temples, with foreigners taking selfies in front of them. In Kathmandu, small flags of Germany have gone on sale after the team lost 1-4 to Mexico and dropped to the bottom of the group ranking.

Armoil Bhandari of Dhading is a huge fan of Argentina and its star striker Lionel Messi. For the World Cup, he has modified his bike with an Albiceleste flag and a picture of Messi. Many people are posting screenshots of games on their social media pages, trolling losing teams and celebrating victories.

Schools in Kathmandu have shut to deal with students wearing Messi or Ronaldo jerseys inside their uniform. Some schools have even allowed students to wear their favourite teams' jerseys instead of uniforms. After school, impromptu matches take place in the halls and in any open space.

For many, the timing of World Cup 2018 is just right. People are setting down with snacks and drinks by 9-45 pm and watching all three matches till two in the morning. Cakes and restaurants across the capital advertise special screenings on large screens. Attendance at schools and offices has fallen, and many arrive at work with bleary eyes, wearing jerseys of favourite players. During meetings, many are scrolling through phones to see who is playing next and what the scores are.

There are a lot of people betting on the games and scores, and this has added passion and excitement to an already gripping game.

Anil Thakur who runs a salon in Sitapala is doing brisk business, giving dozens of fans special World Cup haircuts. Even those who don’t need a haircut are getting shaved or made over.

"Customers tell me about their favourite players and their haircuts, and I just do my tricks," says Thakur. A normal haircut costs Re 1, but Thakur can charge up to Rs 3,000 for the really special ones. The photo of Jeetan Giri whose haircut spells the name of Portuguese soccer player Cristiano Ronaldo, by EPA photographer Narendra Shrestha, listed the newsfeed of many social sites.

"Coke Khum, Russia Jeant" promotional campaign of Coca-Cola has sent 40 lucky winners to witness the game live in Russia this year. The games are being broadcast live on NTV, NTV Plus, Kantipur and DHI ACTION SPORTS every day. Says Hari Maharjan, a satellite dish installer: "Business has never been better. I installed TVs for 12 new customers just today, and many want to upgrade to HD. Some even inquire about illegal Indian dishes that have the games on OK."
The cantankerous conservationist

Humans took breakfast in a cage on Billy Arjan Singh’s veranda while tigers roamed free.

Maybe it was the only way to save tigers, but Jim Edwards had a fearsome reputation for being crusty, cantankerous, and unwilling to compromise when it came to the protection of the wild places he loved and championed. Possibly India’s finest conservation activist, infuriating and infuriated with ignorance and complacency of bureaucracy, his life was one long battle to save India’s wildlife from extinction.

An aging retelling typewriter was Billy’s chosen weapon, barring politicians, hamstringing the forest department, and firing volley of vehement advocacy in articles and books. He wrote: ‘Some natural resources are simply irreplaceable. It is imperative that men should learn to live with other species on this planet, as these other forms of life must be allowed to exist as part of nature’s evolutionary plan.’

Billy’s campaign headquarters was Tiger Haven, a farmhouse on the edge of Dudhwa forest from where he waged war on the authorities in defiance of India’s wild places. He believed that as long as the big cats flourished as apex predators, a healthy jungle would be secured. He advocated for Dudhwa to become a sanctuary and led a controversial experiment to supplement its depleted leopard and tiger populations by relocating captive cats back into the wild.

I first met Billy when we crossed the Nepal border and visited Tiger Haven in the western Indian state of the Survival Anglia film crew in 1983. He had heard of Tiger Tops but was deep down an advocate of big cats and the media was then relevant to his conservation struggles. He told us later he only agreed to meeting because the telegram announcing our arrival read ‘Get Jim Edwards instead of Jim’.

The cleft of Billy’s weight training regime penetrated the early morning mist – he kept himself fighting fit. Spoons in shorts, long socks and leather boots, his knees bulged and he could lift the growing cats into his old green jeep for a drive to acquaint them with their natural prey. He built machan tree platforms deep in the jungle to familiarise the leopards with their new terrain and hone their hunting instincts.

Billy was anxious to bring her safely home from the flooding jungle. Jim Edwards tells how the river was a raging brown torrent, eddying and overflowing its dense tangled banks. ‘It was almost impossible for anyone to have controlled the boat against the current to a safe landing, but he wouldn’t allow us to help due to Harriet’s sensitivity. We were all spellbound watching Billy complete this manoeuvre. A few hours later he came back with Harriet and her cubs in the punt, again a tremendously dangerous journey.

Billy’s crusade was tireless, adamantine and intractable, but often ended in despair and disappointment. None of the leopard relocation teams, Harriet, Juliette and Mameena, ended happily. Stories are told of him banging heads together when he encountered jungle poachers and threaten at them with his gun. Dismayed forest officers and villagers united against him, accusing him of creating man-eaters and laying down poison.

