

**Land Rover Freelander 2**  
All Terrain 4WD  
Luxurious Interior  
Matches for all lifestyles

**AUTHORIZED AGENT:**  
Euro Gears Pvt. Ltd.  
Kot-75-2 Teku Road  
P.O. Box 4790 Kathmandu, Nepal

**SERVICE CENTER:**  
Della Motor Works Pvt. Ltd.  
Dhumbarahi, Kathmandu  
Tel: 4371104

Tel: 4261235, 4371104  
Fax: 4420877, 4262069  
E-mail: eurogears@mos.com.np

**Times** nepalnews.com  
Weekly Internet Poll # 395

Q. What do you expect the elections to be?

Total votes: 6,269

Weekly Internet Poll # 396. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Which party do you expect to get the highest number of votes in the direct ballot of the elections?

**LAVAZZA**  
ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE

at La Dolce Vita  
& Roadhouse Cafe Thamel, Pulchowk

**ARROW**

**EVEREST INTERNATIONAL**  
Teku, (Infront of Bakery Cafe) Tel: 4220602 • 4226882

**FAHIM**  
sanitary ware  
www.fahimsanitary.com

MRP Rs 6335.00  
Promotional Price  
Rs. 6251.25

**Create Bath P. Ltd.**  
Teku, Ph: 4230052

**BOXLIGHT®** TravelLight2  
Presenting a Better Way

**BRIGHTNESS**  
2100 ANSI lumens (standard)  
1600 ANSI lumens (eco)

**CONTRAST RATIO**  
2000:1

**DISPLAY TYPE**  
TI" DMD, 0.7" x 1.12" DDR

**WEIGHT**  
2.5 lbs / 1.13 Kg

**CAS** CAS Trading House Pvt. Ltd.  
P.O. Box: 2932, ComputerLand Building,  
New Plaza, Putalisadak, Kathmandu  
Phone: 977-1- 4440271, 4430858, 4430859  
E-mail: sales@cth.ccsinp.com  
Web: www.castradinghouse.com

# Bullet to ballot



JANAK ARYAL



SAM KANG LI

**T**he Nepali people have once more proved doomsdayers wrong. By turning out in overwhelming numbers to vote, Thursday's election became a referendum for peace, justice and development.

Even in the hotspots where much violence was predicted, voting was peaceful and orderly. The turnout exceeded even the Election Commission's most optimistic scenario. By Thursday afternoon as this paper went to press, over 75 percent of the electorate had cast their ballots in Morang and Sunsari. In Chitwan, the figure was 75 percent. Turnout in the far-west till about 3PM was 60 percent.

It was Kathmandu Valley where the turnout was lower, with only 55 percent till 3PM. By that time in rural Sindhuli, Parsa and Rautahat, 70 percent of the people had voted.

There were electoral hotspots where trouble was expected, and

here polls have been postponed. But out of the 20,810 polling centres, polls had been postponed in 21. None of these were in any of the far-western districts, even though turnout there was lower.

In the western hills, polling continued even in places where it had been temporarily suspended after clashes between rival parties. However, the UML reported the Maoists were preventing their supporters from voting in some places in the afternoon.

Among the trouble spots was the Maoist 'base area' of Rolpa where all booths in constituency 1 were captured by Maoists. Booths were also captured in Thawang and Rangsi. Nineteen booths were captured by Maoists in rukun. The NC and UML have asked for repolling in these centres.

In Nar and Phu in Manang it was the voters who boycotted

**SOLDIER-STATESMAN:** Prime Minister Koirala (right) casts his ballot in his hometown of Biratnagar on Thursday morning. The ageing Koirala has been worried about his legacy and had told his physicians: "Keep me alive till elections." Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal (left) has his privacy invaded by media as he votes in Bharatpur. This is the first time he has voted since the 1980 referendum on the monarchy.

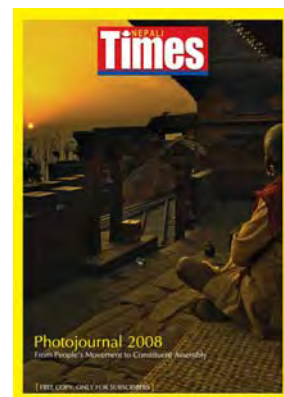
elections because no candidate had come to canvass. In the eastern Tarai districts of Saptari, Siraha and Sarlahi, polling was suspended in only two centres.

In Ramechhap Maoists blocked roads leading to polling centres in Doramaba and in Chitwan, YCL cadre threw ballot boxes into the Rapti River. NC and UML cadres have also engaged in violence in parts of Dolakha, while it has been the Jana Morcha that has been beating up UML and NC candidates in Baglung. ●

Reported by Dewan Rai

<b>Editorial</b>	<b>p2</b>
<b>Comment</b> Kanak Mani Dixit	<b>p2</b>
<b>State of the State</b> CK Lal	<b>p3</b>
<b>What next for the monarchy?</b>	<b>p4</b>
<b>E-Day in pictures</b>	<b>p8-9</b>
<b>TARAI EYE</b> Prashant Jha	<b>p10</b>
<b>After elections, what?</b>	<b>p12-13</b>

**FREE WITH THIS ISSUE FOR SUBSCRIBERS**



**PHOTOJOURNAL 2008**  
From People's Movement to Constituent Assembly

Himalmedia wishes its readers and advertisers a very happy and peaceful 2065.



**SUCCESS KEEPS YOU ON YOUR TOES**

**Signature**  
SUCCESS IS GOOD FUN

UNITED SPIRITS LIMITED





Published by Himalmedia Pvt Ltd, Editor: Kunda Dixit  
CEO: Ashutosh Tiwari Design: Kiran Maharjan  
Director Sales and Marketing: Sunaina Shah marketing@himalmedia.com  
Marketing Manager: Sambhu Guragain  
Asst Managers: Deepak Sangraula, Subhash Kumar, Tanka Sitaula  
Circulation Manager: Samir Maharjan sales@himalmedia.com  
Hatiban, Godavari Road, Lalitpur  
GPO Box 7251, Kathmandu 5250333/845, Fax: 5251013  
Printed at Jagadamba Press, Hatiban: 5250017-19



## A NEW PAGE

For the past year, local and expat naysayers in Kathmandu insisted that there was no way elections could be held. Even till last week, these nabobs of negativism were predicting the end of Nepal if elections went ahead.

Even if they are proved wrong, doomsdayers don't change into optimists overnight. And now that elections have been held, they are predicting chaos, anarchy, disintegration and hellfire in the coming months. There is a danger that their cynicism will be a self-fulfilling prophecy, and it is now up to the elected representatives to prove them wrong.

What gives us hope has been the ability of widely opposed parties to come this far in the past two years. Given the fractiousness, narrow mindedness and political myopia of our leaders, this is something of a miracle. We expected a threshold of violence because one of the protagonists was till two years ago an underground guerrilla force.

No more do our date-expired politicians now have to invoke the mandate of street protests. From now on their legitimacy comes from the people's mandate. The Nepali people voted with enthusiasm and hope on Thursday, and their wish must be respected. That is what democracy is all about, and that is what we all fought to restore.

But this democracy is fragile and the road ahead is a political minefield. The 601-member assembly will have to deal with sensitive issues like the abolition of monarchy, federalism, tackling the competing demands for ethnic representation that were put on hold for the polls, the future of Maoist combatants.

Nepal's status quoists will not give up without a struggle and reformers will need unity and a sense of destiny. But over and beyond all the political issues that have to be resolved, the assembly has to catch up with lost time on the economy and development. The people have been waiting patiently for the politics to sort itself out and haven't clamoured too noisily for the peace dividend.

Let the new representatives not mistake that for docility. Most people don't care about the arcane debates on monarchy vs republic, they care about jobs, roads, health posts and schools. And if they don't see their lives improve even after these elections, their disappointment can easily turn to anger.

Ultimately, legitimacy doesn't just come from the ballot. It comes from performance and delivery.



ANUP PRAKASH

# Lost time

## The real work now begins to build a New Nepal

They said the people would never rise up, until the People's Movement surprised us all. They said the parliament could never be revived, but it sprang to life. They said elections would never happen after being twice postponed, but it happened. Now they tell us there will be chaos after the elections. How many more times do you want to be wrong?



### COMMENT Kanak Mani Dixit

The sheer willpower of the citizenry that generated the People's Movement has propelled us into the Constituent Assembly. The constitution will get written amidst turbulence, but it will be written. Nepal is just not structured to deliver a cut-and-dried peace process to those who want to wrap it up and be gone to the next world hotspot. Instead, we muddle through and get ahead, with the political parties in command of the speed and the direction.

The Constituent Assembly is not just part and parcel of the peace process, but a state-restructuring exercise foremost. It also represents a return to pluralism and representative government after nine long years. This is where the emerging, conflicting and complementary demands of communities will be discussed, instead of the frustrated recourse to burning tyres.

The Nepali spirit will see us through in the days

ahead, including the vulnerable period over the next three weeks while the ballots are counted. The political party that gets the largest number of votes will take the lead in fashioning the new polity, but it must carry along all political forces including the Maoists in the running of the government and drafting the constitution.

The assembly has to be called within 21 days of the final results. The first task at hand will be the parties acting on their manifestos to declare the country a republic. To be gracious, the historical kingship can be thanked for its role in the creation of the nation state 239 years ago.

As the constitution-making begins in earnest, the 601 framers must start with a philosophical commitment to values included in the superseded 1990 constitution: multiparty pluralism, representative government, fundamental freedoms and human rights.

Looking beyond, a set of draft directive principles developed by the Interim Parliament ('federalism', 'secularism' and 'inclusion' included) will serve as the basis for the sovereign Assembly to begin work on developing a *samabesi loktantra*. The definition of federalism will be the most challenging task before the CA, and the framers must rise above populism to define a provincial structure that is practical and economically sound, while responding to identity and inclusion demands.

There will be those outside the party-political process who will question the right and ability of the Constituent Assembly to represent the entire populace, but the elected members will surely be much more empowered to respond to such challenges than the appointed nominees of the Interim Parliament. Not to forget that the proportional 335 seats, to be approved by the Election

Commission according to the population categories, will make the CA among the most inclusive legislative bodies in the world.

While the Assembly itself will be relatively inclusive and representative, a countrywide participatory consultative process must support the assembly and allow the citizens to own the document that emerges. It is the new constitution, more than any institution, language or manufactured mythology, that will henceforth provide the glue to bind the people of Nepal.

The Assembly's other task is of course to serve as a legislature to back and watchdog the executive branch over the next two years and more. Immediately, it will be important to separate the positions of head of state and head of government, responsibilities borne over the last two years by Girija Prasad Koirala. The ministers of the coalition government which emerges in the days ahead will have to be answerable to the prime minister rather than to their individual party bosses.

The new government must make haste to ensure that the people begin to enjoy the long-delayed peace dividend, and it must energetically restart development projects after a decade of waiting. The international community must help.

There is so much more that the needs to be done, to give the public confidence in state administration and rule of law. We should not forget the need for accountability for the atrocities of the past, by whichever side. The matter of 'security sector reform' must be addressed, bringing the Nepal Army even more firmly under civilian control. The Maoist fighters in the cantonments must be brought into the mainstream as a priority.

