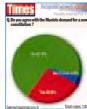


BINOD BHATTARAI he government is looking beyond the

peace talks at a massive hearts-andminds programme to accelerate development in Maoist-affected districts, but is running into serious donor reluctance to back it. The Integrated Security and Development

Programme (ISDP) is patterned after a post-Vietnam counter-insurgency strategy, but its price tag of \$114 million for three years is way beyond the government's own capacity. Last week, the National Planning Commission (NPC) presented what appears to be a hurriedly-prepared 13-page proposal to a consortium of donors, most of whom were sceptical about the government's ability to

implement it. Among the donors, Japan, Germany, Canada, Finland and Denmark as well as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank appear to have serious doubts about the ISDP, while the United Nations



Development Programme was fence-sitting. However, the United States Agency for The government is finding it hard to win donor hearts and minds. International Development (USAID), the British Department for International Development (DfID) and the Norwegian Development Agency NORAD were for it. "Few of us disagreed with its goals and the ntense service delivery the government wants to make," one donor source told us. "But the political and security aspects made many incomfortable." Those that said no were reportedly polite, but the message seems to be that donor support is not going to be easy. Added our source: "It will be a waste of time

for the NPC if it still thinks it could get broadnplemented ISDP could be critical in The ISDP was launched earlier this year districts where development has come to a on the other hand, is said to prefer a more The Norwegians, for their part, appear

Among the multilaterals, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, who have their own performance criteria Lamjung. Prithivi Raj Legal and his team at and are generally against doles, had no fresh the NPC also told donors that the situation nitments. Other bilateral donors told the wernment it may be wiser to use the money

than seek new commitments.

Donors keen to back the ISDP had their

of the meeting. Ligal told us: "It was not a pledging meeting but one to update donors on the ISDP, its rationale, how it works, which programs we were taking forward and the overall status." He added that last week's meeting was the first round, and that Nepal could go to donors formally if it needed assistance, through the finance ministry. The government plans to spend Rs10

The idea for the donor fund-raising

based support for the program."

meeting for ISDP is said to have come up after a group of Western ambassadors met Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba a month ago. The diplomats reportedly warned Deuba he would have to produc results to make a difference, to which the prime minister is said to have hinted that if , there was money to back the new defence and development plan, he could do it. easons. DfID, for instance, felt an efficiently delivering basic services and infrastructure to

standstill because of the insurgency. USAID, cautious "transitional" approach, first testing out the programme in reasonably safe areas. convinced that conflict resolution has to go hand-in-hand with development.

million in each Village Development

Committee under the ISDP to achieve noble goals, such as 100 percent literacy and school enrolment. It also wants to speed up infrastructure building, and launch income-generation activities. The governalready in the pipeline better, while some said the government could change priorities rather ment says it will chip in half the Rs10



NPC officials played down the importance million and wants donors to help with the rest, including purchase of communications and rescue equipment-not guns-for

security agencies. Patterned after the US government's tegrated Defence and Development (IDAD), the ultimate goal is to win the people away from the insurgents, ensuring stability so that further development can take place. Security is to be provided by the police, the new paramilitary and the Royal Nepal Army under a co-ordinated chain of command. The prime minister heads the ISDP implementation team, which includes a number of ministers and the Chief of Arms Staff. The program has four sub-committees: political, publicity, programs and security.





the porters, and slyly replaced the gold with sand using it to free the people of the Valley from their debts. "Mha Puja is now a part of Newari folk

culture and is one ritual where there is no need for priests to dictate the proceedings maybe everyone felt so light-hearted after ollect the gold and they happened to being freed from debt that they decided to

already in use in Nepal." Over the years, Nepal Sambat and its unique blend of folk culture and religion has come to symbolise Newari identity in he worship is conducted by the female ead of the household and the paraphern lia is full of symbolism: walnuts for strengtl the bimiro citrus for purity, the makhamali Nepal's multi-ethnic tapestry. There would be a certain historical lossom for longevity. Satyamohan Joshi, istorian and expert on Nepali folk culture, hinks the word mha could be an acknowl-dgement of the connections between sciousness and the physical being. "Nepal Sambat" as the Newari calendar is known, is more than 1000 years behind Nepal's official Bikram calendar which is into its 2058th year. Although younger, there is a growing feeling that if Nepal needs a

non-Gregorian calendar, the Nepal Sambat is better suited than the present one named after the Indian Emperor Bikramaditya. Says Padma Ratna Tuladhar of the Nepal Mankakhala: "The Bikram calendar is not even recognised in India. Nepal Sambat is based on the lunar calendar, which is

symmetry to making Nepal Sambat the official calendar since the name Nepal itself came from the Newari word for Kathmandu Valley after Gurkha unification of the kingdom in the late 18th century. "The Bikram calendar is a vestige of dictatorial Rana rule, we need to brin back our own calendar," says Kul Lal Dongol of the Jyapu Samaj, Patan. Others oppose the move to replace the Bikram calendar, saying it would ope a can of worms. Says Basanta Thapa, columnist at Himal Khabarpatrika: "If the official calendar is to be changed in this age of economic globalisation, then Nepal may as well join the rest of the world and adopt the Gregorian calendar.

Northwest and KLM promotional fares to USA and Europe from Kathmandu.





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NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

It has become a cliché to begin editorials by saying no news is good news. But that does not make it any less true. When daily newspapers lead with news of a minister giving an innocuous speech somewhere about the importance of democracy for development you know "nothing happened". No disasters, no massacres, no abductions, no major accidents

And that is the problem with the news business: it is incapable of reporting the ordinary, the everyday. News by definition has to be nega tive, it has to be nearby, and it has to happen suddenly. A tanker truck that reaches its destination safe and sound is not news, it is the one that falls into the Marsyangdi that makes it.

UNICEF's former director, Jim Grant, used to talk about the silent emergency that stalks our land. Some 500 children die every day of causes that are preventable, but that is not news. Now, suppose those 500 children were travelling in two jets that crashed simultaneously. Would that be news? Yes, because it fulfils the main criteria of news: a sudden, spectacular disaster, Nepali children are dving quietly, slowly one by one, in homes throughout the country. The grief of their parents is private, isolated and scattered. It is not a loud emergency like a landslide that buries a village. And yet the reasons many of them are dving-criminal neglect, corruption and inequality in the delivery of the services that are supposed to save their lives-should make banner headlines everyday. But they don't.

Last year this time, policemen were being butchered every other week. We in the media couldn't keep up with the carnage, and our reporting made people numb. It's like slowly increasing the intake of poison until you can take a lethal dose without dying. We got so used to the bad news, that 70 people slaughtered overnight didn't shock us anymore. Human beings have this capability of being inured to bad news.

And they get used to good news as well. This year, we have got used to the ceasefire, we have stopped noticing that there are no front page pictures of widows sobbing over husbands blown apart by pressure cooker bombs in some remote and forgotten police post. The media is incapable of reporting an outbreak of peace, so the public takes peace for granted.

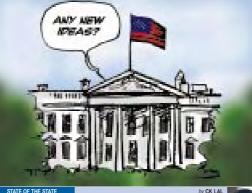
May we live in uninteresting times. This Tihar, we wish you no news.

TIPPED OFF BY MADRAS

Is one man's tourism another man's terrorism? Why is it that just when Nepal's tourism shows any sign of picking up, we hit the headlines again for all the wrong reasons. We were recovering from the hijacking last year when Hrithik Roshan riots rent the streets. The Indians had just started trickling back this summer when the royal massacre spooked them off again. And just when things were beginning to go right, came a flurry of news last week linking Nepal with the War or Terror. A Nepali nearly gets away trying to take his entire knife collection on board a flight leaving Chicago. Four Nepalis get arrested in Manila for taking pictures of the US Embassy in the Philippine capital. And ther Madras airport outscoops everyone by uncovering a plot to hijack a Singaporean airliner from Kathmandu airport and crashing it into a Very Importance Place in Delhi.

And how does Madras pass on this information with potentially catastrophic implications to our civil aviation authorities? Does it use the SITA telex? Does the chief police honcho in Chennai pick up the phone? Nope. They send the information in a handwritten note on a piece of paper without a letterhead by snail mail to Kathmandu! It's a miracle that letter even got here.





Oh, say, can you see **Osama and Omar?**

America has to choose between security and revenge.

has now been more than a month since | The CIA pushed Afghanistan down the eorge W declared war on Afghanistan precipice of civil war twenty years ago after the but he is no nearer "smoking out" Soviet invasion, now the Americans cannot Osama bin Laden than he was on the day stomach a Vietnam-type quagmire in e swore to the world he'd do so. The Afghanistan to fight a ghost of an enemy. That fugitive from American justice continues to why they are looking down at that godforsaken country from space and bombing it from mock his pursuers with cameo performance on Al Jazeera in Doha and Dawn in 35,000 ft, and letting proxy Afghans battle it ut on the ground. Karachi Meanwhile Americans continue t pound the Hindukush with their deadly. Al Qaeda is a concept, howsoever daisy cutters, cluster bombs and cruise abhorrent, it is not a country. Just as the

missiles. Besides pulverising the rubble what Taliban is a bunch of fanatics, not a nation. They can't be obliterated with daisy cutters exactly is it they are hitting All the Americans have done is transform The big bombs will just create more refugees. the persona of Osama bin Laden into an even nore misery and incubate more terrorists. It al re heroic figure in the Muslim world. Until ooks so elementary, how could the fellows at

a few months ago, he was a fanatic pariah Langley miss it? Perhaps that explains propagating such fundamentalism that even verything, terrorism is not even a peripheral he arch-conservative Wahabi rulers of Saudi oncern of America's war in Afghanistan. Arabia could not tolerate him. But once the Could it be that the sole goal of the "war West turned him into the bulls-eve of their n terrorism" is to terrorise the world into darthoard, he became an icon for much of the submission? Is it being waged to defend what rest of the world. If it were not for the Noam Chomsky calls the "Fifth Freedom": association of his name with the excesses of "The freedom to rob, to exploit and dominate military-industrial complex of the United to undertake any course of action to ensure States, Osama could have never become the that existing privilege is protected and poster-boy of Naxalites in Bihar and the advanced." And in that aim, Americans have

The bombing and propaganda barrage have made Osama look much larger than life. He was an American creation during the war against the Soviets, this time Washington ha haute for ignified him into an even more powerful igure. For the Americans it is a case of tails of the most powerful man in the planet: hey win, heads we lose. If they manage to kill George W Bush. He may have become Orama he becomes a martyr and death will president by the peculiarities of a system that confer upon him an even greater aura. If he debated the difference between a dimpled chad ives, it will prove his invincibility. Poor Bush and hanging chad, but he calls the shots. Poor he tries hard but he just cannot win this Tony Blair is a State Department consultant propaganda war. And even while he was and doing a pretty good job. But for the first delivering the tirade against terrorism at the time there are signs that the Anglo-American UN General Assembly last Saturday, his words alliance is fraying over strategy. Revenge is not had a hollow ring. His argument that one going to bring America security against rorism, it is going to make it more insecure Michael Parenti, an independent media man's terrorist is another man's terrorist sounded hypocritical because the question

ilemas of Bahrain alike

alyst, laments, "The US Congress granted in everyone's mind was: what of the USA's Bush the power to initiate military action covert 'wars'? The Pentagon too seems unable to make gainst any nation, organisation, or individual much headway in a hugely unequal contest of his choosing, without ever having to proffe with Mullah Omar and his Taliban. Whatew vidence to justify the attack. Such an the talking head defence analysts on the navrol of the Big Four (CNBC, CNN, CBS and that violation of international law, the UN charter appropriately named Murdoch mouthpiece, and the US Constitution-transforms the FOX) may say, the fact is that a war against almost-elected president into an absolute monarch who can exercise life-and-death

the Taliban is unwinnable simply because these are people who have nothing left to lose. power over any quarter of the world

And as one nation tries to turn grief int nge the air is thick with hypocrisy and double standards. It has exposed the istorical wrongs unleashed by America around the w orld in its strategic and bus interest: for oil, for sea lanes, for minerals, even for banana and pineapple plantations.

CIA, the Saudis and the ISP Here at home, Prime Minister Sher

been astoundingly successful. So successful, in fact, that 11 September was a terroristic backlash against that dominance. And America is reacting the only way it knows how: by using The world has been forced to how in from

SAARC have as much interest in a post-Taliban Afghanistan as US oil multina waging this war.

Osama and Omar because those two hvenas have been let loose upon the saner elements in United States will alma mater last week is an indication of their way, it may be too late. This Tihar, let us pray that the human

misery unleashed in our neighbourhood will be replaced by peace, so millions of homeles ins can return to their homes.

16-22 NOVEMBER 2001 NEPALI TIMES INTERVIEV

16-22 NOVEMBER 2001 NEPALI TIMES 3 "Peace is the pre-requisite...

In recent speeches you have gone out of your way to highligh the positive side of Nepal's development in the past 12 years. Do you really believe that?

There is a tendency to belittle our country's achievements after democracy. We suffer from negative thinking. We see negatives every where. There is a lot of negativism that the donor community has also started. This has spread cynicism Let us not forget that there has been economic, social and political progress too. We've had about a five percent growth rate on average throughout. Our exports have been increasing by more than 20 percent each year. Foreign exchang reserves are sound. Our net worth has nearly doubled from about Rs 7,000 million to around Rs 15,000 million. Look at the social indicators: there are more schools, health services have improved, we had one medical college 12 years ago, now even I have lost count.

Right, but how come we don't see all this making a difference to the quality of life?

Maybe because the media has a tendency to highlight only the negatives. True, we have also failed on many fronts. Governance capability, for instance, has weakened. In general, we have succeeded in areas where we have deregulated, where we have allowed more space for the private sector. Look at our tourism industry, it is now the best run in South Asia. Exports have done very well, nor agriculture sector performance is around seven percent, because we have given a major say to the private sector. Civil society has expanded. Areas where government has less control have flourished.

Where we have failed is in the regulatory function of government. We have failed, for example, to control the aberrations in private sector education and private sector health delivery. Similarly, despite investment, the capacity to deliver services in rural areas remains poor. In other words, there is leakage, corruption. The quality of roads has gone down despite increase in ir The cost of services has gone up because of mismanagement.

You must have a ringside view of the get-rich-quick mentality in government. As an insider, how had is the corruption you see? Although it is sometimes frustrating and disorienting, you cannot give up. You cannot generalise on the get-rich-quick mania. This is a phenom everywhere, not just among politicians. There are politicians, but not all of them have become rich overnight. It is a tendency also in the private sector, and the public sector, among bureaucrats

My Voluntary Tax Declaration Scheme (VDIS) is an effort to contro corruption. We have also prepared new financial regulations to tighten up things and make spending more transparent in order to ensure proper accountability. We are also trying to empower enforcement agencies to control corruption. Democracy is rule by law and everything should be done in accordance with established norms and rules, which is what we are doing.

Your VDIS is also backed by a law that gives it more teeth. But will it go after the crooks in high places? Everybody has to declare unaccounted wealth. Politicians have been excessively targeted. The problem is much more serious elsewhere. People see politicians

ause they are very visible But is it going to help you take out the bad apples? I don't deny that there are bad elements in political life also. I can't deny that, but the problem is more serious elsewhere.

So heads are going to roll?

GIVE PEACE A CHANCE now forget and disregard Paras past criminal activities. His Your editorial "After the honeymoon" (#67) was aroument is that there is a positive commedable. Whatever his relation between penning poetry weaknesses. Prime Ministe and the enhancement of a Deuha has still done Nenal a lot nerson's character Jeevan Satva of good by stemming the violence. He should be given some more time because he is trying to bring a negotiated appreciate the balanced way you settlement to the Manist have reported on Paras Shah being made Crown Prince. One Insurgency. We cannot have another military confrontation hing I cannot understand is why when peace seems to be in onsible" politicians and sight. Nepalis do not want any ournalists are trying to create a state of confusion in the country nore violence. So Girija Prasac Koirala and his cronies should If we accept the constitution we ave no other option but to accept stop their efforts to plunge the country into further instability Paras as crown prince. Paras They have done enough harm. mav not be an ideal crown prince. now give peace a chance. but he is the only possible Saiiu Khatiwada candidate under the present Pennsylvania, USA onstitutional framework. Let's none time will make him a respon CROWN PRINCE sible roval. The monarchy is the Kunda Dixit in ("Is Crown Prince ymbol of Nepali unity, so polit Paras mending his ways?" cians and journalists should think #57) has tried to ingratiate twice before raising controversy himself in King Gyanendra's and creating a negative reputation favour by making a farcical about our future king. "Aam Nepali" correlation between Paras poetry and the positive transfo mation of a person's character He has applied this new theory Is Kunda Dixit a royal chamcha? to validate his point (hidden Jivan Sinal agenda?) that people should

by email

by email

by emai



Minister Ram Sharan Mahat has made no but his objection to a cabinet expansion, an l concerns about a governance cri t with Nepali Times before leaving York for the UN General Assemb ly, he was still c about the economy, and says peace wou it economy a chance to perk up.

Of course. I am sure with cooperation of all sections of society this drive will yield results. The scheme also is admission of the fact that we cannot achieve results only through administrative enforcement. You may sue somebody but it may take years for the result, and it may not even be positive. This has happened with corruption cases. Just how many cases have resulted in real punishment, or material fines to add to the treasury? Practically zero. So we are using the tax method to unearth unaccounted money and bring it to the treasur

Government spending has soared, revenue collection is down How are you going to make ends meet? You are even said to have differed with the prime minister on cabinet expansion.

