



Leaving footprints

ECO TOURISM: Trekkers trickle back to Nepal after the earthquake and blockade, like this group at Kangchenjunga Base Camp.

One of the highlights of Prime Minister KP Oli's meeting with his counterpart Narendra Modi in New Delhi this week was the inauguration of the 140km cross border transmission line.

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) is already importing 200 MW from India, and the new power line will make it possible to immediately add another 80MW, which can be increased to 600MW by 2017.

The additional power will reduce electricity rationing in Nepal, but experts say that since the imported power is thermal it will increase Nepal's carbon footprint and that it is not in its national interest.

"It is unfortunate that a country like Nepal with such a huge potential in renewable energy has to import dirty energy from a country that relies mainly on coal-burning thermal power," says water resource analyst Ratna Sansar Shrestha.

Climate change expert Manjeet Dhakal agrees that even if the electricity is generated from burning coal in India, it could be counted as Nepal's greenhouse gas emission. "It shows that the government and its advisers are not well versed in what is going on in the world," says Dhakal.

Nepal's present carbon footprint of 0.2 tons per capita is one of the lowest in the world. By next year one-third of Nepal's national grid will be from imported thermal energy.

Environmentalism Bhusan Tuladhar says that the decision to import power may reduce Nepal's diesel consumption, which has tripled in the last five years because of generators, but warns that it may ultimately reduce the urgency to invest in renewable hydroelectricity.

"When we can import power so easily, the government may get complacent," says Tuladhar. "We have to aim for energy security and to generate enough renewable energy for our own need and for export."

Energy economist and former water resource minister Dipak Gyawali says that the new transmission line comes from an area of power deficit in Bihar, and India could turn it off anytime it wants when it needs the electricity to meet its own domestic demand.

Gyawali added: "The transmission line is treasonous. It is an attempt to push Nepal into a neo-colonial development path."

Sahina Shrestha



WIRED
EDITORIAL
PAGE 2

THE FINE PRINT
COMMENT
BY **PURU SHAH**
PAGE 4



WIRED

It is one of the supreme ironies of our times that a country endowed with such rich hydropower potential has to import dirty energy from a neighbouring country.

Besides attempting to normalise bilateral relations with New Delhi, the other big highlight of Prime Minister K P Oli’s India visit this week was the inauguration of the much-delayed Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar electricity transmission line.

The agreement was greeted with applause from industry and individuals reeling this winter from daily 14-hour power cuts. So desperate are Nepalis to have adequate supplies of electricity, diesel, petrol and gas restored that we will welcome any deal that will partly alleviate our suffering. Which is why the transmission line agreement was greeted within the larger framework of improvements in India-Nepal relations and the lifting of the blockade.

We did have an ‘uh-oh’ moment, though, when we found out that the extra 80MW that will be added to the national grid will only reduce the load-shedding by two hours at the most. By next year when Nepal can import 600MW from the crossborder power line, however, it will represent one-third of Nepal’s total winter demand of electricity.

It is one of the supreme ironies of our times that a country endowed with such rich hydropower potential has been driven to the point where it has to import dirty energy from coal-fired plants from a neighbouring country. Eighty per cent of Nepalis still depend on biomass for energy, yet as this blockade showed, the country can be brought to a standstill if petroleum supplies are stopped.

Petroleum now makes up more than 60 per cent of our total imports, and together it is worth more than all our exports put together. The import of diesel alone grew three fold in the last five years, mainly due to the increased use of generators. One calculation shows that all the generators in Nepal put together feed some 500MW of captive power to households, offices and factories. The only reason we can continue to be able to pay for our



PIB

rising fuel bill is because of remittances from Nepalis working abroad — the ‘sweat for oil’ barter arrangement.

The reason Nepalis have one of the lowest per capita footprints among low-income countries of 0.2 tons per capita is not just because our grid used to be entirely renewable hydroelectricity-based, but also because most Nepalis still use firewood for fuel. This will change as coal-based electricity is going to make such a big chunk of our national energy consumption.

Because we are starting from almost zero in fossil fuel use, this will still mean that Nepal’s carbon footprint will be negligible. The larger issue is one of the political failure that forced us to become dependent on India not just for petroleum but also for electricity.

The power shortage was a blessing in disguise because

it fostered domestic entrepreneurship and allowed developers to build new mini-hydro plants in the 2-5MW range. Other larger projects with private investment got underway. There is now a crop of young Nepali engineers who have acquired experience and skills. But even if Nepal manages to generate more hydropower, the bottleneck has been transmission lines. Two transmission lines, one inside Kathmandu Valley and the other connecting Tama Kosi to Dhalkebar have been delayed for years due to local extortion.

The Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar transmission line may bring us temporary and partial respite from power cuts, but it is the wrong power line in the wrong place. The argument given is that it will allow Nepal to import power for now, and we can export power to India through it when we have a surplus. This argument has two flaws: firstly the transmission lines links Nepal to the most power-deficient region of India. Which means whenever they have a shortage, which is often in the hot season, they are going to switch off those precious 80MW. And by next year when we are importing 600MW on that line, it is going to make Nepal even more vulnerable. Exporting power to India is a pipe dream, we must first plug our domestic energy deficit, address suppressed demand and then catch up with the 250MW that will be added to the demand every year in five year’s time.

One of the silver linings of this blockade, we had argued back in September, was that it could force Nepal’s politicians to think about energy self-reliance and make an aggressive campaign to switch to renewable energy. Well, guess what, not only will we now be even less self-reliant, we will be dependent on India not just for oil but also for electricity.

And by being so dependent on fossil energy we will have lost our moral high ground at international fora to lobby for funds for climate change adaptation.

Times

THIS WEEK



KUNDA DIXIT

Most reached on Facebook
Domestic airlines compete with new roads to service Nepal’s remote mountain airfields. (31,813 people reached)

Most shared on Facebook
Twin Otter found (21 shares)

Most popular on Twitter
Remaining an open society by Rubeena Mahato (41 retweets, 47 favourites)

Most visited online page
Fly or ride? by Kunda Dixit (1,178 views)

Most commented
Our remit, Editorial (8 comments)

YOUR SAY

www.nepalitimes.com

OUR REMIT
Our leaders have made a lot of personal sacrifices to bring about the great political changes in the country (‘Our remit’, Editorial, #797). Now it is the responsibility of younger generations to bring about an economic revolution.

Sarah Shrestha

LEARN TO EARN
I would personally love to see these men acquire construction skills and put them to practice at home instead of toiling abroad and become part of the 21st century slave trade (‘Learn to earn’, Om Astha Rai, #797). With the destruction caused by the recent earthquake, I think there are enough job opportunities for these workers in Nepal. While they want to go to the Gulf, Indian masons from across the border want to come to Nepal.

Hurray

I am delighted to learn that positive things are happening in Nepal despite so many problems. I appreciate Mr Bharat Pokhrel’s view: “We neither encourage nor

discourage Nepali youth to migrate. But when they decide to migrate, it is important to ensure that they have skills and will get better opportunities abroad.”

R Rai

YOUNG, EDUCATED & UNEMPLOYED
This is a disgrace to all those no-work-all-talk politicians (‘Young, educated and unemployed’, Sangita Thebe Limbu, #797). Why are the youths so silent? They should gang up and demand facilities from those who promise but never deliver.

Hugh

Even those jobs which are obtained through ‘nepotism’ are hardly what they are made out to be. What is really wrong in Nepal? It is basically an externally funded economy -- NGOs, Contracts, Remittance, etc. Very few Nepali companies want to modernise (which would have a trickle down effect on the selected IT, Business consultants) and the GoN is really dependent on consultants telling them how to run the show.