Billy himself had an extraordinary rapport with the semi-wild cats and warned others to stay away, but they had no fear of humans, and as they reached maturity there were too many domestic animal casualties and human near-misses – a young English guest was struck down by the shower, there were attacks on Billy’s staff, and then on two occasions tragedy struck when a local child was accidentally killed straying too close to the farm. But Billy’s dogged persistence won success and influential admirers. Prime minister Indira Gandhi launched Project Tiger in 1973, writing to the Uttar Pradesh chief minister: ‘It is easy to come by armchair conservationists, but rare indeed to find a man with the dedication and perseverance to act in the right spirit of conservation as you have done.’

I accompanied Billy to World Wildlife Fund’s 1976 annual conference at San Salvador where he was awarded the WWF gold medal and a heavy gold watch. It was Billy’s only visit to the States. With Sunil Roy, India’s tourism director general, and Leo Le Bon, founder of Mountain Travel USA, we travelled to Yosemite National Park. Billy was unimpressed by the soaring scenery and spectacular sheer rock, complained petulantly of the lack of wildlife, and was only appeased when he spotted a single deer in a meadow. Powerful friends were also useful when Billy lost the keys to his Godrej brand safe – he called on his supporter the Godrej conglomerate chairman in Mumbai to solve the problem.

Our trust supported Tiger Haven for many years, and when the time came to try reintroducing tigers to Dudhwa, John Aspinall secured a new-born cub in England. With Pat Am colleagues we helped Billy ship a young tigress named Tara in a steel crate from Twycross Zoo, arriving securely strapped onto the back of his elephant Shara. We were full of hope and optimism as Ulster Prage filmed Billy crossing the river in the Howdah hearing Tara lift her first uncertain glimpse of freedom.

On Billy’s death at Tiger Haven aged 82 on 1 January 2010, his relative Robbi Bjelland remarked: ‘Legacy is not easily defined. But we can say of Billy that he was a first and an original, a tiger explorer who built an entire life around a single cause.’
Lost Nepali village in Thailand

Forgotten by the world, a Nepali village on the Thai-Burma border clings to its heritage

Ramesh Khadka
in Pilok, Thailand

There is a village in Thailand, created and settled by the Nepalis after the end of World War II, that neither the Nepali nor Thai governments knew existed till recently.

The tiny, isolated village of Pilok is situated amidst the thick forested hills along the Burma border 26km west of Bangkok, near where the legendary River Kwai railway prison camp of war camp was once located.

Pilok is situated near the border town of Kanchanaburi, and the mountainous area must have reminded the early Nepalis who settled here of home.

The Nepalis were serving with the British Army in Burma, and migrated here with their families after 1946 to work in the tin mines.

And some of them are still here - forgotten by their motherland and the world.

Shanta Rai, now 75, was born in Burma and had a reputation for being an experienced miner. Legend has it he could detect tin and other underground minerals just by smelling the earth. Rai was certain the jungles were rich in ore, and decided to settle here. Once the word spread, the Thai government sent officials to look for Pilok, and asked Rai to work for the state.

As the mines grew, Pilok attracted more families from Burma and it became a proper Nepali town. But in the 1960's, the miners ran out of ore and closed down one by one.

The Nepalis gradually left, the jungles were cleared, but there are still some who stayed on, clinging to their memories of home.

Most Nepalis moved to Bangkok and the tourist resort towns in Thailand in search of jobs, but because they did not have legal papers, they were treated as outsiders. Some opened tailoring shops, while the women worked as housemaids in Bangkok.

Malik Ahmad, 68, left Pilok in 1984 and moved to Bangkok, and remembers having to evade detection by police. He finally reached the city, but while attending a Nepali puja he and others were caught in an immigration raid and detained.

It was only after this incident that the Thai government became aware of the Nepali settlement in Pilok, and of its unique history with Thailand. The Nepal Embassy in Bangkok also got involved and helped the Nepalis get proper documents.

The past chairman of the Thai Nepali Association, Ramesh Khadka says that Thai Nepalis have a deep rooted attachment with Pilok, and that their lives are still deeply connected to their first settlement in Thailand.

In 1985, Nepal's then Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba made a visit to Thailand and detected that the Thai government was aware of the Nepali settlement in Pilok, and of its unique history with Thailand. The Nepali Embassy in Bangkok also got involved and helped the Nepalis get proper documents.

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Rebirth

Survivors of the suicide attack in Kabul two years ago are still trying to come to terms with the pain.

"I came home after sleeping death," reads Amit’s lyrics to the YouTube music video (Paragya Chumbar) about the attack on the Canadian Embassy in Kabul two years ago on 28 June, in which 13 Nepali security guards were killed.

Amit was another man before his (Amit’s) and colleagues were killed by the security company (Amit’s) international clients, who prepared for the eight-hour shift at the embassy.

He was another man before his (Amit’s) colleagues were killed by the security company (Amit’s) international clients, who prepared for the eight-hour shift at the embassy.

Amit’s colleagues in Kabul, Madhusudan Khadka, had lost his son and daughter-in-law in an earthquake in 2015. During a trip to Nepal six months before the Kabul attack, he had recycled his own song, "Ako Nauli Tut (The Wound That Does Not Heal)" in memory of his children. A month later, he himself died in the Kabul attack.

