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BIKRAM RAI

Work in progress

Two weeks into the extended CA, the four main parties are back to mud-slinging and procrastination. Even the UML faction and the NC that were baying for the prime minister to resign have suddenly fallen silent, only the UDMF continues to press for resignation. The NC says it has no problems with a Maoist-led government, but wants the decommissioning of the camps first. The Maoists made a big show of the end of dual security, but only 15 out of the 120 weapons and a handful of their body guards have found their way to Shaktikhor.

After three years of fierce debate, the demobilisation of the Maoist army suddenly looks like it is the least of the problems. Mutual suspicion about post-integration uncertainty appears to be holding up a political consensus. The NC is worried that even if Maoist fighters are demobilised, they will not abandon their militant mindset. The Maoist leaders know they have to dismantle the camps if they are going to lead the next government but they have met with stiff opposition from their commanders. The Madhesis are also worried about maintaining their political clout after finding their kingmaker role.

The present situation is the result of a hurried un-negotiated extension on 28 May. The leaders defused a constitution crisis with a "gentleman's agreement", but now that they have to decide on concrete steps, or they are stuck again. 

Anurag Acharya

A carpet factory in Jawalakhel reflects the state of the country with a half-finished rug, and the weaver taking a break. Half-a-century after Tibetan refugees started weaving carpets, what was once Nepal's main export item is feeling the effect of prolonged government neglect.

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p4-5

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DEMOCRACY NON-NEGOTIABLE

If the first week of the extended CA is anything to go by, the prospects don't look promising in building a consensus ahead of the 31 August.

The Special Committee looking at the decommissioning of Maoist camps has made progress, but there are still issues of fighter numbers, rehabilitation package etc to be worked out. Already, we are a week behind schedule on an agreement on consolidating the fighters in main camps for individual classification. As with the deadlock in power-sharing, the problem is not so much between the NC and the Maoists, but how much the Maoist leadership can push the envelope on integration without a backlash from hardliners who equate demobilisation with surrender. To be sure, the NC is also wracked by deep idealistic divide between conservatives and liberals.

In limbo is the deal on the prime minister stepping down. Jhal NathKhanal is resigned to not resigning. This is a perfect replay of last summer when Madhav Nepal remained caretaker for seven months after agreeing to step down. It has now become a chicken-or-egg: decommissioning before resignation, or the other way around.

Boiled down to its essence, what we have here is an epic battle of ideas between whether Nepal should follow universally-recognised values of freedom and democracy, or be guided by a totalitarian mindset. There are sub-plots within this struggle that are making things complicated, which include the ambition and greed that feed the rivalries within all four main parties that hinder a power-sharing deal.



Still, we shouldn't take our gaze away from the goal: the transformation of the Maoist party into one that does not rely on violence to do politics, and joins mainstream competitive politics. The actions of the Maoist party in power and in opposition since 2008 prove that it wants to have it both ways.

In the coming days, agreements on power-sharing and disarming the Maoists would help, but the draft constitution can't wait and work on it should run in parallel. There are certain non-negotiables: we don't just want a new constitution, we want one that is more democratic and an improvement on the 1990 one. Otherwise what

was the point, right? Just look at the provisions of the new state structure that the Maoists want in the draft constitution: a powerful executive president, a legislature with a toothless opposition that the judiciary will be beholden to. Their regressive model seems to be the North Korean definition of 'people's democracy'. Which is why the reluctance of our foreign friends to back a "democratic" constitution is so surprising, they still haven't seen through the Maoist euphemism of an "inclusive" constitution.

The NC's ten conditions for the extension of the CA shows us the way out. They summarise the essential points of a truly democratic constitution. The only trouble is that the ten commandments come from a political party that has little moral authority left to be setting conditions because of its past governance failures and lack of accountability.

For their part, the Maoists in the past three years have mislead, lied and broken promises on demobilisation. The conclusion is that Pushpa Kamal Dahal is either incapable or unwilling to dismantle his fighting force. It is time to call his bluff. Let's not waste time haggling over the composition of the next government, but delink day-to-day governance and development from the broader negotiations over peace and the constitution.

In the 11 weeks ahead, the priority must be to dismantle the camps, forge a government of national unity and work on the sticking points in the constitution without compromising on basic democratic norms.

KD

ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

CONSTITUTION

Thank you for a wonderfully written, honest editorial about state of Nepali politics ('What are we waiting for', Editorial, #556). We had drafted a balanced democratic constitution in 1990 through a committee of experts. But the political parties ignored the rule of law and undermined democracy. The Maoist simply took advantage of the failure of governance after 1990.They blamed the constitution for everything that went wrong, but it was the political actors who failed the nation. The NC and UML have no moral authority to approve the Maoist agenda. They never took any responsibility and never reformed. We have spent billions in drafting a new constitution, diverting money from urgent development work. But who will guarantee that the new constitution will be more democratic and sustainable than the 1990 one?

Laxman Karki

- Who cares about the constitution when people are hungry, poor and unemployed? When they can't get an education, health care. The media focuses on politicians infighting, and ignores the real story. Let them fight in their own free time, and if they want to kill one another, that is also okay with Nepalis. But make these leaders accountable and make them pay for their mistakes.

Jitendra Basnet

- This editorial has a flawed argument. The constitution is utterly important to give everyone a new direction and a sense of institutional stability. Everyone should

focus on the constitution writing and get something out in three months. If you are arguing for the revival of the 1990 Constitution, then go ahead and say so. Don't mince your words.

Sameer

- Your editorial says: 'But the war was fought for a new constitution, and without it those who waged it will feel their sacrifice was in vain.' No, it wasn't. It was fought to establish a communist dictatorship led by the Maoists, similar to North Korea or Pol Pot. So what if they feel that their sacrifice was in vain? Are you expecting Nepalis to feel sorry that murderers, looters and extortionists might feel that their sacrifice was in vain? You further say: 'For most other Nepalis a piece of paper was never the priority, they just wanted a government that worked.' So, why then did the Nepali Times push for a new constitution?

Jange

- A very well written editorial. Could this be translated into Nepali and put on some vernacular newspapers? That said the exclusion of marginalized groups has got worse. I am afraid even the new constitution is not going to bring the changes needed to make Nepal more inclusive. I fully agree with you: 'Not equalising opportunity will be a perpetual cause of social unrest.'

D B Tamang

- Too many people are pinning their hopes on the constitution to solve all of Nepal's problems. No constitution in the world can do that. What use are laws if they are not implemented?

Just look at the example of women's property rights or citizenship based on maternal lineage. People have had to go to the courts to get this law implemented although this provision is already stated in the law of the land. Constitution is just a smoke screen for different political parties to get to power The only reason the public wants a constitution is so we can get this political drama over and done with.