Namah

ASS
A 92-member delegation (‘PM Oli’s to-do list in Delhi’, ASS, #796)? What is wrong with our leaders? Next time why don’t all 30 million of us join Oli’s delegation and invade New Delhi. We can perhaps return home with a cylinder of gas and a tank of petrol each after creating havoc there. It will be fun and we can accomplish wonderful things like rioting, looting and maybe even topple their government and put in its place our friends from Gorkhaland.

Bairagi Khukuri

Times

nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll #797

Will PM Oli’s Delhi visit improve Nepal-India ties?

Total votes: 119

■ Yes 40.34%

■ No 46.22%

■ Unsure 13.45%

Weekly Internet Poll #798
To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. What should be done to improve Nepal’s aviation safety record?



Nepali Times on Facebook
 Follow @nepalitimes on Twitter
 Follow @nepalitimes on Instagram

Publisher and Chief Editor: Kunda Dixit
Associate Editor: Tsering Dolker Gurung | Online Producer: Ayesha Shakya | Design: Kiran Maharjan
Published by Himalmedia Pvt Ltd | Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur | GPO Box 7251 Kathmandu
editors@nepalitimes.com | www.nepalitimes.com | www.himalmedia.com | Tel: 01-5005601-08 Fax: +977-1-5005518
Marketing: Arjun Karki, Surendra Sharma rachanas@himalmedia.com | Advertisers: Ram Krishna Banjara | Subscriptions: Santosh Aryal santosha@himalmedia.com
Printed at Jagadamba Press | 01-5250017-19 | www.jagadambapress.com



Restless radicals

There are too many groups dissatisfied with the way the agitation in the Madhes has been called off

Here in Janakpur, the epicenter of the Madhes agitation, Dhanusha district police charged three people with the murder of Nepali Congress member Rajendra Yadav earlier this month.

Three other NC members had been injured the same day, and the three announced they were acting on behalf of a newly-set up armed group, and killing



PUBLIC PULSE
Navin Jha

Yadav was their first direct action. Police here fear that the recent Madhes agitation and its partial resolution have led to dissatisfied radicals taking to violent politics.

A month ago, a police officer was gunned down by an assailant belonging to the Jai Krishna Goit group in Saptari, and the same group also tried to set off an explosion there which was defused by the police. These and other incidents show that the plains may be headed to another period of violence and instability after six months of strikes and blockade.

People in the plains are weary of strikes and want to get on with their lives, but political activists are competing to be more radical. With more than half the population of the Tarai aged under 20, it is



difficult for political parties led by older leaders to keep control.

Younger Madhesis have been radicalised by the heavy-handed response of the security forces during the agitation in which nearly 60 demonstrators, many of them innocent bystanders, were killed. The youth are also angry at the Madhesi Front leaders who led them with slogans

like ‘Abhi Nahi To Kavi Nahi’ (Now, or Never) and then struck a deal with Kathmandu to call off the blockade.

Jani Khan, one of the protesters on the streets, said: “One group of Madhesi youth is not happy with the agreement and think that the Madhesi people will never get their rights unless they raise the gun.”

Khan says the people in the Tarai feel the reason the first Madhes Movement in 2007 was successful was because Jai Krishna Goit and Jwala Singh had gone underground with arms.

“Now we only have a non-violent track, that is why Kathmandu is not listening,” Khan said, referring to the Madhesi demand for the demarcation of the two provinces in the plains.

This week I also visited Birganj and Kalaiya which also saw demonstrations in the past few months. Sadhbhavana leader Shiv Patel admitted to me that he was under pressure from young turks to have an armed wing. “I already rejected this proposal,” Patel told me, “but that is the general mood here. And some people are ready to restart protests in the spring.”

Youth leader Shyam Gupta told me in Kalaiya that young activists like him are not expecting much from the high-level mechanism set up to find a compromise on the provincial demarcation. It is probably because of the radicalisation of the Tarai that the Front refused to join the mechanism.

The general feeling among people in Parsa and Dhanusha is that Kathmandu would be well-advised to agree to the moderate demands of the Madhesi Front, otherwise the leaders of the plains may have the rug pulled from under them by young radicals itching to take up arms. 🇳🇵

The Etihad Global SALE

Take advantage of our Global Sale offering you discounts in Economy and Business Class for travel throughout 2016.

BOOK BY: 29 FEB 2016
TRAVEL: 10 MAR 2016 – 12 DEC 2016

	ECONOMY CLASS FROM (USD)*	BUSINESS CLASS FROM (USD)*
PARIS	566	1,590
FRANKFURT	610	1,357
ABU DHABI	640	1,331
DUBAI	640	1,331
LONDON	718	1,797
NEW YORK	836	2,237
SAN FRANCISCO	961	2,245
WASHINGTON	1,021	2,259

BOOK NOW!

As an Etihad Guest member, you can earn miles for travel to all destinations across all cabins.

Visit an Etihad shop or your travel agent.

etihad.com | 400 5000 |  ETIHAD AIRWAYS PARTNER

*Terms and conditions apply. The fares mentioned above include taxes and surcharges and exclude service fees. These fares are “starting from” fares and are subject to availability. Weekend surcharges apply. For full list of destinations and detailed terms & conditions, visit etihad.com



The fine print

The Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar transmission line inaugurated this week in Delhi has questionable benefits for Nepal

On 20 February Nepal’s visiting Prime Minister K P Oli and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi (*pic*) inaugurated the much-delayed 400kV transmission line linking Nepal and India. The 140km crossborder line joins the Indian grid from Muzaffarpur in Bihar with Dhalkebar in Dhanusa to export electricity to ease the acute shortage in Nepal.

Nepal’s chronic power shortage has been made worse because of the scarcity of diesel for generators due to the closure of the Birganj border for five months by



COMMENT
Puru Shah

Madhesi protesters allegedly abetted by India.

Prime Minister Oli has vowed to end electricity rationing within a year, and Deputy Prime Minister and Energy Minister Top Bahadur Rayamajhi last week declared an “energy emergency” to cope with the crisis. He also endorsed a National Energy Crisis Reduction and Electricity Development Decade Plan which includes the import of 580 MW from India.

The Nepal portion of the transmission line was constructed at a cost of \$13.5 million and is already feeding 80 MW of power to Nepal from this week. This will be augmented to 200 MW at 220kV in October 2016, and eventually to 600 MW



at 400kV by December 2017. Although Oli received wide accolades in the media for the deal that could reduce power shortage, the project was actually initiated and developed by erstwhile Minister of Water Resources Gyanendra Bahadur Karki of the NC as far back as 2006. A staunch nationalist, Oli vowed not to sign any anti-national agreement during his visit, but the transmission line he inaugurated puts Nepal’s hydro-electricity market at a disadvantage. A pre-condition for this deal was that Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) sign a 150 MW Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) for at least 25 years with Power Trading Corporation (PTC) of India. In other words, the fine print requires

Nepal to purchase 150 MW power from India for at least 25 years and take \$13.5 million in loan to construct the transmission line at a cost of \$20 million. Nepal awarded the contract for construction of 40km of Nepal portion to an Indian company, Tata Projects Ltd. Such a disfavouredly worded PPA and MoU discourages domestic investment for hydroelectricity generation and transmission in Nepal. The cost of the 40km Nepal portion of the transmission line is \$20 million while the 100km Indian section costs only \$32 million. Experts have calculated that the Nepal part of the transmission line costs \$180,000 more per km. Although the agreement mentions the

word ‘flow’, the transmission line was constructed for the uni-directional import of power from India, not export from Nepal. The leaders in Kathmandu talk endlessly about Nepal’s huge hydroelectric potential and make grand plans for energy independence, but their actions tell a different story. In its 2015 annual report, the NEA reported a loss of Rs 7 billion. It may be prudent to ask how importing 600 MW from India would improve its balance sheet. Furthermore, accepting a foreign loan to invest in power import infrastructure and sign a 25 year long PPA in US dollars instead of investing in domestic generation capacity is against the national interest. On a typical day, domestic generation meets roughly 500 MW of 1,292 MW peak at 6:10 pm. NEA can supply only 39 per cent of this peak demand with total domestic capacity. It has two options: either shed load until demand meets supply or import additional power. NEA imported about 250 MW from India but it was still insufficient to meet the peak demand. The deficit in 2014 is big, but it has become much worse and hence, the need for declaration of energy emergency. The 400 kV transmission line would have been a matter of national pride if it were constructed with immediate or long-term plans to export surplus power by harnessing Nepal’s theoretically high hydroelectric potential. Puru Shah is an electrical engineer based in the United States, and founder of Madhesi Youth.