The Constituent Assembly will write our new Basic Law, but the immediate hope of those who voted yesterday is that the elections will usher political stability, help mend the tattered social fabric and trigger economic growth. We have to make up for a dozen years of lost time. ●

## LETTERS

### POLLS

The facts expressed in Prashant Jha's article 'Murkier and murkier' (#392) are sad but true. Same as the national leaders are letting down the nation, the Madhesi leaders are letting down the Madhes. You will need a significant proportion of the vote nationwide to have a respectable voice in the CA, and this election will achieve nothing for Madhesis if the Madhesi parties squabble and fight amongst themselves. What the Madhes needs is unity of purpose amongst its leaders, or the Madhes' problems will never be addressed.

Pushkar, email

- As campaigning has intensified, so have abduction, extortion, attacks, and threats on candidates and voters. These anti-democratic practices show that law and order are failing,

and the government seems reluctant to take any action against the law-breakers. Why are they turning a blind eye? The home minister threatened harsh punishment for those involved in the Madhes movement but he is silent now. The government needs to maintain proper law and order throughout.

Praveen Kumar  
Yadav, Birganj

- I am Indian but I love Nepal as much as my own country. Nepal is the only country which is striving to preserve Vedic Hindu culture. Nepal should be a Hindu democratic country with a passive monarchy like the United Kingdom. Keeping symbolic head of state will

and avoid sycophancy and dynastic party rule as happened in India. Hindus all over the world will also be very happy that at least one country is preserving their culture.

Nepal has nothing to lose with a figurehead king. If you look at countries in the world now, monarchies are more stable and responsible democracies than republics.

Sreeram, email

- Many thousands of Nepali citizens will not have the chance to vote in the CA election. These include about 60,000 election observers, perhaps 1,500,000 Nepalis who are living abroad, and countless numbers who can't return to their homes to vote. As the number of people voting will already be



the king as a preserve culture

can't return to their homes to vote. As the number of people voting will already be

smaller than it should, I really hope it will not be made even smaller by violence and intimidation of voters around the polls. I hope the government, political parties and observing groups will do their job to prevent violence on election day. We owe this to Nepal.

Kishor Rajbhandari, email

### ENVIRONMENT

Apart from carbon emissions in the atmosphere causing climate change in Nepal (see 'Climactic change', #393), we also have massive problems of forest clearance, pollution and unplanned building which are clear for everyone to see. We can't just blame other countries' carbon emissions for our environmental problems in Nepal as we are also responsible for them. We should do something to address this right now or future generations of Nepalis will suffer.

Sanat Dhungel, Auckland, New Zealand



# Exhaustion, euphoria and ennui

My brother, a young engineer, didn't want to miss voting in the constituent assembly elections. Like thousands of others, he left Kathmandu for his village in Dhanusa on Monday by night bus.

The journey till Dhalkebar was uneventful. But the Pahadi bus-driver refused to risk antagonising Jwala Singh, the renegade Maoist who has called for a Madhes banda. He dumped his passengers at dawn on Tuesday morning in the middle of nowhere.



**STATE OF THE STATE**  
**C K Lal**

The determined engineer travelled from Dhalkebar to Mahendranagar in one of the diesel tempos, banished from Kathmandu ten years ago for being too polluting, but which now form the backbone of public transport in the Tarai. But even the tempo-driver didn't want to risk driving into Janakapur. Ramnavami pilgrims and voters heading home had to take rickshaws to reach the capital of Mithila at four times the going rate.

This campaign has seen the expected level of campaign and poll violence. Assuming the elections are declared a success by Jimmy Carter and his co-observers, another question which is likely to emerge immediately afterwards is whether things will change fast enough in this country to address the aspirations of

## Post-election hopes are few, but fears many



SAM KANG LI

youngsters like my brother. If they don't, it wouldn't take long for the euphoria to turn into ennui and then explode into yet another upheaval.

It would be presumptuous to predict poll outcomes so early. But one doesn't need to be a psephologist to forecast the composition of the assembly. In all probability, it will be a hung-house dominated by the Big Three—NC, UML and Maoists—though not necessarily in that order. Once a place has been found to sit the 600+ member assembly under one roof, the first agenda before the house will be to elect a chair and formulate rules and procedures

for its own operation. Republicans in the country are hoping that the sessions will begin by announcing the abolition of monarchy through a unanimous decision or at least a voice vote. That appears highly unlikely. All kinds of delaying tactics will be employed by monarchists in every mainstream party to buy time.

The second order of business will have to be government formation. Their relative strength in the assembly notwithstanding, parties are bound by their previous agreements to form a coalition government. There is only one change that may happen, the leader of the largest party may get to

Baluwatar. But this person will continue to be at the mercy of party bosses rather than assembly members. Irrespective of surprises that the ballot boxes may spring upon the electorate, one thing is certain: the chairman will have to continue being the Graffiti President.

It's then that negotiations over fundamental principles of the supreme law will begin. Democracy, republicanism and federalism are mere words: manipulators can make them mean almost anything. After all, capitalist China is a People's Republic, North Korea is a Democratic People's Republic and Norway is a kingdom where the king is barely visible.

Post-election hopes are few, but fears many. Maoists are unlikely to go back to the jungle even if numbers fail them, but there is no guarantee that splinter groups of former rebels will not emerge to challenge the state. The often-postponed price hike of petroleum products must be tackled by a government willing to bite the bullet. Don't discount food riots a la Haiti as Nepal's food stockpiles head south as India builds up strategic reserves.

My brother will probably come back to Kathmandu wondering whether the trip home for polls have been worth the trouble. Taps in our house have been dry for over six months. There isn't going to be a Minister for Expediting Melamchi even after elections.

Hopefully, the red dawn of Nepali New Year on Sunday will bring new tidings.



**Lilliput®**  
WEAR IT. LOVE IT!

**KIDSWEAR**  
&  
**ACCESSORIES**

**AVAILABLE AT:**  
FIRST CHOICE, SHOP # 98, BLUEBIRD MALL, TRIPURESHWOR

**OPENING SOON AT:**  
BHATBHATANI DEPARTMENTAL STORE, BHATBHATANI • SHERPA MALL, DURBAR MARG • NLIC, CITY CENTRE, KAMAL POKHARI

Did your paper arrive on time this morning? If not, call our

**Customer care**  
@  
**525 0333**

**DIRECT LINE**



Himalmedia Pvt. Ltd.  
Hatiban Lalitpur

### PERFORMANCE ENHANCING FUEL SUPPLEMENT

The leading car care brand in Malaysia, Waxco's wide range of quality products offers the most effective solution in car care and maintenance.

**Waxco Fuel Injector Cleaner** is one of the most advanced fuel system cleaning technologies available in today's market. It helps to remove harmful fuel system deposits caused by lower quality fuel, improving drivability and restoring the lost power & performance while you drive. It's a proven technology routinely prescribed by many carmakers as their solution to fuel deposit related drivability problems.



**WAXCO FUEL SYSTEM CLEANER**

Use it and feel the difference. Performance excellence guaranteed.



JAM Plaza, Gongabu, Chakrapath  
Kathmandu  
Tel.: 4354021 / 4354162, Fax: 4354020



# Baby queen?

It looks like there is little that can save the Nepali monarchy now. The seven parties have agreed that the first order of business for the constituent assembly is to declare Nepal a republic.

Though he now seems more than reconciled with the idea of a kingless Nepal, it was prime minister Koirala who last year made one of the weirder suggestions for the monarchy's future: the Baby king Formula.

Recent opinion polls (see 'Pre-poll poll, #386) indicate that, despite everything, as much as half the people in the country are in favour of a symbolic monarchy in Nepal. The only problem is what to do with the present king, who even staunch monarchists like Surya Bahadur Thapa can't stomach.



**KHAIRE BHAI**  
Tom Owen-Smith

Mindful of this, the PM proposed that the crown be taken out of Gyanendra's hands, passed over his son Paras (who due to his own antics is also not deemed

king material) and go directly to his grandson, seven-year-old prince His Baby Majesty Hridayendra. But it looks like even going back to Birendra's bloodline and declaring a baby queen would not be accepted now.

Bestowing the sovereignty of the realm on a powerless child who would naturally require a regent was a tactic used throughout history by uncles, widowed queens and power-hungry courtiers who lusted after the throne but were not in line. More recently it has been a publicity stunt intended to boost the mass appeal of ailing dynasties.

Take the UK's ruling house of Windsor, for example. They have lost the pomp and circumstance of yesteryear. As the Gurkhas' favourite prince Harry will happily admit, royals are not saints, they are normal people. It's hard to keep up an image of spotless national role models in the age of mass media and paparazzi.

Prince Charles, Harry's dad, is personally my favourite UK royal but for many people he is the most objectionable. So in Britain, too, it has been suggested that the crown should skip a generation, and Charles' firstborn, prince William should be the next King of England.

The rationale seems to be that such a move would give the monarchy a makeover. It would make the institution appear younger, more hip and 'in touch' with modern Britain. Prince William is still fresh and doesn't have a messy, unseemly past like his father, thus the purity and moral rectitude of the institution will be safeguarded (in England kings are not gods but they are head of the church).

## Would youthful kings make monarchy any more relevant?

Kings used to lead their armies into battle. They conquered enemies, founded cities, and if they were displeased heads would roll. Although these kinds of kings haven't reigned in Europe for many centuries, Gyanendra's ancestor Prithvi Narayan Shah was doing just this 250 years ago.

But with modern communications and universal education, we do not need despots to rule countries (Gyanendra found that one out in 2006). We, the people, can do it ourselves.

'Unity, stability, tourist attraction' are some of the reasons cited for retaining the British royal family. It seems that their only purpose nowadays is as figureheads, and we punish them if they do not live up to the role we have ordained for them.

This has been prince Charles' downfall. He is not very media-savvy. He makes embarrassing statements and puts his foot in it. He doesn't match the neutered, inoffensive role the British have now designated for their royal family. Gyanendra has had similar problems, though on a larger and more turbulent scale, in Nepal.

But would appointing a baby king (or baby queen if one takes the proposal of princess Sruti's daughter seriously) really be able to save these dinosaur institutions? Is it fair to keep descendents of long dead powerful men on display like caged animals because we feel we need figureheads? Is there any point in retaining an institution if it has been dragged through so much mud it has lost what dignity or relevance it once had?

Maybe it would be kinder to the poor baby kings and queens themselves to relieve their burden altogether and just let them live like normal people. ●

## Will this election finally consign Nepal's monarchy to the history books?

# Unceremoniously removed monarchy

DEWAN RAI

When the constituent assembly finally sits, making Nepal a republic is supposed to be the first item on its agenda, preceding even the work on drafting a new constitution.

The third amendment to the interim constitution in December 2007 declared Nepal a federal republic, but will only take effect when the measure is approved by the constituent assembly.

The move put the monarchy in suspended animation and removed him as the head of state, stripped him even of his ceremonial role, his command over the army and immunity from prosecution.

turning Nepal secular was taken by an unelected interim house and is therefore illegitimate. They have demanded either a referendum or for the constituent assembly to decide on such a momentous decision.

Rabindra Sharma of the royalist RPP (Nepal) says: "Throughout history monarchies have been abolished either through revolution or referendum. But these parties will not accept a referendum because they know people still believe in the monarchy. The interim parliament cannot decide the fate of the monarchy and the third amendment was unconstitutional."

