

# NEPALI Times

#625

5 - 11 October 2012

20 pages

Rs 30

We Wish You a  
happy  
चौपाय वदइहाली  
ह वदइपायवाली

**F FURNITURE LAND**  
Home & Office Gallery

SAVE 25% on offer items

**LAVAZZA**  
ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE



Busy Bee Restaurant - Lakeside  
Chilly Bar Restaurant - Lakeside  
Mail to lavazza@subhashingalinil.com

Step in for more varieties at  
**LIFE STYLE**  
design & decor




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

**SOLAR ELECTRICITY CO. (P) LTD.**  
Solar Complex, Bagbazar, Kathmandu.  
Tel: 4225253, 4227876, Fax: 4223851  
Email: ises@vianet.com.np

**SOLARLAND** SunLink PV  
**EverExceed** SHARP UNIKOR Kaneka

Installing Solar PV Since 1991



**nepalsutra**  
Everything Nepali.

Available On  
App Store Android

www.nepalsutra.com  
Tel: +977 1 470 1422

**THE NORTH FACE**

Authorized Dealer:  
**Sherpa Adventure Outlet**  
Thamel, Kathmandu  
Tel: +977 1 4445101  
www.sao.com.np



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

Be spoilt for choice  
with our festive fares.

Economy Class One Way Fares starting from

London	NPR 23000
Frankfurt	NPR 27900
Milan	NPR 27900
Berlin	NPR 30000
Paris	NPR 33000
Manchester	NPR 39000
Zurich	NPR 44500
Brussels	NPR 46000
Geneva	NPR 51000
New York	NPR 61000

To book your tickets, contact your local travel agent  
or visit [qatarairways.com](http://qatarairways.com)

• Special return fares available. Terms & conditions apply. Fares excluding taxes, surcharges & service fees. Sales & travel validity until 31st October 2012.

**QATAR**  
AIRWAYS القطرية

## JET SET GO

International airlines flying into landlocked Nepal intersect with the two most important aspects of Nepal's economy: tourism and migrant labour. Yet, there is little strategic planning to encourage international airlines and support the national carrier. At the 'Nepal By Air' roundtable organised by *Nepali Times*, international airlines operating to Kathmandu say they see great potential for the growth in traffic. But they also want the government to address concerns like high landing and navigation charges, shoddy ground handling and infrastructure bottlenecks at the airport.



page 9

## Destinations

Bored with dal, bhat, and masu? Fed up with relatives? Can't take Kathmandu's power cuts, water shortage, pollution, and traffic jams anymore? Hop on a plane. *Nepali Times* brings you a roundup of great holiday getaways this Dasain-Tihar.

page 12

## How to ransack the treasury

Prime Minister Bhattarai may be personally honest, but he is presiding over the plunder of the state.



EDITORIAL  
page 2

## Brinkmanship doesn't work

BY THE WAY by Anurag Acharya  
Leaders to come out of coterie politics and seek broader support

page 15



www.thaiairways.com

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

**I FLY THAI**

**THAI**  
Smooth as silk

For further info, please contact: THAI Airways International Public Company Limited, Durbar Marg, Tel. 4221316, 4223565, 4224387 or your Travel Agents.  
Email: [ktmsd@thaiairways.com.np](mailto:ktmsd@thaiairways.com.np), [ktmsw@thaiairways.com.np](mailto:ktmsw@thaiairways.com.np)





# HOW TO RANSACK THE TREASURY

We have been arguing here against replacing Baburam Bhattarai as prime minister mainly because he seems the least incompetent of the politicians on offer. Pushpa Kamal Dahal has a track record for being super-ambitious and highly unpredictable. The UML and NC may have democratic-minded candidates, but they have been tried and tested, and found wanting.

In the public perception, Bhattarai still has the aura of being someone with intellect and integrity despite the thoroughly kleptocratic coalition he leads. None of the sleaze seems to rub off on the Teflon Man, though. His overnight trips to stay and eat with Dalit families in Jumla and Chepang families in Chitwan are expensive populist stunts, but seem to go down well with the public. His demolition of half of Kathmandu has raised hackles, but also bolstered the perception that he is a doer, because he has sent bulldozers tearing through even the property of the rich and powerful.

But it now has to be said that by clinging on to power Comrade Bhattarai is becoming a liability to himself, his party, and the country. He was someone we trusted to forge a consensus government to take us into elections, but he is now an obstacle to that goal. In fact, all his past commitments about a government of national unity now seem to have been decoy flares to keep himself in power.



## Prime Minister Bhattarai may be personally honest, but he is presiding over the plunder of the state

Bhattarai is exhibiting the same traits all his predecessors in Singha Darbar did: behaving as if he is another little party boss, and not a national statesman. By going back on the five-point deal, the Maoist party once more shifted the goalpost to ensure electoral incumbency and destroyed what little trust the other parties had in them.

Despite President Ram Baran Yadav's repeated prodding, the latest last Friday, we see the four main political forces unable or unwilling to come to an agreement.

The other more serious reason that we need a new consensus government is because this coalition has broken all past national records for corruption. In fact, calling it corruption is a gross understatement. The country cannot survive such blatant ransacking of the treasury for much longer.

The Maoist-controlled Finance Ministry is throwing Rs 10 million here, Rs 180 million there to party cadres

to pay retroactively for roads built during the war. An investigative report last week lists proof that the Local Development Ministry (which for some strange reason is under the control of the Maoist Foreign Minister) has spent Rs 5 billion over the past year on fake development projects: non-existent causeways, phantom irrigational canals, roads from nowhere to nowhere.

There is up to Rs 600 million missing in just six districts in the eastern Tarai alone. The fact that much of this money was foreign aid channelled through the Local Government and Community Development Program (LGCDP) should be setting off alarm bells in donor offices. The evidence points to a complete breakdown of accountability in the absence of elected officials at the local level.

The Commission for the Investigation of the Abuse of Authority (CIAA) which should be probing this mountain of malfeasance is headless, and seems to have been co-opted by the Maoist party. Its secretary (recipient of the government's Rs200,000 Best Civil Servant Award) has refused to act on a petition to probe the misappropriation of Rs4 billion that was supposed to have gone for the upkeep of ex-guerrillas in the cantonments since 2006.

The move to distribute IDs to the poor, the Good Governance Project, the Youth and Small Business Self-Employment Scheme all have such weak oversight that they are barefaced attempts to buy votes at election time by throwing fistfuls of cash at them. By the way, the government seems to be in no hurry to appoint a new Election Commissioner, either.

Prime Minister Dr Baburam Bhattarai, PhD, is obviously a genius. But we wish he had used his considerable intellect to control this haemorrhage of the treasury, and invest the funds in cost-effective social welfare. Instead, he is presiding over the plunder of the state.

PAWAN

### ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

#### NO HYDRO NO POWER

We need a strong renewable energy cooperative that works on large or small scale projects based on diverse natural resources such as hydropower installations, solar panels, and biogas and geo-thermal plants in partnership with local communities ('No hydro, no power', Editorial, #624). Spain introduced a cooperative called Som Energia which has been hugely successful, although the country does not suffer a chronic energy crisis as Nepal. If handled properly, Kathmandu residents can have access to uninterrupted water and electricity supply in 10 years.

Nirmal

- We can live without electricity, but not without water. Nepal's governments have proved incapable of providing either, so it's now up to us to generate our own power and collect our own water. If we rely on the state for utility services, we are going to perish.

Bob

- The leakage of water from old pipes waste water and increase the number of waterborne diseases, but nobody seems to notice. Also I don't understand why so many Nepalis prefer to live in Kathmandu Valley with no water, no electricity, and no security with piles of waste on every corner of the street.

Daya Gautam

#### GETTING RID OF BROKERS

Thank you Anil Keshary Shah and *Nepali Times* for giving us a fresh perspective on how to go about

resolving the current deadlock ('Getting rid of brokers', #624). At a time when gibberish written by politicians and pundits who got us into this state in the first place passes off as 'opinion' in Nepal's media, at least Anil dares to speak his own mind.

Ray Ban

- Anil is spot on with his analysis. We need more such honest voices coming from the professional circles who have a real stake in the country.

- Anil says the first option is for Nepali leaders to apologise to the people for letting them down. Simply repenting will make no difference whatsoever and will only worsen the situation by prolonging the corrupt politicians' stay in power. Option two of encouraging successful technocrats and professionals to join politics seems appealing and feasible. All we need is a few good men who are not afraid to work hard.

Anonymous

- Although I appreciate Anil's opinion, there is little difference between what he says and the views of countless other experts who have appeared on these pages. If Anil really wants to contribute to Nepal's future, he should not limit himself to rhetoric, but leave the banking sector and get his hands dirty in politics.

Samita Rai

#### GIVING UP ON GRANNIES

Having lived with my grandparents

all my life I find it very difficult to understand why we are treating the elderly so cruelly and how children can discard their elderly parents without a second thought ('Giving up on grannies', Dambar Krishna Shrestha, #624). It broke my heart to read some of the stories of the grandfathers and grandmothers that the writer profiles. They don't deserve such a sad

a doko (bamboo basket), but unlike earlier times the boy does not stop his father instead he asks him to bring back the empty doko. When the father asks why, the boy tells him that he will need the basket when the father gets old. I think there is an important lesson to be learnt here. When our children see us mistreating and disrespecting our elderly parents, who is to they won't treat us in the same way when we become old? We have to pass on good values to the next generation otherwise our social fabric will completely disintegrate.

Aga Nyima

#### INSULT TO INJURY

It does not surprise me one bit that the lifelong pension scheme for war victims and ex-combatants is being used to plunder the state coffer ('Insult to injury', Rameswor Bohara and Dirgha Raj Upadhyaya, #624). Isn't it clear by now that the people's war and new Nepal were scams to loot millions? How do the intellectuals who supported these thugs in the first place feel now?

Pasdl

#### PRESERVING THE FABRIC

The Nepali government should protect the carpet weaving community by promoting it in international markets and recognising it as an art form ('Preserving the social fabric', Juanita Malagon, #624). Furthermore, the best exporters and weavers should be given certificates of excellence. Carpet weaving has a great potential to provide employment to thousands and boost the country's economy as was shown by the Tibetan carpet

- I remember watching a serial on NTV many years ago called *Doko* in which a son tries to abandon his aging father. One day, the grandson sees his father taking his grandfather away on



Rdr

industry in the 1960s and 70s and it's heart warming to see an Australian artist understanding the importance of this art.

Tashi Lama

#### HAIR FOR FOOD

Nepalis should emulate Cambodia's example and start selling their hair for money ('Hair for food', Borin Noun, #624). It can help eradicate poverty to a certain extent in poor areas. Even party cadres should resort to this practice instead of extorting ordinary Nepalis.

Chrikaji

Note: We would like to encourage our readers to send us pictures of daily life in Nepal with a brief description- location, subject and thoughts on the image - to [juanita@nepalitimes.com](mailto:juanita@nepalitimes.com). We will upload the photos onto our Facebook page and publish the best ones on our Happenings section. Photos should be in hi-res (300dpi) and maximum 2MB.

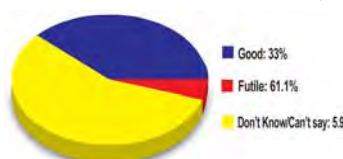
Times

nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll #625

Q. What do you think of the opposition's decision to unseat the Bhattarai-led government through street protests?

Total votes: 2,052



Weekly Internet Poll # 626. To vote go to: [www.nepalitimes.com](http://www.nepalitimes.com)

Q. Should Baburam Bhattarai step down before Dasain?



# WE'VE MADE THIS JACKET 30% LIGHTER.

(BUT JUST FOR ONE WEEK.)



Celebrate the third anniversary of our flagship store in Kathmandu with heavy savings on all you can carry. (You may need a bigger backpack.)

THIRD ANNIVERSARY SALE  
30% off all Sherpa Adventure Gear  
One Week Only, October 5-11



Lal Durbar Marg (opposite the Palace Museum) Sunday-Friday 10-8 | Saturday 11-6 | 4443261





KUMAR SHRESTHA / A PEOPLE WAR



GUEST COLUMN

Ram Kumar Bhandari

One of the buzzwords of Nepal's prolonged peace process is 'transitional justice'. But most people, even victims of conflict violence and their relatives, do not understand exactly what it means.

But after six years, most relatives of victims know they want more than just a token compensation amount: they want to know the truth, and they want acknowledgement from the state about why it happened. They are realistic enough not to expect justice right away.

