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On the eve of his visit to India, Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai wrote an article in The Hindu in which he claimed the visit had 'historical significance'. The irony, of course, is that the chief ideologue of the Maoist party who once called for expulsion of Indian companies from Nepal is now visiting India as prime minister and trying to woo Indian investors.

Travelling economy again, the prime minister will have economic issues at the top of his agenda. Nepali politics is too complicated even for the Indians, and they have found that overt interference can be counterproductive. India is worried about security issues, and there will have to be some give and take on that.

The prospect of \$250m line of credit and 250MW of electricity import could be crucial in the short-term because Nepal has no Indian currency to fund burgeoning imports from India, and little electricity this winter. 

Anurag Acharya

Editorial p2

New Nepal to New Delhi

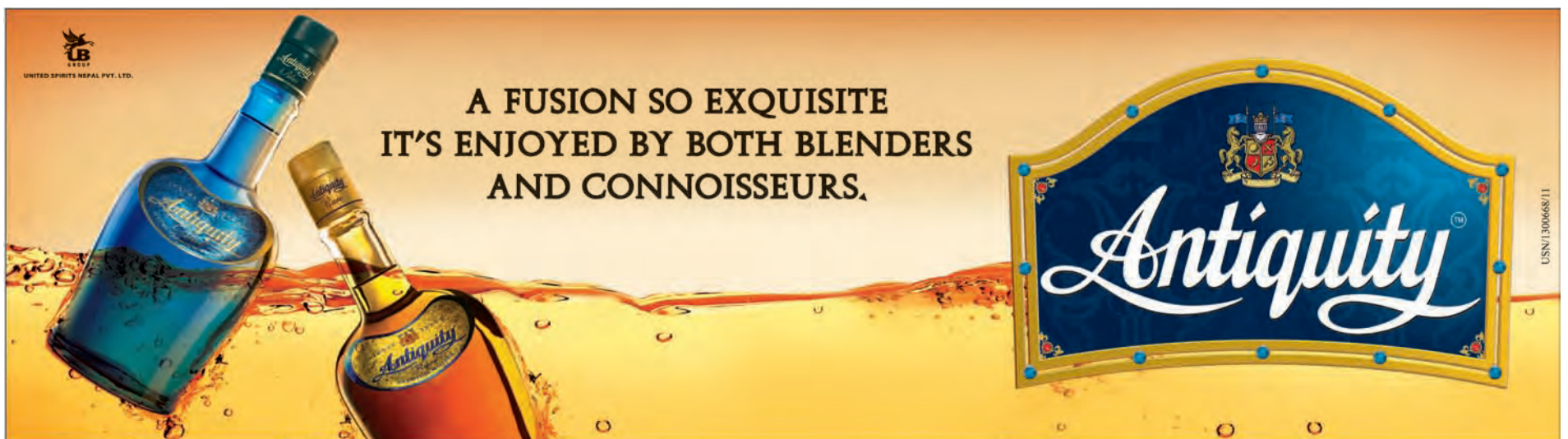
Chalo Dilli p11

Baburam returns to Delhi
 by Jyoti Malhotra



Delhi revisited

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NEW NEPAL TO NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai is in New Delhi this week for the first time as head of government. The sights and sounds of the Indian capital will be familiar to him, having done his PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and spent most of the war years in and out of Noida. The Indian media has been gushing about Bhattarai being one of their own ever since he was elected nearly two months ago.

Bhattarai’s advisers have warned the press not to seek dramatic breakthroughs on issues like the Indo-Nepal Treaty, regulating the border, or water deals. He doesn’t have a choice since he heads a shaky coalition, and party colleagues are itching to pull the rug from under him.

New Delhi has decided that it can do business with Bhattarai, but it should also be realistic enough to know that whatever is agreed in New Delhi the prime minister will find it difficult to sell to his own party, let alone to the opposition. As part of his strategy to undermine his rival, Pushpa Kamal Dahal has hung an albatross around Bhattarai’s neck by publicly calling him an Indian lackey.

That said, Bhattarai should try to take his visit beyond symbolism. Pomp and ceremony will not redress our yawning balance of payments deficit with India. It is important to know what is important to Delhi, and try to get from them what is important to us. Too often in the past, Nepali officialdom has been so insecure about India,



BIKRAM RAI

and so sure that we will get bullied, that we have stonewalled.

Lately, through various channels, the New Delhi establishment has let us know that its primary concern is “security”. This includes the gamut of issues from infiltration of terrorists and underworld criminals across the open border, to extradition, allowing air marshals in flights and controlling fake Indian currency. So far, fears of backlash have held back Nepal’s political leaders from agreeing to anything that would erode our sovereign rights. This is the same misplaced nationalism that produced that ridiculous airport ramp 50 cm above the tarmac, just to prove that Indian security

wasn’t frisking passengers on Nepali territory.

It’s time to transcend such hollow symbolism and address the real issues that affect our nationalism and sovereignty: the growing trade deficit with India, the fact that two million Nepalis are working in India, the huge lines in Pokhara of recruits wishing to join the Indian Army, and the paralyzing disunity among Kathmandu rulers that is undermining our national interest.

Indian investors have pulled out, and those still here are being harassed by national and local extortionists. Bhattarai’s party says it wants to renegotiate 14 hydropower projects with Indian investors that were approved by the all-party government in 2007-8. How is the prime minister going to assure them that it’s not a case of his party wanting its cut?

On the Indian side, we see a new willingness to engage with the Maoists and a realisation that the past policy of open intervention was counterproductive. A stable Nepal is in India’s national interest, keeping Nepal politically weak and economically backward will prolong the instability.

Perhaps the most important message Indian leaders can give Baburam Bhattarai is something he doesn’t seem to have learnt at JNU: that there is no alternative to democracy, pluralism, rule of law and non-violent politics.

ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

IMMUNITY FROM IMPUNITY

Fifth columnists such as highly intelligent fake sympathisers of the poor and persecuted have changed the frame of reference (Editorial, ‘Immunity from impunity’, #574). The editor must have been in this business long enough to know that Baburam Bhattarai was going to do exactly what he has done.

Soni

- Babu Ram has shown that our politicians need administrative and development planning on-the-job training before taking executive assignments. They need reeducation on good governance.

Rajaram

- BRB is delivering what others have delivered to him. Murder, loot and extortion were his forte as the leader of the insurgency. So it is natural for him to forgive others charged with such heinous crimes. Bhattarai gets his support from Westerners as well as Nepali intellectuals. If he has been exonerated why cannot he exonerate others? If he is upright, so are the criminals around him.

K K Sharma

- When the Maoists were murdering people at a rate of 100 per week, one of our “historical” leaders, GPK made a deal called the 12-point pact out of his “love for democracy” which allowed the Maoist leaders amnesty. Since then the Maoists have been cleansed of their crimes against humanity. Much has changed since 12 points pact, but the same Maoists, being in government without renouncing violence, have returned to claim amnesty even for



cases that happened after the conflict ended. All this doesn’t seem to matter to human rights organizations, the judicial system working in Nepal, Nepali Judiciary, Jurists or media.

