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“We must push for June.”



BIKRAM RAI

In a free-wheeling interview UCPN (Maoist) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal spoke to *Nepali Times* and *Himal Khabarpatrika* on Thursday about the need for the government and Election Commission to still aim to have elections in June. He defended his commitment to address human rights violations committed during the war through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and urged Nepalis not to always seek foreign approval for domestic issues. He did not rule out eventual unity with the Baidya faction.

Elections: “We must push for elections in June, it is still possible. If the High Level Political Committee which I chair can convince the smaller parties, then the government and the EC can solve the technical issues. The continuation of the election government will be in doubt if polls can’t be held in June.”

Executive president proposal: “A leader should be directly

accountable to the people and allowed to govern for full five years. At present, coalition leaders always need money and muscle to stay in power and have no time to think about stability and growth.”

Baidya: “Today’s meeting of the HLPC decided to invite Baidya and Upendra to talk and involve them in the committee to address their concerns about elections.”

Truth and Reconciliation Bill: “It meets international standards. We Nepalis listen a bit too much to outsiders. We have to get out of the habit of seeking international approval for everything we do.”

Madhes: “I want to contest elections from the Madhes and address the grievances of the Tarai and bring all Madhesis into the national mainstream. We can’t treat Madhesis as if they are Indians.”

Personal inconsistency: “What you call inconsistency, I call dynamism and pragmatism. If I were rigid in my belief, we would be stuck. I can’t just be a locomotive, I have to pull the carriages along.”

Media: “The media is a bit confused and some like your newspaper are a bit prejudiced against me and our party.”

nepalitimes.com

Full interview in Nepali on *Himal Khabarpatrika* on Sunday. English translation, podcast, and video clips online

buzz

MURAL CITY

page 12-13

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TRUTHLESS COMMISSION

The Supreme Court’s stay order this week on the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as per the parameters promulgated by the previous government and passed as ordinance by the president, has been welcomed by families of victims as well as human rights activists.

It also underlines why many of us have been harping on the need for an independent judiciary when all other pillars of democracy have been compromised. This ruling is precisely why the separation of powers is so important. And it is heartening to see that even when the chief justice has become the chief executive without resigning from his Supreme Court post, the apex body continues to fulfil its check and balance role.

The whole idea that Truth and Reconciliation could have been included in a ‘package’ deal on the formation of an election government was absurd to begin with. But such was the desperation on the part of the international community with the state of paralysis that its members looked the other way to fully back an election government led by the CJ. The four-party cartel willingly sacrificed justice in conflict-era crimes for the sake of political expediency, and exposed a fatal flaw in the whole chief justice project.

One could say that is now water under the bridge. One could argue that we now have to make the best of what we have and try to ensure clean and violence-free elections soon. But the reason the process is stuck again (over deciding on the date for elections and bringing the smaller parties on board) is because the political parties still want to dictate policy when they have collectively lost their moral authority to do so. The cross-party leadership that created the mess is now blaming the Election Commission and the technocratic interim election council for the delay.

It would be advisable for Chairman Khil Raj Regmi,

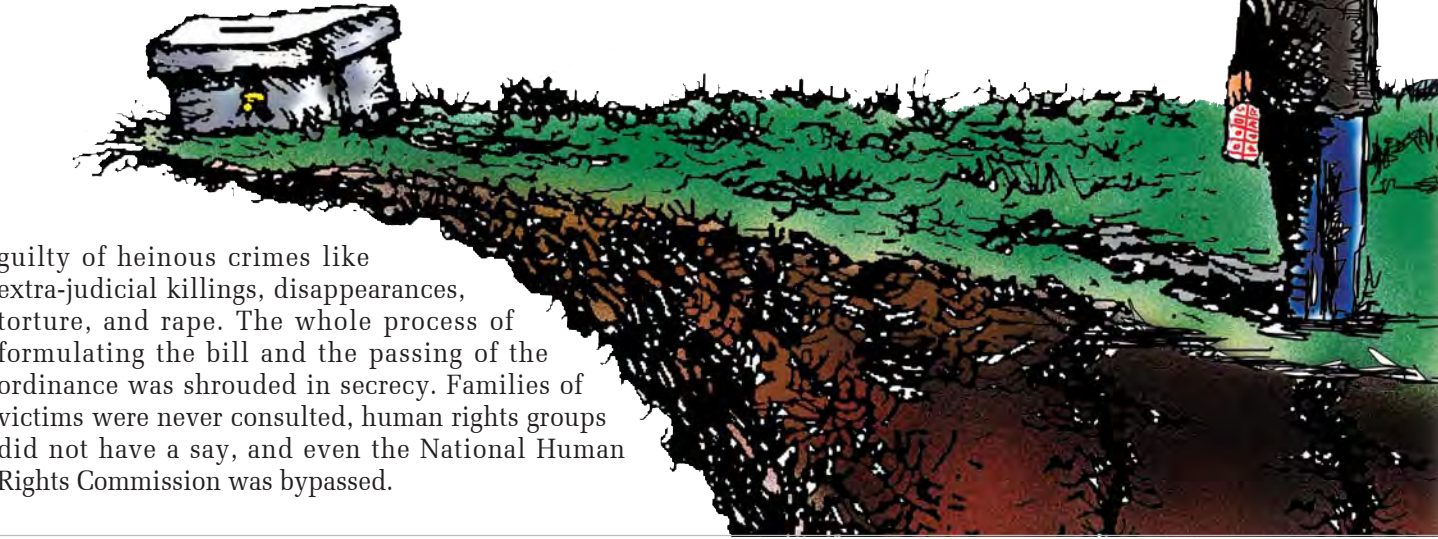
The Regmi regime can redeem itself by announcing local elections in June and a date for CA elections in November

if he wants to redeem his reputation, to immediately do three things: a) resign from his chief justice position, b) announce local elections in June, and c) show the four main parties who is boss by setting an irrevocable November date for CA elections. Regmi will have to swallow his pride and show more assertiveness than he has so far, but we cannot have this bipolar state anymore where an election government is a puppet of date-expired political leadership.

The Supreme Court’s stay order was in response to writ petitions by human rights lawyers challenging its provisions for pardon and amnesty even for those found

The plot was hatched by the Baburam Bhattarai-led coalition, which had the most to hide. When he was prime minister, Bhattarai promoted army and police officers involved in atrocities, he publicly coddled a Maoist ex-CA member who had been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment by the Supreme Court, his government’s chief spokesman was another Maoist commander implicated in summary execution, and he ordered police not to pursue disappearance, murder or torture cases like that of journalist Dekendra Thapa of Dailekh. Now, in cahoots with their former enemies, the Maoists are terrified about facing the consequences of their terror.

No one should be surprised that the Maoists would try to wriggle out of facing any punishment for the violence and terror they unleashed on the people. But it is truly tragic that the Nepali Congress and UML should also join this unprincipled stand.



guilty of heinous crimes like extra-judicial killings, disappearances, torture, and rape. The whole process of formulating the bill and the passing of the ordinance was shrouded in secrecy. Families of victims were never consulted, human rights groups did not have a say, and even the National Human Rights Commission was bypassed.

ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

MAYBE NOT JUNE

If the main Nepali political parties are really sincere about helping Khil Raj Regmi conduct elections, then they must participate despite intra-party differences and partisan interests ('Maybe not June', Editorial, #649). No one, not even the radical Baidya communists and ethnic outfits, will benefit by exaggerating the current situation just to avoid elections no matter how much they pretend to be pro-people.

Make or break

- Carter did Nepal a real disservice in 2008. I hope he has heard and accepted the feedback and learnt his lesson.

Paul Krugman

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Jagan Nath Shrestha can't hide his frustration when he says 'I was 10 when I first heard about how Nepal would sell electricity to India and become rich. I am now 63 and we have 14-hour power cuts daily. How much longer are we going to wait?' ('No alternative to alternative energy', Bhrikuti Rai, #649). I too heard the same thing when I was 10 and now I'm 35. I hope when I'm 63 I won't have to experience the same thing Shrestha is facing now. With the way political parties are running the country, though, I don't have hope.

Concerned Nepali

- Foot-dragging and throwing a spanner in the works have been the hallmark of corruption-ridden corporations and the NEA

is no exception. It looks as if the government is acting in conjunction by not promoting photovoltaic cells as required. But I have a different question regarding the upkeep of solar panels. Given that I need to wet mop panels every morning to remove the layer of accumulated dust, how is it done - if it is ever done - for so many at Sundarighat?

PV

- If 72GW hours of power could be generated from just 10 per cent of Kathmandu's total area, then why not generate them from home and sell it to NEA or reverse the meter? This way we can even solve the energy hunger for industries and offices during daytime.

Nir Kr Rai

CAIRN OPTING OUT

It's good that Cairn is not coming soon to Nepal ('Cairn may give up on Nepal', Mark Williamson, #649) because when there is no governance and rule of law, multinational companies behave badly as we see in Africa. In many under-developed countries where oil is found, the economy remains the same as before or worse: eg Sudan, Chad, Sierra Leone or Guatemala. Ethnic conflicts erupt and there is instability. Oil is only viable for Nepal if a local company owns more than half the shares or if there are Nepalis at decision-making levels. Otherwise we export gold at the price of a nickel.

James

YAK ATTACK

Amazing feat of endurance and

stamina ('Yak Attack 2013, Tyler McMahon', #649). If this was an Olympic sport, Nepal would win gold, silver, and bronze. Congratulations to the riders and organisers and thanks to *Nepali Times* for featuring it with such prominence.

Cyclist

USHAKALA RAI

There are no political slogans here, no grand-standing, no chauvinistic populism, just common sense ('Where next?', Ushakala Rai, #649). I wish



there were many more like Ushakala in the Janajati community and I wish there were many more Bahun-Chhetris who see the need for devolution and affirmative action. For the first time in a long while, I got a sense of hope reading this.

Mina Gurung

- This article is superbly written. Thanks to Ushakala Rai for calling a spade, a spade. If you ever stand for office, be assured, my vote goes to you.

Sashi B Bisht

- I thought this was an excellently written article until I got to the bottom of the page and found that Ushakala is a politician. I felt I wasted a few minutes

of my time. This is nothing but a demagogic rhetoric every politician comes up with at the time of election and that will never turn into action. She had her chance to do the right things, didn't she?

GG

TWEEPLE

Your top 10 twitter user list leaves lots to be desired. My list would look a lot different. Best 10 Nepali twitter users in terms of content and engagement and not name

recognition: @anilbhattarai , @sarita_giri , @DeepakAdk, @KundaDixit, @Svbel, @PrashantKTM, @UjjwalAcharya.

Bhumika Ghimire

- Wow! @NepaliTimes covered top Twitterers. Loved handpicked Top 10 and believe that those not tweeting about Nepal should've been ignored.

@UjjwalAcharya

CORRECTION

The photos for 'Yak Attack 2013' by Tyler McMahon (#649) should have also credited NepalSutra.

Q OF THE WEEK

What would you do if you won Rs 10 million today ?

facebook

Fionna Heiton: Invest in quality education in rural Nepal
Anupama Mahat: I would take my parents for a trip
Santosh Banstola: Visit the Seven Wonders of the World
Marc van Leeuwen: Buy an apartment so I could have *Nepali Times* delivered daily
Gary Hyslop: Take a trip to Nepal
Matt Wittich: Buy a new wardrobe and go on holiday

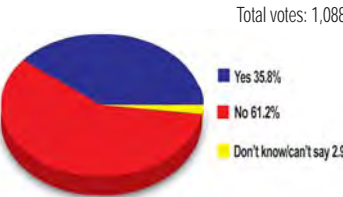
twitter

@KC_Prasanna: Count the money to see if it's really 10 Mil. Don't trust anyone in Nepal
@blueskysp22: I will return to Nepal
@imprataphapa: Help street children
@bakhrelpranav: Start a restaurant and tourism business
@ShivaniBasnet: Invest
@officialsudeep: Donate it

Times

nepalnews.com Weekly Internet Poll #650

Q. Do you think polls are possible without convincing the 22 fringe parties?



Weekly Internet Poll # 651. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. What does Nepali cricket need to improve its standards in the long-term?