Cabinet expansion is the privilege of the prime minister. I can give advice, but cannot contradict him. On the whole, I am against the expansion of government institutions, I am against unproductive expenditure. There is a tendency everywhere to ask for more money-by ministries, or elected representatives. We just cannot afford this. A finance minister's job is very difficult and always

thankless. There are priorities elsewhere, more need for teachers, drinking water LETTERS



proves that the article has s

Pranika Kovu

by email

response both for and aga

Maoist violence started, and with their on-going extortion, people are closing down factories. Now there is almost a stop in new investment. So if we are to create more jobs, Maoist violence has to stop. It is a serious setback on the economy. At the same time, the government should concentrate on social services-education, health, rural development, infrastructure, policy making and policy support-and leave the other things to the private sector. That way jobs can be created, but the prerequisite is peace and a business-friendly environment

Do you mean we should wait for peace, and then start creating new jobs?

health services, nural roads. At the same time there is a tendency to expand

ing more benefits and perks.

government by creating new institutions and jobs. I resist that. Look at the public

corporations, they are a big drain on the economy, they are incurring huge losses

of taxpayers' money. Their productivity is poor, but still employees are demand

Even if the talks with the Maoists is successful, we need to create

those jobs, you need to generate investment. Do you have a plani

expanding, Millions of jobs were created. Look at the service sector in Kathmandu

new jobs, otherwise they will go back to their guns. To create

Before the outbreak of Maoist violence six years ago, our economy had been

Valley, people are spending more, there is more income. The market has

expanded, which would not have been possible without jobs. But after the

No, we need to do job creation simultaneously. And we are already trying to create business confidence with easier policies. In the last budget I tried to make the overall environment more business-friendly. The government is in dialogue with the Maoists to ensure peace and stability. The Maoists have not stopped their activities completely, but the law and order situation has improved and this has given some hope for the economy.

How would you rate the economy today?

Not very good because of various national and international reasons. We have declining exports, revenue from distilleries have been hit. The tourism industry has suffered. There is increasing demand for more security expenses. We are not in a very happy situation. But our fundamentals are okay. We have managed ou economy relatively better than many other countries. Even the IMF and the World Bank have complimented our economic management. The Vice President of the Bank was here recently and her only advice was that we maintain fiscal prudence

Are you also considering bailout plans for the tourism sector post 11 September?

Yes. But tourism was suffering even before 11 September. The package announced in the budget is for the whole industrial sector, including tourism. It is a sort of a rescue package because they cannot bear the present costs-the cost of capital, the servicing of their liabilities vis-à-vis the financial institutions, debt restructuring debt re-scheduling, freezing liabilities and even writing off part of their obliga tions, stopping the capitalisation of their interests, etc. It is aimed at essentially reducing their financial obligations.

Looking forward to 2002-2003 what do you see?

If we are able to restore peace I see hope, although the global environment is not very favourable. We can manage the economy despite international constraints. But if there is no peace here, then the economy will suffer, our exports, industrial production, tourism will all suffer. That will be the worst case scenario. Peace is the prerequisite

c than a man in his loses son. xpo- nytom with l ficulty e s is ce to in ufraid ole in d not to	a chord in the hears of Negals, not only in Negal buil all over the world. We may pretend not to notce the choices, but we cannot ignore it forever. Duit deserves kuds for his guts and Negal needs more writers like him to make us take a fresh look at what is wrong and right in our county. Brichats and bouquets are an accepted part of a journalist's life. What is important, however, is whether journalists through their writings can make a profound impact on society, a particular its case, I believe, Dixit has done all. Mabin Rais by email PBO-PANCIANT CK Lail as as usual abusive in his lasts column." Nemories dithe	father, put all crocks in jail. Sarjog Ray Putchowk MOCKING OURSELVES "Wore ministers the merrier" (Under My Hat, #55) was hinanous. Trajcally, it also reflects how many Nepalis feel about Nepai in these days. We have to face so much gloomy news that the only way to stay sane is by looking at it with a humorous twist. We end up mocking ourselves for all the faults that we have, because viewing everything in a serious light just makes us realise how ploy have become a nation of parady and Kundo Dioti, know- ingly or otherwise, reflects that Diwakar Thabe
only	future" #57). Why does Lal have to	Palo Alto, California
ion. iomson r email ani s and you there g nst struck	curse the Panchayat system for everything? The king's rule was a thousand time better than the Nepail Congress: rule. Even the worst Panchas were better than best Congressis and Communists. Today's leader ser all crooks and none of them is sincere like Khadga Bahadus Songh and Nav Raj Subedi. For Nepal to develop like other countries, King Gyanendra Shudb become like his	CORRECTIONS Due to a reporting error, Gobinda Las Rajamikar's name was incorrectly identified in Negali Society, 'Cobinda's sweet tooth' #67. The Friends of the Bagmati workshop was held at the Tean Dewal Mandri ni Teku and not at the Ram Mandri as stated in Happenings, #66Ed



All this was done in the name of freedom and

royals, and the ISI's Peshawar post. And if bin Laden and Mullah Omar are now terrorists, then what does that make the

Bahadur Deuba's hasty backing of a wareven though Nepal's is an entirely symbolic support-is legally untenable orally questionable, and fundamentally flawed. The best that Deuba could have

done is done nothing and kept quiet. The summit of SAARC Heads of States and Heads of Governments belatedly scheduled for January could be an opportunity to make amends. Member countries of

tionals on whose behalf the Pentagon is The people of Afghanistan have been

victims of the fundamentalist fascism of Afghans by the United States. Afghanista needs to be rescued and rehabilitated, not hombed to smithereens. Our hone is that evail, just as they did during Vietnam Bill Clinton's introspective address to hi such a soul-searching going on among at leas a section of responsible Americans. The fear is that if the cowboys in the Pentagon have

16-22 NOVEMBER 2001 NEPALI TIMES

NATION

1991 visualises a wide and

as well as counselling and

inadequacies in terms of

and service delivery

efficient rural network that

In rural Nepal, health is about

"The medicines at the health

Schmel who with his wife Ursula

Two months after

The Americans aren't angels, but they are accountable to



fractures, inflammation and feve

nore complicated cases are sen

Dhulikhel. In a room adjoining

uarters, free operations take

he medical team breaking

Ram Kantha Makaju, as he

briefly for lunch.

blace in quick succession with

"Operating here is much

tore convenient now," says Dr

removes a tumour bigger than a

tennis hall from a natient's back

Next he operates on a hydrocele

collection of watery fluid in

the scrotum, and a hernia. Next

is a vasectomy. The facilities are

nuch better now. Two years ago

isiting surgeons operated inside

the crumbling premises of the government sub-health post

while staff held torches and

are treated on the spot, while

to the referral hospital in

the crowded consultation

IN BOLDE PHERICHE is the light that draws them to Bolde Pheriche, a village nerched high on a hill here i Cenral Nepal, a two-hour walk above the banks of the Saptakosi river. The solar-powered lights, a

4 NATION

beacon in the darkness that stretches for miles around, tells them that the doctors from Dhulikhel have arrived. "The lights are kept on all night long s people from the surrounding area can see them. Even in the villages across the river," says Kanchi Tamang. Kanchi is one of hundreds of

villagers who have turned up at the health centre here. She is waiting to be examined by a team of young doctors and nurses struggling to keep up with the lengthening line of patients.

HERE AND THERE

the press, Congress, human rights activists, the is far too easy, when things are so grim, to invent demons, or to exaggerate wrongdoing and ill-intent. Few of us have the comprehe reference points needed to make sense of what is going on at the

Ideology blind faith cynicism_none of these really beln. The only bones approach to the current crisis is to reinvent your feelings about it on a regular basis. We need to read, watch TV, listen to radio and above all else, talk.

So we sit in Nepal, or Pakistan, or London or America and stay up far too late, agonising, laughing and crying. Anyone who hasn't changed his o her mind many, many times during the past weeks isn't to be trusted. The sheer horror of the attacks on the United States have vet to really hit home for most of us. What I can't vet come to terms with is that how little convergence there has been between worldviews. I have long felt, with the intensity of religious faith, that the "clash of

civilisations" was a gross oversimplification that overlooked the role of money, development, modernisation and circumstance, Yet 11 Septembe was a powerfully direct challenge to that view.

As I watched the World Trade Centre towers collapse in Delhi, I was surrounded by people I thought I knew very well. I was devastated to hear som of them say, even as the buildings went down and thousands died, that the Americans deserved it, that faulty foreign policy in Washington somehow justified what was happening in New York. Middle class people who work for organisations espousing Western values—Westoxicated, in the words of Indian sociologist Dipankar Gupta—were somehow gaining satisfaction from the actions of intensely violent men who assume the right to maim and murder for political reasons-terrorists, by the classic definition of the word. Friends in Turkey, Brazil and elsewhere in the developing world

reported similar reactions, within themselves as well as without. I felt the western liberals' version of that. I wanted to blame Israel, Ariel Sharon, the

I towels to catch falling dust Today, the post is empty. lab, a consultation room, and an ershadowed by this spanking operation room. The centre new health centre built with erves 30,000 people from as far help from Friends of Bolde, a away as the neighbouring districts of Ramechhap and eam of German well-wishers Dr Makaju was instrumental Sindhuli, nearly two-day's n setting up the Dhulikhel walk away. Hospital, the closest thing to a community hospital in Nepal, post in my village are not and its four satellite health

effective, so I come here," says stations in Kayre and Dhading 72-vear-old Bhim I al Pant A weak and sickly Pant walked Now self-sustaining, run by efficient medical staff on land two hours uphill to see the donated by the people of Dhulikhel and with infrastrue doctors. Villagers, mostly women, walked up the same ture built with the help of oute while the health station European well-wishers, 16,000 was being constructed. They ons have taken place at each regularly carried 50 kg bags Dhulikhel and 135,000 patients of cement for six hours while ave been treated in the past others broke rocks to make the atural stone wall. "It's good to see people getting health care," says Horst

Today, its health outreach centre in Bolde is a compact stone and cement building

There's plenty wrong with rural health care in Nepal—lack of political will, a stifling bureaucracy, and poor awareness. Then again. some things are going well.



and their friends raised about 1:100,000) and a poor rural road \$100,000 for the centre. The etwork, health stations like this couple are from near Munich ne in Bolde play an importan Germany, where there is one role in taking care to the Nepali doctor for every 300 patients ountryside, and compliment th On average Nepal has only ernment's own network of one doctor for 20,000 people (in ural health facilities emote areas it can be as much as

One such volunteer. Kumari, distributes oral rehydration salts to villagers and explains how to use these in a medical emergency. Women, men, and children come to her usually seeking medicine for a fever, upset stomachs, or first aid for injuries. Kumari also often assists mothers in childhirth. After that, she sits down with them to tell them about healthy food for themselves and their families and the schedule they need to follow for immunisation and Vitamin A drops for their habies

small hut, Kumari's counterpart Bimala alternately coaxes and threatens Sukmava to take her son for immunisation shots at the government's free vaccination camp in the village. Sukmaya, who has already lost two infants, is not sure it will help. She'd rather go to a faith healer.



awareness-raising services. "The structure is extremel well-developed," says Dr Laxmi Rai Pathak, director of the Family Health Division, the focal point for the reproductiv health programmes of government and non-government organisations. "But not all of omnonents are functional naternal mortality rate and Nepal's health care sector is afe motherhood. They should constrained by several factors. ectually do something if, as they According to a 2000 World ay, it is a priority after family olanning," says Pathak. Nepal's demographics reveal Bank Study (Nepal:Operational Issues and Prioritisation of Resources in the Health he poor state of health in the Sector), public sector spending untry: the fertility rate is 4.6, including donor expenditure, or the infant mortality rate is 79 health care is a mere \$3.10 per per 1,000 live births, and erson per year—far less tha

aternal mortality is about 5.4 the \$12 (1993 prices) needed to er thousand live births, one o provide a basic package of he worst statistics in the world. health care services in a Half the children under five developing country. The result uffer from malnutrition, life the report says, are gross vnectancy at hirth is a mere 57 ears, and just 29 percent of the population of child bearing age infrastructure, human resources ses contraceptives. Even under relatively The situation has worsened

because of a one-pill-fits-all ptimistic scenarios, says the bank's report, Nepal's popula approach. "Dolpa and Pathaliya, two vastly different ion is likely to grow at about 2 percent annually in the orseeable future. This would areas-one in the mountains. the other in the tarai-get the same supply of drugs," says Dr ouble the population in 35 Aruna Uprety, a health and ears, putting enormous pressur on the country's already measure reproductive rights activist. In addition, most health realth services. Infectious facilities lack personnel and ar iseases, maternal and prenatal perpetually short of essential ilments, and nutritional drugs and supplies. "Extreme deficiencies are the maior cause poverty and lack of health of sickness and death in Nepal, education both discourage accounting for 50 percent of all deaths and 69 percent of disease. people from seeking health care but the country's rugged terrain The Bank report suggests also limits access to health what many health care profe facilities," adds Uprety. ionals have been saying all In the recent budget the long—that programs are simply not well managed or coordinated with each other, that their roles ernment committed itself to adding three more beds for maternity care in each electora area. But so far, there are no re ill-defined, and that there is not enough decentralisation at signs of that happening. iny level, whether budgeting or "Everyone from the planning nonitoring the operation of ommission to the governi health posts. But the more basic reason has been going on about the

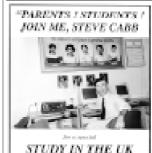
In a hamlet in Makwanpur, FCHV Chinimaya Rumba, in her early fifties, can neither read nor write. But on vaccination days she gets the teacher to record the names of the children who have taken shots. Rumba knows all the village children by name. She knows who has missed a shot and who needs to be cajoled to come. It's difficult work, and Rumba says that "it can be pain." She sometimes feels the urge to just quit. And she isn't alone. Quite a few women

health workers stop after a few years. Rumba is constantly on call, works odd hours, and has quite a job persuading stubborn mothers. And she doesn't get paid either. But what keeps her going, says Rumba, is the thought that she has come to mean so much to the village. The sentiments no doubt of many of these women who are the backbone of rural health care in Nepal.

more than the body



that health care, especially for vestern Nepal, Uprety came women and children, is not across 1,600 women, close to nproving fast enough, is a lack of one-quarter of whom suffered litical and bureaucratic will from prolapse of the uterus which in its turn has more mostly caused by too many pabies, and heavy workloads socially-moted causes Argues Uprety, "This is not Most health analysts acnly about hospitals, doctors, and nowledge the role of an estimedicines. It is more about mated 48.000 Female Communit Health Volunteers at the forerecognising women as humans about gender equality, good ont of the battle to slash the on, sanitation, and awar high child and maternal mortali ness." On a ten-day visit to farlevels in the countryside.



& TOEFL OPEN DAY?

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Expre welcome searchs and dreats

SATURDAE, NOVEMBER 34, IRAN-LIMITORY



UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE &

COMPUTER INSTITUTE

French Souther, "And discourse

"The princess had asked the pilot to circle Rara for a better view..."

The Ecuriel heliconter of Fishtail Air had just taken off from Gampadhi army base on the shores of Lake Rara at 11.25AM. It circled to gain altitude, and suddenly plunged down into the icy waters. Within less than a minute, according to evenitness accounts, it had sunk

Dr Rishi Khatri, who was sitting at the back of the helicopter with Princess Prekshya, Sharada Singh and Iswor Basnet, was flung out of the craft. Despite an injured leg, he managed to swim to shore. It took the army personnel nearly 45 minutes to row out to the crash site that was 1 km away. There, amidst the debris of floating seats and pieces of the

cockpit, they found Sharada Singh. Incredibly, she was alive despite having severe head njuries and being unconscious. Both Sharada Singh and Dr Rishi Khatri were airlifted to Nepalgunj and are now in hospital in Kathmandu.

According to rescuers, the body of Princess Prekshva also floated to the surface a while later and was retrieved. The helicopter went down near the north-eastern corner of Rara where the lake is an estimated 200 m deep. The remote and scenic lake is itself situated at over 2,700 m. Army personnel who resumed rescue operations on Tuesday couldn't even see the wreckage.

"Rabin Kadaria was a very experienced pilot, he has done very difficult missions at high altitude," retired Major Bikash Rana of Fishtail Air told us. "The helicopter was not overloaded, there doesn't seem to have been a malfunction." Rana says special diving equipment is being flown in later this week to retrieve the other three bodies and as much of the wreckage as possible.

Khatri has been quoted by visitors at his hospital as saying that Princess Prekshya had asked the pilot to circle over Rara so she could get a better view of the lake when the craft dropped down into the lake while turning.



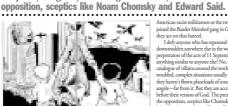
Maoists and marijuana

Living under Maoist rule has brought at least one benefit to the villagers living in the north-western parts of Makwanpur district. Since the Maoist "people's government" was declared there-meaning there is no police presence-farmers in the dozen or so Village Development Committees have turned their attention to nurturing their preferred cash crop: marijuana. Previously, police carried out frequent raids and burnt marijuana harvests. The Maoists, who had earlier declared the area a "marijuana free zone" by continuing the police practice, appear to have changed their minds. Apparently, they're happy to turn a blind eve as long as they too, like other local protectors, including mainstream politicians and some men in uniform, get their cut of the profits from the sale of the narcotic across the border in India. By one report, last year police got their hands on 8,000 kg of marijuana and destroyed the crop in 74.5 hectares.

No salt

There's a sugar shortage in Kathmandu and residents are angry that they may not be able to prepare sweets during Tihar. But in Dolpa, the situation is a little different. Residents there are worried about a more basic commodity, salt. With supplies from the Salt Trading Corporation (STC) nowhere in sight and salt from Tibet not there yet, most Dolpa residents don't have the salt they need. The reason for the shortage is the inability of STC contractors to transport salt. The corpora tion has set aside nearly 700 quintals of salt for the remote district. But, says the District Development Committee, none of that is getting there, depriving people in two dozen Village Development Committees of one of the necessities of life





oppression of the Palestinians, American swaggering and ineptitude in world affairs-things external and perversely rational. But no, I think not. As much I'd love to see Ariel Sharon on trial for the war crimes of Sabra and Shatila, as much as I have long felt that Israel's behaviour towards the Palestinians is cruel and-ultimately-against it's own self interest, that's not what is behind the attacks on America

Nor is American affluence, arrogance or ignorance to blame, not at all. On the contrary, a picture is emerging of horrible clarity-the men at the controls of planeloads of screaming passengers, the planners and back room boys who laid the groundwork, perhaps even Osama bin Laden in his cave in Afghanistan, these people pulse with hatred in the same way as North

American racist militiamen or the twisted and alienated rich kids who joined the Baader Meinhof gang in Germany in the 1970s. They hate, and they act on that hatred. I defy anyone who has espoused the cause of the Palestinians or the downtrodden anywhere else in the world to find common ground with the perpetrators of the acts of 11 September. Have the Americans done

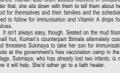
hing similar to anyone else? No, they haven't. They have backed a talogue of villains around the world, they have leapt in and out of roubled, complex situations usually to the detriment of all concerned. But they haven't flown planeloads of innocents into buildings. They are not angels—far from it. But they are accountable, eventually, and not just before their version of God. The press, Congress, human rights activists the opposition, sceptics like Chomsky and Said, all hold the powers-that be in America to account. Eventually. Who, save Rumsfeld, Bush and others are holding al-Oaeda to account

No, I still don't think it's right to bomb Afghanistan further into the Stone Are. I still feel politics should have been given more time to topple the shastly Taliban regime, that money, dollars, should rain down on Afghanistan and every other hellhole that spawns hatred. They—the Americans-need to wrap up this somewhat pointless military campaign sometime soon and this time, spend as freely on schools, roads and irrigation as they did on Tomahawks.

