

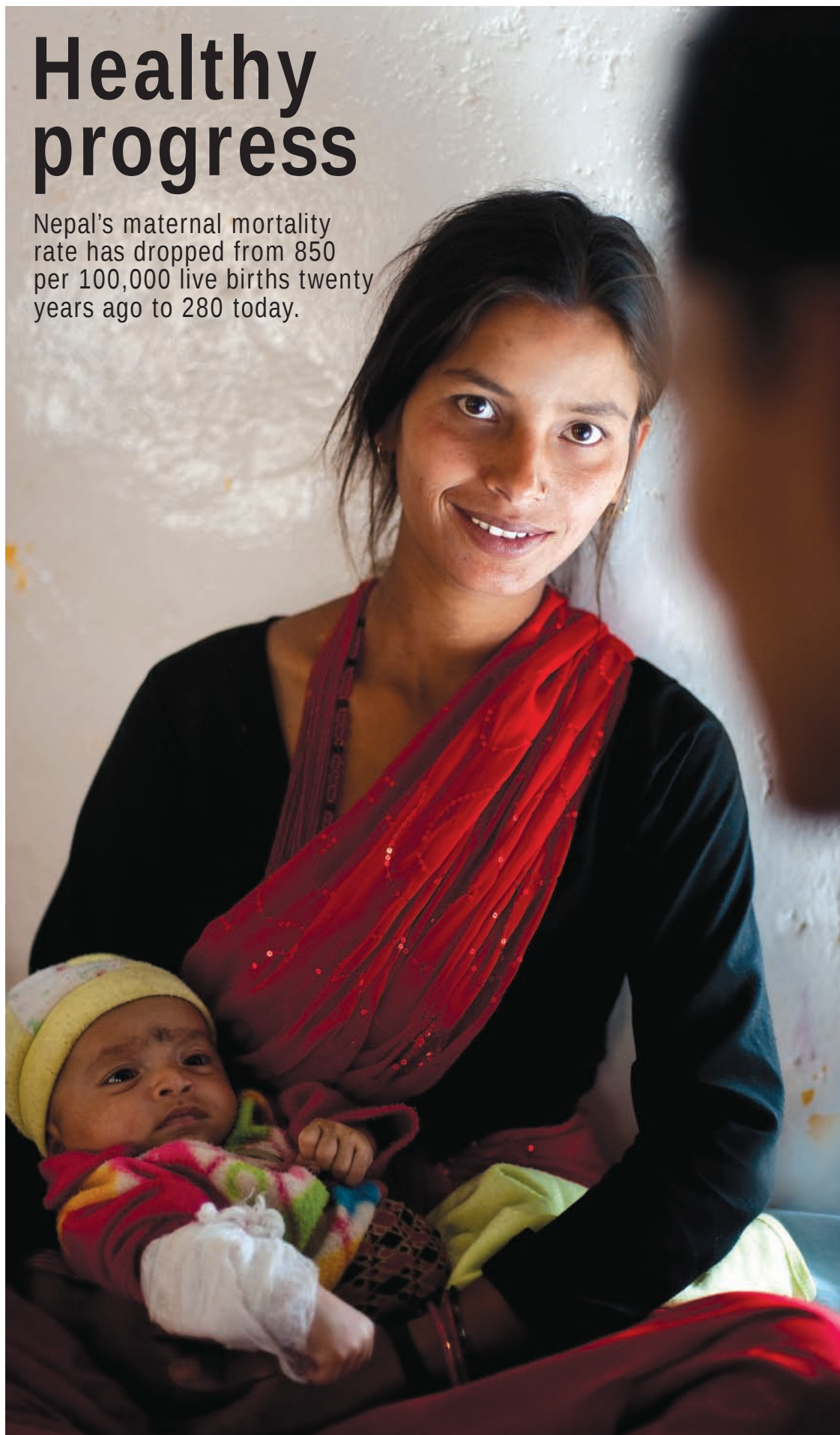

FURNITURE LAND STORE



Show Room: Bluestar Complex, Tripureswor Tel: 4224797, 4228833
Bhat Bhateni Superstore, Maharajgunj Tel: 4016277
Maitighar, Tel: 2020126, 4100549

Healthy progress

Nepal's maternal mortality rate has dropped from 850 per 100,000 live births twenty years ago to 280 today.



NSI/ALEX TREADWAY

Despite being in a state of statelessness since 2006, and a ruinous war that pushed health care back decades, despite corruption and mismanagement, Nepal has surprised the international community with its progress in maternal-child health. This issue of Nepali Times has special coverage on how it was done.

Hospitals that are affordable and efficient, health assistants who prefer to work in the districts, an amazing project to save the lives of mothers and newborns. Having a dedicated and compassionate general practitioner in a far-flung hospital makes the difference between life and death to many Nepalis every day.

Editorial p2
A healthy majority

HEALTH FOCUS p12-13

- Fewer Nepali mothers having home delivery
- Do hospitals have to be so expensive?
- Birkha Dai's clinic in Mugu

By the way p3
Anurag Acharya

It doesn't seem to matter whether the head of state is an absolute monarch, a constitutional king, or a ceremonial president as far as the government's polices and plans are concerned.




LAVAZZA
ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE



Fishtail Lodge - Pokhara
Hotel Barahi - Pokhara
For Business Inquiry: 9841505390

HP Probook 4430s Notebook
High Definition Entertainment | Anytime, Anywhere

- > Core i5 (2.3 GHz)
- > 2GB DDR3 Memory
- > 500GB Hard Drive
- > 14.1" WXGA Display
- > DVD RW, BT, Wireless
- > Intel HD Graphics
- > Free DOS



CAS CAS TECHNO SALES PVT. LTD.
Address : Putalisadak, Kathmandu
Phone : 977-1- 4440271, 4440272
E-mail : amar@cas.com.np

Step in for more varieties at

LIFE STYLE

design & decor



Show Room: SRD Building
New Plaza, Putalisadak
Tel: 4425402



Complete Bathing Solutions
Brought to you by

NEPA MARBLE BATH HOUSE
Dhumbarahi, Ktm. Tel: 4431307, 2011841

SOLAR ELECTRICITY CO. (P) LTD.

Solar Complex, Bagbazar, Kathmandu
Tel: 4225253, 4227876, Fax: 4223851
Email: ises@vianet.com.np



EverExceed SHARP SunLink PV UNIKOR KANAKA
Installing Solar PV Since 1991



A FUSION SO EXQUISITE
IT'S ENJOYED BY BOTH BLENDERS
AND CONNOISSEURS.



UNITED SPIRITS NEPAL PVT. LTD.

USN/30068/11

A HEALTHY MAJORITY

“Health reform makes health care more affordable, expands coverage to all citizens and makes our health system sustainable.”

That was US President Barack Obama defending his Health Care Bill earlier this year, but he may as well have been speaking about Nepal. Of all the responsibilities of the state, guaranteeing citizens affordable health care is primary. In a country cursed with inequality and neglect like Nepal, it means making sure that malnutrition doesn’t stunt children, that they are vaccinated against childhood killers, and that anemic mothers do not give premature birth to underweight babies and they have access to skilled maternity care.

It is in an elected government’s terms of reference to do all it can to prevent infectious diseases, and when people do fall ill, or have to give birth, hospital care will be accessible and affordable. Poor health care in Nepal is not a medical problem, it is a political one.

But despite being in a state of statelessness now for more than five years, despite a ruinous decade-long war that set health care back decades, despite corruption, mismanagement and an uncaring bureaucracy, Nepal has been internationally recognised for its remarkable progress in maternal-child health. More than 850 mothers in every 100,000 used to die at childbirth in 1990, today it is down to 280. Under-five infant mortality has dropped from 162 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 50 today.

True, there are still parts of Nepal where these figures are high, but the country is set to meet most of the UN’s Millennium Development Goal health targets by 2015. Just imagine how much more progress would have been made if there hadn’t been a conflict, and the state machinery was more



responsible and responsive.

Even with all the achievements in mother-child survival, vaccination programs and awareness, health care access in Nepal is seriously skewed. Thirteen medical schools produce 1,300 MBBS doctors a year. But most of them work in private hospitals in the city, or emigrate. Same story with

staff nurses. The Health Ministry needs just 140 doctors for 75 district and zonal hospitals, but it finds it difficult to fill those posts. Most private hospitals are too expensive, government hospitals are mostly mismanaged, and in the absence of a national health insurance scheme, Nepalis are left to fend for themselves.

As the health focus in this issue shows, there are working examples of hospitals that are affordable and efficient. There are health assistants who are not attracted by the bright lights of the cities, and there are government programs for the care of mothers and newborns that are saving lives.

We need specialist doctors and surgeons, too, but for the bulk of the population, MDGP (general practitioners) are more appropriate. These are all-rounders who can perform caesarians, simple orthopedics, and are able to diagnose childhood ailments. MDGPs are foot soldiers on the frontlines of health care in rural Nepal. And our experience with MDGP courses in medical schools are a model for other South Asian countries.

MDGP doctors turned around a neglected district hospital in Dadeldhura which is now performing 70 operations a month. The Panchthar district hospital in Phidim has saved lives of hundreds of mothers and babies because of a dedicated MDGP. The Chautara district hospital has stayed relevant because of one doctor who refused to work in the city. Many mothers used to die due to complicated pregnancies until an MDGP arrived in Baglung, and he is now performing 800 deliveries a year, many of them C-sections.

Having a dedicated and compassionate general practitioner in a far-flung hospital makes a difference between life and death to many Nepalis every day. Their work gives the country a healthy majority. They are the true heroes of Nepal today.

ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

BIHAR FOCUS

Bihar’s success story has proven that all it takes is a good leader to change a society or country (‘We want to see Nepal develop’, #560). In Nepal, we have socialistic, democratic, communist and ultra-revolutionary leaders but they can’t uplift society because they are dishonest. Nitish Kumar isn’t a communist nor a Congress-I, but he still proved that society can be transformed. It’s because he does what he says, and that’s what we people want from our leaders.