Easier said than done

June is impossible and if things go on like this, polls in November may also be a mirage



BY THE WAY
Anurag Acharya

In the months that followed the dissolution of the ill-fated Constituent Assembly last year, some of us had called for its revival mainly because another election for another assembly would be difficult given the multi-polarised nature of national politics. The fact that the Interim Election Council (or should we say the Four Party Mechanism) has not been able to come up with even a poll date proves that our suspicions were right.

The top leaders are already pretending to be in campaign mode, touring their constituencies to woo apathetic voters with wild promises. Election watchdogs are planning the deployment of observers. The technocratic government is going ahead with logistical preparations, but the Dash Maoists seem even more determined not to let the elections happen.

Madhesi journalists from Siraha and Saptari told me recently: "The people are in favour of elections, but the frustration and anger after CA dissolution is so widespread that anyone can light a spark and make it spread like wildfire." Armed groups in the Tarai have threatened to prevent elections and set off a

bomb in a DDC building in the Tarai this week.

There is now so much momentum and the parties have invested so much political capital on elections, that it will probably happen. The question is when. And also, what kind of elections? What is sure is that the pre-election environment will be unpredictable and given the large proportion of voters who seem uninterested or undecided, so will the results.

Pushpa Kamal Dahal has been trying to get disgruntled Madhesi UML leader Ramchandra Jha to defect and it is clear that the UCPN-M is looking to cash in on the sagging popularity of the Upendra Yadav-led Morcha in the Madhes. He has declared that he will contest from Dhanusha and it is likely Baburam Bhattarai will stand in Morang.

There are now efforts, probably inspired from without, to get Yadav to reunite with the UDMF. One insider told me that there were talks and a possible alliance will come out once election dates are announced.

In a not unrelated development JP Gupta, fresh out of jail, has filed a petition in the Supreme Court demanding that the electoral areas in the Madhes be remapped according to the latest census data. If the apex court gives a nod, there will be a substantial increase in



DIWAKAR CHETTRI

electoral seats from the Tarai which now has more than half the country's population.

The only group that seems to be against elections and apparently for no obvious reason, are Mohan Baidya's

CPN-Maoist. So obsessive and annoying is Baidya that former US President Jimmy Carter, before flying back earlier this week, indirectly advised Khil Raj Regmi to come down hard on those who try to disrupt

polls.

The proposal to keep one per cent vote as minimum requirement for parties to secure proportional representation quota has left smaller parties fuming, while the Election Commission's proposed amendment that allows criminal convicts to run for elections after six years of completing their sentence, if passed by the cabinet, will most probably invite writ petitions. Then there are unresolved problems of citizenship and voting rights for the marginalised, particularly in the Madhes.

The prospect of polls in June have all but disappeared and with the festival season preceding November we may even be looking at polls next year. The challenge until then is to sort out election preparations, get everyone on board, and ensure participation so that we have meaningful elections.

Even if all the hurdles are overcome and elections are held sometime in the coming year, the new CA will face the same obstacles it did last time. But that's another story.

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BIKRAM RAI

Nepal's youth bulge

Young voters have strength in numbers and can influence politics by electing accountable leaders



HERE WE GO
Trishna Rana

As a sea of red and blue flags fluttered at the TU cricket ground in Kirtipur on Wednesday afternoon, the 20,000 plus spectators gathered to watch their home team in the ACC-T20 finals displayed a rare unity that has often eluded Nepalis.

But it didn't take long for the euphoria to turn into a familiar sense of frustration and despair. After dominating UAE in the semis, Nepal succumbed to Afghanistan which has become our greatest sporting rival both in cricket and football.

For a country that finds itself in a precarious balance between democracy and extremism as it tries to recover from three decades of conflict, Afghanistan's meteoric rise in international cricket has surprised many here. Like Nepalis, they

too are disillusioned with power hungry, corrupt politicians, but sports there offers a real outlet for many young Afghans. (See Page 13)

Nepalis can't even look to sports for escape. Like rest of our governing system, sports associations are steeped in corruption and their million dollar budgets are lavished on junkets not training. Forget facilities outside Kathmandu, even the Dasrat Stadium is decrepit.

One-third of Nepal's population is between 15-39 years, but they don't count in our myopic and self-centred politics. More than 1,000 Nepali youngsters line up at Kathmandu airport every day to escape the drudgery and hopelessness.

While the national literacy rate has gone up to 66 per cent and enrollment in primary schools is at an all time high, female literacy rate is plateauing off. Over half a million 15-16 year olds completed their SLC exams last month, but there aren't enough jobs for them and not enough colleges for those who want to pursue higher studies. The gap

between those who can pay their way into colleges and jobs and those who can't, widens every day. Youth 'self-employment' schemes are just a ploy to fill party coffers.

Cross-tabulated data from the Himalmedia Public Opinion Poll 2013 shows that more than half the respondents in the 18-39 age group feel the country is doing far worse than three to four years ago. When asked which political leader they would want as prime minister, 20 per cent of the cohort said there is no such leader and 15 per cent were undecided. Even 'youth' leader Gagan Thapa failed to make a mark among the youth.

Although they seem indifferent towards particular parties and leaders, trust in the democratic process is high with 60 per cent of young Nepalis saying free and fair elections are possible. Ethnicity-based federalism was even more unpopular in this age range with 80 per cent thinking it is a bad idea.

While half the respondents in the 25-39 age group said their salary was barely

enough, 60 per cent of the same group said they would stay in Nepal and 'work harder' for a better future, only 10 per cent wanted to migrate for work. Those looking for jobs abroad were slightly higher at 15 per cent in the 18-24 age bracket.

The youth bulge provides the foot soldiers for political parties, militant groups, and the mafia. And as the parties gear up for campaigns for or against elections, there is a risk that they will once again be conscripted as we will no doubt see on Sunday.

Nepal's youth have to be an integral part of the democratic process. They have strength in numbers and can influence politics by electing accountable leaders with integrity and vision.

The two million Nepalis who turned 18 since 2008, therefore, should be the first to get voter IDs. There is no guarantee they will all show up at the polling booths, but if they do they will vote for the party which recognises that the country's future is in the hands of young voters. 🇳🇵

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Born positive

Nepal's first school for HIV positive students takes in children others don't want

SUNIL NEUPANE

It is morning playtime in a Kathmandu neighbourhood school and the children are playing in a yard. But nine-year-old Urmila says she doesn't feel like playing today. Last night she saw her mother in a dream and wants to write her a letter.

Urmila's mother lives 600km away in Achham district and they see each other just once a year. Her father worked in Delhi and returned home HIV positive and passed on the virus to Urmila's mother. Urmila was born positive.

Urmila's parents never told anyone about their affliction and enrolled her in Grade 1 in a government school in Achham. But when her teachers found out, they expelled Urmila.

"At the time I was taking ARV drugs and when my friends asked me, I told them I was taking medicine for a headache," Urmila recalls, "I knew

that if anybody found out I would be expelled." Forced to lie to her friends, one day the principal called Urmila and told her not to come back because she was HIV positive.

There are tens of thousands of HIV positive children and AIDS orphans in Nepal and often they are not allowed to attend school because of stigmatisation and ignorance about the nature of the virus. Now, there are schools like Saphalta HIV Shiksha Sadan in Kathmandu that have been set up especially for positive children.

The school, founded by 28-year-old Rajkumar Pun, is home to 10 children aged between three to ten years old, and is the first of its kind in Nepal. Pun sold his house for Rs 5 million to start the school, but still needs Rs18,000 a month for running expenses which he raises from charities.

"All the children here were turned back from other schools," he explains, "they claim parents would take out their children if they enroll HIV-positive

students and government schools refused them."

Even renting the house in Kathmandu was difficult, landlords refused to let out rooms when they found out the children were infected.

When Rajkumar Pun and Uma Gurung read about Urmila's story in a newspaper, they persuaded her to come and live at their shelter and school.

Dattaram Rai, who left his old job in an office to become a volunteer teacher at the school, says: "When I heard about this school I immediately joined up. It is really fulfilling to teach children who were ostracised by society. Money is not everything in life, this work gives me more satisfaction than all the money I could earn."

Manju is 10 and also goes to school at Saphalta, she was brought here by an aunt after her mother died of AIDS.

"In my village, neighbours would tell their children not to play with me," she recalls, "it really hurt my feelings and I would cry often."

Manju and Urmila love to dance and after school they lead the younger students in a dance. Urmila says she wants to be a famous dancer one day.

nepalimes.com

Listen to podcast of this article

BIZ BRIEFS



Dream ride

HH Bajaj recently launched Discover 100T in Nepal. According to the company, Discover 100T is the world's most advanced 100cc bike powered by Bajaj's four valve DTS-i technology, delivering the power of 125 cc with the economy of 100cc. It is available in four colours – flame red, brilliant blue, black red, and black blue.

Money matters

NMB Bank and Sharaf Exchange have partnered for inbound remittance from the UAE. This partnership allows Nepali migrant workers in the UAE to send remittance back home through NMB Bank Sulav Remit.



Giving back

Chaudhary Group (CG) is providing scholarships to 111 students of Nawalparasi district under its 'Gyan Udaya Chhatrabritti Yojana' that was started two years ago. CG also honoured three teachers in Nawalparasi for their remarkable contribution in the field of education.

Hair care

Dabur Nepal launched Prostyle hair creams for men last week. Prostyle creams are available in two variants: dandruff control cream and nourish and protect cream.



Win-win

LG began its 'Celebration Year' campaign to mark Nepali New Year 2070. Customers purchasing LG home appliances are entitled to win sure shot prizes with a grand lucky draw for 42 inch Cinema 3D TV to be won every 15 days.

Helping hands

International Money Express, felicitated its 13 best performing agents of IME Customers' Special Week 2013 held in February. The agents were rewarded based on understanding of the campaign, hospitality, number of Ncell SIM card activation, and proper distribution of gifts.



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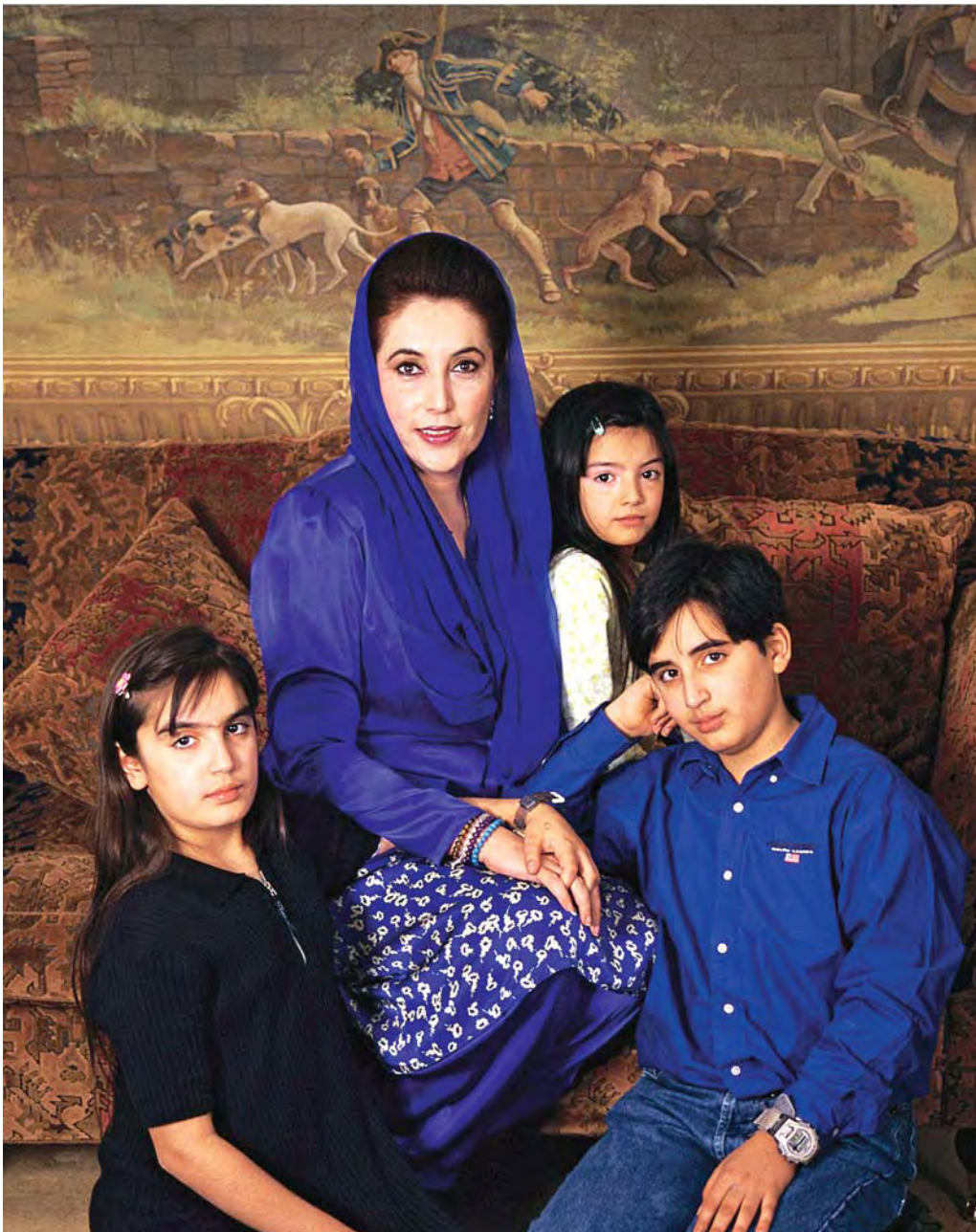
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Can't live without them