Nirmal

- How can they build a just and fair society when the ‘struggle’ is built on the foundation of murder, loot and extortion? Our society is criminalised, thanks to the Maoists and subsequently Madhesi armed outfits. I do not think they deserve to be in the government, now or ever. Our society before the Maoists was not perfect, but it is a shame that we have now endorsed power capture by killing and terrorism. This is a government of criminals, for criminals and by criminals. We can not forget and we will never forgive Prachanda, Baburam & Co for the atrocities

they unleashed in our peaceful society.

Manohar Budathoki

- BRB is just another politician with zero credibility and zero self respect and zero shame. Just look at the Tiwari widow. Your own party and your own people killed him. You as a PM cannot punish a killer from your party.

Mahendra Jha

- Stop political impunity and allow investigation into all crimes. Respect human rights, especially of the victims and their families irrespective of who committed them. Disarm the Maoists and turn them into a civilian political party believing in non-violence, rule of law, freedom of speech and freedom to run a business or work without the fear of forceful donation, intimidation and pressure.

Rishav

DORAMBA

As a Tamang after reading ‘Forgotten Doramba’, #574 I say it with all sadness, whatever the cases may be social, judicial, that there is a continuing trend of victimisation and marginalisation of our people and not receiving a justice. This is not likely to change in the future unless those in power who call themselves fair-minded realise that continuing neglect of a large section of the Nepali populace is detrimental to the health of an emerging democracy. Otherwise the day of a reckoning is not very far when the Tamangs themselves wake up, unite and take the matters into their own hands. I do appreciate the efforts of Nepali Times, Himal Khabarpatrika and Nagarik for pursuing the Doramba Massacre with

a follow up and keeping the story alive. I hope that the perpetrators of the monstrous crime will be brought to justice before too long. Lhasso fyafulla.

Chyangba

- The lesson from Doramba is that Security Sector Transformation is vital to democratise the Nepali Army. It would be suicidal to trust in the unreformed Nepali Army. Instead of this lesson the article hints that the Maoists should be blamed because the anti-Maoist murderers of Maoists cannot be brought to justice while they still have power in the Nepal Army.

Arthur

- The Maoists don't want to go after the army major involved in the Doramaba massacre because then they'd have to also go after Agni Sapkota, Prabhu Sah, and their other murderers and war criminals.

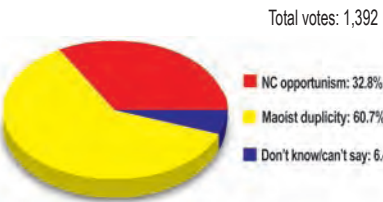
KiranL



nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll # 575

Q. The primary cause of present impasse is:



Weekly Internet Poll # 576. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. What are the chances that new-found cooperation among the parties will take the peace process to its end?



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Don't ask, don't tell

Everyone has skeletons in their closets, so no one wants to open any of them



BY THE WAY

Anurag Acharya

Few months back when Nepali media and politics was rife with Maoist politburo member Agni Sapkota, then minister of information, we said a media trial into such cases could delay the peace process and impede efforts to find a national consensus on statute drafting. Moreover, individual approaches in such high profile cases may even eclipse larger wrongdoings. Hence, there is an urgent need for an empowered commission which can impartially look into the cases making a clear distinction between political killings during the conflict and individual war crimes.

The resignation of Prabhu Sah for an alleged involvement in the killing of a Hindu Yuva Sangh activist Kashi Tiwari in Birganj last year has once again stirred that debate. But the wishy-washy attitude of the political parties on the issue leaves enough room for us to suspect that none of the parties across the political spectrum want to see such a commission take shape, much less investigate cases. When everyone has skeletons in their closets, no one wants to open any of them for fear of being exposed.

In a decade of conflict and in the following years of the Madhes and other ethnic movements, everybody got their hands tainted: Maoists, the Army, the King and parties that came to assume power and keep musclemen in their payrolls.

It is not so much about whether Agni Sapkota had instructed the killing of Arjun Lama of Kavre out of personal vendetta or if it was a "party decision". Does a political motive justify cold blooded murder of unarmed civilians? But we are not

talking about one case here, neither are we talking about one party.

Politicians realise that a Truth and Reconciliation Commission is mutually assured destruction. No matter how much they hate each other, they won't risk being dragged down together. At a time when the country's politics is delicately balanced, none of the parties want to risk losing the support of the army which itself has been internationally censured for unpunished massacres and rapes.

The biggest paradox in Nepali politics today is, despite having gone through a revolution that took us from a monarchy to republic there are still only two real protagonists: the powerful and the powerless. During the Jhala Nath Khanal government, the home ministry had forwarded 35 cases to the Law Ministry requesting that the cases be dismissed citing their "political" nature. But the ministry sent back 12 cases saying the cases in question did not fulfill the legal parameters to qualify as "politically-motivated" cases.

When we requested the Law Ministry this week to provide us a copy of its decision regarding the cases under Freedom of Information provisions, officials refused. The secretary at the ministry claimed that the cases were still "under consideration" and hence could not be made available to the public. But an insider told us that the cases have been sent back because they were mostly of non-political nature involving personal crimes committed during and after the war and the Madhes movement.

Soon it will be five years since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in November 2006 providing for a Truth and

Reconciliation Commission and a Commission on Disappearances within six months. We have had five governments since then, but the bill remains in limbo. Chances are the commissions will never be formed and even if they are formed, its jurisdiction may be limited to submitting reports which will never be made public. It is even less likely that a future government will act on them. We all know the fate of the Rayamajhi Commission report. ☐



Victim of the Doramba massacre who was handcuffed and shot



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GAUTAM ASSOCIATES



After the Arab uprisings that led to the fall of governments in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya, another street uprising is going viral thanks to social media. The Occupy Wall Street protests that started rather uneventfully in lower Manhattan two months ago has now snowballed into a global movement. Protests have revived earlier protests in Spain, Italy, Britain and even Hong Kong where people discontented with capitalism have poured out into the streets in overwhelming numbers. What lies at the heart of these protests is the growing disenchantment of the people over their governments which favour the rich and sacrifice the majority for the interests of the few. Perhaps this was



Been there, done that

We don't need no revolution for the moment, thank you

long overdue in countries where unbridled capitalism has led to greater inequality with no hope of narrowing the gap. But trying to extrapolate this to Nepal, and even talk of replicating it here seems at the moment stretching it a bit too far. It's not that there aren't grievances here: the peace process is stuck, constitution drafters have a writer's block, erstwhile