At a recent conference in India on Asian Sites of Conscience on Transitional Justice, Nepali participants like me were forced to relive the memories of the relatives who were killed or disappeared during the conflict. How we can connect the past to present, and convert memory

into action? What happens to a family that loses a member? How is it different when the relative has been disappeared? How do people cope with that loss or ambiguity, and move on? How do they feel when they do not get a response or recognition by the state?

There are many sites in Nepal where citizens were illegally detained, disappeared, tortured or killed in army barracks, in police custody, in village squares, school playgrounds, in forests. We have not been able to link past violence with the sites because in many cases we don't have access to them.

There is no systematic archiving process, and many of the evidence are either forgotten or being obliterated. The state is in denial mode, and has tried to push through an ordinance on the formation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission that would pardon perpetrators, and gloss over their crimes. There is collusion between the former state and the former rebels because both are now in the administration.

This is the reason that the government

# Truth and memory

The victims of conflict have moved beyond revenge to remembrance, politicians could learn from them

has never made a move to support the establishment of 'memory places' and to create a space for dialogue not only to the victims' community, but for general public to respect their legacies.

Cambodia established the Tuol Sleng museum at a lycée in Phnom Penh where thousands of people were tortured and executed during the Khmer Rouge genocide. In Bangladesh, a pit where the bodies of massacre victims were dumped in 1971 is now a small museum.

The objective of identifying historic sites is to locate the places of detainment, enforced disappearances, and killings, and to create historic structures that preserve both visual and narrative memorials showing the suffering of people. Memorials can speak about the past and show younger generations how such incidents happened and why they must not be repeated. More important of all, they keep the issue of truth and justice alive. Once we establish truth and public memory, society can move further peacefully in a respectful way, with no sense of revenge.

Reviving public memory and revealing truth automatically generates a certain moral ground for justice in a post-conflict environment. The continuous denial of justice and the politics of memory in Nepal have created a vacuum for truth-seeking and the justice process. Political parties have cynically manipulated truth and justice, applied it selectively, or have tried to sweep past crimes under the carpet.

For example, the ruling Maoist party is creating several memorial gates

only for victims of state violence, such memorials do not create peace, tolerance, and reconciliation and instead glorify violence and politicise the cult of martyrdom.

On the other hand, the army and police bases that became infamous centres for detention, torture and executions like the Bhairabnath Battalion on Lazimpat road, Charali Barracks in Jhapa, the Chisapani Barracks in Bardiya are out of bounds. Scenes of massacres and terrorism, like Doramba in Ramechhap and Madi in Chitwan, will have memorials, but erected by one side or the other.

Fortunately, women groups made up of relatives of victims who suffered at the hands of both sides have got together in many places to create peace memorials, plant trees, and collect testimonials. Like with a lot of areas in Nepal, communities have stepped in where the national government has dragged its feet.

The people have forgotten their past enmity and shunned vengeance to work for truth and reconciliation by remembering. The politicians could learn from them.

Ram Kumar Bhandari, whose father was disappeared in 2001, is a human rights activist and chair of the National Network of Families of Disappeared and Missing (NEFAD)

[nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com)

The disappearance of truth, #620  
The politics of memory, #538  
The long, long wait, #409

# A dangerous precedence

ANURAG ACHARYA

The state's refusal to accept an OHCHR report detailing war crimes will hurt the peace and reconciliation process

During the early hours of 14 June 2005, six civilians were abducted from a village 150m away from Armed Police Force base in Banbehda area of Kailali district. The victims were taken to a nearby forest, tortured and murdered. Four of the victims, including three women and a child, were family members of APF personnel, the other two were aspiring recruits.

A field investigation by the UN's Geneva-based Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported abuse and lack of respect for human life and dignity by the perpetrators. No group claimed responsibility for the incident, and allegations of CPN (Maoist) involvement was denied by the party in a press statement.

Last week, a visiting OHCHR team provided the government a copy of its conflict mapping report which summarises over 2,000 cases of human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law during the decade-long conflict



A PEOPLE WAR

and later. The report has been due at least a year now, and the government has been trying to suppress it. The state refused to extend the OHCHR's mandate beyond June this year.

In a meeting last week, OHCHR made it clear that if the government failed to own the report, it would unilaterally publish it. This has prompted the government to question report's validity and blame OHCHR for overstepping its

mandate.

Human rights activist and lawyer Govinda Prasad Sharma 'Bandi' says: "The Nepal government signed a broad agreement with OHCHR in March 2005 allowing it to investigate incidences of human rights abuses and violation of international humanitarian law. There is no ambiguity about the mandate."

Between 2007-2010, the Supreme Court has upheld

OHCHR's mandate OHCHR's mandate in Nepal, which the court turned down. There are also international laws and treaties including International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN General Assembly resolution 48/141 which provides a global mandate to the UN body to investigate cases of human rights violation in any part of the world.

In spite of acknowledging widespread abuse of human rights during the years of conflict in Article 33 of the interim constitution on the need to implement international treaties and agreements while investigating them, the government is now citing technicalities to avoid addressing the issues.

"All the perpetrators including those from the Nepal Army and the Maoists, as parties to the conflict have aligned themselves against free and fair investigation and are looking to sweep the dirt under the carpet by providing blanket amnesty in serious cases," says

rights activist Mandira Sharma of Advocacy Forum.

When the CPA was signed in 2006, the parties had agreed to form an independent commission to investigate into cases of war crimes within six months, but six years on, the commission has not been formed and the government has refused to own the only field report which has systematically compiled the reported cases.

There is an underlying fear that if there is a trail based on the reports, every party in the conflict, whether directly involved in the war or in the government leadership, will be dragged to court and possibly the international tribunal under the principle of command responsibility, an international law instrument that has been used to prosecute many war criminals. This could indict former army chiefs for cases like Bhairab Nath massacre and Doramba killings, or bring Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal to trial for the Madi bombing that killed 36 bus passengers in 2005.



# Small farm's large benefits

Smallholder farmers can boost sustainable agriculture and economic growth

KANAYO F NWANZE

As drought becomes increasingly common, farmers worldwide are struggling to maintain crop yields. In the United States, farmers are experiencing the most severe drought in more than a half-century. As a result, global corn, wheat, and soybean prices rose in July and August, and remain high.

But the severe dry spell parching croplands across the US is only the latest in a global cycle of increasingly frequent and damaging droughts. In Africa's Sahel region, millions of people are facing hunger for the third time since 2005. Lack of rain in the region and volatile global food prices have made a bad situation worse. Indeed, it is the world's poor – particularly those in rural areas – that suffer the most from these combined factors.

This does not bode well for our future. By 2050, global food production will have to increase by 60 per cent to meet demand from a growing world population with changing consumption habits. To ensure food security for all, we will have to increase not just food production, but also availability, especially for those living in developing countries. That means breaking down barriers and inequalities, building capacity, and disseminating knowledge. In Africa, smallholder farmers, who provide 80 per cent of the



**LEADING THE WAY:** Like many African countries, 66 per cent of Nepal's population is involved in agriculture. Supporting smallholder farmers with knowhow will not only increase production, but boost the nation's economy.

sub-Saharan region's food, need infrastructure for agricultural development, including irrigation and roads, as well as better market organisation and access to technology.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development sees enormous potential in Africa's agricultural sector, which experienced 4.8 per cent growth in 2009, compared to 3.8 per cent in the Asia-Pacific region and only 1.4 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean. Given that agriculture amounts to roughly 30 per cent of sub-Saharan Africa's GDP, and accounts for more than 60 per cent of employment in most African countries, the sector's development could reduce poverty in the region substantially.

Not only in Africa – in countries like Burkina Faso

and Ethiopia – but also in emerging countries like China, India, and Vietnam, experience has repeatedly shown that smallholder farmers can lead agricultural growth while stimulating broader economic development. Small farmers, both women and men, are Africa's biggest agricultural investors. And agriculture-driven GDP growth is more than twice as effective in reducing poverty as growth in other sectors.

But African farmers encounter significant barriers to achieving their potential. On average, they apply less than 10kg of fertiliser per hectare, compared to 140kg in India. Furthermore, less than five per cent of agricultural land is irrigated, and improved crop varieties are rarely used.

Agricultural development

efforts should, therefore, focus on promoting the growth and sustainability of smallholder farmers and small rural businesses. This requires a more supportive regulatory environment, technical assistance, as well as connections to suppliers, distributors, and finance providers.

Countries that are experiencing significant agricultural growth, such as Brazil and Thailand, have benefited from public-sector investment in research and infrastructure development. We should consider not only how to improve the ability of smallholder farmers to grow food; we also must strengthen their ability to participate in markets, while improving the way those markets function.

Moreover, sustainable

investment linkages between smallholder farmers and the private sector are needed. By enabling farmers to increase their output and incomes, smallholder-inclusive private investment can bolster economic growth and food security. Finally, farmers' organisations, which are crucial intermediaries between producers and corporate investors, must be involved in the formulation of plans and policies aimed at agricultural development.

A vibrant rural sector can generate demand for locally produced goods and services, thereby stimulating sustainable employment growth in agro-processing, services, and small-scale manufacturing. Such opportunities would allow young people to thrive in their rural communities, rather than being forced to search for work in urban areas or migrating abroad.

Africa can feed itself. But that is not all: with knowledge, technology, infrastructure, and enabling policies, smallholder farmers in Africa and elsewhere can drive sustainable agricultural development, contribute to global food security, and catalyse economic growth worldwide. ■

[www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)

Kanayo F Nwanze is the president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), an international financial institution and a specialised agency of the United Nations.

Nepal's **No.1** CONSUMER DURABLES

**WIN DAILY 32" CINEMA 3D FOR 40 LUCKY WINNERS & SURE SHOT PRIZES\***

**LIVE LUCKY DRAW ON MUSIC OF YOUR CHOICE, IMAGE CHANNEL EVERYDAY 5 TO 6 PM**

साथै **LG** को कुनैपनि सामानहरू क्रिन्नुहोस् र Lucky Draw Coupon प्राप्त गरी Live Lucky Draw मा सहभागी बन्नुहोस् र हरेक दिन **32" CINEMA 3D TV** जित्नुहोस्, ४० दिन ४० जना भाग्यशालीलाई ।

**CG ELECTRONICS**  
imagination, unlimited.

**LG Lifestyle Shoppe Pvt. Ltd.**  
(LG Exclusive Company Showroom)  
Gorkha Complex, Minbhawan, Kathmandu  
Tel: 4106530, 01-6206462

**CG Digital Pvt. Ltd.**  
(Multi-Brand Showroom)  
AC Complex, Chabahil, Kathmandu  
Tel: 01-6205707, 4461234  
Open 7 days a week 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

**CG Digital Pvt. Ltd.**  
Multi-Brand Showroom, Metro Park  
Uttar Dhoka, Lazimpat, Kathmandu  
Tel: 01-4421258, 4421284

**LG Concept Store**  
Civil Mall, Sundhara  
Kathmandu  
Tel: 01-4254025, 4253974

For Corporate Inquiries,  
please call: 9851012539

**True 0% Finance**

Toll Free No.  
**186-80-100-211**

**ISO 9001:2008**  
CERTIFIED COMPANY

For Nepal & UTL, Contact: 01-4100141



## EVENTS



**EKADESHMA**, the Nepali edition of the Manhattan Short Film festival will feature international as well as local films, and there will be discussions on filmmaking. 6 to 7 October, 12.30 pm to 7 pm, Nepal Tourism Board, Bhrikuti Mandap

**WCN nature and wildlife photography competition**, take photos of flora, fauna, landscape, macro, and human interaction with nature to promote awareness and interest in conservation. Deadline 31 October, forms available at [www.wcn.org.np](http://www.wcn.org.np)



**SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP BAZAR 2012**, sample the products, services, and ideas of social entrepreneurs from across Nepal and enjoy culinary delights and arts and music from across Asia. 4 to 6 October, 9 am to 4 pm, Babarmahal Revisited, 4462254, 9813198453, [changefusionnepal.org](http://changefusionnepal.org)

**Corporate five-a-side futsal tournament**, take your business

rivalries to the pitch. Rs 4500, 12 to 14 October, Futsal Arena, GAA Hall, Thamel, 9849718836, 9841817298

**Saturday is workday**, for those who fancy backyard landscaping and want to help out. 6 October, 10 am to 5 pm, Hariyo Chowk, Lagankhel, 9841442296

**Dhulikhel Kite Festival**, head to the hills and battle it out with the best kite flyers from Dhulikhel. 12 to 13 October, Taalu Danda, Dhulikhel

**Nepal music education festival**, an eight-day workshop conducted by Gene Aitken and Mariano Abello culminating in a two-day celebration. Rs 10,000 for non-members, 4 to 13 October, 2 pm, Moksh, Jhamsikhel, 5013554

