NEPALI



Mao power

the barrel of a gun, but hydropower must still come out of a turbine. Even in Maoland. The tiny 25-Gaon, Seti Gaad in Rukum was built by local Maoists last year



after they blew up the 150 kW Bijeswori hydro at Chaurjhari. The Rs 150,000 plant supplies power to 15 households. Security forces personnel visited the plant twice but did not blow it up as the Maniete would have done herause they thought it was "creative work."

Showdown Fifty years after it was set up, the

Nepali Congress is closer today to a formal split than it has ever been. But it speaks for the hidden resilience of this fractious party that people still haven't given up on a last-minute patch-up. This time, however, the bad blood runs too deep. And unity, even if it is forged, may not last beyond the day the tickets for the November elections are announced. The root of the crisis has always been the party's inability to sort out its intergenerational power transfer. The Young Turks are imaptient, the unwilling to let go, and both have powerful cronies. A party split, however, would collectively hurt all sides: the good the bad and the ugly, Ex-Lt Col Narayan Singh Pun and close Deuba supporter has already registered a party (tentatively called the Nepal Samanta Party). This could be Deuba's Plan B, but Pun says the



temet Poll #39. To vate as to O. Should King Gyanendra be more

A first-hand account from the Maobadi epicentre.



KANAK MANI DIXIT IN EAST ROLPA n this trail up Sulichaur towards Thawang in eastern Rolpa, no one meets your eye No one poses the jovial queries you hear on paths all over Nepal. They don't want to know who you are. where you are going, where you are coming from.
This is the birthplace and

heartland of the Maobadi movemen and its "People's War". Seven months into the emergency and the deploy ment of the army, and the residents o Rolpa are dulled by wariness Travelling in eastern Rolpa this week, the humanscape is reflected in two tremes. One is 66-year-old Kumbha Singh Pun who spent 28 years working in India "Lould have settled there, but I came back here in 1993 because this is the land of my birth. It was so peaceful here, but now there is only conflict and destruction. This is not the Rolpa Leame back to die in "

nilitant, behind whose pleasant demeanour lies a hardened Maobadi fighter. He has seen fighting in all the recent theatres—Dang, Satbaria, Lisne, Gam and the most recent debacle in Khara. He has seen comrades fall to the bullet, and has obviously himself killed, many times over. Why do you fight, we ask him. "For the people and he country." What if you die? "I will be remembered in history "

The other is a short, stocky teenage

We are walking high up near the flanks of Jaljala mo Rolpa, a massif that is part of Maoist lore. The terrain is steen on all sides. but you chance upon a clearing. There are young men and some young

women, most of about high-school age, some playing volleyball. Sud-denly, you notice a weapon, and then another, and another. There is no turning back, and as you enter the circle all eyes are on you, surprised and suspicious. Boys in their early teens walk around with 303s on their shoulders. Some lug SLRs, or sit by their weapons and backpacks. It's snack time, and these young fighter are determinedly spooning up some kind of energy-giving powdered

formula mixed with cold water. We've walked into a full company of the People's Liberation Army at rest A long and worrisome period of questioning follows. They seem unconvinced by our answers and pass us on to a platoon commander, a scowling man of perhaps 25—old for this group—who interrogates us and says that we will have to walk with them further into the jungle, while they contact higher-ups to decide what to do with us. We cannot go, we say, we have a deadline to meet in Kathmandu, but this is ignored, and it increasingly begins to look like he will take us over the pass whether we like it or not, in the rain and the fading light

It is fortuitous that Comrade Bijaya arrives just as we are about to give in. He is smiling and communi cative and evidently the political commissar of the place. "You understand why we have to be suspicious of you. The security forces are active, we have just lost six of our workers, and you come here unannounced, without permission." Finally, convinced of our journalistic credentials, and having apparently consulted a leader further

up in the hierarchy, he agrees to be erviewed. We speak to him by candle-light.

Thirty-comerbing Comerde Riiny introduces himself as a member of the Rolpa District Committee of the CPN (Maoist). A disciple of Baburam Bhattarai, he started his political career, like his mentor, with the All-India Nepali Students' Federation, He teaches political theory to the cadre, and speaks with an ideological fervous that must be what makes young men and women rush to battle in the name of the Prachanda Path. Comrade Bijaya starts off listing

the Maoists' successful battles against he government—attacks on police posts and the subsequent engagements with the army. "We learnt how to fight as we went along, and Holleri was a turning point. Step-by-step we have polished our skills and proved our claim that we can take on the militar We started with household imple ments and sticks, moved on to SBMLs and 303s, and then to SLRs, LPMGs. GPMGs and 2-inch morrars." ("SBML", by the way, is the euphenistic acronym the Maobadi have coined for single-barrel muzzleloaders.) The weapons and ammunition in this particular company indicates an inefficient array, but the Red Army's relentless quest for armoury may slowly change that. "According to Mao's dictates, we first built weapons and are now at the snatching stage. We aren't buying them yet, but when we need Isolated in these mountains, the

fighters tune into Radio Nepal's news

service to learn how their war is going elsewhere. They appear to have the run of this territory, but seem distanced from the insurgency in other parts of the country. Still, Comrade Bijaya is confident sitting in his mountain eyrie. He knows his guerrillas can easily melt away into the folds and valleys of eastern Rolpa. "Our network lets us know when there is movement of the security forces. The government's informants, on the other hand, are local anti-socials hiding in the

sadarmukam [district headquarters]. Bijaya will talk about his fighter motivation levels and the atmosties of the state, but won't acknowledge questions about the forced conscription of very young people that is so obviously a reality here. He also challenges strategies of the PLA that many in the national press take as givens. "We do not use human shields—the Janamukti Sena is perfectly capable of fighting on its own. And why should we cut heads? I ould not like to be identified while alive, but once dead, it doesn't matter In sharp contrast to his discus-

sions about local realities and fightin strategy, Comrade Bijaya descend romanticism and rhetoric when asked about the larger goals of the Nepali Maoists. "Our fight is for the oppressed all over the world. We an no longr fighting the Nepali government. It is the imperialists w

engaged with."

How can Maoism succeed here when it has failed everywhere else? "We learn from the mistakes made elsewhere The primary mistake in the past was the inability to get the middle class to ride along. We will rectify that." Comrade Bijava also savs that under a Maoist dispensation there will be room for all the political parties that exist today, and that the high command is preparing a political strategy to take other forces with them The Maoist plan, he told us, is to proceed simultaneously on the military and political front

> Kanak Mani Dixit p4 A people's war

As in all conflict areas, Nepal's insurgency has affected the most vulnerable section of the population the worst. Women and children, widows, orphans, and internally displaced families are trying to survive from day to day, the hardships of their ordinary lives now

In faraway Kathmandu, there is big talk of big money. Millions of dollars to fight the war, more millions in development assistance. There is a lot of talk about governance and delivery. But here, on Ground Zero, the widows and orphans, bereaved and now destitute, need immediate relief. They cannot wait. Where are the NGOs, where are the donors, where is the government?

It does not take too long in Surkhet to realise that this once-vibrant hub of the mid-west has turned

into a township at the edge of a The suffering and war zone. There has been a dusk-to-dawn curfew everyday in the misery of Surkhet's war-displaced is town and on its outskirts. Mysterious gunshots punctuate heartbreaking.

the night, and the next morning no one seems to know who shot whom. On the streets, there is the sound of curfew violators being chased and beaten up. The pall of fear is pervasive. The warm and generous people with their happy greetings are a thing of the past. People don't make eye-contact

anymore, they avert their gaze.

The town is full of boys and girls who fled the conflict in the hills. In a lodge in Surkhet is 15-year-old Shyam*. His father had left home, and the boy stayed with his mother. But his mother told him to run away for fear that the Maoists would recruit him. There are similar boys in almost every hotel and teashop in Surkhet. Many have come recently, brought by worried parents who were being forced to send one offspring to join the rebels. Among the guests in the hotels are other transient young men, on their way to India or further afield-to try to find work and also to get away from the Maoists, or avoid being picked up by the security forces.



Making a house... a home.

Home loans from Kumari Bank.



The ship of state

here were few tourists, but a recent flight out of Kathmandu was full. The back of the plane was packed with a hundred Nepali workers off to Malaysia-most had sold their land to afford the ticket and fees of labour dalals euphemistically called "manpower agents". The middle of the plane had a boisterous group of a dozen senior civil servants of His Majesty's Government off for a two-week administration and management training of senior executives. And right in front was the Nepali delegation headed for a follow-up to the World Food Summit in Rome.

There you had it: three classes of Nepali society (first, business and economy) that in a sense reflected the state of the country today. If there had been any doubts about it, now there shouldn't be; by every development indicator Nepal is the poorest country in one of the world's poorest regions. We are at the bottom of the heap. Even compared with the economic disparities within South Asian countries, according to the UN, the gap between rich and poor in Nepal is starker. But by far the most glaring indicator of development, or lack thereof, is hunger. And the most glaring fact about hunger is that there are more hungry people in Nepal today than ten years ago.

In 1992, there were 3.5 million Nepalis who were undernourished. Today, the number of chronically-hungry has gone up to five million. One in every five Nepalis (most of them women and children) doesn't get enough food to meet the minimum daily calorie requirement. These figures were calculated two years ago and represent the situation before the Maoist insurgency spiralled out of control after November, Today, large parts of the chronically food-deficit mid and far-western districts face a food crisis of catastrophic

Much of the land lies fallow. Most able-bodied men have fled the fighting, there is no one to plant the next season's crop. Villagers have either eaten the seeds out of desperation, or have had their granaries looted by Manists Food shipments have not arrived because roads and airports have been destroyed. The WFP and GTZ have stopped food for work projects after their stores were plundered. Even those who have seeds are not planting this season for fear that the harvests will be looted.

Nationally, Nepal's food production has gone up in the past ten years due to generally favourable monsoons. But it has not kept pace with population growth. And uneven distribution means that nearly half the 75 districts. suffer chronic food shortages.

It's not the best time to be representing Nepal at the FAO conference in Rome, King Birendra addressed the World Food Summit five years ago, and Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba led the Nepali delegation that joined other nations to lay the firm commitment to halve hunger. This week in Rome, a junior minister is representing Nepal. It is hard to show your face when you

haven't kept your promise to your own people. That is why at the back of the plane were Nepalis who had given up hope, and sold their land to do back-breaking work in a foreign land. At the front of the plane were people who promised five years ago to set the right priorities so that there would be enough food and jobs so they needn't leave STATE OF THE STATE

Maoism in the monsoon

The tarai's passion for the monsoon overwhelms a fear of the insurgency.

his celebrated classic Meehdoor without

the mortal fear of the impending storm in

their makeshift shelters out in the naddy

fields. In fact, more than nature, the

celebrated poet succeeds in Ashadasya

pations of the idle elite, Brahmins who

don't have to hold a plough to make a

rather than the quill, there isn't much

If you have seen Shiva Bhanjyang

tremble in a cloudburst, as I did in 1993, it

grim sense of apprehension. The innocent

phrase "raining cats and dogs" acquires

unsavoury connorations when you have

witnessed piglets floating in the drain,

puppies fighting to survive a torrent, and

kittens shivering below a wildly swaying

tree. My recollections of floods are filled

calves floating along with the remains of

straw huts that have been washed away.

with nauseating images of bloated bodies of

is impossible to look at a dark sky without a

of Ashad

BARIYARPUR, BARA - The temple of Gadhi Mai has made this place famous. Once every four years, more goats and buffaloes are slaughtered here in a monthlong ritual sacrifice than anywhere else in the world. But for rest of the time, it is very much a village like any other in the central tarai, where life revolves around the vagaries

The main concern of the villagers here is neither the intensity of the Maoist insurgency nor the possibility of mid-term elections, but the unpredictable temperament of the upcoming monsoon. Resigned to the hard reality of the rebels' atrocities as well as the establishment's impotence in tackling lawlessness, people seem to have fallen back in the comfortable embrace of an endemic fatalism.

The threat of a Maoist attack is like any other manifestation of the wrath of god that devastates the village every so oftenfloods, fire, famine and communicable diseases such as kala azar and cholera. Those who survive such calamities tell the story to their grandchildren. Those who are fated to, die. There's no point worrying about things that you can do nothing about

The monsoon, too, is an act of god. But the deities that control the downpours are relatively more reasonable. Unlike Mahakal. the lord of death, the monsoon is the munificence of Mahakali, the mother of the universe Come Ashad and the farmers worship her with traditional expressions of animistic belief. In the later Vedic traditions, it is Indra, the king of gods, who commands the rains. Since he is always worried about losing his kingdom, Indra allows the monsoon to remain at the beck and call of his worldly devotees.

The romance of the monsoon resides in the imaginary realms of litterateurs who have never seen a peacock run for cover in the blinding rain. (Poets in Sanskrit tradition can't write about rains without making their peacocks dance with joy.)



Kalidasa waxes eloquent about the clouds in But despite the risks associated with the passion of the monsoon, life without it sparing a thought for the poor who live in is unimaginable. Rains feed the crop, floods invigorate the rice-fields with silt, and the humid wind makes the bamboo sing. Pigeons go into a huddle, but sparrows love the first drizzle as much as any human being. The heady smell that hits your Prathame Divase in portraying the preoccunostrils when the rains begin in the tarai is too intoxicating to describe. When the living. For those who work with the kodalo pre-monsoon showers begin to clean the Gadhi Mai temple premises, you wish you could believe that fiction about peacocks romance in the cloudy sky on the first day in the rain.

There can be hope in the bucolic setting of Bariyarpur-seeing a girl-child without shoes braving the downpour to go to school. There can also be despairseeing her harass a pilgrim for alms the next day outside the temple complex. But that's another story, the sad tale of schoolchildren brainwashed into believing that deliverance lies in consuming this or that nacket of noodles and a particular brand of bottled soft drink. The free market teaches us to gratify our desires instantly with the least exertion, no matter the social cost of theaction

Like the monsoon, democracy too is a mixed blessing. We tend to take its benefits for granted, but are haunted by the excesses we witness as it works. There is no enthusiasm for the mid-term elections in the districts of Bara and Parsa During my earlier visits to Kalaiya or Birgunj, I could engage a perfect stranger at any pan pasal and discuss with him the internecing battles between the Krishna Prasad and Girija Prasad factions of the Nepali Congress. These days, you mention politics at your own risk-even the shopkeeper can ask you to shut up.