Amber

- Excellent editorial (‘Going the Bihar way’, #560). If we have honesty and determination to achieve development targets like in Bihar we can achieve them within a very short span of time. We have the possibility, but we don’t have honesty, determination and the will for positive change.

Rajendra Uprety

- It is all because of Nitish’s entry and Lalu’s exit from Bihar.

Abhishek Bhardwaj

- It all depends on the leader. Is he committed to the community, society, and country? Nepal needs politicians like the president himself, Ram Baran Yadav.

Rajesh Chaudhary

- Prof Prafull Kumar Singh is right

about the present situation in rural Bihar (‘What they don’t tell you’, #560). The so-called ‘Shushashan Babu’ Chief Minister has tried to do a lot in a short time. But he has been blinded by a few near and dear ones who are not committed to his goals. This can derail Nitish Kumar’s plans and lead to great failure in future.

Armendra

- These features on Bihar are interesting in their own right, but I am rather bemused as to why the Nepali Times would consider it worthwhile to devote an entire issue to content on Bihar. Nepal is not (yet) part of Bihar.

John M Kelleher

BLOG VS MAINSTREAM

My Sansar is very popular blog, precisely because of its independence (‘Never too free’, Rubeena Mahato #560). Granted it sometimes write in slightly racist tone against a particular community, but it remains the best among the vernacular blogs, and hope Umesh only improves from here.

Chandra Gurung

- Why should the state need a restrictive framework now? If the media can be so manipulative, both the blogs and mainstream, then how are we to judge the quality and the truth in reports being published? Secondly, it is interesting that media houses depend so much on a patronage network. What is the nature of this patronage network, was there a deal

between the media and I/NGO proprietors and politicians, does everybody get a share of the loot, is that why they are all collectively sabotaging this country? Is this a continuing arrangement? Thirdly, if the government, the politicians, and the media and business have ‘a you scratch my back I scratch yours’ arrangement then what other arrangements do they have that they cannot get out of?

Soni

- The blog named only few names (of VAT fraudsters). Would not even Nepali Times dare publish the complete list or is it also towing the line of the mainstream media?

Nidhi

- Blogging is a personal point of view and not news. That’s what so great about it, but the point about whether blogs can be news because of personal bias and racist tones is justified. What news writers can do is to build on these various biases and create the truth. What we hear is only a quarter of the whole circle, sensationalised, on news or on blogs. No one in the Nepali media completes this circle. No one wants to ask why. What would be refreshing would be if Nepali Times stepped in to complete the circle.

Andy G

GUNDA RAJ

How did we come to this stage? (‘All politics is local’, Ashutosh Tiwari, #560) By the appeasement of murderers, looters and

extortionists. Why do you complain about people being beaten up by politically connected people? You are all quite happy with the Maoists using violence for their political objectives but you complain when others do it? As long as other people were getting killed by the Maoists you hailed them as revolutionary. But when they beat up and kill journalists you start to complain? And you are still asking how we came to this stage?

Jange

KINGJI

Twice in a day even a broken clock gives the right time (‘Boxer Rebellion’, Ass, #560). The ex-Majesty has shown to the rest of us what it means to be a Nepali this time. He has very rightly asked the enumerator to register him as a Nepali.

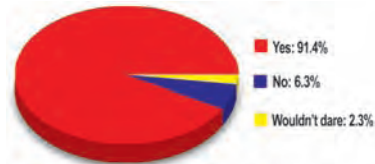
DG



Weekly Internet Poll # 561

Q. Should the government try ex home ministers for the Sudan APC scam?

Total votes: 2,004



Weekly Internet Poll # 562. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Who should lead a national consensus government?





Cooperating with cooperatives

The government's plans and policies, as policies and plans go, are actually quite workable

fertile farmlands into housing plots and loan collateral. A scientific land-use policy can help to put a halt on random plotting of farmlands in the Valley and along the Tarai.

The government is yet to table the SEZ (Special Economic Zone) bill in the legislative parliament but there is concern it may be used by those who control the government's cogs and levers to confiscate the land and livelihoods of locals in the name of economic growth. The day hunger for growth turns into growth of hunger is when this resource will turn into a curse. State-led land grab in India have inspired indigenous protest movements, and an insurgency.

The government aims

to "gradually improve the quality of basic free education", but is unclear about the definition of basic education or the time it needs to ensure its quality. Free basic health, is also not clearly defined but since it is constitutionally guaranteed, will be introduced in nine districts in the Tarai within a year. There is no talk of national health insurance except for civil servants.

Barring some sections that look like they have been cut and pasted from the time of King Birendra, the paper is workable. The opposition does not have to literally live up to its name. Why not, for a change, play a constructive role in monitoring the implementation of government's program? 



BY THE WAY

Anurag Acharya

President Ram Baran Yadav read out the government's annual policies and programs to parliament this week. Successive governments since the Panchayat have been used to dishing out platitudes in this annual ritual, and it doesn't seem to matter whether the head of state reading it is an absolute monarch, a constitutional one, or a ceremonial president.

The vacuity of Nepali politics couldn't be more glaring as the opposition couldn't find anything more substantial than the phrase 'People War' to latch on to in the 22-page document. Who cares what it is called, point is it was a people's war because 16,000 people were needlessly killed.

A slightly more substantial critique of the policy paper came from the private sector. One can understand their misgivings because the document doesn't back a full-blown market economy. But this does not mean the government has ignored the private sector, as some economic pundits have alleged.

One has to almost sympathise with a government which, while it aims to promote transparency and social accountability in the private sector on one hand, has fallen for the liquidity crisis created by corporates to roll back on

its financial disclosure policy for investments over Rs 1 million. Big Business is even lobbying through commercial banks to get rid of the Anti-Money Laundering Investigation Department.

The government aims to boost investment in the large manufacturing sector with incentives and assurance of protection, but it is unlikely to have any positive impact as long as the country reels under 16-hour power cuts in winter, union rivalries and extortion. It might actually make sense for the government to boost the rural private sector by promoting small and cottage industries in the areas where there are community-built mini-hydro plants. Cooperative savings and rural banking can be encouraged to ensure hassle free loans to those setting up rural agribusinesses. This could prove crucial in augmenting the rural economy, creating jobs and reversing the manpower flight.

The establishment needs to appreciate that unless Nepal invests in agriculture and become food sufficient, we cannot control double digit food inflation which has robbed people of their savings. City slickers poked fun at the government's decision to provide crop and cattle insurance. But those ridiculing it either don't know (or don't care) about the vulnerabilities of small farmers. If the banks can be bailed out of a crisis created by their own greed and recklessness, why can't poor farmers be insured

against natural and market induced calamities?

One major reason for the decline of agriculture production in Nepal is the continued conversion of



"If best MPLS based connectivity is what you are searching for, Subisu Cablenet is where your search ends. Subisu is the pioneer ISP/NSP to implement MPLS technology and deliver MPLS based low latency, low jitter, secured and cost effective services at almost all places in Nepal."

Convenient – Consistent – Compatible – Connectivity

the Best
MPLS
Connectivity in Nepal

www.subisu.net.np



An ISO 9001:2000 Certified Company
SUBISU
CABLENET
Business Solution Provider

Banking on technology

Dailekh leapfrogs technology to bring banking to rural Nepal

DEWAN RAI in DAILEKH

Rupa Thapa (pictured), 66, of Pagnath village, has put her thumb imprint on legal documents many times. But this time, instead of inking her thumb she was pressing it on a scanner.

“Fingerprint authenticated,” says the machine in metallic English. Rupa giggles at the automated response. Instantly, machine operator hands her Rs 1,800 along with a receipt. Rupa says she will buy food for the family with the money.

Rupa Thapa was the first person in Dailekh to receive a Smart Card under ‘Sajilo Banking Sewa’ launched by Sidhartha Bank aimed at bringing in Nepal’s remote areas into the banking net. As a pilot project, the cards have been distributed to people under the UN’s World Food Programme (WFP) cash-and-food in Dailekh.

WFP beneficiaries receive family food rations as well as Rs 90 per day for up to 80 days of labour on community roads, irrigation canals and drinking water projects. Siddhartha Bank is involved



DEWAN RAI

and has benefitted 484 households in Pagnath VDC alone.

“E-banking has reduced the security risk in cash distribution in rural areas,” explains Moti Prasad Thapa, of the WFP’s Nepalganj office. “It avoids wasteful spending of the villagers and helps them to develop

saving habit.”

The wages of cardholders are directly deposited into their account from where they can access it by presenting their card to the local agent for verification. The accounts have been opened in the name of women to make sure the money is used properly.

The Smart Card works as a passbook and cardholders can avail all banking facilities through it. Later, Siddhartha will also allow depositors to also collect remittances, pay utility bills and disburse credit and micro-insurance.

A banker travelling to the village carries a portable battery-charged Point of Sale

machine linked to bank’s online network through mobile telephone service to make transactions. Smart Cards are similar to debit cards, but they use fingerprint for identification instead of personal identification codes, which makes it safer than debit and ATM cards.

“Rural customers in future can enjoy modern banking services from their nearest locality through branchless banking service,” says Siddhartha Bank CEO Surender Bhandari (see interview).

According to the Rural Microfinance Development Centre in Kathmandu only a quarter of the population has access to financial services. Siddhartha Bank’s Easy Banking service has shown that with right technology and little innovation, banks can tap the wealth in the rural market and ease the liquidity crisis.

Says Jhank Narayan Shrestha of Nepal Rastra Bank’s initiative to extend banking to rural areas: “Leapfrogging technology can help us bring banking services to the people.”

Back to the village

Nepali Times spoke to Surender Bhandari, the CEO of Siddhartha Bank, about the challenges and rewards of extending financial services to rural Nepal.