But they need to defeat Al Qaeda and every other group that thinks it's right to kill the innocent. And we—the people—need to build consensus on that point around the world. We could start by behaving with logic, generosity and justice, everywhere and at all time

Nepal's New Health Policy

It isn't always easy, though. Seated on the mud floor of a



6 NATION VILAGE VOICE

16-22 NOVEMBER 2001 NEPALI TIMES

How much is too much?

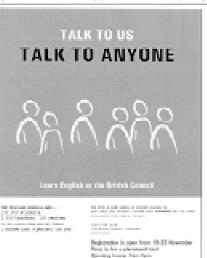


INARUWA, SUNSARI - It is common knowledge that there aren' enough doctors in Nepal, especially in rural areas. Kathmandu Valley itself is full of doctors and so are maybe a few other towns. But there simply aren't enough doctors in most district hospitals, and some are even runnin in the absence of a single doctor. The status of health services in most parts of Nepal is pathetic, and that is why the government is opening so many new medical colleges. But I was surprised to find ou

that the Sunsari District Hospital in Inaruwa has quite a few doctors. In fact, for the people of Inaruwa, there seem to be too many. If you are from Inaruwa and feel otherwise, I apologise. The hospital there has never been short of trained medical professionals. Besides the



three times a week to provide specialist care in Inaruwa's out patient denartment (OPD). And for the pas three years, about half-a-dozen new graduated interns have been posted there 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year in rotation



To Man and

Additional constraints and an end of the second sec

Well, by Nepali standards, thi is a lot of doctors. So I guess some people think a few can be spared. Those of you who read Kantinu may have noticed a small item tucked away in the inside pages in the edition of 17 October. The report said that the people of Inaruwa had beaten up the doctor in charge of the district hospital (the District Health Officer, or DHO), a few other members of th hospital staff, and two 'sikaru doctors, referring, I guess, to us interns Not a totally new concept

ccasions before, and even a nurs just a few months ago. I was presen at the scene and after reading the article in Kantipur, felt the need to set the record straight. The article mentioned two sikaru doctors' trying to treat a voman who had been bitten by a snake. According to the report. these doctors released the tourni quet from her leg and reapplied i orrectly, letting the poison through her body. They then are said to have called the DHO, who immediately referred the patient to the BP Koirala institute in Dharan

And, since the patient died on the way, an angry mob beat up all these people at the hospital. The gist of a not-too-tight tourniquet will the article seemed to be that the nterns were responsible for the This is why doctors remove death of the woman and that the eating administered by the mob was somehow justified Well, the snake had bitten the patient on the hand and not on the aruwa in this case. leg, and there was a physician from ur institute who supervised the whole treatment from start to

There are simply not enough doctors

in rural Nepal. But one lucky district

hospital doesn't value those it has.

for the people of Inaruwa, who have

beaten up DHOs on several

finish. And he, after discussing it with the DHO, referred the patien to Dharan because the Sunsari different hospital a few days before District Hospital did not have the incident, leaving only one uipment for artificial respiratio doctor there on government servic which she would probably require soon. The DHO and an intern the remaining doctor will get telephoned the emergency depart himself transferred out or simply

ment in Dharan to inform them quit. And for now, us interns hav that this patient was on the way

Contact: Shadev Koirala



with the internship program. But the fact is, that none of us is terribly enthusiastic about going back and risking another beating. It sounds harsh, but I can't help thinking that the services given to Înaruwa's ospital by the BP Koirala institute should be suspended, at least temporarily, so the people there ealise that they have as much to gain from the internship program as we do, if not more. And they need to understand that we are not rimenting on them or playing with their lives, but merely working under the guidance of our seniors while gaining experience. After all, similar internship programs are running smoothly in the Dhankuta and Morang District Hospitals without problems.

It is hard to understand the tagonism to sikarudoctors all over While I'm at it, I would also like to take the air out of the widespread belief that tying a very tight tourniquet to treat snake bite and unlicensed pharmacists who helpful. A torniquet should be tied leaving one finger-width worth o extra room, so that the blood supply i not hampered, but lymphatic drainag is blocked. This is because 90 percent-if not more-of the snakes most of us encounter are not lso human. And that all people. whether one's near and dear or poisonous. If you tie a very tight rniquet, you stop the venom froi ntering the bloodstream, but with Doctors aren't god.

the blood supply cut off, the part below the tourniquet is sure to develop gangrene. Whether the snak is or not, this part of the body will turn black and be completely useless soon. Meanwhile, eve retard the absorption of the poise ourniquets and tie them again mselves, loosely, as the should be. I see no error on the part of any of the doctors in But thanks to the 'brave' youn men from Inaruwa, there won't be too many doctors there, at least for the time being. One of the doctors will be posted here. was officially transferred to a

people of Inaruwa. May the lord giv m good health—and the good Since he was beaten up, my guess is many doctors in Nepal. (Dr Milan Piya is an intern with

Sciences)



NATION

especially in Inaruwa. After all, no one is a great cardiologist or ace neurosu n from the womb. I suppose som of this has to do with the local quacks abound in rural areas. As for me, I intend to remain a trainee all my life nd keep myself open to all there is to know. It is interesting, though, how people tend to forget that doctors are doctors themselves, eventually die It disappointed me that people

e were treating and serving had no lue what we were doing there after even years. It wasn't the physical beating—I was only hit by two adminton rackets, which I blocked off and broke—but the attitude of the people that not me all riled up. In any case, I am thankful that when the mob rushed towards our hostel, at the doorway they ran into me-6 ft tall and 75 kg—and not a woman doctor. She would have met the same fate as he nurse who was badly beaten up and kicked by Inaruwa's brayest a few months ago. I feel bad for the next loctor on government service who

This Dasain I prayed for the nse to realise that there aren't that

the BP Koirala Institute of Health



SOMEWHERE IN NEPAL

who surfaced from his own under pround den after the restoration of nultiparty democracy, laughed off the query as if an answer would have epresented a breach of comradely onfidentiality. Prachanda may be one of the orld's most secretive leaders, but wen shadowy characters live lives that

A newspaper down south gives us some insights into

.....

magazines and they must have made

nany wonder what the man was

actually like. UML leader Madhav

Kumar Nepal, who joined other key

Leftist leaders at a meeting with the

Siliguri several weeks ago, refused to

what he does in those pictures. Nepal

Maoists are operating outside of the

constitution But this fact doesn't free

the government from its responsibility

ard rumours of frequent Prachanda

to uphold the people's right to information on The Fierce One. I've

sightings in the capital. Actually, I've

ome across a couple of people who

bear striking similarities to the facial

newspaper pictures. But I never could

features we've seen in those grainy

who he calls "opportunist dogs"

things. He is a passionate fan of Karisma Manandhar and is said to

kabaddi. It turns out that he had

International Development before

Maoist assault

son since 1995.

good. And politicians are had.

An Indian journalist's account of meeting

Army. And it will be a very good thing because we will capture a

ence." His logic is that New Delhi will, sooner or later, come

to the rescue of the Nepal government tottering under heavy

According to Prachanda, colonialism, feudalism, imperial

He entered Leftist politics in 1971 through a faction of the

Communist Party, moving on to more radical groups, eventually

Born on 11 December, 1954, in Dhikurpokhri village of Kaski

ending up at the top of the Maoist faction in the mid-1990s.

district in the Himalayan foothills, Prachanda was christened

Chabilal by his father Muktiram Dahal, who worked as a farm

southern Nepal. At the Naravani High School, he apparently

impressed his teachers so much with his intelligence and

conduct that they rechristened him Pushpan Kamal after the

lotus, a symbol of purity and beauty. "As a child, he never lied or fought with other children. In fact, he was called to mediate

and resolve disputes," says Muktiram, who hasn't seen his

College, a 30-minute bicycle-ride from Shivnagar. "Students

staretd coming to our house. I learned that he was dabbling in

politics. I told him-we are poor, we can't afford politics, politics

can destroy us. Even today, I'm pained when I hear that people

Prachanda describes himself as an easy-going, fun-loving

schoolboy who sang and danced and played football, volleyball

lender kicked him. It lit a fire inside me. It was a political lesson I

10 A 10

and kabaddi. "But one day I saw a moneylender insulting my

father. My father fell at the moneylender's feet. But the money-

are being killed on my son's orders."

After school Prachanda enrolled at the Rampur Anricultural

hand. When he was seven, the family migrated to Shivnagar in

ism, capitalism and revisionism are all bad. All peasants are

lot of guns from them. It will be our national war of independ-

"the world's most secretive leader."

But he wags his tail at a lot of

the private life of The Man Who Can't Be Fathomed.

adorned our newspapers and

interest the public. Granted, the

SNM ARD

rachanda, or The Powerful One, is addicted to buffalo milk. He gulps down two big glasses of fresh, frothy milk-unboiled and without sugar-at the crack of dawn before switching on the small Sonv radio for the latest news from Nepal. India and around the world. Station-surfing over, he sits down to read and write, often dictating to a confidante. The morning routine never changes. Neither does the security cover for one of South Asia's most wanted men-16 bodyguards with AK-47s-a human shield that the enemies of Nepal's Fidel Castro have not dared to test.

Pushpan (sic) Kamal Dahal alias Prachanda rules one-third of Nenal after a six-year-old civil war that has claimed 2,000 lives in the once-peaceful Himalavan kingdom. Even Kathmandu admits that its writ doesn't run anymore in 25 out of 73 (sic) districts where the Reds run a parallel government-collecting taxes, running schools, hospitals post offices, buses and dispensing justice. And the goal of the revolutionary army of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) fighters, led by the charismatic Comrade Prachanda, is to quickly capture the other two thirds still ruled by Nepal's constitutional monarch. King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, and Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's Nepali Congress Party.

"The Manist revolution will be completed very soon, not in the remote future." says the shadowy rebel boss who moves from bunker to bunker. He is one of the most secretive mass leaders in the world, with only two photographs of him known to exist. The Nepali media-newspapers and TV channels-carry the same pictures day after day. But his hardline views are wellknown. "All moderates are opportunist hogs, I detest them. There is no alternative to people's war and the gun is the best

sity, adds gleefully, "Ultimately we will have to fight the Indian



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Nepal Wildlife Resort: Thahurdwara-6, Royal Bardia National Park. Kathmandu Office: Thamel, Kathmandu, Nepal G.P.O. 1044, Fax: 419237, Tel.: 258492 E-mail: nwr@mos.com.n Japan Office: Tokyo to Sumida Ku 3-40-6 Kyonjima. Japan E-mail: tourist@syd.odi.ne.jp Tel/Fax: 03-52473585

becoming a full-time politician. (Is Dad. too. has been living with that where he discovered that "colonialism, feudalism, imperialism, capitalism and revisionism are all bad?" Just a thought.) Although it's unclear whether he chose his nom de guerre after the "Prachanda Gorkha" he underground political group ousted by the Ranas in 1931, th Maoist chieftain seems to have drawn lessons from the movemen on the need to maintain strict The man the government holds sponsible for the deaths of up to ,000 people-most of them his

Prachanda comes alive

take out for sure since none of those men raised a clenched fist as I passed upporters-is not heartless, after all. by. We now understand how deeply rachanda's biggest regret in life is that the Maoist leader detests moderates. he was not by his mother's side when she died. When she was diagnosed with blood cancer in 1995. Pushpa Kamal and his brother got her admitted to Bir Hospital. He spent a travel miles to see her movies. Pushp month with her in the hospital, but Kamal actually describes himself in the ad to vanish after somebody tipped ofile as an easy-going, fun-loving off the police. "I think it is the bigge schoolboy who sang and danced and played football, volleyball, and erronal sacrifice I have ever made " he iys. Did this sense of forfeiture in any way fortify Prachanda's desire to use worked briefly for the US Agency for death and destruction as instruments to achieve political ends

own share of grief. ("I'm pained every turn of events. In the last six when I hear that people are being killed on my son's orders.") He from "underlaged operational unity hasn't seen Pushpa Kamal since with the palace to institutionalising 1995 and doesn't know where his the post-1 June embryonic republi wife and children live. That's no The last we heard from Prachanda, small sacrifice, especially when ma the Maoists have decided not to people probably can't stop staring a press their demand for a People's n—either out of awe or antipa Republic of Nepal in peace talks thy-every time he takes a walk with the government. This shift seems to be guided as through the neighbourhood. Prachanda, who insists on using the royal plural in his interviews and

I the sudden shifts in Maoist tactics with

nonths alone, the policy has moved

much by the writing on the wall around Tri-Chandra Campus as by statements, asserts that his soldiers are the post-11 September internation: reparing themselves to fight the urity environment. All this Indian Army, which he believes will sounds like genuine realpolitik. But ventually come to the rescue of the Prachanda still believes the Maoist overnment in Kathmandu. "[I]t wil revolution will be completed very be a very good thing because we will oon, and not in the remote future capture lots of guns from them. It will It's this kind of obfuscation that be our national war of independobscures the insurgents' real ence." So the Dunai and Rukumko tentions. I probably haven't read assaults were just trial runs for the ough about the Long March and big one. That kind of self-possessio the Great Lean Forward to under tand the true significance of such udable in a leader, but the problem is that it sounds more like ussyfooting. But I do know that o glasses of frothy buffalo milk ar cordial invitation to the Bharatiya very rich in fat content. Comrade, jawans to come marching in through the back door. just make sure you keep your Such concerns are magnified by cholesterol levels under control

never forgot. It changed the course of my life."

Despite his Leftist leanings, after graduation Prachanda worked for USAID for a few months, before plunging full-time into politics. But long before that, he married Sita Paudal, Nobody knows where Prachanda's wife and children live. Not even Muktiram.

The battle-hardened Prachanda's biggest regret is that he was not by his mother's side when she died. "She had blood cancer and in 1995 we admitted her to the Bir Hospital, the best in Kathmandu. My brother and I spent a month with her in the hospital. But somebody tipped off the police and I had to vanish before they nabbed me. I think it is the biggest personal sacrifice I have ever made."

But the uncompromising fighter conceded that he has a sweet tooth. He is also a passionate fan of Karisma Manandhar the Madhuri Divit of Nenal and is known to travel miles to see her new releases. However, for Prachanda, the cause is allconsuming. "Maoism today is spreading faster than yesterday, he maintains firmly. (The Sunday Times of India



As apportantly in chargers Specific Engraps Welling Computationality in which the product effectation is following an interfacion when produced and prove of the meet present is not relating with

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benial offer to interduce you 'Coshi farma Middle Reserve



tool for social transformation.

· Seminar hall with 65 Pax capacity · View Tower

Prachanda, who underwent military training while at univer-'Best Resort in the best location at Royal Bardia National Park'

· Bird Watching · Culture Dance



8 NEPALI ECONOMY

16-22 NOVEMBER 2001 NEPALI TIMES

everything, this Beed felt a frisson of

delight at seeing the bright lights and all the hustle and bustle, a nice

change from the deserted streets and

empty shops one has come to expect at this time of year. Normally, during

Dasain and Tihar women have bee

homebound, attending to the

omen working, people are

demands of the men in their lives

and feeding all and sundry. With the

R

16-22 NOVEMBER 2001 NEPALI TIMES 9

Kathmandu for 35 weeks of the

year, transporting up to 15,400

people to Nepal and back. The

chological importance of being

able to fly directly from one's owr

country and, moreover, with a

trusted 'home' airline cannot be

underestimated. By filling this nich

in the market, the Transavia service

wealthier, non-backpacking Dutch

tourists who might previously have

gone to Bali for a beach holiday.

And it's not just the Dutch. The

to Nepal has jumped 15 percent

number of Belgian tourists coming

to Kathmandu has quite literally

placed Nepal on the map of

possibility for a class of older

Spending rules

BIZ NEWS

The government has announced new expenditure regulations to tighten spending on projects. Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat says this is to eliminate one of the "loopholes" in development administration, which has been a hotbed of corruption. The rule makes cost escalations beyond 15 percent through variation orders-changing designs and specifications mid-way into construction-llegal. One example of how specifications change is the Kali Gandaki hydroelectric project, which is expected to cost as much as 50 percent over the original budget by the time construction is over and the project comes on line sometime in early 2002. The new rules also simplify bidding for construction contracts, and specify that different officials are to do the cost estimates prior to bidding than those who eventually evaluate bids.

Nepal Lever profits down

Nepal Lever, a subsidiary of Hindustan Lever, has reported a roughly 50 percent drop in net profits in the fiscal year that ended mid-July 2001. Profits fell from about Rs 120.5 million in July 2000 to Rs 68 million this year, according to a company statement. The lower takings were largely due to a 27 percent drop in export turnover compared to the year before. Lever's toothpaste exports stooped in March when India export immover compares to the year belows. Ever's sourcease exports subplet in march when india changed the duty regime, changing in on the Manufacturer Steal Price (MPP) and not transaction value. The revenue from falling toothpaste sales was about Rs 50 million. Negali exports were also made uncompeti-tive by India's Central VAT deductions on raw material and packing duties available to Indian producers. Still, Lever's domestic sales rose by 21 percent to Rs 704.3 million.