At a wayside eatery along the East-West Highway, a question about whether the security forces can restore peace befor the elections elicits a laconic reply from the worldly-wise vendor. "They are safe inside their barracks," Another query about the chances of the Maoists participating in the elections is met with a counter-"Do they care?" After that, it is better to keen aniet

When we have to get down from the bus near Gajuri to let the security personnel check our luggage, I suddenly realise what has been bothering me all through this trip. It is the deafening silence of a sullen populace. There are more than one hundred passengers patiently awaiting their turn but there is no jumping of queues, no ranting about the futility of these checks. Nobody carps about corruption or curses the bureaucrats. No one wrings their hands about what the country has come to due to Koirala's greed for power Ordinarily loquacious Nepalis seem to have suddenly gone extraordinarily quiet. Call it paranoia, but I find the lull frightening •

WIDENING GYRE

n response to CK Lal's apocalyp tic musings in "A year later" (#96 "Second Coming": Turning and turning in the

The falcon cannot hear the

Things fall apart: the centre Merely anarchy is loosened upon the world ..

Surely some revelation is at hand Kanden Thebe, Yangrup,

LETTER FROM BANGKWANG

Thank you for printing my letter from Bangkwang Prison in Thailand (#91), It means a lot to us Nepalis here. I believe that with help from people like you on the outside something in our situation will change for sure. All my Nepali brothers here convey our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for your interest in our matters. We now at least have hope that one day we will once more see our loved ones back home, and our motherland. It gives us a reason to live on, no matter what predicament and circumstances we may face here Puskar KC iNimaî Thailand

CHANCE TO DANCE Why in your editorial "A similar

path" (#95) do you compare Nepal to Penu? The Shining Path did not even get a chance to shine there. I for one remain baffled about why both genuine prodemocracy forces and those who purportedly espouse Maoism cannot show their faces in front of the Nenali neonle. You may be right: Deuba may be giving everyone a chance to dance Thanks also to Kunda Dixit for his excellent evaluation ("One year later." #96) of the one year rule of King Gyanendra. The king certainly seems to be the only person who has abided by Nepal's femocratic constitution just like his elder brother late King Birendra, Maybe now Nepalis wil unite once again as a nation and march on the difficult highway of progress.

Jack Prasai Rotswana ARMS AND THE WOMAN

To hear of women amongst the Maoist ranks dying is common

news these days, some of them are hardcore gun-wielding fighters, some even area commanders When I see or hear of women being used like this, my thoughts go to Gandhi's non-violent Quit India movement, and Gandhi's belief that his non-violent ovement would be strengthened by the participation of women as hey were by nature non-violent and peace-loving. Women joined Gandhi's movement, campaigned vigorously, and made it a success.

To bring about change and a

not life-threatening.

By using women in their

iolent, destructive sprees, the

just society, women have cam naigned successfully, peacefully, eradicating corruption and the and not only with Gandhi, such as ongoing insurgency. in India's Chipko movement. This ecological movement was ornanised by women, and achieved its aim through nonviolence. Closer home, the community forestry program has been extremely successful in our country because forests are given to the users, predominantly women, and not exploited for commercial purpose but on a sustainable basis. The program is successful because it is nonviolent pro-nature and cognisant this grievous situation of feminist principles-that women

have always been life-giving and



Maoists have gone against the very nature of women. They have totally failed to recognise feminis principles and never wanted to give peace a chance.

S Rana, Kathmandu

NEPALI TALEBAN

This letter is in response to Dr Deepak Shimkhada (Letters, #96). completely agree that the Maoists' destruction of institutions of knowledge and wisdom makes them more than the Taleban. The Maoist student wing is anti-student when they force academic institutions to shut down frequently, and for long nerinds. I wonder whether the farmers' wing will destroy or loot crops, the business wing will loot banks and ruin the economy, the construction wing will destroy bridges and buildings, the develop ment wing will blow up telephone towers and other infrastructure, and the public relations group will kill

Unlike the so-called Maoist intellectuals. I can't see anything how those acts are justified. If the Maoists are fighting for the people they need to make a 180-degree turn. They are following their political dogma like religious fundamentalists. Marx said religio is the oniate of the masses, but the Maoists here show us that their dogma is even more than this. Just as I would be a sinner if I asked religious fanatics to defy their belief, I would be a "capitalist" and "reactionary" to the Manists because they can only see one way. I'm happy to have preserved my

ìFnepalî, by email

natural instincts and pity those who've lost the ability to judge what is right and what is wrong because they follow a political or religious

PAST IMPERFECT The democratic era in Nepal has n twelve years and twelve prime ministers who tried to lead the nation to the best of their capabilities. But none were successful in solving the bonded labour issue eradicating poverty, providing proper education, leading the nation towards the nath of develor ment, and last but not least.

These few issues have been the common agenda of each politician who led the nation. But nothing changed. Who is to be blamed for all this-the political leaders, His Majesty the King or the people to decide the type of governance they need? There is an end to every-thing, but not, it seems, for Nepal's political instability. I request politicians not to fight for their personal interests, but team up as one party and lead Nepal out of

Pravesh Saria, via email . In his column "Past imperfect, future uncertain " (#97) CK I al. wrote exactly the way the educated people living inside and outside

LETTERS

Without neace and hence

without tourism, what will happen

trekking companies, and (for the

Frances Klatzel Kathmandu

Artha Beed's "Amrika-return" (#94)

There are long-term implica-

disaster here with direct foreign

portfolio investment. Either we

iSulanî, by email

investments in the form of

the country think at this moment The threat to democracy looms seriously after the peace? irresponsible political leaders of the Negali ress have pushed the to existing teashops, lodges, country to the precipice. onth ago, when coming here to Europe, a journalist of good repute told me that King attack in Solu-Khumbu makes Gyanendra invited him for an hannened at the "foot of Everest" audience and shared his vision, but How can all of us work to make Solu-Khumbu, a zone of peace with the hope that it will influence didn't listen to what the journalist had to say. I don't think King Gyanendra will act the way his the rest of Nepal? What is really father did four decades ago. more important to our livelihoods from tourism than promoting a People in other parts of the world resolution that can lead to lasting still look at him suspiciously due to last year's royal carnage. Any bold. hut mistaken, sten hy him will harm him a lot. Today's world is completely different from that of 40 ARTHA REED

years ago. Name withheld on request CK Lal has unnecessarily

looks at US-Nepal relations. The United States or any other country dragged King Mahendra's decision for that matter, will not step into to marry the girl of his choice in a areas where it does not see any political article ("Past imper benefits, direct or indirect, future uncertain " #96). If Mr I al is economic or otherwise. US foreig republican, that is all right. In a policy is guided by self-interest. democracy everyone has a right to have his view. But he has no right am not saying that what is in the US's benefit could not be benefito insult the memory of one of the cial to us. But we have to pause to greatest kings in Negali history. Mr. consider all the implications of such a move before we pass any Lal should know that if King judgement on it. Mahendra had not taken the emment in his own hands he ICK I all would not be a free citizen tions of the movement of foreign capital into the country. Are we f an independent kingdom today. The Koirala family is the real ready for it? With our frail enemy of the country and people economy and banking sector, not like Mr Lal should expose their designs to control the country. to mention the pegged currency, we could be inviting a certain.

N Adhikary, Lamjung SYANGBOCHE

I have always admired the commuhave to give up the pegged nity spirit of the Sherpa people in currency or our own macro Pharak and Khumbu. It greatly policies-which I doubt the validity of, since they seem to change saddens me to see the rift in the every time we get a new govern-ment, or it may just be that we lack community that the issue of flights to Syannhoche is again creating in vision and the will and courage to Ramyata Limbu's "Air war over Lukla" (#96). The communities act. To give up the pegged affected extend to the less prosper ous settlements in the southern parts of Solu-Khumbu district whose a possiblity given the terms of our economic and political relationinhabitants depend largely on ship with India and it would seem portering from Lukla for income to very unwise to be dictated by the supplement their subsistence macro-policies of other countries Capital account liberalisation is agriculture. If people from lower not a feasible goal for now for u-Khumbu and from neighbou ing districts lose employment as a Nepal. result of an airport at Syangboche I am infuriated! There are lots. what will they do to subsist? The of Nepali businessmen who have economic effects on the livelihoods of people living below Khumbu become multi-millionaires (in US\$) and never paid a single have another implication: peace. does not matter how many airports runee in income tay. I have seen some of them on shopping sprees and up-market hotels are built-the tourists will not come in great in Paris and London At the same numbers unless there is peace. If time I have regularly made large donations from my relatively the politicians spend the development hudget of the district on yet meagre income to support the spread of basic education in rura another airport instead of on water systems bridges and basic areas of Nepal, where your development works in the poorer government does not think it VDCs, couldn't it exacerbate the necessary to grant hadly-needed frustrations that can potentially lead disadvantaged people to rebel either in this insurgency or a

future one? Without development

interested in the details of economics I have to commend you for carrying his articles. I like his honest writing style combined with a subtle yet healthy sense of sarcastic humour. Here are two story ideas for him: The groundbreaking gender trend at Standard Chartered Bank. Women appear to outnumber men in staff ositions consistently, at least at the Kantipath branch where eve the manager is female. It is also nteresting to note that their stock on the Neose is the highest valued, even while their interes rates are among Kathmandu's lowest. It seems professionalism pays where international market

rates do not. Despite your

Walter Limberg, Germany

I have to compliment Mr

someone not normally particularly

Artha Beed on his columns. As

coverage of Standard Chartered in the Nepali Times (*Me or ***) that brings equity and helps the noor how can there he any lasting stay," #95), this gender angle was missed out.

After consistently admonishing my dear ones in Namche and Solu Khumbu to make duplicates of all official documents such as land ownership certificates (so that there is proof even after district headquarters' records are destroyed, as was the case for many whose Magists' "fire puia" at Salleri last fall), and keep a set of copies in a separate place, such as a safety deposit box at a Kathmandu bani imagine my dismay to find that there are no more lockers available in at least two of my banks Bank of Kathmandu, and Standard Chartered. Looks like we have to return to the ancient system of secret stashes in nooks and crannies of private property. If one is lucky enough to own any private

Lozang Sherpa, Solu Khumbu MORE PICTURES Thanks for displaying some of the pictures of the late King Birendra and his family by Dr Khagendra Bahadur Shrestha in your Interne edition (www.nepalitimes.com). We wish you could do that more often for those of us far from home. Sanjay, by email

Your column Under my Hat really makes me laugh and refreshes my

mood. After CK Lal's thoughtprovoking column, I go directly your column, These days, I am curious to see if your hat will be brand new. Interestingly, it always is. What is the secret?

Subindra Bogati, The Netherlands

"Blubber" in last week's Letters column was really unnecessary. Some Dr Govinda Luitel character seems to hate Kunda Dixit's outs. I have also found Under my Hat not up to pa a few times, but it is usually light reading when you are in a good mood, and on the whole Whether you were born in the

US or UK, Iceland or Ireland, Timbuktu or Zamboanga, male asses are, I think, known as jackasses and not jenny asses. All of us know Kunda's gender, so is this Washingtonian grammar or slang or what? Keep on hating Kunda.

Dr Amrit KC. Bishalnaga Doesn't Dr Govinda Luitel read US newspapers? Surely even Kunda Dixit cannot outshine Dubya's Bushisms. As to the question of Dixit's genius, the nsus of the Nepali literati is that he is the only Nepali writer fit

to pick up crumbs under the table

of Bhairav Aryal, the greatest

Nepali satirist. But I don't see how this establishes that Dr Luitel is a Kanden Thehe

Yangrup, Tapleiung

Many Ruddhists in Nenal have found Kanak Mani Divit's Lumbini's rebirth (#95) to be very biased and the writer ill-informed on the real issues about the controversial construction of the Mayadevi

ienny ass.

It is inappropriate to say that "...Buddhist groups [are] fighting for control of the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT)". The Buddhists of Nepal have been very tolerant and Buddhist organisa tions have never tried to control the LDT. On the contrary, they kept quiet even when certain archaeologists treated the sacred Mayadevi Temple as a guinea pig. The famous temple was pulled down, brick by brick, from top to bottom, by the LDT on the pretext of learning about the state of erosion caused by tree roots and to obtain basic knowledge about the changes in the temple's configuration through the ages.



Today the identity of the LDT as an autonomous, non novernment and non-profit hody, as visualised by His I ate Maiesty King Mahendra, has been lost. All decisions are taken and directed by the ministry in Kathmandu. In-depth knowledge of Buddhism and dedication to Buddhism are no more the prime requisites for serving on the council. Strong political affiliations and political contacts have become the main criteria. In 1992 there were 21 LDT council members, with dedicated Buddhist scholars in the decision-making body. Today there are 53 council members with not a single dedicated Buddhist scholar in the decision making hody. All the Buddhists nominated so far to the council are there due to their political affiliations, not because they in any way represent the millions of Buddhists of Nepal.