Nepali Times: What was the rationale behind launching smart card in a remote district like Dailekh?

Surender Bhandari: Difficult topography and limited availability of resources and infrastructure in rural area makes it virtually impossible for financial institutions to provide banking services through traditional banking. Hence, with new technologies like smart cards, it is possible to offer modern banking services in rural areas as well.

What has been the response?

As we see, the response is very encouraging. Local residents and government officials appreciated the



BIKRAM RAI

service. Once we launch our full-fledged service customers can enjoy cash deposits, withdrawals, remittance collection, utility bill payments, credit disbursement and so on.

Where else in the world has this worked?

The most successful examples are M Pesa in Kenya, FINO, EKO and ALW in India, Easy Paisa in Pakistan and G Cash in Philippines.

However, success depends on the business module, technology and the channels being used. In some places, mobile phone based branchless banking has become successful whereas in other places smart card-based modules have worked. We shall develop and use a business module and technologies appropriate to the place depending on the topography, demography and other available infrastructure.

What are the risks and potential problems?

We have been using latest security features available. Our hardware and software being used for the services are fully compliant with international level security certifications. We are also minimising transactional risk by using multiple factor authentications like biometric/ fingerprint verification, voice guidance in local language, smart card with photo and other details printed on it. All these features make the service secure and robust.



उज्यालो ९० नेटवर्कमा

आर्थिक खबर

हरैक दिन बिहान ७:०० बजे

Communication Corner Pvt. Ltd.
Kupondole, Lalitpur, Tel: 5546277

Ujyaalo 90 Network
Sanepa, Lalitpur, Tel: 5551716

Fax: 977-1-5549357, P.O.Box:6469, E-mail: info@unn.com.np, URL: www.unn.com.np



Staying out of business

The government needs to take a proactive role to encourage SMEs



MY TWO PAISA
Paavan Mathema

The Nepal Business Climate Survey 2010, recently published by Interdisciplinary Analysts (IDA), reported deficiencies in governmental coordination and monitoring of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which employ more than 70 per cent of the country's workforce.

IDA, a Kathmandu-based research and consultancy firm, with support from the Asian Foundation, evaluated 1,023 micro, small and medium enterprises in four districts—Morang, Rupendehi, Kaski and Banke.

Despite the limited sample, the survey's findings reveals a general discontent among SMEs regarding the government's inadequate involvement in the business sector. In the survey

findings, 33 per cent of respondents said that government officials never bother to reach out to them. Although a quarter of them responded that the involvement was through business associations, a majority of the small firms in Nepal are not members of any association. This means that SMEs have little opportunity to interact with the government and share their concerns.

"The government plays a multi-dimensional role in the business sector," says Sudhindra Sharma, who led the survey at IDA. "But it appears that the government has failed in its facilitating and monitoring roles."

Nearly half of the respondents said that no inspections of their businesses on the basis of regulations have ever been conducted. 77.5 per cent said officials seldom come to discuss policies or regulations that may affect their enterprises. More worrisome is that 65 per cent of respondents said



they never receive advance notices when changes are made in the central government's rules and regulations that particularly affect their business.

Considering the employment opportunities that small enterprises offer, the government should take an interest in training and guiding entrepreneurs in the area. With such

detachment, it is unlikely that the government can improve its policies that will support the growth of SMEs in Nepal. Unsurprisingly, the survey reveals that the public office which interacts most with these companies is the Internal Revenue Department, reiterating the perception of the SMEs that the government is more concerned with the revenue it can earn from such enterprises, than with facilitating its development.

The statistics indicate SMEs' disillusionment with the government and its failure to promote an efficient and cooperative market environment. Only when the government—on all levels—engages with SMEs through clear and direct channels can such an environment be fostered. Such a two-way exchange would facilitate effective policies and training and ultimately, a healthier business climate. ■

BIZ BRIEFS

Flying green

Yeti Airlines partnered with Tiger Mountain Karnali Lodge & Camp to plant 3500 tree saplings in Bindrapuri Madhyapur community forest to inaugurate their Green Project. Yeti airlines will plant one tree on behalf of every passenger that board on Kathmandu- Dhading or Kathmandu- Nepalgunj flight.

Safety first

Morang Auto Works conducted Yamaha Safe Riding Science program at Kathmandu Engineering College to teach riders about road safety. MAW has conducted this program in four separate colleges in Kathmandu.

Going international

The first IB World School in Nepal, Ullens, is now running the IB Diploma Program. The program is an internationally accredited high school diploma.

LA MARZOCCO

HANDMADE IN FLORENCE

FB/80



FB/70



www.himalayanjava.com



OUT OF BOX

now displayed at



HIMALAYAN JAVA

Promoting Nepali Coffee since 1999

call us at 4418209 9851022279

Nepal's No.1
CONSUMER DURABLES

LG
Life's Good

GET **WiFi** PHONE
AT AMAZING PRICE

Rs. **7,777**

LG wink Style
T310i

- Embedded Windows Live Messenger™
- Dedicated Social Networking Features
- Virtual QWERTY Keyboard
- 2.8" Lcd / 103X57X12.3Mm
- Fun & Fast Cartoon UI
- Web Browsing/Wi-Fi
- Oxford Dictionary
- 2.0 MP Camera
- Wireless FM



PAPAYA T300

- 2.4" Full Touchscreen Display
- Virtual QWERTY Keyboard
- 1.3 MP Camera
- Embedded Windows Live Messenger™
- Bluetooth/MP3/MPEG4 Player
- Dedicated Social Networking Features
- Fun & Fast Cartoon UI
- Micro SD Slot Supportive up to 4GB

BEST BUY 5,999/-

FREE Worth Rs. 1500/-

EAR PHONE

DATA CABLE



twitter

facebook

myspace

LG Mobiles are made in Korea .

Marketed in Nepal by CG Impex Pvt. Ltd.

Prices are inclusive of VAT.

CG ELECTRONICS
Imagination, unlimited.

LG Lifestyle Shoppe Pvt. Ltd.
(LG Exclusive Company Showroom) Gorkha Complex
Minbhawan, Kathmandu, Tel: 01-4106530, 016206462

CG Digital Pvt. Ltd.
(Multi-Brand Showroom) AC Complex
Chabahil, Kathmandu, Tel: 01-6205707, 4461234

LG Mobile Concept Store
Civil Mall, Sundhara, Kathmandu
Contact No. 4254025, 4253974

12 Months Warranty 36 Months



The greening of Greenland

Book by an Icelandic photographer on how climate change is affecting the livelihoods of the inhabitants of the Arctic Circle has lessons for the Himalaya

The Arctic ice sheet of northern Greenland has long been 'off the map'. Today, this remote region has grabbed the world's attention because its glaciers are the most visible indicators of global climate change. The retreating glaciers have exposed the land and its resources, making the region one of the most disputed territories on earth. With several nation-states laying claim to the mining and oil rights of the region, what remains of the ice sheet is an ambiguous international zone waiting to be mined. The melting ice sheet is

in fact a landscape that has been inhabited for thousands of years. The hunting communities of northern Greenland have adapted to a harsh and unpredictable environment. The town of Uummannaq, for example, is perched on top of a rocky cliff to avoid periodic tsunami caused by icebergs calving from a nearby glacier. The people who live here are acutely aware of the sheer contingency of life on earth. Unlike much of the 'modern' world, they haven't forgotten that nature, far from being a harmonious entity, is fundamentally unstable.

The Greenlandic word for 'nature', pinngortitaq, literally means, 'to come into being', and is derived from the word pinngorpoq or 'becoming'. For these Greenlanders, nature is not some kind of 'big other' or even something 'over there' that needs to be saved. What is called nature is nothing less than the world in its becoming. But unlike the episodic 'becoming' of the tsunami, today's climate change has produced a more permanent tsunami that threatens their traditional livelihood. Over the past few decades, entire sheets of ice have melted

into the ocean, transforming the region completely. Many communities can no longer make a living through hunting because warming temperatures have shortened their hunting seasons. In *'ast Days of the Arctic*, the Icelandic photographer Ragnar Axelsson has documented the twilight of these landscapes, and the dying breed of hunters who inhabit them. Like filmmaker Werner Herzog, who undertook a similar project in Antarctica in the film *Encounters at the End of the World*, Axelsson's camera focuses less on the

Arctic equivalents of fluffy penguins, stranded polar bears, and on something that is far more difficult to evoke: the 'dreams' of the landscape and its inhabitants. From a close-up of the face of a sled dog howling in hunger, to a settlement dwarfed by an immense iceberg, each and every subject is captured in glorious, otherworldly Arctic light. A similar picture book is dying to be shot and written about how receding glaciers in the Himalaya are affecting livelihoods in Nepal and Tibet. But these disappearing landscapes also signal a



Introducing

Réal BURRST

Lite & Refreshing

Liteness of fruits,
Burst of refreshment!

Also available: Orange Bytez, Mixed Fruit & Crispy Apple in 1ltr. pack

1 LITRE • MANGO BURRST

Attractive Price
Rs. 120

Lite & Refreshing Fruit Drink-Real Burrst Quenches Your Thirst To Keep You Fresh & Cool



non-human future in which we are no longer present. Most scientists believe that the climate of the Arctic is now at a tipping point, after which its ecology will be irreversibly transformed. But



'Last Days of the Arctic'
By Ragnar Axelsson
Crymgea Polarworld, 2010

perhaps the most important message of Axelsson's book is that this process is more complex than the narrow vocabulary of contemporary environmentalism suggests.

The people and wildlife of Greenland are not mere victims of the effects of industrial development. Many Greenlanders participate in, and are beneficiaries of, the nascent mining and oil industries. In fact, many welcome the 'greenlanding' of Greenland because the melting ice offers the promise of a more stable, 'green' ecology in which it is easier to survive and make a living. Ironically, it also represents something that would have

been unimaginable a few decades ago: the possibility of Greenland becoming an autonomous, 'modern' nation.