Says a 31-year-old song writer who sang his song: "Madhusudan was eyed by the loss of his children. Writing songs was the only way he could cope with it.

Gunga Subedi, who was one of the 13 killed, had not recovered from the loss. "The night before the attack, he had stayed up late to 'sleep' with me and our two sons. The next morning, when I got up, I hadn’t heard about the Kabul attack, I just brushed it off," she recalls. Later she got a call from the Foreign Ministry to confirm did he was among the dead.

In addition to the klezmer, the officer of being a single parent and the financial problems, we are also treated differently in the family," she says.

Amit was waiting with colleagues from G4S for his own bus to help them to join the British embassy where he had been trained. Despite the loss of many of their friends, he and others had to continue with their security duties.

"We had to protect ourselves for the few shortest minutes of our camp and the embassy so that we could protect our client for the next twelve hours every day," says Amit. The attack exposed the disrepute of security companies and embasses in Kabul, and their putting "Gurkhas over Gurkhas". The Nepalis, including the vocal Amit, put up two demands for better security for themselves, and a $200 increase in pay at a cost of $2,000. However, the sense of unity among the Nepalis grew to bolstering because this was never enough to work for less.

The security company immediately terminated those who resisted and sent them back, including Amit. They were woken up in the camp at 5:30 and escorted to the airport under armed guard.

"There was no dignity in the way our 13 friends died. There was no dignity in the way we were sent back after years of service," says Amit, with bitterness in his voice.

His friends Hari and Krishna needed to go to India for better wages and had been injured from their jobs due to family reasons. Unlike Hari and Krishna, who took a few weeks to leave, a handful of workers resigned immediately and came back to Kathmandu in the same night, although the company assured them that was sent to Kabul to bring the bodies of their dead friends home.

"We were already considering moving back to Nepal but seeing our friends being sent home in boxes convinced us it was not worth the risk," says Hari.

After the attack, the Nepali government made it mandatory for contractors to pay a minimum of $1,000 per month and provide better security for Nepali guards. But the attack and its aftermath are a reminder that the needs of returnee migrants (be they security guards or other workers) have to be accommodated.

Under the current system, Nepal’s overseas employment machinery is built to address the needs of those who return in coffins but not of those who return alive and need either psychological or financial support.

Two of the survivors of the Kabul attack still have ridden in their bodies, and need heavy doses of painkillers.

Says Roma, "I was also going to write to my experience to make the second anniversary of the attack, but never got around to it. But there is always next year." Some names have been changed. (Source: Nepal Times (01.04.2016) for coverage of the Kabul attack.

A military family of ex-Gurkhas make the

Families of ex-Gurkhas make the

The martial history and reputation of Gurkhas is well known in Britain and Nepal. The public is aware of their unacknowledged contributions to local communities in Nepal, the broader political views of Gurkhas, and the emotional and intellectual connections that motivate young men to become Gurkhas.

It is these various aspects of Gurkha life that make them so desirable for the global private security industry. Recently, with the British Gurkha’s right to remain in the UK, Nepalis retired from the Indian Army have been moving from the military to private security contracts in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Yet, it is more than just the martial reputation that enables such a migration to be desirable and possible. To understand this type of migration, we need to also take into account the Gurkha household. Military retirees focusing on the US, Canadian and UK military have shown how families are called upon to support and sustain broader military objectives.

Gurkha families also take on the same necessary household work that enables broader global security deployments to take place. There include the necessary life sustaining work of cooking, cleaning and caring for both children and elderly parents and grandparents, and also the emotional and intellectual labour that recuperative security work as desirable, if not necessary. Gurkha households have for

necessary, yet largely unacknowledged, work of caring for the family and offering an emotional livelihood to Gurkhas when they are working abroad.

Taking care of the family back home is a fundamental part of what allows the security industry to function and sustain recruitment, even if the industry does not recognize this. The families have a role in being a Gurkha household.

Gurkha households have for

over 200 years provided

the necessary, yet largely unacknowledged, work of caring for the family and offering an emotional livelihood to Gurkhas when they are working abroad.

Taking care of the family back home is a fundamental part of what allows the security industry to function and sustain recruitment, even if the industry does not recognize this. The families have a role in being a Gurkha household. Yet, it is not just the martial reputation that enables such a migration to be desirable and possible. To understand this type of migration, we need to also take into account the Gurkha household. Military retirees focusing on the US, Canadian and UK military have shown how families are called upon to support and sustain broader military objectives.

Gurkha families also take on the same necessary household work that enables broader global security deployments to take place. These include the necessary life sustaining work of cooking, cleaning and caring for both children and elderly parents and grandparents, and also the emotional and intellectual labour that recuperative security work as desirable, if not necessary. Gurkha households have for over 200 years provided

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Stop Press

Canada sued

Widows of the 13 Nepalis killed in the 2016 Kabul attack and survivors this week sued the Canadian government for failing to protect the Gurkhas in Afghanistan.