**Meet Pushpa Basnet**, the social worker intends to make sure no child grows up in prison and you can meet her with children from her home. 6 October, 4 to 6 pm, Basantapur

**Voices of hope**, an exhibition of Sumeet Shakya's photo-essay on the lives of 24 underprivileged children living at a children's home. 28 September to 11 October, 10 am to 6 pm, Galleria CUC, 9841240341, 9841497639

**Inheriting statelessness**, exhibition and sale of paintings by Saroj Bajracharya. 21 September to October 5, Park Gallery, Pulchowk, 9803187665

## MUSIC

**Silence Festival III**, five bands from Australia, Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden as well as Jindabaad of Nepal will be rocking it out at this year's annual music festival. Rs 500, 13 October, 12 pm, Jawalakhel Football Ground



**AN EVENING WITH MARK ATKINS**, the Australian musician, performer, storyteller, composer, percussionist, visual artist, and instrument maker Mark Atkins will summon the sounds of the Australian outback on his didgeridoo. 9 October, 6.30 pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, 4371687, 4218048

**All Nepal battle of the bands**, see if you can hit the right notes at this nationwide music competition. Rs 5000, auditions on 6 October, 9841779176, 9803750550

## DINING



**BLUEBIRD NEWARI FOOD FESTIVAL**, savour the delights of fine Newari cuisine and enjoy traditional music and dance performances. 5 to 6 October, 11 am to 7 pm, Blue Star Complex, Tripureswor

**Oktoberfest**, free flow of Carlsberg beer and lavish German buffet at the Terrace Bar. Rs 1299 plus taxes, 5, 6, 12 and 13 October, 6 to 10 pm, Radisson Hotel, 4488181, 4423888

**Lhasa Bar**, enjoy a beer or a splash of cocktail at this springboard for excellent young musicians starting out on the Thamel circuit. Thamel, 985101043



**CHOPSTIX**, savoury Asian food cooked in true Chinese fashion sure to charm and impress. Try the famous drums of heaven. Kumaripati, 5551118

**Boomerang Restaurant & German Bakery**, offers a large selection of cuisine for those who want to enjoy a full meal and desserts. Lakeside, Pokhara, 061-461412



**YIN YANG RESTAURANT**, east meets west as you choose from a variety of Thai and continental dishes. Add a little spice to your life with the pad thai or green curry. If you can't handle the heat, fall into the safety net of its western dishes. Thamel, 10am to 10pm, 4701510

## GETAWAYS

**Top to Toe Pampering**, go the full monty with 240 minutes of facial, body, pedi, mani, and foot massages. Rs 8600, Gokarna Forest Resort, Kathmandu

**Mango Tree Lodge**, indulge in culture walks, rafting in Karnali, wildlife exploration, jungle safari at the Bardia National Park. Bhetani, Bardiya, info at [info@mangotree lodge.com](mailto:info@mangotree lodge.com)

**Shivapuri Village**, eco-tourism close to the Shivapuri National Park replete with a charm of bygone days. Patishwara, Shivapuri National Park, 4017725, 9851034141, info@shivapuri.com.np



**JUNGLE SUNSET AT SAURAH**, special one night-two days package for Nepalis, including accommodation, lunch, dinner, and breakfast, as well as elephant back safaris, cultural dances and sightseeing, two-way tickets from Kathmandu and Pokhara. Rs 6666, Jungle Sunset Camp, Sauraha, 056 580112, 9855062199, 9851137060

**हिमाल**  
खबरपत्रिका  
Presents

**1 MEGA MAHA MELA**  
**1 Stop Festival Shopping**

More retail outlets than any mall  
Luxury brands on sale  
new brands on the Launch  
Shopping for young generation

**Lifestyle EXPO 2012**  
12<sup>th</sup> ~ 16<sup>th</sup> October  
Exhibition Hall, Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu

- Holiday Travel Mart -
- Cosmetics Trial Studio -
- Nepal Ethnic Day -
- Young Artist Exhibition -
- Tattoo Art Festival -

China Yunnan Pavilion  
Country Partner

**Non-stop Fun & Excitement**

- Quiz Contest
- Helicopter Tours
- Rock Concerts
- Kennel Show
- Toddlers Talent Show
- and many more ...



**Live performances by:**

Mongolian Heart  
Dibya Subba  
Jindabaad  
Mahesh Gurung  
X-mantra  
Ciney Gurung-Tattva  
Kid Soul  
DJ Sishir

Sabin Rai & The Mujahiden  
Naren Limbu (Aastha)  
Cob Web  
Albatross  
Kamel Khatri  
Sirish Khadka & Wabash  
Mt. 8848  
UJ-Sushil

**Gold Sponsor**

THE RAYMOND SHOP, ULTRA SOLAR POWER, FORBES Euroguard

**Silver Sponsor**

Yasuda, Red Bull, San Miguel

**Supporters**

अमियान, Alliance Insurance, MEETING POINT, essence, Criss, ECS, RAJNANI, DECC, SUBISU, timrohamro.com, 98.5 FM, सोमचारपत्र

**Jointly Organized by**

HOUSE RAJKARNICAR, Global Exposition & Management Services Pvt. Ltd., DIRECTION NEPAL

**RUSLAN**

**100% PURE**

**सुमसु**





MO' JAZZ

Jazzmandu turns ten in a month and have they got a treat for you. This year's fanfare will feature Tito Puente Jr, Marlow Rosado, Suzy&2, Adil and Vasundhara, Rootman, Nojazz, Cadenza Collective, Urjazz, Kutumba, and many more. In the past decade, Jazzmandu has brought quality music to Nepalis, and worked across cultural boundaries to spread a message of peace and compassion through music. This year will be no different, and promises to be a bigger blast. Starts 1 November [jazzmandu.org](http://jazzmandu.org) 9803076007 or 01-5013554

Let there be sight

'Nepal and Australia: 20 years of restoring sight' will showcase photographs in celebration the twentieth anniversary of the Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF). FHF was set up to carry on the work of Australian visionary late Professor Fred Hollows who thought it was appalling that people in the developing world became blind from cataracts because they didn't have access to affordable treatment. He set out to provide local doctors with the skills and tools they needed to give people back their sight. In 1994 FHF started an intraocular lens production lab in collaboration with the Tilganga Eye Hospital. It is now run by an all-Nepali team and produces world class intraocular lenses to be used within Nepal and to be exported to south-east Asia. 9 to 17 October, 12 to 4 pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery



**बराह ज्वेलरी इण्डस्ट्रिज प्रा. लि.**  
**BARAHA JEWELLERY INDUSTRIES PVT. LTD.**

New Road Gate, Kathmandu, Tel: 01-2296915, 4232965, Fax: 01-4233511, Email: [info@barahajewellery.com](mailto:info@barahajewellery.com)

**Contact Offices:**  
**Pipal Bot:** New Road, Kathmandu, Tel: 01-2190004, 4266799 **Dharan:** Bhanuchowk, Mahendrapath, Tel: 025-526777, 520056, Fax: 025-522412  
**Pokhara:** Sabha Gniha Chowk, Pokhara, Tel: 061-206570 U.K.: Aldershot, London, Tel: 0044-7824332127, 1252409272 **Hong Kong:** 12/F Gofuku Tower 62-64, Woosung Street, Jordan KLN, HONG KONG, Tel: 00852-27839955, Fax: 00852-25538966

Let your folks celebrate the Dashain in style this year.  
1L Red Label and Changrya delivered to your door  
from just Rs 15,600

**Happy Dashain 2069**

haamro deal  
[www.haamrodeal.com](http://www.haamrodeal.com)

**Auto-coding™**  
**Element™**  
Blood Glucose Monitoring System

For free demonstration and home delivery  
call: 4436928/29/30 Rajeena/Suraj or  
mail at [meditron@srd.com.np](mailto:meditron@srd.com.np)

- Automatic code Setting (No manual coding required)
- Painless with only 0.3µl Blood sample
- Only 3 seconds measuring time
- Meal/Exercises/Medication Setting (Glucose control per daily routine)
- Alternate Site Testing (for frequent test user: Taken from Arm, Thigh, Palm...)

Available at:  
R.K Pharmaceuticals  
SRD Building, New Plaza, Putalisadak  
Tel: 4415227  
and leading Chemist Shops

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

**RUSLAN**  
100% PURE  
SMUSIC

**SOMEPLACE ELSE**

While strolling down Pokhara's Lakeside avenue, I chanced upon a little joint serving authentic Chinese cuisine. There are abundant dining options along this lane, but most of them offer the usual, a little bit of everything with an emphasis on 'continental' cuisine. Even so, we were attracted by the bright red lamps and the de rigueur reddish décor at Dragon because its flamboyance and luridness stood out from the rest. The place is very new and opened its doors less than two months ago. The good thing is that the staff was welcoming and eager to please. But the novelty wore off soon and it became apparent that staff here was still rusty in coordinating between the kitchen and dinner



PICS: RUBY TUESDAY

table. Although in retrospect, the misunderstanding must have come about due to communication breakdown between the Chinese chef and Nepali servers. So why this full-blown Chinese restaurant in the middle of Lakeside? Like other restaurant owners, Ram Sharan Karki also assumed that Chinese food amounted to chow mein and Manchurian curries. However, after travelling to China and getting a taste of authentic Chinese flavours, he came to know his assumptions were ill-founded. The unique flavours, the

quality of cooking, and the variety of dishes coupled with the steady increase of Chinese tourists in Nepal convinced Karki and his business partner Pushkar Pathak to strike Chinese while the iron was hot. They took a local chef back home and thus Dragon Chinese Restaurant was born. As a result of this conversation, carried out while waiting for the arrival our first delicacy, our expectations were very high. The Kung Pao Pork (Rs 380), a spicy dish of stir-fried pork with chili and peanuts, is sharp and piquant, and was a tasty start to our meal. We decided to forego other starters and jumped straight

into the Mao Cai – the Sichuan style hot pot (whose price is decided by the amount of extras you want to include). The larger tables at Dragon have a big round hole at the centre in order to set the big Mao Cai bowl with two compartments on the stove below. One part of our bowl had a red broth bubbling away, while the other side contained a light cream filled with vegetables. Platters of meat, tofu, mushrooms, fish and vegetables were then placed around the bowl. Dunking these tidbits into the flavoured broth, waiting for them to be cooked, and then pouring out ladlefuls

of steaming soup on warm rice made for a most enjoyable meal, best had leisurely in large company. We didn't know how fulfilling Mao Cai would be, and had also ordered the deep fried cat fish (Rs 480) just in case. Crispy on the outside and dipped in a tangy sauce, the fish was delectable and worth returning to Pokhara for second helpings. Later, they served us complimentary jasmine tea like at a true Chinese diner. So if you happen to be in Pokhara, do enter the Dragon. 🍷

Ruby Tuesday

**Join The V Generation**

**RUSLAN VODKA**  
100% Pure Vodka  
Drink responsibly



# Forty-four and counting

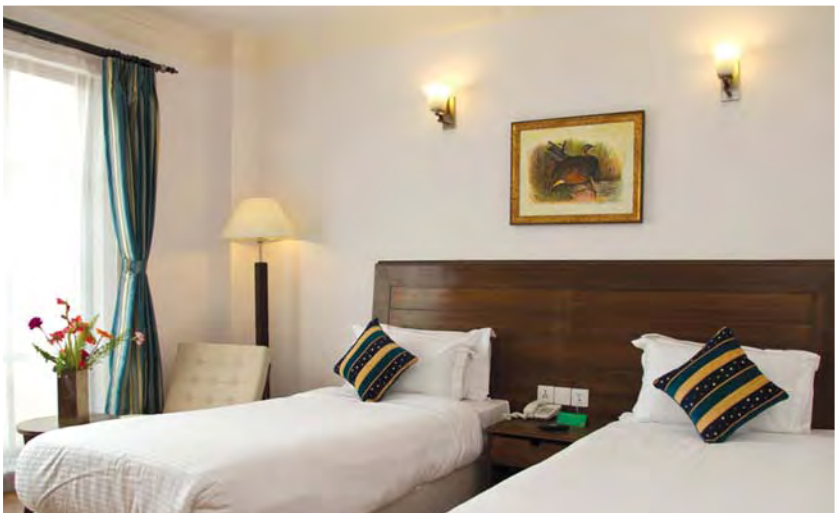
Even after four decades and countless competitors, Kathmandu Guest House is a favourite among budget and high-end travellers alike