revolutionaries instead of liberating the people are at liberty to continue looting and extorting. We went through two street uprisings, one in 1990 and the next in 2006. The second one ended the war and ended up sweeping away the monarchy. But as far as Nepal is concerned, for the moment at least, it is a case of been there, done that. Op-ed pundits are full of over-eager praise for the Occupy protests. But as much as we love revolutions, perhaps we are better off working on something that revolutions are supposed to bring: change. There are some inconvenient truths that we may need to address: questions which would have amounted to blasphemy if asked at the time the revolutions were in progress. Were any of those revolutions really useful in terms of what they strove to deliver? Can we say that the 19 people who died in the April 2006 protests, dozens others who died in the Madhes Movement or the 1990 movement did not die in vain? Was their blood spilt in vain? Did their deaths do anymore than to help one greedy bunch of politicians topple and replace another? Perhaps even more pertinent question to be asked is if 16,000 people needed to die in a bloody war whose only utility now it seems was to propel new war lords to positions of power. Could the war have been started by starry eyed romantics out of touch with reality and the lessons of history? They decided to experiment with this country for a pseudo-intellectual exercise whose sole aim was to get to power and take the country to Year Zero. Before responding to any call for change and taking to the streets, one may do well to look back at our recent history, and the promises that went unfulfilled. No one disputes that Nepal was plagued with social injustice, discrimination and exclusion. In the absence of jobs and opportunities it became ripe for the kind of revolution Mao preached. But ultimately the objective conditions for revolution were simply the excuse that politicians used for a shortcut to power, and the people be damned. Those thousands who died, were maimed, the families who lost their earners were all "martyrs", even though they wanted no part in a war fought in their name. we can now ask: all that sorrow and sacrifice for this? We have enough political rights to boast of, atleast in paper. The only revolution we need in Nepal now is an economic one. Let's start with an agrarian revolution. There are thousands of enterprising farmers in this country who can do so much more only if the government takes time off to build irrigation canals, facilitate seed supply and open up markets by building farm roads. Let's start a nation-building campaign, the ones that helped countries like Japan and South Korea rebuild after wars devastated their lands. The country cannot survive indefinitely in a transitional state hopping between people power uprisings every ten years.

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If you are parking at your own risk, what are you paying for?



MY TWO PAISA
Paavan Mathema

If you are one of those who left a car or bike at a paid parking service and upon return found a dent or a scratch you hadn't noticed before, welcome to the club. And when you ask the attendant how come a vehicle under his supervision is damaged, he will shrug and deny any knowledge of it. If you insist and raise your voice, the attendant will just point to the notice on the wall 'Park At Your Own Risk'.

Now, this may be trivial in the grand scheme of things, and the other problems seriously plaguing Nepal at this moment. But it is symptomatic of the extortion and impunity culture that pervades every sphere of life. The parking attendant doesn't feel it is his duty to look after a vehicle that someone has paid him to be responsible for, just like the lack of accountability in our political class and bureaucracy.

Much has been said about expanding roads in the Valley to fit the 600,000 vehicles that ply on them. But no one is talking parking. The scarcity of parking space is now a victim of the laws of supply and demand, and the fees have rocketed. Scarce or expensive parking has driven vehicles to side roads which are now often blocked.

There should be a difference between parking on the street and in a paid parking service. We don't park at paid parking areas just to dodge the KMC officials who tow away vehicles in no parking areas and charge a fine of Rs 500-1,000. When we park and pay we are not just paying the rent, we also expect a level of security. But this is a seller's market. Consumers have no say.



Perhaps it is wrong to expect security from those who are duping officials themselves. Parking in Kathmandu is controlled by a combination of municipal and private operators, gangs or local 'clubs'. There are hundreds of public parking areas in the Valley, but only 30 of them are actually registered with Kathmandu Metropolitan City office (KMC). Most of the rest are illegal extortion rackets run by neighbourhood gangs.

Any roadside space or empty lot is now a fund-raising venture for local youth. They can be knee deep in mud in the monsoon and have

angry bumps, but it'll do. The parking charge fixed per hour by KMC is Rs 5 for two-wheelers and Rs 10 for four-wheelers. But even areas operated by the local ward office charge double that rate, sometimes simply on the basis of a flimsy notice on a cardboard. This means that if you have a motorcycle, you spend almost Rs 100 a week on parking alone. You never get a receipt unless you ask, and if you ask you get a glare.

The charges are Rs 25 per hour for a two-wheeler at night, with Rs 50 for cars. In a single day, a parking area in our neighbourhood rakes in an average of Rs 240,000 a month. Almost none of it goes to the municipality, or for road upkeep. For malls and shopping centres, underground parking areas have become revenue centres.

You can call this the Parking Fee Index to gauge the relative developedness of a society, or you can see it as a reflection of the "manparitantra" anarchy of our transitional politics. Muscle power rules, might is right, etc.

If you own a urban plot and the banks won't lend you for a building, turn it into a car park. For almost no investment, and just the cost of an attendant you can have hassle-free and tax-free monthly cash flow. ■

BIZ BRIEFS

Good business



Nepal has improved its ranking on Doing

Business indicators in Doing Business 2012: Doing Business in a More Transparent World, an annual report from IFC and World Bank.

New ride

Syakar Trading Company, the distributors of Honda Cars, has



launched Honda Brio. The model will be available in four variants – EMT, SMT, S (O) MT and VMT.

Real winner

Rajendra KC from Patan, the 10th week winner of 'Real Quality Tour Contest' has won an all expensed paid trip to Real's factory in Simra and Pokhara. The Real Quality Tour Contest, launched on August 1 is a 13-week long SMS based contest.

Flashy cell

CG Impex, the authorised distributor of LG Mobile for Nepal has launched LG T515. The model is a dual SIM GSM mobile with touch screen. The mobile has 2.8 inch QVGA TFT touch screen display with 262K colours and 240 x 320 pixels resolution.





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The Jimi from Kathmandu



Ashesh and Nekhvam, a blues rock sensation from Nepal has just returned from its 70-day New Spirit Europe Tour 2011 in Norway, Scotland, England and Germany.

Ashesh and Nekhvam is the first Nepali band and the first blues rock band from Asia to play in the biggest festival and venues like Fabrik in Germany and Edinburgh. They also performed at the Blues and Balance in Husvaer, Norway, It's All Gravy Festival in England and the Remember Jimi Festival in Germany.

Their numbers like 'Leeches Blues', 'In Search of Freedom' and 'Sound of Innocence' got rave reviews from European fans. 'Sound of Innocence' was composed and written in Norway and was dedicated to the victims of the 22 July terrorist attack in Norway.

The exotic Nepali band got lots of media coverage with critics calling Ashesh 'the Jimi Hendrix from Kathmandu'. 'Last year it was a big surprise for Fabrik because of the amazing performance by Ashesh and Nekhvam,' wrote the German media, 'and this year again it's been one of the greatest surprise...the band from Nepal has amazing energy.' In Fehmarn in Germany, the Nepali band also played tributes to Jimi Hendrix to loud applause and shouts for an encore.

The Kathmandu-based band was started 17 years ago and has Ashesh Dangol on guitar and vocal, Pujan Shrestha on bass, and Rajiv Tuladhar on drums. New Spirit, the group's third album, fuses blues with rock.

The band's Norwegian sponsor is Jon Gandal, who first heard Ashesh in a Thamel bar and brought him to Norway for a concert in tribute to his mountaineer twin brother who drowned in a tragic accident.

Says Gandal: "Ashesh is an amazingly passionate blues player and you can sense his passion that harks back to the original African-American roots of this genre of music."

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Nekvhams and the Nepali blues, #557

Nekvhams in concert in Norway

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RAJESH GURUNG

My way home

How to make a soft landing for those who decide to come back to work in Nepal



NEPALI PAN
Akriti Rana

Coming back home to Nepal was not my first option. I have to admit, it wasn't even my second or third. However, given the appalling US job market, particularly for a young international undergraduate, I finally decided to consider going home. While trying to convince myself to buy that ticket home, I drew out a list of pros and cons: I found out that apart from my family, there was very little that attracted me back.

I had always dreamed about America since I was little. I had done just about everything required to get me there: enrolled for an A-level degree, started the painstaking process of college applications, lived through the agony of waiting to hear back from colleges, survived the hoopla of the American visa process of trying to prove that I had ties strong enough here that I would not remain in the US after my graduation. I was so desperate to leave the country that despite being rejected for the visa on my first attempt, I reapplied and remember being so ecstatic when I was finally given the green light to leave the country.