A lawsuit was filed at the Ontario Superior Court in Toronto on Tuesday, on the eve of the second anniversary of the suicide attack. The defendants are the Canadian government and Sabre International, the private security contractor that hired the Nepal guards to protect the embassy.

On 20 June 2016, 13 Nepal guards were killed and five injured when they were travelling to the Canadian embassy in an unarmoured bus from their camp to the embassy. A lone suicide bomber detonated himself near the bus. (See NKTV report)

Sabre International made the guards live in a camp, and they had to make a risky journey to their duty station everyday. The plaintiffs have joined the Canadian government in what measures it had taken to protect the Nepals guarding its people and property in Kabul.

They have sought $234 million in compensation and damages from the Canadian government and Sabre International. Widows of the victims and survivors have claimed $20 million each for a total of $400,000 in compensation, but they have received only a fraction of it. They have asked Ottawa to pay the due amount.

Sabre International terminated its contract with the Canadian embassy after the attack, and shut down all its contact offices in Afghanistan and in Nepal. Sabre is no longer in operation and a new notice has yet to be issued to it.

Canadian lawyer Joe Flomenhaft, who is representing the Nepal plaintiffs, told CBC: “These men are in the service of our country and have been basically cast aside... They were abandoned by our government and we thought that was dishonorable and unfairly unacceptable.”

We are family

Beena and I sat with Sonika and her husband Raman in their living area above the kitchen of their home-centred Daalrafti. It is a quiet two street community, mostly made up of Gurkha families.

Children are playing outside. One of the neighbours, a wife of an Indian Gurkha soldier, comes to visit. She shows family photos and her husband’s military medals, while Sonika is showing his certificate of recognition. The entire family is well fed and looked after.

Raman has been working in private security in Afghanistan for just over two years, and he is home on leave. Sonika takes care of her two children and Bhima discussed both’s future. “The military is a big responsibility ensuring they go to school and do well. Bhima is planning to stay.”

Raman wants them to take up a job as a private security. Bhima answers: “The pay is very good, and I have to send my children to boarding school.”

Excerpt from Amanda Chisholm’s forthcoming book on the Gurkha soldiers.
GETAWAY

Monsoon sale
Indulge in an adventurous find in the monsoon sale of up to 50% on your beloved adventure gear. Shoppers 22-28 June, 8:30am-7:30pm, Sherpa Adventure Gear, Lask Outfitter, (044) 446818.

Bakery class
Invoke a diverse, every-baker experience with Sritini. 6 scenic desserts on Wednesday, 30 cupcakes with songs on Thursday, and then, there’s not much to wait for. 27/06-28/06, 11am onwards, Bake My Day by Shireen, Bathinda Market, (046) 222359.

Death of an Industry

International Food Tasting
Eat a taste of American, Japanese, British, Spanish and Sri Lankan cuisine prepared by students of culinary arts and hospitality at the international food tasting event. 21 June, 11am onwards, Academy of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management, Bhuj, (0285) 570188.

Home discussion
Interested in learning about housing and construction industry? Home is a buzzing event, where you will get to learn all about it. 24 June, 4:45pm, Katie Cakes, Thapathali, (01) 425799.

Open mic comedy
Times Comedy Club banner presents free open mic stand-up comedy event of the World Cup in its 10,000 sq. foot hall every day from 6pm onwards showcasing the best in comedy brought to you by the ComedyClue. 22 June, 6pm onwards, Sonny Kasthurinadas, Kopagiri, (0081) 99039.

OCEANS
Exhibit in Kathmandu on 22 June
An American-Canadian comedy film directed by Gary Ross, Dresser II is a sequel to Steven Soderbergh’s Dresser’s Trilogy. The movie follows a group of women, led by Ocean Storm (Gunda Bozic) who are the sister of the unapologetic common Ocean from the trilogy, as they plan to rob a money washer more than 10% of the Metro Gold in New York City. Featuring Guna Blodgett, Anne Sullwayang, Mykel Kissing, Sarah Pauro, Shilpa, Helena Bartram Carter, and Anawhelia, the movie is an enjoyable watch.

MUSIC

D.J. Woody’s
D.J. Woody and saxophonist - Frosty - join up with D.J. Woody from New Zealand. 22 June, 6pm onwards, House of Music, Thamel, (01) 48941795.

Jatra Cafe and Bar
Ward off the 2018 FIFA World Cup matches projected live on big screen, with great ambiance and chilled beer or cocktails and delicious food to go along. Thamel, www.jatracafebar.com

Fun Cafe
Get a bite of the sweet and savoury items at the Fun Cafe, along with items on our menu while watching the exciting games. The hotel is offering 5% off on the price of 3. 17-25 July. Paschim Bodhnath Kathmandu, (01) 4771258.

Events in Kathmandu on 22 June

Comedy Iuk Iuk Show
Book your tickets for a night of laughter by three amazing stand-up comedians in K-Town, Mayur Gayal, Shruti Dhami, Yajana Thapa. 22 June, 2:30pm onwards, Sakendor, Laxmi Bazar, (01) 48647158/9047.