South Asia's propensity to spawn dynasties is bewildering and is proof of the persistence of our feudal mindset



Similarly, many temples of India have the tradition of hereditary priests, usually Brahmins. In 2006, the Tamil Nadu government of M Karunanidhi issued an order abrogating the unwritten principle of familial succession to priesthood which was also opened to non-Brahmin castes. The irony is that Karunanidhi has publicly declared that son MK Stalin will succeed him as the party leader.

Or take the scions of illustrious business families. Irrespective of their skills or talents, children often inherit companies their fathers or grandfathers established and in which ordinary shareholders are today heavily invested. You can't readily think of a businessman, owning a substantial share in an Indian corporation, who voluntarily chose to overlook his or her children at the time of passing the baton.

At least, unlike editor-owners, priests, and businessmen, the great political families of India can claim that they have to at least periodically pass the electoral test to acquire power. It is an argument Bollywood too could cite to justify the domination of a few families over two and three generations. Though children from these families don't have to struggle for a foothold in the industry, the longevity of their career depends on their ability to satisfy the audience.

Nevertheless, the presence of Bollywood dynasties, as is true of all dynasties in every field, concentrates power in a few and stifles competition. Even in classical music practitioners complain about the debilitating impact ordinary children of extraordinary parents have had on the talented.

South Asia's propensity to spawn dynasties is bewildering and is proof of the persistence of our feudal mindset. It is still intact due to socio-economic inequalities and the inherited ethos of the caste system that ensures a patron-client (or raja-praja) relationship thrives in its modern avatars.

It is by bridging inequalities that we can end dynasties, not by criticising the Gandhis, Bhuttos, Sharifs, Koiralas, Zias, and Hasinas. We are as guilty as they are. ashrafajaz3@gmail.com



GUEST COLUMN
Ajaz Ashraf

From the time Rahul Gandhi was appointed the vice-president of the Congress, the media have accused him of perpetuating dynastic rule. No doubt, dynasty is antithetical to democratic politics. Yet, it is also true that dynastic succession is the norm outside India as well. Its

pervasiveness explains why people dismiss the hypocritical media outcry against dynastic succession to routinely vote pater familias to power. One of the most vocal critics of dynastic succession and the Gandhis are two Indian media stalwarts who are guilty of what they rail against. One of them is considered the diadem of Indian journalism: he became an editor at a young age, launched a classy newspaper, joined the Congress briefly, returned to journalism, and now heads a weekly newspaper in which his

son is an associate editor. The other acquired from a generous industrialist, now deceased, a newspaper more than a century old. His son is now the newspaper's managing editor. It is true political parties have a different role than newspapers. It is also possible the children of these two luminaries are prodigiously talented. It is conceivable their fathers saw in them qualities they couldn't in others who could fill their posts. Such arguments echo precisely the ones the Congressmen

mouth: that Rahul Gandhi is astonishingly talented. The two illustrious editors run private operations and enjoy an unassailable right to choose who oversees them. Nevertheless, for many in the profession, it could well appear as examples of powerful fathers subverting meritocracy, given their role in generously granting designations to their children. Might it not have been better for them to have designations which did not vouch for their journalistic excellence and which did not indicate to others that there is 'space for eminence' in the two organisations, "but none for pre-eminence"? (The words in quotes belong to one of the two who used it to criticise the appointment of Rahul Gandhi as the vice-president of the Congress.) To what extent is the ethos of the two media organisations any different from that of the Congress whose members claim they are entitled to run their party as they desire? Dynastic succession dominates religion as well. As you enter through the imposing gates of Delhi's historic Jama Masjid, a board lists the descendents of the Bukhari family that have been Imams for 13 generations, beginning 1656. Forgotten is the fact that a hereditary imam is in gross violation of Islam.

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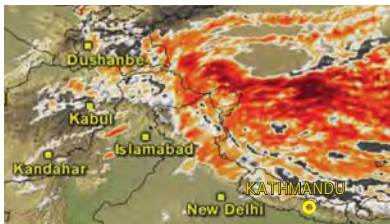
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Now summer is seriously here, with the mercury edging close to the 30 Celsius point. However, the minimum temperature is still in the low teens which will make nights and mornings still a bit chilly. No sign of any major frontal system from the west, so what little precipitation there is over the weekend will be due to local convection. The air will be dry, afternoons breezy, and if you are thinking of renewing your swimming pool membership now is the time to do it. Or head off to the mountains on a trek.



FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 27°	 28°	 29°
 12°	 12°	 12°



Overflying Everest again



KUNDA DIXIT

On the 80th anniversary of the first-ever flight over Mt Everest by four Scottish pilots, the grandson of one of them took a commemorative flight to the world's highest mountain in a Yeti Airlines Jetstream 41 on Wednesday.

Two flimsy Westland-Wallace biplanes with open cockpits took off from Purnea in Bihar and flew a roundtrip of 500km in three hours to get to about 50 metres above the 8848m mountain on 3 April 1933.

One of the planes was piloted by Colonel LVS Blacker and Douglas Douglas-Hamilton, the Marquis of Clydesdale.

The famous picture of the Westland-Wallace with call sign G-ACAZ flying towards Mt Everest from the south-east became an iconic image of the early days of aviation and Himalayan mountaineering. The historic flight took place barely 30 years after

the invention of powered flight and nine years after the disappearance of Mallory and Irvine on Mt Everest. In fact, one of the reasons for flying over the world's highest mountains was to find proof that Mallory had made it to the summit.

On Wednesday, Charles, the grandson of the Scottish nobleman and pioneer aviator, Douglas Douglas-Hamilton, re-enacted the flight on a Yeti Airlines Mountain Flight that took the same route as the one in 1933.

"I got a sense of how difficult it must have been to fly on those planes," Charles said as his plane approached Everest on Wednesday, "here I am looking out of the window in a pressurised, heated cabin with oxygen."

That flight led directly to the development of pressurisation, heating, and oxygen in high-altitude flights. The engines were specially designed for high-altitude performance and Shell came up

with an anti-freeze formula to prevent aviation fuel from getting frozen. Britain was soon engulfed by war and Hamilton and the other pilots flew in the air defence of Scotland.

It was important for Britain to set some kind of aviation record since the Americans had just flown over both the South and North Poles in 1926 and 1929. The two Westland-Wallace PV-3s were specially modified for high altitude flight, tested, and put into crates and transported by sea to Karachi where they were reassembled and flown to Purnea near the Nepal-India border in Bihar.

A black-and-white film made of the adventure shows the pilots discussing what they should do if the oxygen supply or the heating failed and whether or not they should take parachutes along (they decided not to, to save weight).

They waited for the weather to clear and then climbed on to their



BECAUSE IT WAS THERE: Charles Douglas-Hamilton on a Yeti Airlines sight-seeing flight on Wednesday (*left*) following the track taken by his grandfather 80 years ago. The famous picture of the modified Westland PV-3 with call sign G-ACAZ being flown by Douglas Douglas-Hamilton on the morning of 3 April 1933 towards the summit of Mt Everest (*top*).

planes and took off, banking to the north. They struggled against 100 knot westerly crosswind and minus 50 Celsius to close in on Mt Everest. Approaching the mountain from the south-east, flying crabwise into the wind, the pilots used the updrafts on the west side of the mountain to lift them over the summit. They inspected the top of Mt Everest, but saw no signs of Mallory. Despite punctured oxygen tubes and malfunctioning survey cameras, the planes made it back safely.

The pilots then disobeyed orders from London to do the whole flight one more time on 19 April and took the survey pictures of the southern slopes of Mt Everest that made possible the first ascent of the mountain 20 years later by Hillary and Tenzing.

The 80th anniversary event is part of the Prestwick Festival of Flight and supported by BAE Systems, which is a direct descendant of Scottish Aviation formed by Hamilton and McIntyre after their record flight. Yeti Airlines flies a fleet of eight 30-seater BAE Jetstream 41 turboprops, which are built in Prestwick.

"It was a ground-breaking and pioneering flight that led directly to refinements in aviation technology that allowed high altitude flights," explained Derek Barbour of BAE Systems who helped design the Jetstream 41 and was on Wednesday's commemorative flight. 🇨🇦

Kunda Dixit

nepalitimes.com

More pictures of the flight
in our online gallery.

3 anniversaries on Everest

80th 3 April, 1933
First flight

60th 29 May, 1953
First ascent

50th 22 May, 1963
First American ascent and traverse



First summit landing



Eight years ago, Didier Delsalle landed a Eurocopter AS350 B3 helicopter on the summit of Mt Everest and stayed on top for four minutes. Delsalle set the world record for the highest ever landing and takeoff, but the Nepal government refused to recognise the feat because Eurocopter didn't have permission to land on the summit. The landing was confirmed by the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI).

nepalitimes.com

See video of the flight



EVENTS



PHOTOCHOP, get out of the comfortable confines of digital image manipulation and learn the art of photo-collage as done in the good old days.
Rs 1,000, 17 to 21 April, Sattya Arts, Jawalakhel, shreyans@sattya.org

Bikers day out, get on your bikes and ride! 200 Enfielders will be vroom-vrooming from Kathmandu to Pokhara.
13 to 15 April, www.enfieldpokerrun.com

Oh to be a gooner, watch Arsenal take on West Bromwich Albion.
6 April, 7.30pm, Reggae Cafe n Bar, Thamel



AUSTRALIA DAY, take a sneak peek into the Australian way of life with music, food, and beverages from the land down under. *6 April, 2pm, Moksh, Jhamsikhel*

Inked for life, compete with tattoo artists from home and abroad at the 3rd International Tattoo Convention, *26 to 28 April, Yak and Yeti Hotel, 9841471448/9841849786*

Girls on wheels, ride your scooters around town in a treasure hunt, solve puzzles, and complete tasks to win the grand prize of Rs 50,000.
Rs 1,500, 20 April, Kathmandu College of Management, 980103373/98415700 61/9851061065



CROSS-CULTURAL DOCUMENTARY WORKSHOP, learn how to develop informed, intelligent, and creative films that contribute directly to critical cultural practice from award-winning filmmaker Natasa Muntean.
Rs 2,000, 10 to 14 April, 10am to 5pm, Sattya Arts, Jawalakhel