Third, the architectural features of the design pose a disaster to a country that boasts about the great architect Arniko. A massive large box now dwarfs the Asokan pillar, one of the oldest dated monuments in the subcontinent. The structure has been designed as if the pillar does not exist, and is devoid of any

Buddhist architectural form or details. Fourth, the LDT went against its own decision in not abiding by the Master Plan [made by Japanese architect Kenzo Tenge] which clearly restricted any kind of structure other than the archaeological site in the Sacred Garden. The Japanese technical expert involved in the excavation was not consulted: the LDT did not even wait for the final excavation report. Like many other critical issues in Nepal, Lumbini's development appears to have fallen victim to the country's ongoing political uncertainty and break-

Swovambhu Tuladhar, Kathmandu



KANAK MANI DIXIT in EAST ROLPA

roadhead, watched the firefight rage

through the night, tracers and bomb

lighting up the ridge across the valley.

are also places with a longer history. Up-

in the Panchayat years, the locals defied

faraway Kathmandu. The most immedi-

ate reason that sparked the Maoist

movement, so the story goes, was in

Gam, where in 1995 a rivalry between

the Samyukta Jana Morcha on the one

side and the Nepali Congress and the

Rastriya Prajantra Party on the other

came to a head when the two groups

political bosses of the day soon snow

ment of SIM activists by the

fought during a fair. The resulting

valley, Thawang is the village where, deep

alking in Rolpa is a journey

wagaon, Holleri, Lisne,

through a map of death-

We are here to see for ourselves what living in eastern Rolpa is like these days, and so we are bypassing the district headquarters of Libang, where civil Gam. The last action in these parts was ervants and refugees from the villages in Gam on 7 May, and the villagers from fearfully await the day the battle-Pobang, a day's walk from the Sulichaur hardened youngsters of the so-called Janamukti Sena (People's Liberation Army) choose to attack. The Maoist fighters are 'jangal ko bagaal' here-But though it is easy to forget, these those who have entered the forest-and

their writ runs over this harsh geography. The peasantry here in Rolpa are all in a chep, between the Maoists, who have the run of the land, and the security forces, who swoop down without notice," a teacher from Palpa told us. One of the few people who spoke freely with us, he talked at length about how what was once one of the most peaceful corners of the country is now a series of killing terraces.

Everyone in Pobang is Magar, barring eight houses of Dalits. It takes time, but eventually some villagers sit with us and talk about their problems.

about the difficulties that people in Rolpa and Rukum are facing due to the restrictions on the transport of foodstuff, about how the houses of suspected Maoist supporters are razed by soldiers who come out in occasional details. Not one of these people dares criticise the Maoists. They point to the destruction of the Lutheran World Service develop ment outpost near the village that used

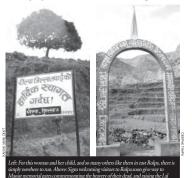
> Finally, one middle-aged man tells us in a whisper: "There are no devis and deutas here any more. Puja-aja is a thing of the past. And there is no cultural life other than the Maobadis' mass meetings. They say that in today's scientific era there is no space for superstition." On the ridge over the village there is a temple without a roof. The idols of Shiva and Parbati are gone, as is the bell that used to hang outside. The fair that would take place here every Shukla Paksha, the first quarter moon of the month of Bhadra, has not taken place or a few years. Likewise, there is no Baraha Puja in Mangsir, no Siddha Puja during Buddha Purnima in Jeth, no puja to Mahadev during the full moon of

to serve the whole area, but will not say

Political activity, too, has gone the way of religion. Any political activist of consequence from the ward to the village level is away in Libang or in the townships along the roadheads, waiting for the day the Maobadi are vanguished or busy creating alternative lives for themselves, knowing that such a day may

not be near in these mid-western hills. Even without the Maobadi, life is tough here, especially in comparison with the obvious wealth of the Madi valley of southern Rolpa. Worse even than poverty is the lack of basic services. The school-houses are dark, with mud floors: the health assistant stands in for the 'doctor'. School teachers, who have always been the vanguard of the political parties, are subdued under the Maoist threat, and do not dare express an oninion. These docile men, mostly Bahuns from the middle hills, and the odd health assistant are the only

representatives of the state. For as long as people here can remember, the Magar men from these hills went to India to earn a living.





Today those who go are fleeing Maoist

Warles Rokaya came back to start a shop after a three-year stint as an electrician in Malaysia Because of the economic blockade at Sulichaur his shelves are today empty of provisions and the instant noodle packets that are increasingly the staple of the Nepali hills. Referring to the three three-month instalments of the state of emergency, he says, "The first emergency was difficult, the second was worse, and now in the third emergency, our suffering is complete." There isn't food to buy, even if you have the money. But worst of all the hardships, perhaps, is the inability to express yourself. At every turn, the people of Pobang-and all the people we meet on our trek-are denied the choice of being neutral, and so they remain

But if Pobang is depressing, it is even more sobering to arrive in Jelbang, in the next valley over to the west. It is a village surrounded on three sides by the tall hills just south of the Ialiala mountain that provide the mythical backdrop to the Maoist 'revolution'. Fifty-one

people from Jelbang are said to have died n the fighting so far.

The entrance to Jelbang is festooned with once-red Maoist banners ("To revolt is the people's right"), now bleached with age. In Jelbang, like in Pobang, those who do speak to us refer to the difficulties of the emergency and the hopeful days of autumn 2001, the four months of ceasefire when the villagers hung on every word that came of the negotiations. "Those were days of calm, even the Manhadi leaders told us that peace would come with the barta. But talks evaporated, and the situation became even more terrifying, and it has become worse over the course of the three emergencies," says one elder, referring to the renewals.

On the way down valley, a life-size dummy hangs from a tree, representing the "Deuba sarkar". Beneath the swins ing figure, complete with tattered Chinese canvas shoes, women scurry down towards Sulichaur, not looking up at the strangers who have walked to their village to try and understand what the Manist war has done to their

War widows of the west

Locals are doing the little they can with the little they have.



Then there are the war widows in Chinchu and other villages in Surkhet valley. They are refugees with nowhere to go, strangers in their own land. The traditional stigma of widowhood in Nepal has been compounded by the trauma of conflict. Many are trying to raise children without any means of

Magists blew up the police post at Chinchu a year ago, and the village has since been a battle ground for the Magists and security officials. Locals told us that they continue to get threats from Maoists, as well as visits by security forces. For social activists working with gender empowerment, skills training and social mobilisation, threats and intimidation have become routine. but they have not stonged their work. They are doing what little they can with what little they have

Sita's husband was killed by Maoists three months ago for being a Nepali Congress supporter. In a familiar story repeated across Nepal, he was dragged out of bed at night, taken to the centre of town, and executed. The 36-yearchildren. Sita is still too shocked to speak, and it is her daughter who

answers our queries. Her 17-yearshowing in the performance of the old son has taken charge of his slain father's business now, and is trying to do the best he can to take school because the boy has to care of his family. There used to be a pharmacy

in the bazar until a few months ago, when the security forces came and took away its owner, a UML supporter. No reasons were given. Nine days later, his family discovered his body in a shallow grave and cremated him. His widow. Kanchi, is young and uneducated, and has two children. She hasn't been told who killed her husband or why. Chinchu has lost its only pharmacy. Both Sita and Kanchi are relatively well-off, and will probably get by. But most others have it much

worse, and need support. Subadhra's 21-year-old Tharu husband was recently killed by the security forces while returning home from the forest at 7.30 PM She has two infants, and the family has no land.

At Salma Village Development Committee, Laxmi is raising two children, aged 13 and 11. Her husband was an electrician and Both children are bright students but the emotional trauma is already

western districts. They travel in groups of ten or less, helpless ness and despair writ large on their faces. Many are unsure where they want to go, or what they will do. They just want to get out, away from the violence and the killings. Most do not have citizenship certificates. They crowd around the DDC office

in Surkhet all day for the

get their papers.

recommendations they need to

vounger girl in school. The family is

considering sending only the girl to

help out with the work at home.

that was recently attacked by

Maoists has been approached

men aged 13-28 from the mid-

There is a big exodus of young

The local SOS Children's Village

Amidst all this need, the INGOs and development agencies which had made the town their base for mid- and far-western operations have left, citing security concerns. But the local community groups are still here, and they are doing whatever they can with their

At the CDO office, we tried to raise the issue of state support for

Godavari ®

that officials haven't even herrin Subadhra's case, and the CDO's reply was that her husband should have stayed indoors during the curfew. To him the nossibility that the Tharu village may not have a radio set, or that the people may not have the time to listen to radio, or that, even if they heard the announcement, they might not have understood what was being said, was inconsequential.

It's obvious that Surkhet is only the tip of the iceberg. After all, this is at the edge of Maoland. In the interior there must be many many more in misery. It is time to channel support to local groups such as the People Help Organi sation a non-profit run run entirely by women and capable of providing targeted relief quickly. Unfortunately, local groups are not articulate enough to talk to donor bureaucrats in Kathmandu directly, so how will they get the resources they need? The PHO says it lobbied for cash from the UN's Peace Fund, but

The state has not thought out a strategic response to the problem yet, and we cannot afford to allow donors to tie their hands and wait for things to improve. Because under the surface of supposed law and order is a volcano that is about to erupt, and that social upheaval might be more difficult to manage than the violence we are seeing now. The donors have withdrawn their staff. Fine. But what stons them from working with local NGOs still active in the field? ♦

(Rita Thapa founded the womenís support group,

* All names of have been changed to protect the identity of interviewees.

Call: 560675 or 56077 Now every Saturday & Sunday

pool. Then, enjoy the fascinating natural setting of the Resort while savouring a sumptuous Buffer Lunch. Good clean fun for the entire family - courteey the Godavari Village Resort. To add to your excitement on Saturdays, Kantipur FM will conduct an on air "LIVE" program straigh

from our pool-side. So watch out, you just might be on aid

Secimming with Buffet Lunch and a bottle of beer 6 Rs. 600 + Tax for adults

The world has been a 'global village' for on-demand print and the distribution of international newspapers. You can order your favorite newspaper from a collection of 100 dailies including IHT. The Times, The Washington Post, WSJ, USA Today Le Monde, Sueddeuthsche Zeitung, La Stampa Mainichi Shimbun, El Pais, Basler Zeitung, Berlingske Tidende, Aftenposten etc... We hand-deliver fresh copies every morning. For a detailed list and price, please call us

ernational, Phone: 255125 Fax: 229 437 E-mail: bazaar@mos.com.np



Development progress

The UN's Progress Report 2002 of Millenium Development Gnals (MDG) confirms what we already know. Nepal is unlikely to achieve the 2015 goals of reducing poverty to 21 percent, providing universal basic and primary education, reducing hunger by half, reducing maternal mortality, and halving and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS However, Nepal is doing considerably well at improving drinking water supply and reducing child mortality. Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission Naravan Khadka said that the govern ment would accord the highest priority to implementing the recommendations, which are in line with the poverty reduction strategy paper. We've heard that before.

Female condoms

Nepali women might soon use condoms especially designed for women, says the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA). The centre has been conducting studies on the acceptability of female condoms in Nepal as part of its efforts to reduce the risk of commercial sex workers contracting HIV or STDs from partners who refuse to wear condoms. Free condoms and information materials have been distributed to women from four VDCs of Lalitour district-Bungamati, Chapagaon, Siddhipur and Tikathali, It's importan to take into consideration Nepal's social context and awareness levels before introducing such contraceptives, officials at the centre tell us. If the studies indicate that the product is likely to be accepted, the condoms will be marketed at subsidised rates. But even then, the expense—the condoms cost Rs 100 -150 rupees apiece—suggests that it may not catch on as fast as social workers would like. "Social marketing of condoms for males hasn't been a big success. Where does that leave condoms for women," asks a public health worker.

Better health

The Save the Environment Foundation recently conducted research on hospital waste management in Negal and prepared a case study report for the Ministry of Health to help them manage the dangerous toxic waste hospitals produce. As a follow-up, on World Environmen Day, 5 June, the SEF and the Clare Gilchrist Foundation donated to Bir Hospital 15 Needle Syringe Terminator machines that incinerate

syringes in two seconds without toxic by-products.

In another effort, some 300 people in Machche village south-west of Kathmandu received treatment and free medication at a one-day camp organised by The Friends of Kanti Iswori Shishu Vidyalaya (FKISV) and the Australian Embassy in Kathmandu.



Lavout designer required.

Are you young, creative, dynamic

with previous experience in

Adobe Indesign and Photoshop?

WE WANT YOU TO JOIN THE TEAM

The best course might be for Kangresis to amicably dissolve the party.

most accounts, Nepal's democacy is facing its gravest threat since we had those two drafts of the post-Panchayat constitution competing for our attention in 1990. In the intervening years, shadowy forces of subversion have been closing in on the mainstream from the right and left. The people have sprained their necks looking over their shoulders but are no closer to pinpointing the plotters. Politicians who say they recognise some of the faces don't want to name names. The country is left correlating cryptic circumstances to sniff the modus operandi of the purported agents of regression.

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and his band of Young Turks insist they were compelled to dissolve the House of Representatives in order to defend the spirit of parliamentary democracy. That kind of talk is Greek to Nepali Congress oresident Girija Prasad Koirala and his hardy loyalists in the ruling party. They want the Supreme Court to resurrect the house, and are pleading their case in the people's name. It would have been nice to describe this glorification of the people from all sides as the saving grace of the squabble. But Nepalis have been the object of official exaltation ever since our modern state enshrined the plump ness of the people as the emblem of the palace's power. Demonise the Ranas all you want for usurping power and undermining the nation's faith in itself.



But they did put a great premium on popular perceptions of their rule. Under their version of the fairness doctrine, swift and ruthless justice was the cardina tenet of statecraft. If it also became a fool-proof way of extracting complete obedience from the commonality, part of the reason was Nepalis' profound sense of fealty. True, Panchayat ideologues went against basic human psychology in outlawing organised political behaviour. But political ideology was the only restriction. You could still organise into clusters of women, youth, elderly, workers, farmers and ex-servicemen and howl against everyone who you thought



came under the convenient rubric of antinational elements.

A lot of people are put off by Kangresis' assistence that they're the only democrats alive in the country. Let the record speak for itself. The left officially extols the dictatorship of the proletariat. The

Rastriva Prajatantra Party will probably have to wait another generatio before it can biologically cast off all of its partyless baggage. The Nepal Sadbhavana arty exudes exclusivity in almost every shape and form, except name. As for the parties outside parliament, well, let's let the people send them inside the chamber before passing judgement. The point is,



whether we like it or not, Kangresis have an exclusive grip on the mantle of Nepali democracy, at least, on the version the world venerates today. The sad part is that this complacency has fuelled much of the party's internal conflicts.