Mind our business

The Federation of Neoalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) invited Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba over to tell him how bad things were for business. Deuba said he was willing to help and that he'd amend labour laws. But the FNCCI's 22-point list is more wide-ranging and asks that ooverment: Guarantee industrial security

- Ban strikes, bandhs and other disruptions
- Give the FNCCI the power to hire and fire workers, and make other changes in labour law
- End extortion and forceful donations (by Maoists and other political parties)
- Hurry up with help for sick industries Reduce visa fees and introduce multiple entry permits
- Get banks to reschedule loans and interest repayments
- Implement the duty-drawback re-payment scheme announced in the budget
- Promptly refund the Value Added Tax owed to garment exporters Provide special security to distilleries and breweries
- Exclude old bank loans from the central bank's loan recovery directives
- Provide immunity to old borrowers.

Sanitary ware

India's Hindware has begun marketing its bathroom fittings and tiles in Nepal. The products are to be retailed through eight outlets in Kathmandu Valley, and gradually more all over Nepal. If you are planning to redo your bathroom, this may be the time to do it, since the company has special opening offers and freebies. Bajra & Bajracharya Enterprises also distribute products from Somany Floor & Wall tiles. Nova Industries and Hindware (Hindustan Sanitaryware Industries P Ltd).



epal undeniably needs a good kick in the pants to spur economic growth. And obviously taking a month off is the way to do it. Darain and Tibar are wonderful festivals, a time to reaffirm ne's commitment to family, society and so forth through the copious swilling of liquor, eating of goat and gambling of life savings. But, the Beed, ever the clear-

eyed killjoy also sees it as a month during which productivity is at a disgraceful low, and many offices

take on the appearance of ghost towns. It is autumn, and most of the population, sensing the end of the warm season, unthinkingly makes merry and, like the grasshop per, regrets it through the winter This year, while the garment mporters operating out of tax haven in Indra Chowk and its by-lanes ma argue that there has been a visible recession, retailers nevertheless did frenzied business during the festivals A good monsoon is always a good prelude to a good Dasain, and agricultural prosperity has been on the up this year. The dim, but noticeable,

rays of hope emanated by the peace talks between the government and the Maoists have also fuelled some optimism in villages. Cities like Pokhara and Dharan, which have historically been happy to buy, buy buy, saw their brisk Dasain business spill over into Tihar. But still, Thamel isn't doing too well, and retailers, oteliers and restaurateurs there sa

they don't remember a festival time in growth in nuclear families, and more cent years when there have been celebrating festivals differently, too. This has happened all over the such few tourists Tihar, this Beed was thinking, is actually the best time to assess the world, and is always accompanied by state of the economy based on the the lament that so-and-so traditional money that changes hands Gamblin festival has become a money-spinne is as much part of our national psyche for such-and-such. Well, I ask, as are drinking and the daura-suruwal, what's wrong with that. People are and since the festival legitimises getting out of their houses and it is the beholden duty of any selfbetting day and night, we raise the stakes pretty high and a mindrespecting businessperson to lure boggling amount of cash is exchanged. them in We should have carnivak

It is always rude to ask people the revolving around religious or cultural source of their income, and never themes-that is one way to boost more so than during Tihar, neverthe domestic as well as international less, there ought to be something that tourism. These events could be in any part of Nepal. Increasing can be done when in one night mobility, better roads and air businessmen bet amounts that officially they have earned over three connections should be leveraged to years, and government employees play more than their life-time earnings. encourage people to travel. Entrepreneurs in the tourism One may be censorious of the and hospitality industries, together bacchanalian lunacy that descends or with business associations, should try the Nepali pation in the festive this out next year. Think about it as season, but that does not blind one to you have what I hope is a happy and some rather interesting sociological prosperous Tihar!

changes in the making. For instance it was quite something to be out on the streets during Dasain. Despite Readers can post their views at arthabeed@yahoo.com.



there was a doubling of visitors in just two years, and these figures don't include the number of Dutch nationals who get their Nepali visa at the Chinese or Indian borders, or at the Tribhuvan Intenrational Airport. To what can we attribute this sharp increase? Probably not to the ingenious marketing strategies of the Visit Nepal 1998 initiative. The wer comes in the unlikely form of

From below sea level to the

company of KLM, the Dutch flag carrier, and has its own fleet of 2 iness was built around trans-So adding Kathmandu as a seasona in the northern winter.

to Kathmandu is a story in its own right. The unexpected catalysts were the crown princes of both ngdoms, though they surely did not know things would turn out this way. In 1967, King Mahendra was on an official visit to the Netherlands. Unfortunately, the evening of the royal banquet did not go as planned. The palace was a little frazzled, and Queen Juliana was absent-she was giving birth to the future crown prince of the Netherlands, Willem-Alexander. Almost thirty years later, this incident helped Cas F de Stoppelaar, the Royal Nepalese Honorany Consul General to the Netherlands, get Transavia to fly to Nepal. De Stoppelaar dashed off a letter to the Dutch Royal Palace pinting out that the palace had ice been responsible for ruining a official dinner in honour of King

Mahendra The palace rang him

Cas F de Stoppelaar helped bring Transavia to Nepal. back, one thing led to another and

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Kathmandu, something on the order | 220-seater aircraft a week to in January 1997, Crown Prince of 150 seats a week. The search ran Willem-Alexander of the Nether into administrative obstacles-there lands made an official visit to Nepal. Received, in line with expected protocol, by then Crow Prince Dipendra, Willem-Alexander extended an 'open invitation' at the end of his stay for his host to pay a return visit 1998 was a year of growing Dutch interest in Nepal, particu-

urrounding the IMAX Everest film. and the news that Nepal's crown prince would be visiting. De oppelaar, together with the influential Dutch travel agency OAD (which owns Nepal Reizen) had been approaching airlines with the idea of opening up a direct route between Amsterdam and



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Do you agree with the Maoists demand for a new constitution ? No. I don't agree. First of all who are the Magists to demand it? No oovernment in the world can succumb to terrorist threats. Second, they are not the people's representatives, they point guns at innocent people to agree with their rhetoric. Third, our constitution has the provision to change itself with two-thirds majority of the pratinidhi sabha. If the Maoists want to change the constitution, let them fight elections peacefully and get a two-thirds majority in the house and amend it. However, this does not this does not give our present rulers the excuse to be complacent and ignorant towards the plight of Nepalis.

Damanendra

Government shouldn't panic. We need to think critically, and make the right decision that does not put the country in danger. A few years ago, the Maoists were nobody, now they want to take over the country and change the constitution. This is not fair on other citizens who want democrac Sushmita

Even though a new constitution is not required, the present one needs to be amended to suit the modern era. The state should be secular. The power of the prime minister should be clearly defined, whether in mobilis ing the army or declaring a mid-term poll. The judiciary should be made ing the army or declaring a mid-term poin. The junching concernent accountable to the people, the palace must be made more transparent. Prakash

Yes, the demand is quite right from the people's perspective. The present constitution is not less democratic than any constitution of the world, but it is only mimicry, not reality. Did the framers of the constitution get a mandate from the people?

Dev Basu There is nothing wrong with the current constitution, only with the people implementing it. Nepal needs a group of honest people to be elected who will run the country in its best interest, not their own. The political powers and the powers-to-be should remember that they are elected by the people to serve the interest of the people. If instead of worrying about who sits in which chair and holds what powerful position, they worry about the needs of the people, a lot of the troubles that confront us will slowly disappear, including the trouble caused by the criminals masquerading as Maiosts. It seems to be the nature of all those who acquire positions of power in Nepal to become corrupt. A new constitution will not solve the problem, what is needed is to change the way people think.

DDP Yes. Nepal needs radical change, fresh blood, something new. If the current politicians run the country, we are going to be poorer.

D Koirala, Biratnagar In my opinion this is not the time to change the constitution. There is no better ruling system than this. But it has not been handled properly by those elected by the people. If I were a Maoist, I would get rid of corrupt

ministers rather than loval policemen. There is no point making other laws, because laws are written to be broken. Dambar Khanal, Delhi

No, the Mapist should join the political mainstream and work to uplift the lives of the poor and needy. Bring progress and prosperity to the nation, win the people's hearts and minds. Then demand a new

Nanda Limbu

What we need is a change of attitude, not constitution. What we need is action, not speech, and we need to not expect that from others, but set examples ourselves. Rajeeb Satyal

Amend the constitution, but the way the Maoists want to. The past decade of Westminster-style parliamentary system in Nepal has bred khanists and Manists. The former created the latter. The proliferation of rank-and-file khaoists and the very existence of the Maoist insurgency expose the structural cracks of the present Nenali constitution

The current practice by which the leader of the majority party in parliament becomes prime minister is flawed, more critically so when no political party has a majority. The institution of prime minister needs to he strengthened to elect a strong leader who carries forward the national vision as per the aspirations of the majority. This leadership development process can be accomplished by electing the prime minister and his/her deputy directly by adult franchise for a set period of years.

The elected prime minister should form a cabinet consisting of individuals of high ethics and proven public service from amongst political parties, civil service, business, non-governmental institutions, technocrats, educators, and other sectors of society. If MPs become ministers, they should resign from the legislature. A simple majority of parliament should have the power to remove any incompetent minister. and a two-thirds majority of the whole legislature should be allowed to impeach an incompetent prime minister. The king should remain the mander-in-chief of the army with a set of clearly defined constitu tional roles. However, he should be responsible to the people.

Every decade, the Nepali people should be given an opportunity to decide on the status of the royal institution through a referendum. A twothirds majority of parliament should vote on question on the referen dum. A king in command of the Royal Nepal Army would preclude the

prime minister and his entourage from being authoritarian. With amendments of the current constitution, the multiparty political system can be improved to create an environment where leaders can rise with experience from village level public office to that of prime minister. Eventually, the system will produce principled visionary leaders who command the respect and support of the populace in leading Nepa

towards improving the quality of life of all citizens. Without a democratic political framework in place, the alternative is the danger of totalitarian ism, authoritarianism, anarchy, civil war, and fragmentation of the sovereign Nepal as we know and love so dearly today. Padam Sharma, Minnesota

It will be real stupidity to change the constitution. But, we can certainly consider changes that are promptly needed, such as in the case of royal powers and so on. It is better for Maoist to quit their crazy demands. CL Duwa

The Maobadi are right, perhaps Nepal needs to revise its constitution But this is not for them to say or do. The consensus should come from the people and political parties. Political parties will try to seize the opportunity for their own benefit, so the only neutral person would be His Majesty

DD I think so. Given our political situation maybe we need Mao. Gaiendra Gurung

Progress means going forward, not backward. This constitution is not doing anything for the people. After 12 years it hasn't brought change. If Nepal is to go into the 21st century, we need total change, become a republic and have a presidential system

Dipak Sharma Try to understand what most Nepalis want. The constitution needs a shot

in the arm, and it isn't wise to ask the king of a tiny country to step down when there are over three dozen ethnic groups who hate each others' auts.

J Bruno I do not understand why on earth Maoist leaders are demanding a new constitution or a constitutional assembly. To formulate a constitutional assembly, first of all there have to be elected representatives from every constituency and then the representatives will construct a new constitu tion. This is a very long and complex procedure and an extravagant economic burden for a country like ours. Prime Minister Deuba is taking the problem seriously and positively. Now it is the turn of the Maoists to show similar honesty and vision. No doubt about it: the present constitution has some drawbacks, but these can be resolved though an all-party consensus. Merely changing the constitution means nothing, what we

Rahulal Pakhrin

The Maoist demand for changes in the constitution has a certain validity. The present constitution was the outcome of the popular movement, but all segments of the people did not participate in framing the constitution. The people should have a say in the kind of constitution they want. Aatma Shrestha

need is for it to be implemented in practice.

post-industrial country with wide reaching infrastructure, virtually no remaining unmanipulated nature and startlingly high income tax. Nepal, for its part, is essentially non-industrial, with little infra structure to speak of, nor enforced taxes for that matter, but abounding in natural beauty. Then there is the most apparent and amusing contrast—in the Netherlands th highest point is a few hundred feet above sea level, which in Nepal



by their own countrymen and and dietary needs. he Consulate of the Kingdom of Nepal in Amsterdam, the total umber of tourist visas issued were

he Summit Hotel was established pecifically caters to their cultural

both countries share. Nepal wants

Whichever country in the world

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tourists and the Dutch are tourists.

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ravelling, but others settle down

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Furniture Land

would be swiftly dismissed as a dhiska But tourism is one concern

MARK TURIN IN AMSTERDAM

that sit alphabetically next

nferences, the Netherlands and

Nepal appear to have little else in

to each other at United Nations

side from being two small

on. The Netherlands is a Calvinist Dutch entrepreneurship From beaches in Thailand to outposts in Alaska, there are Netherlanders running bars restaurants and businesses. Nepal is no exception: the cosy oasis called In 1998, the number of Dutch ationals visiting Nepal saw a sharp ncrease. According to figures from

6.649 in 1997, 10.860 in 1998 and



highest mountain

planes. Already a well-established charter airline in the Netherlands. the bulk of Transavia's traditional porting Dutch holiday-makers to beach destinations like Ibiza and Mallorca in the summer holidays.

destination from September to April dovetailed nicely with the supply and demand of their staff and fleet, which are fully occupied in the summer months, but less so

And how Transavia came to fly



RNAC, allowing them to fly to each larly due to the press coverage other's canitals The first Transavia flight to

Cathmandu took off on 23 September, 1998. In the cockpit-



10 HINTERLAND

16-22 NOVEMBER 2001 NEPALI TIMES

16-22 NOVEMBER 2001 NEPALI TIMES

Dhulikhel shows small is bountiful



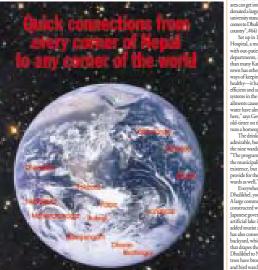
By concentrating on education, health and tourism Dhulikhel has become a model town.

ALOK TUMBAHANGPHEY eastern tarai. Half the traffic hulikhel has for centuries prospered from its location on the ancient trade route between Nepal and Tibet. Now, the country's smallest and best-run municipality is gearing up for the rush that will accompany the opening of a new highway that will soon be the only direct road access from Kathmandu Valley to the

moving through Thankot is going to be diverted through Dhulikhel. Is this going to bring more dhulo (dust) or dhan (riches) to Dhulikhel? \Dhulikhel is gearing for some well-planned honest-to-goodness

commercial and social development. It helps that Dhulikhel has a population of only 12,000, there is

a thriving sense of community Mayor Shrestha's words seriously. despite the cosmopolitanism. Part of the reason Dhulikhel is so well run is its mayor. Bel Prasad Shrestha. "We have set three objectives we would like to meet, says Shrestha, "We want quality education for our children, better health services and the promotion of tourism." There is good reason to take



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An independent candidate serving his third term as mayor. Shrestha managed to bring in a successful university and a modern hospital. To take full advantage of Kathmandu University, which set up home here in 1993 on the western edge of the town, the municipality has been working to improve the quality of education in its

schools, so more students from the area can get into KU. Locals even donated a large part of the land the university stands on. (See "College comes to Dhulikhel-and the Set up in 1996, the Dhulikhel Hospital, a modern medical facility with out-patient and in-patient lepartments, is said to be better than many Kathmandu clinics. The town has other, more pro-active ways of keeping its residents healthy-it has one of the most efficient and safe drinking water systems in the country, "Stomach ailments caused by poor drinking water have almost disappeared from here," savs Govinda Neupane an old-timer on the main street who runs a homeopathic medical store The drinking water program is admirable, but reaches only seven of

the nine wards of the municipality. when the road becomes fully "The program was started before operational, it will provide a the municipality came into existence, but we are trying to provide for the remaining two wards as well," says the mayor. Mugling-effect-that wild west Everywhere you go in Dhulikhel, you see signs of change. junctions in Nepal. A large community ground has been constructed with the help of the Japanese government, and an artificial lake is on the way as an added tourist attraction. The town has also conserved the forest in its backyard, which is now a jungle that drapes the ridge connecting Dhulikhel to Namo Buddha. The trees have brought the birds back. and bird watchers flock here, as do Kathmanduites on weekend picnics. But the most important change will be the Banepa-Bardibas highway being built by the Japa-Dhulikhel not in the tourism nese, 22 km of which has just been completed. In another five years, industry will, he hopes, work to



establish a wholesale market. hipments of Chinese goods would hopefully stop here first, encouragshortcut to eastern Nepal. The fact that Dhulikhel is so well managed ing the Valley's traders to take will probably help it overcome the advantage of the lower prices. The road would also make it easier for look that afflicts all major highway Dhulikhel to leverage its tomatoes potatoes and milk.

ventured further. The problem is

Dhulikhel is bravely preparing But there are doubters. "How for full-scale war. Since the water can Dhulikhel be a stopping point supply was improved and the university moved in, real estate has when Banepa, 15 minutes down the road, is already a major business become scarce and expensive. But, centre?" asks Biswa Shrestha, who with the help of a German has been running the Mt View Guest House for 14 years government grant, the municipality has already started building a bus Dhulikhel and Banepa have endured park to make commuting easy centuries of healthy competition, should offices move here. "We plan and the tradition endures. It isn't as to cash in on this road and convert if residents of Dhulikhel don't like the idea of developing their town. the region into a major trading point that offers better deals to They are all for it. In fact, the traders than Kathmandu," says Sanjeevani High School here was built with the small savings sent Shrestha, Those residents of home by Dhulikhelites who

HINTERLAND

time. Many residents are getting impatient, waiting for the benefi

development. What it needs as it moves forward is consensus, so its residents continue to have a say in

the future of their town. Mohan

Prasad Shrestha who owns a

stationery shop summed it up:

"Dhulikhel people have always shown much love for this place

even if they do not live here. Th

important thing now is for all of

us to remain united, whether we

are hoteliers, farmers, or other

professionals."

to trickle down. "A handful of moneyed entrepreneurs have profited from the tourism industry. Smaller ones like us have it hard," says Purna Man of the Nawaranga Restaurant and Guest House. Others, like Purna Bahadur Karki, a teacher at the Sanieevani High School, remain hopeful, "If there is proper do much better," he says. Dhulikhel is swiftly turnin into a modern municipality, with good infrastructure. It is still a united town where citizens are very much concerned with