Think, eat, save, 200 million people could be fed with the amount of food wasted in Europe: vote for bloggers who are actively urging the public to shift from conspicuous eating to conscious eating.
www.unep.org/wed/blog-competition/bloggers/, #WED2013

Pranamaya yoga, learn Reiki with Shanta Shakya.
Rs 12,500, 6 to 7 April, Pranamaya Studio, Thamel, 9802045484, info@pranamaya-yoga.com

I cycle, get on your bikes and make a troup around town to mark World Health Day.
6 April, 7am, Kathmandu Darbar Square

Ghode Jatra, watch the Army parade at Tundikhel as they continue the tradition of scaring away the demoness Tundi who according to myths lives below the ground and causes earthquakes. *10 April, Tundikhel*

Basantapur festival, celebrate the coming of Nepali New Year 2070.
12 to 13 April, Kathmandu Darbar Square

Expressions of devotion, an exhibition of etching, unique print, and video installations by Uma Shanker Shah and Seema Sharma Shah.
24 March to 17 April, 10am to 5pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babarmahal



LA DOLCE VITA, films and food from the land of Gaius Julius Caesar.
Rs 950, 9 April to 28 May, Tuesdays, 6pm, Black Pepper Cafe, Jhamsikhel, cinema@iccnepal.org

DINING



SATURDAY BRUNCH, if you're heading to Shivapuri for bird-watching, a sumptuous meal awaits you on the way back.
Rs 1,400, 11am to 3pm, Poolside Garden, Park Village Resort, Budhanilkantha, (01)4375280



FALCHA, give yourself away to the twin pleasures of lemon jeera chicken and mutton handi kabab. *Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur*

Vootoo, a delectable selection of Newari food, don't miss out on the sukuti. *Lainchaur*

Nanglo Restaurant, fail safe place for family dinners, the chicken sizzler is a cut above the rest. *Darbar Marg*

Cafe Du Temple, famous for its delicious food, warm ambience, and a beautiful roof top view. *Patan Darbar Square, (01)5527127*

Dechenling, the place to head for Bhutanese and Tibetan cuisine, its

pleasant and spacious garden is ideal for big gatherings. *Thamel*

Chilly Bar and Restaurant, quality food and wide selection of drinks with great views of Phewa Lake. *Lakeside, Hallanchok, Pokhara, (061)463614/463163*

Pumpnickel Bakery, get an early breakfast or brunch with interesting choices of bread, experiment with goat cheese or yak cheese sandwiches, or sip on a large cuppa coffee in the classy indoor dining area.
Thamel, 7.30am-7pm, (01)4259185

Bench Burger, juicy burgers and much more.
Krishna Gali, Patan

Chongqing Fast Food, gear up for some mouth-watering Chinese dishes like Sour and Spicy Pork and Kung Pao Chicken. *Thamel*

The Village Cafe, authentic Newari food that comes straight from the heart. *Pulchok*



NEW DISH, grab filling meals like pork momos, spring rolls, and chop sueys with excellent value for money. *Khichia Pokhari*

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MUSIC



SHASTRIYA SANGEET, dabble in the magic of Hindustani classical music every new moon night. 10 April, 3.30pm, Ram Mandir, Battisputali

Earthwatch, live music over dinner every Friday. Rs 1,299, Park Village Resort, Budhanilkantha, (01)4375280

Live at Cafe 32, live music and delicious food every Friday. 6pm onwards, Cafe 32, Battisputali, (01)4244231

Inter college band competition, rock the living daylight out of your competitors and win the chance to cut an album of your own. Rs 5,000, Bhrikuti Mandap, 1 May, 9813422986

GETAWAYS



MARUNI SANCTUARY LODGE, nestled in a Tharu village on the border of the Chitwan National Park. Rs 9,999 for twin-sharing, 2 days 3 nights, Chitwan, (01)44700632, 9841792225

Mind and body, take advantage of a 10 per cent discount on all treatments. Himalayan Peace and Wellness Centre, Budhanilkantha, 9801066661

Mum's Garden Resort, head out to Pokhara for a peaceful and comfortable stay in beautifully designed cottages surrounded by a lush green garden with great views of Phewa Lake and the Annapurna range. Lake Side, Pokhara, (061)463468, www.mumsgardenresort.com



TEMPLE TREE RESORT AND SPA, a peaceful place to stay, complete with a swimming pool, massage parlour and sauna, it'll be hard to leave once you get here. Gaurighat, Lakeside, (061)465819



Solidarity for justice

Saturday will mark 100 days of the Occupy Baluwatar movement. Although it began as a campaign demanding justice for a female migrant worker who was robbed and raped by immigration officials, the movement has now snowballed into a larger platform calling on the government to put an end to gender violence and impunity. Despite continuous pressure, victims still await justice. Join Occupy Baluwatar to spread the message that tolerating violence breeds further violence.

Baluwatar, 6 April, Saturday, 9am



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School of Performing Arts Kathmandu, Dhobighat, www.spaknepal.com, info@spaknepal.com, (01)5523218



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KOLORING KATHMANDU

TSERING DOLKER GURUNG

For decades the white washed wall linings of Kathmandu have fought a losing battle against layers and layers of political slogans and posters. Yuki Poudyal, the brains behind Kolor Kathmandu, along with Sattya Media Arts Collective (*see box*), however, are on a mission to replace the sea of red letters and give the battered walls of this city a much needed facelift.

"Kathmandu's residents have been treated to visual pollution all their lives. I wanted to change this by making our streets more appealing through mural art," says the 27-year-old project director who was inspired by street art in Philadelphia (*see interview*).

held in Bara every five years.

Along with resuscitating the Valley's sick walls, the project is nurturing young talents and providing them an opportunity to learn from veterans. First-timers are asked to shadow an experienced artist, after which they can submit their designs. Once their plans are approved, they can lead their own mural. Eighteen-year-old Sangrachana Chamling is one such aspiring talent who assisted an international artist before creating her own mural at Sanepa.

As the popularity of the murals spreads through word of mouth, support for the project is gaining steam. When Kolor Kathmandu posted



A team of local and international artists are transforming Kathmandu into the second mural city in the world

With 12 international muralists including popular German street artist duo, Herakut, and 25 local artists, Kolor Kathmandu has painted 25 murals in Baluwatar, Shankhamul, Bhotahiti, Jawalakhel, and other parts of town so far. They receive Rs 7,000 each for their hard work. The goal, says Yuki, is to create 75 murals by September and name them after the 75 districts of Nepal.

While some artists have focused on landscapes, others have chosen to depict social stigmas and problems faced in their districts. Anish Bajracharya's Bara in Bhanimandal for example pays homage to the popular Newari lentil dish which shares its name with the district and also incorporates the Gadhimai festival

a request for aluminum ladders on its Facebook page, there were plenty of takers. Recently Pashupati Paints agreed to provide supplies for the artists. Not to miss out on the fun, people living outside Kathmandu have been asking Kolor Kathmandu to come paint their home towns.

"It's great to see the artists' efforts being appreciated," says Yuki, "but they created the murals not for themselves or for Sattya. The art belongs to the neighbourhoods. We want people to be inspired and take ownership and protect it as their own."

www.kolorkathmandu.sattya.org

nepalitimes.com

Watch artists in action

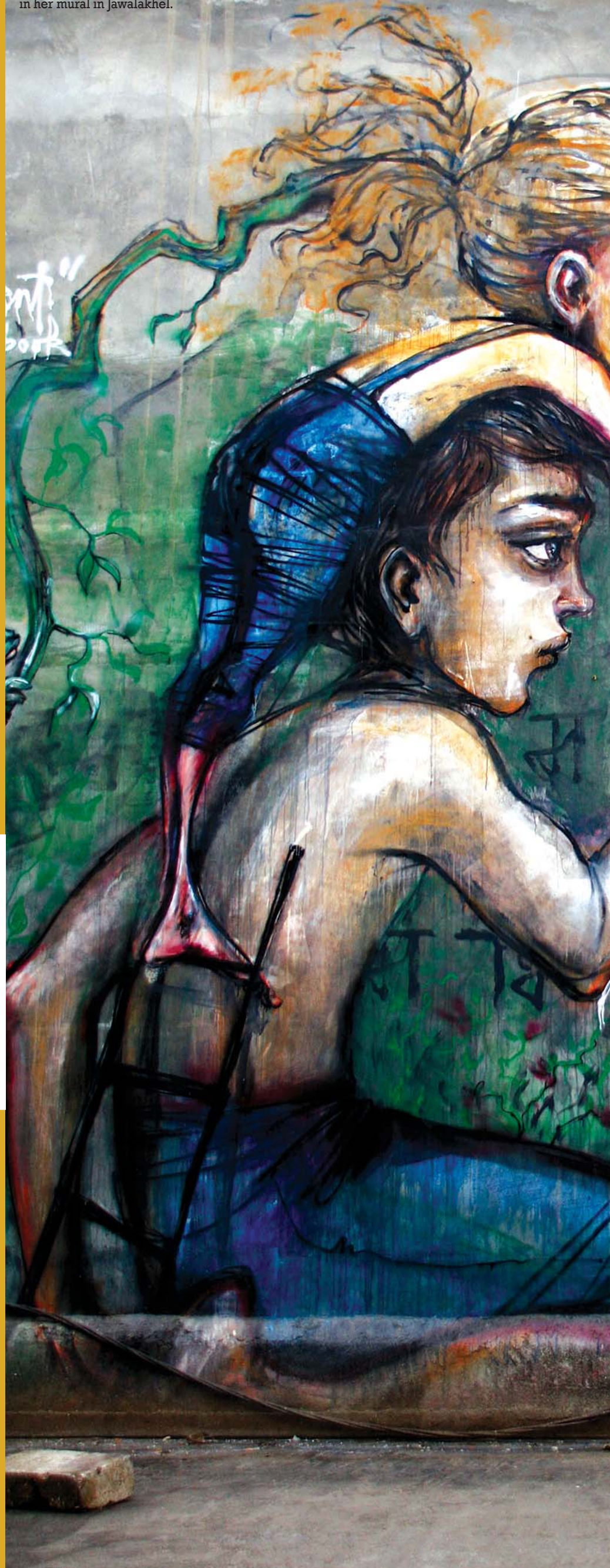


1 The mandala of bees painted by Daichi in Lajimpat represents Makwanpur district.

2 Kabina Shrestha, 27, works on her mural near Ideal Model School, Jhamsikhel.

3 German street artist duo Herakut completed this 25 feet mural at Bhotahiti in two days.

4 Priscila De Carvalho depicts the disturbing rise of consumerism in her mural in Jawalakhel.



A brush with street art

Was it difficult to get funds?

Surprisingly, money wasn't a big problem. Sattya is supported by Open Society Foundations, a grant-making organisation based in New York and we also receive funding from Prince Claus Fund of Netherlands.

Why did you choose mural art?

We didn't want to create art that would only be displayed at galleries and exhibitions. This is our way of reaching out to a larger Nepali public and saying we will not stand and see our city get more damaged than it already is.

How do you pick locations?

Finding places to paint has been the biggest challenge so far. We have a team of volunteers who go around town searching for locations, but sadly people still see street art as vandalism and are not very accepting. For most murals we ask for permission from owners or whoever is in charge, but with some we just go ahead and paint.

Do you think politics and art can go together?

There is so much filth in Nepali politics these days. It is constantly abused by those in power. Only if we can clean up our politics can art become a part of it.

Project director Yuki Poudyal tells us her vision for Kolor Kathmandu.

Nepali Times: How did Kolor Kathmandu start?

Yuki Poudyal: When I lived in Philadelphia, I was amazed by the amount of art that filled the city. The paintings and graffiti brought a sense of positivity to the community and inspired me to do something similar in Kathmandu. Nepal is fragmented at so many levels, but art is one way to show our unity. And this is why we are creating 75 murals to represent each district.