Sharma says that monarchy is an essential symbol of national identity and that the NC and

the monarchists within the mainstream parties.

After the legislation goes through parliament, the king will probably be served notice to vacate the palace. He is not expected to resist.

"Any move against the assembly will not only be unconstitutional but also anti-people this time," says Khanal.

After that question is out of the way, the parties are expected to be mired in debate about whether to adopt a prime ministerial or presidential system, and whether to have regional or ethnic federalism.

Nepal Bar Association president, Bishwakanta Mainali doesn't expect much debate on the republic within the house. "There will be royalists in the assembly,



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

**FATHER, SON AND THE HOLY GHOST: King Gyanendra (left), prince Paras (right) and Krishna Prasad Bhattarai at a lunch organised by the latter for his own 87th birthday.**

"At present, the monarchy is suspended monarchy," explains political science professor, Krishna Khanal, "the assembly of elected members will simply fulfil the formality of the king's honourable exit so he can become a commoner."

The promise to abolish the monarchy was initially considered a carrot to cajole the Maoists back into government last year, but there is now a consensus on republic among the seven party alliance. "It is not possible for the parties to make a u-turn," Khanal said.

Not everyone is so sure. Monarchists argue that the abolition of the monarchy and

UML have only adopted a republican agenda under pressure from the Maoists. "I do not believe those two parties are really republican," he says.

Indeed, the most recent public opinion polls by Inter-disciplinary Analysts (IDA) in January showed that as much as 49 percent of the respondents wanted to retain a symbolic monarchy and 65 percent were against secularism. (See: 'Pre-poll poll', #386)

However, Gyanendra's popularity is very low and few respondents want him to remain king. If the royalist parties have a strong showing in elections the assembly may find it difficult to ignore public opinion.

Khanal believes the bill on abolition of the monarchy will be passed with a full majority. But there are three wild cards: the Nepal Army, the anti-secular groups in Nepal and India, and

but they will be too few to get a constitutional monarchy through," he predicts.

RPP (Nepal) is the only party out of 54 favouring a constitutional monarchy. RPP and the Rastriya Janasakti Party are fence-sitting.

For his part, king Gyanendra has taken note of the poll results. He told the Japanese newspaper *Yomiuri Shimbun* in his last interview in February that the assembly would not be reflecting the view of a majority of Nepalis if it abolished the monarchy. "Most people find great meaning in the institution of the monarchy. Every cloud has a silver lining. Let us hope," he had said.

However, unless there is either a spontaneous uprising in support of the monarchy or a military coup, it does look like the sun is setting on the Shah dynasty that forged Nepal and ruled it for 239 years. ●



Social NMB

The Nepal Merchant Bank is now shifting locations to a new building at Babar Mahal. It has also launched a social initiative for homeless children, sponsoring a shelf of books for homeless children at Bal Mandir. NMB has been operating for the past 12 years and is under formulation to be recognised as an A class commercial bank.



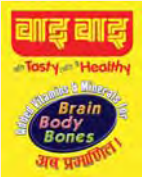
Cozy housing



Cozy Homes housing is now officially open to the public. Located in Imadol, Lalitpur, this housing complex has a health club, gym, swimming pool, conference hall, grocery store and guest house. It also has a 24-hour supply of water, electricity, ambulance and security services. Cozy Homes is part of the Prama Holdings Group.

Fortified noodles

Wai Wai noodles will now come with specified amounts of vitamins and minerals. Vitamin A (200 IU), vitamin B1 (0.11mg), B2 (0.08mg), iron (3.1mg), calcium (80mg) and phosphorous (160mg) have been added to the noodles. Wai Wai is manufactured by the Chaudhary Group.



Fahim sanitation



Fahim sanitary wares are now available in Nepal through Create Bath. Fahim received the ISO 9001:2000 for its quality management system and uses raw materials from UK, Italy, Germany and Turkey for its products. All bath and sanitary ware are now available at promotional prices.

Pfizer help

Pfizer has established the Sutent Patient Assistance Program in Nepal in partnership with Axios Healthcare Development, BP Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital and Patan Academy of Health Sciences. This program will provide patients unable to afford cancer treatment with free SUTENT, Pfizer's new oncology drug for metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma and metastatic, non-resectable malignant gastrointestinal stromal tumors.



NEW PRODUCTS

SPICY: Khukuri Spice Rum is the latest offering from Nepal Distillers. This new product is 43.05 percent alcohol and is flavoured with mint. A 750ml bottle will cost Rs 460. Nepal distillers also produce Khukuri Rum and Coronation Rum.



Marketing democracy

The Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML), according to its campaign literature, 'upholds the principles of socialism and pursues the road of People's Multi-Party Democracy which is a creative application of Marxism and Leninism in the Nepalese condition'.

The Nepali Congress (NC),



STRICTLY BUSINESS  
Ashutosh Tiwari

founded in 1946, continues to hold 'democratic socialism' as its official political philosophy. The Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) for its part views the market as the root of all evils.

How amusing, then, to see them all, in the last few weeks, throwing their ideologies aside to vigorously market themselves to voters, as though they were selling soap or noodles!

They flooded radio, tv and newspapers with advertisements that sang their political hymns. Like door-to-door salesmen, their candidates visited houses and workplaces, and courted voters. They re-designed party web sites to attract online visitors with up-to-the-minute news feeds. They had trucks, buses and tractors carry the party flags. And some political rallies felt like a mix of tv dance competitions and product launch events.

Given all this hoopla, it's arguable that shorn of all the rhetoric, yesterday's Constituent Assembly election was basically an exercise in one key capitalist practice that our most ardent democrats do not normally associate with democracy: marketing.

In a recent book *Greater Good*, John Quelch, a business school academic, argues that hard, consumer-oriented marketing makes for better democracy, and that marketing professionals are shortchanging themselves if they confine their ideas just to for-profit sectors. Quelch outlines six benefits good marketing helps to bring out which strengthen the democratic process.

**Inclusion:** Each vote counts.

The politicians may as well admit that campaigning is a form of marketing

This makes every candidate chase every possible voter. Marketing in a democracy is thus an inherently inclusive process, making candidates reach out to voters of all ethnicities and economic classes.

**Promises:** When interacting with voters, candidates make promises like bringing drinking water, roads or electricity to a village, fighting for Dalit rights or revising the Constitution's key points. All this is akin to a cream marketer's promise to your teenage daughter that she'll have glowing skin if she uses his product.

**Information:** Campaign-trail exchanges with wide swathes

of voting-age population create a plethora of information. Voters talk to one another. They use the media and listen to the grapevines. They gather information from and about the candidates. And the candidates themselves learn how to tailor their messages to different segments of population.

**Choice:** More exchanges and information put the voters in a position in which they can make an informed choice, weighing up what most appeals to them on various sides. They are then free to make up their mind in ways they see fit without coercion. Marketing of candidates and their ideas expands the range of choices available to voters.

**Engagement:** If candidates share information about themselves credibly, they can count on engaging the voters with their political aspirations. But all that sharing of information and provision of choices will be little use if voters find no reason to engage in the democratic process. So marketing helps candidates find ways to engage voters, as they must consider them like customers who have to be made happy.

**Consumption:** Voters cast their votes to the candidates of their choosing, and follow the election results. They will be consuming the consequences of their choices for some time to come.

Our politicians understandably recoil at the idea that campaigning is marketing. But given marketing's obvious benefits, the sooner our politicians embraced it to address persistent problems and make better policies, the more openly the public would be empowered to make decisions on issues that affect it.

OUR  
TELEPHONE  
NUMBERS  
HAVE  
CHANGED

Telephone number  
525 0333  
525 0845  
Fax number  
525 1013



Himalmedia  
Hatiban, Lalitpur

Small enough to know you  
Large enough to serve you



L i v i n g   R o o m   |   B e d   R o o m   |   K i t c h e n   |   O f f i c e



Patan Industrial Estate, Lalitpur, Nepal  
Tel.: 5524118, 5522253, Fax: 977-1-5521172  
E-mail: contact@birafurniture.com.np, amsh@wlink.com.np  
Website: www.birafurniture.com

Elegance above Excellence  
Since 1963





MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

# Rivalry

Kashiram Dangi in *Nepal*, 13 April

नेपाल

Rolpa—Despite the ‘People’s War’ having ended two years ago and talks about integrating them into a national army, relations between the People’s Liberation Army and the Nepal Army still remain frosty.

Relations got worse last year when an M-16 rifle disappeared from inside the Nepal Army’s Gorakh battalion compound in Libang, just one day before minister Krishna Bahadur Mahara was due to visit Rolpa. Both the Maoists and the Nepal Army searched for the missing rifle and in the end, Maoist district workers Current and Ganga Sunar were accused of taking the weapon.

According to army sources, three people were caught who claimed to have transferred the weapon to Maoist hands. Maoist in-charge Dipendra Pun claims that all allegations are false. He says, “If we did take the weapon, then why aren’t we being charged?”

The Maoists believe that there was a conspiracy to kill Mahara, who was visiting to

inaugurate the 11<sup>th</sup> district council. On the same day the army lost one of its weapons, the Maoists also lost a weapon from their cantonment in Dahawan.

The two armies are also competing in humanitarian work. After the signing of the peace agreement, the Nepal Army gathered in Libang Bajar to conduct a cleaning campaign. They not only cleaned the pavements and roads but even the public toilets. They have also started to build a library.

Immediately after, the YCL also conducted their own cleaning campaign in the same place that the army had cleaned. Seeing this new dimension to the rivalry between the two sides that fought each other during the war has left the people of Rolpa amazed.

The Maoists claim that the Army only started doing these things after seeing what the Maoists were doing: building roads, gardens, sports fields, drinking water supplies and libraries. But the army’s Colonel Ananda Singh Bhatta disagrees: “We’ve been doing humanitarian work for years.”

The army has been providing drinking water supplies to villages around their barracks, built a sports field and even conducted a health camp for the sick. Colonel Bhatta says, “The Nepal Army is the national army. Whatever it does, it does for the good of the country.”

## Army issues

Jana Aastha, 9 April

अस्थ

The Nepal Army’s military court has been holding meetings and briefings to decide what to do when the Maoists raise the issue of the PLA’s integration into the NA. High ranking army officers have been meeting to discuss what to do should each of three main contenders—NC, UML and Maoists—win the CA election.

In 8 April’s meeting, Generals Dilip Shumsher Rana, Dilip Rayamajhi, Dipak Gurung and Colonel Prem Singh Basnet presented a total of 50 pages of separate working papers. All officers from the Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) to the rank of three star general were present. The meeting proposed the alternative of providing PLA fighters with a daily allowance and teaching them skills for foreign employment, rather than integrating them into the army.

The meeting decided that even if the king is removed, the army must continue to represent what he stood for – national unity. Throughout the presentations, they repeated that “the army has never staged a coup.”

## Vote for?

Yasodha Timsina in *Nepal*, 6 April

नेपाल

The election buzz has caught on even in remote parts of west

Nepal. Locals in Karnali have high expectations from the CA polls.

Some expect new roads, others easier access to electricity, water and phone lines, but they understand that their voices will only be heard if they choose a capable candidate.

Most women do not know what the CA poll is or what it is for. Some believe it is like a magic wand that will make sickness and food scarcity vanish.