GOLDEN OAK
PREMIUM BLENDED MALT

Presents

अन्नपूर्ण पोस्ट

CORPORATE BADMINTON

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

POWERED BY

**WORK HARD
PLAY HARD**

GO ! get it.

Event Details:

DATE	1st - 5th March, 2016
Time	10 am to 5 pm
Venue	Covered Hall, Dashrath Rangashala, Tripureshwar

FOREVER EVOLVING.
NEVER STANDING STILL.
KEEP WALKING™



DRINK RESPONSIBLY
www.johnniewalker.com

THE JOHNNIE WALKER, THE STRIDING FIGURE DEVICE AND ASSOCIATED LOGOS ARE TRADE MARKS



Global Trading Concern (P) Ltd.

JOHNNIE WALKER® 

A collective crusade

There can be no justice for recent atrocities so long as past atrocities remain shrouded in a cloud of impunity

On Democracy Day on 19 February, the day that Prime Minister KP Oli left for India, the usual state procession of marching soldiers, gun salutes and on-looking politicians and bureaucrats took place at Tundikhel in the early morning. The streets were swarmed with all kinds of police: security, traffic, armed, and riot.

The procession, meant to be a public affair, garnered little



ONE TO MANY
Bidushi Dhungel

public interest. The streets around Tundikhel were crowded and yet people did not stop even to peer through the fence on to the marching horses and cavalry, or to listen to KP Oli's fiery speech on *prajatantra* and *loktantra*.

The indifference is testament to the progressive and intentional hollowing of democracy by successive governments that have been in power in the past decades. It was not just the absence of the public inside Tundikhel that was worrying that Friday, but perhaps worse was the lack of any agitation against what was going on outside.

Even as Oli was speaking inside, the state arrested a small group of conflict victims and activists and took them to Singha Darbar Police Station where they were kept until the Tundikhel function was over. They were people whose family members had been brutally slaughtered, disappeared or tortured during the conflict, but their arrest seemed to garner little attention.

Democracy is perpetually undermined by the fact that the basic and fundamental rights of people are trampled on every day – in the courts, on the streets, in parliament and in communities, and across the geographical terrain – while a small ruling elite perpetuates violence, obstructs justice and profits from the deliberate and opaque instability they cause. Over the years the members of the elite has diversified, but it remains aloof and far from representative. They have been on a collective

crusade to divide up vote banks over a variety of important issues, which in fact, they have little regard for, whether it is ethnic inclusion or economic development.

The case of conflict-era killings is just an example. The victims today are not only denied justice but even the hope for it. Their cause has been one that instead of uniting the people in favour of reformed society and rule of law, has divided and demoralised it. Instead of seeing their decades-long struggle for accountability as a demand for the deepening of democracy, it is being understood as the sole agenda of a political interest group. The discourse has been cleverly morphed into one that seeks to divide the public into those that believe in 'progress', and those that do not, somehow establishing that all those in favour of justice for conflict-era human rights abuses are pro-establishment and against 'progress'. People no longer see

this as a standalone issue, and are erroneously linking human rights during the conflict years to the personal politics of a handful of activists.

There is no doubt that many of the older generation activists have made an industry out of sorrow and are often directly financing political parties. They must be called out. Indeed, there is also a case to be made for calling out those that seek to

highlight one injustice over another – say, for example, the lack of interest in killings in the Tarai. But the divisions which have manifested are so deep, and egged on by opinion makers, that people are compelled to choose which atrocities are 'theirs' and which are 'ours'. Taking again the example of conflict rights abuses, those that are hesitant to condemn and act against these killings must surely realise that there can be no justice for recent atrocities so long as past atrocities remain shrouded in a cloud of impunity. And for those that are mum on state atrocities in recent times, hypocrisy and ill intent are the only justifications.

But by keeping quiet we do collective harm to ourselves and the institutionalisation of democracy. Unlike the people, the ruling elite are not divided. KP Oli stays quiet over conflict-era crimes in his tenure for the sake of PK Dahal's interests, and in return the latter stays quiet over the former's larger share in the loot of state coffers, for example.

The establishment -- comprised of a group of politicians across the parties with members of the business mafia and media fraternity -- work hand-in-glove to thwart genuine progress. They work together to shape political, economic and social discourse in their favour – not one particular ideology or party – in a combined effort to systemically undermine democracy, rule of law and the very idea of 'progress'. 🇳🇵

Jet, set, go

Turkish Airlines celebrated the addition of its 300th aircraft, an Airbus A330-300, recently. Powered by CF6-80E1 engines, the new aircraft will be deployed on existing medium and long-haul routes from the Turkish Airlines Istanbul hub.

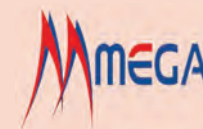


New Gionee

Chinese mobile phone manufacturer Gionee revealed its new logo and a new tagline "Make Smiles" at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona recently. It also introduced its latest smartphone, Gionee Elife S8, at the event. Powered by an Octa-core 1.9 GHz Cortex-A53 processor, the phone has a fingerprint scanner, introduces 3D touch and an innovative side bar.

Easy banking

Mega Bank has opened a new branch in Jobudha, Dadheldhura, one of the now 30 branches of the bank. Claiming to be the first private commercial bank in the area, it aims to provide accessible and easy banking facilities to people in the region.



Discounts galore

Etihad Airways recently announced its Global Sale and is offering discounts to travellers from Nepal. Guests flying both business and economy class can avail of the

offer for destinations across North America, Europe and the Middle East for a travel period until December. Business Class all-inclusive return fares to London start at Rs 191,978 and New York at Rs 239,144, while for economy class, all-inclusive fares to London start at Rs 76,673 and New York at Rs 89,460.

BOK goes rural

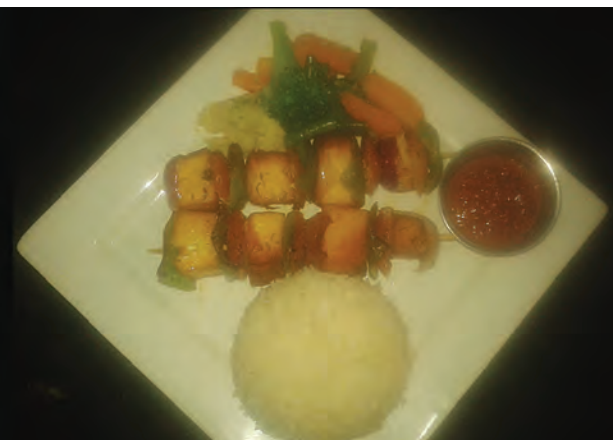
Bank of Kathmandu recently inaugurated two new branches at Rajapur of Bardiya District and Lamki of Kailali District. This initiative is part of the Bank's plan to expand its reach to rural and semi-urban market segments. Done in partnership with Sakcham Access to Finance program, the newly opened branches will provide deposit, loan, remittance and other services offered by the Bank.

Football mania

Sagarmatha Cement announced its sponsorship for the Dhangadi Cricket League organised by Dhangadi Cricket Academy recently. It has offered a total of Rs 1 million for the championship titled Sagarmath Cement DSL 3, which will feature a total of five local teams from Kailali district. The winning team of the championship will be awarded Rs 300,000 and the runner up will be given Rs 150,000 in addition to trophies.



prabhu BANK



Enjoy veg delicacies
@
Yalamaya Dhokaima Cafe.