Raghu

DARCHULA

This story (' Remote control for prosperity' Rubeena Mahato, # 556) should be read by as many people as possible. I was moved by the reading about the commitment of people like Bista, Joshi and Mal. Basic infrastructures like roads, education and stability can yield huge dividends, and we are not even asking for fast-track highways (though that certainly makes sense) most people are only looking for seasonal dirt-roads to start with. Everything else follows. Thanks to Rubeena Mahato and Nepali Times for bringing such heart-warming stories to us.

Beeb

VALUABLE WASTE

Paavan Mathema's reasoning ('Ecology is economics', paavan Mathema, # 556) is exactly why we established Nepal Solar Energy Company (www.nepalsolarenergy.webs.com) and grow organic Nepali coffee of the highest quality near Pokhara in super fair trade (www.himalcoffee.webs.com), not to forget the three million new trees goal for Nepal for 2068. We also have a sustainable solution for garbage of waste to fuel in the heart of Kathmandu.

Rolf Schmelzer

DAL BHAT

In January I spent 19 days with the Thapa family in New Baneswor. I had dal bhat most days with vegetables ('Dal bhat', Dhanvantari, # 556). I lost two kg during our visit. Yes, keep the quantity of rice down and you are on a winner with dal bhat.

Amanda Mclean

- 'Thankfully, Nepal does not have obese people', really? What a joke. My wife and I are currently hosting a relative from Kathmandu here in the US while she loses weight. Her starting BMI was 60, she is now on a diet of moderate carb intake, moderate low fat protein intake and plentiful fresh fruits and vegetables, and she works out daily. We call her regimen our "Nepal's Biggest Loser" program, and so far she has lost almost 30kg (another 80kg still to go). Hopefully articles like Buddha Basnyat's, particularly in the vernacular press, can start to raise awareness of this troubling trend and point toward solutions.

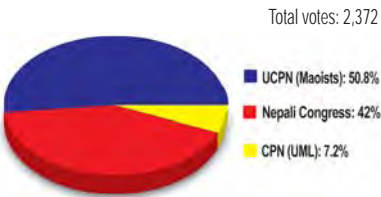
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Weekly Internet Poll # 557

Q. Who should lead the new consensus government ?



Weekly Internet Poll # 558. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. How will you rate the first two weeks of the extended peace process?

Ungentle with refugees

Nepal's treatment of Tibetans violates not just international covenants, but also our own constitution



BY THE WAY

Anurag Acharya

Tibetans have been living as refugees in Nepal for half a century following the Lhasa uprising of 1959-60. At least 20,000 Tibetans were officially registered until 1989, when the government stopped registering them after adopting the “one China policy”. However, Nepal entered into a “gentleman’s agreement” with the UNHCR and promised to provide safe passage to Tibetans who cross the Himalayan passes to its territory en route to India and beyond.

Two decades since, Nepal has neither been gentle on Tibetans living in Nepal, nor kept its word on safe passage. Instead, unknown numbers of Tibetans, possibly in their thousands have been barred from crossing over or forcibly deported back to China. In May 2003, 18 Tibetans who had crossed over to Nepal were forcibly sent back, leading to a national and international condemnation. Nepal has been criticised by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Commission of Jurists, for its poor human rights record not just towards its own citizens but also for the way we have treated Tibetans over the years. This week’s visit by US Deputy Under-Secretary Kelly Clements was the latest expression of international concern.

But there is hypocrisy in some of the European and American outrage over Nepal’s policy on Tibetans. One hasn’t seen the same degree of outrage about refugees from Bhutan in Nepal, nor has there been pressure on Thimphu to take the 100,000 refugees back. And since many of those OECD countries themselves have been known to buckle under Chinese trade or diplomatic pressure from time to time, how do they expect the weak and fractious governments of tiny Nepal to stand up to the fire-breathing dragon next door? Nepal has tried to balance its geopolitical need to keep Beijing happy with its international human



SAM KANG LI

rights obligations towards refugees. The zeal with which successive governments have deported fleeing Tibetans goes to show that there is an undeclared unanimity on the issue, across the political spectrum in Nepal. The political elites of this country must take note that our geo-strategic interests cannot over rule fundamentals of universal humanitarian values.

The violent crackdown on monks holding peaceful protests in 2008 were beamed around the world, tarnishing this country’s image. Every Lhosar or Dalai Lama birthday police makes pre-emptive arrests and suppresses celebration. Last July three Tibetans were deported back to China, and in March police prevented Tibetans from holding an election to choose their leader in exile. Even the monks travelling to Namobaudha were detained by the police.

For its unjustified restriction on Tibetans, Nepal stands in violation of Article 18 (1) and 19 (2) of International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which mandates that the states respect rights of an individual or a community within its territory to exercise freedom of opinion and expression in any medium and form within the law of the land. Nepal has also violated “principle of non-refoulement” inscribed in Article 33 of 1951

Refugee Convention which states: ‘No Contracting State shall expel or return (“refouler”) a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom

would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.’ Even as a non-party to the convention, Nepal has an obligation to

respect principle of “non-refoulement” as a part of customary international law.

Not only has the government shown a complete disregard towards its international obligations, it has also violated Article 33(c) and 34 (2) of the Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007, which mandates adopting a political system that fully abides by, protects and promotes universally accepted norms of human rights.

Nepal must now clearly demonstrate that its domestic and foreign policy is in consonance with international commitments, and get the message across to Beijing that while it is committed to the “one China policy” and gives importance to its bilateral relationship, we cannot allow the basic values on which this country has been founded to be undermined. ■



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The rise and fall of the

What started as a handicraft project for Tibetan refugees and grew into the mainstay of Nepal's economy is now on the verge of collapse

TSERING DOLKER GURUNG

Once the pioneer of Nepal's Tibetan carpet industry, the Jawalakhel Handicraft Centre (JHC) is today eerily quiet. There are few customers and the workers, some of whom have been with the company for decades, fear for their jobs.