But, why was I so desperate to leave Nepal?

Four years later, and in a drastically different

situation, I found myself struggling with this very question. I realised it boiled down to the lack of basic necessities back in Kathmandu: electricity, water, and fuel. Internet was erratic, there were no clean public restrooms, and coffee shops were drab. The political uncertainty, lack of public security, and the infringement of basic rights of the masses by a selfish few at most levels had really put me off.

Family played a huge part in my decision to return home. But there was another reason: I had just completed my bachelors in Not-for-Profit Management and Economics from Salem College, and the opportunity to work in Nepal, I thought, would be an ideal way for me to go beyond my academic understanding of how the development sector and the real world function. For that though, I first needed a job, and so I began to reach out to my professional network, albeit the small one I had.

As luck would have it, I was introduced to a person who directed me to Niti Foundation, a Nepali not-for-profit working in policy engagement in Nepal. After several months of emailing, I ended up joining the team. During these months with Niti, I have had the opportunity to study and understand the process in which policies are formulated and implemented in Nepal, as well as develop a stronger

network of people that have supported my decision to come back.

Some of my friends tell me that I was fortunate to have found a job in Nepal. From their experience, you only get a job if you have relatives or friends in high places. After failing to find jobs in over four months of searching in Nepal, a couple of them have already decided to return to the US.

Clearly, professional networking, or rather the lack of it in Nepal, is an issue for many, particularly those that have lived a significant part of their adult lives outside Nepal. From my experience there is a need to promote a support system that assists young individuals to interact with each other: a space to research the job market, share experiences about entrepreneurial ideas and initiatives, and be involved in various social movements.

Recently I have been associated with a new initiative called farkeka Nepali that plans to serve as a soft-landing platform for Nepalis that want to return, but find the lack of access to a professional network a key impediment to taking the plunge. An initiative such as this would make it easier for at least a few of the Nepalis who are considering the option on whether or not to return to Nepal. I know I would have. 🇳🇵

Please join our facebook group: farkekaNepali and www.nepalitimes.com to further this discussion.

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सूचना विभाग



The Jazzers in ‘Mandu

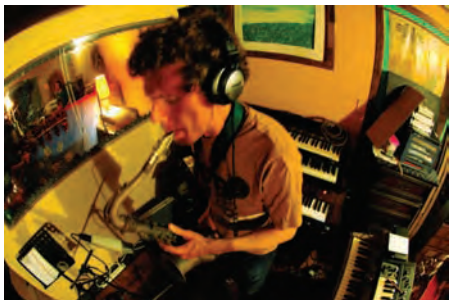
The jazzy crowd of this year’s Surya Nepal Jazzmandu has arrived in town. The festival kick started on Thursday with a competition for local jazz bands, and has something to fit everyone’s schedule during the next five days. Here’s the who’s who of the visiting acts and resident bands this year.



NEIGHBOURHOOD
Six piece band Neighbourhood comes all the way from Sweden. Their music is an energetic mix inspired by the jazz, funk and soul of the 70’s, and has a pulsating groove that makes it hard to sit still. The band has been highly commended for their debut album Maybe Tomorrow.



BCONNECTED
Founded in 1994 by Swiss guitarist Eugene Montenero, Bconnected has stayed connected and produced 7 records during its career. Having performed in several jazz festivals around the globe, Bconnected’s music reflects a diverse influence while keeping its roots in jazz.



NICK AGGS
Hailing from Brisbane, Australia, Nick Aggs returns to the Kathmandu Jazz Festival for the fourth time. A popular Australian saxophonist, keyboardist and composer, Nick is the band leader of Australia’s fusion band Afro Dizzi Act. He is looking forward to perform some of his compositions with his old friends Cadenza.



THE WINDOW SEAT
This talented trio from India will be joined by singe Suman Sridhar for the festival. Sounds influenced by afrobeat, funk and jazz with a melodic and improvisational outlook make this band unique.



THE KJC FACULTY COMBO
Originally formed to showcase the ability of the teachers at Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory, KJC Faculty Combo brings forth a talented lineup of musicians for their debut at Jazzmandu. Their repertoire will include music from a diverse range of musical genres.

CADENZA COLLECTIVE
Cadenza will bring its band members back from US and India to jam in Nepal once again. Cadenza’s sound is comprised of elements from a wide array of experimental styles such as Nepali classical and folk blended with afrobeat and funk.



GANDHARVA
Gandharva refers to traditional musicians of Nepal who travel with their sarangi. Formed in 2000, this group will add the Nepali touch in the festival with traditional instruments sarangi, flute, madal and kartal.

RABIN LAL SHRESTHA EASTERN CLASSICAL TRIO
Robin Lal Shrestha is a performer and teacher and one of the most respected tabla players in Nepal. Robin Lal has traveled around the world, sharing the joys of his tabla and winning numerous awards .This year, Rabin Lal will feature Bina Shrestha on sitar and Nagnedra Rai on bamboo flute.



The Cuban touch

A special treat during this Jazzmandu is the sound of Afro-Latin and Cuban jazz. Evolved through tremendous cultural exchange between outstanding musicians from the United States and the Caribbean, this form of jazz is recognised for its syncopated, infectious and danceable rhythms. The Cuban League from the US will introduce Kathmandu to authentic Afro-Cuban sounds from the Caribbean. The band brings the talented voice of Xiomara Laugrat, singing to the music of bass player Yunior Terry and pianist Alex Tosca Laugart. “The music we play is a bit like telling a story... the story of our lives and our culture. The music will be a flight to Cuba and everyone is welcome on board,” says Terry.

Valley Jams, different venues in Kathmandu will feature performances by various artists. Upstairs Jazz Bar, Lazimpat: The Cuban League (USA)
Moksh, Jhamsikhel: Bconnected (Switzerland)
House of Music, Thamel: Neighborhood (Sweden)
21 October, 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, Rs 400

Jazz Bazaar, all the artists come together for a night full of jazz. 22 October. 2.30 pm to 10pm, Rs 799, Gokarna Forest Resort, Gokarna. Free shuttle bus service available every hour from 1pm to 4pm outside Hyatt Regency gate, Boudha. Free return shuttle bus available between 10pm - 11pm, drop to Lazimpat.