GROWING ART



Started in 2009 by Anya Vaverko and Yuko Maskey, Sattya today is a hub for artists, photographers, filmmakers, and writers. "We wanted a place in Kathmandu where creative people could connect, learn from one other, and share their ideas," says Anya.

The media arts collective regularly organises photography, documentary making, graphic designs, and screen printing workshops. Along with supporting Kolor Kathmandu, Sattya holds free screening of documentary films and discussions in public places around the Valley – aptly called Bato Ko Cinema - as well as teaching urban farming and ways to create green spaces in a congested Kathmandu through its Hariyo Chowk project.

www.sattya.org



MUST SEE
Sophia Pande

Arguably the most reviled as well as the most loved film of 2012, *Cloud Atlas* is a sprawling, sweeping, messy epic of a film based on the sublime, but equally complicated novel of the same name by the uniquely talented David Mitchell.

When I first picked up *Cloud Atlas* the novel in 2008, I simply could not put it down, reading it obsessively into the night, carrying it around in my bag so I could read it at every spare moment. I am not alone in the way I reacted. In 2005, Natalie Portman was also carrying it around on the sets of *V for Vendetta*, the seventh feature film by the Wachowski brothers (of *Matrix* trilogy fame). When Lana Wachowski asked Portman what she was reading, the quest to make *Cloud Atlas* began.

With six extremely complicated story lines woven together into a richly detailed tapestry featuring recurring characters, spanning five different centuries, each story told in its own distinctive style, the novel proved a nightmare to adapt.

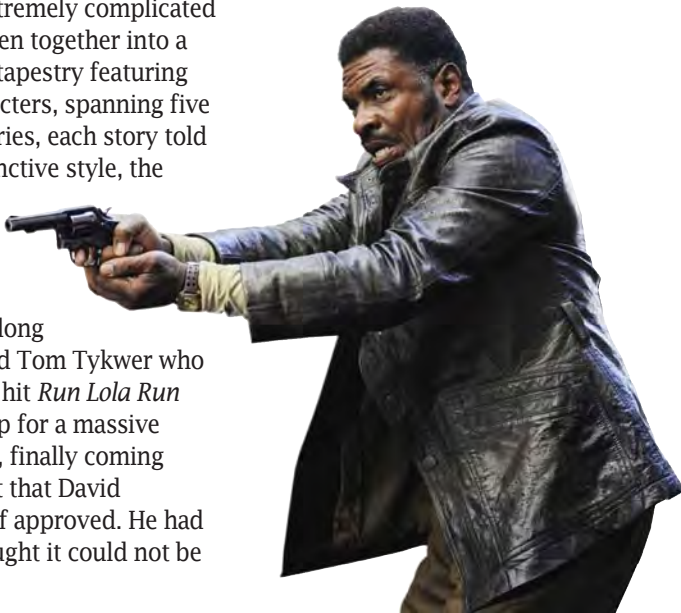
The Wachowskis', along with their friend Tom Tykwer who made the indie hit *Run Lola Run* (1998), holed up for a massive writing session, finally coming up with a script that David Mitchell himself approved. He had previously thought it could not be

possible.

Watching *Cloud Atlas*, therefore, can be quite the experience. If you see the film without having read the book, you may find yourself slightly bewildered. However, if you have imagination you will soon find yourself lost in six different, fascinatingly realised worlds, all of which are interconnected, where characters migrate from one story to another, sometimes in an almost unrecognisable form, but tied together by beautifully thought out, perfectly structured interlocking themes.

The six stories take place in vastly different times. With Adam Ewing's (Jim Sturgess) story, we find ourselves with a young American lawyer who sails to the Chatham Islands in 1849 on behalf of his future father-in-law. Ewing finds himself inadvertently freeing a slave on the island and being slowly poisoned by the ship's doctor.

In 1936, England, we have Robert Frobisher (Ben Whishaw),



Cloud Atlas

a prodigiously talented composer struggling with his bisexual identity as he tries to finish his masterpiece which he titles *The Cloud Atlas Sextet*. During a creative hiatus, Frobisher finds and becomes entirely engrossed in a portion of Adam Ewing's journal chronicling the above-mentioned adventures.

In 1973, San Francisco, Luisa Rey a young intrepid journalist, played by Halle Berry, meets Rufus Sixsmith (James D'Arcy), Frobisher's lover, now an elderly man forever saddened by Frobisher's suicide. He is a renowned nuclear physicist who is on the verge of exposing an unsafe power plant. He also carries around the original manuscript of *The Cloud Atlas Sextet*.

In London, 2012, Timothy Cavendish (Jim Broadbent), a slightly dodgy old publisher ends up with a manuscript of Luisa Rey's story. He winds up locked in an old people's home by his vengeful brother. His hilarious escape from the home is made into a film.

In Neo Seoul, Korea, 2144, we meet Sonmi-451 (Doona Bae), a clone who is to become the leader of the rebellion against an authoritarian regime. While the resistance hides her, she comes across the film about Cavendish.

It is Sonmi's myth that is perpetuated in 2321, after 'The Fall' where Zachry (Tom Hanks) lives in a primitive tribal society. Here he is visited by Meronym (Halle Berry again), a 'prescient' who is looking for something from the past.

Confused? Don't be. Watch *Cloud Atlas*. Decide for yourself if it is a magnificent success or an ambitious failure. I promise you won't be bored.

nepalitimes.com

Watch trailer

GIZMO by YANTRICK

BEAT IT!

Dr Dre is a household name in the world of music. The veteran rapper, better known today as the mentor of rap icon Eminem, has moved into the business of marketing and selling headphones. Like his contemporaries Jay-Z and P Diddy, Dre seems intent on becoming the next hip-hop mogul.

Beats by Dr Dre landed with a big splash in 2008, becoming one of the more famous pieces of music hardware in the market. By aesthetics alone, the headphones look gorgeous. Shiny black plastic on the outside, comfortable red padding on the inside with the Beats logo prominently displayed on either earpiece. Although the finish makes grubby fingerprints quite visible, a quick wipe with a piece of cloth will take care of that.

But the most important feature for a set of headphones is its audio quality and Beats delivers in spades. The noise cancellation is superb, on a moderately loud song you won't be able to hear a friend calling your name behind your back. Vocals come through loud and clear on Beats. In honour of Dre's protege Eminem, the Yantrick listened to *Love The Way You Lie*. Eminem's snarling verses are crystal clear, although the drum beats weren't as resonant as usual.

Switching to rock, the same concerns prevailed. The main guitar riffs of *Sweet Child of Mine* by Guns N' Roses were pitch perfect, but the deeper bass lines were harder to distinguish. As far as music goes, Beats' performance is strictly 'middle of the road' – it's very good at the basics, but the extremes are less than satisfactory. Technically, there are no complaints, you won't hear any crackling or distortions which are a problem on cheaper products.



CINDREY LIU

The headphones are comfortable and can be adjusted to fit snugly on your head. However, it easily slips off if you headbang too hard which is disappointing as sometimes you just want to rock out without having to use one hand to hold your headphones up.

In the end, it really comes down to where you stand on the headphones-earphones divide. If you're a die-hard headphone fan, then Beats is a solid choice that will earn you a few admiring glances as you make your way through town. But it's unlikely to convert the earphones faithful and with a price tag above Rs 21, 000, it's really only for serious music enthusiasts.

Yantrick's verdict: Extremely popular with the Bieber generation, Beats by Dre is more of an accessory to look cool. Although it has excellent sound quality and noise-cancelling feature, the exuberant price is a deterrent for many listeners who can get the same for much less.

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INTERVIEW

Setting the right field

Growing up in an Afghan refugee camp in Peshawar, Pakistan, Raees Ahmadzai never expected cricket to take him so far. During his short but successful international career, the right-handed batsman captained the national side and was a part of many historic wins. After retiring in 2010, he began to coach the Afghan A team and also became a chief selector for the Afghanistan Cricket Board. *Nepali Times* caught up with Ahmadzai right before his team defeated Nepal in the ACCT20 finals in Kathmandu.

Nepali Times: How did you start playing cricket?

Raees Ahmadzai: It was 1992 and Pakistan had just won the World Cup. Cricket was everywhere, you couldn't ignore it. My family lived in a refugee camp in Peshawar and we started playing among ourselves with homemade bats and balls. We looked up to Pakistani players who had just become world champions and tried to emulate them. Back then, I never thought I would go on to play at the international level and travel across the world.

Was it difficult to play cricket in Afghanistan during the Taliban years?

In some ways, cricket is a lucky game for us. Islam requires us to wear long dresses and in cricket we do just that. Cricket also allows for lunch and tea breaks so we can pray during those times. A lot of people were happy to play cricket in those days and we got quite a bit of support from the Taliban. We

didn't play on the international level back then, but there was some cricketing going on.

How different is cricket in Afghanistan today?

When I started playing, I never expected to make money. For years I played without any salary. We had to buy equipment from our own pockets and there was little support from our families. Now cricket has grown and players can actually make a living from the sport. At every tryout I go to, at least 500 children turn up with their families in tow.

How do you explain Afghanistan's remarkable rise in the game?

Like I said, the early years were very difficult. We had very little experience and exposure so we lost a lot of matches. But our players were extremely professional: they devoted all their energy to the game and learnt quickly. Also the government has provided us tremendous support. Almost every school today has a cricket team or coaching classes. Out of 34 provinces in Afghanistan, at least 31 have official teams that play in domestic leagues and local competitions are encouraging younger players. We have good grounds in Jalalabad, Kabul, and Kandahar. When we started in 2001 we were 87th out of 122 on ICC's ODI rankings, now we are in 14th position.

What do people back home think about their national team?

Cricket is the number one sports in Afghanistan and the people love it. A lot of radio shows broadcast live commentary and all our matches in Nepal were

televised live back home. It was unfortunate that we had to go through 35 years of war, but things have changed in the last decade. Sports has become a way to bring together a diverse population and the next generation is keen to learn.

Your thoughts on Nepali cricket?

It was incredible to see tens of thousands of Nepali fans coming to support their home team. Like Afghanistan there seems to be a lot of local cricket going on and the players will definitely improve from this experience. However, Nepal still has a long way to go before it can start playing with top international sides. Improving current facilities and infrastructure and building better cricket grounds outside Kathmandu should be a priority for cricket authorities. We visited an academy near Tribhuvan University and were very sad to see its state. Also school-level cricket needs more attention. Our boys play regular, professional cricket day in day out. Nepali players should also do the same.

You are also a goodwill ambassador for UNICEF. What are some of your responsibilities?

Most of my time as a goodwill ambassador is devoted to raising awareness about polio, education, health, and sports. I think peace is crucial to any kind of achievement. I tell children to take care of their health and to work hard at school. It has to be health first, education next, and then only sports. I have the same advice for young Nepali boys and girls: study first, sports can come later.



BIKRAM RAI



SOMEPLACE ELSE



Embers is the latest addition to Patan's dining fraternity. The newly built compound, fronted by shops that sell designer handbags and shoes, seems more suited to ritzy Darbar Marg than sleepy Patan. Officially opened about a month ago, the restaurant hopes to draw in shoppers from

Bhat Bhateni Supermarket next door.

When you dine at Embers, part of the appeal is choosing where to sit. The open-air tables in the middle of the compound with comfortable cushions are perfect for a lunch in the sunshine and a light breeze. However, if the weather is bad and the smog is especially heavy, it would be wiser to duck into the bar area, where the full-length glass windows give you a nice view of the garden while sheltering you from the elements.

Or if you prefer a formal setting, there is yet another dining room with carved wooden furniture and ornate decorations that wouldn't look out of place in a museum.

It was a disappointment when we discovered the less than satisfactory menu at Embers, both the 'booklet' and the food. The menu itself is just three pages of A4 paper stapled together, with



PICS: CINDREY LIU

EMBERS

the drinks menu a page longer. Out of the rather limited selection (there were no steak or lamb dishes, for example) we selected a few starters and a couple of mains.