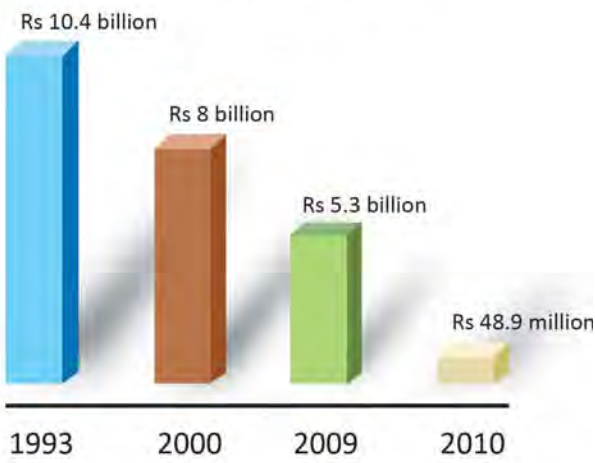
It is the same story at carpet centres across the Valley. An industry that during the 1980s brought in one-third of Nepal's foreign currency earnings is nearly finished. At its peak, there were 3,000 carpet weaving

centres employing 1.2 million people. Only 600 firms remain, providing jobs to less than 100,000 people. "It has been a story of decline and decay," says despondent general manager of the JHC, Chime Dorjee, "export orders have dropped and we depend only on meagre retail sales." The rise and fall of Nepal's carpet industry is the same old story of everyone getting into the act, the production glut leading to lowered prices just as Chinese carpets became cheaper. There were other problems: the child labour and environmental controversies, government indifference and interference, inflation and



PICS: BIKRAM RAI

EXPORT EARNINGS FROM CARPETS



labour issues. "It has got so bad that unless the government acts in regulating the industry, we soon won't have any carpets to export," laments Tenzin Choegyal, chairman of Nepal Carpet Enterprise. The industry is exactly 50 years old, and has its roots in the weaving skills brought to Nepal by Tibetan refugees fleeing the

Chinese takeover of Tibet in 1959. The Swiss Red Cross along with Swiss Agency for Technical Assistance set up the Jawalakhel Handicraft Centre in 1960 so the refugees would have jobs. Carpet centres were also set up in Pokhara, Dhorpatan and Solu Khumbu. Encouraged by sales, the Swiss helped in marketing

carpets in Switzerland and Tibetan carpets from Nepal became the rage in the rest of Europe and America. With the upheavals in Iran and Afghanistan, European importers turned in the late 1970s to carpets from Nepal. Tibetans working for the JHC weaved at home during their free hours, and they slowly started training local Nepali helpers spreading the technique to Nepalis. At its peak in 1993 the carpet industry brought in more than Rs 10.4 billion, but by 2009 it had shrunk by half. Choegyal, who has been in the business for 30 years, says the biggest problem now are politicised unions. "Labour is our major concern now," he



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Tibetan carpet industry



Left alone

Karma Choenzom, 64 lives in the Tibetan refugee centre at Ekantakuna and fondly remembers the times when things were a lot better. "We used to get lots of export orders and worked overtime, but that is all gone, and the tourists don't come anymore," she says. Born in the Kyirong region of Tibet, Choenzom came to Nepal 25 years ago. Since then she has been working for the centre, first as a carpet weaver and now a wool spinner. The stagnation in the carpet industry worries her. "My future is uncertain," she says with a distant look. Her three daughters have all moved out, and she lives alone in her one room quarter provided by the centre. During the heydays of the carpet industry in the 1990s she earned Rs 4,000 a month, today she barely makes half that.

says, "every now and then labour unions backed by political parties come up with unreasonable demands that we cannot fulfil and this hinders production." The best weavers have moved to the Gulf and there is a shortage of skilled workers.

The fierce competition from Indian and Chinese rugs isn't making it easier. "Although, we cannot compete with India and China in terms of price, we are unbeatable in terms of quality especially in America," explains Cheogyal.

If the government stepped in to save the carpet industry, it still has a great potential for growth.

The Made in Nepal brand is strong and the added "Tibetan" label gives Nepali rugs an edge that could translate into premium prices.

But carpet traders say the lack of incentives for an industry that has the potential to create tens of thousands of jobs is keeping it hamstrung. Successive governments since the mid-1990s have been interested only in extracting either taxes or bribes from the industry. The government also has an important role in depoliticising union activity, and the competition between politically-affiliated unions that have wrecked the industry, they add.

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SUNIR PANDEY in LAMJUNG

Rural Nepal has been bearing the brunt of out-migration for centuries. But now the tide is turning as tourism lures young people back with the promise of new jobs. Ghale Gaun in Lamjung has sent its young men to join the British and Indian armies for more than a century, and most other twenty-somethings today head out for Qatar or Malaysia for jobs. However, the ageing Gurung families of Ghale Gaun are turning to hospitality to make a living. Together with eight other VDCs in Lamjung, Ghale Gaun has become a model for a new initiative of the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) in the past decade to plough tourism earnings more directly into the village economy to alleviate poverty. Trekking and home-stay tourism has proved to be mutually beneficial for both residents as well as visitors. Kripa Ghale, 20, lives with her married sister in

their father's house. Kripa's brother-in-law works in the Gulf and her two younger brothers are in school. She says: "I would would probably also have headed down to the city or abroad had trekking not picked up after the war ended." Tourism has brought jobs and income. But there is also less and less reason to migrate permanently to the filthy and crowded cities. Ghale



A whiff of

Locals move out for jobs, tourists move in for a new model of trekking

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Old Nepal



Gaun now has electricity, tv beaming Hindi soaps, internet, clean water supply, mobile phones, there is even a helipad and a museum of Gurung culture. The cobblestone streets are clean, life is not stressful and then there is the stupendous scenery.

An organic tea farm located at 2,000 m has expanded three fold in area in the last ten years, also creating employment. The heavy rainfall of the region means there is plenty of water for rice, maize, mustard, millet and potatoes and every household has a herd of buffalos— there is always plenty of things for Ghale Gaun residents when they come home.

The village has done its best considering the circumstances, but out-migration to the Gulf has highlighted another gulf : between the young and the old. At age 84, a grandmother sweeps the street outside her home, farms and cooks for the family. Her son studies in Besisahar, her daughter is married in Chitwan. Even at her age, she travels to Besisahar once a month to receive her husband's military pension. Other elderly women weave traditional rugs, and it is obvious this is the last

generation that will be making rugs in Ghale Gaun.

The road has also arrived now to Ghale Gaun, but the best way to get to this quaint window on the old Nepal is to trek six hours straight up the mountain from the road at Khudi. And you marvel that the irony that the mountains

that have kept Ghale Gaun under-developed for so long have also kept this town in splendid isolation and given it its breath-taking scenery. 🇳🇵

nepalitimes.com

More than mountains, #478



Model youngster

Kripa Ghale has just given the SLC, but unlike many in Lamjung has no intention of leaving her home village to be a maid in Hong Kong. She says, "I want to do my plus-two soon. I've always wanted to study since young, and then I'll come back to Ghale Gaun."

There is only one primary school in the village which means Kripa had to descend to Besisahar from her hilltop village to complete her schooling. She has been using her spare time after her exams to help her father and sister in their homestay tourism business. When the local club organises culture shows for tourists, Kripa finishes work at home, goes to the village hall and dances to the soulful songs of her Gurung forebears.

Says Kripa: "I have the best of both worlds here, why would I leave?"