For the first week after the part povernment collision, it looked like the rival Kangresi camps hated each other so much that they could no longer consider peaceful coexistence. But, then, middlef-the-roaders gained ground. For long, Ram Chandra Poudel sounded like a voice in the wilderness. Today he seems to have enough followers in the party that both camps feel comfortable in

cting him as their future leader. The descent from speaker to deputy prime minister must have been difficult or our thinker from Tanahun. But it looks like that was as bad as it could get

There is a clear danger sign, though. The moderates' unity endeavour revolve around ownership of the four-star flag and the tree. That focus contains the seeds of future conflicts. The best course might be for Kangresis to amicably dissolve the party. The organisation has nstalled democracy in the country twice and a lot of people are grateful for that. But it's time to look ahead. The dissolu tion accord should specifically bar the signatories from using the name, flag or election symbol of the defunct body in any way Members of successor parties would be free to argue over who has the right mixture of democracy and socialism to cure Nepal's ills. But no one gets to make use of the Koirala lineage or legac Instead of looking for that fistful of soil to recall our duty to the nation, we can reach out for a future where family ties are just one of several tools of political mobility. It might be difficult for some to contemplate a career in public service with the Nepali Congress safely consigned to the history books. But the country can expect to turn a new page. In the midst of more than one certifiably democratic party, our freedoms might

Nepalis are waking up to the importance of donating their corneas, but not fast enough.

amal Karki, a 17 year-old native of Janakpur, has a ot to be grateful for. He can't thank the unknown good samaritan who helped restore his vision by donating his or her corneas before death, but last Sunday at a gathering of donor relatives, medical personnel, and social workers, Kamal paid tribute to the memory of a host of individuals who have made similar arrangements. Sporting dark glasses-protection against the strong morning light—Kamal, who underwent a corneal graft to his right eye two months ago. thanked god for his good fortune. "I've been given a new lease of life," he beamed. "I can resume

my education." The young resident of Katakuti VDC, Janakpur, Dolakha district, lost all vision in one eye after an insect bit him while he was out collecting fodde in the forest. "The bite developed into a cyst. Within a year, I lost the ability to see with my right e." Kamal says he dropped out of class seven at 15 when it became near impossible for him to read. Desperate to regain his vision, Kamal found his way to the Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh in the capital, where he'd heard there were doctors who could restore his vision. They directed

him to the Nepal Eye Bank at Tilganga Eye Centre, a community-based non-profit that works to restore sight to the corneal blind. Kamal had to wait a year before a cornea was found for him and he was operated upon two months ago. Kamal is one of nearly 2,000

Nepalis who have regained their ision through corneal grafts. That is not even one percent of the 240,000 blind Nepalis. It is difficult to say how many of these would be helped by cornea nsplants, but it is significant that damage to the cornea is the second most common reason for blindness in Nepal, after cataract. In an agrarian society like Nepal, where most people work outdoors in the fields harvesting crops, looking after livestock, collecting fuel and fodder, agricultural trauma to the rnea, ocular diseases, and the lack of immediate medical treatment can easily lead to corneal opacity, leaving the erson blind. "When this

Shankha Twyana, Nepal Eye Bank manager. Kamal has been lucky, but many have to wait much longer sometimes all their lives, for the gift of sight. The demand far outweighs supply, and despite a

appens, the only solution is

corneal transplantation," says

growing awareness about eye donation, there's still a long way

today we receive more than 400 corneas a year, locally," says Twyana. "It's not enough for people to just fill in a donation form. An

to go. In 1994, the year it was established, the Nepal Eve Bank which was set up with the help of the International Federation of Eve and Tissue Banks in Baltimore, USA, and the Indiana Lions Eve Bank, registered just one local donor. "The number of donors has grown since, and

steady increase in donors and

environment needs to be created where families, relatives, individu als, understand the need, and are receptive to the idea," says Sarita Mishra, a music teacher at Padma Kanya Campus, It's been 15 years since Mishra donated her eyes to the Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh through a social workers' group. "Initially I was a bit nervous. I wasn't sure what exactly it entailed. I thought the entire eye was removed. And maybe while one was still alive. After orientation. I found the courage to donate my eyes. It's a bit like donating blood. After you die, you don't need your eyes. Why deprive someone else of sight." More and more Nepalis appear to be thinking like Mishra. Sixty-

eight year-old Purushottam Das

Timilsina came all the way from his village in Rautahat to register at Tilganga as a donor, "After death, the body rots away. At least I'll have gained some dharma by giving the gift of sight to someone who needs it. Twyana is cautiously optimis

tic about this trend "The concept of eve donation and eve banks is still very new, and people are scared to donate their body parts even after death," he explains. People are often dissuaded by misplaced religious beliefs—Hindus often believe that by donating their eyes, they will be reborn blind. The centre has three grief counsellors or motivators to actually discuss with relatives who bring their dead to Pashupati the possibility of donating the corneas of the deceased. Since an excision centr was built by the Pashupati ghat three years ago, there are always technicians on stand-by there to remove corneas in privacy and with respect.

"It is important to explain to ople exactly what happens. Donating your corneas is just that—the whole eyeball is not taken out, your face is not disfigured," says Krishna Thapa who cremates people at Pashupati. Thapa has volunteered his services as a motivator and takes on the difficult task of



speaking with grieving families. "It's hard, but people are becom ing more aware. Today, maybe some twenty of every hundred families at Pashupati donate the eyes of their dead."

Since 1998, when the impor of comeas from the International Federation of Eye and Tissue Banks was stopped, the centre has been trying to encourage people here to donate. Apart from harvesting corneas at Tilganga, procuring them, storing and distributing them, the Tilganga

Eye Centre and the Lions Club of Pashupatinath have also opened an eye donation and information centre that runs awareness programs and helps in collection of more corneas.

A cornea transplant costs Rs 10,000 on average, and since its inception in 1994, the Lions Club of Kathmandu Rajdhani has been paying Rs 1,000 towards each cornea transplant. It has also distributed 10,000 pledge cards to people to make it convenient for them to donate their eyes. •



Studying in the USA

Associate, Bachelor's and Graduate degrees



Over 14,000 students from all 50 States and more than 90 countries Campuses located in: Providence, Rhode Island; North Miami, Florida; Charleston, South Carolina and Denver, Colorado (Program offerings vary among campuses) Scholarship opportunities for applicants with proven academic excellence*

Undergraduate Programs Include:

International Business Information Science Culinary Arts Hospitality Management Management **Internet Commerce Culinary Nutrition** Hotel Management Marketing Web Site Development Food Marketing Travel-Tourism Management

MBA Programs with concentration in:

Financial Management, International Trade, Marketing, Organizational Leadership and Hospitality Administration

Johnson & Wales University, International Admissions Office 8 Abbott Park Place, Providence, RI 02903 USA Phone: +1-401-598-4927 Fax: +1-401-598-4901

Visit: http://www.jwu.edu

Email: John.Waterman@jwu.edu

^{*} up to \$ 4,000 per academic year for undergraduate degrees

A home of ones o

BINOD BHATTARAI

or Sushil Pyakurel it was simply the most practical thing to do. He was among the first hundred or so Nepalis who booked apartments a Kathmandu Residency, the first major organised housing project that was launched two years ago. The human rights activist, now a member of the National Human Rights Commission will be moving into his anartment later this year after developer Ansal Chaudhary

hands over the keys during Dasain "It was just right for me, Pvakurel told us. He saw the Kathmandu Residency, developed by the Chaudhary Group and Ansals of India, as safe housing, with guaranteed access to public utilities such as reliable drinking water. sewage disposal and other basic facilities, all things that can be a headache for an independent homeowner "The other advan tage was that we did not have to put up the entire money up-front, and were assured of financing, Peakurel told us There are now more than 10

companies that offer a variety of community-style housing options apartments, duplexes, and standalone homes in thoughtfully

designed 'colonies'—and getting financing from any private bank to purchase a home is almost as easy as getting a car loan. The boom could not have come

at a better time for Nepal's ailing economy. The growth in housing and construction means more people are putting their money in the sector, more people are getting work, and industry is producing an selling more construction material. By one estimate, investment in organised housing in and around Kathmandu Valley already adds up to over Rs 2 billion rupees. The newcomer Sunrise Homes is already

Ansal Group in its housing venture with the Chaudhary Group here, is into its third project and even planning to expand even as it still solicits bookings for apartments at its first venture in Balkumari. Ansal and Sunrise are presently selling apartments and plan to move into stand-alone homes. The market now offers apartments to suit almost any pocket, starting at Rs 700,000 at the low end and going up to Rs 5.2 million

The range of group housing and financing options now available is also mind-boggling, especially to first-time homebuyers who have to weigh their decision to opt for, say, group housing against the traditional—even emotional—Nepali dream of building a house. Instinctively, most Nepalis want an independent house the moment they move out of their family home, usually because they have seen their parents build their

home brick-by-brick. But many young professionals don't have either the time or the expertise to shop for land and then supervise the construction of the building. And too often, even though they might have more disposable income than their parents ever did, their discretionary spending is proportionately high This is where the specialists come in, taking care of the logistics of building houses, and offering then loans banking on their projected future incomes. By all accounts, young and upwardly mobile Kathmandu residents—as well as people moving to the capital fearing an escalation of the conflict in the districts can't get enough of it.

Ajay Ghimere, CEO of Ace Finance, is a developer who is aiming to cater to the upper-end of the market. His Grace apartments at Naxal are priced between Rs 3.8-5.2 million. He told us that his company was

looking at developing Grace as a 'posh' neighbourhood, complete with amenities available in the best residential areas of the world.

Ace says it isn't just selling a community living' experience, it even chooses your community for you. "We are being very selective, says Ghimere. The price and the amenities offered by Grace apartments—such as a swimming pool, gym and sauna-guarantee a kind of self-selection right at the start. But the promoters are even choosierthey have decided not to advertise the complex, but sell it to acquaintances and personal contacts through word-of-mouth. One needs to have either good connections with the parent finance company, or the right references to even apply to buy a flat here. Ace says half of the 26 apartments on the southern complex have already been booked. "It will take time for people to realise they are looking for quality living-not just a place to stay. says Ghimere, who is optimistic about his venture. "We plan to use the northern complex as an apartment hotel.

Still another up-market option is the standalone homes offered by The Comfort Housing at Sitapaila. Om Raibhandari, CEO, told us







that he is trying to build a community by offering clients all the amenities they would want for quality living. Instead of soliciting hookings and advance payments rom prospective owners, he decided to go ahead and start building the 60 individual units. He says 70 percent of the houses have already been sold. The Comfort community will start moving in by Dasain 2003, "Our project has taken into account the Nepali desire to have an independent home that can accommodate at least three generations—grandparents, parents and children. Raibhandari told us

All the projects offer assured water supply, open spaces, uniform exteriors and space-optimising

CONTACT US FOR

interiors, and the security that independent homes. comes with living in something akin to a gated community. Sunrise says it will also be having an independent sewage treatment plant within the complex while Ansal says that it is now planning to "Nepalise" or "Newarise" most of its future designs. "The customers are very choosy and are not looking only for

effective design and access to public A quick survey of the clients of most housing projects reveals that people who book apartments are typically professionals and white ollar workers with stable future

a roof over their heads," says R

Babbar CEO of Ansal Chaudhars

Developers "They are looking for

an edge in housing, in terms of

services and infrastructures.

earnings, and families where husband and wife both work. The apartments and houses in the lower and middle ends of the market are being snapped up fast and with increased demand and competition builders are becoming more efficient, and promoters are promising shorter construction periods and other add-ons. "In two nonths we've sold almost half of all lats and apartments we have on offer," says V Rajgopalan, president of Sunrise Homes. They are already planning to move into the second phase of building

Then there are people who want to invest; they have cash in hand, but no safe place to put it into, because of the political uncertainty, massive slump in industry due to the conflict, and the fledgling stock market that has also been hit. What's more, apartments are transferable by law and will be more so once the cabinet approves regulations needed to activate the legislation. A law governing group housing was passed some years ago but the government has yet to approve the specific regulations which, we are told, have already been drafted

There are some nay-sayers who say that they are waiting for legislation governing the housing

Kathmandu Residency 123 Sold Mount View Residency-II 140 13-17 Sunrise Homes Anartments/ Dunleyes 102 1 6-3 7 Suhha Avas Nava Naikan Dunleyes 75 0.7-1 1 Shangrila Villa Gangabu Anartments/Dunleyes 36 1 2-2 8

like that can kill the market even industry to come into force, and cite the poor track record Nepal before it matures. has of drafting and implementing laws to cover new, rapidly growing industries. Some buvers also say that although they have invested. they'd be a lot more comfortable if they knew their promoters could be forced to comply with building norms and if pricing could be regulated. The industry is also untested on its ability to deliver another reason for the general nervousness. "The regulations remain to come into force and because buyers make advance payments there is always an ncentive for the sellers to cheat especially when enforcement is

lax," one developer admitted.