Things to see



Green Moments



MICHELLE DELIO

ools used to detec

effective as they could be because

they lack the human touch

viruses and stop malicious

hack attacks may not be as



BRUSSELS - Top EU development officials agreed last week to adopt a 'common calendar' for the bloc's members to make good on interna-tional promises to raise official development assistance (ODA) to 0.7

percent of GNP. At present there is no formalised mechanism within

the EU to monitor its member states' efforts to comply with that UN

o inoculate computers

It's quite simple, really. You write programs to identify virus DNA, and disallow bad computer behaviour.

rease in size, forensics exper

Help for those poor, belea-TASC's eDNA application was uered boxes is now available. Two not originally designed to work new security programs use what against malicious code, but was science knows about humans intended to assist computer physical and psychological makeup prensics examiners-people who to protect computers from people. Harris' STAT Neutralizer, stops check computers to gather evidence used in legal investigahumans from doing bad things to tions or criminal trials. computers. A STAT-protected But as computer hard drive machine can't have its vital files deleted or altered, either purposely o are faced with not only finding the by well-intentioned error. The roverbial needle in the haystack computer simply won't allow it. but also contending with a lot TASC's eDNA program more hay. So Sanders' team set out to write a "data reduction" program identifies and stops malicious programs such as viruses in the that could quickly identify and me way that a human's DNA car remove "known" files-typically be used to identify his or her centuries-old genetic makeun eDNA does not rely on neuristics scanning as many antivit programs do. Heuristics looks for specific patterns of code associated

with known viruses in order to spot new or rewritten viruses. EDNA digs deeper and ferrets out the old ancestral links, even if the program's code has been greatly altered. "A person can be matched from his or her DNA no matter what makeup they are wearing or what body-altering surgery they have undergone," says David Sanders, head scientist at TASC. "Similarly, eDNA can identify version 3.2 of a virus or Troian with a sample from versior 1.0. just like a child can be identified



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system files and applications-fron the list of things that the examiner needed to look at. Sanders' team used a two-step method to accurately ID all standard-issue files. Their program checked the file's size against the typical size of that application or file, and also used "MD5 hash." technology that produces a digita ingerprint of a file or application Sounds foolproof, but as any

'Computers are the scapegoats of the modern age," says David Young, and differentiated from all the other

should be able to identify all of its parents" and "children." "While we never really gave much thought to identifying malicious code during the eDNA project, after its completion we discovered that eDNA worked just as well against viruses as it did any other code," Sanders says. The team tested eDNA on th well-known Trojan "Back Orifice' (BO), After extracting BO's DNA they turned eDNA loose. It easily

programmer knows, two legitima

opies of a program may produce

fingerprints from their code files.

due to small programming changes

amines and matches program

code at a very primitive level. The

idea was that once you had the

basic "DNA" of a program, you

So Sanders and his team coded a program, now called eDNA, which

slightly different MD5 hash

found the "donor" program and also accurately recognised

intelligence and has taught at the Army's Advanced Foreign Counterinrewritten, altered versions of BO. telligence Training Course. EDNA has also found previ "I'd love to discuss specifics, ously unknown "parents" of but I really can't go there malícious code. "I remember one Sanders says. "We are really day we downloaded a Trojan sensitive about not making the ba guys smarter " known as Seek," said Joe Ailinge Harris' STAT Neutralizer also of TASQ. "After extracting it DNA, we ran eDNA to see if it defuses bad guy or bad code behaviour, and even blocks good could pick out Seek. To our

horror, it not only picked out Seek people or code that are innocently but also identified two other mpting to do bad things. programs, Girlfriend and Paradise, Neutralizer monitors everything as being closely related despite that's going on in a system via electronic "agents." The agents allow "good" behaviour, anything there being no known link between them. We were sure eDNA was wrong. But upon that a system should normally do further examination of these while blocking abnormal or "bad" rograms' code, we found that behaviour, such as sending e-mail both Girlfriend and Paradise are to everyone in an e-mail program' address book, or making changes derivatives of Seek. eDNA easily spotted the relationship." to the system software. Since STAT Neutralizer blocks After tests involving thousand f donor code files, eDNA has virus and Trojan activity, systems never falsely identified a code file administrators don't have to take

as being related to the DNA donor networks offline while they nor has it missed matching a code download, test, and install a new file, according to Sanders. "Putting security patch. Dr Chris Feudo, the director of on my scientific sceptic hat, I hav to assume there is a false positive the Global Information Assurance or missed match out there Group a technical consulting firm. somewhere lurking in the darknes s tested STAT Neutralizer. Feudo ays he is impressed with its ability to waiting to laugh at me, but I have vet to encounter it." Sanders save detect the computer viruses he set Currently, eDNA is being loose on the test system.

tested by several government "STAT basically places a agencies, but agency spokespeople rotective shell around the (operatsaid that beta testers would be 1g system's) kernel," Feudo explains unable to comment on specifics "It protects the kernel from being immediately. "Anything that ltered in any way by anyone who essentially gives investigators an doesn't have explicit permission." infallible brain is useful," said an Some systems administrators FBI agent who did not want to be vere particularly interested in identified. "We are quite aware STAT Neutralizer's ability to that criminals and terrorists use otect computers from their users. "Given a choice. I've learned malicious programs to gather intelligence and jam critical that users will almost always ms, and obviously we're familiar with DNA trackingsecurity. That's why e-mailed eDNA extends that science to viruses promising glimpses of nteresting material if you just computers. It's a pretty neat idea. Sanders also declined com-'click on the attachment' are so ment on what specific tests the effective." says David Young. "A product that protects the system government might be carrying out although his experience is probably rom its users is a big step in the being put to good use. Sanders right direction."

Move over, Al Jazeera, here comes Ajeeb.com

Ask most people what they think of free Internet translation services, and their first associations are of bizarre sentence structures and amusing syntactic snafus.

But where others see garbled grammar, Fahad Al Sharekh of the Arabic-English portal site, Aleeb.com, sees a new era of global communication, AI Sharekh believes that the error-prone technology known as machine translation has played a key part in speeding the exchange of information between the English-speaking world and the Middle East. Four weeks ago, Ajeeb introduced what its founder says is the first free online service that instantly translates Arabic websites into English. The company, a division of the Arabic-language programming firm Sakhr Software, has been running an English-to-Arabic translation service for more than a year.

Al Sharekh, a Kuwaiti citizen educated in the United States, admits that machine translation—despite momentous improvements in recent years—is still far from perfect. Any arguments to the contrary are quickly disproved by a glance at the website of Arabic news agency Al Jazeera, where translations of headlines range from the humorous: "Concord returns to the service after a year of the stop" to the not entirely intelligible: "An Israel incursion is near an embryo and Buch he retuses Aralat meeting." But given the voracious demand for news from abroad in the wake of the 11 September attacks, Al

Sharekh says users are learning to live with a little weird grammar. But why did he decide to launch an English and Arabic translation site? Says Al Sharekh: "We realised there is one impediment for the Internet to be accepted in the Arabic-speaking world. It is language. The World Wide Web is built with English domains. Ninety percent of the content on the Web is English. We know a lot of people here are educated. They're computer literate. They have Internet access. But they don't speak English, and that is what is stopping them from using the web and the Internet the way they should "

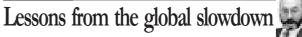
seb.com hit 14 million requests for English to Arabic translation and a million requests to translate Arabic to English. Most of the requests are for Arabic to English of Aljazeera.net, the Arabic satellite news agency. So far about 90 percent of Arabic to English translations are for this one site.

Residents of the Afghan capital peered through the open doors of abandoned retired from the US Army in 1997. He has over 16 years experience as a Special Agent with Army Counter-Taliban military bases on Tuesday and whispered to each other: "Are they gone?" The bodies of two Árabs lay near the United Nations guest house. outside a military compound in a city that was taken over by opposition Northern Alliance with virtually no resistance Tuesday morning. Bundles of burned clothes and blankets were piled on top of the cornses and a charred rocket launcher lay beside one of them. People gathered to look.

WORLD

Sporadic gunfire pierced the crisp early morning air as Northern Alliance soldiers celebrated their victory over the Islamic militia that ousted them from the capital in 1996. US bombing cleared the way for their rapid advances, which began with the fall of the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif on Friday. Opposition fighters moved quickly through Kabul neighbou hoods, conducting house-tohouse searches and seizing abandoned bases. Rifle fire was heard at some outposts on the edges of the city. 'I think there were some

o go to the barber to shave my eard." said Zabiullah, an ethni Fajik. "Today is a happy day." Taliban who were asleep when wo men on a bicycle looked a everyone else left " said a smiling ach other. "Do you think I can resident, Abdul Jan. "They have have now?" one asked. The woken up and they are thinking Taliban required men to grow



Oh my God, what can I do?"

esidents gathered on street corner

to talk about what they had seen.

nd pointed out houses of former

Taliban commanders. Opposition

oldiers said they were collecting

arms as they moved door-to-door

Groups of five to 10 men huddled

in the streets, wrapped in woollen shawls. Northern Alliance fighters

sped through the streets in vehicle

amouflaged with mud that had

In northern Khair Khana

oeen left behind by Taliban troops

istrict, inhabited largely by ethni

Tajiks who fled the earlier fighting

houted: "Congratulations, Oh my

ervthing to God. We don't know

what will happen. We pray only

or peace," said Sheer Agha, an

shawl, his grey beard reaching

lmost to his chest.

lderly man wrapped in a striped

"We are happy. Now I have

God, they are here." Some men

ugged each other. "We leave

north of the city, some people

In some areas of Kabul,

he world is in a global slowdown. Growth in 2001 is expected to be half of last year's. Japan seems headed for a real recession, and Europe's boast that its strong fundamentals will allow it to sustain growth during an American slowdown seems without foundation.

Several policy lessons emerge. For one, there is a pallor over the Clinton administra tion's promise that capitalism American-style assures unprecedented and sustained prosperity. Some of the boom of the late-1990s was as much a mirage as East Asia's boom which collapsed in 1997. In each case irrational market exuberance fed excessive investment, which led to excess capacity. The "New Economy" was thought to mean the end of the business cycle. With "just-intime" production that entailed smaller

and inventory cycles are only one source of

currencies and is used as an international liberalisation combined with globalised capital markets have, if anything, increased vulnerability, especially in small countries. Real estate bubbles are another fact of life, and when the and foreign exchange holdings, and reserve positions in the IMF.) One way of thinking about this is the following: assume the nations of the world break, as they did in the 1980s in the US, Scandinavia, and Thailand, they bring down economies with them.

The claim of market fundamentalists that markets are self-adjusting is clearly wrong. There is an important role for government in macroeco-nomic stabilisation. The question is, what is it? The 1973 oil crisis led to over a decade of inflation, and the scars still hurt. Worry about inflation led the US Federal Reserve to increase interest rates in late 2000, when the impending slowdown required the opposite. With two of the world's largest economies facing sustained deflation in the last few years, and inflation contained almost everywhere, the focus should be unemployment and under-utilisation of economic capacity. Potential losses from this are far greater than those associated with the slight increases in inflation that a more aggressive macro-policy might entail. There is virtually no evidence of inflation having significant adverse effects, so long as it is low to

Today's lack of aggregate demand is worrying. Several of the world's



Five years and a few months after the Taliban entered Kabul, they are gone.

> ong beards and failure to do so ited harsh punishment Houses used by Taliban leaders in the once posh cighborhood of Wazir Akbar Khan were aban doned. The large steel doors of home of former Health Minister Mullah Abbas Akhund were wide open

Homes were also

abandoned on

Osama bin Laden. In the money market in the old city, businessmen said departing Taliban soldiers emptied the stores of goods and money. One money changer, who gave his name as Dr Wali, said Taliban soldiers on tanks stoppe in front of the shops, demanded Street 15 of Wazin the money and then rumbled out of the city. (Times of India)

trade surpluses. There is a basic law in economics: the sum of the trade surpluses and

deficits must add up to zero. If some country

has a surplus, another country must have a

deficit. But the IMF is telling everyone not to

deficit faces a crisis and soon switches policy

to secure a surplus—that is what has happened in East Asia. The US has been

willing and able to run large trade deficits

but it is unclear how long this can continue

without a loss of confidence. It is difficult to predict the trigger, but the impending fiscal deficits resulting from President

Bush's tax cut may do trick. When that

happens, more than a global economic

The problems of insufficient global aggregate demand were on the minds of John

and founded the IMF. There is a framework

for enhancing aggregate purchasing power.

through the creation of SDR's. (The SDR,

currency unit defined as a basket of national

Special Drawing Rights, is an artificial

nard Keynes and others who conceived

slowdown may result

reserve asset to supplement members' existing reserve assets-official gold

vish to maintain reserves equal to a fixed percentage of their GDP. With

\$40 billion a year. Given China and Japan's surpluses, a number twice that

night be more realistic. An annual issue of SDR's in that amount would

offset the purchasing power set aside in currency reserves and would not be

inflationary. These SDR's could be used to pursue global interests-

For the past several decades, the IMF has focused on bailing out

return to its original mission-ensuring global liquidity to enable sustained

creditors and pushing the neo-liberal agenda. The time is ripe for it to

(Joseph Stiglitz is the 2001 Nobel prize laureate in economics and

elping poor countries or improving the global environment.

(Project Syndicate

professor of economics at Columbia University.)

global growth.

rves were equal to 5 percent of GDP, aggregate reserves would grow b

global GDP of around \$40 trillion and growth of around 2 percent, if

have a deficit. A country with too large a



members, asked the Commission to act as a liaison and push for compliance. "In view of how the world looks after 11 September, it is clearly relevant, useful and necessary that the EU gets organised and starts [internal discussion] on how it can approach the target of 0.7 percent for ODA," Nielson added. "There is a new understanding of nterdependency and this is also a reason we are moving forward in this quite spectacular manner," he said. Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden have achieved the target. Austria has said it could get to 0.7 percent in the next few years and Ireland hopes to do so by 2007. One development official said debate within the Development Council over setting such uniform targets had been intense, with countries like Spain and Portugal-whose ODA levels fall far short of the target-arguing against the proposal. The official said that several delegations occupying the middle ground-Britain, France, Germany, and Spain-said their finance ministers must consider the practical implications before modalities could be agreed upon. (IPS) Water of life

Aid on schedule

BONN - More than one billion people lack access to safe water supplies. Almost three billion are deprived of adequate sanitation. Five to ten million people die each year from water-related diseases or inadequate public health and hygiene, especially the water supply and sewage systems. Twenty percent of the world's irrigated lands are salt-laden, affecting crop production. A new study attributes all this to the absence of an adequate international legal framework for water resources management. Author Aaron T Wolf from the Department of Geosciences, Oregon State University urges consideration for the security implications of "a critical, non-substitutable" asset. The study Transboundary Waters: Sharing Benefits, Lessons Learned, will serve as a background paper for ministers, experts and NGOs at the 3-7 December International Conference on Fresh Water in Bonn. It argues that the scarcity of water in arid and semi-arid environments ds to intense political pressures, often called "water stress". Wolf says the most recent legal document on international waters, the 1997 Convention on the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses, is vague and occasionally contradictory. The Convention is in fact ineffective, because four years after its adoption by the UN General Assembly, it has been signed only by 16 countries and ratified by nine, well below the 35 needed to bring it into force. "Water has been a cause of political tensions between Arabs and Israelis, Indians and Bangladeshis, Americans and Mexicans; and all ten riparian states of the Nile River. It is not surprising that 'water' and war' are two topics being assessed together with increasing frequency," argues the paper. Wolf says it is important to understand the history of water-related violence, even at the sub-national level. generally between tribes, water-use sectors, or states/provinces. As water quality degrades, or quantity diminishes, over time, the effect on the stability of a region can be unsettling, warns the study. (IPS)



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Succulent steaks and burgers bountiful, with a vegetarian variety. The friendliest bar around the most convivial fireplace between Tibet and Timbucton. Live band on Tuesdays and fridays!

RUM DOODLE

The IMF needs to ensure global liquidity to enable sustained growth. fluctuation. Capital and financial market

ventories, new information systems that allowed better control of inventories, and the decline in manufacturing, inventory cycles seemed a thing of the past. But economic fluctuations have always marked capitalism

4 ASIA

The new Chipko



large number of other trees of thi

BHARAT DOGRA TEHRIGARHWAL India The remote Himalayan forest of Advani was festive last week-villagers marched in, singing songs, chantin slogans Women tied sacred thread around trees, symbolising their determination to protect them. They hope to save the forest, like the earlier Chipko movement did in the 1980s The name of the village-level movement means "embrace". Some twenty years ago, a large number of trees in the same forest in Tehri Garhwal district of India's northern Uttranchal state, were auctioned fo commercial felling. When the contractors came to fell them with an

armed police team, village women hugged trees to prevent them from being cut. The forest was saved. The new threat to this forest, and ANAL VSIS

other parts of the country, the Power Grid Corporation has been asked to av 800-kV transmission lines from Tehri in Uttranchal to Meerut in Uttar Pradesh state. Nearly 50 km o is approximately 200 km stretch are in hilly areas. The proposed path of the lines in the Himalayan area would cut into the forest of Advani, reatening about 100,000 trees Dhum Singh Negi, a mentor to the vounger Chipko activists, asks: "Did

region, comes from the giant Tehri dam project. The project is highly many trees would have been given. controversial because of its adverse mpact on the environment, but work on it has begun and the government mation about the enviro ooks determined to complete it. impact of the project from public To transmit the electricity that will be generated from this project to is anguished: "The loss of so many brought up before our committee. of the concerns the project has the project concluded that safety unacceptable risk involved-the they really take permission to cut all

Tehri dam could still be converted hese trees when the dam was cleared I doubt that permission to fell so Activists accuse government rencies of deliberately keeping an scussions. Shekhar Singh, one of th sperts on a committee appointed by the government to examine the dam. on Himalayan slopes was neve Environmental impact is just on pawned. Earlier, the Environment Appraisal Committee which examine factors alone are important enough t stop the dearance of this project. The committee said: "Taking note of the electricity lines or the possibility of using existing towers. (IPS)

nto a run-of-the-river project. Says Sunderlal Bahuguna, the senior nvironment activist at the refront of opposition to the Tehri dam: "So much work has een completed on this giant roject, there will inevitably b me financial loss in changing it nto a smaller run-of-the-rive project. But the hazards are so any as to justify this change. Although the government ha shown no signs yet of accepting this demand and revising the project, it as responded to some extent to the calls to spare the Himalavan trees On 7 September, the Ministry of Environment and Forests asked the ower Grid Corporation to appris it of alternative alignments of the

Keeping China down most shops nowadays there is an infinite variety of goods made in China-

w-priced sweaters and socks to high-value electronic products. China is a manufacturing base for firms from all over the world that invest there to benefit from its low-cost but highly skilled and disciplined workers. But although a massive amount offoreign direct investment (FDI) has

flowed into China in its age of reform, indigenous private firms have not developed as fast as their market and business potential would allow. Many goods sold around the world are made in China, but very few are made by indigenous Chinese companies.