R.I. Ripper screening
A film on the story of a young metal rocker Rajesh (RJ) Majari who went from riding a homemade free-style scooter to being one of Asia’s fastest riders. The evening includes free screening of the movie, and a happy hour of socialising with cash bar and yummy food from Mrkho’s kitchen. 22 June, 4:30pm, Michael, Ballsbati, (01) 5583982.

Music day
Let the great times roll with grand performances by The Midnight Riders, The Gentlemen and ‘The Adikins’, on World Music Day. 22 June, 6pm onwards, Wideopen Fork and Rock, Kathmandu, (01) 48442765.

Dining

Chhaya screens World Cup
The newly opened Chhaya cinema provides free screen trips of the World Cup in its 10,000 sq. foot hall every day from 6pm onwards showcasing the best in comedy brought to you by the ComedyClue. 22 June, 15 July, Chhaya Cinema, Thamel, (01) 4223689.

Retreat at Damaar
Amenity for contemplators and creators in an undisturbed sanctuaries enrich and enlargen your inner self. Bhotechaur, (01) 5633341.

Radhan Retreat
Studing at the other end of the Kathmandu valley is the Radhan Retreat, forest close to the World Peace Pagoda, this retreat has one of the best views of the Annapurna range. Khandi, (01) 5358457.

The Famous Farm
Discover one of the unforgettable secret, Khwaish Nurbar, a delightful and unusually mesmerizing rural palace. A stay at The farm makes a great retreat. Visit their website for a descriptive brochure Naxal, (01) 4403172, www.thefamousfarm.com

Tiger Palace Resort
Dream for your fabulous teame from a fun filled getaway at Shahitunjaya. The resort’s big screen of Cabana innenburs is open for all, Asanpur, Bhaktapur, (01) 535500.

Mango Tree Lodge
Culture, wellness, dining in the Karnali, wildlife exploration, and Jungle safari at the Bardia National Park, Rane, Bardiya, (064) 4505088.

GETAWAY

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Upendra Devkota’s lives

Kunda Dixit

Upendra Devkota knew the end was near. He returned from London after doctors at the King’s College Hospital where he was being treated for five months since November gave up hope of curing his cancer of the bile duct.

He said he wanted to die in his own motherland, and he touched the tarmac with his forehead after landing at Kathmandu airport last month to pay respect to his Nepal and then he died. He showed signs of recovery immediately after being admitted to his own Neuro Hospital in Bicanshi.

“I returned because I wanted to live my last in my country among my friends,” he said.

However, the cancer proved too powerful, and even Devkota’s iron will could not battle it. He asked one last time two weeks ago to be taken to his parent’s village in Gorkha to drink water from the spring next to the house where he was born.

Being a doctor, Devkota seemed to know exactly when his time was up, and asked to be put on sedatives two days ago. He did not want his family to suffer or seeing him suffer. He never regained consciousness and the end came at 5.35 pm on Monday at age 64.

Devkota was a brilliant student at the missionary school in Gorkha where he was classmate and rival of Sitaram Dhakal, the Maoist ideologue. He was 1983 when Devkota, straight out of medical college, went to the renowned Glasgow Neurosurgery Institute in the UK to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a neurosurgeon. Not just any surgeon, Upendra Devkota wanted to be the best neurosurgeon in the world.

Under the guidance of future Prime Minister of the UK, Harold Wilson, Devkota was recognized as a neurosurgeon. But even as he learnt the craft, Devkota dreamt big – of building a hospital as good as the one in Glasgow some day in Nepal. He returned to Kathmandu 30 years ago, and set about making his dream come true.

The National Institute of Neurological and Allied Sciences was opened in 2006, and he brought Prof Teutsch to Kathmandu to inaugurate it. Asked then by this newspaper why he returned to Nepal, Devkota had replied: “My philosophy is that it is more satisfying to grow vegetables in your own garden than to buy them at Sainsbury.”

Pioneering British neurosurgeon, Henry Marsh, a colleague of Devkota from his London days, writes in his book, Admissions: Dev does almost all the major operating himself. In six weeks working in Kathmandu I saw more major operations than I would have done in six months in London… in the outpatient clinic he is like a king surrounded by courtiers and pettinators.”

Among Devkota’s more famous patients were Geeta and Januma, the conjugal twins whom he operated on in 2002 before they were taken to Singapore. He saved Editore Kaark Mani Dixit from being a quadriplegic after a spinal injury during a trekking trip in 2000 by performing a seven-hour operation in the Neurosurgery ward he had created at the government-run Bir Hospital.

Devkota served briefly as Health Minister in the Gyansundu government in 2005. His pet project of setting up a national insurance scheme could not be realized after Gyansundu was abolished in a street uprising in April 2006. But he did establish the National Academy of Medical Sciences at Bir Hospital during his tenure.