ANDREW TCHIE

You couldn't miss Kathmandu Guest House (KGH) even if you wanted to. Located at the heart of Thamel, KGH has seen hundreds of hotels, shops, and restaurants come and go. But the hotel has stood the test of time and more than four decades after it first opened its gates KGH

is still one of the most well-known landmarks in the area. Karna Sakya, founder of the KGH chain, welcomed his first guests in 1968 into an old Rana mansion which had been converted to accommodate 13-rooms. In April, the guesthouse opened its newest wing, Siddhi Anex which was named after Sakya's parents. Today the 141 rooms cater



PICS: KGH

to a range of guests from those on shoe-string budgets to those who like to be pampered in luxury all under one roof. Even with the additions, the hotel maintains its old world charm and is a tasteful fusion of tradition, simplicity, and modern comfort. Starting at \$2 per night, the lower end rooms are very basic and guests have to share bathrooms. Standard rooms offer more facilities, and some have air conditioning. Special rates are available for week or month long stays. Pay a few extra bucks and get the garden facing rooms for the spectacular view and quiet surroundings. Deluxe rooms (*pic, below*) have more space and amenities while the super deluxe have fine rugs, air conditioning, and services

that are at par with five star hotels. Like all other businesses in Kathmandu, KGH is not immune to Nepal's chronic energy crisis, but solar power keeps all rooms brightly-lit during power cuts. KGH's greatest asset is its garden. Tucked away from the dusty lanes, it's a perfect spot to unwind on a swing seat or sip Nepali tea under the palm trees while admiring the roses and dahlias. Despite being a few hundred metres from Thamel's main thoroughfare it's unbelievable just how quiet and peaceful the place is. The hotel boasts of three restaurants, the Bahal Café which serves international cuisine, Laskus with its traditional Newari dishes and the Clay Pot Oven which is renowned for its chicken tandoori and pizzas. But it's advisable to avoid peak hours. "There is nowhere else in Kathmandu we would rather stay. The staff are very attentive to our needs and make sure we are well looked after and each year we are back, we have seen the hotel improve," say the Contis who have been regular guests at KGH for more than 20 years. 🇳🇵

[www.ktmgh.com](http://www.ktmgh.com)  
4700632  
4700800

## THE BIGGEST MUSIC AWARD OF NEPAL

# 20th ANNUAL TUBORG IMAGE AWARD

20<sup>th</sup> Ashoj | October 6<sup>th</sup>, Saturday

Organized by / Live On

IMAGE CHANNEL

IMAGE 97.9 FM

IMAGE NEWS 103.6 FM

Co-sponsors

Invenio WINES

Red Bull

[www.imageaward.com.np](http://www.imageaward.com.np)  
[facebook.com/imageaward](https://facebook.com/imageaward)

## TUBORG

THE FUN STARTS HERE

[facebook.com/tuborg.com.np](https://facebook.com/tuborg.com.np)

## HIMAL

KHABAR PATRIKA  
2-16 October, 2012

**COVER**  
Badly governed : Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai's speeches on good governance are at odds with the corruption scandals on the ground

**EDITORIAL**  
Spectator Shital Niwas

**COMMENTARY**  
Unholy alliances  
Chandra Kishore  
Path to polls  
Radheshyam Adhikari

**REPORT**  
Preparing to capture  
Lost in translation  
Pedal to prosperity

**HISTORY**  
Understanding Kirat history  
Ramesh Dhungel

UPSTAIRS IDEAS PRESENTS

## 1st - 7th November

Celebrating 10 years of Music for Peace, Unity and Compassion

### Jazzmandu Artists 2012

Tito Puentes Jr. U.S.A.	Malowe Rosado U.S.A.	RootMan Thailand	No Jazz France
Beat Keastli & Ben Stivers Switzerland	Adil & Vasundhara India	Cadenza Collective Nepal	Dattaraya Cultural Group Nepal
Suzy & 2 Norway	UrJazz Nepal	Kutumba Nepal	

EVENT PARTNERS



# NEPAL BY AIR

International airlines see big potential for growth in Kathmandu traffic

International airlines flying into landlocked Nepal intersect with the two most important aspects of Nepal's economy: tourism and migrant labour. Yet, prolonged political instability has resulted in a lack of strategic planning to encourage international airlines and support the national carrier.

Tourist arrival by air between January to June was up by 20 per cent from 2011, and is expected to total 800,000 this year. The number of overseas workers will hit 450,000 this year, with more than 200,000 going to Qatar and Malaysia alone. Travel and tourism contributed four per cent of total GDP in 2011, and this is forecast to rise to 4.7 per cent in 2012, mainly because of the growth in Nepal's aviation sector.

Since Nepal has only one international air gateway, streamlining procedures at the airport, making it attractive for new international airlines to fly to Nepal, as well as removing infrastructure bottlenecks should be government priorities. But it doesn't seem to be.

Landing and navigation charges in Kathmandu are 30 per cent higher than other airports in the region, but the facilities offered are not up to par. Ground handling is largely a monopoly of Nepal Airlines, and international operators say they are forced to use its expensive and shoddy service. The international airport is a national disgrace, with mismanagement, rude staff, and huge queues. Frequent media exposes have made the airport synonymous with corruption.

International airlines, which have seen their profit margins erode with heavy fuel charges, bear the added burden of their planes being put on long holds due to traffic congestion or poor visibility at Kathmandu. The litany of woes is long, and many of them are caused by political interference, neglect, poor coordination, and apathy. The state of the airport and the national airline reflects the general state of the country.

With the mirage of a new international airport receding, aviation experts say the economic importance of Kathmandu airport will only increase in the years ahead. Representatives of international airlines based in Kathmandu say they see tremendous potential for growth if some of the

structural challenges to do with safety and infrastructure can be dealt with.

"The market is not growing very rapidly, but it is relatively good, there is enough potential for organic growth," says Ramdas Shivram of Qatar Airways, which carries the highest volume of passengers to Kathmandu with four daily flights from Doha. This week, it started using RNP-AR, a new navigation system to make precision approaches that will reduce delays and diversions due to poor visibility at Kathmandu airport in winter, and ensure more safety. This project initiative is undertaken by the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) in coordination with the Airbus Industrie subsidiary, Quovadis, and Qatar Airways.

Chantosh Srinilta, the manager of Thai International, which has been operating continuously to Kathmandu for 45 years, sees potential for even more growth in tourist traffic to Nepal. "We would like to share our experiences to promote Nepal through roadshows and travel marts to increase tourist traffic," Srinilta said at the 'Nepal By Air' roundtable on the airline industry on Tuesday organised by *Nepali Times*.

There are now 28 international airlines connecting Kathmandu to rest of the world, and two new airlines, including Turkish, are expected to start operations soon. However, Kathmandu is running out of landing slots especially in winter when the airport is open only from midday, as the fog lifts, till midnight.

CAAN has informed airlines that Kathmandu will be open for 24-hour operations from 28 October, but there is skepticism about whether this will really happen. Noise issues at night can be addressed if current departure procedures can be changed to take planes away from built-up areas. The airport also has a parking problem, with only nine bays. The interval between international arrivals at present is 10 minutes because the taxiways do not reach the ends of the

runway, and there are still two years to go for runway upgrading.

Samir Chada, the representative of Jet Airways which picked up the second highest number of passengers to and from Kathmandu last year, agrees that there are bottlenecks for expansion. "There are 28 airlines already here, so obviously there are huge opportunities for growth," Chada says, "but if the infrastructure, costs, and pricing issues can be resolved we can see even more flights."

Renji Thomas of Gulf Air agrees, and says his airline would add to the 14 flights a week it operates if the charges and taxes were reduced. "Even though business has grown, the bottom line is in the red because of costs," Thomas explained.

Indeed, current government policy seems to be to squeeze every cent out of passengers and airlines in taxes and

charges, whereas the strategy should be to encourage more tourists so that they spend more and there is a multiplier in the economy.

For this there has to be paradigm shift in aviation policy, and a strategy to boost passengers. Joy Dewan of Zenith Travels, which handles Spicejet and Bahrain Air in Kathmandu, agrees. A major concern for the government should be how to attract more carriers and retain the existing ones with consistent policies and rational pricing, he says. Airlines have been paying taxes even on the taxes of ticket sales, and are lobbying to make it fare-based. "The airlines need to justify their operations in Nepal, we should not be pricing ourselves out of the market," Dewan told the 'Nepal By Air' roundtable.

Airlines are not satisfied with the price and quality of ground handling (which includes check-in, baggage delivery, bus ferry from terminal to plane) that Nepal Airlines provides to most operators. But the carrier is reluctant to let go because ground handling charges alone make up 18

per cent of the annual revenue of Nepal Airlines. There is a push to deregulate ground handling, allow competition, bring down costs, and improve service. However, an initiative to hand over the management of Kathmandu airport to an Indian company was put off because of a nationalist hue and cry.

"Cost is a factor, but for us it is not as important as the quality of ground handling, the service level has to go up," says Pawana Shrestha of Etihad Airways.

Thai, which has always done its own ground services, is facing a KFC-type union issue, and says the government should revise the labour act and implement it strictly. Most airline operators say that the authorities tend to see airlines as a cash cow, and don't realise that they have to work on very slim margins.

"From the outside it looks like a really glamorous business, but we are in a very drastic situation, fuel costs and handling charges means the yield is down," says Bhola Thapa of President Travels, which handles Malaysia Airlines and Indigo.

Nepal's national airline is plagued by the same problems the airport is. Its share of international traffic has now gone down to five per cent because of government interference in its plans to increase and modernise its fleet. "The country's economic growth is tied up with the state of its national airline," admits Nepal Airlines' Commercial Director, Madan Kharel, "we have to regain the position of being the main carrier of tourists and Nepali workers."

Travel trade executives say improving the management of the state-run airport and airline, and making them more efficient would be a big boost to Nepal's economy by making air travel to and from Nepal easier.

BK Singh of Everest Express which handles Silk Air recounts what passengers often say when they arrive here: "I know I have landed in Kathmandu airport, I can smell it."



## WHAT'S WRONG

No more landing slots  
Traffic congestion  
Weather delays  
Expensive ground handling  
Expensive landing charges  
Poor condition of terminal  
Immigration and security lines

## HOW TO FIX IT

Allow 24-hour operation  
Upgrade taxiways and apron  
Improve navigation system  
Allow private providers  
Reduce to international norms  
Improve, privatise, management  
Train and streamline



She likes  
to dream big.





In our award-winning 6'1" fully flat bed.

You'll find everything you ever dreamed of in the **World's Best Business Class**\*. Your very own Food & Beverage Manager at your beck and call. The finest of fine dining. Over 600 hours of entertainment on demand on your personal movie screen. And all the room in the world to stretch out and be yourself. Sweet dreams indeed.

How would **you** like to fly with the **best**?

\*2009 Skytrax Awards.

الإتihad  
**ETIHAD**  
AIRWAYS

FROM ABU DHABI TO THE WORLD





## THAILAND

With an abundance of beaches, parks, forests, and fantastic dining and nightlife, Thailand is the perfect choice for luxury travellers and backpackers alike. Teeming with locals and foreigners Chatuchak weekend market in Bangkok is an ideal place to hunt for best bargains. If shopping is not your cup of tea, then jet set to one of the islands in the south like Kho Phi Phi and Phuket and explore water sports like snorkeling, parasailing or scuba diving. Or simply surround yourself in the lush greenery and soak up the sun at the white sand beaches.

Round trips start from Rs 33,000

## INDIA

If your summer spirit was dampened by the incessant monsoon in Kathmandu, head to Goa's seaside. Mostly visited for its ocean resorts, Goa also has other attractions like the Basilica of Bom Jesus, the ecologically rich wildlife sanctuaries, a local flea market as well as guided tours into the spice plantations near Ponda.

Round trips start from Rs 44,000

If you would like to see a slightly different side of India – one that Bollywood usually skips out on – then head down south to Kerala. From the gorgeous beaches in Kovalam to the exquisite hill stations of Munnar (which might remind you of home) or the famed backwaters, the trip is guaranteed to calm your senses. While you are in god's own country and that too during Dasain, a visit to the Thirumandhamkunnu Bhagwati temple is a must.

Round trips from Delhi start from Rs 12,600



## MALAYSIA

Pristine blue waters, tropical rainforest, rich heritage, and friendly locals make Malaysia a kingdom of leisure. The capital, Kuala Lumpur, ranks high on diversity, is easy on your wallet and a paradise for

## JET SET GO



With 28 international airlines operating in Nepal, exploring sun kissed white sand beaches of Thailand, scuba diving in Malaysia, and desert safaris in the Middle East is just a hop, skip and jump away. Give yourself a break from the mundane dal, bhat, and masu this Dasain and make the best of the longest holiday at an exotic destination.