The size of a firm is a rough, although imperfect, indicator of its growth potential. Although India's economy is about half the size of China's, and has a

lower growth rate, India is now home to a number of large, globally competitive firms. Today, the largest private firm in China is the Hope Group in Sichuan province run by four brothers. This agribusiness conglomerate generated nual sales of \$600 million in 1999. The largest private firm in India, the Tata Group, generated sales of \$7.2 billion in 1995, of which \$163 million came from its tea business division alone. Another example comes from the pharmaceutical industry. In 1997, the largest pharmaceutical firm in China was Sanjiu, which had sales of \$670 million Contrast Saniju

with Ranbaxy Laboratories, one of the largest Indian pharmaceutical firms. In 1995, it generated sales of \$2.27 billion, despite the fact that the Chinese pharmaceutical market was three times as large as the Indian market. A comparison with South Korea during a comparable stage of economic development tells the same story. During South Korea's economic takeoff, commonly dated to between 1960 and 1980, a number of firms such as Hyundai and Samsung emerged that were globally competitive, their later corporate governance problems notwithstanding.

China has not produced similarly competitive indigenous firms during the over two decades of its "economic miracle" from 1978 to 2001. All China's large firms are state-owned enterprises, and large only because they are granted a

Why do indigenous Chinese firms grow slowly and stay at home?

over the country's most valuable assetsassets from Chinese households. China's economy has taken off, but fev of its firms have. This failure of competitive indigenous firms to grow under propitious conditions points to the inherent inefficiencies in China's economic system. One is that China's goods and asset market is fragmented and has become more so in the last twenty years. A dramatic illustration of this is that

the average distance over which freight is ipped has actually shrunk at a time en the government has invested assively in highways, air cargo facilitie and railways. China is increasing its sales and exports to the rest of the world but nternal trade has declined, making it difficult for firms to expand and grow The second factor is that China's ancial system allocates its vast saving ool inefficiently. It allotted subsidised redit and cheap equity capital to China's most inefficient firms, state-

ned enterprises (SOEs), while

denving financial resources to China's

amic private firms. Both SOEs and rivate firms fail to become competitiv and foreign firms find it profitable to invest and produce in China. Chinese

SOEs are inefficient and are not market-savvy, private firms don't have the resources to capitalise on their superior software capabilities. This inefficiency impacts overall performance. Indians save about half of what Chinese save and India gets one-tenth the annual FDI that China does. Yet India's GDP growth in recent years is about 80 percent of the Chinese growth rate. India is using its capital more efficiently, because its government does not scriminate against private firms, and its financial resources fund efficient firms. It is time for China to learn from India. (Project Syndicate)

(Yasheng Huang is Associate Professor at Harvard Business School.)

16-22 NOVEMBER 2001 NEPALI TIMES

Breaking the nuclear boycott

NEW DELHI - By finalising a deal to transfer two nuclear power reactors to India, Russia last week broke an international boycott on transfer of uclear equipment imposed as punishment when New Delhi first exploded a nuclear device almost 30 years ago. Concluded in Moscov during Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 4-7 November visit the deal facilitates the transfer of two reactors for a \$3 billion power station at Kudankulam village in coastal Tamil Nadu state, where they are expected to generate 2,000 mW of power. The international boycol did not halt India's ambitious nuclear programme for power production or defence, as demonstrated by a second round of tests in May 1998. ndia has not signed the 1970 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and does not accept full-scope inspections of its nuclear facilities by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), established in 1975, and of which Russia is a member, prohibits exporting nuclear technology to countri that do not accept full-scope safeguards. After the present Bush istration took over, it asked Russia to stop supplying nuclear fuel to the Tarapore power plant near Mumbai, although the plant observes full IAEA safeguards and was installed by US power giant General Electric in 1969. The US stopped supplies of nuclear fuel after 1974 out India sourced it from France and China, apart from Russia, which kept up supply even after the 1998 tests. According to the Indian Express, Russia supplied 58 tonnes of low enriched uranium for Tarapore this year. Greenpeace says the Indian government maintain: lose links between its nuclear energy and its nuclear weapons programmes. "It was technology acquired by India, ostensibly to generate clear electricity, that was used in the 1974 and 1998 nuclear weapor tests " says Greenneace campaigner Ben Pearson //PSI

Another row over rice

BANGKOK - Rice farmers from Thailand's north-east districts are taking to the streets to protect the future of their much-valued crop, long-grain romatic jasmine rice. This show of strength, in the provinces and in Bangkok, has been triggered by revelations that two US scientists pained access to jasmine seeds in order to develop a variety of the rice that could be grown in



many farmers and farming communities could end up living in poverty," says Witoon Lianchamroon, director of the Bangkok-based BioThai, an environme tal and community activist group. Witoon agrees that this a case of "theft". For some activists it is "biopiracy". Such thinking has found resonance among lobby groups in Europe and Canada. "The Thai farmers and the national economy are threatened" by this effort, declared the European Free Trade Association. "Jasmine was bred and nurtured by Thai farmers from generation to generation and its market s vital to the well-being of many farming communities. If commercially uccessful, US-bred jasmine rice could supplant much of Thailand's \$1 illion export market and undermine the livelihood of millions of rice farmers," it added. Thailand produces three million tonnes of jasmine rice annually, half of which is exported to the United States, Canada, Australia, China and other Asian countries. What troubles BioThai and the Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI), a Winnipegbased NGO championing the concerns of rural societies, is the way the scientists gained access to jasmine seed samples. The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippine town of Los Banos gav the scientists the seeds from its gene bank without having them sign the agreement that protects Thailand from "biopiracy". The germ plasm of jasmine rice was "acquired in 1995 without the Material Transfer Agreement that obliges the recipient not to patent or otherwise monopolise the donated seed," says RAFI. (IPS)

Shahtoosh from Nepal?

NEW DELHI - The seizure in New Delhi of a major shipment of shahtoosh wool from a Singapore-registered trader points to a possible new route via Nepal and Singapore to smuggle the banned wool obtained from the endangered Tibetan antelope. Three packages, said o contain woollen garments, arrived in New Delhi in early October as cargo aboard a Singapore Airlines flight. Upon suspicion the packages were opened. Forensic examination at the Wildlife Institute of India onfirmed that one contained 130 kg of high grade, raw shahtoosh. The other two packages contained pashmina, which is legal. A high quality shahtoosh shawl fetches around \$1,500 in the US and Europe. The shipment was sent by Globalmatics Trading, registered in

Singapore. Two Singaporeans, two Americans residing in California and a Nepali national, Nabin Tuladhar, are listed as officers; the Nepali and the Americans are shareholders. The consignment, which as finished shawls would be worth millions of Singapore dollars, was booked to a company in Delhi called RND Trading, registered months ago by three Nepalis with the same last name, Tuladhar. The Delhi company's nanager, Narottam Shrestha, appeared to receive the shipment and has been arrested.

Shahtoosh, derived from killing baby Tibetan antelopes, Chiru, is anned under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Under international pressure, New Delhi recently banned the weaving and trade in shahtoosh. Since the antelope became endangered, China has banned its killing and run antipoaching teams in the Tibetan plateau, the antelope's habitat. It is estimated that 20,000 Chiru are killed every year for the shahtoosh trade, and Chinese and American researchers say its population has dropped to 10 percent of what it was 100 years ago. (The Straits Times)

FROM THE NEPALI PRESS

No to Paras

Sanghu, 5 November

सांध् On Dasain, Prince Paras was made Crown Prince. The student wins of the Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) doesn't quite approve of this and is preparing to start an agitation soon. The pro-Maoist student wing has also expressed its dissatisfaction with the move. The Marxist-Leninist student wing has asked the king to reconsider his decision. They say that Paras should first of all make a public apology to the people. In a recent statement, the Marxist-Leninist youth group said action must be taken against Paras for all his misdeeds and the trouble he has caused in the past. The statement proceeds to clarify that the protest is not against Paras, the person, but rather against the criminal character that resides in the palace. The palace, they say, must not be a place of conspiracy and intrigue, or harbour criminals. It must be open and democratic and follow simple rules and norms. In addition, parliament must have the right to discuss and analyse the character of any member of the royal family. The right to appoint the crown prince must not be held by the king alone, parliament must also have a voice in this matter. This has become especially important after 1 June, say the students, and so the king must reconsider his decision. If he does not, the students say they will be left with no alternative other than starting an agitation

Paras is king material

Jana Bhawana 5 Novemb

Excerpts from an interview with Ashok Nath Tiwari, Upper House member (nominated)

Everyone is commenting on the appointment of Crown Prince Paras. Do you have something to add? His Majesty made the decision exercising the legal and constitutional powers vested in him. The Constitution of Nepal as a constitutional monarchy and Hindu kingdom gives the king the power. It was only natural for him to make his only son, Prince Paras, crown prince. It is not necessary for anyone to keep harping on this issue. Rut questions have been raised about the

I have not noticed anything wrong with his character All the qualities needed to be king are already showing grow to shoulder the responsibility he has been given. The royal palace was growing in stature, and gaining the respect and love of the people. In such a scenario, it is not surprising that people start raising a hue and cry about things. It is mproper to raise questions concerning an accident.

Why was the announcement made during According to the Hindu religion, Dasain is very

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The only way out of the current political crisis is a constitutional assembly and if the present rulers don't even want to aaccept this minimum compromise, only the future will show what the frightening result will be.



Nava Sadak. 11 November



THIS PAGE CONTAINS MATERIAL SELECTED FROM THE NEPALL PRESS

Brahmin widow.

effist write

Paras has been involved in two

thers of hooliganism and mavhem

The crown prince is the future king

of this country and he represent

the nation. He stands for all that

the nation is worth-its prestige,

reputation. It is natural that people

Paras is placed in that position. The

untry, the Nepali Congress and

he Communist Party (UML), is

ery important. Intellectuals have

ways held that the character of

carefully. But neither the Congres

or the UML took this seriously

king the power to nominate the

e wants to nominate, why he

empowered to do this by the

nstitution regardless of the

The constitution has given th

own prince. It is up to him, who

ants to do so, and when. The kins

naracter of the eldest son. But the

while making the nomination, the

king needs to keep this in mind.

own prince is the future king, and

he Congress and UML should also

ave thought about this. There is a

naior problem in the constitution.

Iournalist, coordinator, Samaibadi

Andolan (Socialist Movement)

The man who has just been made

many deaths. The newspapers hav

ooliganism. Only last year, he

and everyone knows about this.

time and even collected a lot of

king. It is a serious matter that

Paras has been made the future

be democratic in the way it

aspirations and opinion of the

people into account. In a democ

v nothing is more importan

functions. It must take the

signatures and presented the

matter

crown prince, Paras, has caused

reported extensively on his

Shvam Shrestha

uture kings must be monitored

aise questions when someone like

ole of the major parties of the

3463/0

ana Ekata. 5 Novembe

Dr Mathura Prasad Shrestha.

nconstitutional step. Being king

does not give you the latitude to do

anything. If you do that, you are

not listening to the voice of the

king did not make the

people, their aspirations. This may

detrimental to the nation. The

ouncement earlier because he

realised it would provoke strong

reactions. The one-year mourning

period has not even elapsed yet, an

they have done this. This is agains

the very fundamentals of Hinduism

It goes to prove that the monarchy

ses the shield of religion and

tradition only when it suits them

Such an unpopular move will be

rimental to the monarchy.

The people have been very

behaviour. A certain section of

600,000 signatures to the

effect and presented the

petition to the late king.

was innocent in that

vinced that Paras

If you turn the

pages of history

you will find

that kings

ed to

The people are not ye

students had collected

incident.

ocal in protesting Paras'

MACHINES AND

100

Leftist activist and and former

It (the appointment) was an

when most people were busy celebrating the festival. He was not made crown prince in June because at that time the protests against him were at their peak. The people are still angry with him. But during festivals few people are in the capital and most are busy. They he palace) realised that there would be few protests during this period and so decided to take this step. People must raise their voic

thought he wasn't made crown prince because he was not king against this The palace has always said that material. This sudden decision it only moves ahead after taking has shocked and angered us. into account the opinion of th eople. The people are against Dr Ram Man Shrestha aras, so this announcen Chairman, Nepal Rastriya Budhiiibi Parishad (the National intamount to going against the vill of the people. This shows tha Intellectuals Council) he palace is still neither To be proclaimed crown prince according to the constitution is

Narahari Acharva. incident, no one mentioned the issue of picking a crown prince. Even now I do not think it necessary to go into that discussion. There is enough roor for people to raise their voice and be suspicious. But there are other, more important issues to be discussed. To tackle issues concerning the monarchy, it is necessary to bring about major changes in the constitution. What is the point in just raising the person who sits on the



for a sitting parliament

king. If the palace wants to remain Padam Khadka. a constitutional monarchy, it must coordinator, Pragatishil Budhiiibi Sangathan (the Progressive Intellectuals

The crown j

changes that need to be made, and this is just one of them. Everything concerning the monarchy needs to be discussed in detail. We did not do that earlier, and that is why we are in this situation now. Mangal Siddhi Manandar, MP. UML The decision is in keeping with



and this situation is a result of that. the monarchy and the heir The timing of the announcement was very surprising. It would have been proper if the king had called



Group)

not just a person, he is an

nstitution. It should be left to

the people to decide what type of

Paras did before he became crown

prince has been laid bare before

the people. We all know that he

Sadak. Everyone knows that he

killed musician Praveen Gurung.

Everyone knows he held a gun

Kupondol. We all know about

auses trouble almost every day

How can we make such a

erson the future king? This goes

the incident in Chitwan. He

against the constitution. We

understood the problem with

rown prince (in June). We

not unusual. After the 1 June

Paras and so did not make him

thought the present king

against a police officer in

killed a taxi driver in Putali

institution they want. All that



democratic nor constitutional incidents of murder and countless

> Central Commmittee member Nepali Congress According to the Constitution, the announcement of a crown prince is a normal matter. That not a topic for discussion. The discussion going on right now is the manner in which this announcement was made. The most important thing is that the people have the right to discuss the character and behaviour of



the constitution. But the presen situation does show that the institution of monarchy should be more transparent and democratic. Ouestions have been raised oncerning this and in this light. th decision is a bit surprising. That is all I want to say





Crown Prince's character ...

in Crown Prince Paras. He will develop himself and Many a time we have made minors kings in our country. So why are people bothered now when we make a grown up person crown prince? I cannot

auspicious. There is nothing wrong for a king in a Hindu kingdom to announce a crown prince during Dasain.



Dasain?

6 FROM THE NEPALI PRESS

Dasain day, the court of the Morcha

was carrying out its activities and two

people were killed and more than a

the government carried out a massiv

earch in Pame village, which the

lirectives of Marx, Lenin and Mao

ometime in mid-1998. Earlier the

apported the Maoists in principle

only, but last year they agreed to form

an armed fighting force. A document

eleased a couple of months ago say

organisation. Earlier the issue of an

ntrolled by it and both parties

adesh 6 No

arrested?

Police Training Centre in

then started questioning me.

and ask, 'Dahalji, do you have an

s your health? If you have any

problems? How are you feeling? How

roblems please let us know, we will

nform the concerned people.' They

even told me that the people who

vere responsible for the murders ir

d force had casued misunder

dozen were injured. After this incident

Madhav hits out Dristi, 6 November

UMI leader Madhay Kumar recently made the following statement: "The Maoists do not Morcha protests against. The Morcha started following th have the ability to rectify their mistakes. They believe that they will be the masters of the universe they foresee. This is their mentalit In fact they are doing exactly the opposite of what Chairman Mac suggested, and the opposite of what the Morcha is now part of the Maois history teaches. They are moving against the tide.



Nepal further said that the Manist leaders and cadre believed in and were creating a cult of personality. He said the Maoists a anti-national ... and fascist. He added that you should fire your gur only when needed, it should not be the fundamental defining policy of your organisation. Nepal predicted that the Left movement in Nepal could be seriously damaged or ever destroyed because of the activities of the Maoists.

Dry days again? lanadesh,6 November

The late The All Nepal Women's Association (Revolutionary) recently held it central committee meeting and discussed important issues among which were expanding the organisa tion, the agitation, publicity and publications, and matters of econom nportance. Rekha Sharma, head of the ANWA (R), says the group ha decided that by February it would have at least one million members and increase the number of volunteers to at least 25,000. She further added that the part

discussed in detail both the 22-poin agenda and the 34-point agenda, presented to the government a few months ago. The nationwide alcohol ban was also discussed, an it was decided that this program would be carried forward vigor ously. The party says that the government broke the agreement reached by the two sides earlier and has done nothing to implement its promises. The party has no other option but to re-launch its antilcohol program again this mont Sharma said people need to find ar alternative to alcohol.