The industry, for its part, is looking at further deepening of the market, as more and more builders and developers join the race. For the moment, though, few are bothered by the increased compet "But that has not happened so far tion because of what effectively remains a seller's market, due to and we hope it won't-something

large unfulfilled demand Rajgopalan told us that a govern t study conducted some year ago had estimated the need for

But many Nepalis seem to be taking the risk, looking beyond "building one dream house" for their families. Says Ghimere, many first-time homeowners have begun to believe that when they buy a flat they are keeping their options open-if things work out, they could always sell their flat, which is likely to be worth more in five years than what they pay for it now, and build their own stand-alone home

over 200,000 more houses in Kathmandu Valley. Even half tha number would be enough to keep businesses going for another 10-15 years, given that the annual supply of new houses every year is only a few hundred, even with the new projects. Industry insiders we spoke with said that, all things remaining more or less constant, the industry is looking at continued growth for at least a decade. Some firms, such as Sunrise are already conducting market and feasibility surveys to expand to other urban centres such as Biratnagar, Birganj and Pokhara. 🏺



The heat is on. The floor is on fire. Melt down to the awesome numbers belted out by Delhi's hottest DJ from 'DJINNS' and your favourite MTV VJ Nafisa Joseph. For one hell of a time, step into the party in heaven. Sizzling at the Atrium.









he question is often asked is no universal culture, so there are no whether "human rights" is an universal human rights. Some essentially western concept that philosophers object that the concept o ignores the different cultural. human rights is founded on an conomic and political realities of the individualistic view of man as an South, Can the values of a consumer autonomous being whose greatest need is to be left alone, free from interfersociety be applied to societies with nothing to consume? At the risk of ence by the state, while non-western sounding frivolous: when you stop a ocieties often espouse a man in traditional dress from beating communitarian ethic where society is his wife, are you upholding her more than the sum of its individual members, and duties are more human rights or violating his? Seriou objections exist to the concept of important than rights. universal human rights, which its There is the usual North/South defenders need to honestly acknowl-

argument, with "human rights" cast as edge, if only to refute cover for western intervention in the The first objection argues that all developing world. Some say developrights and values are defined and ng countries cannot afford human limited by cultural perceptions: there rights, since nation-building and

constantly evolves, responding to internal and external stimuli. Granted economic development remain unfinished. Suspending or limiting human rights sacrifices the few to child marriage, female circumcision benefit the many Others object to and the like aren't reprehensible in specific rights that they say reflect many societies; but let us ask the estern cultural bias, the most victims of these practices how they for troublesome being women's rights. How can women's rights be universal Where coercion exists, rights are violated, and these violations must be condemned, whatever the traditional when, in some societies, marriage is seen not as a contract between two iustification. As for religion, every individuals but as an alliance between religion embodies certain verities lineages, and women's behaviour is applicable to all mankind—justice, central to a society's perception of familial honor? Meanwhile, some truth, mercy, compassion-and mer often allow god to be blamed for thei religious leaders argue that there is a own sins. As UN Secretary-General built-in conflict between the universal Kofi Annan put it, the problem is no ity of human rights and the particularwith the faith, but with the faithful. ity of religious perspective When one hears of the unsuitabi

How do we respond to these ity or ethnocentrism of human rights ections? Concepts of justice and what rights can someone in a developing country do without? The right to life? Freedom from torture? law, legitimacy and dignity, protection from oppressive rule and participation in community affairs are found in The right not to be enslaved, very society; and the challenge facing physically assaulted, arbitrarily human rights advocates is to identify arrested, imprisoned or executed? the common denominators. These Objections to human rights standard objections reflect a false opposition are all too frequently voiced by between the primacy of the individual authoritarian rulers and power elites and that of society. Authoritarians ofter rationalise the violations that keep cite culture as a defense against human them in power. Third World rights, and then crush culture when it communitarianism can be the slogar suits them anyway. Besides, which of a deracinated tyrant trained, as Pol country can claim to be following its Porwas arthe Sorbonne The "traditional culture"? You can't follow authentic voices of the South know the model of a "modern" nation-state how to cry out in pain, and they mus cutting across tribal boundaries and be heeded. ♦ (Project Syndicate) conventions, and then argue that triba

(Shashi Thamor is an Linder Secretary General of the United Culture isn't sacrosanct anyway. It Nations.)

capacity.

Deficits, for their part, aren't the only,

or even the most important, factor deter-

kind of social safety net, expenditures

increase. The hoped-for improvement in th

fiscal position does not materialise. At this

point, the IMF castigates the country for

failing to fulfil its commitments. But the

IMF should be castigated for pushing an

Return 1999 and 2001 Argentina's

entral government had done an impressive

job of cutting back expenditures, net of

outdated economic theory.

mining investor confidence. A country in

by JOSEPH E STIGLITZ

fought against. Keynes struggled against the notion embodied in the IMF

ernment's budget targets are more than met.

"theory" that if only countries would cut their deficits, "confidence" would be

restored, investment would return, and economic performance recovers, and the

I know of no country where this scenario has played out successfully, for

there are two key problems with it. Confidence is important, but it is only one

factor. For example, even if telecom investors become utterly confident in the US

economy, they won't invest in more fibre optics, given today's huge excess

The politics of humanitarian aid

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations lacks nearly two-thirds of the money it needs for humanitarian relief efforts in countries including Angola Rurundi Guinea North Korea and Sudan "This year there is concern over a major shortfall in the amount of money being given to meet overall humanitarian needs," says Mark Bowden of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). They have pegged this year's level of need at \$3.6 billion. So far, says Bowden, only \$1.4 billion has been received. The situation marks a continued decline over the past five years, says Rowden, and more of the relief that is provided is channelled through bilateral agencies and NGOs. "This is creating major problems in emergency situations in countries such as Angola." says Nicolas de Torrente, executive director of Medecins Sans Frontieres, MSF. The African nation is experiencing "terrible famine" but the UN response has been "very, very slow." This is partly because "humanitarian needs are being subordinated to political calculations," de Torrente says, noting that, in contrast to Angola's case, the international donor community has moved very fast in responding to appeals made on behalf of Afghanistan. "If you do their political bidding," says one UN official, the donors are more than willing to meet your needs."

UN operations in Angola have received 24 percent of the funds they sought and those in Sudan, about 18 percent, officials here say. In Guinea, they blame a lack of funds for a failure to put a dent in enidemics of cholera and measles. Lack of medicine and food is hampering UN capacity to deal with famine in North Korea. (IPS)

More for NATO

SOFIA,- A meeting of the parliament of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation has recommended that seven more countries be asked to join NATO later this year. The parliamentary assembly of NATO which ended in the Bulgarian capital Sofia Tuesday indicated that Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are likely to receive invitations to join NATO at its next meeting in Prague in November. The assembly passed a declaration that these seven countries had carried out successful reforms and contributed towards NATO operations in the Balkans. The Assembly stopped short of recommending that any country should definitely be admitted. Indications arose that the case of Bulgaria and Romania is narticularly strong. The three applicant countries not named were Albania, Croatia and Macedonia. (IPS)

Less aid to the poorest

BRUSSELS - European Union aid to low income countries was almost halved over the past decade, an independent report claims. The report by ROND, a network of more than 240 British nongovernmental organisations claims that EU aid to low income countries decreased from 70 per cent of its total development assistance in 1990 to just 39 per cent in 2000. The findings in the report Tackling Poverty: a proposal for European Union aid reform were immediately challenged by Poul Neilson, the EU

Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian aid. Aid to the poorest had not decreased, he said. "Our development policy is global and many of the states we give aid to are among the poorest n the world," he said. The BOND report claims that the stated aim of FU development policy to eventually eradicate poverty is "increasingly dwarfed by other agendas, such as trade, agriculture, foreign and security policies." The report claims that in 2000 the EU allocated only 4 percent of its aid to basic education and just 2 percent to basic health. The new campaign will propose that 35 nercent of FII aid on to social services such as health and educa-

No right to food

ROME - The only document that delegates signed at the second World Food Summit in Rome had a delayed and laborious birth and, at times, risked stillbirth. The Declaration finally adopted satisfies no one, but was accepted by all governments as compromise. The developing world pressed for a more forceful document; the US delegation said the document had gone too far. Agreement on the Declaration—which is bereft of any new targets or commitments was finally saved by Irish mediator Aidan O'Driscoll telling delegates to "take it or leave it". Governments could not agree a title to begin with. The US opposed the title International Alliance Against Hunger on the grounds that it would risk creating new structures or demand new funding. Developing countries who backed this title managed to prevail. Later, delegates almost gave up trying to reach agreement over the "right to food". Developing countries rallied together to insert a clause "reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food,"

This represents no movement from the declaration at the first summit in Rome six years ago that spoke of "the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free

from hunger." The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) which is hosting the summit says this agreement does not require the State to feed its people, but only that "the State must respect and protect the right of individuals to feed themselves." The US government feared that a firm and formal "right to food" could expose governments to a legal challenge



COMMENT

Back to Keynes

busts. Capitalist economies are not self-adjusting: market forces might eventually restore an economy of full employment, as Keynes said, but in the long run we are all dead. Keynes proposed clear prescriptions for hard economic times: expansionary monetary and fiscal policy. He thought fiscal policy particularly important in situations where monetary policy was likely to be

In advanced economies. Keynesian economics is the bread and butter of economic forecasting and policymaking,

ensuring that expansions are longer and downturns shallower and shorter. Certainly theory and practice have been refined—the theory of asymmetric information provides much of the micro-foundations for modern macroeconomics. But some of the simplest, oldest, most important precepts are as valid today as ever-for example, temporary income tax cuts are unlikely to be effective, while temporary investment tax credits can be extremely powerful.

When the IMF forced large expenditure cuts in East Asia, output in those countries fell, just as Keynesian theory would have predicted. In early 1998, when I was chief conomist of the World Bank. I debated the US Treasury and the IMF concerning Russia. They said stimulating the Russian econom would incite inflation. This was a remarkable admission: through their transition policies. they had managed in a few years to decrease the productive capacity of the world's

number two superpower by more than 40 percent, a devastating outcome greater than that of any war! The loss went well beyond the cutback in military expenditures, overwhelming the civilian industrial and agricultural sectors. In August 1998, with the ruble's devaluation, we tested the alternative, Keynsian hypotheses. Production soared relatively quickly, showing that policies emphasising excessive austerity had caused unnecessary idleness of human and physical resources, and unnecessary suffering

The IMF was slow to learn the lesson. While it belatedly recognised its fiscal policy mistake in East Asia, it repeated it in Argentina, forcing expenditure cuts that deepened recession and boosted unemployment to the point where things finally fell apart. But even now the IMF insists on further cutbacks as a conditi for assistance. It continues to insist on an alternative economic "theory" (though the term may suggest a higher level of analysis than is merited), one that Keynes

recession or depression does not inspire confidence. Contractionary policies exacerbate recession, and investors wait and see. As they wait, they won't like what they see. After all, the first effect of expenditure cutbacks is a further decline in income, and profitability of investment. Then, tax evenues decline, and if the country has any

traditions should be used to judge the

state's human rights conduct.

MF economists need to return to what works. Like Keynes, for instance.

interest, by 10 percent. What would haw happened if its provincial governors had miraculously been converted to the IMF's niggardly "logic"? I believe the downtum would have come earlier and more precipitously. Today's unemploy ment rates of 20 percent or more (with another 10-15 percent of hidden anemployment) would have been seen even before last December. Riots and

political protests would have broken out earlier, too.

Economics is a difficult subject, because we cannot conduct controlled experiments. But we do have a wealth of experience from which to draw inferences, and it all points in one direction: Keynes' teachings are still very much alive. ♦ (Project Syndicate)

(Locenh Stialitz is professor of economics at Columbia University, and was formerly Chief Economist and Senior Vice President of the World Bank.)

Seeds of trouble

NEW DELHI - Food security activists who campaigned for years to get India's farmer-friendly Plant Varieties Protection (PVP) Act passed last year are now faced with the government's attempt to reverse the gains achieved by that law. They say the government is taking a step backward by acceding to the international Union for Protection of Plant Varieties (UPOV), which critics say promotes the interest of seed transnational corporations (TNCs) in the developed world. Among the critics is the organisation Gene Campaign, which works for the protection of genetic resources and farmers' interests.

Gene Campaign is known for its proposal to set up the Convention of Farmers and Breeders as an alternative to UPOV. Devinder Sharma of the Research Foundation for Science Technology and Environment and the Forum for Food Security and Biotechnology, another Indian NGO, says TNCs are driven by the need to recoup the billions they spend on developing plant varieties. Thus, he says, they need the monopoly rights offered by UPOV, which works by denying farmers the control they have traditionally enjoyed over their own, often superior and biodiverse seed varieties. Sharma says that this has led to a loss of seed varieties and to unsustainable farming practices and to farmers in countries like India supporting inappropriate and sometimes dangerous research, such as the "terminator seed", (IPS)

Cleaning up ODA

TOKYO - This year's White Paper on Japanese overseas development assistance calls for active participation of grassroots organisations and the private sector in the implementation of aid and grant programs. The Foreign Ministry document aims to address a recent spate of scandals that have eroded public support for overseas assistance against the lingering domestic recession. Budgetary constraints have forced the government cut spending on ODA, Japan's main diplomatic tool, by 10 percent in the current year from the previous year to around \$468 billion dollars, the lowest level since fiscal 1987.