Pick and choose from these international getaways across Asia without burning a big hole in your pocket.

foodies. Adventure seekers can trek through dense tropical rainforests, scale challenging rock faces, and explore caves in Sarawak in eastern Malaysia. And the fun doesn't end there. Explore gorgonian sea fans, barrel sponges, and stunning seascapes at renowned diving paradise at Sipadan Island or unwind at the idyllic beaches in Langkawi.

Round trips start from Rs 53,000



## SINGAPORE

The multicultural city state packs a punch for its small size. For an authentic slice of Singapore's history, visit Chinatown Heritage Centre where Singapore of the late 19th century and early 20th century has been recreated. Visit Gardens by the Bay, the 101 hectare the iconic garden dedicated to horticultural artistry in the midst of the city. Relish in the culinary delights that await you at every street in Singapore. To get away from the bustling city life, saunter through the Mac Ritchie Reservoir Park which is a short trip from the city centre. As an added bonus: Nepalis visiting Singapore get visas on arrival.

Round trips start from Rs 55,000

## VIETNAM

Keen to be known for its splendid natural beauty and ancient traditions, Vietnam has transformed itself into a vibrant tourist destination from a war-torn hinterland. Places of interest include the majestic Bay of the Descending Dragons – the Ha Long, Nha Trang the most popular resort town, the Hoi An fishing village, the rice terraces of Sa Pa,



the sand dunes of Mui Ne that attract kite-flyers and sand-bikers, and the rich and fertile Mekong River delta. Phu Quoc is the largest island in Vietnam, which has reserves of pristine tropical forest and coral reefs.

Round trips start from Rs 67,000

## CAMBODIA

As the cradle of civilization in South East Asia, and home to the largest Hindu temple complex in the world, Cambodia has diverse attractions for the willing wanderer. The capital city of Phnom Penh, lying on the confluence of three rivers and founded 700 years ago, is the cultural and economic home to an entire civilisation. The resort towns of Ratnakiri and Kirirom are perfect holiday getaways, while the town of Kampok is renowned for its seafood.

Round trips start from Rs 73,000

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)

Dubai has emerged as a global city, and is one of the most popular holiday destinations in the Middle East. Burj Khalifa, the tallest manmade structure towering at 828m, is the latest addition to Dubai's skyline. The observation deck at the tower offers a splendid view of the city and the unbroken canvas of Dubai's skyline. Those with a high bling quotient could stroll around Dubai Gold Suk, traditional market housing around 300 jewellery retailers. Or simply beat the heat at Ski Dubai, the first indoor ski resort in the region.

Round trips start from Rs 38,000

## ABU DHABI

Abu Dhabi, the capital of UAE, has developed as a destination for adventure seekers and shoppers alike. The city hosts Formula 1 Grand Prix every year during November-December, a testimony of its growing affluence. You could visit the largest mosque in UAE, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque which has 24 carat gold gilded chandeliers and the world's largest hand knotted carpet. For the adventure enthusiasts a safari in the desert of Abu Dhabi is worth trying and so is sky diving at the Abu Dhabi Country Club's Spacewalk facility.

Round trips start from Rs 59,000

## CHINA

Beyond Shanghai's towering structures there is a lot that the city offers. The Bund is a waterfront area in central Shanghai and is regarded as the symbol of the city for hundred years. A visit to the Old City gives glimpses of Shanghai's past. It still has original sections of the defensive wall that surrounded the city dating back to the 11th century. And also indulge in Shanghai's culinary joys from the famous soup dumpling xiaolongbao to grilled oysters and caramel strawberry kebabs.

Round trips start from Rs 67,000

## HONG KONG

Hong Kong is known for its expansive skyline and deep natural harbor. Victoria Peak, the highest mountain in the island, provides spectacular views of the city. Make a trip to the Historical Museum to better understand the city's history and cultural heritage. Edward Youde Aviary in Hong Kong Park is the best place for bird watching.

Round trips start from Rs 46,000



## LHASA

Situated at an altitude of 3,4090 metres, Lhasa is one of the highest cities in the world. Lhasa literally means 'place of gods' and the city's rich cultural heritage offers plenty to explore. Yamdrok Yumtso Lake is one of three holy lakes in Tibet and is said to be the female guardian of Buddhism in Tibet. Potala Palace is another landmark in Lhasa symbolising Tibetan Buddhism while Jokhang Monastery in Barkhor square has been a key centre of Buddhist pilgrimage for centuries.

Round trips start from Rs 67,000

taking Nepal to the world



Flight Schedule effective from  
11th October 2012

Kathmandu-Kuala Lumpur  
Mon I Wed I Thu I Sun - 2300 hrs

Kathmandu-Hong Kong  
Tue I Fri I Sun - 1135 hrs

Fares start from

Kathmandu-Kuala Lumpur-Kathmandu

**Rs. 36,000/-**\*

Kathmandu-Hong Kong-Kathmandu

**Rs. 48,000/-**\*

For trade enquiries contact: 9849252911, 9851149066, 9841200219

Like us on



**BB AIRWAYS**

BB Airways Building, Gairidhara, Kathmandu, Nepal P.O.Box No: 10407  
Tel: +977 1 4004666, Email: info@bbairways.com.np

\*conditions apply



## The Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory aims to inculcate a culture of learning music theory among Nepalis

When Mariano Abello (*pic, right*) came to Nepal from the United States seven years ago, he started off by helping his brother in the clothing business. But the Argentinian-born Spaniard just couldn't keep himself from his passion for music, and started playing and giving private lessons. When Chhedup Bomzan of the Jazz Upstairs Bar and Navin Chettri, drummer and vocalist of Cadenza, invited him to be a part of the Jazzmandu festival, he jumped at the offer and agreed immediately.


starting a musical school. “I was telling Nirakar how unfortunate it was that so many talented Nepalis lacked formal music education. He looked at me and said, ‘let’s do it.’” One thing led to another and they found a place in Lalitpur next to Mokshi restaurant and Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory (KJC) was born in 2007.

Initially, there was very little interest because people got the impression that KJC taught only jazz. But through word of mouth, music enthusiasts flocked to the conservatory after finding out that it also offered classical music, rock, pop, Indian, and jazz classes. “We thought maybe 50 students would show up, but 115 ended up enrolling. We even got emails from international musicians about their interest in teaching at KJC,” reveals Abello.

JUANITA MALAGON

it is one of the few that have professionalised the field. It has proper sound proof classrooms and an actual curriculum. "In Nepal, music is taught orally and many of our students also thought they could learn by just touching the instruments," admits Abello. "So it was a little difficult at first to change this attitude and make them understand the importance of theory." Five years later, the enthusiasts are warming up to the academic aspect of music and work just as hard here as they would at school.

learning how to read and write music, and play the saxophone since the past ten months. He says, "At my age I need to work harder than all my younger classmates, but this does not discourage me." He wants to master the saxophone in four years and plans on teaching music at schools.

"With KJC, we have shown it is possible to run a professional music school," says Abello. "Now we would love to see schools introduce proper music programs into their curriculum because music not only teaches discipline, but also improves children's language, listening, and mathematics skills." 

nepalitimes.com

The Jazzers in 'Mandu, #575  
Once upon a time in Jazzmandu, #574

Whether it's lok-dohari blaring through a microbus, a catchy Kollywood tune on radio or the sounds of the saxophone permeating through the alleys of Jhamsikhel, Nepalis love their music. And with Dasain around the corner music is bound to get louder and merrier. Add two jazz festivals to the mix and the party just got started.

While jazz is not native to the subcontinent, it enjoys immense popularity in Nepal. Jazzmandu festival, which turns ten this year, and Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory (KJC) which is celebrating its fifth anniversary in October attest to the popularity of the genre.

To celebrate its fifth birthday, KJC is organising a music festival from 4 to 13 October. The festival features certified workshops from Gene Aitken, a renowned music educator and Mariano Abello, director of KJC.





# vista

## Babbar Dashain OFFER

Cash Discount Rs. 140,000  
Accessories worth Rs. 20,000  
Loyalty Bonus Rs. 20,000

**TOTAL OFFER RS. 180,000**



Siprati encourages you to wear seatbelts

— ALL NEW —

## vista

SEDAN CLASS

**TATA MOTORS**



A Distributor of **TATA** Vehicles

**For details, SMS <TATA VISTA> to 2426 or <NAB DO> to 2426 | Toll free no. 16600155888 | We are also open on Saturday**

SIPRADI TRADING PVT. LTD., An ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company, Teku, Kathmandu, 01-4250610, 4250612, Thapathali, 01-4245380, 4245481, Sudhir 9851143738, Sarad 9851152225, Meghraj 9851043703  
DEALER: Narayani Auto Business P. Ltd., Maharajgunj, 01-4422224, 4422225, Durga 9841145004, Govinda 9851091901  
REGIONAL DEALERS: Dharan: Global Auto Traders, 025-533343, 9852049851 • Pokhara: Deeplaxmi Bright International, 061-536373, 9856025078 • Nepalgunj: Yagyalaxmi Auto Distributors, 081-551500, 9848022262  
• Narayanghat: Locomotive Motors P. Ltd. 056-523199, 9849760210 • Biratnagar: Narvada Auto Nepal, 021-462320 9816316033 • Birtamode: Alaska Automobile, 023-543929, 9852678992 • Butwal: Sapana Automobile Traders, 071-545382, 9847037397 • Birgunj / Hetauda: Samar Auto & Trading 051-530006, 9855023427 • Janakpur: Girija Automobiles, 041-527998, 9854022191



Please scan using  
QR Code Reader  
on your smart phone





MUST SEE  
**Sophia Pande**

One day in New York in August of 2010 I walked into one of the smallest independent movie theatres in the West Village to see a film I had happened to read about in the *New York Times*. It sounded promising – a film about the philosopher Hypatia, a woman committed to the truth and beauty represented by pure science, living in the 4th Century in Roman Egypt, teaching at the famed library of Alexandria. The film was a Spanish production directed by the immensely talented and visionary director Alejandro Amenábar, and starring the stunning Rachel Weisz.

I walked out of the theatre determined to tell everybody about *Agora*, shocked that I hadn't heard about it sooner and wondering how I could get more people to see it. Available now, finally, on DVD, the film is as powerful, visually and in its philosophical content as I remembered it.

*Agora* is effective on so many levels that it is hard to describe on paper and with words – the hallmark of a truly successful piece of cinema. It is set, as I mentioned earlier, with the backdrop of the Library of Alexandria, the real sets having been actually built on Malta, complete with the Lighthouse of Alexandria, among other stunning landmarks, and complemented by the blueness of what would have been the then pristine Mediterranean sea.

As Hypatia teaches her students, all young men, the mysteries of the universe, we learn that they are puzzling over the inelegance and whimsy of the accepted Ptolemaic system that posited that the earth was at the centre of the cosmos.

Hypatia is beloved by her students, her slave Davos

(played by the broodingly handsome Max Minghella), and by her father for her brilliant mind, her extraordinary beauty and her ability to translate the purity of scientific principals to human behaviour, at one point intervening in a heated discussion between two of her students, Synesius (Rupert Evans) a Christian, and Orestes (Oscar Isaac) a follower of the pagan gods of the time. She points out that if two things equal a third thing in a mathematical sum, then it means that all three are also equal to each other. "We are all brothers here," she says, "there are more things that unite us than divide us."

And with these words we are thrown into the centre of the film's conflict: the hideous clashes between the Pagans and the Christians that result in the sacking of the Library, the mauling of Hypatia's father Theon, and the rise of the Christian fundamentalist Bishop Cyril who, in the years that follow, affects the course of Alexandria's future, forcing all to convert to his religion via terrorising tactics, including stone throwing, burning, and the use of the frighteningly militant Parabolani, or, 'Soldiers of Christ'.

As Hypatia mediates, her former students, Orestes, who loves her, and who is now the appointed Prefect of Alexandria, and Synesius, now a powerful Bishop, struggle to protect her from Cyril's insinuations that she is a witch, and that as a woman, according to the Bible, she may not be above a man (she may also not wear braids, jewelry, or revealing clothing).

It's impossible to sum up what follows and the austere beauty of Hypatia's decisions which leave the viewer filled with horror at the ugliness of religious strife and a profound sense of wonder at one woman's decision to live by her principals. So watch the film. 🇳🇵

[nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com)

Watch trailer

# Conquering heights



DHANVANTARI  
**Buddha Basnyat, MD**

You have made it to 4,500 metres with only a few hundred metres before Everest Base Camp. Suddenly you feel a severe headache and nausea. Like countless other mountaineers and trekkers, you are experiencing acute mountain sickness (AMS).

AMS is a common affliction for people who climb above an altitude of 2500m. Although it is best to prevent AMS by gradual ascent without using any drugs, this may not always be an option in many settings. Rescuers may need to go up rapidly to high altitudes or owing to a lack of camp site, it may not be possible for trekkers to spend the night at an optimal altitude.