Badamkali Mahatara, chairman of Laxmi Co-operatives in Jumla says, “I have started convincing women to vote for the party that has taken women’s issues and is likely to see them through.”

## Investment

Bijay Ghimire in *Kantipur*, 9 April

कान्तिपुर

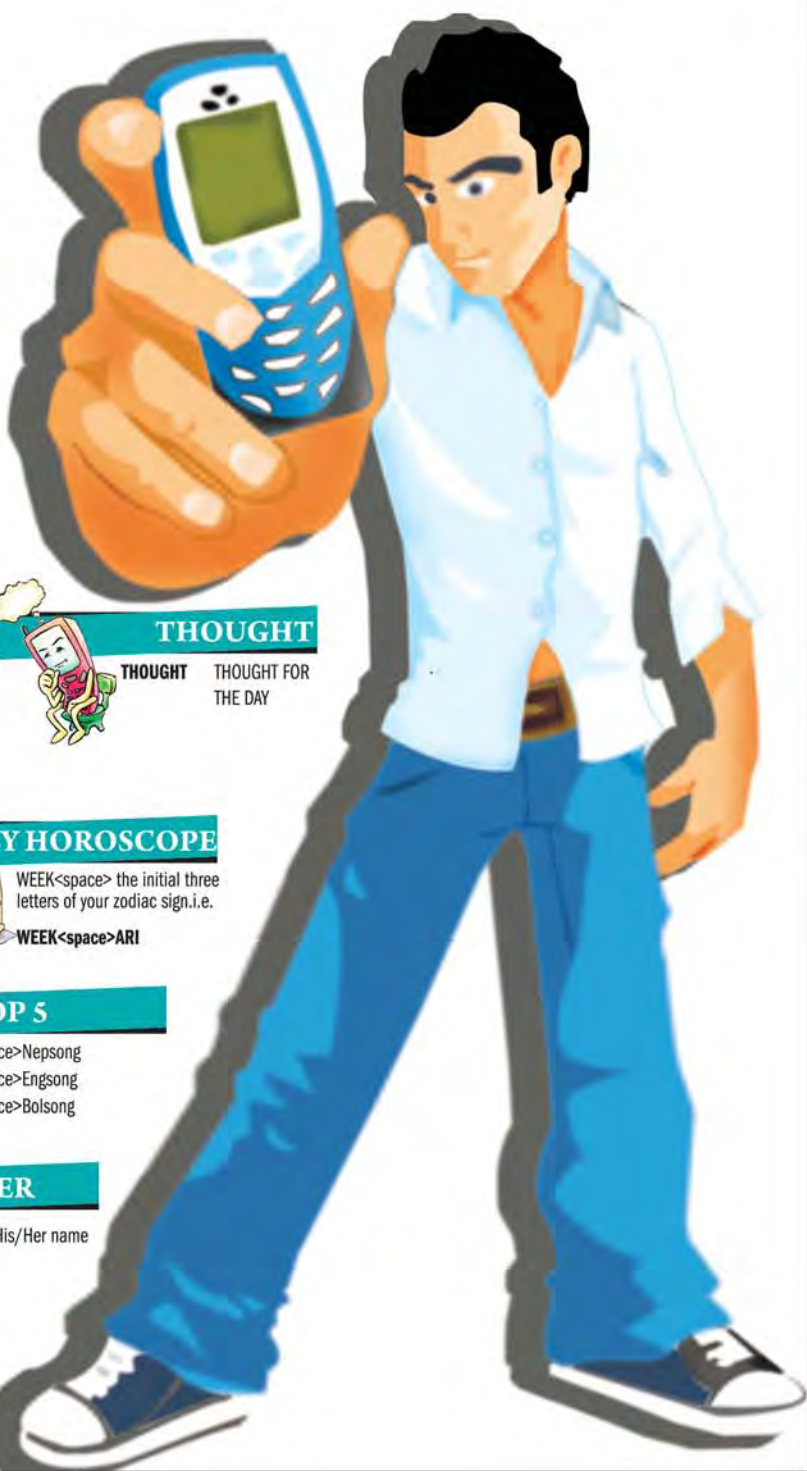
Pokhara’s young entrepreneurs are hoping for a more investment-friendly environment after the constituent assembly polls. They’re enthusiastic about the elections and are planning new promotions to launch after they are done.

Nepal’s private sector may be small but is raring to invest, especially in the country’s water resources, cement and housing industries. Many have bought land and raw materials for cement industries but say they will only start business after elections.

There was doubt among the business community whether the elections would happen or not.



## Cell Phone Talking Not Just For ANYMORE



### DAILY HOROSCOPE



AST<space>the initial three letters of your zodiac sign. i.e.

AST<space>ARI

### STOCK



SHG Top 5 gainers of the day  
SHL Top 5 losers of the day  
SHH Stock related help

### DICTIONARY



DICT<space>the word you want to know the meaning of. i.e.

DICT<space>tut

### CRICKET UPDATE

cri

### NEWS



NEWS National news  
SPO Sports news  
ENT Entertainment news  
INT International news  
LIVE Breaking news

### FOREX



FOREX<space>BUY  
FOREX<space>BUY  
FOREX<space>CURRENCY ID

### CALENDER SERVICE

Calnep ddmmyyy Nepali to English  
Caleng ddmmyyy English to Nepali

### JOKES



JOKE  
JOKE<space>DOC  
JOKE<space>SILLY  
JOKE<space>LAWYER  
JOKE<space>SANTA  
JOKE<space>BLONDE

### THOUGHT



THOUGHT  
THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

### WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



WEEK<space> the initial three letters of your zodiac sign. i.e.

WEEK<space>ARI

### TOP 5

TOP5<space>Nepsong  
TOP5<space>Engsong  
TOP5<space>Bolsong

### LOVE METER

LM<space>Your name<space>His/Her name

USE THE LISTED KEYWORDS AND SEND THEM TO 2722

THT Live Customer Care: 9805002722 (9am - 6pm), Email: feedback@tthtlive.com  
\*Each download will attract Rs. 5/- plus all applicable Govt. Taxes per SMS.





Investors were afraid of the political instability and many were already thinking of relocating or investing abroad. But now all these insecurities have vanished.

The rebuilding of the nation can only be strengthened by financial development. All of the party manifestoes are agreed on this. The people believe that once the election for a new constitution is over, there will be development.

Inspiration

Himal Khabarpatrika, 14-28 March

Compared to the many who come to Kathmandu for higher education and completely forget their roots, Taplejung's Dalu Sherpa is different. Sherpa received a Masters degree from Kathmandu's Tribhuban

University, returned to her village, and is now the associate Nepali lecturer at Myanglung's Pathibhara Campus. She says she chose to study Nepali because she wanted to prove that even janajatis can study the subject. She is thrilled to be the first woman lecturer in Taplejung district.

She paid her way through university by working as an orphanage in-charge in Kathmandu. Her passion is social service. Sherpa wants to work in empowering women in education. "If they are educated, Nepali women can achieve so much more, so the government needs to put education on top of its list of priorities," she says.

She did not care for the money and easy life in the city. Instead she has become an inspiration to those who want to come back and do something for their village.



BOMB POLITICS: Ram Prasad Mainali claimed that his group of the Nepal Defence Army was responsible for the the bomb blast on 29 March at a mosque in Biratnagar killing two worshippers. He has said that his group will start a civil war if Nepal doesn't go back to being a Hindu state. www.himalkhabar.com

मतदाताको दाय

पार्टी कार्यकर्ताको दाय

पार्टीको दाय

समय Samaya, 10 April

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ While upholding mutual harmony and unity during the elections to the Constituent Assembly being held on April 10, 2008, we call upon all adult citizens to exercise their democratic right in a free and fair environment. ”

King Gyanendra, 9 April.

SELECTED MATERIAL TRANSLATED EVERY WEEK FROM THE NEPALI PRESS

An Australian Government Initiative

Australian Scholarships  
THE PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE

Australian Leadership Awards – Scholarships

The Australian Government invites applications for the **Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) - Scholarships** to study at Masters and Doctoral levels in Australia.

The **ALA – Scholarships** is a prestigious and competitive program, which is awarded to high-achieving current and emerging leaders from the Asia-Pacific region with potential to advance social and economic policy reforms, development and governance both in their own countries and in the Asia-Pacific region. The **ALA – Scholarships** program is managed by AusAID and it looks for candidates who can develop and draw on enduring regional networks, mutual understanding, and a strong knowledge of the challenges that our region faces and the strategies to address these challenges. After selection, the scholars will participate in a unique Leadership Development Program.

Applicants should have a record of high-level undergraduate or postgraduate academic achievement and advanced English language ability. Applicants must have met the English Language Proficiency requirements set by the University they wish to attend. If the University does not have a specified English Language requirement level OR has a requirement level below the **ALA - Scholarships** standards, the applicant must have any of the following test results of not more than 2 years old:

- an IELTS Academic Test with an overall score of at least 6.5 and no band less than 6.
- a TOEFL paper-based test score of at least 580.
- a TOEFL computer-based test score of at least 237.
- a TOEFL Internet-based test score of at least 92.

Only applicants who have an unconditional offer from an Australian University are eligible to apply. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they meet all the specific entry criteria for the course they wish to join.

Awards are open to all fields of study. However, study program that relate to the priority themes of shared regional interest - international trade, pandemics, security and climate change (including clean energy) are encouraged.

**ALA – Scholarships** applications can be submitted by post, but applicants are strongly encouraged to apply online. Online applications can be submitted at: <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/ala.cfm> and is open from **1 April 2008 until 30 June 2008**. Applications submitted via post by South Asian applicants should reach the following address by **30 June 2008**.

Scholarships Officer  
Australian High Commission  
21 Gregory's Rd, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

All **ALA - Scholarships** enquiries should be forwarded to: [ala@ausaid.gov.au](mailto:ala@ausaid.gov.au).

**Dabur®**  
**Glucose-D**  
NON-STOP ENERGY™

Get 33% Extra on 100 gm,  
a Glass Free with 500 gm and  
10% Extra on 1 kg of Dabur Glucose-D.

**Glucose होइन, Dabur Glucose-D**



# Election elation

From early morning long lines of people streamed towards voting centres all over the country. Some even arrived at 6AM to beat the crowds and the heat.

"There is a lot of enthusiasm for these polls," said polling officer Suresh Ghimire in Lalitpur's Jawalakhel.

More than 17.6 million Nepalis were eligible to vote and the guess is that there was a 70 percent turnout--the highest in any election in Nepal.

Voting was suspended in only ten of the 20,888 polling centres in an election which for the first time was carried out in a mixed system. There was a direct ballot for candidates and a proportional representation ballot for parties.

There were 9,600 candidates vying for 575 seats in the 601-member assembly. Some 234,000 polling staff and 135,000 police were deployed. More than 60,000 election observers, 1,000 of them from abroad, came to inspect polling.

The election probably marks the end of the road for Nepal's monarchy and the final stage of the peace process that has brought the Maoists out of the jungles and into mainstream politics.

The results of the direct elections will be clear in a few days, but the PR ballot will be known only in two weeks.



# Sunshine and high h



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA



EKAL SILWAL





MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

(Clockwise from left)

Local Swoyambhu residents file their votes for the proportional representation and first-past-the-post ballots (pink and blue voting booths respectively).