Asahi, a leading Japanese daily, said that the new moves are a welcome sign" and prove that the foreign ministry is not trying to simply use NGOs as tools to conduct its own aid programmes, but encouraging relations on an equal footing. Toshihiko Kuroiwa, from the Institute of Developing Economies, says Japanese ODA should shift from its emphasis on building infrastructure that requires huge amounts of cash in the form of yen loans, to social and technology assistance. (IPS)

Restoring rights

UNITED NATIONS - Afghanistan has decided to set up its first inde-pendent National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to probe past and present abuses in the war-ravaged country. UN spokesperson David Singh told reporters here last week that the Afghan Interim Administration decided to create the commission in Kabul in conjunction with the United Nations and a group of some 50 Afghan human rights activists. The Commission will be financed entirely by donors and is to be established this week and begin its work for an initial period of two years

Rights activists say that the first order of business is dealing with ongoing human rights problems, specifically attacks on ethnic groups in northern Afohanistan. Afohanistan has had a long history of human rights violations by successive governments over the last two decades, the worst under the Taleban against women and girls whose access to education, health care facilities and employment was severely restricted. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson said the commission is important for families of those who have suffered rights violations. Asked if present leaders would also be subject to secution if found quilty of abuses. Singh said there is no provision in

GDP. India will seek to keep the war limit the use of air power to strikes against terrorist training camps and selected infrastructure in Pakistaniconventional, and so will pose its threat to Pakistan at well below the nuclear threshold as Islamabad defines it occupied Kashmir Pakistan would But such military planning requires likely respond by engaging Indian pinpoint judgements on both sides. fighters in aerial dogfights or by India would seek to keep the war arracking Indian air bases. Should a confined to Jammu and Kashmir. India's combat take place, India's Navy, with main forces, especially its armoured a superior force of 27 major surface forces, even now at the height of warships (including three guided mobilisation, remain deployed in a missile cruisers) and 16 submarine strategically defensive posture across the (against Pakistan's seven warships region outside Kashmir. India's offensive ind nine submarines) would seek t operations are likely to be conducted in dominate the north Arabian Sea. small doses, with infantry attacks by small cutting off Pakistan from trade and units layered between artillery barrages. Suppry. In the face of India's vast Pakistan would likely respond in kind, and a continuing battle of attrition advantages in conventional forces and would ensue without territorial advances, flexible strategy, there is a grave risk Pakistan will escalate its response, something akin to the Israeli-Feyntian India does not want a classic victory over Pakistan, but both sides might push each other to annihilation yet. battles between 1971-73. (It should be even to the point of using nuclear remembered, however, that those battles weapons India's nuclear doctrine poorly understood abroad, is not to led to the Yom Kippur War of 1973, a struggle that at one moment almost use nuclear weapons first. Pakistan nearly luned the LTS and LTSSR into the does not subscribe to "no-first-use"

War in slow motion

ut through all the thetoric and posturing of war, terrorism, and nuclear holocaust, and one thing is clear. India, badly shaken by last December's suicide attack on its parliament (which came within seconds of wiping out the entire political leadership of the world's argest democracy) is not bluffing. It is prepared to on towar to put a stop to the terrorist incursions that have

rayaged Kashmir for 18 years. Yet India's "war policy" is flexible and does not demand a classical victory over Pakistan. It wants to end cross-border terrorism by changing Pakistan's long-held belief that it could "blood India with a thousand cuts" at low cost to itself. India will

PS P

thus apply force in small doses spread over time with a cumulative impact possibly extending beyond the next ear-a war in slow motion. India enjoys a substantial

quantitative and qualitative superiority

over Pakistan in conventional forces.

which is why Pakistan acquired nuclear weapons, seeking the security of nuclear stalemate India's "war im"—if war ever comes—is to raise the costs to Pakistan of its policy of encouraging cross-border terrorism. At present levels of deployment along the 2,900-km long border, Pakistan's annual military bill will jump from 35 percent to 42 percent of GDP, a hideous amount in a decaying economy. India will see its military

VACANCY

Business Development Officer

Private Sector Promotion (PSP) Project is a Nepalese-German technical cooperation project imple

mented by German Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The Project aims to enhance the competitiveness of Nepal's private sector. One way the Project aims to do that is by providing business advice and strategic

PSP is looking to expand its operations by hiring a Business Development Officer to carry out the

Selling the Project's offer of business advice and financial assistance to private sector

A motivated, resourceful professional with a strong business and/or service orientation.

Able to come up with and apply structured reasoning to help solve business problems.

Working with businesses to translate their ideas into deliverable and profitable new services.

stance to selected firms and companies to help co-

PSP is seeking applicants for this position with the following profile

Able to deliver tangible results with minimum supervision.

Open and quick to learn new concepts and ideas.

(40 Sukhoi-30, 50 Mirror-2000 multi role combat aircraft, 70 air superiority MiG-29, and 110 Jaguars and 120 MiG-27 strike aircraft) compared to Pakistan's 30-odd F-16 multi-role

most serious nuclear confrontation since

static warfare and a battle of attrition

terrorist infiltration across the Line of

Control that separates Indian Kashmir

use of combat aircraft. With a 750 to

aircraft, India's Air Force is far superior

India has a decisive edge with 390 high

acquisitions) all-weather combat aircraft

gtz.

350 numerical advantage in combat

performance modern (1980-90s

Real escalation would come with the

would substantially interfere with

from that controlled by Pakistan.

the Cuban Missile Crisis.) India believes

Still, it will likely resort to nuclear

extremely vital interests, are at stake.

India will try not to push

Pakistan into such a corner; its war i

against terrorism, and not Pakistan.

India's nuclear arsenal would surviv

to deliver, in terms of Indian

♦ (Project Syndicate)

Should Pakistan strike first, most of

doctrine, "assured retaliation" leading

to "unacceptable levels of punish-

ment." The war in slow motion runs

the risk of causing total annihilation.

(Air Commodore Iasiit Singh

Strategic and International

is Director, Centre for

Studies, New Delhi,)

weapons only if its survival, or

Mandala House Prime Minister's Rd, Balawater

P.D.Box 1223, Firs, 1684, 613813, Fax: 977-1-92







are as tall as the mountains

..... Where the tales

Succulent steaks and burgers bountiful, with a vegetarian variety. The friendliest har between Tibet and Timbuctoo, Live hand on fridays





Durbar Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal

For Reservation: 243271

Royal interviews



His Majesty's interview [last week] was well planned and thought-out The interview was organised to portray His Majesty's views one year after his ascension to the throne. Sources told us that because an Samachar Samiti (RSS) would reach all newspapers, it was first asked to submit the questions. The chairman and general manager of e RSS, Purushottam Dahal, had out forward the questions. After hat, though, it was decided that an interview on television would be more effective and would also be useful in portraying His Majesty's personality and voice, and so it was decided to grant interviews to oth state-run media forint and Prior to this, because His Majesty had granted audiences only to

journalists from the private sector press, and there had been comments about that It was for that reason that Durna Nath Sharma general manager of NTV had to submit his questions for the television interview beforehand. After both parties had submitted written questions, some similar questions in both were retained, and some different questions were also included. For example, one set kept the query on SAARC and the other on Bhutan. The general managers were also permitted to ask a few follow-up questions. The interview was recorded on 3 June. The previous day, NTV technicians were taken to Mangal Sadan to arrange the technical aspectschairs, tables, lighting in a way "that would be good." The television view was recorded at 4PM, and lasted for about an hour. Dahal was called in for his audience after that. His Maiesty's secretaries had advised [Dahal and Sharma] on when the interviews should be published or broadcast, and how. Dahal and Sharma both sent their final manuscript and tape to the palace for the final approval, and what came back to them was put out for public consumption. The prime minister had also been informed that His Majesty was granting interviews to NTV and RSS. Both interviews were non-controversial

His Majesty's views were relevant and serious. The questions ranged from issues relating to the time when His Majesty was briefly on the throne in 1950 to the recent dissolution of the parliament. The interviews also included questions on nationalism, monarchy, democracy good governance terrorism SAARC Bhutan and economic development, among others. There were no unnecessary or controversial answers. His Majesty's voice, personality and presentation were also effective. It was evident that His Majesty wanted to answer each of the questions briefly and with the use of symbols. Those journalists who have met the king in the past and those who have studied the nublished material attributed to His Majesty had expected him to be clearer and more open. Instead of open discussions between His Majesty and the interviewers, there was plenty of formality. As a result, it is being assumed that many excluded, as the formality hinted at the greater influence of overly traditional officials

criticise the prime minister either politically or legally.

afte

In the red Dristi, 11 June

THIS PAGE CONTAINS MATERIAL SELECTED FROM THE NEPALL PRESS

रक क्षित्र हिमा

Blame Deuba

Excerpts of an interview with

Nepali Congress

Congress?

Narahari Acharya, member of the

Who is responsible for the

present state of affairs. But many

to bringing the situation to this

There are two parties in any fight.

party can remain controlled and us

But with whom does greater

blame lie-the prime ministe

or the party president [Girija Prasad Koirala]?

t was the disciplinary committee's

ecision to expel the prime ministe

from the party. The Central

Working Committee retains the

amend it even now. But Prime

parliament, has done something

orrect, so I find him more at fault.

What options did the prime

minister have after the party

ordered him to withdraw the

He could have spoken his mind in

parliament and retracted the

proposal—that would not have

the party's decision if the prime

minister was convinced that an

extension of the emergency was

proposal to the parliamentary

party meeting after the party's

decision was made. If the parlia-

mentary party had approved, he

taken his proposal forward in

it would've been difficult to

could have informed the party an

parliament. If he had done that

essential, he could have taken the

diminished his prestige. Even afte

government proposal to

extend the emergency?

Minister Deuba, by dissolving

that even he cannot reverse or

authority to cancel that decision or

Many fights are avoidable, if one

avoid this accident

s common sense

The Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) gearing up to take action agains present state of affairs in the ne wives, children, and relatives of I hold Prime Minister Sher Bahadu high-ranking government officials Deuba responsible, looking at the and ministers who have misused heir privileges of red [special issue past incidents have also contribute official] passports. The CIAA decided to act after investigating pass. If the party president had beer able to control the prime minister appeals regarding the misuse of red ssports and has directed the n time, we might have been able to reign Ministry and concerned departments to provide a list of red So the party is also responsipassports distributed to date, along with details.

The Commission has decided hat only government officials, and not their kin are entitled to use red passports and even they may only use them for official visits. The passports have to be returned o the concerned department upor completion of the official trips. In letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and concerned departments the CIAA has warned that the directives have to be implemented within three months, otherwise

stern action will be taken. According to reports, among those that have misused their official passports are the spouses of ministers. The Commission has warned that if this trend does not op in the specified three months, it will take action against the members of the present council of ninisters and their better halves. Even now, the youngest wife of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Arjun Jung Bahadur Singh and a host of other ministers' wive have travelled using red passports to Japan and South Korea to watch the World Cup, and for shopping trins abroad

Unfilled forms Dristi, 11 June

The judicial commission probing corruption has warned that it will make public the names of government officials and political appointees who have yet to submit rms detailing their property holdings. Following warnings by the commission, some bureaucrats parliamentarians and concerned individuals have turned in the forms. Others, however, have challenged the commission's authority and say they will not submit the forms to a judicial probe commission that does not have the legal right to conduct the

What action will the commission take against such individuals? Sources at the commission told us that some names are powerful individuals within the council of ministers, including Chiraniivi Wagle, Khum Bahadur Khadka, and National Planning Commission member Dr Prakash Sharan Mahat. Some former Chief Justices Nayan Bahadur Khatri and Bishwanath Upadhyaya, and senior advocate Mukunda Regmi were also among some prominent names that had not complied with the rules.

Will the commission dare make public the names of such individuals and initiate action against them? The commission, set complete its work in six months So far it has distributed 35,000.

forms, and got back about 4,000 completed forms. The commission says that it has begun to compile a list of individuals who have not submitted details of their property but has not said when it will make the names public

The list

ana Aastha, 12 June अपरच्या Seventy-five of the 250 leaders who have held the post of either the prime minister or minister since 1990 have still not submitted completed property valuation forms that the judicial commiss o investigate assets handed out earlier this year. Among these, surprisingly, are comrades who never tire of talking about equality

Information from reliable

nd good morals.

sources says the lit of defaulters includes former ministers such as former Minister for Education Deviprasad Ojha, former Minister of Local Development and Transport Chandra Prakash Mainali, former Agriculture Minister Trilochan Dhakal, forme Minister of Industry Hemraj Rai, former Minister for Tourism Yamlal Kandel, and former Assistant Minister for Information and Communication Yagyaraj Neupane. Even Hariprasad Pandey former Minister of State for Water Resources in the CPN-UML government has not filled in the forms yet, even though he was recently in the news for owning up to corruption. Other comrades in the CPN-UML government who have not filled in their property valuation forms include former minister without portfolio in the Home Ministry Bhim Bahadur Kadavat, former Minister of State for Labour Govindanath Uprety, former Minister of Tourism Salin Miya Ansari, former Minister of State for Health Bharat Bahadur Pradhan, and former Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs

Sitanandan Rava. Three ministers in the present ernment of Sher Bahadur Deuba are also on the list. including Minister of State for Housing and Development Kesha Thapa and Assistant Minister for Water Resources Birendra Kanaudiya Likewise Lokendra Bahadur Chand, who was a Rastriya Prajatantra Party prime minister, Prakash Chandra Lohani, Rabindranath Sharma, Kamal Thapa and Padma Sundar Lawoti have not turned in their forms either.

When the forms were handed out, the judicial commission asked respondents to return them in 15 days. There are currently about 40 Nepali Congress leaders and former ministers who have not done so, including Laxman Ghimire.



Shailaia Acharva, Ariun Narsingh KC. Narhari Acharya, Bimalendra Nidhi, Prakashman Singh, KB Gurung, and Interim Finance Minister Devendraraj Pandey. Congress lawyer Mukunda

HISTORY AND CHILTURE

Back at Sundarijal >12

The winter and his incarceration drag

on during BP's third week in detention. He is in a somewhat better frame of mind now, thinking more about keeping body and soul together with good food and tobacco. BP feels

that the king's take on foreign relations is unacceptably anti-Indian because, while Nepal is always and unquestionably important to India, for China it is simply a bargaining chip. Every fortnight Nepali Times brings you extracts from BP's unpublished diaries, handwritten in English.

We had, perhaps the coldest night of the season. The whole

compound is covered with heavy frost. The sun anneared at

wash off soon. We have a very small kettle meant for boiling

water for tea. Hence hot water is not available in sufficient

everyday all over my body.

that the king's take on foreign

22nd January 1977

Regmi, former attorney generals Sarwogyaratna Tuladhar and Motikaji Sthapit, and government attorney Balram KC have also disobeved the commission's order Ninety percent of those in the egal service have already submitted their forms but National Planning Commission member Rameshananda Vaidva has still not done so.