Opening hours: 8am to 9pm
Ph: 5522113 / 5553767 | Fax: 977-1- 5536390

REMO

Research & Monitoring System



GENERATE INFORMATION ON MAPS

DATA COLLECTED IS CENTRALIZED SIMULTANEOUSLY

SAVE EFFORT TIME MONEY

redefining research

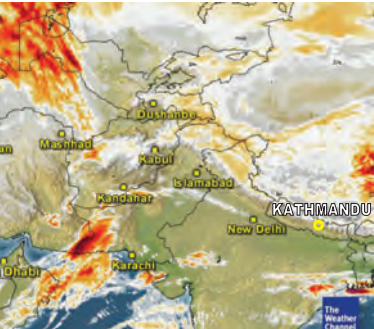
REMO is Research and Monitoring System that can capture, analyze and visualize data together. Tremendously useful and cost effective, REMO opens a new frontier on how surveys are conducted. Smartphone-enabled and tablet-compatible, surveys can be created in a fly and modified on the go. Data Collected gets seamlessly aggregated on the system allowing web-based access that dynamically produce meaningful reports in real time. Using complex algorithm, data is instantly converted to intelligence.

rooster logic

Rooster Logic Pvt Ltd.
Campus Marg, Chakupat,
Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur, Nepal

T : (+977-1) 526 1530
M : (+977) 9851164335, (+977) 9860307694
E : info@roosterlogic.com

"1" Nepali System to be deployed in all 75 districts; 200,000+ sample size"



There is good news for those of you patiently waiting for this prolonged drought to end. There is a robust westerly disturbance carrying a considerable amount of moisture approaching and although we have already seen some precursor buildup in the afternoons, there will be some rain and snow by Saturday with it easing somewhat on Sunday. But expect an overcast and cold weekend with precipitation. This should fill up the reservoirs, get the rivers up again so power generation will be up. And of course, the most delighted will be farmers.

oneworld

QATAR

AIRWAYS

القطرية

Going places together - qatarairways.com

CAPTURING THE CITY

SMRITI BASNET

Walking through the streets of Asan with Min Ratna Bajracharya gives one an idea of how well this legendary photographer (*pic*) knows the streetscape of Kathmandu. He seems to know everyone and everyone seems to know him. It is this intimate knowledge of his neighbourhood and city that gives Bajracharya his unique access to photo opportunities.

“There’s a story behind everything, the success of a photographer lies in recognising these stories and capturing the essence of it in a single shot,” he says.

As one of Nepal’s pioneer photojournalists, Bajracharya has been on the front lines of various political movements and economic developments

in the country. His image of student activist Durga Thapa smeared in vermilion is regarded as the most iconic image of the 1990 People’s Uprising.

After his father’s sudden death, Bajracharya started working at a printing press to earn money for his family. It was

there that he fell in love with photography stills.

Growing up, he would rent a camera from his school and spend most of his earnings on his newfound interest. “If I had Rs 400 with me, I would spend Rs 200 on film reels,” recalls Bajracharya, whose



DEEPENDRA BAJRACHARYA

first camera was an automatic single lens Minolta gifted to him by an Australian friend.

What started out as a hobby capturing scenic landscapes and portraits quickly evolved into a career covering dramatic events. “During the stampede of 1988 in Dasrath Stadium, I rushed to the site. They would not allow me inside because I was not from a newspaper,” he shares. “But that did not stop me from taking pictures.”

Bajracharya credits his continued success to his strong work ethic and his eye for opportunities. “I made it as a photo journalist because I was proactive,” says the man who has photographed dignitaries and personalities like Ganesh Man Singh, Chandra Shekhar Singh, and Manisha Koirala.

Always wanting to improve his craft, Bajracharya has had to adapt to changing technologies over the years. “Processing pictures then took a longer time which elongated the process of transforming information visually. Now, you click a picture and send it over the internet,” says Bajracharya.

Throughout all his accomplishments, Bajracharya never forgets the basics that got him to where he is now. “More than the lens it is the sense of photography that matters.” 🇳🇵

Min Ratna Bajracharya’s photo exhibition on tourism in Nepal titled #Nepalphoto, in association with School of Creative Communication and Nepal Tourism Board, will be held on the NTB premises from 4-6 March, 2016.

HYUNDAI | NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.

MAKE A BIG IMPRESSION

Elite i20

ORVM with Auto Folding Electric Mirror and Welcome Function (First in Segment)

Auto Headlamp with Escort Function

16" Diamond Cut Alloy Wheels (First in Segment)

Steering Mounted Audio Control with Bluetooth

Fully Automatic Climate Control with Cluster Ionizer

Rear AC Vents (First in Segment)

Driver Side Armrest with Storage Box (First in Segment)

Smart Key with Push Button Start (First in Segment)

Dual Airbags

Steering Adaptive Parking Guidelines (First in Segment)

Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS)

High Ground Clearance (mm) Elite: 170

For Sales Inquiry:

Bhatbhateni: 01-4413934, 4413942 Thapathali: 01-4101553, 4101554, 4101556, 4101557, 4101558

Banepa: 011-661405, Bhairahawa: 071-522261, Biratnagar: 021-462109, 9801201015, Birtamod: 023-541495, Butwal: 071-415278, 415279, 9857039279, Damak: 023-580215, Dang: 082-563634, 9802930134, Dhangadi: 091-524492, 9868444492, Itahari: 025-581096, Narayanganj: 056-522776, 526276, 522781, 530431, Nepalgunj: 081-527909, Pokhara: 061-537426, 537526

Like us facebook.com/hyundainepal

HYUNDAI | Laxmi

SOLE DISTRIBUTOR OF HYUNDAI FOR NEPAL www.laxmihyundai.com

GO TAKE A HIKE

SEULKI LEE

Nepal’s trekking companies have been waiting for a year for a turnaround in visitor numbers but battered by an earthquake, followed by a blockade, the industry is taking a long time to recover.

The warmer weather is here, and rhododendron buds have started blossoming along some of the trails already, but bookings from overseas hikers are still half the normal numbers. Last year hikers were spooked by the earthquake, this year it is the Nepali trekking agencies which have had to cancel many bookings because of the unavailability of diesel.

“We had zero traffic last autumn and this spring,” says a dejected Padam Ghale, 65, of Shambhala Trekking. When the earthquake struck last April, Ghale’s clients were already in Bangkok, so he flew over and took them on a tour of Vietnam instead. This spring, although individual trekkers are still coming to Nepal, most groups have relocated their treks to Bhutan, Thailand, Ladakh or Tibet.

Raj Tamang, 50, of Responsible Adventure, who just guided an all-female group of Singaporean trekkers on the Mardi Himal trail, says the negative publicity on the Internet about the earthquake and blockade have scared first-time trekkers.

“They were still nervous, but we convinced them the trail was safe and transportation wouldn’t be a problem,” Tamang said.

Ghale and Tamang agree that the message should go out that Nepal is open for trekking, and conditions are now back to the pre-earthquake situation. Most popular trekking trails were not damaged in the quake, and those that were have largely been repaired. The only trails that still need repairs are in Langtang and Manaslu.

The Manaslu Conservation Area trails below Philim in Nubri Valley still have a risk of rock fall and there are massive landslides downstream along the Budi Gandaki gorges. Damaged trails in the Manaslu circuit are being repaired by local communities, volunteers and international aid programs like ‘Food for Work’ of WFP to revive

trekking and livelihoods of survivors.

Langtang village was buried in an avalanche with a heavy loss of life, but the trails in the Langtang National Park are not dangerous now. In fact, volunteers and locals and even some trekkers are regularly visiting Langtang.