The American corn salt and pepper (Rs 170) was an interesting dish. Individual corn nibblets fried in salt and pepper batter, it was sweet,

salty and crunchy all at once. The tangy crispy potato (Rs 225) was less value for money. Although the portion was substantial, the thick cut potato slices were soggy and the chilli sauce tasted slightly off. The deep fried chicken (Rs 300), which was frustratingly vague in its description, turned out to be a better choice. The fried chicken strips were crispy and a good appetiser for our mains.

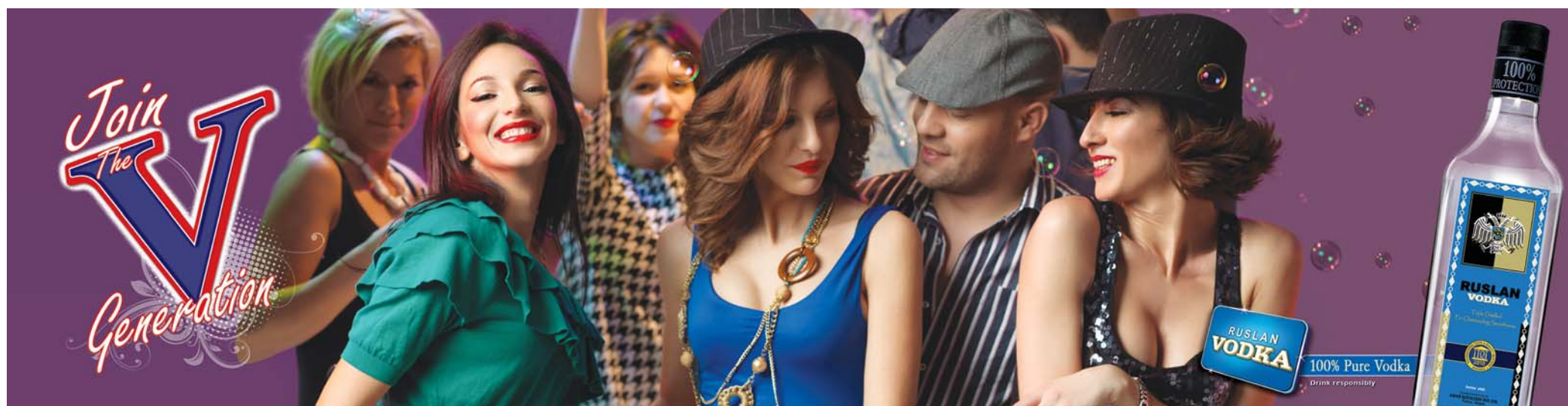
Ordering fish is a dicey business in Kathmandu, but we got lucky with the pan seared fish scallop (Rs 400). The fish though a little overcooked and bland, was compensated by the tasty mashed potato and grilled vegetables. The grilled chicken (Rs 425) is a safer bet. Although expensive, with the mustard sauce quite overpowering, the chicken itself was fine and filling.

We finished our meal with a round of drinks. The cocktails are expensive, Rs 400 for a piña colada, costing about as much as a main dish. You might want to go for the mocktails instead (all Rs 225). Mickey Mouse - orange juice, pineapple, vanilla ice cream, and grenadine - was very sweet and refreshing despite its kiddy name.

While the garden and the decor at Embers are stunning, its menu needs a major facelift. The meal has to be at least worth the money we are dishing out. Since the place is only a month old, we want to give the owners benefit of the doubt and hope that next time we drop in, the food is as satisfying as the drinks. 🇳🇵

Sulaiman Daud

How to get there: Embers is right beside Bhat Bhateni Supermarket in Krishna Gali, Patan.



Flu in from the Middle East



DHANVANTARI
Buddha Basnyat, MD

Between April 2012 and March 2013, 17 people living in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, along with a few tourists were infected with a respiratory illness caused by the new coronavirus. Eleven of them succumbed to the virus. Among the dead was a British traveller who transmitted the virus to two of his family members in the UK. With millions of Nepali migrant labourers in the Middle East, the emergence of coronavirus raises a health alarm for our country too.

Coronaviruses are one among the many causes of common cold. Although this particular coronavirus is an independent entity (hence the term novel or new), this family of viruses was the source of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) which caused a global epidemic in 2003. But SARS disappeared as mysteriously as it arrived. There have been no known SARS cases since 2004.

The new coronavirus seems deadlier than SARS since it has

killed more than half the infected patients. However, we have to see this in proper context because there were 8,445 cases of SARS of which 790 died. Neither the World Health Organisation (WHO) nor the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) has advised special screening at points of entry for this virus. There are no recommended travel or trade restrictions either.

While coronavirus is transmittable between humans, how efficiently it spreads will be vital in determining methods of control. For example, the dreaded 'bird flu' or avian influenza had very poor transmissibility among humans unlike SARS which spreads much more rapidly. For now we will have to wait and observe.

Meanwhile, Nepalis who

work in the Middle East or those planning to visit need to take simple precautions that we use to prevent common flu. Washing hands with soap and water (or hand sanitiser), avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth, and avoiding close contact with people who are sick should be enough to hold off the coronavirus for now. 🇳🇵



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BIKRAM RAI

SLIDE SHOW: Chief Election Commissioner Nilkantha Uprety (centre) urges leaders of political parties to participate in the upcoming elections at the Election Commission office in Kantipath on Tuesday.



BHRIKUTI RAI

ALL EARS: Former US President Jimmy Carter at a press conference in Dwarika's Hotel in Kathmandu on Monday before flying off to Myanmar.



DEVYANI SHIWAKOTI

READY TO SELL: Newari women prepare Yomari at Patan Dhoka on Sunday during the week long Lalitpur Festival.



SUBEKSHA SHRESTHA

HUSTLE AND BUSTLE: Rush hour starts at the end of the day in the heart of New Road.

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BRICS without mortar

Lack of unity among the highly disparate countries is preventing BRICS from becoming a serious political organisation



ONE WORLD

Joseph S Nye

Last month, China's new president, Xi Jinping, chose Moscow for his first foreign visit. He and Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a number of agreements and then travelled to Durban, South Africa, for the fifth BRICS summit, where they joined leaders of India, Brazil, and South Africa to announce the creation of a new development bank that could challenge the dominance of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The five leaders' speeches referred to a shifting world order and Xi said "the potential of BRICS development is infinite." It looked as if the organisation had finally come of age. Three years ago, I was sceptical about BRICS. And despite the recent summit's apparent success, I still am.

Nearly 12 years ago, Jim O'Neill, then the chief economist for Goldman Sachs, coined the term 'BRIC' to describe the 'emerging markets' of Brazil, Russia, India, and China. From 2000 to 2008, these four countries' share of global output rose rapidly, from 16 per cent to 22 cent (in purchasing power parity terms), and their economies performed better than average in the subsequent global recession.

For investors, that outcome justified the creation of the catchy acronym. But then a strange thing happened: the investors' creature came to life. In 2009, the four countries met for the first time in Russia in an

effort to forge an international political organisation. South Africa joined the bloc in late 2010 primarily for political reasons. As O'Neill recently told *China Daily*, "South Africa is quite fortunate enough to be in the group, as, economically, it is rather small compared to the others."

Indeed, while the BRICS may be helpful in coordinating certain diplomatic tactics, the term lumps together highly disparate countries. Not only is South Africa miniscule compared to the others, but China's economy is larger than those of all of the other members combined. Likewise, India, Brazil, and South Africa are democracies and occasionally meet in an alternative forum that they call 'IBSA'.

And while the large autocracies, Russia and China, find it diplomatically advantageous to tweak the

Americans, both have different but crucial relationships with the United States. Both also have worked to thwart efforts by India, Brazil, and South Africa to become permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

In analytical terms, it makes little sense to include Russia, a former superpower, with the developing economies. Russia lacks diversified exports, faces severe demographic and health problems, and, in former President Dmitri Medvedev's words, "greatly needs modernisation". Little has changed since Putin returned to the presidency last year.

While economic growth benefited from the dramatic rise in oil and gas prices during the last decade, other competitive industries have yet to emerge, and the country now faces the prospect of declining energy prices. While it aims to maintain five per cent

annual growth, its economy was relatively flat last year.

If Russia's power resources seem to be declining, Brazil's appear to be more impressive, given it has a territory nearly three times the size of India's, a 90 per cent literacy rate, and triple the per capita income of India (and nearly twice that of China). But in these three years, Brazil's performance has slipped: annual economic growth has slowed from 7.5 per cent in 2010 to one per cent last year, with a 3.5 per cent rate expected in 2013.


Like Brazil, India experienced a spurt of output growth after liberalising its economy in the 1990's. Indeed, until a few years ago, GDP growth was approaching Chinese-style rates. This year, however, output is expected to rise by a relatively sluggish 5.9 per cent. Unless it improves its infrastructure and literacy rate (particularly for women), India is unlikely to catch up with China.

So, should we take today's BRICS more seriously than the BRICs of three years ago?

Tellingly, the meeting in Durban failed to produce any details of the structure of the proposed new development

bank, suggesting that little progress had been made in the year since the BRICS' last meeting in New Delhi, where the plan was announced. In fact, despite a commitment to launch 'formal negotiations' to establish the bank, disagreements about the size and shares of the bank's capital have not been resolved.

That lack of unity is symptomatic of the BRICS members' underlying incompatibilities. In political terms, China, India, and Russia are vying with each other for power in Asia. And, in economic terms, Brazil, India, and South Africa are concerned about the effects of China's undervalued currency on their economies.

Three years ago, I wrote that, "BRIC is not likely to become a serious political organisation of like-minded states." The BRICS' most recent meeting has given me no reason to revise that assessment. 

www.project-syndicate.org

Joseph S Nye, a former US assistant secretary of defence and chairman of the US National Intelligence Council, is a professor at Harvard University.

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It is Rocket science

A cheap and simple stove promises to transform the lives of rural Nepali families

KUNDA DIXIT in DADELDHURA

Urban Nepal is pre-occupied with power cuts, even though only 1.5 per cent of the country's energy need is from electricity. There are protests every time fuel prices are raised, yet only eight per cent of Nepalis use diesel, kerosene or LPG for cooking.

Over 80 per cent of Nepal's population, mostly women, cook on firewood, straw or dried dung. A clean and cheap new chulo could transform the lives of 20 million rural Nepalis, yet it was difficult to get anyone excited about it.

That is changing. As one of its last acts, the Baburam Bhattarai government set a target to make all Nepali homes smokeless by 2017. Improved cooking stoves use less than half the firewood compared to open hearth fireplaces, they cook faster, and are nearly smokeless.

"You should have brought this chulo when I was young, it would have made my life a lot easier," rues 40-year-old Yasodha Tamrakar in Domada village. "I spent all my life carrying firewood from the forest, washing blackened pots, my eyes would always be itchy and red, the children would cough all the time."

Less than a year after a campaign to introduce the new stoves was launched in Domada, nearly all the 115 households have installed the new fireplace, called the 'Rocket'. Demonstration effect is increasing demand for the stoves in neighbouring VDCs. Dadeldhura and Doti are on track to meet the 2017 target.

Nearly one million households in Nepal are already smokeless because of the spread

of improved stoves and biogas and there are 3.5 million to go. Govind Pokharel at the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEP) in Kathmandu believes it is possible to eliminate indoor air pollution in the next four years.