Afro-Latin Jam, the Cuban League and other artists introduce Afro-Cuban sounds of the

Caribbean. 23 October, 7pm to 10pm, Rs 799, Hotel Shangri -La, Lazimpat

Jazzmandu Master Class, an opportunity for music students and jazz enthusiasts to interact with visiting musicians. 24 October, 3pm to 4.30pm, Free entry, Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory, Jhamsikhel

Jazz at Patan, evening of Nepali classical music fused with Jazz at a historic and magical venue. 24 October, 6pm to 8.30pm, Rs 1299, Patan Museum Square, Patan

Jazzmandu Finale, Jazzmandu ends with a finale jam. Musicians from different bands play their sets and later jam together. 25 October, 6pm to 10pm, Rs 899, Shambala Garden, Hotel Shangri-La, Lazimpat

EVENTS



Pulbata Herda, an adaptation of Arthur Miller's 'A View from the Bridge'. Tickets are Rs 200 and Rs 500, available at Dhokaima Café, 21 to 23 October, 5.30 pm, The Kamalmani, Rato Bangala School, Patan Dhoka

Exquisite collection of Fine Art, prints and paintings by artists Uma Shah, Neera Pradhan and Seema Shah. 16 October to 6 November, 10.30 pm to 6pm, Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Park Gallery, RNJC Pulchowk, Patan, parkgallery@wlink.com.np, 5522307

Formal English training, CareerMaster is holding a three-day training on English writing. 21 to 23 October, 10am to 4pm, Cost: Rs 6000 (includes lunch and refreshment), CareerMaster Office, Pulchowk

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde musical, Lincoln School will be staging a 90's Broadway

adaptation of the famous book 'The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde'. 21 to 22 October, 7pm, Cost: Rs 500, Lincoln School, Rabi Bhawan

MUSIC

Partynepal's Outdoor Phase IV. Take in the scenic view of Kathmandu Valley and party till early morn. 22 October, 2pm onwards, Country Cottage Resort, Lakhure

Kites Band, A cosmopolitan rendezvous to unwind in the evenings presenting live music by "Kites" Band and snooker to refresh. 4pm to 11pm. Corner Bar, Radisson Hotel, 4411818 ext. 1330

DINING



Manny's Eatery and Tapas Bar, offers continental food and a vibrant Tapas bar in an environment so serene that will light you up. Call up for their Special Halloween BBQ Bash

on the 29th of October. Jawalakhel, Shaligram Apartment Complex, 5536919, 9849531355



OR2K, one of Thamel's vegetarian restaurants which provides a quiet place to relax. Thamel, or2knepal@gmail.com, www.or2k.com, 4422097

Boudha Stupa Restaurant, enjoy wood-fired pizza with a superb view of boudha stupa and free wi-fi. Boudha, 2130681

Third anniversary of Délices de France, three days of festivities. 21 to 23 October, Délices de France, Ganesh Man Singh Building, Thamel, 4260326, info@restaurantnepal.com

Krishnarpan, a six to 22 courses Nepali meal depending on the guest preference. Dwarika's Hotel, 4479448



Lazy Gringo, best authentic Mexican food and don't forget the free drink refills. Jawalakhel, 2210527, thelazygingro@yahoo.com

Sundae Café & Bar, a quiet place away from the busy road of Jawalakhel: try their Special Sundae and be blown away. Jawalakhel, 5549925

New Tushita Restaurant, with a great ambience and equally great renditions of classic food. Lazimpat, 44432957, tushita@wlink.com.np

Peri Peri Café, the only restaurant in Kathmandu to serve all of their cuisines in their special ingredient, of 4 genres of "Piri Piri" sauce. Jhamsikel, 9808563803

GETAWAYS

Ahaa Daman Package, at Everest Panorama Resort. 4700525, 4701247, info@everestpanoramaresort.net



SOMEPLACE ELSE

The newly opened Salt and Pepper is the latest addition to the long row of cafes and pubs in lakeside Pokhara. The self-styled 'resto-lounge' stands out with a minimalist theme accented by recessed lighting, gray and red panels and cream leather booths. Its menu, however, is hardly minimal, promising a 'multi-cuisine' experience. With neither description nor snapshot to gander at, long lists of noodles, starters and chicken variations have customers inquiring

Salt and Pepper

the distinctions between dishes like the Hong Kong Chicken and the Szechuan Chicken, Manchurian Chicken and Chinese, and Fried and Krispy (as cited). The waiter was impressively informative about the different sauces and cuts and preparations. As customary, we sampled the house specialties: Honey Chilli Potatoes and the Salt and Pepper Chicken for starters and the Hakka Noodles and the Chicken Kalifornia (as cited) for mains. The potatoes are a cross between an aloo sandeko and a French-Canadian poutine. The honey chilli flavour is gratifying but the texture stale. In contrast, the Salt and Pepper Chicken is a sapid delight served on a wide platter with complimentary salads. For once, the dominant flavour is savory without the sweet and spicy so common of chilli appetizers, making it



PICS: MARCO POLLO

Salt and Pepper's go-to dish. Grated ginger overwhelms the Hakka Noodles, an Indian Chinese fusion of egg noodles and mixed vegetables submerged in a brown gravy that is all but satisfying. The Chicken Kalifornia is a shake-and-bake cutlet battered, fried and served with a tangy barbecue sauce. Although the chicken is cooked well, the crunchy batter falls apart leaving a crumbly mess to peck at. For now, Salt and Pepper is in its formative stage and its prices are affordable for a

café in the lakeside getaway. A dormant espresso machine sits in the entrance and a sign advertises pizza and other foods yet to be offered. An extensive list of whiskey imports is encouraging but desserts and cocktails are absent, waning its bar and lounge appeal. In time, one only hopes that it avoids becoming a run-of-the-mill Pokhara eatery. Marco Pollo Look for the lit red post along the Lake Side tourist district next to the Fishtail Bookstore opposite the Maya Pub



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



Transient Ischemic Attacks



DHANVANTARI
Buddha Basnyat, MD

Forty eight year old Ram Bahadur Lama tried to get up from bed to go to the bathroom at night but found, much to his distress, that he had a mild weakness on the right side of his body. There was also some tingling and numbness. He tried to call his wife but could not quite articulate the words. He felt a sense of panic. His wife was fast asleep, so he decided to wait it out. After about three hours he felt his strength return to his right side, and he was also able to talk to his wife and share this frightening experience.

Ram Bahadur had celebrated Dasain with the usual khasi ko masu, a few drinks, and two or three cigarettes a day. Despite being on blood pressure medicines for years, his pressure had continued to be borderline high, and he had recently told

his physician he was not interested in increasing the medicines because he felt the pressure problem did not cause any symptoms.

Next day his doctor told him he had suffered a transient ischemic attack (TIA), although by this time he felt completely well. TIAs occur when the blood flow



to the brain is temporarily blocked. In Ram Bahadur's case it was a relatively brief blockage. TIAs can last from a few minutes to 24 hours. In medical terminology, things that dispose you to a certain disease are called risk factors.

Ram Bahadur's risk factors for TIA were his borderline

high blood pressure and his cigarette smoking (yes, even 2 to 3 cigarettes a day). High cholesterol level, diabetes, and lack of exercise (he did morning walks) are other risk factors which he did not have. Doctors in Nepal working in busy emergency rooms see this Ram Bahadur scenario repeat itself with a discomforting frequency.

Because the usual symptoms of high blood pressure may be non-existent, many patients are averse to taking drugs. Or they opt for partial treatment as in Ram Bahadur's case which may eventually lead to a catastrophic outcome regardless of exercise and a normal cholesterol. Poor blood pressure control is an independent risk factor for TIAs.

Because TIAs can significantly increase the risk for stroke, it is important to see the doctor as soon as possible even if the symptoms have abated. There are many useful drugs like aspirin which your doctor may prescribe to prevent a full-fledged stroke.



WEEKEND WEATHER
by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

Right on schedule a cyclonic storm made landfall in the Bangladesh delta Wednesday. The system is still trying to nudge westwards but has been thwarted by the westerly jet stream over the Himalaya. Still, the system has injected some moisture into the mid-hills and this could bring snow flurries at higher altitudes in eastern Nepal. The clouds should part by the weekend, though.