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काम सानो ठुलो भन्ने हुँदैन । पसिनाको कुनै
रङ र जात पनि हुँदैन । काम गरेर खान
लजाउनु पनि हुँदैन । चोरेर, ढाँटेर, छलेर, लुटेर
खान पो लजाउनुपर्छ । जो जहाँ रहेर जुन काम गर्छ
ऊ त्यसैमा रमाउनुपर्छ गौरव गर्नुपर्छ र समर्पित भएर
गर्नुपर्छ । काम नै शक्ति हो, भक्ति हो र मुक्ति हो ।
कामको इज्जत गरौं, पसिनाको सम्मान गरौं ।

नेपाल सरकार
स्वना तथा सञ्चार मन्त्रालय
स्वना विभाग

EVENTS

National Tourism Fair, organised by Nepal Tourism board. 10 to 12 June, 11am to 5pm, Bhrikuti Mandap Exhibition Hall, Entry free

Poet of the Fall, an evening filled with music, poem organised by Mu'az Entertainment will feature performance by Murad Ali. 10 June, 7pm, 1905, Kantipath, Tickets Rs500, Rs1500(with dinner)

Picture This, a 3 day writing workshop organised by Photo Circle in collaboration with Katha Satha and Bookworm. 17 to 19 June, 3 to 6pm, Bookworm, Jhamsikhel, Application fee Rs300, applications can be downloaded from <http://www.photocircle.com.np/learning-initiatives/picture-this/> and sent before 14 June

Equalization and Frequency Analysis, a workshop by Mr. Coleton Paskert, a renowned Audio Engineer and Producer from Chicago. 13 June, 5 pm, Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory, Jhamsikhel., 5013554

E- car Rally, rally of electronic vehicles in support of Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre. 18 June, 8am, Starts from Maitighar Mandala, 9841595707/ 660846

We may all end up in the same boat, installation art by Michelle Hall. 5 to 12 June, 5.30pm on the opening day, Sunday to Friday 11am to 5pm, Patan Musuem, Lalitpur

Charya Dances, performance of a traditional genre of mediated dance and music by Rajendra Shrestha and Kala Mandap. 10 June, Durbar Hall, Bal Mandir, Naxal, Invitations only

Benefit Concert, a fund raise for Sunchour Village Primary School organised by Grassroot Movement in Nepal and Children and Youth First the event will see performances by Raju Lama and Joint Family Internationale. 12 June, 5 to 10pm, Patan Musuem, Ticket Rs300

Documentary Filmmaking, a six-day course on documentary filmmaking organised by Sattya Media Arts Collective. 5 to 10 June, 10am to 5pm, Sattya Media arts Collective, Jawlakhel, Application can be downloaded from the website www.sattya.org and sent to collective@sattya.org, Fee Rs3000

Celebrating Fulbright in Nepal, an exhibition of artworks and photographs by US and Nepali Fulbright grantees. 7 to 21 June, Opening day 5.30pm, Weekdays 11am to 6pm, Saturday 12 to 4pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babar Mahal Revisited, 4218048

Know your DSLR: Digital SLR Photography, a photography workshop organised by Sattya Media Arts Collective. 28-29 June, 11am to 3pm, Fee Rs 1000, Forms are available at sattya.org

White Party, Launch of WhatNext. 11 June, 7pm, Cube, Kamaladi, Rs 700(in advance) Rs1000 (at door)

Fragile ties

An overbearing mother loses her wits over her maladjusted children in *The Glass Menagerie*. Director and actor Eelum Dixit stages the ageless drama by Tennessee Williams at the Kamalmani Theatre in Patan.



The intimate production captures Williams's caricature of a dysfunctional family forsaken by its patriarch, only then to be flung prematurely against social conventions. The four-character cast is convincing in its roles: Dixit as the foolhardy son, Shristi Ghimire as the insular daughter, Arpan Khanal as the unknowing suitor and Riva Thapa as the neurotic mother. The scene is a realistic

portrayal of an apartment in St. Louis during the Depression era but can be easily set in Nepal.

"The themes relate to Nepal," says Dixit. "The whole situation starts way before the play begins. Involved is a patriarchal family, and when the guy leaves, things fall apart. The woman is left to handle things. Single mother culture is becoming a fixture in our society."

Following the recent shows of *The Conference of the Birds* and *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*, *The Glass Menagerie* comes as the third English-language play in Kathmandu this season raising the bar with ticket prices at Rs 1000. The unprecedented series of productions demonstrates a local talent and an expanding niche for English-language plays. *Marcus Benigno*

Proceeds go to the Spinal Injury and Rehabilitation Centre. The Glass Menagerie, Kamalmani Theatre, Patan. 11 – 12 June, 5:30pm.

Call for entries for Film

Southasia, a festival of South Asian documentaries. 29 September to 2 October, early submission deadline: 31May 2011, final submission deadline (for films made after April 2010): 31June 2011, Film Southasia Secretariat, Patan Dhoka, 5552141, www.filmsouthasia.org, fsa@filmsouthasia.org

MUSIC

Golden Moments- Tribute to Rock, a second series of Golden moments featuring artists Ashesh and the Nekhvam, 10 June, Cafereena, Durbar Marg, Abhaya and the Steam Injuns, 17 June, Moksh, Jhamsikhel, and the grand finale with Soaked, 24 June, 1905, Kantipath

AFK Music Contest, an open music contest to young musicians below 25. Interested ones can download the forms at www.alliancefrancaise.org.np and submit it at Alliance Francaise, Tripureshwor, Last date for submission 10 June

Fashion and Music fest, fashion show by students of IEC with musical performance by Naren Limbu, Sirish Thapa, Bijaya Gurung and Shadows. 11 June, 6pm, 1905 Restaurant and Bar, Kantipath

International Music Week Concerts, an unique outdoor concert organised by Alliance Francaise in Kathmandu along with Service Civil International featuring students of AFK, Kathmandu University School of Music and Manandhar Cultural Group. 21 June, 3pm, Dattatrya Square, Bhaktapur

Betty Argo in Kathmandu, popular French band live in concert. 26 June, 6pm, Nepal Academy Hall, invitations only

DINING

Das Din Dilli Ke, the essence of North Indian cuisine brought to Nepal by Indian Master Chef Anil Khurana . 10 to 19 June at The Café, Hyatt Regency from 6.30 to 10.30pm. For bookings call 4491234

Saturday @ Hyatt, Make your weekend more exciting with family and friends. Enjoy the afternoon with a splash in the pool, relax and sample the sumptuous barbecue brunch. For bookings call 4491234

Sunday Jazz Brunch, Enjoy a relaxing Sunday at Hyatt with barbecue and live Jazz music by "Inner Groove" from 12 noon to 3.30pm. For bookings call 4491234

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Nekvham and the Nepali blues

MARCUS BENIGNO

The tunes by Ashesh and Nekvham are a throwback to the late 1960s to the mid 1970s, an era that consecrated the genre of blues rock. The 16-year-old Kathmandu band sampled numbers from its forthcoming June album *New Spirit* at the House of Music in Thamel last week.