By projecting a false image of nature in opposition to culture, ecologists might be obstructing their own efforts to protect what remains of the earth's landscape. Geologists suggest that the earth has advanced from the Holocene, the geological era that began more than 10,000 years ago, to a new era termed the Anthropocene.

While this shift in terminology is meant to draw attention to the extent of human impact on the geosphere, it also reminds us that its effects are included in rather than separated from the fragile ecology of the earth. Like the hunters of Greenland who envision nature as a work in progress, those who hope to protect the earth should accept the fact that its ecology has adapted to human interventions. 

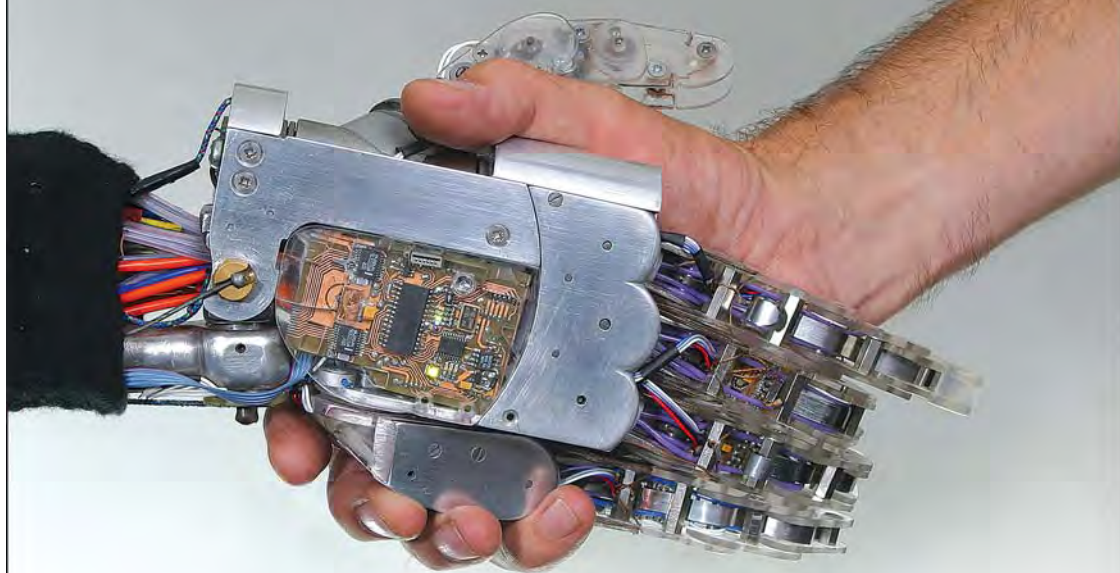
Milap Dixit

Further reading:

www.crymgea.is
www.polarworld.co.uk
www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jul/05/oil-supplies-arctic



The Human Touch



As Nepal's most-modern printing facility,
Jagadamba Press
is known for its state-of-the-art equipment.
But we never forget the human touch.



5250017-19 | fax: 5250027 | japray@mos.com.np | www.jagadambapr.com

Enjoy! Summer Music Festival

..at **MOKSH** with **Heineken**[®]

01 JULY NAYA FAYA
02 July NIRVAN 'N' MUSIC LINK
05 July APRIL RUSH
08 July MUKTI 'N' REVIVAL
12 July APRIL RUSH
14 July ACTOR STUDIO
15 July SAPTAK

19 July APRIL RUSH
20 July ALL THAT JAZZ
22 July STREETLIFE COLLECTIVE
26 July ALL STAR JAM SESSION
29 July BEAGLES UNPLUGGED
30 July KJC CONCERT SERIES



(MOKSH @ Jhamsikhel,
Lalitpur, TEL: 01-5528362;
7 pm onwards)

Supported By:



The latest Element^{Auto-coding™} Blood Glucose Monitoring System

- **Automatic Code Setting**
(No manual coding required)
- **World Smallest Blood Sample**
(Painless with only 0.3µl)
- **World fastest Measuring Time**
(Only 3 seconds measuring time)
- **Meal/Exercise/Medication Setting**
(Glucose control per daily routine)
- **Alternate Site Testing**
(For frequent test user:
Taken from Arm, Thigh, Palm...)

**For free demonstration and home delivery
call: 4436928/29/30 Rajeeva /Jeeta or
mail at meditron@srd.com.np.**

Available at:
R.K Pharmaceuticals
SRD Building, New Plaza, Putalisadak, Kathmandu.
Tel: 4416227
and leading Chemist Shops

Marketed By:
Meditron International
Putalisadak, Kathmandu.
Tel: 4436928/29/30
E-mail: meditron@srd.com.np



Boudha Stupa Restaurant & Café

"Gyakok"
wood-fired pizza,
Home made pastas

Himalayan Arabica **coffee**

free Wi-Fi
Boudha - 6
Tel: 2130681



EVENTS

7 Days script writing workshop, organised by Indigenous Film Archive (IFA) for innovative Nepali writers and filmmakers. *Till 10 July, 9am to 5pm, fee Rs 1000, application deadline: 29 June, 9851063480*

Career Fair Nepal, a platform to obtain information regarding career opportunities. *8 to 9 July, 12pm onwards, Bhrikuti Mandap*



Expressions in Clay, ceramic art exhibition by Ceramic Hands, display of works created by local and foreign artists under the tutelage of Kalapremi Shrestha and 'P1' by Man Bahadur Harijan. *Till 23 July, 11am to 6pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babermahal Revisited*

Etching Art Exhibition, featuring works of upcoming Nepali printmakers Sangita Ghimire, Manju Shyanla, Tika Datta Dahal and

Bhishan Raj Bhandari. *Till 16 July, 12 to 8pm, Asian Proofs Print Art Gallery, New Orleans Café, Pulchok*

Mero Kaatha Sunne Ho, a story telling workshop organised by Sattya Media Arts Collective. *8 to 9 July, 1 to 4pm, Sattya Media Arts Collective, Jawalakhel, fee Rs 1000 (scholarships available)*

Summer Music and Dance Camp, organised by Kathmandu Centre for Performing Arts. *18 to 19 July, Salsa Dance Academy, Bhatbhateni, 9803822622*

Nepal Cine Symposium, a South Asia focused international film network and promotion platform for cinema which includes a film festival 'Something like a film festival' organised by DocSkool. *19 to 22 November, submission open until 30 August, www.cinesymposium.com, amanyu@cinesymposium.org, 4471104*

The Great Indian Education Fair, a unique education exhibition showcasing the finest Indian universities, colleges and institutions. *22 to 23 July, The Everest Hotel, New Baneswore*



Funky Fresh E.L.E.M.E.N.T.S, a youth empowerment program for young hip hop enthusiasts above the age of 13 to harness their skills to become independent hip hop artists. *23 to 30 July, 10am to 6pm, Sattya Media Arts Collective, Jawalakhel/ Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory, Jhamsikhel, fee Rs 1000 (scholarships available), application deadline 21 July*

Organic Market, a weekly organic market where along with picking the fresh organic produce for home you can enjoy brunch. *9 July, 10am to 12pm, 1905, Kantipath*

MUSIC

Music and Fashion- The Grind, featuring the best DJs in town.

9 July, 2 to 10pm, Hotel Shahanshah Poolside, Rs 1000, free entry for ladies, 9803157605, 9851050919

Mukti N Revival at House of Music, don't miss out on your chance to hear live performance by one of Nepal's favourite musician. *9 July, 9 to 11pm, House of Music, Thamel*

Summer Music Festival, a month long celebration of summer with unique mix of musicians. *8 July: Mukti 'N' Revival, 12 July: April Rush, 14 July: Actor Studio, 15 July: Saptak, 7.30pm, entrance Rs 200, 5528362, 9841320007*

DINING



Sunday Brunch @ Red Dingo. *10.30am to 2pm, Rs.1200 for adults, Rs.500 for kids aged 5 to 12, Jawalakhel*

Picasso, the perfect place to spent your Friday evenings listening to Jazz and dining on French cuisine. *Live music on Fridays. Jhamsikhel, 5009076*

9th Annual Wine Festival, Kilroy's monsoon wine festival will feature 15 varieties of exquisite wines from six different countries. *1 July to 15 September, Kilroy's of Kathmandu, Thamel, 4250440*

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*

Tapas Night with Sangria, for the true flavours of Spain indulge in Tapas buffet snacks with a glass of Sangria @ Rs499. *17 June onwards, every Friday, 6pm onwards, Splash Bar and Grill, Radisson Hotel, Lazimpat*

Irish Pub, for the simple reason that the place actually feels like a bar. Don't miss out on their Irish coffee. *Lazimpat, Ananda Bhawan, 4416027*

Mike's Breakfast, huge breakfasts and a never-ending supply of

East meets West

MICHEL JOLIVET

Quite fortunately, very few people have ever heard of La Perrière in France. Amongst these happy few: a handful of my relatives and friends, Google Earth explorers, and my tax collector. After serving in Nepal as the French ambassador, this is my retirement hideaway in the deep of the countryside of western France.

Our most recent visitor from Nepal was the musical group 'Sukarma', with Dhrubesh Regmi, Shyam Nepali and Pramod Upadhyaya who held a private and delightful concert in my former farm attic. The next day, they performed in Vibraye, a nearby town that has restored its abandoned railway station warehouse into a modern theater. It was a magnificent event and a great success.

Nepal's cultural ambassadors reminded us Nepalophiles in France that the country still



Sukarma performs in La Perrière and makes a former ambassador nostalgic for Nepal

exists despite the imaginative wrongdoings and stubbornness of its politicians, that it hasn't fallen into pieces. Sukarma is shining proof that Nepali culture still thrives amidst an environment that might threaten its very survival. And I was also glad to see that the financial and economic crisis that shakes Europe has left enough

money in the pocket of my local fellow citizens for them to buy tickets and enjoy music previously unknown to their ears.