FRI	SAT	SUN
24-12	26-11	26-10



NEPAL ARMY

FATAL SKIES: A rescue team of the Nepal Army reaches Bobang, Baglung, the crash site of NA's RAN 49 Islander on Wednesday, a day after the aircraft went down, killing all six aboard.



KRISHNA SINJALI

UNINVITED: It is just another day for Bhutanese refugees at a camp in Beldangi, Jhapa, while their home country celebrates the wedding of King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, Thursday.



KUNDA DIXIT

BLOW JOB: A youth activist in Dharan blows a condom balloon to spread awareness about HIV prevention and family planning in Dharan on Saturday on the occasion of World Condom Day.

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Baburam returns to Delhi

India needs to re-invent its intimate relationship with Nepal



CHALO DILLI

Jyoti Malhotra

Baburam Bhattarai would have been in Delhi for more than a day by the time this column appears, enough time for Delhi to make up its mind about whether Nepal's new prime minister fits with the kind of relationship it wants with its northern neighbor.

The thing about relationships, of course, is that they don't measure intimacy. The glass is never half-full or half-empty, and zero-sum games do not apply. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar put it best some years ago when, musing about the state of the India-Nepal relations, he said poignantly: "I don't know whether India and Nepal are friends or enemies, all I know is that when it rains heavily in Nepal, the rivers in India are flooded. We are so intimately joined that cause and effect become irrelevant."

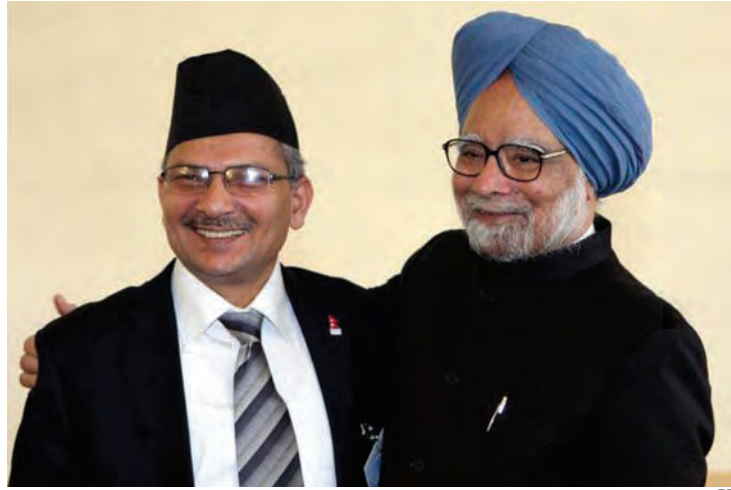
Nitish's understanding would have helped Delhi deal with Kathmandu. Except, ever since this government began to believe that 8 per cent economic growth was a short cut to regional power

status, its relationship with its neighbours have taken a back seat. Ambassadors and high commissioners accredited across the region know about the need for nations to fall in line, and the Indian political class behaves as if the bureaucracy is beholden to them.

Bhattarai's visit is an opportunity for the Indian political class to rediscover itself. For better or for worse, politicians must take the lead in envisioning intimacies across the region. South Asia is a natural unit and it has already paid heavily for the violations wrought by little men like Radcliffe and Durand. In the run-up to the 200th anniversary of the Treaty of Sugauli in 2016, the subcontinent's elected leadership must take a call on what its priorities are for the region.

On top of the agenda for India and Nepal during this visit is the removal of suspicions and hostility. Is Baburam Bhattarai a fearful member of the Marxist-Leninist club which believes that it must bring about revolution from Tirupati to Pashupati? Or is he an Indian operative?

Ever since he was sworn in, Bhattarai has tried to tell people he is a Nepali first and everything



Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai with his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh at UN in New York.

else later. His symbolic use of the Made-in-Nepal Mustang jeep and the donation of the per diem given to him for his trip to the UN are firm indicators that he is someone who wants to be seen as different. He has tried to jump start the peace process by returning the keys to arms containers to the Special Committee, it was an important gesture that unfortunately has not been followed up.

Then there are the statements to the Indian media that Nepal will protect Indian investments henceforth, and in fact treat them on

par with domestic investors.

Clearly, Bhattarai needs help to show he can do it. There are indications that Delhi is willing to meet him more than half-way, even though the Indian establishment is wary of getting involved in Nepal's internal political dynamics. Should Delhi very cautiously nudge the Nepali Congress into supporting Bhattarai as he very much wants, thereby imparting stability to the Maoist leader's government?

It would be a good idea. First of all, no one buys Delhi's claim that it has decided to have a hands-off

policy on Nepal. Every ambassador worth his salt, including the last one, Rakesh Sood, have had very strong views on how India should deal with Nepal. To be sure, that's what ambassadors are for: to give their home country an assessment on what's happening on the ground in the country they're accredited to.

Now, Delhi has always stated, usually in the context of Pakistan, that it will engage with whoever is in power in the neighbourhood. If that is true, then it has no option but to engage with Bhattarai, irrespective of what it does to the Mohan Baidya or Prachanda faction.

Delhi must do with Nepal what it has done with Afghanistan for some time now: help it economically to resolve its political problems. Whether it is helping write Nepal's Constitution, doubling or tripling the credit line to Nepal to \$250 million, or help rehabilitate the Maoist cadres who cannot be assimilated into the army are all things India can easily do.

New Delhi should use the Bhattarai visit to show that India means well, and is willing to use its economic growth to put its money where its mouth is. Let us reinvent our intimate relationship with Nepal. 🇳🇵



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Not seeing is believing

LOCHANA SHARMA in POKHARA

The world's first national blind cricket team transforms the lives of Nepali women

Swastika Bhujel, 22, is blind. But that doesn't stop her from playing cricket. She and her teammates are gaining fame in Nepal as the world's first national cricket team for blind women.

Swastika is studying for her bachelor's degree in education at Prithvi Narayan Campus here. People who

don't know her say they are surprised to find out after a game that she is blind.

"At first, even I didn't believe in myself enough to play the game," Swastika says, "but when I put down the white stick and picked up the bat, I could play the game well."

Swastika also works as a massage therapist to earn

money to pay for her studies. She started playing cricket five years ago and now plays for the Nepali national blind cricket team and the Kaski district team. She won the Woman of the Match in two blind women's cricket tournaments in 2010.

Bhujel's coach on the national women's cricket team is Major Pawan Ghimire,

Soldiering on

Major Pawan Ghimire lost his sight during the conflict, he has now devoted his life to helping blind sports

It was a hot July day in 2003. Lt Pawan Ghimire was returning from a foot patrol that he was leading in remote Kalikot district. It was the height of the insurgency, and entering what the Maoists considered their "base area" was a dangerous mission.

Suddenly an improvised explosive went off in front of him, and there was a heavy exchange of gunfire. Ghimire fell to the ground and felt his left eye socket dangling down to his cheeks.

"I knew there and then that I had lost my eye sight," Ghimire recalls, "the first thing that came to my mind was how I was now going to be a burden on my mother."

Ghimire was airlifted to Nepalgunj, and it took another 20 hours for him to reach the military hospital in Chhauni. His optic nerves had infected, and Ghimire's world went dark. He was referred to hospitals in India, but they told him it was too late and he would never see again.