Seventy eight-year-old Shukal Giri from Biratnagar-5 raises his hand in elation after successfully casting his vote at Janapath Higher Secondary School. He had waited for five hours in line.

Election commissioner Bhoj Raj Pokhrel (left) and UNMIN chief Ian Martin (right) observe voting at Darbar High School, Jamal.

Senior Maoist leader Ram Bahadur Thapa (Badal) votes for the first time in his life in Chitwan.

Mohan Kumar Maharjan stood in line with his voter list number from 5AM at the polling station in Kirtipur to be the first one to vote on election day.

# opes as Nepalis vote



ANUP PRAKASH



SAM KANG LI





SAM KANG LI

# “We are used to the bombs. This is our chance to be heard.”

## Madhesi voters defy threats and prove everyone wrong

BIRGANJ—Voters across the Madhes have sent a strong message to Kathmandu and to Tarai militants by turning out in overwhelming numbers to vote in Thursday's elections.



**TARAI EYE**  
Prashant Jha

They have braved threats of violence and strikes to queue up for hours to cast their ballots. This was the Madhes giving Kathmandu a final opportunity to reform institutions, devolve power, and change its mindset.

The enthusiastic queues in the sweltering heat across the plains were a message to Kathmandu opinion-makers who branded Madhesis as royalists, separatists, Hindu fanatics, or criminals seeking to disrupt the larger peace process.

Madhesis also sent a defiant message to the Goits and Jwalas by defying diktats they have issued from Bihar hotels. The heavy polling in the eastern Tarai

is also a rebuttal to paranoid internationals who kept insisting that elections were impossible due to the 'security situation' in the Tarai.

In Parsa-1 ward 10 booth 'Kha' in Gahwa basti, a mixed crowd of Newars, Pahadi Bahuns, and Madhesis of all castes waited patiently to vote. Asked if they were scared, a local responded: “We are used to the bombs. This is our chance to be heard.”

By 10 in the morning, 900 out of 2,400 registered voters had cast their ballots in the Nursing Campus, with high participation of women. Reports from Rajbiraj, Lahan, Janakpur and Gaur suggested similar turnouts.

As expected, there has been sporadic violence. At press time, NC's Lila Koirala was shot at in Janakpur. Reports of booth capturing, firing and injuries came in from the sensitive constituency of Sarlahi 6. There were police-Maoist clashes in Rautahat-3.

But nothing can alter the fact that Madhesis have shown their faith in the democratic process.

And their participation has awarded legitimacy to an election which many would hope to discredit.

The campaign trail has been as revealing as polling day. Over the past weeks, politics moved out of Kathmandu. And politicians were under pressure from an alert electorate.

In Sunsari's Bokraha village, Sujata Koirala was tense on Sunday. Speaking a mix of Hindi and Nepali, surely kicking herself for not knowing Maithili, Koirala was rushing from one village to another asking for votes. Rubbishing allegations of a deal with Upendra Yadav, she said, “He said he would withdraw if I gave him a karod. But there cannot be a deal with a criminal and terrorist.”

Abusing Yadav was not going to appease angry locals, bitter about how little the Koirala family did for development in its pocket borough. “Look at the roads, look at my torn clothes, look at our houses. And this is the

PM's constituency,” said one.

The Sujata camp struggled to counter the blame. “This is not an election for development. It is to make the law. Didi is a future PM of the country,” said Akmal Hussain, a Koirala supporter and scion of an influential Muslim family.

As the contest got closer, the campaign got more bitter and acrimonious. Middle-aged MJF activists, predominantly Yadav men, aggressively asked journalists why they did not expose Sujata's personal life. “We don't know if she is married or divorced. She is using her Bangladeshi son-in-law to win Muslim votes. And she gets drunk and dances to win votes,” said one.

Politicians struggled and became desperate because they could not, as in the past, easily rely on a few local notables to deliver them chunks of votes. Left politics and ethnic consciousness had complicated things. But the netas resorted to tactics they knew best. “Any candidate who spends less than

10 lakhs in the last week is sure to lose,” a national leader told *Nepali Times* while setting out to distribute cash in districts.

But politics will now return to Kathmandu. And there lie the key challenges: will all parties accept the results? How much of a fuss will the losers rake up before inevitably accepting a compromise and being accommodated? What happens if key Madhesi leaders get defeated? Will the Madhesi politicians once again get sucked into the capital's power politics, allowing a political vacuum to develop in the Tarai? Will everyone get complacent and forget about the armed groups, or use the moment to reach out to militants?

The Madhes will throw up a fragmented result and interpreting ‘the mandate of the people’ will be a difficult task. What is certain however is that Madhesis have defied threats to vote for peace and a system that promises them respect and representation. Kathmandu must now live up to these expectations. ●



For fresh election results, pictures and analysis in the next two weeks go to **Nepali Times** Election eSpecial  
[www.nepalitimes.com](http://www.nepalitimes.com)



# Lazy eye

## Election observation was on the relaxed side in Lalitpur

**SHEERE NG**

As voters patiently waited in line at Jawalakhel polling station, Laxman Singh Khadka, who calls himself the cleaner of Nepal, was speaking animatedly to a small crowd gathered outside the booths.

“Look at these foreign observers,” he said, “what they see is only the surface, they don’t know anything about our country.”

Perhaps some of the foreign observers could be laid open to the charge of being parachutists. There are a few who just arrived on Tuesday and are due to fly out again on Friday morning.

For 2,100 polling stations around the country, there are more than 60,000 observers (of whom nearly 1,000 are foreign), but on election day there were moments when stations in the capital lacked the presence of even one observer.

“Three observers came and left very quickly,” said a polling officer at Kumaripati.

Election observation in Lalitpur did not seem the most coordinated of operations. While the polling stations at Kumaripati, Satdobato and the Ashok Stupa had no observers present when Nepali Times visited, the one at Jawalakhel had seen observers from at least 10 organisations within a span of just three hours, including Jimmy Carter’s entourage.

Two UN observers made a brief appearance at the station at about 7.30 AM to take some pictures and a short interview with polling officers. They declined to make any comments but told us that they were in a hurry to get to other stations.

One observer from the National Election Observation Committee said that she was allowed to choose one polling station to monitor from the three districts assigned to her. The number of stations to visit is up to the discretion of the observer.



**NO COMMENT:** Election observers were ordered not to interact with the press.

While some, mostly international observers, were travelling in cars and jeeps, others had to do the rounds on foot. Rim Prasad Sharma and Kamal Kumar Neupane said they had a lot of stations to visit, and so couldn’t stay for too long at each one.

In most cases, the observers would usually stay for up to half an hour. Some took notes and made video recordings inside the voting stations, whereas others preferred a more circumspect strategy, and peered in from outside.

Although they are not supposed to intervene in the process in any way, some gave this directive some leeway in the interpretation. At Jawalakhel, gentlemanly observers from a local NGO were leading the elderly and women with children to the front of the queue, which caused some confusion among polling officers.

At least in Lalitpur, there seemed to be no major mishaps. When asked how they thought the process was going, all the observers replied “no problems”.

We can’t say there weren’t a few small hitches. At the Jawalakhel polling station, voting started 20 minutes late as officers were still having breakfast at 7AM. In several booths, more than one person was voting at once.

But Nepal is Nepal. This is the first election for nine years. And at least up till presstime on polling day events went much smoother than anticipated. ●

**Wood Craft** Manufacture of Custom Designed Furniture

Kathmandu, Tel: Factory: 4271492  
Office: 5552200, 5554705, 2113264 | Fax: 977-1-5543410 | Mobile: 98510 82732  
Butwal Tel: 071-540253 | Dhangadhi Tel: 091-521576 | Email: kabipdh@mail.com.np

**Dhaba** Restaurant  
Authentic North Indian Food

Thapathali, Kathmandu  
Tel: 4100510  
M. 9841290619

**Notebook Extensa 4620Z**

- Intel Dual Core T2370 (1.73GHz/533 MHz FSB/1MB L2 Cache)
- 14.1" Display
- 1 GB Memory
- 120GB Harddisk
- DVD SuperMulti Drive
- Built in Bluetooth
- Built in Camera
- 5 in one card reader
- Linpus Linux - OS

**Notebook Extensa 4620**

- Intel Core 2 Duo T5450 (1.66GHz/2MB Cache/667 FSB)
- 14.1" Display
- 1GB Memory
- 160GB Harddisk
- DVD SuperMulti Drive
- Built in Bluetooth
- Built in Camera
- 5 in one card reader
- Linpus Linux - OS

**Notebook TravelMate 6292**

- Intel Core 2 Duo T7300 (2GHz/667 FSB/4MB Cache)
- 12.1" WCB Display
- 1GB Memory
- 160GB Harddisk
- DVD SuperMulti Drive
- Bluetooth
- Fingerprint Reader
- Built in Camera
- 5 in one card reader
- Linux

**FREE !! EPSON STYLUS C90 PRINTER**

**EPSON** EXCEED YOUR VISION

Feature:

- Highest Print Resolution-5760dpi
- Highest Print Speed, 25ppm black and 13 ppm color
- Water, Fade and smudge resistant Print
- 4 Separate low cost, Dura Bright ink cartridges

With Extensa 4620z and Extensa 4620

**MERCANTILE OFFICE SYSTEMS**

KATHMANDU: Star Office Automation, Putalisadak, Tel: 4225377, 4266820  
Max International, Computer Bazaar, Putalisadak, Tel: 4415786, 4420679 | Waves Group Trading Pvt. Ltd., Lainchaour (opp. British Embassy), Tel: 4422327, 4421406, 4427264  
Prabidhi International Pvt. Ltd., Kamaladi, Tel: 4428655, 4437195 **BIRATNAGAR:** Birat Infotech, Tel: 21-538729 **BUTWAL:** Computer and Electronics Trade Link, Butwal Tel: 71-542699 **POKHARA:** Himalayan Trading House, Mahendrapool, Tel: 61-521756 **NEPALGUNJ:** Manakamana Hi Tech, Tel: 81-521473

**NOW THE WORLD IS WITHIN YOUR REACH**

With Internet Phone Card it is **Easier** and more **Affordable** to call **Anywhere, Anytime.**

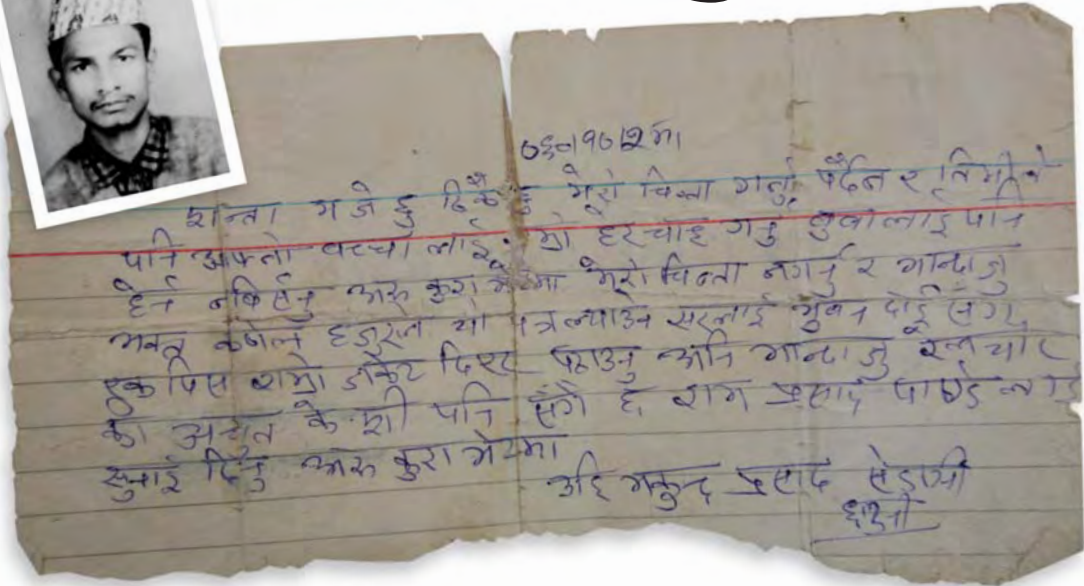
Destination	Rate/min
USA	Rs.4.00
UK	Rs.5.00
Australia	Rs.5.00
India	Rs.8.00
China	Rs.5.00
Malaysia	Rs.5.00
Saudi Arabia	Rs.12.00
Canada	Rs.4.50
Germany	Rs.5.00
Hong Kong	Rs.5.00
Qatar	Rs.20.00
Singapore	Rs.5.00
Thailand	Rs.6.00
Bangladesh	Rs.8.00

and many more...