Culture helps us bear hardship. The musicians from Nepal reminded us with their soft tunes that life isn't only about having water flow from our taps and electricity without load-shedding.

VIVE LE NEPAL: Members of Sukarma line up on stage after their concert in France last week. Michel Jolivet is second from right.

Now that Nepalis are considering adopting a French-style constitution, it may bear reminding that our politicians are duly trained in writing a new constitution in a few days. And France is in the throes of picking a new president out of a mob of candidates each more appalling than the others. Sukarma helped us forget at least for a short while that elections are next year.

Our two countries are not in good shape. I miss Nepal. I wish it influences the curse of events in France. Thanks to the Nepali brand of federalism, I could yell loud enough to obtain self-government for La Perrière, forget about Sarkozy and Strauss-Kahn, and welcome tax-free all my friends from Nepal. Vive le Népal.

Michel Jolivet served as Ambassador of France to Nepal from 2004 to 2007



WE ARE
NOW OPEN AT
GWARKO CHOWK

11:30 am - 9:30 pm | The Bakery Café, Gwarko Chowk | Phone : 5531863

coffee amidst a lush garden setting characterise this café, popular among tourists and locals alike.
Naxal, 4424303

The Factory, a trendy restobar for a refreshing stopover in the chaos that is Thamel. Great food and drinks, with zesty music. Don't miss out on their cheesecake, it's a must.
Mandala Street, Thamel



Arabian Nights, taste the culinary delights from the Middle-East everyFriday at The Cafe from 6.30pm to 10.30pm. *For bookings call Hyatt Regency Kathmandu at 4491234*



Tukuche, if it is authentic Thakali cuisine that you crave. The restaurant offers both indoor and outdoor sittings. *Tukuche, Uttar Dhoka*

GETAWAYS



Adventure De' Monsoon Mania, a two day fun trip that includes beach games, typical Nepali games Guchha, Chungi, Kabbaddi, drinking competition and live performance by the Saayas band organised by Country Road 4 Hamro Soach in association with Himalayan Enchanter Treks & Expedition.
8 to 9 July, Departure time 6.30am, 9am (rafters), 2pm (non-rafters), Royal Beach Camp

GRAND SALE!

Buy One, Get One Free

Large Size – Gents shoes

BLAY Brand – Ladies shoes

Bajra & Blay

Bajra & BLay Int'l Pvt. Ltd.
Durbar Marg, Opp. Nanglo Bakery
Ph No:- 4232357

More than an Antivirus

Rs. 999

*Price Inclusive of VAT

NEOTERIC HOTLINE
16600163631
Free & Easy At Your Service

#DECC

SERVICE WITH HEART

Opens banquet services

business meetings seminars events workshops exhibitions

Direction Exhibition & Convention Center
t : 4117102, 4117135 f : 4117105, e : seminar@deconline.com
4th Floor, United World Trade Center, Tripureswor, Kathmandu

wedding
birthday
corporate parties

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 गौरब गर्नुपर्छ र समर्पित भएर गर्नुपर्छ । काम नै शक्ति हो, भक्ति हो र मुक्ति हो । कामको इज्जत गरौं, पसिनाको सम्मान गरौं ।

नेपाल सरकार
सूचना तथा सञ्चार मन्त्रालय
सूचना विभाग

SOMEPLACE ELSE



The Lazy Gringo

Real Mexican food is generally an anomaly beyond the Western Hemisphere. Rounds of naan or pita masquerade as tortillas, and sweet, tangy curd substitutes for sour cream. But the Arizona-style Mexican preparations at the Lazy Gringo on Jawalakhel Chowk, albeit more Southwestern than ‘south of the border’, break substitutions with beef options and seasonal luxuries

like jalapeños and guacamole (if you're lucky), prompting this born-again reviewer to rallying cries of refried goodness: “Si, se puede!” Dry-erase markers and laminated order sheets are charming, inviting customers to build their own burrito. But for the lazy gringo, the menu offers typical New Mexican fare served on flour tortillas including tacos, enchiladas, quesadillas and even gorditas (puffy tacos).

The Stuffed Gringo, a wide mouthed burrito packed with rice, sour cream, salsa, guacamole (sadly unavailable at the time of review) and choice of beef, chicken or ‘bean only’ is a testament to the hearty appetites of the Southwest US. Alternatively, if you're a believer in ‘everything is better fried’, indulge in the chimichanga, a fried, crunchy version of the burrito. Stuffed jalapeños with white cheese,

battered and fried are a hit on the specials. But the fry fiesta isn't over yet. For dessert sample the sopapillas, fried tortillas dusted with powdered sugar and served with honey, or the fried ice cream (yes, you read right), an invention only an American could conjure. And thick Oreo or Snickers milkshakes and root beer floats point friendly fingers to its American owner. The Lazy Gringo could

well be a happy hour haunt where patrons could unwind to chips and salsa mellowed by a refreshing margarita. Unfortunately, the cantina's dry: no cervezas or tequila-based concoctions to slake your fix. Noteworthy, however, the server kindly offered to purchase a bottle of brew from a corner shop. But it's just not the same. For speedy service, a colorful setting, decent prices and a tasty trip to the Southwest, the Lazy Gringo deserves more than just a sombrero tip but a full on hat dance.
Marco Pollo

On your way to the city zoo, track back on the roundabout 270 degrees to the gringo, enter through the back and up to the first floor.

Space	★★★★
Bread 'n water	★★★★
Service	★★★★
Deal-icious	★★★★
Rep-eat?	★★★★

Join The V Generation

RUSLAN VODKA

100% Pure Vodka

Drink responsibly

Nick Simons Institute



DHANVANTARI
Buddha Basnyat, MD

When the friendly 22-year-old American Nick Simons (pictured) arrived in Kathmandu in 2002 he worked for an NGO in the hydropower sector. In March 2003 he returned home to New York and told his parents, Jim and Marilyn Simons, how he had grown to love Nepal sharing with them his dream to study medicine. Before starting his mandatory premedical course in the autumn of 2003, he decided to travel to Bali where he tragically drowned while swimming. In 2006, Jim and Marilyn set up the Nick Simons Institute in

Kathmandu in memory of their son to provide quality health care to people in rural Nepal. In its first five years, NSI has had a remarkable impact on training and supporting health facilities in rural Nepal. Partnering with other hospitals and organisations, NSI has helped train and support over 1,000 health care workers and 90 per cent are still working in their rural locations. NSI has realised the importance of working with government institutions so that the impact of the program (for example, training skilled birth attendants) is more effective and widespread. Much-needed refresher courses for health workers in rural areas has met with a great deal of enthusiasm by the participants which is bound to influence patient care.

A formal anesthesia assistant course for non-doctor anesthetist developed by NSI has been welcomed because in rural areas emergency surgery is often not conducted even in the presence of a surgeon because of lack of an anesthetist. Learning to administer anesthesia is a very "hands on", technical procedure that can be competently taught in one year in a step wise manner. Many rural patients will doubtless benefit from these skillful, nurse anesthetists. Continued medical education for many doctors in Nepal consists of drug-company sponsored evenings where an expert gives a talk followed by dinner. For the first time in Nepal, NSI has created and disseminated Nepal's continuing medical education course (Volume 1) for doctors which is very relevant and popular. Volume 2 is "in press". NSI, by taking this untrodden path to better health in rural Nepal, has fulfilled the wish of the young Nick Simons by providing competent care to Nepalis in their own communities. On Saturday, NSI moves to its own premises in Sanepa at a ceremony to be attended by president Ram Baran Yadav.

nepalitimes.com
A gift of life, #291

WEEKEND WEATHER
by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

The monsoon has now reached its maturity, with a combination of both moisture pulses from the Bay as well as night condensation. The rivers are in full spate, the top soil is saturated and there is landslide and rockfall danger along mountain highways. Special care needed when crossing culverts in the Tarai. The current system is being closely followed by another low pressure circulation moving in from the Bay, which should reach us early next week. Expect more relentless rain, at times heavy during the night.

FRI	SAT	SUN
27-18	27-18	27-18

WEATHERCOAT
All Guard

WEATHERCOAT All Guard Truly Durable Exterior Paint



BIKRAM RAI

BIRTHDAY GLORY: With his eldest granddaughter Purnika Shah by his side, former king Gyanendra Shah awaits his well-wishers at the Shital Niwas, Maharajgunj, on the occasion of his 65th birthday, Thursday morning.



BIKRAM RAI

PARTY'S OVER: Police arrest a Tibetan monk on his way to celebrations of Dalai Lama's birthday at the Swayambhu premises on Wednesday. Authorities had enforced a ban on gatherings for the Tibetan spiritual leader's birth anniversary, fearing anti-China protests.



BIKRAM RAI

PATCH WORK: Workers repair a road in New Road on Tuesday, using a special chemical that enables blacktopping even in rainy season.