Devkota was one of the few who got to witness up close the aftermath of the royal massacre of 1 June 2001, when Crown Prince Dipendra killed nine members of his family and himself. At a time when the truth was unbelievable and unplausible to many, Devkota wrote a fortnight piece in this paper, recounting what he saw that horrific night at Chitwan military hospital (above).

Medical Sciences at Bir Hospital during his tenure. Devkota was one of the few who got to witness up close the aftermath of the royal massacre of 1 June 2001, when Crown Prince Dipendra killed nine members of his family and himself. At a time when the truth was unbelievable and unplausible to many, Devkota wrote a fortnight piece in this paper, recounting what he saw that horrific night at Chitwan military hospital (above).

He wrote about seeing the lifeless body of King Birendra, a monarch he admired, at the hospital amidst a row of corpses: “I had flashes of memory of having met him during a big international neurological conference in Kathmandu three years ago: he was a perfect gentleman, and he felt deeply for the country. It was difficult to accept that he was gone, it was as big a loss for me as when I lost my father and mother.”

And now the great neurosurgeon and great Nepali, Upendra Devkota, is himself gone — ahead of all the lives he saved.
I had been a while since I’d seen a decent horror movie, so I jumped at the chance to go and watch *A Quiet Place* in theaters. The John Krasinski directed film stars his wife, the super talented Emily Blunt, giving us all the more reason to see this unusual film that cleverly peels the tool of quietness to uncanny effect. The film feels initially quite odd in that it is more of a lyrical, rather beautiful, tale about a family unit that has to survive a horrific circumstance than a formulaic horror movie. That serves as the film’s main strength today where we are fed up with gross horror movies that disgust rather than terrify.

The world has been taken over by blind, but gigantic, vicious, insect-like creatures (clearly inspired by the original extra-terrestrials from Ridley Scott’s *Alien* films) that operate through their keen sense of hearing. They attack at any significant noise, reducing the central characters, the Abbott family, to using sign language, something they are skilled at because the eldest daughter, Regan (Millicent Simmonds), was deaf. Due to this inadventent survival skill, the Abbotts, led by two exceptional parents, Lee and Evelyn (Krasinski and Blunt) are able to continue an idyllic life on their farm in the American countryside, albeit very, very silently, cut off from the rest of humanity.

While the film’s strength is its break from the dull formula of horror, the stupid mistakes made in horror films seem ingrained in the genre. Without giving too much away, it seems safe to say that at some point in the narrative the Abbott family loses a child, and then Evelyn becomes pregnant again, just around the time that she is due. Lee insists on leaving her, and taking their timid son Marcus (Noah Jupe) into the wild to show him some survival skills. Never mind the inherent gender bias in this decision, it seems destined to have one’s wife alone to deal with a process which is painful, messy, and as anyone with half a brain knows, extremely LOTUS.

There are twists and surprises here, but small ones, and for the most part, the film was not as scary as I had expected, nor as deeply original as I might have liked. That being said, the performance of the Abbott children, and Blunt, are exceptional. Krasinski’s direction is remarkably subtle for a horror movie, although his character is slightly too silent and macho for my taste. In general, this is an interesting film and quite an accomplishment for someone who is known for his acting rather than directing credentials.

As for breaking the boundaries of horror, well, we’ll have to wait for another film to do that. This is to be enjoyed, screamed at, and sampled for not falling into the stockpile of gore and thrice delivery. What a shame it couldn’t go that extra mile.
Mugu footballers to go to Spain

Prakash Kandel in Mugu

A
time when football frenzy has gripped the entire world, a group of Nepali young girls from remote Mugu have been invited to Spain to participate in the La Liga Cup, a tournament for youth sports. The girls, from the mountainous district, who do not even have a football ground to practice on, are going to get their first experience of international sports.

The girls will leave for San Sebastian in Spain on 26 June for the tournament which will be held from 1-7 July and they will play four games. Their own struggle and love for football has led them to this tournament where 83 teams from 30 countries will be competing.

“After the consecration, the journey from Nepal’s remote hills to Europe itself is a great experience,” says coach Bhagat Basu. After the game, the players will also get to visit world famous football clubs like Real Madrid and Barcelona.

In 2015, filmmaker Shankar Shrestha made a documentary, Sonalika based on the story of Mugu teenagers who struggled to play football in the snow. The documentary was shown in 137 film festivals across Europe, and it also won 23 awards.

After that, FIFA and a 12-minute documentary called After the Himalaya Messi which also attracted notice and led to Mugu teenagers getting international opportunities. The organizers of the tournament in Spain invited Sonalika to participate, paying for their costs. Though the original characters of the documentary are not in the team anymore, another team was created with younger players.

Last January, 17 players were selected from more than 175 teenagers and they have been rehousing in the AI Nepal Football Association (ARFA) complex at Saddar Khalse in Kathmandu. ARFA does not even have a district association in Mugu because the mountain district does not have a standard football ground.

“Their journey from Bami of Mugu to Spain is nothing less than a dream,” says Bhupesh Basu, who worked on the final selection of players.