“Nepal is not just Annapurna, Everest, Manaslu and Langtang – there are so many unspoiled new places to explore,” says Tamang whose agency promotes lesser-known treks that combine scenery with cultural immersion.

Ghale’s Shambhala specialises in treks to remote destinations like Kangchenjunga, Dolpo and Rara. In fact, he was in Humla with a French group on 25 April last year when the earthquake struck.

Thanks to the new motorable roads, these once difficult-to-reach places are now accessible and the treks are not as long as before. Says Ghale: “Our message is that Nepal is back to normal, and you can help generate jobs and income by coming to Nepal for a trek.” 🇳🇵



Put your **body, mind,**
and **spirit** in harmony



Call today: 98510 54729 (Santosh)
01-500 5601-07, Fax: 977 1 5005518 | subs@himalmedia.com



Subscribe to Nepali Times

&

Get a free coupon of
"Balancing Body, Mind and Spirit"



on your choice
@
Star Hotels



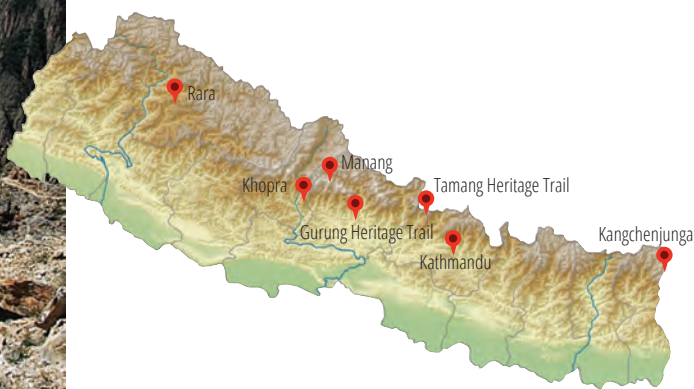
PADAM GHALE



CARSTEN NEBEL

LAKE COUNTRY: This glacial lake in Manang is expanding because of ice thaw caused by global warming (*above*).

The dazzling blue of Phoksundo Lake (*left*) in Dolpo is a three-day walk from the nearest airfield.



6 TREK TIPS

If you want to avoid the crowds on the Everest Trek or the Annapurna Circuit, then there are plenty of other places to hike in Nepal. Even at the best of times, these destinations are so pristine you can walk for days without seeing another trekker. Some of them are also earthquake-affected areas that need added income from homestays.

Nepali Times consulted the experts and presents a list of six can-do treks for this spring:



PADAM GHALE

Kangchenjunga

If you are looking for wild camping treks amidst lush forests and stunning scenery, then eastern Nepal is the place to be. Long shunned by mainstream agencies because of its remoteness, Kangchenjunga is now much more accessible because a road has reached Taplejung which is also connected by air from Kathmandu.

Time: Two weeks



BINITA DAHAL

Rara

This spectacular lake is one of the jewels in Nepal's crown. Situated in remote Mugu district, visitors can reach the shores after a three-hour walk from the airfield which itself is only a 40-minutes flight from Nepalganj. Accommodation is limited at the Danphe Lodge inside Rara National Park, but the scenery compensates for all the hardships.

Time: One week

Manang

This famous resting point before crossing the world's highest pass Thorong La (5,416m) is now accessible by jeep from Besisahar which makes it possible to acclimatise and explore the side valleys like Tilicho, Nar Phu, Gangapurna, Hidden Lake and Kangla Pass. Manang is in the



SEULKI LEE

rainshadow behind the Annapurnas, but has lush green forests and mountains close enough to touch.

Time: Two weeks

Tamang Heritage Trail

Located between Langtang and Ganesh Himal, this trail offers scenery plus homestays with the Tamang people and their vibrant Tibetan traditions and rituals. The Tamang Heritage Trail is proof that it is not just mountains that draw visitors to Nepal, but also the people.

Time: One week



MAHENDRA SINGH LIMBU

Gurung Heritage Trail

This new could-be popular trail in the near future is in Annapurna Conservation Area and starts from Ghalegaun in Lamjung and traverses BARPak in Gorkha, Siklis then down to Pokhara. The trail is already popular among Nepali trekkers and offers rich local culture and lively ethnic Gurung heritage with well developed lodges. You would also be helping families who survived the earthquake to rebuild by staying with them, and maybe even helping out to rebuild schools and homes.

Time: 10 days

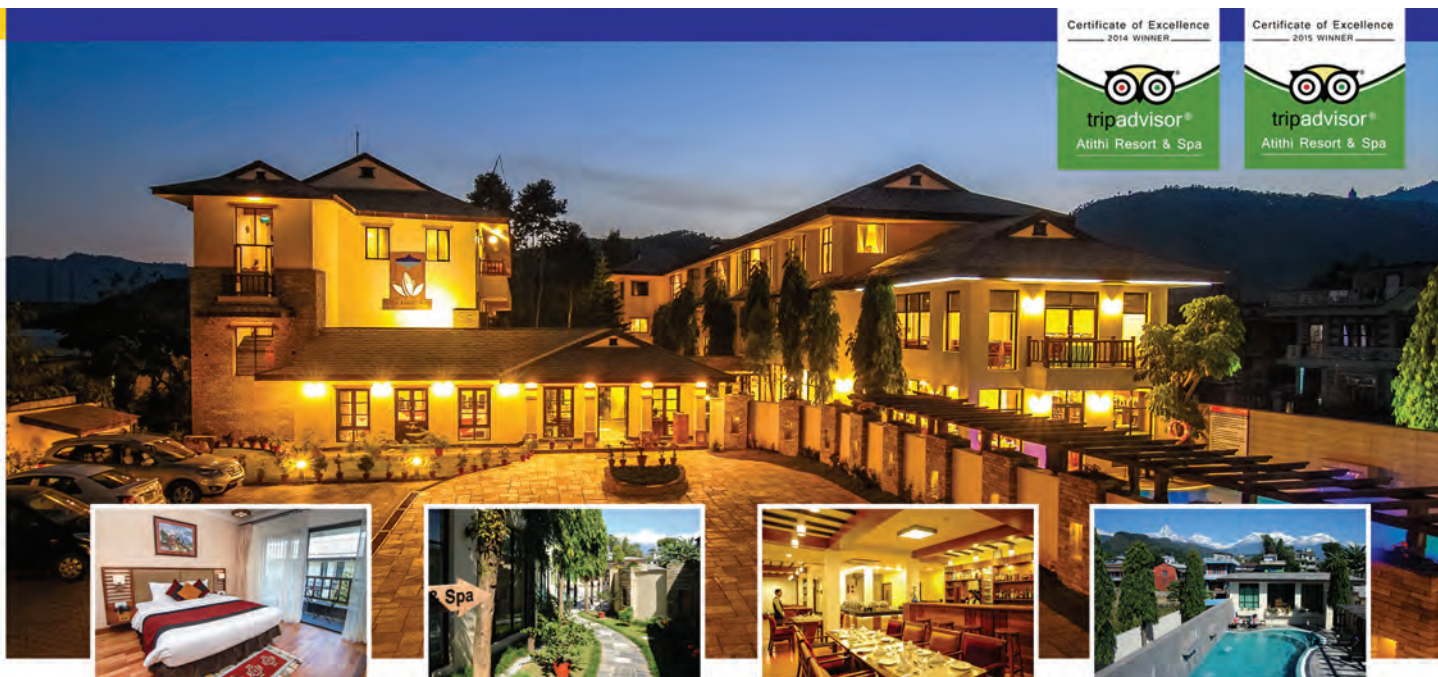


TODD KEATING

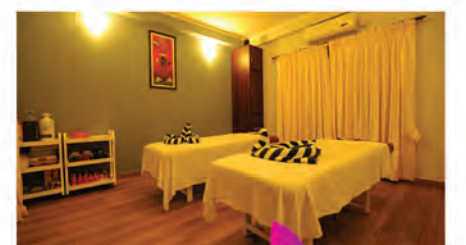
Khopra

Now that the road has nearly encircled the Annapurna Trail, one has to venture forth to places like Khopra which are protected by their remoteness. Mulde Peak and the ridge walk to Khopra from Ghorepani or Ghandruk is a memorable trek with scenery that is out of this world.