Commission sources say CPN LIMI general secretary Madbay Nepal and member Bamdey Gautam have already given in their property valuations

Dream come true

Editorial in Rajdhani, 10 June A well-known leader once said that every citizen is entitled to a house and a milch cow. Fulfilling that was defined as socialism. This ision has almost come true in



Here every household has a latrine and the villagers are engaged in a campaign to build biogas plants. We don't know what the situation in the village was 40 years ago when the politician promised all villagers a home and a cow. But today no one in the village is homeless, and we know thi because they are talking about building not homes, but a latrine in every home. We understand that every home in Mirge also has cows, because without cows to produce dung therewould have been no talk of biogas BP Koirala's dream of some 40 or 45 years ago has come true, if only in this village. In other words, Mirge has achieved socialism Does that give one a sense of

were Kathmandu and Singha

arbar, the VDC office

about 10AM, GM puts a Kotara of water for birds in the open. In how long it can take for the the morning a thin crust of ice is formed. Today a thick crust was dreams we dream today to come formed. But there has been no snow at all yet on the hilltons. Today being Saturday there was no newspaper supplied to true? We can easily assume that us, and there is no expectation of anything happening. Surpristhe people of the village might ingly however. Chinese food, fruits, cheese came from GM's now be dreaming of roads, house. Perhaps his daughters had come to the gate with telephones, hospitals, drinking Mangalaji with these articles. They have bought two cigars for water and schools. The younger me. A tin of tobacco has also been bought for me but it has been reneration may even be dreaming sent to army HQ along with an alarm watch which GM had sent of computers and colour televi for security. I don't know what they will scrutinise. In their sions. At least 40 years ago we had overcautiousness, lest we get clandestine message from a leader who had a vision of giving outside, they would like to see if the tin of tobacco and the one home and a cow" to every timepiece contain anything objectionable. When I have got cigars family. Today we don't even have all right, then this non-delivery of tobacco is not meant that someone who will dare say smoking wouldn't be allowed inside the detention camp. Mangala something like "the Internet in has also bought a thick sweater type ganji, but since it is too big for GM I have taken it for my use. GM thinks that the cotton ery home"—even if it just for the sake of saying something. sweater is meant for me, otherwise Mangalaji wouldn't have Whatever the motivation, wherher brought a sweater to suit my size. Anyway, it is a very warm BP's slogan or whether the desire thing and comfortable. In the evening we had a good Chinese ame from the villagers themselves, dinner-Chowmein, fried prawn, sweet and sour pork. There Mirge has set an example by was some curd also, but we have kept it for tomorrow's lunch. building toilets and biogas plants Everyday the pile of laundry increases. I can't do the washing because the water is unbearably cold and soap doesn't We need similar campaigns in other parts of Nepal. Maybe that

doctor. He wants my stool sent for examination before he will prescribe medicine for my dysentery. He has sent a disposal envelope for the purpose. Tomorrow I will send my stool.

23rd January

Sundariial

We are informed that in view of the inadequacy of food allowance of Rs 12/- it has been decided to raise it to Rs 14/-. Sent stool for pathological exam. My mood is a little better today. I did some exercise, asan pranayam and bathed. I take scrub bath everyday at 10:30 for about an hour when I rub mustard oil over my bodywhen there is sun. I don't know if long stay in the sun is good, for me. I smoked a cigar after breakfast. I am smoking for the first time after having given it up for four months. I have been advised by my Bombay doctor that I should avoid smoking in view of chronic bronchitis, which is producing, emphysema. The doctor had recommended deep breathing to tone up my lungs. I am resuming smoking, but still do it sparingly. I feel the need of smoking sometimes, like in the morning immediately after bed tea and in the afternoon after tea. In prison smoking helps. It helps when there is mental strain or tension. It may be bad for your body all right, but it does good to your soul. At my age I have to take care of my soul more than my body. In iail condition it is the mind that suffers more that the body-hence what keeps the mind soothing and tranguil even if it may have a bad effect on your body, should be adopted. In order to give up smoking on my doctor's advice I have rotated taking Zarda, which I am now taking in bigger quantity since I am in prison. If I resume smoking, it may be in addition to my new addiction of chewing Zarda. I take a small piece of betel nut occasionally, and a few pills of Jartan. If drinks were provided, they would go splendidly well with detention. As it is I can't even smoke cigars as the price of good ones are prohibitive-Rs 3/per cigar.

The atmosphere is so cold and the wind is so dry that I sometimes get bleeding from my left nostril. The room heater may also be responsible for the dryness of the air in the room. I, however, shut off the heater before I go to bed [at] about 9PM and put it on again morning at about 4:30.

25th January Sundariial

(From 23st of February)

The King has pet propositions—that pertain to foreign relations

Nepal to be accepted as a Zone of Peace. Nepal has inherent right as a land-locked state of access to the sea

Both of these propositions are in themselves unquestionable, but the manner in which they are presented is unpropitious because the impression is that these proposals are moves weighted by foreign elements to create a relationship of perpetual tension between Nepal and India. Moreover they have an anti-India bias. In such a context, to expect that India would accept these propositions would be foolish. The only consequence of these moves would be a long standing embittered relationship between India and Nepal—So on our part we should accept the nationalistic motive of these propositions-accept them in theory and as an ideal to be achieved. But the task to achieve it should be handed over to usor such elements as the hody politic of Nepal that are strictly nationalised, but at the same time are not regarded as anti-India, with whom India can deal with confidence and trust. These elements should also be acceptable to China as being not wholly sold out to India. The crux of the matter is in which the King has to understand, that Nenal is of vital interest for India is not a negotiable commodity-whereas with China it is only a stick to beat India with. If there is a restoration of friendly relationship between India and China. Nepal will certainly be of no interest to China. Moreover, apart from predominant interest for security and other reasons that India has in Nepal, the historical linkage between the two countries has left a built-in Indian influence, greater that any other powers, which we can't wish away. In this situation we have to be very cautious when formulating out policy with India. Unfortunately caution has been thrown to the winds by the makers of foreign policy in recent years. This is a task for which we are eminently suited. This should be impressed upon the King. The

- 1. which commands the confidence of the people, and hence can govern with their consent.
- nationalist in its overall approach and reconnised as just inside and outside the country. 3. its home policy must be slightly to the left of

qualification an aspirant party should be that-it must be

- the centre
- must be acceptable to India must not be anti China
- quantity. My clothes become dirty soon, because I rub mustard oil Our party qualifies for the task, because it meets all the above requirements

Windows on Nepal **Nepal, India and China**

A new show at the Park Gallery cements its reputation for showcasing innovative art in Nepal.

he Park Gallery, run by photographer Navin Joshi and his family, lies in an old house off Pulchowk. Joshi took over the running of the gallery after the death of his father in 1988 and like his father, uses his gallery to promote local artists and their

work. The current exhibition, Three Men's Perspectives, is an amalgan of three distinctly different perspectives on Nepal. Joshi's photograph capture tiny everyday actions, scenes, and objects that we take for ranted. The images are presented in variations of black and white, ecause he believes that this eliminates the distracting colours in enes that cause our eyes to dismiss them as mundane. After all, erything is worthy of being photographed. Drying chillies and hanging garlic, beaten wheat and the mani around a Buddhist temple hat our hands run over but our eyes ignore—all these have been aptured and the importance of daily routines born of old traditions ve been lovingly rendered into detailed, evocative records.

Nick Dawson, a British man who has lived in Nepal since 1997, as a very different aesthetic. His work is abstract, quirky and visceral His photographs are alive with colours and textures. One feels like ne could reach in and touch the veined leaves, and the bright, fleshy oink and orange petals of his flowers, and that one's fingers might be ruised by the rough, grainy surfaces that dominate his photographs. The photographs range from the very abstract to the very detailed. A hotograph titled Deep Blue is an unidentifiable, fantastically blue osaic which sucks you in no matter where you are in the gallery When I asked him what it was, he grinned and said that it is the swimming pool at the Hyatt. Another photograph called Light Switch s a classic image of Nepali workmanship: a crooked light switch that cannot help but bring a smile to your face. Dawson talks about Nepal seing a mixture of the traditional and the modern, and his perspective comes through in his idiosyncratic, whimsical images of crooked light switches and turmeric sellers coated in the yellow powder that is their velihood, smoking imported, white cigarettes.



The third artist in the show is Kishor Kayastha, a 23-year-old otographer from Bhaktapur who was exposed to the world of hotography at the age of nine at his grandfather's studio. This man's hotographs radiate a tender romanticism. His images are dreamy and ermeated with a sense of expectation, as if something were just about happen. Temples just barely visible through thick mist, a girl looking out onto an open vista, and stick figures that are childhood endeavours at art stare out at one from the wall, each image the ortrayal of a possibility. Kayastha talks of the many different procsses that he works with in the darkroom in order to achieve the esults he has already pictured in his mind's eye. As he talks it secomes apparent that all of his work is laden with meaning. He points to a photograph of a girl with her hair swinging backwards, way from her head, and dissolving into storm clouds. He says that the tograph is a representation of every Nepali girl's dreams. A Nepali rirl has a dreamy quality, he says, she has hidden hopes and desires, and when she gets married, all of these hopes dissolve and are swept away like clouds in the wind. Kayastha uses his technical skill and movation to flesh out his insights. The result is a wonderful collecion of vivid, glowing photographs.

It is quite an experience to walk into one space and be onfronted with three such different perspectives on Nepal and Nepali life. Each photographer has his own style and within minutes one can match the photograph with the artist. Navin Joshi talks about his efforts to expose the public to various different styles and viewpoints He has done an admirable job in this exhibition. The odd and wonderful thing about the three such distinctive collections is that hey all have one underlying common theme: that every little aspect of life is worthy of being photographed, and that there is beauty and mystery in the simplest things.

Three Men's Perspectives" is running through 22 June at the Park Gallery, Pulchowk, 10AM-5PM, except Saturdays, Email

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

We don't have any economic policy now.

-Himalaya Sumshere Rana, Chairman of Himalayan Bank, in Nepal Samacharpatra, 7 June



Ram, Ram Ram (Good Lord)

हफेस्टाइम टेनियः Spacetime, 9 June

SPORT

change, regardless of when or where

My first day in Tokyo I wanted to

football. And his favourite team in the

100%

world—even more than his home

country's—is Italy Several times

the games are being played.

try my ticket scalning luck in

Three Men's Perspective A three-man exhibition of photographic art 9-27 June, 10AM-5PM. except Saturdays, Park Gallery, Pulchowk, 522307

Life and nature Exhibition of paintings by Sharada Chitrakar. 16-21 June, Nepal Art Council,

FOOTBALL

- . Rookie's Rar Watch World Cun names win free huffets and other prizes with every match. Free entrance, Hotel Yak & Yeti everyday. 248999
- Word Cup Football Show All the World Cup matches on the Summit big screen, Free Entry, 521810
- Uncork the good times at the Fusion Bar, Dwarika's Hotel. 43" TV for World Cup matches, introductory offer of 30 percent discount on food and beverages. 479488
- Games, questionnaires, prizes and cocktails such as Bend it like Beckham, Zizu's Kick, Blanco's Left Foot, Piero's Punch, and World Cup special meals. The Fun Café, Corner Bar, Splash Bar & Grill, The Radisson Hotel,
- Catch of the match Every World Cup match, everyday, with food and drink at The Jazz Bar,
- Shangri-La Hotel. 412999 Best steaks and ESPN World Cup games at K-too! Beer & Steakhouse, Thamel. Buy two beers, get a can free, daily specials, 433043

EVENTS

- Football meets bowling The ten pins: your opponents, the strikes: goals. Starts 19 June, 6PM on, semi-final and final on 20 and 23 June, 6PM on. Rs 1,000 per head includes entry to tournament, drinks and official World Cup jersey/trophy. Bowling Boulevard Indoor Stadium, Kantipath.
- Sinners in heaven MTV VJs Nikhil Chinnapa and Nafisa Joseph, DJ from Djinns in Delhi, buffet, bottomless bar. 7Pm onwards, 14 June, The Atrium, Hotel Yak & Yeti. Tickets Rs 1,299 singles and Rs 1.999 couples at Bhatbhateni, Bluebird, Hotel Yak & Yeti,
- Second Bagmati River Festival Friends of the Bagmati environmental group open to all, next meeting Wednesday 26 June. 3PM. Dwarika's Hotel, friendsofthebagmatinepal@yahoo.com.
- Namaste Banepa education project needs ideas and input. Email wavetex @wlink.com.np for details.

Dance down memory lane Wednesday and Friday nights with Teesta. The Rox Bar at the Hyatt Regency Kathmandu, 491234

Live music by Catch 22. Friday nights at the 40.000 ½ ft Bar, Rum Doodle Restaurant, Thamel.

Metre of Malts Single malt exhibition and tasting. Twelve single malts for Rs 999. Evenings, Piano

Lounge, Hotel Yak & Yeti. 248999 Mountain Madness Cocktails, happy hour everyday 4PM-8 PM, two for the price of one at Rs 250. Kilrov's of Kathmandu, Thamel, 250440

- Potatoes potential Potatoes at The Fun Café for dinner until 20 June, the Radisson Hotel, 411818
- Malaysian food Rojak, popiah goreng, kodak jaggong and more. All through June, Shambhala Garden, Shangri La-Hotel. 412999
- Monsoon Madness Barbecue every weekend from 6:30 PM onwards at Rs 250. Kilrov's of Kathmandu. Thamel. 250440 Wood fired pizzas at the new Roadhouse Café. Completely
- redesigned with separate bar seating and coffee bar. The Roadhouse Café, Thamel. Weekend Brunch Rs 350 per head, special package available with
- bowling. Oriental and continental lunch or dinner by the pond. 1905 Boardwalk, Kantipath. 225272

 Vegetarian Specialties and clay-oven pizzas at Stupa View Restaurant & Terrace, Boudha.
- Authentic Thai fond Everyday at Yin Yang Restaurant 425510. Paddy Foley's Irish Pub A wide range of drinks and food. Live music on Wednesday, Thursday
- and Sunday nights. 416096. BBQ and momo evenings 5PM onwards at Nanglo Café and Pub, Darbar Marg. 222636
 Special That cuisine at Ban Thai Restaurant, Darbar Marg. 243271

GETAWAYS

* Beat the Heat Large new swimming pool at Dwarika's Hotel. Rs 500 per person, Rs 250 per child all day. Membership details on request. 479488

- Writing Retreat Full hoard parkage at Park Village Resort Budhanilkantha 375280.
- * The Great Godavari Getaway Special weekend packages including room with breakfast and
- dinner, 25 percent discount on health club facilities. Godavari Village Resort. 560675 * Taste the difference Cosy Nepali-style house on an organic farm in Gamcha, south of Thimi. Up to
- Rs 1,200 per person per night including meals, aaa@wlink.com.np. Shivapuri Heights Cottage 30 minutes from Kathmandu, staff guides to monastery, peak and reserve, Rs 1,850 per person with dinner and breakfast, Rs 925 per child 5-14 years, children under

five free, info@escapetonepal.com

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

Here's how to tell when there's a hard rain coming: just stand for a moment and take in the hot still air There will be plenty of opportunity to do just that when

the monsoon hits us this week. The satellite picture shows the southeasterly monsoon ready to make its grand entrance, and masses of moisture laden clouds are heading towards eastern Nepal. By mid-week there will be massive downnours throughout the kingdom, recharging all the springs and causing landslides and floods

KATHMANDIIVAIIFY













High Exposure: An enduring passion for Everest and other unforgiving places David Breashears enguin Books India, New Delhi, 1999

David Breashears, legendary rock climber, mountaineer and high-altitude filmmaker, discusses the public's fascination with climbing and tries to answer the basic question: why climb? He discusses his early climbing experiences in Colorado, USA, and the Yosemite National Park, his lifelong passion for the Himalaya, and the filming of the IMAX film on Everest during the 1996 disaster.