Furthermore, airports in places like Lhasa, Tibet (3,490m) and La Paz, Bolivia (4,058m) may cause travellers to arrive at high altitude without the opportunity to acclimatise en route. Many trekkers specially pilgrims, often disregard advice about gradual ascent in their

single-minded determination to reach the sacred site.

In addition, sudden military deployment at high altitudes, such as the Hindu Kush Mountains in Afghanistan, may necessitate drug prophylaxis for the prevention of AMS. Finally there is a fast-growing population of climbers in pursuit of records who are incorrectly being advised by physicians to use prophylactic medicine to both



improve performance and summit successfully.

Up-to-date knowledge about the most commonly used drug Diamox (acetazolamide) for the prevention of AMS is helpful. Recently there has been a significant change in its dose recommendation. In a publication in the British Medical Journal in 2000, Dumont and colleagues had arbitrarily shown that

only 750 mg/day of diamox (acetazolamide) would prevent AMS.

Recent review articles, which now include studies post 2000 (many of which were conducted by us in the Himalayas), have clearly shown that a much lower dose (250 mg/day) of diamox is adequate for prevention. Other drugs including ginkgo biloba and ibuprofen have been tested in the prevention of AMS. But diamox continues to be the superior drug due to its proven efficacy over the years in a large number of trials with an acceptable side-effect profile.

Another important use of diamox in the mountains is in the prevention of periodic breathing (literally, trying to 'catch your breath' while sleeping) at high altitudes. This is a very common problem which sometimes triggers anxiety attacks. Diamox decreases the hypoxemic (low oxygen) spells during sleep and successfully treats this problem in most instances.

Climbers ascending high altitude need to be encouraged to go up gradually without the use of drugs, including diamox to enhance acclimatisation. However, in certain instances, chemoprophylaxis may be useful. In those cases, low dose (250 mg/day) diamox is the drug of choice. 🇳🇵



BIKRAM RAI

**SEPARATE WAYS:** Janajati leaders of the UML announce their decision to leave the party at a function in Kathmandu on Thursday.



KRISHNA SINJALI

**MUDDY MESS:** Heavy rainfall on Saturday caused a major landslide along the Mechi Highway in Kolbung VDC of Ilam district on Sunday. Six people were killed and eight are still missing.



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

**READING PATROL:** A policeman glances through a book while on duty at the National Book Exhibition. The fair will be held until 13 October.



SYLVIE DUBORDI

**CALM IN CHAOS:** A Buddhist monk finds peace while praying at Boudhanath Stupa some metres away from the swarming streets of Kathmandu.

WEEKEND WEATHER

The Met Office officially declared that the 2012 monsoon officially closed on 30 September, and just to prove how unpredictable it can be the monsoon made a revival and dumped over 100mm of rain in 12 hours in parts of eastern Nepal on Monday triggering landslides and loss of life. These late rains were a result of a low pressure circulation over the Bay that just grazed central and eastern Nepal, but there was enough moisture there to unleash storms and showers. There is also extended and prolonged cloud cover over eastern Nepal, which has affected flights. Lukla airport has been closed for five straight days, stranding thousands of passengers. Expect some thunderstorm on Friday, but the weekend will be hot and sunny with cloudy intervals in the afternoon.

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
29°-12°	29°-12°	29°-12°





BIKRAM RAI

## Leaders come out of coterie politics to seek broader support



BY THE WAY  
Anurag Acharya

Hope is fading for a concrete political settlement on elections and the electoral government before the festive season starts next week. But the good news is that no matter how strong the rhetoric, the parties will keep coming back to the table.

When the Comprehensive Peace Accord of 2006 was signed, it was agreed by all political parties that the basic characteristics of Nepali politics until the new constitution is written would be consensual. So despite the disagreements, the parties are doomed to having to agree with each other.

Six years of consensual politics have transformed a guerrilla party into a civilian party, not only moderated their totalitarian ambitions but forced them into accepting basic tenets of competitive politics, even at the cost of splitting the party.

There are sufficient reasons for the people to feel betrayed by the leaders in the last six years, but there are also reasons to be hopeful that Nepali society has changed for the better. Never before was society fractured politically and socially as now, but neither had the social and political consciousness peaked to this level before.

There is not just an overwhelming awareness about rights and belonging among Nepalis, even the political class is questioning traditional loyalties and is increasingly critical of patronising political figureheads within the parties. The Janajati dissent within the NC and

UML, the revolt within the Maoists against corruption, as well as the cross-party caucus in the ex-CA are indications that the political landscape of the country will not be the same in coming days as institutions become stronger than individuals.

Before its dissolution, the debates in the CA and interim legislature had helped a Kathmandu-centred leadership to gauge the political mood outside their limited coterie. But since then they have become a disoriented lot who find it difficult to connect to the masses, and are jeered when they go out to the districts.

The meeting called by top leaders this week with ex-lawmakers and other party leaders at the dissolved CA building in New Baneshwor was another indication that they are not sure about what they negotiate behind closed doors anymore. This is actually good news for Nepali politics, and the media has an important role to play in pressurising the leaders to make future negotiations more inclusive and transparent.

As the nation gets into festive mood this month, Sushil Koirala, Jhalanath Khanal and Pushpa Kamal Dahal have a lot to think about as they take time off. The political constellation has changed in the last six months with various Dalit, Janajati, and Madhesi groups asserting themselves in a more organised political alliance. They must not ignore these changes, and use the opportunity to engage more with diverse political constituencies before returning to the table next month.

It is not unusual for leaders to seek power or passionately stand for their vision of what is in the best interest of the country and the people. But they should learn from the disastrous brinkmanship of the past

# Brinkmanship doesn't work

and acknowledge that without engaging with the larger constituency in a spirit of compromise and flexibility future negotiations will fail.

The opposition must understand that even if the Maoists agree, the new government cannot be formed unless

there is a pre-agreement on outstanding issues of the constitution with other stakeholders. If the next government is given a mandate to hold elections, there must first be an agreement about its purpose.

Similarly, the Maoists must also

engage with the Baidya-led splinter of the Maoists and the Madhesi Front with the newly-formed alliance led by Upendra Yadav. As a party in the government it is also their duty to play a facilitating role among the parties while holding talks with the Dalit, Janajati, and the Madhesi groups.

The parties must keep all options open, including CA revival, since socio-political polarisation persists and they have not been able to convince the people that elections will be peaceful or that it will necessarily facilitate constitution drafting.

The leaders tried talking at each other and failed miserably, may be now they will talk with each other to look for a settlement.

EOS  
DIGITAL

Canon



## The feature-packed camera that's ready to take on the world

The most awe-inspiring scenes deserve a camera that's equally stunning. The Canon EOS 1100D puts the power of DIGIC 4 and a 12.2 megapixel sensor at your fingertips for the sharpest images. Its HD Movie Recording feature means you can revisit all those grandest moments. And, for tips on how to tackle any scene and use any mode, the new Feature Guide is always by your side. With the feature-packed Canon EOS 1100D, substance is second nature.



DIGIC 4

12.2 MEGA PIXELS CMOS

9 AF

EOS Movie 1080

ISO 6400

Basic+ Function

EOS 1100D

Authorized Showroom

Canon LINK

@ CITY CENTER

@ CIVIL MALL

Shop No: G32, Ground Floor, City Center, Kamal Pokhari, Kathmandu. Phone : 4011688

Shop No: 106, Ground Floor, Civil Mall, Sundhara, Kathmandu. Phone : 4257297

WARRANTY 1 YEAR

CANON CUSTOMER CARE CENTER

3rd Floor, Maitry Bhawan, New Road, Kathmandu, Phone : 4225042  
e-Mail : service@canon-nepal.com • Web : www.canon-nepal.com

Sharpen your photography skills now at CANON IMAGING SCHOOL. Exciting photography courses available. For more information call: 4242861 & 2083206 or e-Mail: workshop@canon-nepal.com

www.facebook.com/canon.imaging

Find us on: facebook

## THE SUBISU WORLD

Subisu is the leading service provider in Nepal, renowned for its one of a kind, best of the breed Enterprise Data Connectivity, Business Continuity Solutions, WiFi Internet, Cable Internet, Data Transport and Managed Networking Services.

Subisu's latest state-of-the-art technology is innovative and efficient. Subisu has set new standard for affordable, high quality Internet/Intranet services in Nepal. COME BE A PART OF INNOVATION AND JOIN THE SUBISU WORLD.

**Eastern Development Region:** Belbari, 9842035081; Bhojpur, 9742015055; Biratnagar, 9742073624; Dhankuta, 9852050040; Damak, 023-583025; 9852670042; Gaighat, 9852832050; Ilam, 9852680268; Ilam, Mangalbare, 9842627570; Inaruwa, 9842024656; Itahari, 9852020632; Khatbari, 029-560240/9852051680; Lahan, 9804762336; Letang, 9742003457; Pathari, 9742003640; Phidim, 9842766160; Phikal, 9842646546; Taplejung, 24480347/ 9842660170; Terhathum, 9852047647; Uribari, 9852023329; **Central Development Region:** Malangwa, 9804808270/9844032370; Mugling, 9851079280; Malekhu, 9851027515; Nijgad, 9855020231; Ramechhap, 9754203327; Thail, 9851043571; Trishuli, 9751087702; Chandra Nigra Pur, 9855025000; Chautara, 9841924445; Chitwan, 9855055201; Dhading, 9851022354; Dhunche, 9841798124; Gajuri, Dhading, 9851063779; Gaur, 9845135340; Hariar, 9854035689; Hetauda, 9755000247; Janakpur, 9844027487; Khanikhol, 9841115475; Kurintar, 9851085278; Birgunj, 9845041778; Shyapbrubensi, 9741186804; Kathmandu Valley, 01-4429616/617, **Western Development Region:** Abukhareini, 9740077023; Arghakhanchi, 9707392083; Damauli, 9856023627; Gorkha, 9856029133; Gulmi, 9757009375; Beshi Sahar, 9856030711; Taulihawa, 9847276753; **Mid-Western Development Region:** Nepalgunj, 9848133797; Surkhet, 9858050482; Rolpa, 9748511217; Phulthan, 9847820065; Guleriya, 9858021458; **Far-Western Development Region:** Achham, Saptabagar, 9759002473; Lamki, Kailali, 9858422102.

SUBISU CABLENET (P). LTD.  
P.O. Box : 6626, Baluwatar, Kathmandu  
info@subisu.net.np  
T: +977-1- 4429616 / 617  
F: +977-1- 4430572  
www.subisu.net.np

LINEZ/12



# Disastrous disaster

Post-accident crisis management is almost non-existent in Nepal

ANDY JOSHY

The Sita Air crash near the airport on 28 September happened exactly one year after the Buddha Air crash at Kot Danda, and barely six months after an Agni Air plane hit a mountainside in Jomsom.

In the past six years alone, 114 people have been killed in airline accidents in Nepal, making our aviation safety record as bad as countries that are notoriously dangerous for flying like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria. The reasons are ineffective regulation, lack of a maintenance culture, poor crew training, and lax enforcement of procedures for bad weather flying.

Nepal's rugged terrain makes it one of the most challenging places to fly in the world, but monsoon clouds, inadequate navigation facilities, and the poor condition of airports make it even more treacherous. In addition, aviation in Nepal is governed by the same culture of carelessness, fatalism, and poor discipline that we see exhibited on the roads and highways every day.

We never learnt our lessons from past accidents and the recommendations of the inquiry reports after previous disasters were never implemented, so it is likely that the tragic deaths

of those who perished last Friday on the soggy banks of the Manohara River will also have been in vain.

More than 90 per cent of the crashes in Nepal have been caused by pilot error, usually by flying into a mountain in poor visibility. However, the Sita Air crash seems to have been the first known fatal crash caused

by a bird strike in Nepal.

Post-accident crisis management has been almost non-existent in Nepal. After the Buddha Air crash last year, thousands of gawkers flocked to the impact site trampling on evidence, picking up souvenirs, and obstructing rescue and police vehicles. Eye-witnesses saw police themselves pocketing

valuables from the bodies and the wreckage.

To be sure, Kot Danda villagers who were first on the scene helped pull out a wounded passenger from the plane and rushed him to hospital, where he died. But the lack of crowd control after an accident hampered rescue. People were at the scene of the Sita Air crash last week within minutes, and had they tried to get the passengers out they could have been killed as well because the plane caught fire and exploded.