01 110 101 011 010110
Empowering Technology

Rs.36,000/-
~~Rs.42,000/-~~

Aspire M1830 Desktop
FEATURING Intel Dual Core Processor E5800 3.2GHz
2GB DDR II RAM / 320GB HDD with
18.5" wide LCD Monitor
1 Year Warranty

Also Available with:
Acer 15.6" LCD, 18.5" LED, 20" LCD, 20" LED and 23" LCD Monitors

Available Through All Our Dealers

Outside Kathmandu Dealers : Himalayan Office Automation, Pokhara-061-525300 / ECSC Group, Butwal -071-542699 / Birat Infotech, Biratnagar-021-538729 / E-Net Solution, Chitwan-056-572096 / Advance Computer & General Suppliers, Banepa-9851081595 / Ugratara Trading House, Dhangadi-091-523601 / Dinesh Computers, Dhangadhi-091-521392 / Manakamana Hi Tech, Nepalgunj, 081-521473 / Smart Link, Dang-082-561022 / Ugratara Technical Goods & Suppliers, Mahendra Nager-099-523872 / Gagan Enterprises, Birgunj-9855022388 / 9725141388 / Mega Tech, Biratnagar-021-521794 / Quality Computer, Birtamod-023-540150, 9852672548 / Dinesh
Kathmandu Dealers : Star Office Automation, Putalisadak-4266820 / Max international, Putalisadak-4415786 / Interactive Computer System, New Road-4227854 / The Waves Group, Lazimpat-4410423 / Click Solution Center, Lalitpur-5536649 / Virgin Mobile, New Road-4260173 / Flash International, New Road-4222384

MERCANTILE
OFFICE SYSTEMS
Hitti Pokhari , Durbar Marg , Kathmandu , Nepal
Tel: 4440773, 4445920, Fax: 977-1-4437088
Email: market@mos.com.np

India and the 'hood

Manmohan Singh doesn't seem to think there is much to worry about in Nepal, Bhutan or Maldives



CHALO DILLI
Jyoti Malhotra

We know, now, that the neighbourhood worries Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh a great deal.

India has been so caught up with tailing its own shadow that in recent months the government seems to have pretty much taken its hand off the steering wheel. The Great Middle-Class Debate on corruption and black money, which is ending up looking rather farcical as government and civil society activists continue to spar over a proposed bill on this subject, is commanding all attention.

It was to stanch this flow of mixed messages and resultant despair that Manmohan Singh decided to call a select band of editors to hear him on a variety of subjects last week, not least on India's neighbouring countries.

"You didn't say anything on the neighbourhood," said one editor, after the prime minister had offered a tour de horizon on all the challenges that currently confronted India. "Well," the prime minister answered, "the neighbourhood worries me a



great deal, quite frankly."

It was a forthright answer, given without hedging any bets, and it offered several insights into the mind of one of the most influential men in South Asia. Over the next couple of hours or so, there was something on Sri Lanka and Pakistan, Afghanistan and the US troop pullout from that country.

Nothing on Nepal. Nor on Bhutan, or the Maldives. Perhaps the PM believes those are the good news stories, or at least not a cause for immediate concern. Manmohan Singh's remarks on Sri Lanka, are in fact, quite extraordinary, especially because this is the first time

since Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapakse won the civil war in 2009, after killing LTTE supremo Prabhakaran, that India has criticised him publicly.

Delhi maintained a formidable silence ever since Prabhakaran's death, including over the Channel Four documentary that showed chilling footage of Sri Lankan soldiers raping Tamil civilian women and maltreating the bodies of dead LTTE soldiers, because Rajapakse did for Delhi what no one else could do since Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by the LTTE in 1991.

The quid pro quo was

apparent, except no one talked about it. Delhi even supported Rajapakse's bid for power when he held early elections last year. Now Manmohan Singh has broken the silence, and come out on the side of what is right and just, even if the people concerned are weak and powerless.

"The decimation of the LTTE was something which is good. But the Tamil problem does not disappear, with the defeat of the LTTE. The Tamil population has legitimate grievances. They feel they are reduced to second-class citizens," the prime minister told editors.

Reducing the PM's concerns on the plight of Sri

Lankan Tamils to domestic political arithmetic would be a mistake. It is true that Tamil Nadu chief minister Jayalalitha has offered the support of her nine AIADMK MPs to the Congress-led coalition in Delhi. However, the other Tamil Nadu party, the DMK, is so weakened after its implication in the 2G spectrum scandal, it really has no choice but to pay much more attention to the Congress party.

Manmohan Singh's courage in speaking up on Sri Lanka is in stark contrast with his undiplomatic remarks on Bangladesh in which he said the Jamaat-e-Islami party was anti-Indian and that it was supported by a quarter of Bangladeshis.

The gaffe has created a deep chasm of distrust in Dhaka just before Foreign Minister SM Krishna's visit this week. Sonia Gandhi is travelling there later this month and Manmohan Singh will go in September. The offending remarks have since vanished from the government website.

But on one point, the Prime Minister is right. India lives in a "very uncertain neighbourhood ... we have to swim and keep our heads high." Lowering your eyes and re-reading the history books wouldn't be such a bad idea, either.

New

Tuscan singles

**Italian Inspired
Thin Crust
Gourmet Toppings**

Tuscan cuisine, from Florence, Central Italy, is known for using flavourful and natural ingredients. Inspired by this fine cuisine, our chef brings you a new range of specially crafted pizzas to tempt your palate. Each of these pizzas is made with our signature hand-stretched thin crust and unique gourmet toppings, specially selected and designed by our chef.

PEPSI

**Visit Pizza Hut at 1st floor, Annapurna Arcade, Durbar Marg
Available in dine-in only**

*Terms and conditions apply.

Pizza Hut

What are you celebrating today?

No home delivery

DAMBAR KRISHNA SHRESTHA in BARDIYA

Despite war, poverty and political instability Nepal’s maternal mortality rate has dropped from 800 per 100,000 live births 20 years ago to 280 today. Rising female literacy, later marriages and the spread of road access are regarded as factors.

Still, less than a third of all mothers give birth in hospitals and only six out of ten deliveries are done by skilled birth attendants. And to reach the Millennium Development Goals, Nepal needs to reduce the maternal mortality rate further to 134 by 2015.

And despite the drop in under-five infant mortality figures from 237 per 1,000 live births in 1970 to 50 today, three-fourths of all baby deaths happen just after birth or before its first birthday.

This is why, besides encouraging mothers to seek skilled birth attendants the government is also spreading a campaign to care for new-born babies from 10 pilot districts to 15 more. 📷



When **Gita Gharti Magar** got pregnant, she was determined to deliver in a hospital because her first baby died of jaundice soon after birth. “I am glad I went to a nursing home this time because my baby was premature and weighed only 1.5 kg,” she says. Gita demonstrates the “love embrace” technique of holding her baby, Anis. Birth attendants recommend mothers use this method in places where there are no incubators.



ALL PICS: DAMBAR KRISHNA SHRESTHA

Do hospitals have to be so

ELIPHA PRADHANANGA in DHULIKHEL

It was well past 4 pm but there is still a long line of patients getting their medicine at the pharmacy. The wards are still packed with people.

Several things stood out during a recent visit to Dhulikhel Hospital (right). First is that despite being a community hospital, how clean and well-managed it is. There are orderly lines, no shouting and chaos. Secondly, unlike most other private hospitals in Kathmandu, relatives of patients aren’t carrying wads of cash to pay for treatment.

First-time patients at Dhulikhel Hospital pay a registration fee of Rs 15, for which they get a check-up by a cardiologist, nephrologist, a dermatologist or psychiatrist. No further payment is required. On the second visit the patient pays only Rs 10 and medicines are discounted. In-patients



BIKRAM RAI

pay a daily charge of Rs 150, which includes three meals a day.

For people used to Nepal’s government hospitals, the first thought that comes to mind is that since it is so cheap the quality of service must be bad. But Dhulikhel Hospital probably has the best level of diagnosis and care in Nepal. How do they do it?

“This is a non-profit, community based hospital and our mission is to provide affordable health care to all,” explains Rajendra Koju,

Dhulikhel and Chhetrapati hospitals show the way in making health care affordable to all Nepalis

a slight overhead. We don’t have a profit margin.”

Dhulikhel Hospital gets no support from the government, and although it gets donor help for new investment in equipment and infrastructure, the hospital meets its operational costs from fees.

“Everything comes down to management,” says Koju, during a tour of the wards, “when we know exactly how much we spend and exactly how much we earn, we can set a number that

is affordable to the people and yet not a loss for the hospital.”

The question is why can’t other hospitals in Nepal run like that? The answer seems to lie in the extreme commercialisation of Nepal’s private health sector on the one hand, and the mismanagement of government hospitals on the other.

And in complete contrast to other hospitals where relatives of patients have to

Founder honour

Dhulikhel Hospital was founded by Ram Makaju Shrestha who got his medical degree in Vienna and returned to Nepal to set up Dhulikhel Hospital in 1996. He was inspired to become a doctor by the loss of his mother because of lack of access of proper treatment when he was a boy. In April this year, he was honoured with the Gopal Kamala Raj Bhandari Rotary Award for Vocational Excellence in recognition of his contribution to affordable health care for all. Says Shrestha about his guiding philosophy: “We treat patients whether they are rich or poor, no one is rejected. It is the faith and trust of the people that has made me who I am.”





When 25-year-old **Mayarani Chaudhari** of Dodhari of Bardiya gave birth to a still-born baby girl, her family starting digging a hole in the ground to bury her. But they decided to call the skilled birth attendant, Pushpa Sigdel, to have a second look. Pushpa found that the baby had its windpipe squeezed by the umbilical chord. She gave artificial resuscitation and revived the baby. Last week, Mayarani posed with daughter, Shami, in her lap and her son, Samir. Pushpa (centre) and her assistant, Luna Rana Magar , are also in the picture. Says Mayarani: “Pushpa Didi is like a goddess to us, she brought my daughter back to life.”

When her labour pains started, **Debimaya Pariyar** hopped onto a bus by herself and headed to the nearest hospital in Nepalganj. It took her an hour to reach the city. Soon after being admitted into the maternity ward of the Bheri Zonal Hospital, Debimaya gave birth to twins. “I’m glad I listened to the skilled birth attendant in my village,” she says, “she had warned me there could be complications if I gave birth at home.” Here she is last week with her two other daughters, Subina and Khushi, and mother, Nainimaya.