True Summit: What Really Happened on the Legendary Ascent of Annapurna

Touchstone, New York, 2002 Rs 1.000

In June 1950, a team of mountaineers led by Maurice Herzog was the first to conquer an 8,000 m peak. Herzog's Annapuma has long been regarded as a climbing classic, but here Roberts presents a evision of the fascinating tale using newly-available documents and a rare interview with Herzog. He lays bare Herzog's self-serving determination and bestows long-delayed credit to the most accomplished and unsung heroes.





The New Leaders: Transforming the Art of Leadership into the Science of Results Daniel Goleman, Richard Boyatzis, Annie McKee Little. Brown, London, 2002

Goleman's Emotional Intelligence changed our concept of 'being smart', proving that how we handle ourselves and our relationships matters more than IQ or technical skill in educational success. Now the authors explore the consequences of EI for leaders and organisations.

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

CI ASSIFIED

Wanted: Flat in Lalitpur at Rs 3,500 per month annovimately Contact shrutidehi@hotmail.com

Foot - Reflexology: stressed or tired? UPLIFT YOUR SPIRITS FROM YOUR TOES UP. Email: buddhasfeet@yahoo.com or ring 425931

For sale Kawasaki Caliber Chroma. Just 4000 km. Excellent mileage perfect condition. Contact 535920 or kaziba@hotmail.com

Flowerlovers don't miss our special FUCHSIA

exhibition!!! More than 60 new and very beautiful varieties of FUCHSIA, recently imported from Furnne, are on sale now for the first time ever in Nepal, Only at THE BISHALNAGAR NURSERY, tel. 431797 five min from Rhathhateni Sunermarket two min from Bishalnagar Chowk (turn right and

Landrover Defender 110 1990, 146,000 kms. Duty not paid. Price negotiable. Contact 521105 between 10AM-12 noon.

House to let Sitapaila Heights, 5 min. from Ring Road, 15 min. from Lincoln School. Big compound Western style five bedrooms, two bathrooms. Servants' quarters. Motorable road. Ring 356074, 981030322 for Hari. Shanta. Saniu or John.

Nagarkot special at Naked Chef Bed and breakfast, three-course gourmet dinner. Rs 800 per person. For reservations ring 441494, 680006

House for rent Ground floor: living room, kitchen, dining room, one bathroom. First floor: master bedroom with attached bath, one bedroom, bathroom, pantry. Second floor: one bedroom with attached bath, store, lobby, Third floor; terrace and laundry room. Location: Galfutar. Tel:

Stupa View and Restaurant & Terrace at Baudhanath Stupa. Well-appointed restaurant and terraces with views of stuna and Himalayas International vegetarian specialties, pizza from clay oven ine cream soft quitar tunes on Fridays. Saturdays, Sundays from 5PM on, Special events on full moon. Open daily 11AM-8.30PM. 480262.

K-Too! Beer and Steakhouse not the "longest", "highest", "first" or any other superlative, Just a relaxed, easy-going bar and restaurant with the coldest heer and juiciest steaks this side of the moon. By the Kathmandu Guest House, 433043

The way to Mexico is too far. Botega Restaurant and Tequila Bar is near Thamel Chowk. 266433. 15 percent off season discount

BBC नेपाली सेवा

For insertions ring NT Marketing at 543333-36.

B B C on FM 102.4

Mon-Fri 0615-0645 **BBC World Today** 0615-0645 **BBC Science in Action** 0615-0645 **BBC Agenda** Daily 2045-2115 BBC नेपाली सेवा



Sat

Sun

Daily

Radio Sagarmatha

2245-2300

P.O. Box 6958. Bakhundole, Lalitpur, Nepal Tel: ++977-1-545680, 545681 Fax: ++ 977-1- 530227 E-mail: radio@radiosagarmatha.org www.radiosagarmatha.org

SUCKER FOR SOCCER The real stars



is head and smoking faster than ever.

But five minutes after the whistle was

blown on a 2-1 Croatia victory, his

dark mood cleared. We got another

uburban Ibaraki for the Italy-Croatia during the match, he stood up on his match. But I overslept after all the stool and tried to lead the crowd in travelling, and missed the special trains to the stadium. So I headed to a chants of "Fe-Tal-Ya! Fe-Tal-Ya!" in hopes of spurring his heroes on to pub in the entertainment district of victory. It wasn't Italy's best day and Roppongi instead, and plopped myself as the game slipped away Tetsu grey down on a stool for some football. visibly agitated. Italy took a 1-0 lead Next to me was a burly Japanese guy early in the second half, but lost the initiative as Croatia pressed forward. Tetsu had already chain-smoked half a proudly wearing the Italian national team jersey. "My name is Tetsu," he said. That means philosophy." Sir pack of Lucky Strikes when Croatia got studied philosophy, I figured he'd be the inevitable tying goal. Croatia scored again—time for another drink. a good companion. Tetsu recently graduated from an As the crowd cheered for a Croatia pricultural university, but his major upset. Tetsu sat disconsolate, shaking field of study seems to have been

Syakar Company Ltd

JYOTT Jyoti Bhawan, Kantipath Kathmandu

soccer travels, and when we parted, we pledged to meet again next week for another night on the stools The next day I took a train to Miyagi in northern Japan for Mexico Ecuador. In the stations, and on the

trains you could feel the anticipation. Hanging around the stadium before a World Cup game is a big rusheverybody's in a good mood and wearing their national team ierseys. and a few people always take the celebration a little further. On Sunday. a few Ecuadorian fans were wearing hats shaped like fruit baskets. On Mexican fellow was marching around in an elaborate headdress, a suede

PHILIPS

Let's make thinas bettev

beer and half-watched Brazil destroy recent experiences haggling in Nepali China while comparing notes of past bazars, I got an unbelievable seat for half-price: 16 rows up from the field, right behind the Mexico bench. I sat vith the men from whom I'd bought

> cigar after Mexico came back from a goal down to pull out a 2-1 win. On the train home, I chatted with a yellow-jerseyed Ecuadorian named Ruby who lives in New York City and works in a sweater factory. Not the greatest job in the world, but he could igh money to fly across the world with a friend to see his home country in its first-ever World Cup Even after his team lost, he was still amused that, here in Japan, everyone on the train was cracking jokes in Spanish. Plus, he sees an Ecuador match this week and it doesn't really matter that it will aln certainly be their last. That kind of

> > dedication and joy is what makes

World Cup fans so much fun to

by BILL BREWSTER

The best thing about a World Cup

.

loincloth and a strange pair of shoes

made of walnut shells that clacked feverishly when he danced. And

veryone, everywhere, was banging

and chanting. But I still didn't have a ticket,

and was feeling a little pessimistic a

half-hour before kick-off, when most

of the crowd was already seated in the

middle-aged Mexican guys hurrying

owards the gate. They had an extra

ticket and no doubt because of my

the ticket, and they even lit a victory

stadium. Then I saw a group of

on drums, blowing whistles

is the fans.

Kick ball to foot



ANTOANETA BEZLOVA in BEIJING

Keen to watch their national team in its World Cup debut after 44 years of failing to qualify some 25 000 Chinese football fans travelled to South Korea, where the Chinese team is playing. Hundreds of millions more, or 80 per cent of the population, are glued to television sets with all the vigour of true fanatics.

As Chinese history textbooks point out, "it was the Middle Kingdom and not England where the greatest game on earth was invented and played some two millennia ago." The game of "kick ball" was played as early as the Han Dynasty (206 RCF to 220CF). Chinese athletes kirked the ball in a rectangular court surrounded by an enclosing wall. At that time, the ball was solid, made of pig's bladder and stuffed with animal fur. By the 7th century, the ball became air-filled and kicking it around became popular with Chinese women too. All over the centuries, imperial court literati would be commissioned to write eulogies to the most

exiting contests of "kick ball".

Preserved Eastern Han Dynasty frescoes depict women's football matches, while some temple murals and silk scrolls give a glimpse of male "kick ball" contests. Bidding to host the Olympic Games in 2008 last year, Beijing organised an exhibition displaying China's long history of sporting genius. Along with clay models of Chinese ancient footballers, the China Sports Museum showed unearthed evidence that even sports such as golf and baseball had their prototypes in the Middle Kingdom.

Winning the bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games has boosted awareness of China's ancient sports culture and also dangerously raised the stakes for Chinese athletes. Expectations have been running so high that China's national team was forced to release an open letter asking fo forgiveness from the public if the country suffered a defeat at the World Cup. "We are a new team in the World Cup and a weak one," the letter said. "Our lack of experience and ability have determined that we won't be able to go far." Posted on the Chinese Football Association's website the letter was called "defeatist" by many fans who believe the government is trying intentionally to dampen hopes at home. "The Communist Party is falling into its own trap," said one foreign observer in Beijing. "They try to exploit sports to nurture nationalism but on the other hand they don't want football euphoria to run out of control." \((IPS)



14-20 JUNE 2002 NEPALI TIMES



Under My Hat

2050 FIFA World Cup Kathmandu Lalitpur



ven the rapid pace of renovation and beautification taking place in the nation's capital these days, we can be fairly certain that Nepal can make a successful bid to host the 2050 Football World Cup. One of the most important criteria that FIFA attaches to cities applying to organise the games is whether or not the host metropolis is self-sufficient in crazy hats. And as the world's major supplier of lunatic hats for the last three World Cups, Mayor Sthapit has assured FIFA's Site Selection Committee that there is no danger of Kathmandu running out of headgear in the run-up to the 2050 games.

So that just leaves us with the knotty question of ensuring that the Tinkune Intersection Beautification Campaign will see completion by January 2050. The Transportation Sub-Committee of the World Cup Organising Main Committee (Unified Marxist-Leninists) is optimistic that this should be possible, given the breakneck speed at which Obayashi-san and its subcontractors are rushing to make sure that the intersections intersect interestingly in keeping with internationally-certified norms and procedures.

According to a timetable made available to mediapersons this week, the sidewalks in Tinkune, Singha Darbar, Maitighar and Putali Sadak are scheduled for completion by 2010, the zebra crossings will be painted over by 2025, field trials and simulation exercises for traffic management are expected to be conducted in late 2032 and the traffic light synchronisation pected to go into effect by 2049 in time for the formal nding over of the intersections to the City Fathers.

Since we are a nation that can now afford to hire apanese contractors to build our pavements, there is little reason to doubt that we can also host the World Cup in 48 years time. Wanna bet? Heads I win, tails you lose. Bets once placed cannot be altered. Terms and Conditions apply. The decision of The Manage-

Kathmandu and Patan have traditionally had a healthy competition ever since the Malla period when the two kingdoms fought wars and butchered each other's citizens. Today, this competition is manifested in the way in which the Patan Municipality, not to be outdone by the Kathmandu Metropolitan City, has made sure that not a single halogen street lamp installed during the SAARC Summit is in working condition. And once Kathmandu found out that Patan streets were dark, it has also decided to be one up on its friendly rival by switching off all street lights between Babar Mahal and Min Bhawan until further notice.

Paran's illustrious mayor's net project is the gate that has been under construction at Bagmati Bridge since approximately the Bronze Age. The mayor has assured us that the gate will be complete by the time Patan co-hosts the 2050 World Cup. And, going by p experience, we have no reason to doubt him.



t 17, Bibha Shah has outgoing. "When I was selected to represent Nepal and other Asian youth I felt both proud and nity, it will add up." Bibha's

already met the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and given him a nervous, it was a big responsibility, recalls Bibha. "I was nervous that I piece of her mind. She was hosen by MTV to represent the Asia-Pacific at a meeting with Kofi in New York last month, and might disappoint the others I was representing." But her nervousness she drew his attention to the plight of children worldwide and evanorated as soon as she met Kofi. "For a man of his stature, I the need for the United Nations found him a very down-to-earth person. He put all of us at ease. to make the world a better place or them. Bibha was among ten shortand he listened to us," Bibha told us on her return to Kathmandu.

isted candidates selected from more than 1,000 Nepali appli-LINICEE MTV and Levi's Sneak Your Mind initiative to bring out an Asian Youth Charter. Bibha joined 12 other winners from Asian countries to go to New York for a summit on children where, addressed the United Nations General Assembly to express their concerns about their futures.

Bibha was chosen (along with a Thai winner) to see the Secretary General because she



nan and Ms Annan at the United Nations is

make a big difference so if I can change myself and my commuinspiration is her father, who keeps telling her "if life is

tough, you have to be tougher". Bibha plays volleyball as a hobby and would like to make a career in medicine. But for the immediate future, she already has a pledge; she is going to and everything she does. .





CDO Regd No. 194/056/57 Lalitpur, Central Region Postal Regd. No. 04/058/59

■