Time: One week



CAFFÈ
Italiano



LA SPA



ATITHI RESORT & SPA

Shanti Patan, Lakeside, Pokhara - 6, Email : info@atithiresort.com
Tel : 061 466760 / 466761 / 465895, www.atithiresort.com

Kathmandu Sales Office:
Lazimpath, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel : 01 4002077/4002078

EVENTS



KJC for Women

Special discounts for women on KJC's music lessons this Women's Day.
Offer valid till 15 March, Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory, Jhamsikhel, (01)5013554, info@katjazz.com.np

Master trumpet,

Master classes with trumpet player, arranger and composer from Germany, Jonas Winterhalter. Group workshop Rs 200, private class Rs 900 per hour.
26 February, 11am, Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory, Jhamsikhel, (01)5013554, info@katjazz.com.np



Lecture series,

A talk by editor and publisher Kanak Mani Dixit on 'Nepal: Which Way Forward?' organised by Cultural Studies Group of Nepal.
26 February, 9.30am, Dhokaima Cafe, Patan Dhoka, csgninkathmandu@gmail.com

Miniature Composite,

Learn how to plan, shoot and edit miniature composites with Sattya Media Arts Collective.
27 to 29 February, 11am to 3pm, Sattya Media Arts Collective, Jawalakhel, Course Fee: Rs 1700

Trade Expo,

A three-day trade expo organised by Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (FWEAN).



1-3 April, 10am to 5pm, Army Officer's Club, Bhadrakali, (01)2003080, www.fwean.org.np

Himalayan Rush,

Gear up for the fifth edition of the Himalayan Rush triathlon series and experience the thrill of trail running, cycling and fresh water swimming.
26 March, Begnas, Pokhara, (01)5550758/ (01)5550759



Asian Enduro Series,

An opportunity to ride on exciting terrains with the first Asian Enduro Series.
5 to 10 April, Kathmandu, Tickets available at www.enduro.asia

Japanese art,

Paintings, sculptures, installations, photographs and more by 11 Japanese artists celebrating Japan's art and culture.
27 February to 8 March, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Nepal Art Council, Babarmahal, (01) 4220735



#Nepalphoto,

A photo exhibition on tourism in Nepal by Min Ratna Bajracharya. (see page 7)
4 to 6 March, 10am to 5pm, Nepal Tourism Board, Pradarshini Marg, (01)4256909

MISS MOTI-VATION

KRIPA JOSHI



MUSIC

Rohit John Chettri Live,

Rohit John Chettri of the Bistarai fame performs live with Kiran Shahi, Subash Siwa, Suyog Sotang, and Pratik Baniya. Tickets: Rs 500 (including Chettri's album Bistarai and a bottle of beer)
26 February, 7.30pm, Moksh, Jhamsikhel, (01)5528362

Shahid Mallya Live

Enjoy soulful sufi and electronic music with Shahid Mallya and Elektro Sufi.
4 March, 7pm onwards, The Malla Hotel, Lainchaur, Kathmandu, 9813089163



Diwas Gurung & The Rungs,

Experience the unique blend of live acoustics and electronic music with Diwas Gurung and The Rungs.
27 February, 7pm to 10pm, 25 Hours, Tangal, Rs 500

Tribute to Linkin Park,

Lift your spirits as Underside & Friends pay tribute to Linkin Park as part of Phase IX of the Tribute Nepal Series. Tickets: Pre sales for Rs 400, Door sales for Rs 500.
5 March, 2pm onwards, Purple Haze Rock Bar, Thamel



Syndicate star,

Hum to the tunes of Syndicate with singing sensation Bipul Chettri.
5 March, 7pm onwards, The Victory Lounge, Darbar Marg, For bookings: 9801031277, 9802961570, 9801362313, 9801444055, 9813103771

DINING



Leap day dinner,

Celebrate this leap year's day at Hotel Yak & Yeti. Leaplings will enjoy a 50% discount on the leap day buffet dinner.
29 February, 6.30pm onwards, Hotel Yak & Yeti, Lajimpat, (01)4248999

The Terrace Garden,

A BBQ filled Friday and Saturday overlooking the cityscape only at Radisson Hotel. Enjoy the meal with a selection of desserts.
6 to 10pm, Radisson Hotel, Lajimpat, (01)4411818, Rs 1500 plus taxes per person including a 500ml can of Carlsberg Beer

Tasneem's Kings Kitchen,

A charming restaurant proposing the unique flavours of distinctive Bohra Muslim Food.
Jhamsikhel, 9801282727, (01)2239532

Shambala Garden Café,

Unwind with Hotel Shangri-La and enjoy a live performance by Ciney Gurung every Friday.
7pm onwards, Hotel Shangri-La, Lajimpat, (01) 4412999, Rs 2000 per person

GETAWAY



Atithi Resort,

A perfect place to stay, nearby pool, massage, sauna, and delicious food of your choice.
Shantipatan, Lakeside, Pokhara. (061)466760 / 400207, info@atithiresort.com

Terrace Garden

TG opens it's sunny terrace for business starting 01 March.

Weekend BBQ

Rs. 1500 plus taxes per person including a 500ml can of beer on Friday and Saturday from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Radisson

HOTEL KATHMANDU

Radisson Hotel Kathmandu, 4411818 - Ext. 1312

dumb. paani

किन दिलो?

smart. paani

आज चाहिंदैन!

- Rainwater Harvesting System
- BioSand Filter
- Greywater Recycling
- Wastewater Treatment System

smart paani

SmartPaani Pvt. Ltd.

GPO Box 13989, Campus Marg, Chakupat, Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur, Nepal
P: +977-1-5261530, 5260506
info@smartpaani.com
www.smartpaani.com

PROUD WINNER OF SURYA NEPAL ASHA SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD

YOUR FAVOURITE RESTAURANT OPENING SOON IN DURBAR MARG

ALICE RESTAURANT

A PLACE FOR FAMILY



BUILDING BETTER: Shree Janahit Lower Secondary School (*above*) in Banskharka VDC of Sindhupalchok was damaged during the April earthquake last year. Childreach Nepal and the Ministry of Education have teamed up with Miyamoto International to build 100 new earthquake resistant classrooms (*left*) in the district.

Lessons for the future

YUWEI LIEW

In last April's 7.8 magnitude earthquake that shook Nepal, Sindhupalchok was one of the worst hit areas, with the highest number of casualties reported in a single district. There were 3,557 deaths and an estimated 66,636 houses were destroyed or damaged, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, landslides blocked off the narrow roads leading to villages in the hills, hampering relief efforts.

However, some organisations have been working tirelessly to help the villagers rebuild their lives. Childreach Nepal and the Ministry of Education have teamed up to build a total of 100 earthquake-resistant classrooms in Sindhupalchok, sealed by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. Also assisting in the effort is Miyamoto International, a Japanese earthquake management company that is providing the technical expertise needed to construct the classrooms.

On 4 February, their collective efforts across diverse sectors came into fruition with the ceremonial handover of the first 20 completed classrooms to three schools in Banskharka VDC: Shree Bhim Bidya Ashram Secondary School, Shree Bal Bikash Primary School and Shree Janahit Lower Secondary School.

Each classroom can accommodate 60-80 students and has a lightweight steel framework designed to withstand shaking in the event of an earthquake. The exterior cladding of PVC-coated steel has a minimum lifespan of 30 years, and is insulated to be moisture-resistant, making it

suitable for Nepal's climate even during the monsoon season.