In an area where girls get married off early, parents were not really happy that their daughters wanted to play football instead. “It was a challenge to make the parents agree to let their daughters go for this international opportunity,” Basu says.

The girls have found even the journey to Kathmandu challenging, and were surprised by the artificial “surf” at San Sebastian. “We had never heard about Mugu, and the heat of Nepals and Kathmandu’s crowds really shocked us,” says captain Rita Pokhrel.

“Still, it feels like a dream.”
Four-fold increase in
The lack of justice for rape, and its social stigma combine to breed impunity

Sewa Bhattarai

S
hailini Kumari, 15, was coming home from a wedding when, she saw a man waiting at her gate. Before she could resist, he had tied her shawl around her neck and dragged her to the fields behind her house. Her muffled screams were drowned out by the music of the nearby wedding.

Her parents were away, and there was no one to rescue her. But such is the stigma of rape in Nepali society that, like many others, Shailini was forced to agree to marry the rapist. In addition, her father had to pay a dowry demand of Rs 500,000. He was landless, and Shailini’s grandfather sold his farm in Morang to be able to afford it.

“Why could I say no to the decision of respected elders?” says Shailini, who was saved from the marriage after her rapist and his family ran away on the eve of the wedding, after which the case was brought to the notice of social activists. They helped register a police complaint and brought her to the Chhinchirthi shelter in Kathmandu.

Shailini’s case is just one in a dramatic increase in reported rape cases throughout Nepal in the past decade. Police records show that instances of rape and attempted rape have grown almost four fold since 2008. Alarmingly, more than half of them are minors.

“Children and handicapped women are more at risk, because they are more vulnerable,” says Rima Khatika at the Women’s Commission. “Minors are more at risk because they don’t realise what is happening, cannot resist, and may be easily convinced or threatened to keep quiet.”

Khati says there is abuse in child-protection centres or shelters, where lonely children may take physical intimacy as a sign of affection, and do not realise that they are being abused.

A breakdown of the Police rape data reveals disturbing clusters in the Terai with districts like Morang, Jhapa, Rupandehi, Sunsari, Banke, Chitwan, and Dang recording the most cases of reported rape and attempted rape. Mountain districts Jamla and Humla reported no cases at all last year. (See map)

After the 2013 earthquake destroyed 700,000 homes, districts worst affected by the earthquake recorded a spike in reported rape. Young women and girls living in temporary shelters are more at risk from predators in the neighborhood, or even family members. Last year, Dhading recorded 31 cases of rape and attempted rape. Gorkha, Kavre and Sindhpulchok had 20 cases each.

Nepal’s conservative society often suits the victim: saying young women wear scanty outfits or stay out late. Changing modern value systems are blamed. However, the fact that so many

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TOP TEN

Districts with the highest numbers of reported rape and attempted rape cases. Figures do not represent proportion to the population of the districts.

Kathmandu 130
Morang 99
Jhapa 75
Rupandehi 73
Sunsari 71
Banke 66
Chitwan 54
Dang 47
Ilam 45
Bardiya 45

ALL DATA: NEPAL POLICE

HOTSPOTS OF ABUSE

Reported rape and attempted rape cases 2016-17

Very high (40 and above)
High (30-39)
Medium (20-29)
Low (10-19)
Very low (below 10)

writing
reported rape in 10 years

by protecting impunity,” she says. In the case of Shalini Kumari in Morang, the social and legal system congealed in the local media, when male elders decided she marry the offender to keep the peace in the village. The family, because of its lower class and caste, was forced to agree.

The rise in cases like this would have been teased in social ‘compromises’ had it not been for activists working with the Women’s Cell in police stations, volunteers from shelters like ChashChori, and the helpline of the Women’s Commission. Since it was handed up six months ago, the helpline has received over 25,000 calls, and registered 436 cases. Previously, the Commission used to only get about 50 complaints a year.

Shalini Tiira Chhetri of the Nepal Police Agency believes that the reports have only brought to the surface what was always there. “Rape is not new in society. But due to the social stigma attached to it, few people ever spoke about it openly, let alone complained to the police,” says Chhetri. “But now the awareness of legal options in rising and reporting has increased.”

The police now even get rapist complaints from closely-knit communities who rarely went to them before, like the Murshar in eastern Terai. However, even though families are more aware of legal remedy, justice is still a distant dream. The statutory limit to report rape used to be 35 days, and an amendment in 2015 increased it to 6 months. But even that does not help victims because they take years to open up about traumatic abuses.

Survivors also face intrusive and curency medical tests that look for physical injuries, and if such signs are absent, risk losing credibility. “This is called rape stereotyping, and often happens in adolescents,” explains Sunita Pandey at the Women’s Rehabilitation Centre (WORRC). “Adolescents may be forced into intercourse with the promise of marriage, which is considered rape by law. But lawyers and defendants try to claim the opposite if there is delay in reporting, or if the victim did not protest during the act.”