However, thousands of people had gathered to look at the plane on fire, some wading across the river to get closer. The sheer mass of onlookers obstructed fire and rescue vehicles, and the first police on the scene did not cordon off the area with the standard 50-m no-go radius. Traffic police should have been keeping the road clear for rescue vehicles, but became onlookers themselves. Fire trucks had to project foam on the burning plane from 50m away. The head of the Civil Aviation Authority was busy giving live tv interviews, with the burning wreckage serving as backdrop, instead

**INFERNO:** Onlookers swarm to the burning Sita Air plane 20 minutes after it crashed on Friday morning (above). Four hours later, police had cordoned off the area but in the process tampered with the evidence air crash investigators would need (left). Debris from the bird-strike appears to have hit the tail rudder (above, right) making it difficult for the pilot to control the stricken plane as he prepared to ditch.



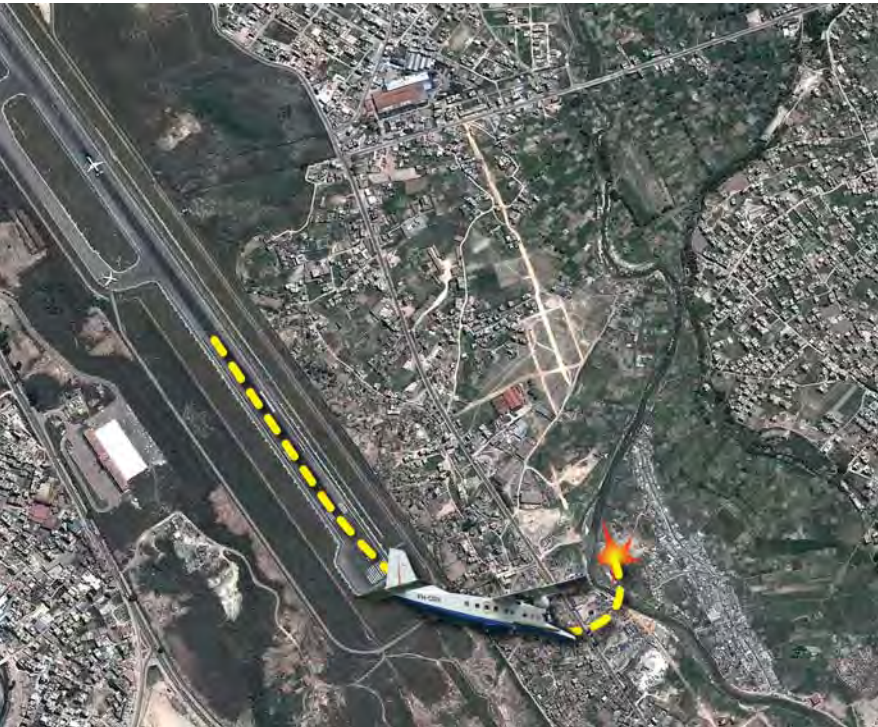
BIKRAM RAI



# management



BIKASH KARKI



now surrounded by garbage-filled urban sprawl, the nearby Manohara and Bagmati rivers are dumping grounds for animal carcasses. The airport management is supposed to have bird control officers, where were they on Friday morning?

There was serious mismanagement of a crisis situation last week, it showed there has been virtually

no training and simulation for response that is rapid, coordinated, and multi-tasked. If this is what happens after the crash of a small plane, imagine the chaos and confusion after a bigger disaster, or a mega earthquake in Kathmandu. 🇳🇵



Andy Joshy is a technical adviser to the Ministry of Health and Population.



BIKRAM RAI

An airline captain suggests immediate steps to minimise the dangers of flying in Nepal

## A SAFER SKY



COMMENT

Vijay Lama

Air crashes have been happening with frightening regularity, and with tragic consequences. Last week's disaster of a Sita Air Dornier 228 that crashed and burned on takeoff from Kathmandu on a flight to Lukla killing all 19 on board, proved once more that we have learnt none of the lessons from past crashes.

Nepal's horrendous air safety record has done incalculable damage to the reputation of a country whose economy depends on tourism. It is time to go to the root of the malaise, find out the underlying reasons for this poor safety record, and take urgent steps to ensure a safer sky. All we have been doing is talking, blaming, and speculating. How many more people need to die before we act?

As always, there has been a flurry of speculation about what happened to the Dornier on Friday morning. We won't know for sure until the report of the investigation team comes out, and this time there are two British air crash investigators also helping.

From preliminary evidence it seems a bird hit the plane on takeoff, and parts of the propeller or wing ricocheted off to hit the control surfaces of the plane. The Dornier 228 is a sturdy German-made turboprop designed to fly on one engine, but something happened to prevent the pilot from turning back to make an emergency landing.

Another aspect that the investigators must turn their attention to is the practice of aircraft overloading on flights to remote area airstrips in Nepal. Most flights to Lukla are on the heavier side either because of deliberate overloading, or under-calculation. Airlines use a 75kg average to calculate the weight of male foreigners, but in reality most are above 80kg. Baggage allowance is 15kg, but up to 20kg is allowed. Passengers also have carry-on bags with heavy trekking gear. In addition, airlines also make money on cargo and there is a tendency to pack it in. Most STOL aircraft in Nepal are overweight, but the extra weight never shows in the load sheets given to pilots.

In the days after the Sita Air crash, civil aviation inspectors conducted spot ramp checks to examine for overloading and found several instances of extra weight on planes.

These checks happen after every crash, and then slowly they are forgotten. Spot checks and inspections should have continuity.

As with most accidents, last week's crash was also followed by grisly live tv coverage of the accident scene with unedited footage of half-burnt corpses. If mainstream television channels were bad, the pictures on Facebook and blogs were much worse. The media needs to strictly implement guidelines on visuals, respect the dignity of the dead and recognise the sensitivity of what they are broadcasting. People also need to speak out in social media and ostracise those posting gruesome images.

We know that the real reasons for frequent air crashes in Nepal are lax enforcement of flight rules, regulatory failures, lack of internal checks and balances within airlines. We can eliminate up to 90 per cent of crashes in the future if we just act now to:

1. Stop political interference in pilot selection, licencing, and other aviation matters. Politicians, keep your hands off a profession of which you know nothing about.
2. The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) must take its regulatory role more seriously and deploy tough, independent inspectors to conduct regular checks of operators and blacklist those who overlook safety issues.
3. Stop the practice of new airlines inducting old planes.
4. Follow strict international guidelines on pilot discipline and confidential reporting of detrimental crew behaviour.
6. Regulate the cut-throat competition among airlines that forces them to fly in bad weather or with technical snags, and cut corners on safety.
7. Avoid conflict of interest and ban airline owners and promoters from serving in the CAAN board. 🇳🇵

Captain Vijay Lama has been flying Twin Otters and Boeing 757s for Nepal Airlines for the last 24 years.

nepalitimes.com

"I don't want any more Sarahs to die", #518





BIKRAM RAI

# Hollow nationalism

Editorial, *Kantipur*, 1 October

क्रान्तिपुर

Leaders of the CPN-M have made fools of themselves by prohibiting the entry of cars with Indian number plates and Hindi films that ‘insult’ Nepal. There is no doubt that Nepal’s sovereignty is under serious threat and our nationalism is facing a crisis. Events in the past year have shown how foreign intervention is on the rise and the head of the caretaker government even admitted publicly that ‘the keys lie elsewhere’. But at a time when the peace process has taken a positive turn and when all parties should be looking to resolve the deadlock together, coming out on the streets to protest against neighbours in the name of protecting nationalism is ill-conceived.

This is not to say that political parties remain silent when nationalism is really in crisis. However, they must find better ways to express their concerns about bilateral and domestic issues, while also maintaining cordial diplomatic relations. They must not resort to

populist slogans when dealing with the complexities of contemporary geopolitics.

All Nepal-India related issues need to be handled delicately and with great foresight because the countries have close socio-economic-political ties and our citizens interact with each other through the open border. Campaigns to stop Indian vehicles or films affect relations right down to the local level. No one can deny the legal protection offered by both states to each others’ vehicles or the pragmatism that demands their entry. Besides, India is Nepal’s only supplier of petroleum, and many of our daily necessities also come from across the border. Nepalis will only suffer if India decides to cut supplies.

Moreover, there are other crucial issues between the two countries that need attention and vehicle entry or films don’t fall in this category. Vehicles and movies are already covered by the 1950 Peace and Friendship Treaty. A better move would be to call for the treaty to be revised.

During the ‘sideline’ talks held between Minister of Foreign Affairs

**HEADMEN (from l-r): CP Gajurel, Ram Bahadur Thapa, Mohan Baidya, Netra Bikram Chand, and Narayan Sharma of CPN-M during a meeting at the party’s headquarter.**

Narayan Kaji Shrestha and his Indian counterpart SM Krishna at New York, Krishna made his country’s displeasure clear. Shrestha ensured that vehicles would be granted safe entry into Nepal and no Indian citizens or vehicles would be harmed. The Nepal government must start practicing what it has promised to India.

The NC-UML were quick to point out that their anti-government protest is different from the CPN-M’s ‘nationalism campaign’ and refused to support the program. The opposition should not influence bilateral issues from the street, and it has made the right decision to distance itself.

The way CPN-M is trying to protect nationalism is simply wrong. Diplomatic issues must be solved diplomatically, and the correct channel for that is through the government. Targeting vehicles and films will take us nowhere and such foolish ultra-nationalism will only stifle the growth of progressive nationalism.

# Expensive integration

Roshan Khadka, *Naya Patrika*, 3 October

नयाँ पत्रिका

Spent till date: from November 2006 to July 2012 Rs 14 billion has been sanctioned by the ‘Ministry of Peace and the Special Committee.

Still remaining: 13,000 ex-combatants who chose rehabilitation need to paid the second installment of Rs 3.63 billion. Preparations are underway to complete the payment by 10 November.



Spending/expenditure in the last six years

- Ration: Rs 2.74 billion
- Combatants’ monthly stipend : Rs 5.82 billion
- Infrastructure development in the cantonment : Rs 270.1 million
- Transportation, electricity, maintenance: Rs220.44 million
- First installment paid to the 13,000 ex-combatants who chose rehabilitation: Rs 3.62 billion
- Amount given to unqualified ex-combatants: Rs 850.65 million

# Faking it

Dilip Singh, Siraha, *Naya Patrika*, 3 October

नयाँ पत्रिका

The District Education Office (DEO) in Siraha has decided to cancel the licences of 69 primary schools in the district after a monitoring team found that the schools were receiving state funding and resources in the name of 40,000 fake students. Out of the schools that were investigated, 52 couldn’t be located, two didn’t have buildings and hadn’t conducted exams, eight had no students or property, another school was found without essential infrastructure and six other schools also didn’t have any students. All the schools have been given 15 days to present evidence to save their licences. Lack of regular inspection and rampant corruption have led to a proliferation of such fraud cases.



नागरिक Yubak in *Nagarik*, 4 October

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“There will be objective conditions for armed struggle in Nepal for another two decades.”

CPN-M leader Netra Bikram Chand quoted in *Kantipur*, 2 October

# CPN-M versus India

Interview with vice-chairman of CPN-M CP Gajurel, *BBC Nepali Service*, 4 October

BBC नेपाली

**What is your party’s motive behind banning the entry of vehicles with Indian number plates and Bollywood films?**

We feel that some of the demands of Nepalis can be easily met by Nepali goods so it is not necessary to import these.

**But your shirt is not made in Nepal. Why aren’t you wearing clothes produced domestically?**

Because there aren’t enough clothes produced in Nepal and when there is a shortage of supply we must bring goods from outside. For example, the local market cannot meet the demand for medicines, so we must import them.

**How come these demands are resurfacing only after your party split with the establishment? Why were you silent all these years?**

We had tried time and again to raise these issues, but the party wouldn’t listen to us. Some of our leaders have forgotten communist ideology and sold out. So after we split, these things came naturally to us because they are related to national sovereignty.

**What happened to national sovereignty when you spent eight out of ten years of the armed conflict in India?**

Yes, we can’t deny that we used Indian territory during the conflict, but out of the four million Nepalis in India, half of them supported us.

**What will happen to those four million Nepalis if the Indian government decides to return the favour and ban Nepalis or Nepali vehicles from entering their terrain?**

First of all the move has to be justified.

**Do you think Nepal’s sovereignty and nationality will be saved by taking India on?**

We are only claiming our rights and not looking for a fight. They must not think of it as their loss. India is a friend, as is China and we must look to build our economy with

the support of these countries. But even then, Nepal has certain interests and those must not be misinterpreted as an affront.

**How long will this ‘nationalism’ campaign go on?**

Let’s see. We will make sure that our actions don’t negatively affect the lives of ordinary Nepalis. There have been false reports that we stopped the supply of LPG and medicines. But these claims are baseless.