Ashesh Dangol on guitar and vocal, Pujan Shrestha on bass, and Rajiv Tuladhar on drums make up the thunderous trio, whose original compositions in English and Nepali transcend the run-of-the-mill covers so prevalent in the valley.

New Spirit, the group's third album, sustains the definitive sound of their previous *Free Spirit* and *Free Spirit II*, fusing bluesy improvisation with experimental resolutions of psychedelic rock. Dangol's deftness with the plectrum edges on genius. His sets culminate in electric feedback and reverb, evocative of iconic performances by The Jimi Hendrix Experience and the Grateful Dead.

At its essence Ashesh and Nekvham echoes the earliest bellows of the blues, cried out in melancholic spirituals and work songs in the American Deep South. In his self-written



MARCUS BENIGNO

"Broomstick Seller," Dangol sings about his former life as a peddler, while the lyrics of "In My Brother's Blues" by the band's Norwegian sponsor Jon Gandal pay tribute to the 56-year relationship between Gandal and his deceased twin brother, Sven.

Gandal, a published author and climbing enthusiast, stumbled upon the band in 2010 in Thamel months after his brother had perished in a tragic boat accident. The chance encounter engendered a melodious

partnership that has brought the band to Europe last summer.

"When you hear Norwegian and European bands play the blues, it's superficial. But this band goes deep with a range of emotions and music much closer to the original roots of the blues," says Gandal. Roused by the success of its European tour that included a gig at the renowned Fabrik in Hamburg, the band is booked to headline in Scotland, Germany, and Norway in July.

Ashesh Dangol and his band get ready for another European gig

"In Norway the organiser was skeptical about a Nepali blues band and gave us only 30 minutes to play," Dangol recalls. "We ended up jamming for five hours with the crowd on their feet playing air guitar."

Despite its warm European reception, the band has faced difficulty at home with an industry saturated in pop. Dangol hopes that their upcoming tour would spotlight Nepal on the international rock-music stage and gain them recognition in the local Nepali scene.

Ashesh and Nekvham's collaboration with Gandal yields spirited tracks true to the blues, resonating with the music of human struggle. Says Gandal: "My brother, my best friend and climbing mate, was addicted to the blues, and at the time, I didn't understand why. I was looking for him in the mountains, the sea and everywhere, but I found him in the blues." 🇳🇵

Ashesh and Nekvham. 10 June, 7pm at Attic Bar, Lazimpat
www.nekvham.com.np

SOMEPLACE ELSE

The Café

On the gamut of dining experiences, the buffet reigns as an epicurean's occasional indulgence or at the very least a free ticket to a glutton's belly. The Café at the Hyatt Regency in Boudha invites epicureans and gluttons alike to *Das Din Dilli Ke*, ten days of Delhi fare.

New Delhi Chef Anil Khurana tenders a smorgasbord of traditional Indian dishes tantalising palates into a reverie that recalls the spice fetishes of the Old World.

Across five counters and over 60 items to taste, the menu melds classic

renditions from the Indian kitchen with a potpourri of timeless, aromatic flavours like fenugreek, coriander and saffron.

The culinary survey starts with fresh salads and cold appetizers like steamed Bukhari fish, seafood ceviche, and a summery Moong lentil and coconut succotash. The *chat* counter pays tribute to urban street stalls that vend the crunchy, colorful mix.

Executive Chef Subrata Debnath recommends the selection of barbecued meats broiled in a tandoor clay oven as well as the international standard



MARCO POLLO

butter chicken masala.

Non-veg mains are limited to chicken, fish and mutton in familiar forms of *tikka*, *kebab*, and *biryani*. Skewers of paneer, fried *brinjal*, and *subz panchmela* highlight vegetarian options. As custom, butter naan is kneaded on the spot and baked within minutes.

After a fourth or fifth plate and a loosened buckle, the buffet ends with a glorious display of delectable desserts. Guests

can choose from Indian confectionaries like *kesar jalebi*, *gulab jamun*, and *kulfi faluda* as well as standard European bon bons and cakes.

At Rs 1600 (excluding tax), the cornucopia set in arguably the fanciest digs in the valley isn't a free ticket but is worth the splurge. 🇳🇵

Das Din Dilli Ke, 10 – 19 June, Dinner buffet 6:30pm to 11pm
Marco Pollo

En route to the stupa in Boudha, mount the Hyatt gate and descend to the Terrace Level.

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Alternative medicine



DHNAVANTARI
Buddha Basnyat, MD

If you are having a heart attack, it is probably not a good idea to seek immediate treatment with homeopathy, herbal medicine or acupuncture. In that setting, it is best to be treated with western (allopathic) medicine where available. However there are many illnesses where western medicine has its limitations: ranging from terminal cancer, certain neurological problems like amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease) to common cold, where you can only treat the symptoms. There are also diseases like rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes mellitus, and hypertension where there is clearly effective control with modern medicine but no cure. Many people desire a cure and choose alternative medicine. However, reports based on recently published findings show that 95 per cent of alternative or complementary medicine is not evidence-based and borders on quackery. This is big pill to swallow for practitioners of alternative medicine. Western medicine, as mentioned often

in this column, is based on randomised controlled trials which try to show that a drug for a certain disease is better than a placebo (sugar pill). However, most alternative medicine therapies do not look better than a placebo. Many alternative medicine researchers have reached a point where they do not want to carry out more trials because the trials show the ineffectiveness of their medicine and risk hurting

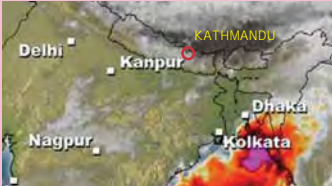


the trade in the long run. Even meta-analysis (putting together small trials to see if the sum effect shows efficacy of the drug in question) of these alternative medicine drugs have increasingly shown negative results. Rather than giving up, more rigorous trials of diseases using herbal and other complimentary drugs with adequate sample size of the population need to be carried out. There may be many useful herbs with an effective drug molecule that need to be tested to show benefits. Making use of the placebo effect for certain patients may also be a great idea. But in reality, most people who have a clear-cut disease will want to know if there is proper evidence for use of that particular drug for them. There is also a myth that unlike western drugs, alternative medicines have no adverse effects. This needs to be dispelled. What also needs to be shunned are statements by 'scientifically-challenged' celebrities and godmen who think that alternative medicine is outside the realm of scientific scrutiny. Time to separate science from superstition. 🇳🇵



WEEKEND WEATHER
by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

Though monsoon's official arrival date in Nepal is 15 June, fresh satellite images indicate it will take at least a week more for the first stream to reach us. However, the good news is that the westerly front is in a dying stage and is paving way for the monsoon cycle by next week. Collision of cold westerly wind with warm tropical wind over the Himalaya has been producing sporadic rains since last couple of weeks and this will continue through the weekend. Expect changing sky with passing clouds and fluctuating temperatures along with short showers throughout the hills.