While the laws concerning rape have become progressively broader in Nepal, such nuances of the victim’s side of the story are still ignored. According to the Supreme Court’s annual report 2015/17, district and high courts gave verdicts on only 60% of rape cases, and it was only 8% at the Supreme Court, leaving victims with little hope for justice.

Even if a decision is reached, prosecution often lack funds. According to reports from the Office of the Attorney General, in 2015/16 only 44% of offenders were convicted among the cases closed, and the rest were either acquitted or the cases withdrawn. This means only around 20-25% of rape victims in the districts who file a complaint can hope for justice, and the figure is only 6% at the central level. The lack of justice for rape, and its social stigma combine to breed impunity.

“The laws may be strong but the implementation is so weak that offenders know they can get away with it,” says Chandra Rishu. “To really deter rapists, we need naming and shaming, and physical punishment like chemical castration.”

There was hope that education, economic prosperity, and empowerment would automatically reduce violence against women. However, as women become more educated and aware, they tolerate less abuse and some end up suffering a male backlash. An example is Muna Adhikari, who despite being deputy mayor of Godavari, became a victim of domestic violence herself recently.

Says Bhada: “Through education, we need to also bring men into the fold and make them aware, too. Only then can we hope that violence against women will go down.”

Back at the ChashChori shelter, Shalini Kumari is tearful as she tells us that there is no one now to take care of her ill mother back in the village.

She is doubtful about ever getting justice. Yet, through her sobs, she tells a visitor: “I want him to rot in jail forever.”

Sabyasachi has been charged.

A critic Sarawati Nepal was recently awarded the ‘Dural Award for Social Justice’ in recognition of her contribution to justice for the Dalit community. Among her many cases was the conviction of a rapist for the multiple rapes of 14-year-old Sudha, with mental disability.

Durgabati Bhatta, 57, used to rape her frequently and offer her chocolate afterwards, sometimes also threaten her. Her family found out only when she got pregnant, and Bhatta had given her abortion pills. Excessive bleeding led her mother to track down the perpetrator. Bhatta first offered money to keep her quiet, then spread rumours that she was pimping for her daughter.

Recalls Sarawati Nepal: “There was no one to speak for the girl at the police station, none of the lawyers wanted to take her statement because she was Dalit and the accused was a rich and powerful person.”

Sudha’s parents are former Hariya, or bonded labourers, and make a living by daily wage labour.

The crime highlighted many factors that make girls and women more vulnerable: caste, class, minor, disadvantaged groups, and people with disabilities.

Even though only one in every five rapists is convicted, Bhatta was sentenced to 11 years in prison. But social justice is something else. Sudha quit school, rarely leaves home, does not talk to anyone, and is mortally scared of men.

A case of cash and caste

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| Year by Year | Nationwide total of reported rape and attempted rape in the past ten years |

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Marxists—cum—Leninists

If there is one thing we cannot build the
Nepali Communist Party for, it is thinking.
'Big is beautiful' is the slogan, and
the emblems toe the party line, insisting
that size matters.

And that the Engels in heaven for
that because otherwise Nepal would still
be wallowing with water buffalo. All
Hall in the Congress Party led by the Nepal
incarnation because of whose foreign
we can now dream of graduating from
weterners to potash to microchip.
Nepal has shown the world that it has
the audacity to take giant strides in
the conservation of the endangered Asian
Elephant.

During the first tenure in office
of Munir (CPN UML, (Pat) 10) in the
mid-nineties, which some of you may
remember was in the last century, it was
the Right Honourable Mahabuddin who led
the coalition of Marxists—cum—Leninists
and promised stability and prosperity.

He was removed in a no-confidence
vote nine months later, but not before
preserving this coalition to prosperity.
Nepal would get rich by exporting
effiects to China for outset.

Is that kind of vision for the future
that has allowed Nepal to take a big
step forward towards being a federal
Democratic Republic of Nepal. Prime
Minister Oli in a rousing speech before
departing for the China visit last week said
Nepal could balance its trade deficit by
planting trees and 'exporting' sugar. He
had previously got a solid brief from
his Advisers on carbon trading. He also
had the idea of arresting Nepal's falling
production, stop using imported fish
that contain immune—causing formalin.

The Minister of Commerce and
Industry has also tried to keep up with
the wisdom of his high—up authority
where he demonstrated his smartness by
sounding an 'live national' in that he was in
possession of a 'Samsung—iPhone'.
Nepal's debt diplomacy with the
southern neighbour has also yielded
immediate results. India has agreed to
draw in some one—two—way air routes,
although one of them in Kathmandu
is only for rich and low—flying drones.

Things are also moving ahead steadily at
aren't ever speed on the Asia II project,
so much so that some tunnel workers this
week nearly broke their heads in a rockfall.
India also gifted millions of tons of
foodstuffs to Nepal last weekend,
transporting it by air and delivering it
directly to farmers across
Nepal. The economic value of
replenishing Nepal's stock is
incalculable and compensates
for all land we have lost to
self—moving border pillars.

Stay tuned.