Already, attendance levels are picking up. Immediately after the earthquake, dropout rates soared to 32 per cent across the three schools, as securing access to food and water took precedence over attending lessons. Now, 400 out of the 500 students enrolled are back in the classrooms, with numbers expected to rise with the start of the new academic term in April.

The day after the handover

ceremony, a 5.5 magnitude aftershock swept through the Valley, with the epicenter in Sindhupalchok. But the newly

built classrooms passed their first test and remained standing, a testament to their sturdy design.

Earthquake rebuilding efforts should take a leaf from this successful collaboration, as it finds long lasting solutions in a region that is consistently hit

hard by disasters. Because of the use of durable materials and the sharing of strategies with experienced counterparts, international cooperation has proved to be a boon in getting children in Sindhupalchok back to schools. 🇳🇵

GOETHE-ZENTRUM
KATHMANDU

KOOPERATIONSPARTNER

GOETHE-
INSTITUT

Learn German

GZK and PASCH Project is looking for German Teachers. If you know German and want to teach, send your CV to goethektm@hotmail.com

www.goethe-kathmandu.edu.np

Get Opportunities

Tranquility Spa Pvt. Ltd., Lazimpat: 01-4420424, 01-4425386 | Kupondole: 01-5528125, 01-5548751 | Radisson Hotel: 01-4423888, 01-6200086
Thamel: 01-4218396, 01-4700248 | Hotel Shanker: 014410151 / 2 | Hotel Shangrila: 01-4412999 | Pokhara: 061-466260 / 1
Dhulikhel Mountain Resort: 011-490660 | TIBSA: 01-4430255 | E-mail: info@tranquilityspa.com.np | www.tranquilityspa.com.np | [f/Nepalesespa](https://www.facebook.com/8848vodka)

8848
VODKA

8848

IMPORTED

WORLD'S PUREST VODKA

www.8848vodka.com | [facebook.com/8848vodka](https://www.facebook.com/8848vodka)



STEVE JOBS

In the opening scene of *Steve Jobs* - Danny Boyle's unexpected, restrained, yet dynamic latest film, Arthur C. Clarke tells us in a black and white film reel that by 2001, computers will have evolved so much that we



MUST SEE
Sophia Pande

will be able to book our theatre tickets, speak to our families, and access our bank statement from our screens. Listening to him tell this to a bemused technician sounds so much like science fiction that we almost disbelieve the breadth and scope of his

prediction - the computer has evolved in such leaps and bounds over the last three decades that even though everything that Clarke has said has indeed come to pass, we cannot quite believe it. The personal computer, or PC, was already very much in the picture when this film about the visionary who created the Mac, *Steve Jobs* (Michael Fassbender), begins. Structured in a tightly written three act screenplay by none other than Aaron Sorkin, a brilliant screenwriter who is now Hollywood's go-to-person for biopics about famous personalities in the technological field (Sorkin also wrote *The Social Network* in 2010 about Mark Zuckerberg and the beginnings of Facebook), *Steve Jobs* begins in 1984, with Apple's first launch of the highly anticipated Macintosh computer. Riding on the swell of a hard won spot during the Superbowl, in a commercial that was the then

equivalent of a million likes on Facebook, Jobs is struggling with Andy Hertzfeld, an engineer who has just informed him that the new, cutting edge operating system will not be able to say 'Hello' to the crowd because it has unexpectedly crashed after a number of test runs. The film follows Jobs in scene after scene as he moves through the minutes before the launch, dealing with his closest colleagues, allies, his little daughter Lisa, whose paternity he refuses to acknowledge, guided ceaselessly by his marketing executive at Apple, and self-admitted work-wife, Joanna Hoffman (Kate Winslet) in an incessantly revealing film that exposes the very worst, and occasional best, behaviour of a brilliant but difficult man. While you may not be a part of the cult of Steve Jobs, and you may not even use a Mac, this film is more than just a biopic; it is a powerful, unflinching, and perhaps unnecessarily harsh character study of man who was instrumental in the evolution of the personal computer, remaining relevant, hated, and admired for over thirty years, until his tragic and untimely death in 2011 at the age of 56. Boyle, the incredible ensemble cast, and a tight, vibrant narrative that reveals without gimmicks make for a riveting, clever, and penetrating film about a visionary who left this world too soon at the height of his abilities.

nepalitimes.com
■ Trailer

RAYMOND WEIL

GENEVE

PRECISION IS MY INSPIRATION

SULUX CENTRE
SOLE DISTRIBUTOR & SERVICE CENTRE
Hotel Woodland Complex, Durbarmarg, Kathmandu, Nepal.

raymond-weil.com

HAPPENINGS



STATE VISIT: PM KP Oli being welcomed at the Gujarat airport on Tuesday where he stopped by to observe reconstruction works in the city of Bhuj as part of his six-day India visit. RSS



READING MATTER: UCPN(M) Chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal at a book launch in Kathmandu on Tuesday. RSS



GREEN ECONOMY: Chairperson of The Right Livelihood Award, Monika Griefahn delivers a speech at the 'Make Nepal Green' seminar on Monday in Kathmandu. GOPEN RAI



GOLDEN GIRL: Phupu Lhamu Khatri, who won the gold medal in Judo at the South Asian Games, is felicitated by Nepal Judo Association at Rangasala in Tripureshwor on Tuesday. GOPEN RAI



IN MEMORY: A visitor at an exhibition to commemorate the 25th death anniversary of singing maestro Narayan Gopal organised by Nepal Cultural Museum at Babar Mahal on Tuesday. GOPEN RAI

Why did the Madhes movement fail?

www.esamata.com, 22 February
क्षमता

After six months of an indefinite strike in Nepal's southern plains, five months of a sit-in at Birganj-Raxaul trade point and the deaths of more than 50 people, the Madhes movement seems to have died down without any substantial outcome. Though the movement was led by the Madhesi Front, there were other Madhes-based parties that were also on the streets protesting the new constitution. Madhesi leader Jaya Prakash Gupta outlines 10 mistakes the Front made that led to the failure of the movement.

1) Madhesi people wanted to see all Madhesi parties fighting together for their cause, but the Front did not want to join hands with other political forces, including the Tarai Madhes National Campaign.

2) Even when Madhesi protesters were being killed, the Front leaders were more interested in joining the government rather than pressing for the demands raised by Madhesi people.
3) The Front was late to announce the strike. It should have hit the streets right after the signing of the 16-point agreement.
4) Legislators belonging to the Front walked out of the house when the

constitution was passed. But they rejected the idea of resigning en masse to create more pressure on the Big Three.

- 5) The Front rejected the constitution, but ended up taking part in the voting of the new Prime Minister, which was the first step towards implementing the constitution.
6) The Front wanted to restrict its agitation to the area between Parsa and Saptari districts, fearing that other forces might receive credit if it spearheaded the movement across the Tarai.
7) India has always been a key player in Nepali politics, but the Front failed to reach out to New Delhi for support at the outset of the agitation.
8) The Front leaders were self-centered and constantly tried to

outsmart each other to take full credit for the uprising.
9) The Front leaders tried to cash in on the rivalry between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar leader Lalu Prasad Yadav. Taking part in anti-Modi programs organised by Yadav's party in Bihar was the height of stupidity.
10) The Front tried to suppress other Madhesi forces, which did not help the agitation.

Tatopani dries up

www.onlinekhabar.com, 23 February
onlinekhabar

Tatopani Bazar, a major financial hub near the border crossing between Nepal and China, still remains closed ten months after the April 2015 earthquake. China has already removed its customs office from Khasa because of geological instability stemming from the earthquake.

"We have requested our Chinese counterparts several times to open the customs at Tatopani," says Director General of Department of Customs Sishir Kumar Dhungana. "When the custom officer of Lhasa came to Kathmandu, we had agreed on initiating the opening of Tatopani. But there has been no progress."