FRI	SAT	SUN
29-17	28-18	30-19



BIKRAM RAI

PEACEFUL FLIGHT: A pigeon flies above the premises of Shree Gha stupa, Thamel, Kathmandu on Saturday.



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BIKRAM RAI

MORNING TUTIONS: A seventh grader finishes her homework while her sister-in-law attends their vegetable stall at Naradevi, Kathmandu, on Sunday.

...tyaha raja rani hunthyo



She ran her hand along the long, curving banister, and announced loudly: “The raja-rani must have touched this sometimes, too.” The grand staircase, flanked at the bottom by a pair of stuffed tigers teetering on their hind legs, led back down to the main entry at the end of the tour of the Narayanhiti Palace Museum. The young woman’s sentiment was one that many Nepalis have indulged in since the last king of Nepal moved out. How did the Shah kings actually live? And by visiting the palace, can one partake of their rapidly fading history?

I’d steered clear of this vicarious experience until quite recently. There always seemed something worthier, or at least more enjoyable, to do. And the Shahs, after all, never had a reputation for fantastic wealth, or even good taste. The towering pink folly that faced onto Darbar Marg and the constant line of people clutching sticky ice-creams were deterrent enough. Until one Saturday afternoon I had an hour to kill, and nowhere to go. Jau raja ko ghar, someone said. Never invited, we paid to get in.

The palace is unremarkable, in case you were wondering. Especially compared to its counterparts across the globe. What could one expect inside a boldly designed but



BIKRAM RAI

The Narayanhiti Palace Museum doesn’t reveal much about the Shahs, but it’s all there is to see

ultimately tasteless structure from the 1960s, commissioned by a Shah king given free reign to indulge after the neo-classical grandeur of the Rana palaces?

We walked through room after room named after districts in Nepal, filled with diplomatic tat from all across the world, furnished in a middling luxury that has inadvertently become retro-chic. These were linked by corridors leading past plain-jane bureaucratic instalments of lockers and plywood doors, and culminated in the repulsive, laughably conceived throne hall. Nothing could be more uninspiring; it’s hard to believe, in

fact, that the monarchy was ever held in such awe, until of course you consider how poor most of the rest of the country was and still is. Apologists might say Rukum and Rolpa weren’t really neglected by the Shahs: the rooms whose names they bear compete with each other in the quality of their chandeliers.

Yet for the Nepali visitor at least – and I saw none but Nepalis, mostly working and lower middle class folk – the brief tour of less than an hour is compelling. Because the monarchy is such recent history, there is something voyeuristic about peering into rooms and visualising Birendra or Gyanendra (take your pick) taking

a nap or perusing the latest district development reports (stacked up impressively in the study). Did the child Dipendra ever run through Myagdi and Parbat to peer at his father, who he might have been warned (by his mother) not to disturb on any account? Did he come across the late monarch amusing himself by flicking the globes on either side of his desk, and think, “That’s what I want to do one day”?

At any rate, we can see what Dipendra made of his home in the end. The foundations of the now demolished outbuilding where he mowed down his family, precipitating the eventual abolition of the institution he only presided over in a coma, provide a sobering coda to the tour. Here there are bullet marks drilled into the walls, and here is the fountain next to which Dipendra’s body was found. Behind, there is a ramshackle, overgrown garden, from where you can imagine flocks of birds shrilled into the sky at the first burst of automatic gunfire.

How must Gyanendra have felt when he left the palace? It could hardly have seemed like leaving a home, because this was never to be his rightful seat. It must, however, have seemed like a dreadful ignominy to have to leave the place that commemorated his dynasty. Bereft of royals, Narayanhiti Palace is simply a junkshop of mediocre art. But it is still possible, if you find yourself in a quiet corner, to imagine how it must have been before the fall. When kings were gods, life must have seemed simpler, and Nepal’s problems less insurmountable. NB: Visit narayanhitipalacemuseum.gov.np/ if the hackers will let you. 🇳🇵

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ONE WORLD
Harold James

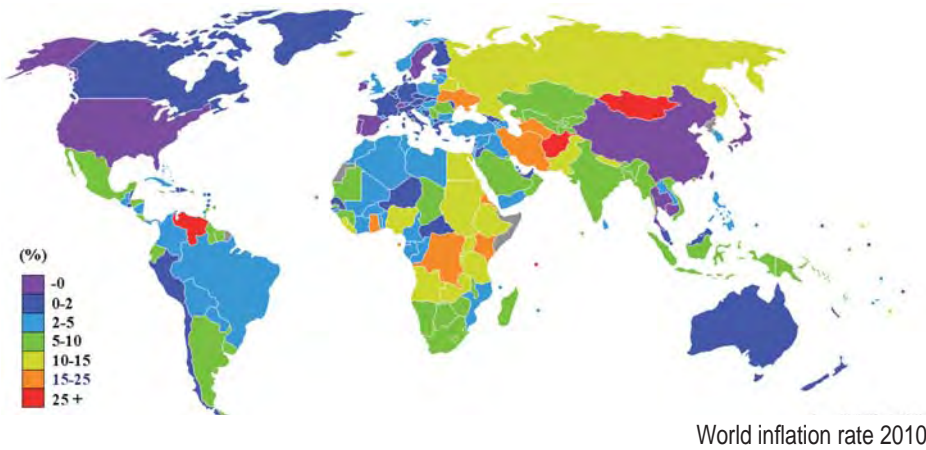
Weak food security highlights all of the major problems of the modern world non-order. Economic and financial nationalisms threaten. There is talk of currency wars, national management and regulation of banking, and growing demand for greater levels of trade protection. And all of these issues are inter-connected.

The discussion of monetary policy is especially divisive. Because of low interest rates in the United States, major financial institutions can borrow cheaply in dollars and then chase much higher returns in the major emerging-market countries.

The result creates an impossible dilemma for many of the world's most dynamic economies. If they try to clamp down by raising domestic interest rates, they will only attract greater capital inflows. If they let the exchange rate rise, they might deter some capital inflows, but they would also penalise their exporters and push up domestic unemployment. Emerging-market policymakers in big countries such as Brazil, China, and Turkey routinely attack the US and its monetary policy as a source of inflation, social tension, and political instability.