Maoist allies Shree Ruprekha, 6 November

hapa had left the (Maoist) organis -243-44 tion and come over to their side. The The Maoist organisation has begun said they believed even I would give up my position and switch sides. I working yery closely with the Khubaban Mukti Morcha. They realised they were trying to buy me joined hands recently in Pame village out. After they did not succeed, on 3 in Solu Khumbu, Sources in the October, they took me to meet the Morcha say some of its members too nspector General of Police, Pradeer action against a few people, including Sumshere Rana. There we had an Dhansher Rai. Under the instruction hour-long discussion. of Minister for Tourism Bal Bahadu KC. Rai was among those that were

What did Pradeep Sumshere spying on the Morcha. The people discuss with you? (spies) were caught and punished. On He told me that most of my leaders

THIS PAGE CONTAINS MATERIAL SELECTED FROM THE NERALL PRESS were living in India and were doing pleted 100 days. What has it their utmost to turn Nepal into accomplished? another Sikkim After all whether it i One hundred days ago, it was impossible for the prime minister to a policeman or a Maoist who is killed we are all Nepali. By killing one nter Singha Darbar without being another, you are spreading mayhen issed. The house could not wo and terror and this is all helping Indi for 57 days. A large contingent of police was trapped and surrounded b it is turning Neval into another Sikkim. Why don't you contest he Maoists, and war was about to elections, you might be able to win a break out between the Maoists and least 40 to 50 seats? If you are the Royal Nepal Army. Large prepared to stay quiet and not create industries around the country wer trouble, I will release you. If you are the verge of closing down. All red to come to the negotiating educational institutions were shu table. I will release you immediatel People were in a state of shock and These were some of the things he panic, wondering whether parliam talked about ind state institutions were really working or not. The Maoists wer What was the reason the IGP terrifying people: they were killing wanted to meet you? people at will. The situation has The reason he met me there was to hanged completely. turn me into another Dinesh Sharma I am not saying the country has suddenly become very prosperous. These 100 days have been days of I say this is because after meeting me I believe he told some people, "He is older than me, but he is very energeti hope. Now even the Maoists are siler and active Heislikea 16-year-old " on their demand for a republic. Two I recently met Dinesh Sharma and he rounds of dialogue have been held with them and the third round is

told me that Tell us something about your time in captivity. I was detained for six months. For tw

months, I was in Maharjgunj at the Police Training Center, and for four Excerpts from an interview with months I was kept at the Armed wori Prasad Dahal, Central Advisor Battalion office in Naxal. They used Nepal Communist Party (Maoist) handcuff me when they took me to When and where were you Hanuman Dhoka_that is a rule After that they took me to the police was arrested at Kalanki, Kathma station in Anamnagar. Two days late n early September last year. I came to know that they had brough Where were you detained avo police vans to the station Later As soon as they (the police) caught at night they brought me outside and me, they hit me on the face a couple tried to handcuff me again. I told of times and I started bleeding from them "Iwashandcuffed in 1960 in the mouth. Four or five of my teeth 1972, handcuffed again in 1985 and

are still damaged. They tried to force now again I am being handcuffed. It me into the van. I protested and sooi ems that until the country is not people from the neighbourhood free, I will always be handcuffed." I gathered around. The police said I told them I was proud that I was vas a thief and dragged me to the var being handcuffed. They looked I shouted, saying I was not a criminal disappointed and took me to but a Maoist activist and that my Hanuman Dhoka Six or seven day name was Iswori Prasad Dahal. later in Hanuman Dhoka, the Deput Inside the van, they shackled m Superintendent of Police suddenly legs and blindfolded me. The van then asked me, "Dahalji, is there anything started moving east. It stopped after on your mind?" I told him that I was some time and the police took me fine A few days later, maybe four or inside a house and left me in a dark e days later, the same DSP came nom. I later found out that this was and asked me the same question. I stil the police station in Anamnagar Late did not say anything. After he left, I that same day they took me to the tried to figure out what he was getting at. I wondered whether he was asking Maharaiguni, At seven in the evening me to surrender. He came back again they tortured me for half an hour and eight to 10-days later and said. "Haw ou thought about anything?" I Later, after about week, they replied, "DSP Sahib, remember on handcuffed me, blindfolded me again thing. A lion does not eat grass. I am and took me to a new place. On the lion. I will not surrender. Be assured. way there, they kept abusing me. I am prepared to die. This is what I thought they were going to torture n physically but they did not do that. believe." I asked them for some newspapers to read. Forty-five day They kept me there for three days. later they came and asked me, "Do That was the Number One Battalio you want to read the Gita?" Two da office Naval A few days later they later they came and gave it to me. I took me to a different place, and real finished it in 15 days-I could only started pampering me. Every few read during the day. nents someone would come by

of the prime minister within the Congress. And it is not true. The How did vou spend vour tim in Sindhuli prison? Magists who earlier believed in on killing people, have not done anythin

Although I could not do a lot of worl managed to get a proper library there. The International Committee of the Red Cross donated some books. Earlier there wasn't even a scrap of paper there, now there a over 5.000 books. A school was also started on the premises. Now at least you can study in that prison

Deuba's 100 days Bimarsa, 9 November

y av enter a (Excernts from an interview with Iav Prakash Prasad Gupta, Minister for Telecommunication

The secretary of the Human Rights Commission has The government has comresigned. How many applica16-22 NOVEMBER 2001 NEPALI TIMES

tions have you received for

Nearly 20 We will discuss and

analyse them and then make our

ecommendation to the king, asking

s suitable. We faced some problem

Manists both accuse each other

We are very firm in our beliefs. It is

always the government that violates

human rights. If the activities of the

human rights. People must be able t

Maoists violate the freedom of the

people, that too is a violation of

eniov freedom and independence.

This is their right. The government

must act as the guarantor of this right. If it is violated, the governmen

must move in and take action. The

police, the army and the courts ha

been created for this purpose: this is

something we have to understand

Violation is always linked to the

activities of the government. If a

has to get the kidnapped person

against the kidnapper. The

t is required. Weakness and

person is kidnapped, the governme

released and must also take action

overnment must act as and when

ndiscipline in government has led

to human rights violations. Action

according to the law of the land. I

the government cannot stop the

Maoists from killing and kidnap

ping people, that is a weakness

topping such activities

Maoists?

The government is responsible for

must be taken against violators

going to be held soon. Parliament ha

any disruptions. All political parties

towards democracy. Industries hav

started working again. The most

mportant thing is that now the

the parliamentary system.

1000

But people think the govern

As far as I know, the government ha

not done anything unpopular in thes 100 days. Instead the belief of the

people in the constitution and our

dramatically. It is natural that there

lecisions of the government may hav

been criticised but on the whole it

People say the prime minister

did not do his homework

before starting negotiations

with the Maoists, and that they

are using this time to prepare

This is not what everyone thinks, it is

the conclusion reached by detractors

n these 100 days, and they have not

aised the issue of a republic. The

third round of negotiations will start

soon and the Maoists are preparing

o stop all violent activities. This i

because of the government's oper

Sanghu, 5 November

excernts from an interview with

Sushil Peakurel, member, National

Human Rights Commission

1 ff ca

policy towards them

On rights

for war. Is that true?

has been effective

are critics in a democracy. Many

order situation has improved

arliament has grown. The law and

ment has not done much.

people have really started believing

and supporting the constitution and

are showing their commitment

t and worked smoothly without

for about two months (after the

The government and the

of human rights violations.

resignation), that is true.

What is the truth?

n to appoint the person we believ

his replacement?

erious. This revolution aims to free the people from all forms of yranny—social, political and conomic. It aims to give them a hance to survive and live as a liberated people. For 250 years the feudal and ruling classes have exploited the people-politically cially, economically, on the basi of religion, caste and gender. The S ir Ernst Gombrich died aged 92 on 3 November. Gombrich was the most people's revolution is to help build a new country that is just, fair and reats everyone equally, a country eminent art historian of the last where there is no place for half-century, for specialist discrimination If this does not scholars and for a wider public happen, there is no way our nation The Story of Art (1950, 16th can progress. Keeping the aspiraedition 1995) has been the

"awesome"

to a rather mystical

Austrian Jew.

ons of the people in mind, we have agreed to a dialogue. We want lialogue to find a way out of the present trouble the nation is in. We want to bring about fundame tal changes in the country, try and make it better. We want to make ure that sovereignty lies with the people. And the minimum agenda equired for this is the formation of onstitutional assembly The revolution says it wants a people's republic. Now you have put aside this and other demands and only raise the issue of a constitutional assembly. Has the revolution been hijacked? Isn't this cheating the people? Yes, our aim, and the expectation of the country, is the establishment of a people's republic. More, it is the establishment of a socialist ountry. But on a practical level. you have to take into account many sternal and internal factors. In our

How does the Commission view the activities of the People in government say that this s a political problem and so will only be solved through dialogue. I ust be solved through dialogue People's problems must be taker care of peacefully. Everyone, ncluding the Commission hopes hat the dialogue will be fruitful. But because you think the Maois problem will be resolved neacefully, you should not start suppressing the people. The people and the Commission will hold the government accountable. They will ot go and place their demands in front of the Maoists. The govern ment has to deal with the Maoist

Can the Commission play a role in sorting out the issues that have cropped up in the government-Maoist dialogue The Commission has played a part and provided direction. The release of prisoners and captives, for instance, did not happen purely on some person's whim. The Commis-



distant

frightening result will be.

CULTURE AND SOCIETY

EH Gombrich

thought. The pursuit of a rational study of painting, nowever different from music eems one of the goals of his vork in Art and Illusion. Gombrich sought in the optica and psychological basis of painting some equivalence to the introduction to the visual arts ationality of musical structures. for innumerable people for more It was not that he believed the than 50 years, while his major expressivenes music was reducibl theoretical books. Art and o principles of harmony, or Illusion (1960), Meditations or ainting to the psychology of a Hobby Horse (1963) and lusion, but that these formed the other volumes, have been pivotal framework for understanding for professional art historians. The artistic achievement. scope of his reading, the way he Gombrich engaged for 50

coordinated his knowledge and years in a polemic against invoking the collective mind– the accuracy of his memory were as another historian described it. whether of an age or a nation or a class—as explanatory of Gombrich was born into a changes in art or politics. He sophisticated Vienna family, did so because he saw such originally Jewish but converted xplanations as not only at the turn of the 20th century ircular, but as failing to ecognise the essentially rational protestantism. He was antiature of the way artists ectarian and unreligious, but it perimented and learned from was impossible, in the wake of ach other. The work in which Austria's enthusiastic adoption he set out to replace the of Nazism, to dissociate himself formalisms of the turn of the from Judaism, and he insisted on entury was Art and Illusion, describing himself as born an first published in 1960. It



of his subject. This led Gombrich to argue that the najor factors in changes in nictorial style were the result of rational activities rather that vsteriously changing expres Gombrich came to Britain in

1936 and joined the Warburg sions of the age. He was deeply opposed to any account of Institute as a research assistan He became director of the rtistic creativeness which was Warburg, combining the post ouched in terms of a collective with being London University's osyche rather than by reference professor of the history of the o individual invention and classical tradition (1959-76). discoveries which others could The fact that he became one then adopt. A third line of of the UK's most honoured argument (manifesting his close tellectual relation to his scholars, a knight and a membe of the Order of Merit, having riend from Vienna, the philo: held all the most prestigious oher Karl Popper) was that the chairs-at Oxford, Cambridge istory of western painting Harvard and Cornell univer hared with science the selfties, and at the Royal College of ritical urgency to overcome its Art-and received so many own previous formulas so as to international awards (the become more coherent and Goethe, Hegel and Erasmus compendious in representing prizes), may lead one to forget atural appearance

For 40 years the book has that his first 15 years in Britain were fraught with difficulty: as a mained central to the discusrestricted alien, he struggled to ion of the visual arts by look after his family. The war philosophers, art historians and years checked his professional ritics. It retained this position career, but the scope and despite radical criticisms of originality of his work in 1945arts of his argument because at 60 make one aware of his pent-up ts core it focused, as no art nistorian before had, on the role intellectual energy and the sustained thinking and reading of illusion, on the fact that in leniction, without our being that must have preceded it. deluded, we are caught up by The serious understanding of the represented subject that we music formed a crucial factor in the development of Gombrich's recognise within it-the



expression of a face, the gesture of a figure, the spaces of a ndscape. Instead of taking the fact for granted, he turned it into a focus of inquiry. Farlier writers had treated the fact in three ways: as an unproblemati extension of ordinary perception as opposed to our interest in aesthetic or expressive properties or as something modern painting had to overo Gombrich changed all that

He challenged aesthetic exclusiveness and its snobberies while still being a great defender of high culture. In one of his est essays, on Raphael's Madonna della Sedia, he followed the implications of the painting's circular format for the intricacies of its drawing and its expressive compo But on the way, he used an advertisement for a rotary electric shaver, which als played on circular forms to illuminate the nature of the ainting's visual wit. Among his most accessible and seminal papers from the same decade as Art and Illusion are those in the volume Medita tions on a Hobby Horse, Here the fundamental questions of aesthetics are explored: how the imagination functions in painting, how it elicits or transforms our psychological urgencies and how aesthetic and ral awareness are related to each other. These essays combine a conversational eas of expression with a depth of thought which makes them perhaps the finest introduction the subject. Several volumes followed ostly on Renaissance art, the most influential of which was Norm and Form (1966), which includes the paper on Rapahel's Madonna.

Though he had written eloquently about Picasso and other artists of the first half of the century, they were not central to his sensibility. He was critical of various odernisms: he was, for instance, sceptical about Schoenberg's 12-tone system as musically disabling, and he was unimpressed by art which seemed to depend on making a rhetorical gesture (as opposed to art in which there was visible internal structure), however interesting the psychology of such gesturing might be.

KEN KESEY

en Kesey, best known as the author of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, died on 10 November in Oregon. He was 66. The cause was complications after surgery for cancer of the liver late last month.

Kesey was also well known as the hero of Tom Wolfe's famous nonfiction book about psychedelic drugs, The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test (1968). In describing Kesey's role as the Pied Piper of psychedelia. Wolfe's book somewhat mockingly compares Kesey to the leaders of the world's great religions, dispensing to his followers not spiritual balm but quantities of lysergic acid diethylamide, or LSD, to enhance their search for the universe within themselves.

The book's narrative focuses on a series of quests undertaken by Kesey in the 1960's. First, there was the transcontinental trip with a band of friends he named the Merry Pranksters, aboard a 1939 International Harvester bus called Further that was wired for sound and painted riotously in Day Glo colours. Neal Cassady, the Dean Moriarty of Jack Kerouac's On the Road, was recruited to drive. The journey, which took the Pranksters from California to New York City and back, was timed to coincide with the 1964 New York World's Fair. Its purposes were to film and tape an extended movie to experience roadway America while high on acid and to practice "tootling the multitudes," as Wolfe

put it, referring to the way a Prankster would stand with a flute on the bus's roof and play sounds to imitate people's various reactions to the bus. Then back in California there were the socalled Acid Tests that Kesey organised-parties with music and strobe lights where he and his friends served LSD-laced Kool-Aid to members of the public and challenged them to avoid "freaking out". This was the public Ken Kesev, the magnetic

leader who built a bridge from beatniks on the road to hippies in the Haight-Ashbury, who brewed the cultural mix that fermented everything from psychedelic art to acid-rock groups like the Grateful Dead and Jefferson Airplane, and who in the process of his pilgrimage blew an entire generation's mind. Yet Wolfe also narrates the adventures of a more private Ken Kesey, one who in addition to his quests took the inner trips that gave him his best fiction. It is true that by 1959, when he had his first experience with drugs, he had already produced a novel, End of Autumn, about college athletics,

although it would never be published. But after he had volunteered at a hospital to be a paid subject of experiments with little-known psychomimetic drugs-drugs that bring on temporary states embling psychoses-his imagination underwent a

startling change. To earn extra money and to work on a novel about the beatniks of San Francisco, Kesey also took a iob as a night attendant on the psychiatric ward of the hospital. Watching the patients there convinced him that they were locked into a system that was the very opposite of therapeutic, and provided the raw material for One Flew Ove the Cuckoo's Nest. One night on the ward, high on peyote, h suddenly envisioned what Wolfe describes as "a fullblown Indian-Chief Broomthe solution the whole mother ing key, to the novel." As Kesey explained, his

discovery of Chief Broom. despite not knowing anything about American Indians, gav him a character from whose point of view he could depict a schizophrenic state of mind and at the same time describe objectively the battle of wills between two other key characters, the new inmate Randle Patrick McMurphy, who undertakes to fight the system. and the tyrannical Big Nurse. Miss Ratched who ends up lobotomising McMurphy. Chief Broom's unstable mental state and Kesey's imagining of it.

presumably with the help of hallucinon also allowed the author to elevate the hospital into

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what he saw as a metaphor of repressive America, which Chief Broom calls the Combine Cuckoo's Nest was published by Viking Press

in early 1962 to enthusiastic reviews. Time called it "a roar of protest against middlebrow society's Rules and the invisible Rulers who enforce them. The film version was released in 1975 and won five Oscars, for best picture: best director, Milos Forman: best actor, Jack Nicholson as McMurphy: hest actress. Louise Fletcher as Nurse Ratched: and best screen adaptation, Lawrence Hauben and Bo Goldman

Although Kesev wrote several more books during his life, Cuckoo's Nest remained the high point of his career. Reviewing the film version in The New Yorker, Pauline Kael wrote that "the novel preceded the university turmoil. Vietnam, drugs, the counterculture." She continued. "Yet it contai



the prophetic essence of that whole period of revolutionary politics going psychedelic, and much of what it said has entered the consciousness of -possibly most- Americans.

Over the next three decades. Kesev raised cattle and sheep, and grew blueberries. He joined school boards, helped out several local businesses ran a website, Intrepid Trips edited a magazine, Spit in the Ocean, which he founded in 1974, and worked on completing the films and tapes of the bus trip. He coached wrestling at several local schools and taught a graduate writing seminar at the University of Oregon. He practised his lifelong hobby of magic and occasionally visited the bus Further, which he kent in the woods on his farm (New York Times)

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Only way forward Ianadisha. 12 November

to that of the press...