Service requires Internet connectivity. Customers must purchase Internet Phone Card from WorldLink offices in Kathmandu. Call charges to cell phones in some European countries may be higher. VAT applicable. Other conditions apply.



# Voting for reconciliation



**LAST POST:** The last letter Mukunda Sedhai (*inset*) sent to his wife after he disappeared in 2003.

## The elected constituent assembly will have to tell the victims of war the truth

**MALLIKA ARYAL**

On 19 December 2003, Mukunda Sedhai was on his way home to Dhading from Kathmandu. At 4PM he stopped for a cup of tea at a shop in Tahachal. A group of men arrived and started questioning him. Eyewitnesses say he was taken away on a truck, and never seen since. A month later, Mukunda's wife Shanta received a letter

from him, saying that he had been taken by the army and was at Chhauni barracks. The army refused to allow Shanta to visit him. Fellow-detainees told Shanta he was alive and well until May the following year. Since then, nothing. "Even after all these years, it hurts to not know where he is," says Shanta. She has gone from office to office, filed numerous complaints, met with politicians, and gone on hunger strikes. "Whoever did

this to my family should be punished. For five years I have been waiting, nothing has happened." The war ended two years ago, but because the two players were in government for the past two years they tried their best to brush past atrocities under the carpet. Now, relatives of those who were disappeared, killed or wounded in the war expect justice from the newly-elected constituent assembly. When the constituent

assembly sits, it is mandated to set up a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to, in the interim parliament's words, 'investigate the truth on persons involved in gross violation of human rights and crimes against humanity'. In July 2007, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction made public a draft legislation

to set it up. But human rights activists criticised the bill as being inconsistent with international humanitarian laws ratified by Nepal. It had no provisions for reparations, methods of appointing commissioners, and they were worried there were provisions for amnesty. Although they sent these

# Making every vote count

Vote counting will be prolonged, but this time it will be foolproof



**INSIDE THE BOX:** Election offices collect ballot boxes at the Central Resource Centre in Babar Mahal.

NAYANTARA GURUNG KAKSHAPATI

**PRANAYA SJB RANA**

The campaign fever is over, election day itself was an anti-climax and now begins the long, long wait for the results. In Nepal, voting itself is not the big issue. It is the process of counting that has people glued to their radio sets. In many cases this is where democracy falters.

"If we didn't have the proportional representation system, vote counting would have taken three days maximum," says Baburam Khanal at the Election Commission. Because this is a mixed election, the process of counting can take up to two weeks. The results of direct elections will start being publicised within a day,

especially in the Kathmandu constituencies where there is electronic voting. These results will be broadcast through media and the EC website (<http://www.election.gov.np>). The electronic voting machines have been tried and tested in India and come highly recommended. After polls closed on Thursday evening, the ballot boxes were sealed and taken to counting centres under security.

The ballots for the first-past-the-post and proportional representation systems will be counted simultaneously at each district capital. In remote areas the Home Ministry will use helicopters to deliver ballot boxes. Each ballot paper will be opened, and its vote noted and marked by five people. Any ballot paper that is missing a signature or appears tampered with in any way will be disregarded. In addition to the counters, one helper, a supervisor and a returning election officer will be present. The returning officer will announce the name of the candidate with the most number of votes as elected. For the PR system, the officer will note the number of votes obtained by each party and fill it in a chart. At least one representative of each candidate also has to be present at the counting. "Journalists and election observers will also be accommodated so long as there is space," says Khanal. "But we don't want too many people crowding and distracting the count." "The FPTP counting should

be fairly routine, it is only the PR system that might present problems," says Dinesh Tripathi, an independent poll observer for the Nepal Bar Association. Since the PR system considers the entire country as a single constituency, there might be problems with counting and tallies. Adding such a large number of ballots could present a problem. But Khanal says the system is foolproof. "We have representatives of all the candidates present during counting," he says, "they will balance each other out." Both FPTP and PR results will be announced in each district as soon as they are completed. The PR vote counting charts will then be relayed to the Election Commission where they will be tallied. The period until the final results are announced will no doubt be tense, especially if any district needs a re-poll. But Khanal is confident about the counting process, saying: "So long as the voting goes okay, the counting will be no problem." But be prepared for a long wait. ●



# and justice



KIRAN PANDAY

comments to the Ministry right after the draft bill was published, very little has changed in the bill. "They change a word here, a word there, just to appease us" says Jitendra Bohara of the rights group, Advocacy Forum.

After much lobbying, a clause to hold consultations with the victims was added and two of the five proposed consultations were

held in Palpa and Dhankuta last year.

But the Nepal office of the International Center of Transitional Justice (ICTJ) says poor and illiterate farmers were not included in the consultations, confidentiality and security of the victims were not guaranteed, and the attendance was only via invitation.

A recent study by the ICTJ shows that a majority of victims wanted investigations into human rights abuses and to establish an accurate historical record of the conflict, to ensure that similar events don't occur again.

"If we can start by investigating high-profile cases that would help build confidence and it can be a step towards healing," says advocate Mandira Sharma.

There are preconditions to a truth and reconciliation commission: it can't be rushed, the conflict must be completely over, there must be a strong political commitment to reconciliation and an environment in which victims can testify without fear.

For those who lost relatives during the war, the elections represent a slim hope that this time their voices will be heard. ●

# Post-election integration



DHRUBA SIMKHADA

**Nepali Times:** Will the constituent assembly bring lasting peace?

**Indrajit Rai:** In military terms, the peace process will be fully completed only when the Maoist People's Liberation Army is integrated with the Nepal Army, as was stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

**But is the PLA committed to this?**

Some of them are deeply politically indoctrinated, but they dedicated their lives to bring about change. They deserve honourable integration as they were promised when they laid down their arms. The success of the whole peace process depends on integrating the PLA into the army.

**How will that come about?**

UNMIN has registered 19,602 PLA soldiers who are now living in cantonments. The interim constitution (section 24, clause 144-147) categorically states that the PLA should be

**One of the thorniest issues the elected constituent assembly will have to tackle is the one of integrating the Maoist PLA with the Nepal Army. Military expert Indrajit Rai is also a PR candidate in Maoist list. He spoke to *Nepali Times* this week about the process.**

professionalised, given proper military training, and then be integrated into a reformed Nepal Army. Not all the PLA soldiers have to be integrated, only those who want to and meet the required standards. In the constituent assembly, a special committee will be formed to oversee the integration process. I will put integration models to this committee, but it will probably be a lengthy process.

**But the army says it won't accept "politically active individuals".**

It is not up to the army chiefs to decide whether the PLA should be integrated with the NA or not. It is the job of the technical committee to decide. The army is under the government, and it is their duty to accept government decisions. If top Maoists can now be political leaders, why can't the PLA be in a national army? They are Nepali citizens too and deserve basic rights and respectable livelihoods in Nepal.

# Home away from home

## Expats are as uncertain about the aftermath of elections as Nepalis

**SHEERE NG**

**S**uddenly Nepal's expatriate population has doubled with foreign election observers, journalists and diplomats. And all this is happening in the middle of the tourist season. Hotels are packed, Thamel is crammed.

Many long-term foreign residents of Kathmandu have been part of Nepal's recent history, and have seen it all. They love Nepal, which is why they stuck it out through thick and thin. Living in Nepal they have gotten used to life being more unpredictable than in their own countries. Many have also had the time to form their own views about the complicated world of Nepali politics.

Although they couldn't vote on Thursday like their Nepali neighbours, they are hopeful about the future. "The election is good for democracy but dangerous for peace," says Michael Gallio from Switzerland.

Craig Brown, owner of a software development company, Sustainable Solutions, says the country needs a different kind of revolution. "True greatness comes from having a great heart. Great leaders of the past have understood this, and I hope the Maoists will understand it too," he says.

This week, Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal reiterated his party's

commitment to accept the election result. Japanese author Kiyoko Ogura, who wrote *Kathmandu Spring*, says the leader is likely to keep his promise and is confident that he can rein in his more hot-headed cadres even if the Maoists do badly.

Despite the sporadic violence, most Kathmandu-based expats have no fears for their own safety. "No one ever seems

to target foreigners," says Colin Gibson, a volunteer from Scotland, "they are only concerned with fighting each other."

When asked the inevitable question about who will win, most expats say there is no way to tell. "Even two days before the elections, Nepalis hadn't made up their minds who they would vote for," says Jason Ngan, who runs

the Singma restaurant in Jawalakhel.

Ngan has been a keen observer of politics here, and adds: "The UML and NC didn't live up to their promises, but I think many voters are also afraid of the kind of changes the Maoists might bring if they win."

Foreigners who have spent more time outside the Valley have encountered more sympathy for the Maoists. Another Scottish volunteer who stayed in Rasuwa, Sindhupalchok and Dolakha says she met many Maoist supporters. "These people are desperate to see change in the country," she told *Nepali Times*.

Whoever wins, Ngan says he hopes they will stay in power long enough to implement effective policies. When asked if he worries for the future of his business, he says he worries more about the livelihoods of his employees. "When this place is no longer nice to live in, I can pack my bags and go. But Nepal is their home and they can't leave just like that," he says.

With two uneasy weeks still to go until the final result is announced, many foreigners say there is little anyone, least of all them, can do except hope for the best.