The most obvious and dangerous consequence of low interest rates in the major industrial countries is their impact on commodity prices, which is especially pronounced for food and fuel. As many economists, notably Jeffrey Frankel, have shown, prices on these markets are established

History shows food inflation is directly linked to political upheavals



by an auction-like process; as a result, commodity markets transmit the effects of monetary expansion particularly quickly. By contrast, branded products, into which producers have sunk major investments in securing the market, have prices that are much stickier and do not reflect the effects of monetary policy as rapidly.

Higher food prices have had a major impact in expanding the area devoted to cultivation in many countries, and have led to higher output levels worldwide. Brazil, Russia, and China, but also Algeria, Egypt, and South Africa – indeed, all African countries that have maintained functioning governments – have seen dramatic increases in food production over the past decade.

This should be a happy picture: the world is now better able to feed itself. But the same economic stimuli that underpin higher food output also lead to supply problems,

a decline in living standards, and massive social strains, especially in urban centers.

This is important to bear in mind, because rising food prices have historically been the trigger for political revolutions. The three revolutions that made the modern world, in France, Russia, and China, all had their immediate origins in food shortages, fear of hunger, and disputes about food pricing.

The panic about bread that swept France in 1789, and the inability of the government to guarantee supplies, destroyed the ancient regime. Louis XVI was contemptuously called “le boulanger,” the baker. Wartime inflation destroyed stability in the Russian empire in 1917, as farmers, worried about the declining value of their money, hoarded their output and let the cities starve. The Bolsheviks came to power on a promise of bread (and peace). China, too, was paralysed by

inflation after the Second World War, leaving it vulnerable to food panics.

Food prices are usually not limited in their effects to one country alone. Simultaneous revolutions swept Europe in 1848, in the aftermath of crop failures whose most notorious manifestation was the Irish famine. Price rises have been a major trigger of the discontent this year in the Middle East and North Africa. Though the Egyptian and Tunisian economies were expanding quite satisfactorily, people had to pay much more for food.

Moreover, it would be wrong to view this as a purely regional phenomenon limited to the so-called Arab Spring. The same kind of unrest, in which the countryside is pitted against the town, with both sides demanding more rights, could undermine the political order in China and other big emerging-market economies.

Recent decades have been replete with contagious financial crises that spread disorder from one country to another. The effects of globalised money are now producing a new whirlwind. The coming years or even months are likely to see new forms of these domino effects. As in 1848, the struggle for affordable food is producing discontent that transcends national frontiers, threatens established regimes, and fuels popular demand for a more just political order.

Project Syndicate

Harold James is professor of history and international affairs at Princeton University. He is the author of *The Creation and Destruction of Value: The Globalization Cycle*.

उज्यालो ९० नेटवर्कमा

आर्थिक खबर

हरैक दिन बिहान ७:०० बजे

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MARCUS BENIGNO

A care in time

A rehab centre in Lalitpur helps children with neurodevelopmental disorders

PAAVAN MATHEMA

Dipak Kayastha (*pictured above*) carefully adds 12 plus 34 and writes 46 in his workbook. Ask him his age, and he'll smile and signal '16'. Surprisingly, two years ago cerebral palsy patient Dipak had difficulty communicating his needs. Today, he's one of the many stories at the Patan Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) centre.

Established in 1995, Patan CBR is the only institution of its kind that serves children with neurological development disabilities, caring for over 60 children. "Sixty per cent of the cases we deal with are autism related," explains Rajesh Bajracharya. "Others have cerebral palsy and Down syndrome, and some children have multiple conditions."

With an open-door policy, the centre admits and assesses new students regardless of their age and condition. "Each child is different so we have to formulate a customised individual plans,"

explains teacher Kabita Shrestha. In addition to formal education, the centre focuses on physiotherapy, speech training and socialisation.

The classes are designed to help students develop their physical and cognitive abilities as well as build self-esteem. In a vocational training class, candles, artificial flowers, incense and decorative items are handmade by the students.

"Our children's progress is not simple as going from Class 1 to 2, but is a continuous process of learning," Shrestha adds. What is heartening is that many of the centre's former students are now studying in mainstream schools.

Patan CBR was also involved in providing door-to-door assessments of children in Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Nuwakot districts, which found that over 4.5 per cent of the population suffers from some form of disability. The centre has registered more than 1,700 children, and has trained their guardians in disability care. However, this work

has been hampered by a lack of funds.

The centre charges only a minimum fee for enrollment and collects funds by renting out its physiotherapy facilities and selling handcrafts made by the students, while the government pays four teachers and a helper.

"Our cost is high because our children need constant monitoring by trained staff," says Moti Shanti Shakya, President of the centre. "Our efforts are also directed towards raising awareness because a lot of these cases can be prevented or improved."

Sunita Maleku Amatya of Autism Care Nepal agrees: "Early intervention, diagnosis and treatment can have a life changing effect on children with autism, or any other neurological disability." 🇳🇵

www.patancbr.org

nepalitimes.com

Coming of age, #493



A different kind of shop

Take the road opposite to the Lalitpur Metropolitan Office to head towards Patan Dhoka, and you notice a new store has opened: Yaka Enterprise. It sells mobiles, mobile accessories and recharge cards. It also offers mobile repair services, computer typing in Nepali and English and printing services, and is run by Sudan Tandukar and Mahish Maharjan. Why is Yaka Enterprise different? Sudan is sight impaired while Manish suffers from arthritis, but this doesn't stop them from carrying on their work in the shop. "This is to show that employment of differently-abled people is possible," says shop owner, Rajesh Bajracharya. "Their financial independence will allow them to demand social respect, instead of sympathy."

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40	4,671	2,940	3,049	3,684	2,259	4,560	1,791	5,580

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Final trial

Madhav Dhungel in *Nagarik*, 5 June

नागरिक

After the 5-point agreement was signed, two opposing forces have emerged: those who want to take the peace process to a conclusion and those who want to derail the peace process and push the country back to perpetual conflict. The three-month period is the last chance for those who are for peace and constitution. Instead of whining about what had happened on the night of 28 May, they should put their efforts in finishing the task.

The CA term was extended not because the political parties agreed, but because there was no other alternative. Despite opposition from Madhesi alliance and factions within their own parties, the three major parties, UCPN (M), NC and UML rooted for the extension. But they may not be able to do so again.

Given the internal division, it is likely that the Baidhya faction will voice against another extension. The five splinters of UDMF stood firmly against extension this time and they will only get stronger in their opposition. The alliance had threatened to secede declaring Birgunj as the capital. After a hard negotiation it supported the extension of CA but stayed away from the voting.

NC made a political blunder by wasting their time with small issues like weapons hand over. Contentious issues like modality of integration, number of fighters and package for rehabilitation grabbed no attention. In short, the commotion over extension overshadowed the real agendas that could have been clinched in the urgency of the situation.