Excerpts from an interview with Bahuram Bhattarai What are the main objectives of this round of dialogue? Some say it is just an excuse (for the Maoists to regroup) More than 2,000 people have died in the people's revolution. This is

ountry, after 1 June, a republic has already come into being. The neople have said that they will no ccept a person who has killed his

brother as king. And they have also been clear that they will not accept is future king anyone who has been wolved in multiple murders and ucidents of hooliganism. Only a few Marwaris and smugglers have publicly felicitated the king and the wn prince. All this shows that a public has already been born The tragedy of the situation is hat no political party has raised these issues-they have completely

irrendered to this monarch. Keeping all this in mind, we have it forward a minimum-point enda that only calls for the mation of a constitutional ssembly. Comrade Prachanda has

Killing people is not going to solv the problem. We must realise this aid in his releases that this and be vigilant against it. decision should be left to the people. There is no reason for other political parties to be afraid This assembly is a body that will help form a system that represen

the will of the people better. Such sion has repeatedly told both the wernment and the Maoists that o one has the right to kidnan and

> epublic. We believe that mos onle are in favour of forming a ple's republic. The only way t of the current political crisis i onstitutional assembly and if the sent rulers don't even want to accept this minimum compromise, nly the future will show what the



for us to see a threedimensional moving subject-such as eople in action-on a flat, still surface. The painter learned to do this by trial and error, checking whether his marks elicited recognition

18 CITY

ABOUT TOWN

MOVIES

Nepali and Hindi movies online ticket booking at www.nepalshop.com

EXHIBITION

Kenichi Komatsu 2001 Exhibition and sale of photographs by Japanese photographer of Mustang, Dolpa and pilgrimages to old Nepali temples. Organised by Japan-Nepal Photographic Exchange Society. 22 November-7 December, Nepal Art Council, Baber Mahal. 220735 Impressionistic photographs and Digital Art 1995-2001 by Sandy

Shum and Jyoti Duwadi. Until 26 November. Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revisited, 411122

Colour of my mind Paintings by Mona Ghosh. 20 November-2 December, Alliance Francaise, Thapathali, 241163 Paintings and sculptures by Surendra Pradhan and Ram K Bhandar

Park Gallery, Pulchowk. Until 20 November, 10AM-6PM, Sunday-Friday. 522307

EVENTS

Action Asia Himalayan Mountain Bike Race Series 2001 18 and 24 November. Open to all

five race categories, great prizes. Himalayan Mountain Bike. Info@bikingnepal.com. 437437 Contemporary Jazz dance classes by Meghna Thapa. At Alliance Francaise Sundays and Tuesdays 4.30PM-6.30PM. 241163. At Banu's, Kamal Pokhari, Wednesdays 6.30PM-8PM. Saturdays 1.30PM, 434024, 434830

MUSIC

Live acoustic music Dinesh Rai and Deependra every Friday at the Himalatte Café. 7.30PM-10PM 262526

Weekends at The Jazz Bar The Jazz Commission on Thursdays, Chris Masand's Latin hand on Fridays and on Saturdays An Fainne 7PM onwards Shangri-La Hotel 412999 Live music Tuesday and Friday nights at the 40,000 ½ ft Bar, Rum Doodle Restaurant. 414336

EATING OUT

Afro-Caribbean night with music and speciality food. Rs 500, 30 November, La'Soon Restaurant and Vinotheque, Pulchowk. For reservations ring 535920. Thai buffet dinner Adults Rs 750, Children under 12 Rs 500, Taxes extra, Summit Hotel

Sanepa, 521810 Himalayan Feelings Fusion band every Friday night with full Sekuwa dinner and complime tary beer or soft drink. Rs 555 per head, Rs1010 per couple at

Dwarika's Hotel 479488 Le Cafe des Trekkers New Tibetan and French restaurant.

Special Spanish Paella on 2,3,4, 9,10,11 November. Jyatha, Thamel, opposite Hotel Blue Diamond. 225777 Barbecue lunch with complementary wine or beer for adults.

soft drink for children. Saturdays and Sundays at the Godavari Village Resort. 560675

Rox Restaurant Traditional home-style European cuisine from a wood-fired oven. Steaks, trout, roasted vegetables, desserts. Hotel Hyatt Regency. 491234

- Peking Duck and Mandarin Music Chinese chefs' mild and spicy delicacies from the far east at the Imperial Pavilion every Sunday. Hotel Shangri-La. 412999 Sandwiches Over the Rainbow American Diner with Fifth Avenue sandwiches, full meals a
- backpacker prices. Opposite Pilgrims Book House, Thamel. 426518 Splash Bar and Grill New fifth-floor outlet with view of city and surrounding hills. Radisson

Hotel, 411818

GETAWAYS

Chiso Chiso Hawama Summer B&B package for Nepalis and expatriates. Rs 1,250 per head Club Himalava Nagarkot Resort 410432 414432

Escape to Jomsom Two nights, three days, B&B package with tours and Pokhara-Jomsom return airfare. Expats \$250 per head. Valid until New Year. Jomsom Mountain Resort. 434870 Dwarika's Anytime Escape under the auctioneer's hammer. Bid for a full overnight package

in one of Dwarika's suites, starting from \$130 per night, Until 18 November, 479488 Nagarkot Escape Weekends in cottages, views of the Himalayas, valleys and forests.

Special rates for Nepalis and resident expatriates. Hotel Keyman Chautari keyman@wlink.com.np 436850

MARTIN CHAUTAR

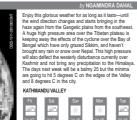
Media and democracy: Some thoughts about democracy Pratyoush Onta speaks, 20 November

Power reverses Film by Prahlad Dhakal, Dhakal leads discussion after screening, 22 Novembe Open to all. Unless otherwise indicated, all discussions are in Nepali. Both events 5.30PM

Martin Chautari, Thapathali, 256239, 240059

For inclusion in the listing send information to editors@nepalitimes.com





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Of Myths and Movement: Rewriting Chipko into Himalayan History Haripriya

Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2000 Rs 952

n the 1970s, local communities in Garhwal began hugging trees marked for felling in statewned commercial enterprises in protest. This volume brings Chipko back from the realm of myth into the world of geographical history. It reveals how biogeography has been shaped by varying struggles over resources and how the 'sustainability' hinges on an understanding of hstantive democratic processes

Demystifying Tibet: Unlocking the Secrets of the Land of the Snows Lee Feigon Ivan R Dee, Chicago, 1996 Rs 2.000 An authoritative view of the history and culture of Tibet. Feigon attempts to locate the origins

of modern Tibet and sort out its controversial relationship with China. Although Tibetans and Chinese share characteristics as a result of their long association with each other, Tibetans have far more in common with their nomadic Central Asian neighbours, and the idea that Tibet is a part of China is very recent.

Courtesy Mandala Book Point, Kantipath, 227711, mandala@ccsl.com.np

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ART AND SOCIETY

The passionate pacifist

JANAKI GURUNO f you walk to Basantapur or Saturday, 17 November and you pass the Kumari House you will see a pyramid of newly-harvested paddy (dhaan) with an AK-47 stuck on top. No, it will not mean an escalation of guerrilla warfare between the government and the Maoists. It will in fact be the lates installation art exhibition by Nepali artist, Jyoti Duwadi, trying to draw attention to the world's gun culture through art

"What I am trying to show is how much rice can be bought with the same amount money that it costs to buy an assault rifle " Duwadi told us while preparing fo his exhibition. The show is called "Value" and will draw attention to how the economic cost of conflict exacts an emotion toll from communities around the world. Duwadi says he has been increasingly disturbed by the series of violent acts in the past year that

have rent his motherland, and hi adopted home. America. In earlier visits to Nepal. Duwadi had been concerned about the escalating Maoist violence, and just when he thought things couldn't get worse, the royal massacre happened in Nepal, and then the World Trade

poverty and despair.

tion, and the artist says he is Centre bombings. In despair, this passionate pacifist is trying to inspired by the poetry of his grandfather, poet Dharani Dhar explore the connections between human conflict, militarisation, Koirala who wrote 50 years ago:

Duwadi is trying to collect as Nepal your smiling fac Would I see it, or die withou many of the names of the estimated 2,000 Nepalis who have died in the This is the worry that aches my past six years of Maoist violence as heart Towards hope or despair

possible and these will be exhibited alongside the rice. Visitors will be Duwadi left Nepal in 1971 and ouraged to light oil lamps and did his PhD in political science burn incense so that the artwork from Claremont. But his heart was itself becomes a shrine and a always in art, and he did his first memorial for the souls of the dead. show in 1978 and has exhibited On Tuesday, the dhaan will be regularly in the US. In 1994 he put into jute sacks and marked came to Nepal on a brief stint with with the names of Afghanistan. the United Nations. He has done everal exhibitions in Nepal before Sierra Leone, Congo and other ountries torn by war, and replica including one on *nagas*, the serpent rifle will be laid alongside the sacks saviours of the water and air. "I to symbolise an end to violence. wanted to generate an interest in Using dhaan for Duwadi is a he environment, and the *nagas* metaphor for peace and regenera were the perfect symbol," he adds.



An artist turns his craft to healing the world and Nepal of violence and conflict.

Does he feel the tug of home, is | others. "I started thinking about it five years ago, with the gun-related violence in the United States, and that why he has kept in touch with his homeland and keeps coming back? "Absolutely, This is where then it happened in my own my roots are, this is my connection country with the royal massacre, to my past my ancestors my and then September 11 hapbeing." Duwadi's art form demonpened.' strates this symbolic link to the land: his ongoing exhibition in the Visualising the Cost of Siddharth Art Gallery is called: Vioence Art installation by Jyoti "Earth Drawings to Digital Prints" (See below) Duwadi In the exhibits on display there. Rasantanur he took soil from Nepal, the 17-20 November United States and rubbed it on Inauguration: 4:30 PM on Saturday, 17 November Nepali paper, scanned the result and worked on them digitally to www.akash-himal.com produce colours and patterns that e a near-hypnotic effect. Digital Art 1995-2001 In his heart of hearts, Duwadi Jyoti Duwadi

Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revisited 1-26 November www.siddharthaartgallerv.com

hid a tearful fare

drawn unaided by the computer-has a

and like Jvoti Duwadi's paintings, her

sculptures of the Buddha. Swovambu

audience. Shum has mainly photographed

photographs will be new to a Nepali

Also on display at the Siddhartha Art



temple, gongs, bells and the windhorses coloured pieces of cloth printed with Buddhist texts-that we see festooned around gompas. The subjects seems ordinary. But Shum's photographs are anything but.

She forgoes the idea of photographic reality and subverts the very essence of photography-that of capturing a subject precisely, in its finely detailed glory. Instead, they are rather characterised by vague, blurred lines and textures, very much like those in impressionist paintings ome of Shum's subjects have hard, bone like feel, similar to mixed media painting that uses adhesive. How she achieves this is simple-Shum presses a rounded nub of a special kind of pen against the Polaroid of a photograph and then prints it to get different textures. The process demands creativity, however-particularly in deciding what texture suits which surface.

Shum's photographs are different, no doubt. But are they beautiful? More beautiful than they would have been ithout being manipulated in Polaroid? This reviewer has his reservations.

The work of Jvoti Duwadi and Sandy Shum is on view at the Siddhartha Art Gallery until 26 November, 11AM-6PM, Sunday through Friday.



echnology has triumphed, and the European art world with an exhibit that was debate over its use in art is over. But the victory for technology didn't come quickly or easily, it took years of redefining the meaning of 'art'. Dadaist Marcel Duchamp, who shocked the

is concerned about the global culture of violence and the effect it has on the human soul. Through art, he hopes to heal himself and

meaning of art, eventually leading to the acceptance of technology in art. But all that, even if some of it happened some 80 on the images available to him, Duwadi has created images that are purely years ago, hadn't really touched Nepal. abstract. On account of this, try as one

US-based artist Jvoti Duwadi's exhibition of computer-aided paintings, which he calls digital prints, at the Siddhartha Art Gallery should be of interest to Nepali audiences. There are altogether eleven paintings done in three different styles on display-the difference in style being the difference in the programs used to 'paint' or generate the artworks. The interesting thing about technol-

oov-aided art like Duwadi's is that the possibilities seem endless. Take, for example, the painting titled Desert. Here the artist has superimposed one photographic image over another. Then he has distorted and manipulated the images to create a painting in which one can see

simply an inverted commode, futurist Fillino Marinetti who anotheosised technology; the king of kitsch Andy Warhol, who created art out of discarded cans-they all helped broaden and redefine the

Art, manipulated

might, it is difficult for the viewer to relate

them to everyday reality. So one looks for aesthetic beauty in these images, and there one runs into another matter. Possibly because we are used to conven tional paintings and colours, the images and their colours, while nice to look at, don't really strike a chord. Digital prints seem to lack that immediacy of colour and texture that conventional paintings have. Perhaps this is why the painting called

Earth Drawing, though rather-a few lines different, more appealing feel than the rest of the paintings. Gallery is the work of Sandy Shum, a photographer from Thailand. Shum likes to call her work impressionistic photographs

quite clearly, a forest receding in the background in the upper half and not so clearly, figures in sombre attitudes veiled by what look like optical threads in the

FAREWELL TO A PRINCESS

16-22 NOVEMBER 2001 NEPALI TIMES





s a card-carrying nabob of negativism and a chronic Cynic, it is difficult for this serve to see usually silver linings on alleged clouds because usually pessimistic sources have just told us on condition of complete anonymity that the sky is about to fall anyway. However, stung by recent criticism that I am habitually

putting down the accomplishments of Nepalis from all walks of life, I have vowed now never to make fun again of the great strides taken by this country in the field of high technology research and development. My Nepal Era New the tremendous achievements of our young scientists as they cannot let such sensitive technology get into the wrong hands

designed a Three-stage, Booster-assisted, Laser-tracking, Heat-seeking, Sub-orbital, Semi-

guided Launch Vehicle with a 50 Kiloton Automatic

Nuclear Ultra-warhead capable of flattening an area of

confidence in this country's glorious future, and to show

(RONAST), which has always shown exemplary open-

mindedness to new ideas, has passed on this Star Wars

Division, and will soon be giving 15-year-old Biraj

Bhanjyang.

Moving swiftly along, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur cynic, it is difficult for this scribe to see non-existent Deuba and senior members of his cabinet took a couple of hours off their strategy meetings in preparation for talks with Maoist guerrillas on Monday, to meet the inventor in a secure bunker inside Baluwatar where the decision seems to have been taken that Nepal should pursue its research into a

Missile Defence Shield and weapons of mass destruction. The Prime Minister is also extremely concerned about Biraj's security in this age of international terrorism, and has instructed that the young scientist be given 24-hour security Year Resolution this week is to make amends and recognise to prevent al-Qaeda operatives from kidnapping him. We

विस्तानको प्रतिभा देखेर प्रधानमन्त्री र संगतिक सकित (

push the frontiers of science. Nepalis are today going boldly forth where no Nepali has

gone before, and this includes to the Federated States of Micronesi The best example of Nepalis dazzling the world is the news published in a national daily on Monday (right) of an eighth grader named Biraj who has

areas of high-technology applicaons Documents leaked to us sho The Royal Nepal Navy has already designed and built a prototype nuclear-powered subma-rine which has undergone highspeed, hot-pursuit trials in Begnas Lake Nepal's space programme suffered a set-back when the

countdown for the launch of our nation's first hunter-killer satellite (codename: Dandi-Biu 1-B) from the summit of Mt 27,000 sq km. Let me take a moment here to pay tribute to Everest had to be called off at the last minute as word came from Paris that a minister had just sold off our geostationary the intrepid investigative journalist who brought this news to the attention of the Nepali public, thereby restoring our Indian Ocean orbital slot a private company Our labs have bred a genetically modified Turbo Yam endowed with a xylem that allows the super tuber not to be that if we all pull together there is nothing to stop us from

being a pariah nation that is feared and respected by all. The Royal Nepal Academy for Science and Technology restricted in its growth by stones to the north or south. Our researchers haven't forgotten consumer electronics, and in an effort to automate every facet of national life, they are sently conducting field trials of a laser-guided precision invention to its Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Research nostril hair plucker that can also multi-task as an ear wax excavator and a belly-button lint remover. (Especially useful permission to use the Army's missile test range in Rohini for civil servants who don't have much to do in their orifices between the festivals.)

BREA Since this last report came out e have also learnt that RONAST has been secretly involved in other ad a lift of

अन पाउनहोंन उत्सेन आप उन्नोन

NEG t the age of six, his parents battling the British, and Bhakta

police as a staff sergeant.

Maoists in Malaya, now I see

"Fifty years ago I fought

I left their home village in Gorkha and took Bhakta Bahadur Rana with them to Burma. That was a time when thousands of Nepalis from the midhills left their impoverished villages and headed east in search of work-to Darjeeling, Assam and further to Burma and Thailand, Bhakta Bahadur's parents were in the Thai town of Surat Thani when the war erupted. The Japanese were in Burma, and at age 16 Bhakta Bahadur left his parents and went to work in a rubber plantation in Malaya But in 1942 the war pursued him there. When it was all over,

Maoists in my own country. Sometimes life is very ironic," rued Bhakta Bahadur during a Dasain trip to Nepal to make pilgrimages to Janakpur, Manakamana and Muktinath, Bhakta Bahadur looks much younger than his 80 years, and desnite a fall from a horse in Muktinath after which he was evacuated by helicopter to lomsom he looked none the worse for it.

south-east Asia lay in ruins, the Japanese were gone but anticolonial civil wars continued. In the jungles of the Malayan peninsula, Maoist guerrillas v

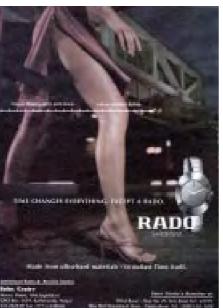


Today, Bhakta Bahadur and his Bahadur joined up with the colonial son run a successful security agency, "I hire only Nepalis, they are my blood, you have to help people of your own blood." Bhakta Bahadur has given employment to more than 300 Nepalis in Malaysia many of them body guards for VIPs and business executives. Bhakta Bahadur is the patriard

of the Nepali community in Malaysia, and often takes up the problems of the estimated 5,000 Malaysians of Nepali origin directly with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad The latest case involved the predominantly-Nepal town of Rawang which was directly in the path of a new highway, the inhabitants were

relocated and their housing needs taken care of. Bhakta Bahadur says he has deep attachment to his Nepali roots and is worried about how younger Malaysian Nepalis are losing touch That is why he gets the community to celebrate Dasain, speak Nepali and keep their Nepali identity. His only regret in life: "I never really had the time to study. Today the voungsters are all well-educated and it has opened their eyes."

Even without education Bhakta Bahadur has the wisdom and vision to lead his community. Common sense and generosity it seems, do not need education. "I have become religious in my old age," he admitted to us. "I have understood the value of my homeland, my soil, my water. I will come back and die here



जन्म हिंदे तक्षाव जन्म हिंदु स्टब्स

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