Joakim Enegren from Finland sums it all up: "It's about time. After all the upheavals, Nepal deserves a happy ending." ●



SHEERE NG



## ABOUT TOWN

## EXHIBITIONS

- ❖ **Collection One** paintings by Amir and Anup Chitrakar, until 10 May, at the Saturday Café, Boudha. 9851106626

## EVENTS

- ❖ **Dreams** a film by Akira Kurosawa, presented by Cine-Sankipa, 14 April, 5.30 PM at the Rimal Theatre, Gurukul. 4466956
- ❖ **Weekly human rights** film screenings with *Silent Water* a film by Sabiha Sumar at the Sama Theatre, Gurukul, 5PM on 13 March. 4466956
- ❖ **Tantric Dance of Nepal** presented by Kalamandapa, every Tuesday 7PM at Hotel Vajra and every Saturday 11AM at Patan Museum.
- ❖ **Toastmasters** a communication and leadership program, organised by Kathmandu Toastmasters Club every Wednesday 6PM at Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI) building, Tripureswor. 4288847



## MUSIC

- ❖ **24<sup>th</sup> Yala Maya Classic** with Bijaya Kumar Shrestha and Rabin Lal Shrestha, 14 April, 5PM at Yala Maya Kendra, Patan Dhoka. 5553767
- ❖ **Classical vocal and instrumental concert** presented by SoulMusic Group, 6.30-8.30 PM at Hotel Vajra, Rs 400. 4271545
- ❖ **Rudra night** fusion and classical Nepali music by Shyam Nepali and friends, every Friday, 7PM at Le Meridien, Gokarna. 4451212
- ❖ **Sufi music** by Hemanta Rana, every Friday at 7.30 PM at Dhaba Restaurant and Bar, Thapathali.
- ❖ **Yankey and friends** live acoustic music every Friday at the Bourbon room Restro-bar, Lal Darbar.
- ❖ **Anil Shahi** every Wednesday and Rashmi Singh every Friday, live at the Absolute Bar, Hotel Narayani Complex, 8PM. 5521408

## DINING

- ❖ **New Yea's Eve** with a live performance by Ciney Gurung and a BBQ dinner at the Shambala Garden Café, 7-10PM on 12 April, at Hotel Shangri-La, Rs 999 net. 4412999
- ❖ **The Kaiser Café open now** at the Garden of Dreams, operated by Dwarika's Group of Hotels, open from 9AM-10PM. 4425341
- ❖ **Steak escape** with Kathmandu's premier steaks available for lunch and dinner at the Olive Bar and Bistro, Hotel Radisson. 4411818
- ❖ **Jalan Jalan Restaurant** with a new Italian menu, Kupondole. 5544872
- ❖ **Bourbon Room Restro-bar** now open for lunch and dinner with over a 100 cocktails, Lal Darbar.
- ❖ **Cocktails and grooves** with jazz by Inner Groove at Fusion-the bar at Dwarika's, every Wednesday, at Dwarika's Hotel.
- ❖ **Cocktails, mocktails and liqueurs** at the Asahi Lounge, opening hours 1-10PM, above Himalayan Java, Thamel.
- ❖ **Continental and Chinese** cuisine and complimentary fresh brewed coffee after every meal a Zest Restaurant and Bar, Pulchok.
- ❖ **Illy espresso coffee** at the Galleria cafe, every Friday espresso cocktails.
- ❖ **International buffet** at the Sunrise Café, and Russian specialties at Chimney, Hotel Yak and Yeti. 4248999
- ❖ **Salmon promotion** with salmon delicacies at the Rox Restaurant, Hyatt Regency, from 7PM onwards. 4489361
- ❖ **Jazz in Patan** with coffee, food, drinks and dessert at the New Orleans Cafe, Jawalakhel. 11.30 AM-10PM. 5522708
- ❖ **Saturday special** barbeque, sekuwa, momos, dal-bhat at The Tea House Inn, Windy Hills, Nagarkot every Saturday. 9841250848.
- ❖ **Dice-licious brunch** at Kakori, Soaltee Crowne Plaza, roll the dice to the number of the day and get 50% discount on an individual meal, Saturdays and Sundays, 12.30-3.30 PM. 4273999
- ❖ **Scrumptious wood fired pizzas**, cocktails and specialty coffees at Roadhouse, Bhatbateni 4426587, Pulchok 5521755 and Thamel 4260187.
- ❖ **Starry night barbecue** at Hotel Shangri-la with Live performance by Ciney Gurung, Rs. 666.00 nett. per person, at the Shambala Garden, every Friday 7PM onwards. 4412999
- ❖ **Kebabs and curries** at the Dhaba, Thapathali. 9841290619
- ❖ **Calcutta's rolls, biryani, kebabs** Indian cuisine at Bawarchi, Bluebird Mall Food Court. 9741000735
- ❖ **Lavazza coffee** Italy's favourite coffee at La Dolce Vita, Thamel. 4700612
- ❖ **Little Britain coffee shop** fresh organic coffee, homemade cakes, WiFi internet, open all day, everyday. 4496207
- ❖ **Pizza** from the woodfired oven at Java, Thamel. 4422519

For inclusion in the listing send information to editors(at)nepalitimes.com

## Quest Entertainment



One Two Three is a comedy thriller about three men who share the same name: Laxmi Narayan. Laxmi Narayan One (Tushar Kapoor) is an aspiring contract killer while Two (Suniel Shetty) is an automobile salesman from Mumbai and Three (Paresh Rawal) is a rich lingerie salesman. When the three of them reach Pondy together, confusion ensues. They end up mixing up their locations and people they're supposed to meet.

Call 4442220 for show timings at Jai Nepal  
www.jainepal.com

सहभागितामूलक संविधान निर्माणका लागि संविधानसभाको  
निर्वाचनमा सहभागी भई आफैले छानेका प्रतिनिधि मार्फत  
नयाँ संविधान निर्माण गरौं ।

नेपाल सरकार  
सूचना तथा सञ्चार मन्त्रालय  
सूचना विभाग

**KARUNA**  
**INTERIOR**  
**(P) LTD.**

Factory:  
Gairhidhara  
Tel: 4434581  
M: 9851022732  
Email:  
factory@karunafurniture.com.np

**GOOD PRICE**

**BETTER SERVICE**

Showroom:  
Dillibazar  
Tel: 4434181  
M: 9851061473  
Email:  
info@karunafurniture.com.np

**BEST QUALITY**

**WIDE RANGE**

Original branded sun glasses  
hemp, linen, cotton, natural  
fabric clothes & silver accessories

**KARUNA**  
clothes and accessories  
Durbar Marg, Kathmandu | Tel: 016913975

**INSEARCH** UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY  
CROSS 000800

**SUPERB LOCATION**  
INSEARCH is located on the UTS city campus  
in the heart of Cosmopolitan Sydney

**PROVEN SUCCESS AT UNIVERSITY**  
Since our courses are designed and taught  
in conjunction with staff from UTS they  
provide you with a platform for success at  
University.

Admissions are now open for "July 2008"

**PACASIA**  
STUDY ABROAD  
www.pacasia.org

For details:  
Kamaladi Ganesthan  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel.: 4222844/ 4251404

## WEEKEND WEATHER

by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

Last week saw several sudden fluctuations in the weather, showing that spring is in full swing. Kathmandu has already received almost half its monthly rainfall quota. A strong westerly wind is likely to begin by the weekend. The satellite picture from Wednesday evening shows a new westerly front approaching the western Himalayas. There is currently a low pressure system over Tibet, but South Asia is starting to warm up. The Bay of Bengal is still calm. Temperatures will not rise much in Kathmandu for now, as the westerly front is preventing the hot southern winds from coming in. Expect light rain and sunny intervals during the weekend.



**NOW OPEN IN PULCHOWK**  
Hariharbhawan - across the U.N Complex

**B**  
the Bakery  
Cafe

Special lunch buffets. Quiet weekend dinners. New gallery walls. And a brand new garden. Open everyday 11:30 am-9:30 pm

☎ 5010110

**Khao Shong**  
The Essence of Thai Coffee

असलीको स्वाद लाजवाफ

असलीको स्वाद लाजवाफ

100% COFFEE

अखिल टेडिङ्ग कम्पनि (प्रा.) लि.  
पुलचोक, काठमाडौं, नेपाल, फोन: ४२२४८२, ४२५०२१, ४२५०२२, ४२५०२३

**रेडियो सगरमाथा**  
एफएम १०२ थोप्लो ४ मेगाहर्ज

**नेपाली रेडियो**  
**नेपाली आवाज**

**हालवाल**  
ताजा खबर थाहा पाउन  
हालवाल  
विहान: ८.४५-११.४५  
अपराह्न: २.४५-४.४५  
राति: ६.४५ र राती: ८.४५

अंग्रेजी सिक्न सघाउने कार्यक्रम  
Tuning In To Language and Culture  
प्रसार हुने समय : हरेक शुक्रवार बेलुका (५:१५-६:३५)  
हरेक आइतबार दिउँसो (१:४०-२:००)  
"रेडियो सगरमाथामा नियमित सुनी, अंग्रेजी सुधारी"  
(रेडियो सगरमाथा र अमेरिकी राजदुतावास, अमेरिकी केन्द्रको सहकार्य)

सम्पर्क: ५५२००१, ५५४२२४५ मोस्ट बक्स: १०२८, ईमेल: info@radiosagarmatha.org

हरेक विहान ५:०० देखि राती ११:०० बजे सम्म सूचना शिक्षा र स्वस्थ मनोरञ्जनका लागि भरपर्दो साथी रेडियो सगरमाथा १०२ थोप्लो ४ मेगाहर्ज

**New Year 2065**  
**Grand Sale**  
upto  
**50%** On Limited Stock Only

Also available: Handbags, Wallets, Cell Cover, Shoes.

**Bajra & B Lay Int'l Pvt. Ltd.**  
UWTC, Ground Floor | Shop No. 94 & 95 | Tripureswor  
Tel: 4017@www.blav.bajragroup.com



# What the world is saying

**In Nepal, long-lived monarchy fades from view**  
*The New York Times*, 3 April

*The New York Times*

**W**hether Nepal will keep some sort of monarchy or scrap it altogether will be formally decided when the country votes next Thursday for a special assembly to rewrite the Constitution. But as far as the monarchy is concerned, the vote seems largely a formality. It is already being rubbed out of daily life.

A new national anthem makes no reference of allegiance to the king. He no longer heads the army. Pictures of Gyanendra, which once hung in every government office, now gather cobwebs in dank warehouses. The word "Royal" has been dropped from the name of the national airline. Several palaces have been taken over by the government.

A public opinion poll conducted three months ago by a private firm called Interdisciplinary Analysts found Gyanendra's personal ratings to be lower than those of the country's main political leaders: 2, on a 1-to-10 scale.

Even so, 49 percent of Nepalese said they favoured retaining the institution of the monarchy, according to the same poll, which surveyed some 3,000 Nepalese. Critics questioned the poll results, describing the polling firm as pro-palace.

A glimpse into the king's own wishes came from Tika Dhamala, a retired army general and the king's former aide-de-camp. Politicians had misunderstood and maligned the king, he said. Nepalese, whom he called "innocent" and wedded to tradition, were not prepared for the instability of a Nepal without a king. "I'm feeling very uneasy," he said. "Our society is not in a position to accept a complete type of republic."

The wild card is the extent to which the king has loyalists in the Nepalese Army, and if they will act to save the monarchy.

**Nepal's divisive king faces the boot**  
*Kathmandu AFP*, 7 April



**K**ing Gyanendra of Nepal will be the last ruler from his centuries-old dynasty if the Himalayan nation—as expected—abolishes the world's only Hindu monarchy after landmark elections this week.

Maoist leader Prachanda said at the weekend that Gyanendra, 61, can remain in the country as an "ordinary citizen" if he wishes. But while it seems the king has all but already been booted out, staunch royalists have warned of a violent backlash.