Ghimire was promoted to major, and went home to Lele of Lalitpur district to recuperate. His mother died out of sheer worry about him and her two other sons who were also in the army and police. Ghimire went into deep despair, and it was his father who encouraged him to move on.

"He told me my life had not ended," Ghimire says, "he told me I could be as active as I wanted."

In 2006, Ghimire met two blind cricketers from Pakistan, Sultan Shah and Abdul Azak, who trained him and donated Rs 200,000 to help develop sports for Nepal's visually impaired. The money was used to train blind cricketers in Pokhara, many of whom were women. Nepal was the first country to have its own national cricket team of blind women.

When we meet him at the secretariat of the Nepal Association of the Blind at Bhrikuti Mandap recently, Ghimire was busy working on his voice recognition software-equipped laptop. It is clear the former soldier has found his calling in life, not just with helping blind women cricket but also for the welfare of Nepal's estimated 250,000 blind people, nearly 50,000 of whom are children.

"I never thought I'd ever be working for the visually impaired," he explains, "but I have found that blindness is not a full stop, but a comma. It is not the end."

Kunda Dixit

www.cabnepal.com



KUNDA DIXIT



who was blinded by a landmine during the war and set up women's blind cricket in Nepal (see box).

Says Ghimire: "Swastika is an honest and skilled player who can undertake leadership."

Swastika's father, Bam Bahadur Bhujel, 65, says he was concerned about her, their 12th child and the youngest in the family. "With sheer determination she is now as good a player as someone who can see," he says proudly. Four of Swastika's 111 siblings are also blind.

Swastika's mother, Purna Kala Bhujel, says her daughter achieved it all through drive and motivation. "Now, when I see

my daughter successful, not only in her studies, but also in sports, my eyes tear up with joy," says Purna Kala.

There are about 200,000 visually impaired people in Nepal, according to the Nepal Association for the Blind, and women are doubly marginalized because of their disability and their gender. Many say that cricket has transformed their lives, with about 320 blind and visually impaired cricket players in Nepal. Swastika plays in the B1 category (see box).

Bhagwati Bhattarai from Syangja says she never thought blind people could play cricket. But now, Bhattarai, a visually impaired 11th-grader who

Blind Cricket Rules

Compared to normal cricket, cricket for the blind has shorter bats, smaller gloves and a shorter running distance between the two wickets compared with normal cricket. The balls are rigged so that they make a sound for the players to recognise and follow.

Visually impaired players are categorised into three groups. People who can't see are Group B1, those who can see slightly into Group B2, and those who can see as far as the wicket are in Group B3.

Players from B1 have a red ribbon around their hands, B2's have white and B3's have blue ribbon. Players from B2 and B3 group do their own bowling and also take their own runs, while players in B1 category have their friends from B2 and B3 take the runs on their behalf.

Each run that is in favor of B1 players is counted as a double run, if it's one, it is counted as two, if two, then four and so on.

Bhagwati Amgai and Om Maya Pun practice in a field in Pokhara (right) and Swastika Bhujel in action in a practice blind cricket match in Kathmandu recently.



attends secondary school in Pokhara, is a member of the national team and says she's even considering making it a profession.

"It is only our eyesight that is lost," says Bhagwati who lost part of her vision

because of a cataract. "But if we're determined and move forward, then we can be successful in every field. Cricket has boosted my confidence."

Nepal's blind women cricketers are training to

take part in the Blind Cricket World Cup in Bangalore next year. 🇳🇵

nepalitimes.com

Aarti Chataut's Sangarsha on women's blind cricket on NTV



Soccer's blind spot



NUR AZIZAH in JAKARTA

It's hard to imagine playing soccer without being able to see the ball, but a team of blind soccer players in Indonesia, is defying the odds.

Honing in on their other senses, the soccer team plays with a ball fitted with a bell and the players have finely tuned their ears to their feet so they know just where to kick.

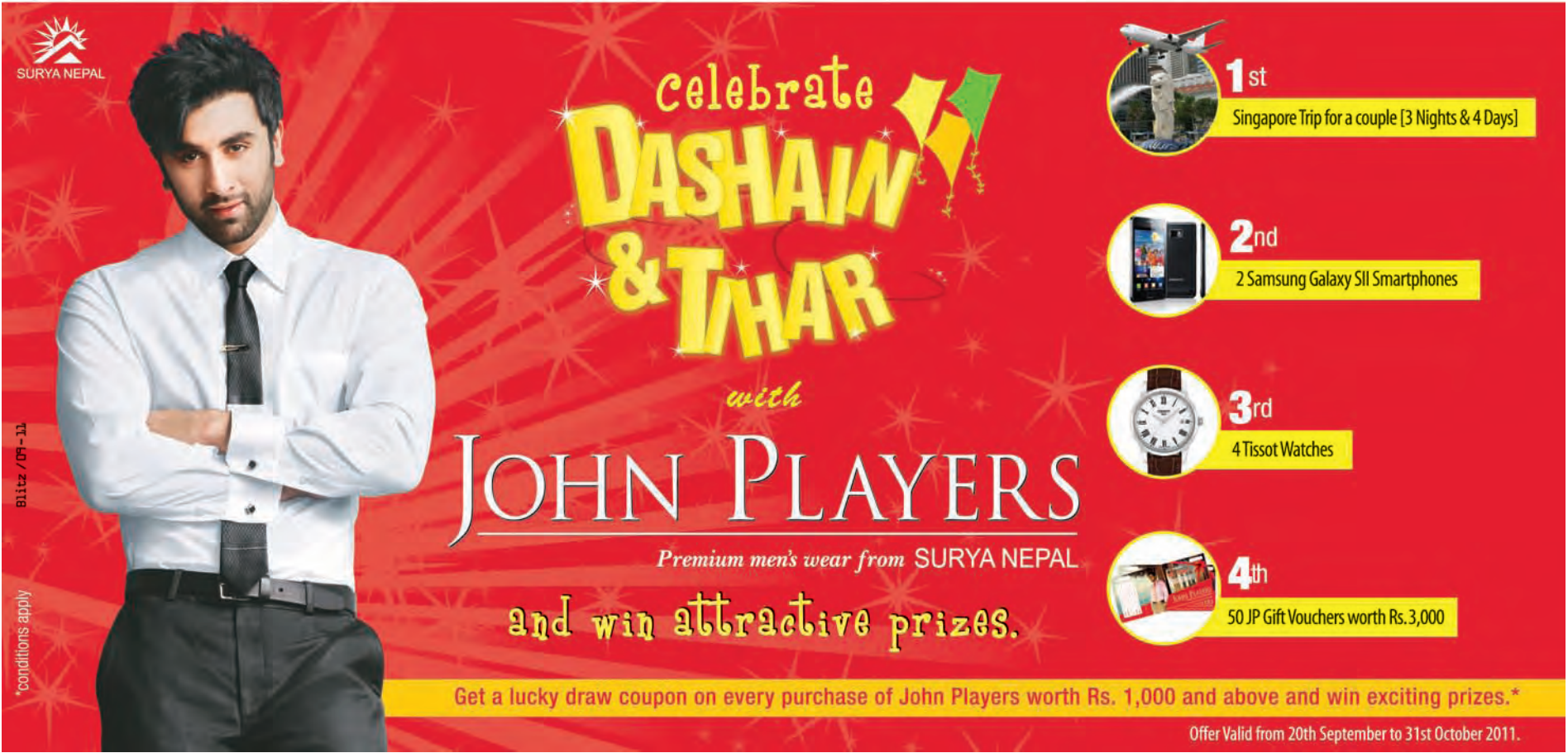

"At first, I couldn't imagine that I could kick the ball because when the ball stops, there's no sound," explains team member Dian.