**But hall owners and distributors are suffering huge losses due to the ban and many Nepalis don’t support the move either. What do you have to say?**

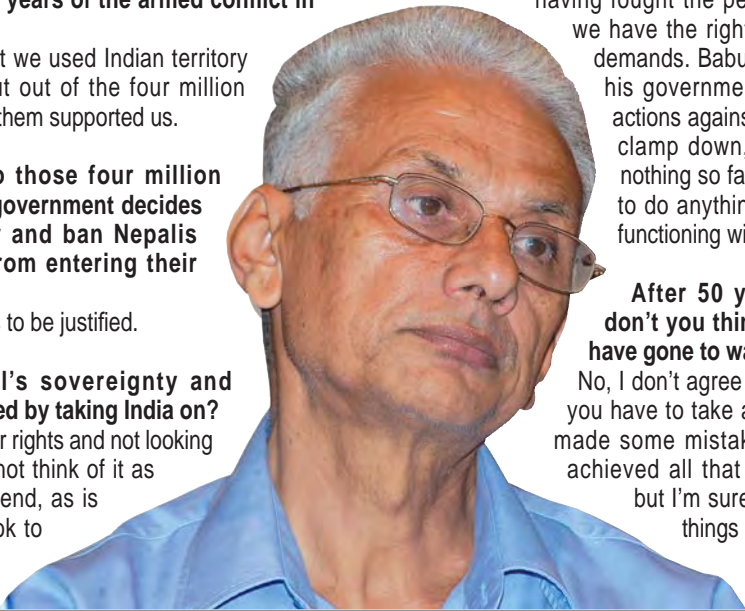
You are right, but many people have invested a lot in Nepali films and the industry must be nurtured and developed. But as is the case with vehicles, there are some capitalists here who are acting as agents of India capitalists and we are against them.

**But why blame Indian vehicles for the current political crisis. Aren’t we in this situation because political stalwarts like you failed to steer the country to prosperity?**

There is no doubt that politicians ruined the country, because politics decides all. Also in addition to the ban on Indian cars and films, we have 28 other demands related to national sovereignty that we will look to enforce. After having fought the people’s war, I think we have the right to address these demands. Baburam Bhattarai said his government will take strong actions against us for the vehicle clamp down, but he has done nothing so far and won’t be able to do anything because we are functioning within our rights.

**After 50 years in politics, don’t you think all your efforts have gone to waste?**

No, I don’t agree because in politics you have to take a stand. Maybe we made some mistakes, and have not achieved all that we set out to do, but I’m sure we’ve done some things right.





# Peddalling to prosperity

SARALA GAUTAM

Shortly after her husband's death, Nandakini Aryal learnt to ride a cycle. The two-wheeler not only helped her become more independent, but also boosted her dairy business. She would hang 17 jugs on her bicycle handles and travel to the market everyday selling 100 litres of milk and yoghurt. With a daily income of 1,500, she was able to save enough to buy back her house and invest in a few acres of land. Aryal, who is lovingly called Cycle Aama by locals says that if it wasn't for her cycle she wouldn't have been able to look after her family.

Nepalis have been using cycles long before cars made their way into the country. Seen as status symbols at one time, cycles may not carry the same prestige these days, but they are intrinsically linked to the livelihood and prosperity of many. The self-employed and small business owners like Aryal particularly reliant on pedal power.

In the Tarai, most households have at least one cycle. Apart from being a means of transport, the two-wheelers even serve as ambulances in the region and



Cycles have been empowering Nepalis and making them financially independent long before urban residents took to the two-wheelers as a hobby

make it possible for activists, health care volunteers, and midwives to travel to remote areas where there are no roads or public transport. Access to cycles has also increased the attendance rate of female students and kept them from dropping out.

"Cycles have made a big difference in the lives of Tarai women," says Birganj-based journalist Chandra Kishor Jha. "It has helped

them come out of the confines of their house, made them more confident, encouraged them to take up jobs and made them economically independent."

There is a popular saying in Chitwan that women who can't ride bicycles won't get married and the dairy industry here is a stellar example of women on wheels pedalling to prosperity. Bishnu Rimal of GEFONT, a labour union close to the UML,

says he still remembers how the road in Jhapa would turn into a sea of red when 2,500 sari-clad women rode home after finishing their shifts at the garment factories fifteen years ago.

Although not as popular as in the Tarai, 50,000 cycles ply on the roads of the capital. 20 years ago, 6.6 per cent of residents rode bikes. In the absence of public transport, cycles were the lifeline which connected the villages on the outskirts of the Valley to the centre.

As the living standard of the Kathmandu's middle class rises so has their demand motorbikes and cars. That coupled with unsafe roads has meant that cycle use in the Valley has dropped to 1.6 per cent. However, cycles are still essential for business. Each day, almost 1,000 cycles ferry vegetables and fruits from the Kalimati market through the narrow alleys and deliver it to wholesalers throughout Kathmandu.

According to Bidur Acharya of the Kalimati Fruits and Vegetables Market Development Committee, almost 40 per cent of the total stock is cleared by cycles. Similarly, almost 50 per cent of LPG gas cylinders

are ferried from depots to homes on cycles.

"For 41 years till I retired in 2008, I pedalled to work every day and took my bike all around the city. My colleagues in Singha Darbar used to respect me a lot because back then owning a cycle was a status symbol much like owning a car is today," reminisces Hari Prasad Dahal.

With the crippling fuel crisis and an inefficient public transportation system, cycles have become an environmentally friendly alternative for urban Nepalis. More and more are hopping onto their two wheelers to commute to work and groups like Kathmandu Cycle City are lobbying with the government to build bicycle lanes and make the capital a cycle-friendly city by 2020. Cycling as a hobby has also caught up as Valley residents look to escape the concrete jungle and explore the countryside.

Despite its evolving roles, many Nepali can still trace their progress back to the the two-wheelers. 🚲

nepalitimes.com

Girl power, #618  
Cyclists and the city, #579  
Cycle city, #510



# Panasonic

PRESENTING INTELLIGENCE INVERTER AIR CONDITIONER

Panasonic Distributor for Nepal:  
**Triveni Byapar Co. Pvt. Ltd.**, Triveni Complex, Putalisadak, Kathmandu  
For Corporate Sales, please contact: 9802032361  
Visit our Showrooms:  
Nava Durga Departmental Store (New Baneshwor), Triveni Complex (Putalisadak)

**eco ideas**  
AUTOCOMFORT

It provides comfort and saves energy when additional cooling is not required.

**ECONAVI**  
AIR-CONDITIONER  
with Sensor Technology  
Eco Star Realizing

Utilises Human Sensor and Control Program technologies to detect where energy is normally wastes and self-adjusts cooling power to reduce energy waste.

**ADVANCED+PLUS**  
e-ion Air Purifying System  
with Petrol Sensor

Alerts you to changes in the degree of air cleanliness and activates the air purifying function for cleaner and healthier air.

# FLY ON TIME

Yeti Airlines operates 7 Jetstream-41 advanced turbo prop aircrafts catering to widest network sectors every day.

KTM-MTN-KTM Daily 5 Flights•KTM-PKR-KTM Daily 8 Flights•KTM-BIR-KTM Daily 7 Flights•KTM-BDP-KTM Daily 3 Flights•KTM-BWA-KTM Daily 2 Flights  
KTM-KEP-KTM Daily 2 Flights•KTM-JKR-KTM Daily 2 Flights•KTM-DHI-KTM Daily 1 Flight•KTM-BHR-KTM Daily 1 Flight•KTM-TMI-KTM Daily 1 Flight

Yeti Airlines Domestic Pvt. Ltd. Corporate Office: Tilganga, Kathmandu, Tel: 4465888 Fax: 4465115 Reservations: 4464878 (Hunting Line), Kathmandu Airport: 4493901 Email: reservations@yetiairlines.com Sky Club: 01-4487020/4465888 (223/418/614) Email: skyclub@yetiairlines.com  
Bhadrapur: 023-455232•Biratnagar: 021-536612•Tumlingtar: 029-575120•Janakpur: 041-520047•Bharatpur: 056-523136•Pokhara: 061-464888•Bhairahawa: 071-527527•Nepalgunj: 081-526556•Dhangadi: 091-520004



## Yeti Airlines

You come first

www.yetiairlines.com





Fragrance of colors  
glitter in all directions

asianpaints  
ROYALE *Glitter* | Shinning all Around

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

asianpaints

# Vertically challenged in Nepal

By now, it is pretty clear that the current deadlock is not over anything to do with the constitution but about who gets to be in power at election time. So far so good. Nothing unusual there. It's part of a politician's job description that he wants to be **Top Dog**. The problem arises when one of them wants to be **Only Dog**.



Democracy, as they say, is all about everyone having equal rights to screw things up. The disagreement at all-party meetings about who gets to sit on the high chair shows that everyone takes democracy seriously in this country. After the splits in the Baddies and Maddies, there are now so many top leaders during party pow-wows that there aren't enough executive chairs to go around around the conference table. So the admin staff brings in extra stools from other offices. Trouble is, not all of them are the same height which makes some leaders look shorter than others. After Prime Minister BRB noticed on the evening tv news how he was dwarfed by Chairman PKD, he got the PMO to add a few cushions to his chair. PKD didn't mind, but when Ex-PM Makuney saw that, he blew a gasket. MKN apparently has had a bit of a



complex about his stature ever since the Lilliputian snapshot of himself standing next to Barack and Michelle in 2009. So, guess what, Makuney refuses to attend the meeting until the cushions were removed from under the Prime Minister. Our leaders are always making asses (ahem) of themselves, and don't seem to mind if people find out that they are intellectually-challenged. But they take umbrage at being seen as vertically-challenged.



Cinemas across Nepal have had to close as the Badder Baddie campaign against Hindi films gathers momentum. Rumour has it this is Comrade CP's ploy to



bring Tamil movies with their dance sequences of gyrating pelvises that he got addicted to watching while serving time in Chennai for travelling on a forged passport. The Ass' prediction is that Hindi will be unbanned and the cinemas will open for the festival as soon as the Hyphen Party's coffers are topped up. The ban on Indian vehicles also hit a snag after a tabloid revealed that **Comrades CP, Cloudy, Pumpa, Hitman, Big Plop**, and other hyphenated commies all drive stolen Indian Scorpions.

**Quote of the Week** is Comrade Big Flop telling reporters the other day at The Club: "The ban on Indian cars

will improve bilateral relations between India and Nepal."



What's this we hear about the road widening project grinding to a halt at Dilli Bazar because the First Lady's maiti lodged a complaint? Does this mean Comrade Hasiya is working at cross purposes with Comrade Hatauda, the hubby first gentleman? And

another erstwhile Also-First Lady has raised objections as well about the road-widening at Ekantakuna and has pulled strings to limit the demolition so it doesn't encroach into ancestral property. Meanwhile, one embassy still refuses to budge, leaving Comrade Sthapit with no recourse but to send his bulldozers to work around the **Great Wall of China**.



Nepal has adopted a laissez-faire policy when it comes to granting drivers' and pilots' licences. A visually impaired man actually managed to buy a heavy vehicle licence some time ago, and from what we hear the going rate for getting through the written exam

now is five grand, and they'll even give you a receipt. Turning to civil aviation, there is a similar state of affairs at CAAN for the written exam to get one's pilot's licence endorsed. The results of a recent written test were scrapped after the nephew of the **Great Helmsman** himself and a relative of a disgruntled UML leader, both flunked the test. The two however passed the re-exam after being fed the questions beforehand, and now have jobs flying for a domestic airline that shall remain nameless because they advertise with us. The others who passed the first time don't have jobs yet.



When money collected from those who failed breathalyzer tests started disappearing, Traffic Police came up with an ingenious incentive scheme. Cops testing drivers for alcohol now get to take home 15% of all fines, and the money has to be paid at Global Bank and drivers have to produce the receipt the next day to sit for a self-improvement class and get their licences back. Smart move. Maybe we can also go high-tech with kickbacks and bribe payments now, and make all under-the-table transactions electronic.



## PUNTO

CRAFTED FOR A TRUE FAN

**DIESEL PETROL**





Showroom :  
Gairidhara, Kathmandu, T: 01-4004777 | E: info@batas.org.np, www.batas.org.np  
Tinkune, T: 01-4111870 | Nayabazar, Pokhara, T: 061-530373, F: 061-530374, E: fiatpokhara@batas.org.np | Biratnagar, T: 021-462164 | Butwal, T: 071-437854

Sales Contact:  
Madhusudan - 9851107457, Aakriti - 9851124043, Namrata - 9851129851, Bijendra - 9851129919

ISSN 1814-2613