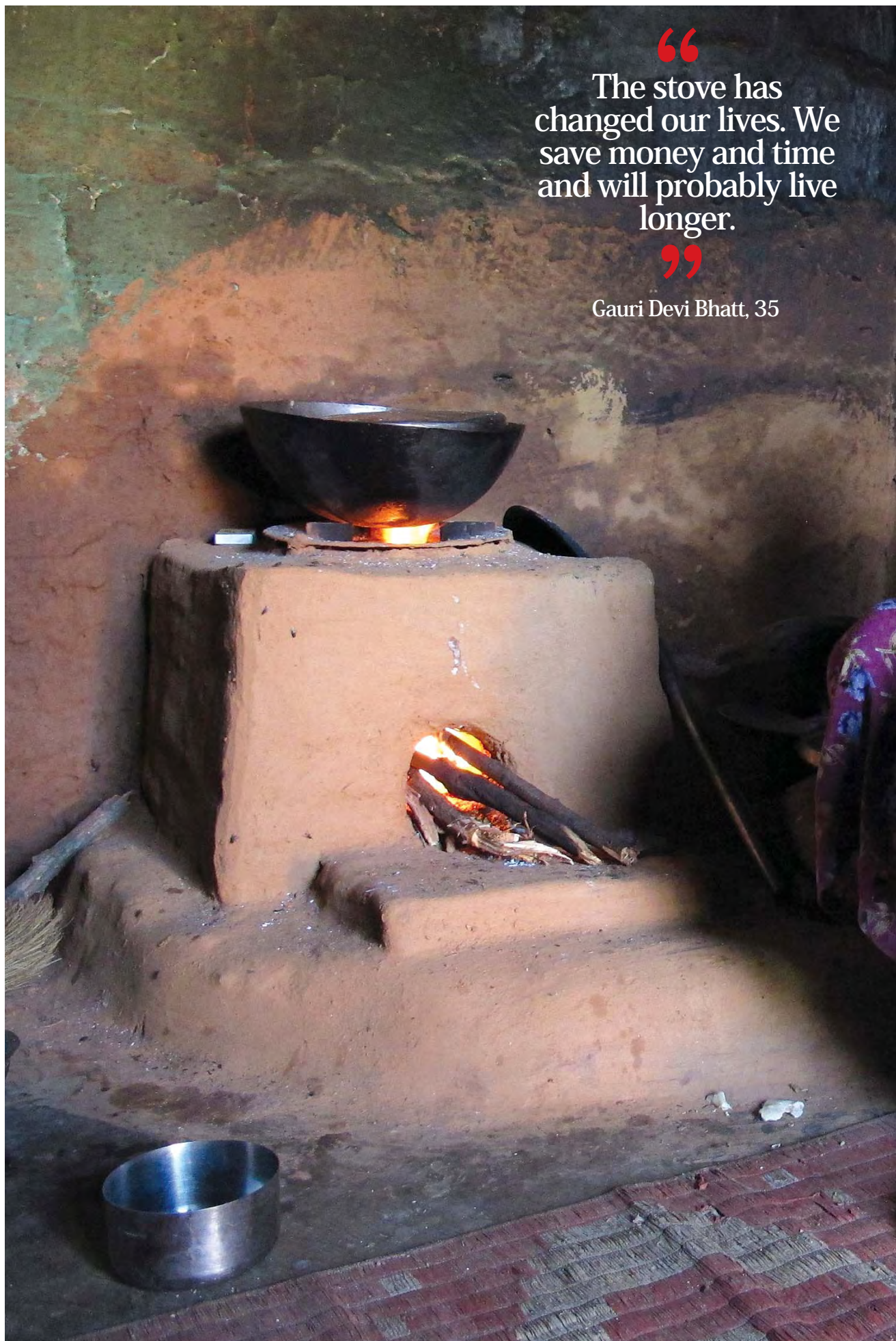
"We are already installing 250,000 smokeless chulos a year in 33 districts, so we just need to scale up and entrust NGOs with delivery," Pokharel told us, "Nepal is not poor, we are just poor in coordinating and conceptualising."

Pokharel is clearly a man with a mission. He became a strong advocate for improved stoves when, as a 14-year-old in Piuthan who did his homework by an oil lamp, he couldn't bear to see his mother suffer chronic eye and lung infections because of exposure to smoke from the kitchen fire.

"I knew we had to get the smoke out somehow, so I made a hole in the roof and installed a chimney," he recalls. Now, as a mechanical engineer with a degree from Germany in renewable energy, Pokharel is committed to make every Nepali household smokeless.

To meet the 2017 deadline, the government has parcelled out improved cooking stove promotion to the Dutch aid group, SNV, Worldwide Fund for Nature, and the World Conservation Union. Because the needs vary, different models of smokeless fuel-efficient stoves are being promoted in the plains, hills, and mountains. In higher regions, for example, stoves need to also provide hot water and space heating, in the hot plains kitchens need to have cross ventilation.

"The Rocket's beauty is that



“The stove has changed our lives. We save money and time and will probably live longer.”

Gauri Devi Bhatt, 35

it not only reduces drudgery for women and improves health, but also cuts emission of greenhouse gases and black carbon, and Nepal can reap cash benefits from the Clean Development Mechanism which can be ploughed back into the community," says Tek Balayar of the Doti-based Rural Development Service Centre.

Every year, 7,500 Nepali children die of pneumonia and respiratory tract infections mainly caused by indoor smoke. This, as well as incidence of asthma and eye infections, could be significantly reduced if the 2017 target is met. In addition, AEP estimates that Nepal could save 10 million tons of firewood annually with the fuel-efficient stoves.

Saroj Rai, who promotes improved cooking stoves for SNV in the far-west, says it's a question of priority. "The government spends billions subsidising LPG for urban dwellers," he told *Nepali Times*, "but here is a technology that will make a far bigger impact on public health and women's welfare in rural areas. And there is reluctance to support it." 🇳🇵

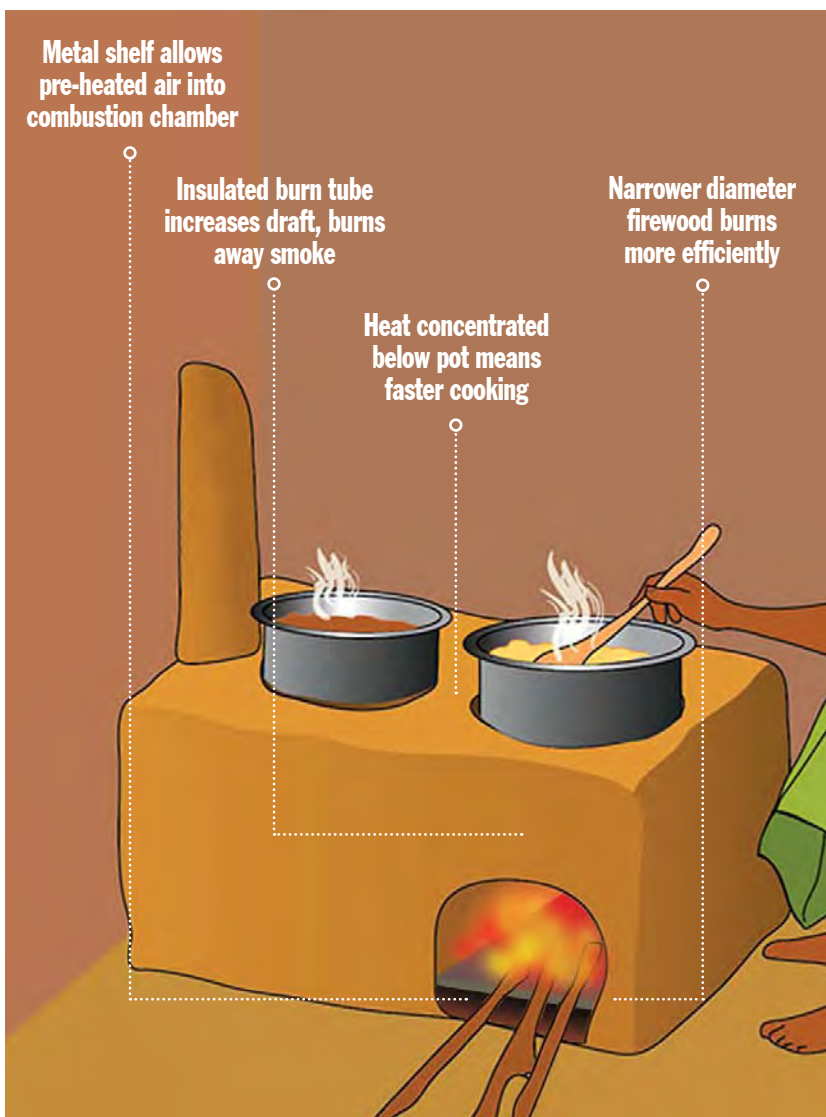




ALL PICS: KUNDA DIXIT

“ I used to spend 6 hours and carry 50kg of firewood on my back every day, now I go once a week and carry smaller loads. ”

Yasodha Tamrakar, 40



10 PLUS POINTS

Compared to traditional chulos, the Rocket:

- 1 Reduces of firewood use by half
- 2 Reduces cooking time by half
- 3 Doesn't need thick logs
- 4 Eliminates indoor smoke
- 5 Reduces lung and eye infections
- 6 Easier to clean pots and clothes
- 7 Saves time and reduces drudgery for women
- 8 Lighter firewood load = less risk of prolapsed uterus
- 9 Reduces infant mortality
- 10 Stoves stay hot even after fire dies out



! ECONOMIC SENSE

Cost of stove:
Rs 400
Return on investment:

Firewood savings: **Rs 12,000** per year
Return on investment: **2** weeks

! NATIONAL TARGET

3.3 million
households to be made smoke-free by 2017

Rocket technology

The metal core of the Rocket (*right*) can be crafted in rural workshops to be embedded in insulation and a traditional clay plaster of Nepali kitchens (*left*). It makes existing hearths more efficient by increasing airflow and allowing intense combustion so there is more heat and less smoke. First designed in Latin America in 1982, the Rocket has twice won the Ashden Award and is so named because of the roar and intense heat of the fire.





Bold and the dutiful

Setopati.com, 2 April

सेतोपाटी

Inspector Binod Sharma became a hero after pursuing the case against those accused of murdering journalist Dekendra Thapa. Sharma was transferred to Kosi and the Maoist government denied him a promotion few weeks ago. But Sharma who risked his life to fulfil his duty has no complaints about the promotion or the transfer. Excerpts from the telephone interview with Kiran Bhandari:

Setopati: How was the farewell?
Binod Sharma: Dailekh's people were happy with the work I did during my 17 months there. So all the locals praised me during the farewell ceremony. It is rare for an inspector to get so much respect. It has inspired me to be more devoted towards my responsibilities.

What was the biggest achievement during your time in Dailekh?
I reopened many cases that had been gathering dust for years. But the most satisfying was the successful investigation of Dekendra Thapa's case, which had been languishing for eight years. Despite sustained pressure from the prime minister, attorney general, and seniors from the police force I was able to present

the five accused in court. It was encouraging to be supported by the locals, friends, rights activists, and journalists.

With people in power trying their utmost to quash the investigation, what do you think will happen to this case?
No one stands above the law and people should stop trying to appease those in power. We didn't do anything extraordinary in Thapa's case, we were only using the right given to us by Nepal's law. I have been involved in investigations for the past 12 years which helped me in Dekendra's case.

You were recently transferred to Kosi zone office, will your experience come handy here as well?
My experience won't be of any use here because zonal offices look after the transfer of letters and memos, they are almost like post offices.

Your work was appreciated by the locals and yet you were transferred to a place where you don't have many responsibilities.
Maybe my superiors want me to rest because I have worked hard for many years and that's why they sent me to a place where there is so little to do.

And why do you think your

UGLY CONFRONTATION: Locals of Dailekh clashed with Maoist cadre over journalist Dekendra Thapa's case.

promotion to a DSP was halted?
When I took up Dekendra's case, I knew what I was getting myself into, but following the law is more important than getting promoted. I want to prove my worth through my work because deeds speak louder than the number of badges on your shoulder. Maybe those in power believe I am not worthy of becoming a DSP. I want to carry on investigating cases and trying to provide justice to victims. But there isn't much scope for me at the zonal office, so it is a little disappointing.

Some of the inspectors who weren't promoted are planning to go to court, what about you?
Not me. I have no interest to go to court to demand my promotion.

Why?
I know the decision not to promote me is unfair. Among the 58 officers who were promoted, 50 were my junior. All of them are my friends. I cannot ask the court to remove them from their post to grant me promotion. They are celebrating right now, why ruin it all to get a higher post?