Krishna Nepali gave birth to her first baby boy in a hospital in Gulariya of Bardiya because her mother-in-law Himkumari insisted on it. “We used to have babies at home, but now we know it is dangerous for both mothers and babies so we took my daughter-in-law to hospital,” says Himkumari (right). Save the Children is helping the government with community-based newborn care for mothers and their babies in Bardiya. UNICEF and Plan Nepal are involved in other districts.

expensive?

run around to buy bandages and medicines even for emergency cases before they are treated, Dhulikhel has a ‘service first, pay later’ policy. Many can’t pay and the hospital ends up providing Rs 15 million in free treatment which is paid out of a charity kitty. Dhulikhel Hospital operates with Kathmandu University School of Medical Science and staff work in both institutions, which also helps in keeping costs down. “Health care is supposed to be about helping others, reducing their suffering, but it has turned into a business,” says Dipak Dahal of Dhulikhel Hospital. “We are here to change that.” Remarkably, doctors and nurses here are paid modestly and yet none of them moonlight anywhere else. The trick has been to instill a sense of commitment and compassion. 🇳🇵

Paying less for more

Another example of a hospital with affordable health care is Chhetrapati Free Clinic. Patients pay a “donation” of Rs 100 and can visit any consultant they want. But those who can’t even afford to pay that get treatment for free. At first Chhetrapati clinic used to provide free services to all, but they changed that in response to popular perception that free care is not good. Explains the hospital’s Bijay Bahadur Mali: “We had to charge people that nominal amount so they would take us seriously.” Mali says health care is expensive because medical education has become expensive, the prices of equipment and drugs are also very high. “prevention is cheaper than cure,” he says, “half the health problems in this country could be solved if sanitation and clean drinking water was available to the people.” Educating patients is also important. Most patients think a doctor who doesn’t prescribe expensive drugs is not good, or that if a clinic doesn’t prescribe expensive ultrasounds, there is something wrong. “What is working against affordable health care is the Nepali people’s love for technology,” says Mark Zimmerman of the Nick Simons Institute in Kathmandu. “Nepali consumers judge medical service by how hi tech it is.” The cost of hospital fees can be brought down if unnecessary tests are not conducted. Zimmerman, who has worked in Nepal for 20 years, says the country’s health system needs better care providers who treat patients with compassion and a holistic approach.

nepalitimes.com
Nursing Nepal back to health, #489
Nepal’s unsung health heros, #406



nepalitimes.com
A people’s hospital, #162



Birkha Dai’s clinic

ABHAYA SHRESTHA in MUGU

Birkha Bahadur Rokaya (*pictured*) walks off the trail to where a fallen tree branch has clogged a stream, causing water to form a puddle on the trail. Despite the cold drizzle, he tugs at the branch until the stream gets unclogged and water drains away from the trail. Footprints indicate that other travelers have chosen simply to walk around the puddle. It is a small gesture, but it shows why Birkha Dai is such a compassionate community organiser in the remote village of Murma of Mugu. He was instrumental in getting the village to build a health post here with the help of the Help Nepal Network (HeNN), a community organisation of Nepali individuals all over the world.

Having been a fundraiser for HeNN based in the United States for over six years, I am now in Mugu to see for myself the health post that the organisation helped build. It is a long ‘L’ shaped house with stone walls, a wooden roof and a blue-and-white sign. A neat, grassy yard lies in front with a fenced vegetable patch along the side.



The child mortality rate in Mugu is three times the national average, with most children dying due to diarrhoeal dehydration, acute respiratory infection of vaccine-preventable illnesses. Seven years ago, Birkha Dai approached HeNN for funds to construct a health post in his village because he knows first-hand of the cost of poor health care: four of his children died of infections when they were young. HeNN agreed to provide Rs 500,000 for the health post, and Murma residents chipped in with land and labour costs. The health post now treats up to 20 patients a week and has run two health camps. Retention of health workers is a big problem in remote Nepal, but the health assistant and a midwife, paid for by HeNN, remain available around the clock.

The district hospital in Gamgadi is a three-hour walk away, and locals prefer the health post because it saves them time and cost. Although services are basic, the clinic has already saved the lives of mothers with complicated pregnancies. Murma residents are grateful to HeNN and they have other requests: adding another health assistant, building a lodge at the health post so it can generate its own income and subsidise medicines. The local school only goes up to Grade 8, can it be taken up to SLC?

As Birkha Dai and I walk past the jewel-like Rara lake towards the airfield in Talcha we pass others on the trail. From the way they greet him, it is evident they have respect and affection for their Birkha Dai. There are tens of thousands of Birkha Dais in Nepal, and there are hundreds of thousands of fellow-Nepalis in Nepal and abroad ready to help them. 🇳🇵

Abhaya Shrestha is an executive member of Help Nepal Network (www.helpnepal.net) and lives in Chicago.

nepalitimes.com
Nepalis helping Nepalis, #534
Inspiration, Inc., #471



“Agree on what can be done now...”

Interview with Mani Shankar Aiyar of the Indian National Congress, *Naya Patrika*, 2 July

नयाँ पत्रिका

Naya Patrika: Why isn't the Indian establishment willing to accept the Nepali Maoists?
Mani Shankar Aiyar: Nepal is a sovereign country. It is not for the Indian government to dictate who should be the decisive force in Nepal. India is mostly worried about the supposed relations between the Indian and the Nepali Maoists. There are doubts on Indian side that Nepali Maoists are helping

Indian Maoists by providing trainings and arms. But I don't think India should sour its relation with a major Nepali political party based on such an assumption.

Do you think there is really some such partnership between the Nepali and the Indian Maoists?
I have not worked as the defence or home minister of India to say for sure. But as a politician, I can say this for certain that the Maoist parties in the two countries have no more than ideological solidarity.

Rakesh Sood, was pelted stones by protesters and shown black flag. It is said that the Indian establishment was greatly upset over this?
We Indians are used to being pelted stones and shown black flags. This is not an unusual incident. I have been at the receiving end of such protests many times while serving in Pakistan. The diplomatic relations of two countries should not be influenced by the reactions of a crowd.

It is said that the Indian establishment does not want constitution written in Nepal?

It is wrong to assume that India does not want Nepal to have a constitution. Our humble suggestion is that it may not be possible to build a complete constitution at once. But that should not be a reason to obstruct the entire peace process. Nepal can declare a constitution at the earliest by gathering consensus on important subjects and then amend constitution with time to iron out contentious issues. The Indian constitution has been amended 144 times till now but we have no misgivings about it. I am going to advise Maoist Chairman Prachanda to do the same: agree on what can be done now and make adjustments later.

Prime Minister: “The corrupt will not be spared at any cost.”
Arm band: Impunity

क्रान्तिपुर Batsyayan in Kantipur, 4 July

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“People in the government are plotting to kill me and creating conditions to get me attacked.”

UML leader KP Oli after the home ministry called back the team responsible for his security

Who is next?

Annapurna Post, 7 July

अन्नपूर्ण पोस्ट

On Wednesday, the NC suggested that Puspha Kamal Dahal should lead a national unity government provided the fundamentals of the peace process move forward. Sources say the NC assured Dahal of its support in forming a national unity government if he agreed to the number of Maoist fighters to be integrated, the modality, rank harmonisation and rehabilitation package.

“We considered the gravity of the situation and made conditions more flexible than before,” said a NC leader. “There is no favourable environment within my party at the moment so we may even consider an NC candidate just in

case we are not able to lead the government,” the leader quoted Dahal as saying. The NC is said to have told him that the party would name the candidate “within four hours” if it is to lead the government.

Earlier, the Maoists had proposed Baburam Bhattarai to lead the national unity government. He was proposed by vice chairman Narayan Kaji Shrestha after it was approved by Dahal and was seconded by Mohan Baidya. Sources say Bhattarai's name was proposed in a meeting of office bearers held few days back and that Dahal put forward his name after being pressurised by the two deputies to change his working style in the party and make the leadership inclusive.

After the office bearers' meeting at Dahal's residence on Tuesday, Shrestha told reporters that the party would hold talks with other political parties regarding Bhattarai's candidacy and implementation of the five-point agreement.

नागरिक Republica

अब हुन्छन् सबै दंग

एक जनालाई काठमाडौं नयाँ बानेश्वरनजिक बाग्मती अपार्टमेन्टमा २ बेडरूम अपार्टमेन्ट

एक जनालाई Perodua ViVA 660cc

FEATURES & FACILITY
Factoryfitted Air Conditioning
Easy Drive Steering
Keyless Entry System
Central Door Locking System
Rear Defogger
Rear Wiper
Factoryfitted CD Player with FM Stereo
Cigar Lighter, Genuine Boot Tray
Genuine Foot Mat
Body Coloured Bumper Door Handles
Best Claimed Mileage in Nepal 23 Km/Ltr

३ जनालाई 32" Sony Bravia LED TV

Key features
Edge LED
Full HD 1080
BRAVIA Engine™ 3
Intelligent Picture Plus
MPEG Noise Reduction
USB Photo/Music/Video

५ जनालाई Hasee i3 Laptop

Key features
Fully Loaded : Stronger WIFI, Stylish look
Sleek & Light weight, Easy to carry
Robust : for Rough & Tough use
320GB HDD, 2GB DDR-3 RAM
14" Screen, 3.5 hrs Battery

वार्षिक ग्राहकलाई एउटा Steam Iron

अर्धवार्षिक ग्राहकलाई एउटा FM / LED Rechargeable Torch

३ महिने ग्राहकलाई एउटा LED Rechargeable Torch

हरेक साता २ जनालाई Lemon Mobile Phone

हामी आउँदैछौं तपाईंको घरदैलोमा फेरि एकपटक

थप जानकारीका लागि नेपाल रिपब्लिक मिडिया प्रा.लि. ने.डि.ए. कम्प्लेक्स, बागबजार, काठमाडौं, फोन: ०१-६२०२६८१, ४२६४१०० (Ext. २०४/२०५), ईमेल: circulation@nagariknews.com

नोट: बम्पर उपहार योजनामा वार्षिक ग्राहक मात्र सहभागी हुनेछन्।
*शर्तहरू लागू हुनेछ

Integration not an issue

Baburam Bhattarai in
Naya Patrika, 28 June

गोपनीयता

The five-point agreement was a victory of progressive forces over regression who wanted to dissolve the CA and push the peace process to the brink. However, only one point of the agreement, extension of the CA tenure, has been implemented so far. The peace process and constitution writing have not progressed and there is a fear that the farce of May 28 will be repeated again.