Now, the political parties are left with no option but to find a magic formula to implement their ‘gentleman’s agreement’. The only way out is to expedite the peace and constitution writing process and justify another three months extension to complete it. The leaders have promised people concrete results but people still doubt if the main task of peace process and first draft of the constitution will be completed in time. The real test of the leaders is to win their confidence by eliminating these doubts in the coming 11 weeks.

You’re hacked

Press release by Agyats, an unknown group that hacked Nepal government’s website.

We are the Agyats. We have been deeply troubled by the disorder, confusions and corruption shrouding the nation. Nepal is turning into a failed state due to the political protection given to criminals and increasing social and political unrest.

On top of that, people’s right to expression and information is being attacked by the state with restrictions and espionage on the internet. The government’s encroachment of the public space to silence the voice of the people for the benefit of the few is undemocratic. Informed people make a successful nation. It is clear that with these restrictions, the government wants to keep the people in dark and fulfill its vested interests.

This message is a warning to all political parties and the Nepal government. The Agyats have neither forgotten the sacrifice of the people nor the betrayal of the leaders.

We have been forced to attack the official website of the Nepal government, <http://www.nepal.gov.np/> so that the government gets its act together.

If the government ignores our appeal, we will attack the following websites of the political parties in our next move.

- <http://www.ucpn.org/>
- <http://www.nepalcongress.org/>
- <http://www.cpnml.org/>
- <http://www.mjfn.org/>



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Brahmin identity

Ananda Ram Poudel in *Naya Patrika*, 5 June

नयाँ पत्रिका

In Nepal’s varied ethnic landscape, Brahmins are known to be an unorganised and individualistic community. There is a lack of teamwork, and members of this community seldom assert their collective identity. Brahmins consider themselves progressive and culturally liberal, but most are conservative and espouse a casteist mentality. A community that submits uncritically to such feudal and anti-social rituals and practices will eventually run into crisis in its own society.

Angered at being categorised as non-indigenous, the Brahmins have started their own ethnic movement claiming, as Dinesh Raj Panta has mentioned in his study, that Brahmins are indigenous to this land. But even if one fully appreciates the aspirations behind the ethnic movements in Nepal, there is no denial that fuelling ethnic politics is not in the interest of Nepali society.

Nepali politics has to come to terms that inter-caste and inter-ethnic engagement among the present generation is rendering the debate on ethnicity and caste as futile and obsolete. So the focus ought to be on bringing the marginalised into the national mainstream irrespective of their caste or ethnicity.

Open letter to Baburam Bhattarai

Letter to the Editor by Shailendra Paneru in *Kantipur*, 7 June

कान्तिपुर

I am your well wisher and writing this letter with readers as my witnesses. I may not agree with your communist ideologies but I have always supported your progressive policies and the financial transparency you maintained while in office. You are now a representative of all Nepali people in the CA and not just a Maoist leader. After winning the CA elections, how many times have you visited Gorkha? And are you aware how many people in the district have been displaced or handicapped by your party's cadres just for holding differing opinions? If you haven't been able to ensure peace and democracy in your own constituency, how do we trust you to bring peace and prosperity to the country?

I, like everybody was shocked to hear of death threats being issued to you by your own party member. But objectively speaking, you have no one but yourself to blame for this. As an ideologue, it was you who encouraged use of arms in the name of revolution. You never taught them to voice dissent in a democratic

manner. For your cadres, all those who speak of democracy and freedom and hold different opinions are class enemies. So when you tried to establish a democratic system and culture of debate in your party, it was natural for them to turn against you.

Unless the Maoists transform themselves into a democratic party, new Nepal would remain an elusive dream and so will your plans for the country. In the next training session, you should teach your cadres to carry ideas instead of rust laden guns.



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- Experience in planning, launching and monitoring new marketing initiatives
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- Degree in Business or Commerce

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The applicant should manage a portfolio of customers and potential customers via personal sales visits and act as the customer's main point of contact by liaising closely with the relevant departments within the organization to ensure that their queries, problems or issues are dealt with appropriately. The applicant must be a self starter and must be able to develop a monthly customer call cycle to secure committed orders with new and existing customers and gain any competitor held businesses to ensure that individual agreed targets are achieved.

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Should have over three years of experience in selling media/services in Nepal markets. Freshers with ability to learn fast can also apply.
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Logging on to logos

One sure indication that the country is preparing to open up to multinational banks now that we have to be WTO-compliant is that their logos have already arrived. But who is going to protect Nepali banks from copyright infringement by Citibank, Commonwealth Bank and the Farm Credit Bank of Texas from shamelessly copying our logos?

Kollywood hunks are not anymore the heroes they appear to be on the silver screen. Usually the good guy dispatches 10 baddies off the edge of the cliff with a flick

of his wrist, runs through an inferno to rescue the girl and then croons a full-throated mating call while chasing girl around a tree during a squall. Alas, real life is different from reel life. Just the other week **Nepali Rambo Bhuvan KC** found himself in the middle of a love triangle in Tinkuney. Caught in flagrante with someone else's wife after a high speed car chase, hubby dragged Mr Casey out of the car by his hair and proceeded to thrash him to pulp before a shocked crowd of fans. The audience at first thought this was a movie shoot, and waited in vain for the hero to start

dishing out the **dhisum-dhisum**. In this reality show, however, the hero had no gravity-defying powers, he was mercilessly flogged and was left with a bloody nose. This was one fight scene in which the good guy lost, and on-lookers went home shaking their heads in disappointment.

It's not just the UML, the festering feud within the Baddies is also approaching the status of a carbuncle that is about to burst. Com Yummy went to Baluwatar the other day on a recce to check out the furniture. She

was overheard telling admin staff to get ready for **Hubby Boy** becoming PM soon. However, she must know better than us that the biggest obstacle to BRB being PM are not the NC or UML but PKD. Comrade Chairman would rather have Deuba as prime minister than his deputy, and has even been trying to entice Comrade Cloud to be PM. Which brings us to the intriguing question about why after hankering for JN's resignation, both the Oli faction and the NC have suddenly gone cold on that demand.

Comrade Ugly has been trying to clear his name by groveling to

the press and presenting journalism awards left and right. Being the Minister of Misinformation helps, and Comrade Conflagration has been using strong-arm tactics in the courts by populating the bench with black-coated red lawyers and either buying off or intimidating the prosecution. Even Bhimarjun Bhai seems to have chickened out. But the Baddies are in a dilemma, if they lose the case Ugly will probably face further prosecution, if they win the human rights wallahs are sure to take him to Geneva. And it is only a hop skip away from there to **The Hague**.







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