"If the Maoists can take up arms and come to power, Hindus will also take up arms. It will be worse than the Maoists' war and many people will be killed," royal aide Major General Bharat Keshar Simha said in a recent interview.

The move to turn Nepal into a republic would be the final humiliation for Gyanendra, already stripped of his political powers and job as head of the army. The government has passed legislation turning Nepal into a secular state, while the new national anthem contains no mention of the king and many of his properties have been seized by the state.

"It's Gyanendra who people have a problem with, not the concept of monarchy," said Kapil Shrestha, a political science professor at Tribhuvan University. "People have a hatred for the king... but they're not totally against the monarchy."

**Rebirth of Nepal**  
*The Times of India*, 10 April

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

**I**ndians must be ready to welcome a new secular republic in her neighbourhood this month. Nepal, India's best friend and so far her closest civilisational ally, is set to be reborn as a different nation.

The writing on the wall was clear—an uncomfortable nation was yearning for a change which would see a new regime of rulers through a different mode.

Though abolition of monarchy is almost a foregone conclusion after the elections, the main question being asked is whether the Maoists, who have tasted power after a bloody 12-year militancy, will accept the verdict of people?

The verdict of the people of Nepal should be supreme and needs to be supported.

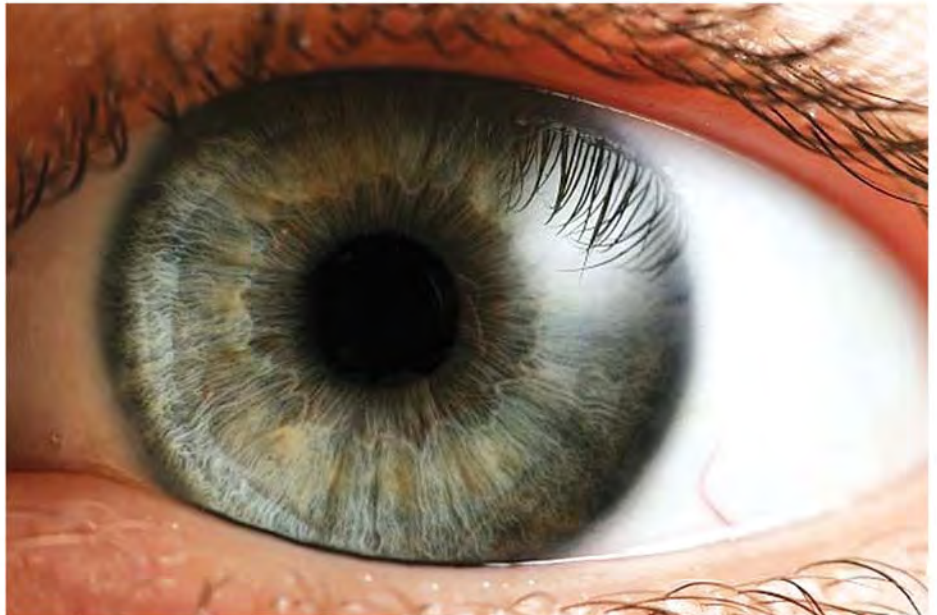
India's interests lie in ensuring that Nepal remains in the hands of Nepalese patriotic people and doesn't fall prey to the western powers or the Chinese influences that would de-Nepalise the Himalayan nation to serve their strategic goals.

## LOADSHEDDING?

There's always **LIGHT**  
and lots of food

at  
**WELCOME FOOD PLAZA**

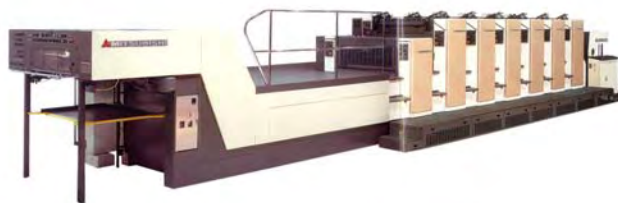
Durbar Marg  
(above Kasthamandap Bazaar)  
Tel: 2337201



## An eye for detail

**FREE**  
 2065 Calendar  
 on pdf  
[www.jagadambapr.com](http://www.jagadambapr.com)

Nepal's most modern printing facility, Jagadamba Press, is known for its state-of-the-art equipment. But we also have an eye for detail.



(01) 5250017-19 | fax: (01) 5251013 | japray@mos.com.np | [www.jagadambapr.com](http://www.jagadambapr.com)

## The Ultimate Home

BUSINESS ADVANTAGE 46-7705-08

Furnish your home the Ultimate way. Our showroom at Swayambhu is the largest in Nepal and contains a great number of options for any room or any taste. Whether its beds, cupboards, dining tables, chairs or sofas, be assured you'll find exactly what you're looking for all under one roof.

After successful operations in Kumaripati and Pokhara, Ultimate Décor's third showroom at Swayambhu also has a wide range of Office furnishing options.

**SWAYAMBHU 4672997 KUMARIPATI 5548232 POKHARA 061-523948**

SASASTRA PRAHARI  
RING ROAD  
ULTIMATE DECOR SHOWROOM  
SWAYAMBHU STUPA  
BUDDHA STATUE  
NORTH

### Ultimate Décor

fine furniture



# Breaking News: Donkey voted for Duck

Good thing E-Day has come and gone. With the broken limbs, fractured skulls, perforated abdomen and dislocated hips this campaign inflicted on party faithful across the political spectrum, it has been a hospital bhara karyakram. Nursing homes throughout the land have no room for normal patients.

Strange, because Nepal has also got the highest per capita number of elections observers observing our elections. Besides the farangs we also have our national ones with rhyming acronyms like GEOC and NEOC. Then there is DEAN and NEMA, which are fairly wholesome acronyms compared with the ngos we already have: INSECT, HERPES and FUCKOFEN. But, as is customary in Nepal, the election monitoring groups have already bifurcated, and one hears there are now NEOC (Krantikari) and NEOC (Prajatatrik).

ॐ

We had indelible ink donated by the Koreans, the ballot boxes from Japan, and the **Tiang Xian** multifunction pad from the People's Republic of China (email: shuli58@163.com).

One suggestion to the EC for the next time round, please also spell out the names of the parties besides their symbols. Not everyone in Nepal is illiterate, you know. It wasn't just the Ass who was flummoxed by the pink and blue ballot papers on Thursday. It was a toss-up between **Duck** and **Pigeon**, but now it can be told that the donkey voted for Duck.

And in samanupatik, the Ass's **swastika** went to **Radio** of Takashi Miyahara because under him one can be sure that Nepal will have a **shinkansen** between Kathmandu and Pokhara, whereas the Fearsome One just wants a chhoti line to Lumbini.

ॐ

It's not just the Indians who command our destiny. The royal palace has been known in the past to slip in a few karods here and there to like-minded Indian politicos at their election time. Now it looks like the Indians are returning the favour. **Laloo Prasad** has helped out a fellow Yadav in our own tarai, and **Bijay the Defector** apparently crossed over recently to collect his own five million smackeros.

The way things are going in the tarai, it looks like **Amresh Bhai** is doing so unexpectedly well that it surprised even his mentors who have now called him off to allow the real favourite, **Mahanta Thakur**, to win. And in return Girjau has assured our man a seat in

his nomination quota.

ॐ

Even if the Maoist-UML **talmel** fell through at least the kangresis and madhesis are scratching each other's backsides. The reason the UML-Maoist candidate exchange fell through, it seems, had nothing to do with lack of interest. It was because Comrade Awesome forgot his mobile at home that day and Comrade Makunay was trying to call him over and over again from Rautahat to agree on a mutual candidate list. MKN thought PKD was snubbing him and wasn't interested in the give-and-take. When they did talk to each other, it was too late. By that time, Awesome was so impressed with the crowds cheering him on in his **ahm sabhas** that he felt he

didn't need to be allowed to win after all.

Meanwhile down in Chitwan, **Comrade Cloud's** main enemy doesn't seem to be the UML or the NC but fellow baddies who want to stab him in the back.

Given the epidemic of rajabaddies defecting to the maobaddies just proves what even this Ass suspected: that they were in bed together all along. Like rats jumping off a sinking ship, monarchists are now badmouthing **Lord Vishnu**. Even the vice-chairman was letting off steam the other day complaining that there would still be a monarchy only if kingji had listened to him and not stepped down on 24 April, 2006.

Makes you think: with enemies like that who needs friends?

ॐ

You know the Tibetans protesting in Kathmandu have been overstaying in Nepal when their slogan at Gairidhara outside the Chinese embassy last week was: "China Chor Desh Chhod."

ass(at)nepalitimes.com



## Lake View Resort Stay by the lake



"Pokhara is all about the mountains and the Phewa Lake. We understand that when you are in this town, you wish the mountains and the lake visible at all time. It is simply absurd that you need to dress up, walk out of the hotel and walk a distance just to take a glance of the mountains or the lake. At lake view resort, you can enjoy the splendor and serenity that Pokhara offers each minute of your stay. Feed your senses and refresh your soul before getting back to your desk. We know you desire and deserve this."

We have spacious bedrooms with private balconies for your comfort, extra large garden and lawn for your leisure, and Nepalese cultural dance show (every evening) for your entertainment. In your next visit, stay with us and enjoy Pokhara to its fullest.  
Lakeside, Pokhara | Ph : 061 521477, 523254 | Fax : 061 523254 Email: ruggedtrails@wlink.com.np | Website : www.pokharahotels.com

Chaudhary's

मेरो वाइ वाइ किड्स

सधैं फिट

मलाई वाइ वाइमा पूरा विश्वास छ किनकि वाइ वाइ अब छ अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय ल्याबबाट प्रमाणित ।

वाइ वाइमा रहेको भिटामिन र मिनरल्सले राख्छ मेरो वाइ वाइ किड्सको ब्रेन, बडी, बोन्स सधैं फिट ।

अब No शर्का !

वाइ वाइ

जति Tasty तति नै Healthy

Added Vitamins & Minerals

Brain Body Bones

अब प्रमाणित

Brain

आइरनले मस्तिष्कको विकासमा सहयोग गर्दछ । मस्तिष्कमा अक्सिजन पुग्नुको लागि आवश्यक पर्दछ । यसले रगतको कमी हुन पनि दिँदैन ।

Body

भिटामिन 'ए' ले बच्चाको रोग प्रतिरोध क्षमता बढाउँदछ र अर्का तैजिलो बनाउँदछ । भिटामिन B1 र B2 ले शरीरको विकासमा मद्दत गर्नुका साथै मुटु र माशपेशीलाई सुदृढ बनाउँदछ ।

Bones

क्याल्सियमले मुटुको घड्कन सामान्य बनाइ राख्छ, स्नायु प्रणालीलाई दृढ बनाइ राख्छ तथा हाडहरूलाई स्वस्थ र बलियो बनाइ राख्न मद्दत गर्दछ । फसफोरसले हाड र दाँत तथा कोष्पिकाहरूको विकासमा मद्दत गर्दछ । मिर्गौला सुचारु रूपले काम गर्न फसफोरसको आवश्यकता पर्दछ ।

बालबालिकाको शारीरिक बृद्धि तथा विकासको लागि आवश्यक पर्ने विभिन्न भिटामिन तथा खनिज तत्वहरूले वाइ वाइ भरिपूर्ण छ ।