Dian has been playing soccer for years now and is pretty adept at scoring goals. Part of a team launched by the Indonesian Football Association in 2007, Dian says the sport is taking off in the blind community. The teams

are usually made up of 7 players, 4 totally blind and 3 who are visually impaired. The games are a noisy affair, with supporters from the sidelines shouting and yelling and telling the players where the ball is.


Ramdhani is the head of the association of blind sports in Jakarta and says the game still has a long way to go before it gets recognition. "Sometimes football for the blind is not considered a sport, but a form of entertainment. I think we have to change this to give skills to people with this disability," he says.

For players like Oki, however, playing football as a blind man is an achievement on its own. He adds: "I love the sensation... it is thrilling that someone blind like me can still play football." www.asiacalling.org




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“I am first lady”



नेपाल

I just traveled in the vehicle that was given to me. The car model doesn't really interest me. In fact, I prefer riding a bicycle but because of security reasons I travel in a car.

In my first tenure, the party appointed my sisters. This stirred a debate and I haven't appointed anybody since. But those who have been appointed are experts in their respective fields, and it is natural for the party to prefer one of their own.



PRAKASH ADHIKARI/KANTIPUR

“Education might have changed the minds of few but it has made no difference to the local practice,” says a local Jung Bahadur Majhi. Dhanasara Kaami, 45 years, says she has been using her own well ever since she came to the village after getting married. “I have never used other’s well. We don’t even go near other’s well,” she adds.



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Dear Lord, I want to die once again but in an aircrash

नागरिक Yubak in *Nagarik*, 18 October

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Security concerns cannot be treated in isolation. Only a developed and stable Nepal can better guarantee Indian security.”

PM Baburam Bhattarai in an article to Indian daily The Hindu, October 19



The other victims

Letter to the Editor, *Nagarik*, 16 October

नागरिक

The air of official nonchalance that followed the tragic bus accident in Sindhuli this week once again reminded us how disposable the life of a Nepali citizen has become. Besides short-term public memory about road safety, what is even more disappointing is the insensitivity shown by the state.

The loss of 41 lives is by no means just an “accident”. Had it been an air crash, it would have made it to the headlines and the editorials. Compensating victims and the families would be at the top of the agenda. A high-level inquiry commission would have been set up immediately to probe the disaster, as was in the case of the Buddha Air Beechcraft crash on Lalitpur’s Kot Danda on 25 September that killed all 19 on board.

But 48 hours since the Sindhuli bus tragedy, the government is yet to find out what caused it. Social inequity plagues even the government’s treatment of tragedies. When a plane goes down, it makes international headlines and there is speculation about safety of Nepal’s air traffic. But every day, Nepalis are putting their lives on the line in overcrowded buses on dangerous roads, and it fails to attract the government’s concern other than a few token gestures. Employers nor careless traffic police or the contractors that build substandard roads are punished.

If the government feels for the common people of this country it must take loss of human lives seriously and help to make Nepal’s roads safer. It can begin by probing into the Sindhuli tragedy and learning lessons from it.

Openly opaque

Rajdhani, 17 October

राजधानी

The impartiality of the Constitutional Council in selecting chiefs and members of the constitutional bodies through an open competition has come under the scanner when a member of the council raised alarm about foul play.

“Members of the council and leaders are pushing through applications of their own people to fill the post,” said a member of the council who doesn’t want to be named. As of now, the council has received 150 applications for vacant posts in the CIAA, the Election Commission, the Public Service Commission and the Office of the Auditor General.

CA Speaker Subash Nembang, who is also a member of the council, said the members of the council would screen the applications to select suitable candidates, but refrained from commenting on allegations of favouritism. PMO sources, however, say that most applicants are former secretaries. The CIAA and OAG have remained without chiefs for the past five years while EC and PSC have been headless since three years.



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Out, out damn spot

The irony of seeing Health Minister Rajinder Mahout washing his hands in public during a World Hand-washing Day photo-op a week after bribing 50 or so reporters was not lost on many. “Out, out damn spot,” the minister seemed to be saying as he worked up a lather and counted up to six. Ordinary Nepalis won’t need much convincing about the health benefits of washing hands with soap, what they are more worried about is where to get water.



The PMO spokesman probably didn’t realise he was putting his foot in his mouth when he said about the murder charge against Land Reformist Minister Parbhu Sah: “You can’t prosecute Sah for murder, if you did then you’d would also have to prosecute Prachanda and Baburam.” Whoa.

Meanwhile, here is a suggested itinerary for Comrade Awesome and the Maoist delegation when they visit Cambodia next week:

Sunday: Arrival via BKK
Monday: Visit to Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum
Tuesday: Guided tour of the war crimes trial court in Phnom Penh



BIKAS DWARE

Wednesday: Killing Fields Tour of Choeung Ek with packed lunch
Thursday: Shopping in night market in Siem Reap
Friday: Departure for KTM



To be sure, PKD probably needs to clear his head. The man is under a lot of stress lately. He broke down and wept at a Maoist gathering in Chitwan last week and he has been seen to be pacing on the terrace of the Pistachio Palace. Knowing how much he dislikes and distrusts BRB, just as well he is going to be away during the prime

minister’s India visit because it would just make him seethe inside.



Good to see that the Ass’ campaign to requisition for public use the Maiti Ghar-Bhadrakali road that the army usurped for ostensibly security reasons during the war has worked. At least BRB has told the army brass to do it, but knowing the army they’ll probably dilly dally for a few years. While they are at it, the Bhadrakali road should also be widened so that it goes right up to Shahid Gate. And after that, it will be time for

the indignados of Kathmandu to stage an “Occupy Tundikhel” campaign and reclaim from the military parts of Tundikhel south of Sahid Gate as well as the Sainik Munch.



So, did he or didn’t he wait in line like everyone else at immigration when he flew off to Delhi yesterday? Did he or didn’t he fly Nepal Airlines? Was he in Chyangra Class or Shangri-la Class? These are the questions of national importance that are being pondered and analysed as the prime minister began his

first above-ground visit to India since becoming prime minister. Of all the things we are asking the Indians to give us on this visit, the only one that concerns the Ass is how many megawatts of electricity we are getting this winter and whether load-shedding will be 17 hours a day or 15 hours a day. Big diff.



It may as well be Comrade Hubby who has to tell Hasiya Yami not to call herself “First Lady” while he is in Delhi. We are told the prime minister is not going to raise any “serious” issues while in Delhi, which probably means he will be doing funny stuff with his Indian interlocutors. One of which may be to bring up the original 40-point demand that BRB himself submitted to Lion Brave way back in 1996 February. Deuba was given only a week to fulfil demands like: ban all Hindi movies, stop Gurkha recruitment into the Indian Army, regulate the Indo-Nepal border, ban Indian cars from plying in Nepal, scrap the Mahakali Treaty, scrap the 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty. Deuba couldn’t fulfil those demands, so BRB started the war.

No wonder he doesn’t want to talk about anything serious.



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