Clean bowled

BBC Nepali Service, 3 April

BBC नेपाली

The captain of the Nepal cricket team Paras Khadka in conversation with Rabin Mishra.

We lost the match to Afghanistan because we didn't put enough runs on the board. If we had not lost early wickets, we could have scored more runs. Although we recovered later in the innings, it was too late. Afghanistan is a very good side. The players have greater exposure to professional cricket and have even played with top international teams. They seem to have the complete backing of everyone from the sponsors to the fans to the cricket administration.

As far as our players are concerned they put 100 per cent into every game. But we lack a domestic structure. There are no opportunities to play competitive cricket year round. Youngsters who want to play in the national side have no clue how to get in.

Every time there is a tournament, it feels like Dasain. Everybody wants to have fun while it lasts, but no one remembers us afterwards. And players who get no practice all year are expected to win every match and unfairly criticised for every loss. If we base our selection process and tryouts on annual tournaments like the ACC T20, we will never progress.

Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) has to be more dynamic and proactive. It needs to go on talent hunts to find youngsters, organise tournaments regularly, and sign flexible sponsorship deals which can bring maximum revenue into the game. We need a more professional setup if we want to prosper.

nepalitimes.com

Listen to the interview

NEPALI TWEETS

Anbika Giri

सबैतिरबाट निराश भएर होला क्रिकेटको क पनि याद नभएकाले पनि आज क्रिकेटमा जीतको आशा गरेर बसिरहेका छन् । नेपाली टिमलाई शुभकामना! #FB

Because they've been let down for so long, even those who have no clue about cricket are cheering for the national team today. Good luck boys! #FB

Shree

हिजो सम्म मुख छोपेर क्रिकेट हेर्दै थिए आज Party ले पनि कारवाही फुकुवा गरेछ , अबफेरी कस्को बुढी भगाउने हो = प्रचण्ड पुत्र पकाश

Yesterday he tried to avoid being noticed at the cricket ground, today the party has freed him from all internal investigations. Whose wife will he elope with next? #PrachandasonPrakash

Amrit baskune

आज बाबुराम किर्तीपुर जाने रे , केहि गरी नेपाल हाने लाग्यो भने बाधा अडकाउ फुकाएर पारसको साथी दासनलायाके लाई मैदान पठाउन बेर लगाउटैनन चिनीcopy

Baburam is going to watch the cricket match at Kiritpur today. In case Nepal looks like losing, he will clear all hurdles and send the coach in to bat instead of our captain Paras.

Meghraj Rasali

याँ ललितपुर महोत्सवको कार्यक्रममा 'श्रीमती' पम्फा भुपाललाई आसन ग्रहणको लागि अनुरोध भन्यो छ। उनी चाँहि सिंह दरबार चेन पुगेकी रछिन।

All afternoon, they've been requesting Pampha Bhusal to take the chief guest's seat at the Lalitpur Festival. Bhusal, meanwhile, is busy picketing Singha Darbar.

WEEKLY BAZAR POLL #7

In weekly polls conducted with the support of The Asia Foundation, *Himal Khabarpatrika* asks 375 respondents in 14 cities across Nepal every Monday for their opinion on contemporary issues. This week's result of interviews taken in hospitals across the country:

1. Why are you in the hospital?

- Fever 18.1%
- Broken limb 16%
- Stomach ache 15.4%
- Chest pain 11.4%
- Weakness 4%

2. How do you find the hospital's service?

- Okay 51.3%
- Bad 24.2%
- Good 22.6%
- Don't know 1.3%
- Won't say 0.5%

“Hopeful about elections”

Ujyaalo Online, 2 April

Interview with former US President Jimmy Carter who was on a four day visit to Nepal by Gopal Guragain. He met President Ram Baran Yadav, chairman of the interim electorate council, election commission chief, and leaders of major political parties during his stay.

Gopal Guragain: Why are you so interested in Nepal?

Carter: Besides the mountains and peace loving Nepalis, I am fascinated by the country's history and social mosaic. Nepal underwent a decade long armed conflict, established peace, and abolished monarchy which makes the political landscape more interesting. The country will go to polls this year and I hope to be here at the time.

Will Carter Centre deploy long-term or short-term observers?

We have been in Nepal for a long time, trying to understand not just the political but also social, cultural, and economic situation of the country. We want to increase the number of voters during the upcoming elections. We were here for 60-70 days in 2008 which was our short-term observation. We conducted a similar observation at the recent election in Kenya as well.

People say the Carter Centre's report in 2008 declared voting free and fair prematurely.

The 2008 report didn't have any such faults. We stated clearly

in the report that the election had certain shortcomings. But it was successful in selecting representatives for the Constituent Assembly. And that is what we said. The election wasn't perfect, but it was safe.



How was your meeting with the chairman of the electorate council, political leaders, and election commission officials? Do you think election is possible this year?

The leaders of the four major political parties agreed to form an interim government under the leadership of the chief justice to break the deadlock after the CA failed to draft a constitution. While this set up isn't completely constitutional, it is crucial for elections and to put an end to the stalemate. Local elections too haven't taken place in 15 years, this needs to be taken care of.

What message do you have for the people of Nepal?

Nepal needs to learn from its past mistakes and move ahead. I hope the interim government will be able to hold free and fair elections and everyone will cooperate. Threatening election officials is against the law and those involved should be punished.

nepalitimes.com

Watch the interview



Banner: Voters' Name List Collection Centre Newspaper: Poll equipment seized

नेपाल Rabindra in Nepal/31 March

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“Some people are trying to reopen war time cases that you already made decisions on as chief justice. Please don't listen to them because the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is likely to be formed very soon.”

UCPN-M Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal to Khil Raj Regmi, Chairman of the Interim Electoral Council, *Kantipur*, 4 April

The conflict's first victim

Narjit Basnet has lived with the wounds of war for 16 years



PICS: DHANBIR DAHAL



BRAVE TEACHER: Narjit Basnet teaching his class at the Saraswati School in Rukum in 1996, after his left hand was hacked off below the elbow. Sixteen years later, he still teaches in the same classroom, where the only change is that the blackboard has been replaced with a whiteboard. A prosthetic arm could make it easier for him to teach, but Basnet can't afford it.

DHANBIR DAHAL in RUKUM

It had been just a week since the Maoists declared the launch of their 'People's War' in February 1996. In the capital of Rukum district, teacher Narjit Basnet had gone to a neighbouring village to help replace a relative's thatch roof. Little did the popular teacher know that he would be one of the first victims of the war.

At dusk, as he reached Pipal VDC seven Maoist cadre attacked him with khukuris, hacked off his left hand, sliced his face and back, threw him 50m off the road down to a river and left him for dead. His family started looking for him when he did not return and found Narjit an hour later unconscious and bleeding profusely by the river.

They took him to the district hospital in Salle and saved his life. "If we hadn't found him and the hospital wasn't able to stop the bleeding, Narjit would have died," said a relative, Deuchan Basnet. The next day he was airlifted to the Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu.

"I hadn't done anyone any harm, I had no idea they would attack me," Basnet recalls 16 years later, although he suspects

he was targeted because he supported the Nepali Congress and hadn't given in to Maoist extortion. The news of the brutality of the attack spread quickly, which is exactly what the Maoists wanted in order to instill fear into other teachers in the district. The plan went awry because Narjit Basnet did not die, but lived on with one hand: a walking proof of the terror of war.

Sixteen years later, Narjit Sir still teaches students in the same Saraswati Secondary School where he used to teach in 1996. He cradles books on the stump of his left hand, cut below the elbow, and still has scars from the deep gash on his face and left hand. He is still too scared to go back to his home village. He finds it difficult and painful to stand up and teach, and his eyes tear up easily if he reads.

The country has gone from monarchy to republic, from war to peace, his classroom now has a white board instead of a blackboard, there are more girls in his class than before, but otherwise Narjit Basnet is exactly where he was 16 years ago.

He could get back the use of his limb with a prosthetic arm, but he can't afford it on a

meagre teacher's salary. While in Kathmandu, the state is trying to pass a TRC Bill that pardons perpetrators of war crimes, Basnet hasn't received the handicap compensation that conflict wounded are entitled to even though the NC's Ram Chandra Poudel became a Peace Minister in the interim government.

Saraswati School principal Chandra Nepali says: "Narjit Sir is a great teacher, he hasn't let

his injuries affect his teaching, in fact he teaches even more passionately."

As one of the first victims of a 10 year war that claimed nearly 17,000 lives, Narjit Basnet hopes that no one else has to suffer what he went through and adds: "I just wish they would finish writing the constitution and ensure peace. It would also be good if there was some support so I can overcome my handicap." 🇳🇵





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Fair and lovely polls

As per the Ass' self-fulfilling prophecy, the blame game has started in earnest. The Regmi regimen thought it only had to worry about the Dash Baddies, now the Cash Baddies have also started blaming the CJ-led gubbermint for its inability to hold elections in June. Chairman Awesome is leading the charge because he has correctly gauged that his popularity is at an all-time low and he secretly wants the whole CJ enterprise to fail so he can come out smelling like roses and maybe even lead a new administration. After downing a few straight shots the other day, PKD was overheard telling folks over at the Paris Commune: "We agreed to Regmi only because he said he could hold elections by June. If he can't fulfil that promise, he should step down." The Technocats are convinced Comrade Ferocity is egging Kiran Kaka to sabotage polls, which proves what we had suspected all along: Cash and Dash Baddies are one and the same.



A bit of unsolicited advice to Regmi Sir. Stop inaugurating flower shows and handicraft symposia forthwith. We don't want to see your mug on tv beating a madal at another Palpali Felicitation Program. We just want to hear you announce an election date, pass a full budget, and appoint justices and a CIAA chief who is not a crook. Oh yes, and tell your supporters no more advertisements in papers congratulating cabinet members from contractor friends of offsprings. We appreciate the effort to pump revenue into the Fourth Estate, but this rampant ass-licking is getting thoroughly embarrassing.

So the famous Mustang Max that BRB rode around in has been finally mothballed into a garage inside Singha Darbar with even the PMO peons refusing to ride it. Who would have thought that this once-famous First Vehicle would come to such an ignominious end to rust away into anonymous oblivion? When people mention Jimmy Carter these days, everyone remembers his gaffe in 2008 when he declared the elections fair and lovely. But, guess what, he still thinks they were (except for some minor irregularities). Anyway, the real reason for

Jimbo's Second Coming to Kathmandu this week was to get official permission for his Centre which, it turns out, isn't registered anywhere. Also to meet the entire cast of characters and tell them about the need to make the next elections free and fair. Um ... what elections?

Four years later, we finally find out the real truth behind the huge kerfuffle over the discovery of a concealed weapon in Jimmy Carter's official car during his 2008 visit. It turns out the gun was planted by the US Secret Service in Carter's official vehicle just to test the competence of Nepali security. Police sniffer dogs, namely Inspector Ganga and Inspector Jamuna, sniffed out the weapons in no time, and barked their heads off. As he left, Carter commended Nepal Police for their vigilance. He should have congratulated the dogs.

Now that he is no longer Peace Minister, Padrone Dhakal is preparing to use Moonie funds to buy his way into politics with his televangelist Family Party. The Unification Church has funded just about every political figure in this country with free trips, computers, and hard cash, so there isn't anyone important in Nepal who isn't beholden in one way or another to the late Sun Myung Moon. Hard to figure which is worse: a Nepali political party bankrolled by Reverend Moon, or one supported by Kim ('Nuke You') Jong-un.

Now we understand why the Dash Baddie Bund was postponed till Sunday the 7th. Comrade Pompa is the ex-member of the ex-CA from Lalitpur and the Jyapu Samaj ordered her not to spoil all the fun and games during the Mahotsav by declaring a strike smack in the middle of it all. She readily agreed. Finally, at long last, we have hit upon the ultimate antidote to bunds. Tell the organisers they won't get votes in the next election.



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