The PLA integration and constitution writing is an end, and a national unity government, the means to achieve it. The debates about whether integration comes first or constitution, whether national government should precede the peace process are irrelevant. Peace process, integration, constitution writing and national government are all inter-related. They should all go simultaneously.



The integration of Maoist combatants has been unnecessarily complicated. We have accepted the old army as our national army, but some political parties tend to overlook the contribution of the Maoist army to historical changes. Let me be clear: the peace process will never complete until the Maoist combatants are integrated in a respectable manner.

We know the army follows certain standards in recruitment, which we have accepted. But Maoist soldiers are also trained like any other army and their battle experience should also be taken into account in the integration process. This shouldn't be so complicated. We are close to agreement in numbers, we have proposed 8-10,000. We have to finalise the golden handshake package, the rules for ranks and organisational structure after integration. If the political parties are honest and accountable to the state, we are close to an agreement on political and constitutional issues.



किन

लामो समय राख्नु हुन्छ बन्द ?

जागृहोस्

मेगा डिपोजिट

धमाका

संग

१२% वार्षिक व्याजदर मात्र ~~६५~~ दिनको मुद्दती निक्षेपमा

वार्षिक व्याजदर १२%
निक्षेप अवधि ६५ दिन
न्यूनतम मौज्दात रु. २.००.०००/-
ओभरड्राफ्ट सुविधा

मेगा बैंक नेपाल लिमिटेड, मेगा महल, कान्तिपथ, काठमाडौं, नेपाल, पोष्ट बक्स नं. २६५५९, फोन: ९७७-१-४२५७७१, फ्याक्स: ९७७-१-४२६५९९

शाखाहरू: नयाँ बानेश्वर- ०१-४९०६२८६/८८/८८ | ब्युरोड- ०१-४२५९२८८/८३ | जावलाखेल- ०१-५५५८५०६ | कपल- ०१-४८९२६०२/६०३/६०४ | घोखरा- ०६९-५३९९९२/३/४ | विराटनगर- ०२९-५२९३५६

बिरगंज- ०५९-५२८७०६ | बुटवल- ०७९-५५९६०९/०२/०३/०४ | अर्घाखाँची- ०७७-४२०७८७/८८ | चोतारा- ०९९-४२०८९३ | हरिवन- ०८६-५३०६३८/३८ | स्याङ्गुवेसी- ८८८९५९७९८२







Getting A

NEW LEASE OF LIFE

With Transplantation




Transplantation has been known to save lives. It brings hope and life for those suffering from end stage organ failure, blood disorders and blood cancers. Continuous evolvement in research and pharmacology has now opened doors to transplantation which provides better and longer quality of life.

At ParkwayHealth, we believe in providing our patients a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach to the clinical treatment and management of their conditions. Haematopoietic and stem cell transplant, living donor kidney and liver transplants form the pillar of our Transplant & Cellular Therapy Programme; and they bring hope and provide life-saving therapies to patients in the world.

Haematopoietic and Stem Cell Transplant
We provide comprehensive transplantation care from infants to adults with both malignant, benign, genetic and/or blood disorders. This treatment procedure is applicable alone or in combination with other treatments for conditions such as leukaemia, solid tumours, thalassaemia, sickle cell anaemia, metabolic diseases, immune deficiencies and autoimmune diseases.

Living Donor Kidney Transplant
Our multi-disciplinary team of specialists offers a complete range of medical and surgical interventions to treat patients with kidney diseases including acute and chronic disease management, end-stage disease management and kidney transplantation. We adopt the latest medication and quality care to undertake complicated transplantations for blood group incompatible and crossmatch positive (sensitised group) patients. ParkwayHealth is the first in offering such solutions to patients in Southeast Asia.

Living Donor Liver Transplant
ParkwayHealth is the first hospital in Asia to perform a Living Donor Liver Transplant in 2002. With the first fully integrated centre for liver transplant and treatment in Asia, ParkwayHealth's Gleneagles Hospital is the only private hospital in Singapore with a dedicated liver Intensive Care Unit (ICU) within the ward. The liver ICU is equipped with sophisticated equipment, liver dialysis machines, monitoring devices, ventilators to ensure that every patient receives the best treatment for his specific liver condition.

ParkwayHealth Patient Assistance Centre (Nepal)

24-Hour Helpline : (977) 1 422 2908

Mobile : (977) 985 111 7408 • Fax : (977) 1 422 6795 • Email : ppac@parkway.com.np

Website : www.ppac.sg

Our ParkwayHealth Patient Assistance Centre (PPAC) provides a seamless and one-stop 24-hour service to our patients, connecting them to a comprehensive choice of medical services and doctors across ParkwayHealth's hospitals.



(Best Healthcare Experience)

 Gleneagles Hospital
 Mount Elizabeth Hospital
 Parkway East Hospital



Fragrance of colors
glitter in all directions

ROYALE *Glitter* | Shining all Around

asianpaints

For more information email us at royal.play@asianpaints.com.np

Shahi Nepal Bayuseba Nigum

Nepal's national airline was flying high as long as the country was an absolute monarchy. As soon as we got a constitutional king in 1990 it started being dismantled by the kangresi **Dad, Dotter & Son-in-law, GmbH**. But the real collapse came in the past four years after Nepal became a republic and they dropped 'Royal' from Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation. RNAC is now d NAC: No-Aircraft Corruption. And just when we thought the airline couldn't sink any further, the baddie Touristic Minister is showing a knack to wreck NAC. He has replaced a veteran airline captain and appointed his Kalikot crony, Grade 8 graduate Manrup Shahi, as the new chairman. But the airline's glory days may be back, because it has reverted to its old name: 'Shahi Nepal Bayuseba Nigum'.

Meanwhile, it has emerged that the guy who tarmaced the helipad at the airport had to offer so much in ghooos up and down the ministry and

department that there wasn't enough money left over to buy the asphalt. Which is why there are potholes large enough to swallow Ecureuils on the apron. But guess what, this fellow also has the contract to collect parking fees at both domestic and international, sub-leases the tea shops inside the terminal, has the contract to make security and immigration stickers and has a say in not allowing any other taxis than the **Vintage Limo Cartel** at the international terminal and the **Antique VW Van Syndicate** at the Air Cargo Section. The man's got it all pretty much stitched up. No wonder even Com Yummy couldn't get him out.

The Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) got into a dispute last week regarding the mechanism to resolve disputes between the three parties about who should be the indisputable leader of this country. So the Big Three have come up with a new sub-committee within the DRC and a specialised



committee tasked specifically to resolve new disputes that may arise in future. Whether it will work is disputable. The newly set up **Trouble-shooting Mechanism** may just have to shoot anyone who makes trouble.

The Special Committee has apparently decided that since proponents of the American Model and the British Model would not budge, the only way to make progress on the draft of the constitution would be to go for a French Model, which is more or less like we have now: PKD is behaving like an executive president and he is cohabiting with ceremonial prime minister, JNK. But perhaps they should have looked at other models as well that are more suited to the Nepal situation:

The former-Yugoslavia Model: Chop country up into little pieces
The North Korea Model: Use their definition of 'democratic people's republic'
The Cambodia Model: Let our Maoists go back to where they left off in April 2006
The Somalia Model: Hand over federal units to ethnic warlords
The Sri Lanka Model: Leave it to the Norwegians
The Bhutan Model: Leave it to the Indians

When a couple of his classmates from school came to meet him at Baluwatar, they reminded the prime minister of his childhood nickname: "Pangray". They found Pangray hiding under the quilt pretending to be sick because he didn't want to face his party's central committee, and the wrath of those who want him to step down. "I didn't promise to resign, I promised to re-sign," JN said. The PM told his party he doesn't know who sneaked the words 'people war' into the president's address to

parliament. He lied. The PMO warned the president under direct orders from The Boss not to deviate from the text when Shital Nibas raised objections. It's pretty clear who sprinkled the president's speech with Maoist jargon and doublespeak: **Maoist Prime Minister Comrade Pangray**.

Trust **His Ferociousness** to try to out maneuver the two rivals within his party by playing footsie with both. To Baidya the Hardcore he has been saying, don't worry comrade it is just tactical we will grab power after Dasain, let's just confuse the useful idiots by pretending to fight. At the same time, PKD has proposed BRB as prime ministerial candidate. Laldhoj Comrade, being even more devious and scheming than his chairman, sees right through it and has so far refused to swallow the bait.





ASUS[®]
Inspiring Innovation • Persistent Perfection

K Series Laptops
Stay Cool with Metallic Chic

IceCool Technology keeps palm rests cool | First notebooks designed with multi-color aluminum textures | 2nd generation Intel® Core™ processor

EXPLORE ASUS LAPTOPS @ www.asus.com.np

2 YEAR INTERNATIONAL WARRANTY

Good Design | TAIWAN EXCELLENCE GOLD AWARD 2008 | redid design award winner 2009

ASUS LAPTOPS - No. 1 in reliability - Rescuecom (USA), 2009

Intel® Core™ i5 Visibly Smart

SOLE DISTRIBUTOR FOR ASUS, TRANSCEND & GIGABYTE
NAGMANI INTERNATIONAL
Contact: +977 1 4168603, 4168637, info@nagmani.com.np

SHOWROOM @ CITY CENTRE
TECHNOSHOPPE
NLIC City Centre # G4, Tel: 4011770

Transcend

EXCLUSIVE ASUS SERVICE CENTRE
TOLL FREE NO: 1660-01-12787