Dhungana says that unless a



seismological study of Khasa is conducted, there is no chance that China will reopen the area for business. Chinese officials have indicated that if their anticipated study finds that the region is vulnerable to earthquakes, the area might be shut down permanently.

However till date, the Nepali government has not been notified of any study being carried out by China in the region. In response to the delay, Nepal has also shut down its customs office following China's withdrawal.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has appointed a committee to discuss this critical issue with China at a diplomatic level. "When the Minister of Foreign Affairs

visited China, there had been an agreement to open Tatopani," says spokesperson Tara Prasad Pokharel.

According to customs officers, had Tatopani been operating regularly, it would have collected Rs 5 billion in revenue in the past 10 months.

Dhungana states that Rasuwagadhi, another border point with China, has benefitted from Tatopani's closure. Nonetheless, couriers are reluctant to use this route as an alternative for imports due to poor road conditions.

Since the blockade was lifted, most imports from China have now been rerouted through Kolkata in India.

GOETHE-ZENTRUM
KATHMANDU

KOOPERATIONSPARTNER

GOETHE-
INSTITUT

Learn German

Admission new A1 courses from 29 Feb. to 4 March
New courses start 28 March
All informations are available in our website

www.goethe-kathmandu.edu.np

Get Opportunities

HONEY - ONE TEASPOON DAILY FOR A FITTER YOU.

STAY FIT,
FEEL YOUNG.

Goodness of Honey

Deemed as a top health food across the globe, honey is a wonderful creation. The health properties of this thick golden liquid have been valued since ages. For anyone who wishes to lead a healthy lifestyle, honey must become an important component of their diet. The most convenient way to do that is starting your day with a warm glass of water and mixing Dabur Honey in it. As per Ayurveda, honey is known to increase metabolism and if consumed with lemon in the morning before breakfast it helps to manage weight. Honey is also known to be a natural healer, as it fights infection and aids tissue healing. It is also known

to reduce inflammation and scarring. If you're feeling sleeplessness, then mix honey with warm milk and have it before sleeping. It is known to make you feel relaxed and rested, and get you a good night's sleep. It's not just the adults who benefit from these golden drops. If your kids seem to feel lethargic throughout the day, or lack energy, then give them toasts with honey

for their day breaks. It will enable them to stay energetic and active throughout the day.

So, honey has all the goodness in the world: from being a healthy addition to your diet, to providing energy to the body, to increasing your metabolic system, and even working as an antioxidant. Love honey in all its glory and imbibe it as a part of your daily lifestyle for a healthy life. If old is gold, then honey is the treasure we've been handed over for generations. For anyone who wishes to lead a healthy lifestyle, honey must become an important component of their diet. There's really more to it than just a diet-friendly ingredient.

What people are not aware of is that it is an important ingredient for preventing illnesses and remedial for other health/medical conditions. Honey is a natural ingredient that possesses anti-bodies properties unlike sugar. While it has been recommended to stay away from sugar for patients, one must not stay sugar free. Hence, a honey diet is recommended. There are studies that suggest regarding the treatment of various organs honey is a good agent that aids patient's

recovery. It appears that honey is an intelligent food item that is selectively toxic to weak or harmful cells and

non-cytotoxic to normal cells. Honey aids in

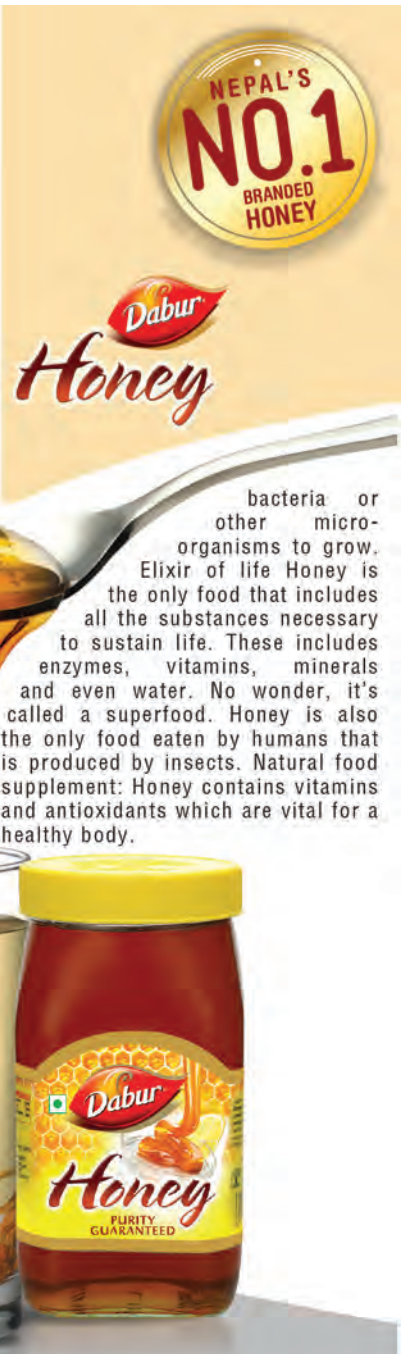
combating common ailments like headaches, cuts and bruises, burns, acne and pimples, dry skin, nausea, dizziness and more. For instance, one must chew honeycomb to calm down a severe hay fever. The Chinese believe that consuming honey drink helps reduce

the heat in the body. Honey and lemon juice is considered beneficial to battle obesity. It is so, because honey mobilises extra deposited fat, and the body utilizes it as energy. Honey is your best friend, especially if you are a foodie! A spoonful of this tasty golden liquid after a heavy and oily meal will

wonders for your digestive system. It also works as a great detox tonic.

Honey does not go bad. Yes, it's true! Honey is probably the only food that does not get spoilt over time.

The unique chemical composition of low water content and relatively high acid level in honey creates an environment unfavourable for



bacteria or other micro-organisms to grow. Elixir of life Honey is the only food that includes all the substances necessary to sustain life. These includes enzymes, vitamins, minerals and even water. No wonder, it's called a superfood. Honey is also the only food eaten by humans that is produced by insects. Natural food supplement: Honey contains vitamins and antioxidants which are vital for a healthy body.

THE VERTICAL

From Koshi Tappu to Kangchenjunga, this unique biodiversity conservation and learning region will stretch 8km into the sky

RAJEEV GOYAL AND PRIYANKA BISTA

Two years ago, we proposed the Koshi Tappu to Kangchenjunga Belt (KTK-BELT) to provide a continuous forest corridor in a 'vertical university' to conserve Eastern Nepal's rich biodiversity.

The region rises from Koshi Tappu (67m), Nepal's first RAMSAR site and largest aquatic bird reserve, to Mt Kangchenjunga (8,586m), the third tallest peak in the world and home to more than 6,600 flowering plants, 1,200 gymnosperms, 800 bird species and 180 kinds of mammals. The goal is to help restore the ecological connectivity between the mountains and plains.

The eastern region of Nepal comprises one of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots, with more species than most places in the world – a physical heterogeneity associated with the Himalayan range which has 118 forest types and 27 important bird areas (IBAs).

The 'vertical university' was born out of the simple proposition that with Nepal's exceptional diversity from the plains to the Himalaya, conventional education where students sit behind the four walls of a classroom, disconnected from their surroundings, make little sense. The 'teachers' in the vertical university may not hold a Masters degree or even have set foot in school, but as local farmers, they possess intricate, intergenerational knowledge about local fauna and flora.



PADAM GHALE



NIRMAN SHRESTHA

A greener world

It was always important for Nepal to have environmentally-sustainable development, but there is an added sense of urgency because of the earthquake and blockade as the country rebuilds.

Which is why self-reliance and renewable energy development were key themes of the 'Make Nepal Green' conference in Kathmandu this week.

The conference piggybacks on a reunion of recipients of the The Right Livelihood Award (also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize) that recognises individuals who have pioneered groundbreaking solutions to national problems. It was first presented in Sweden in 1980, with subsequent awardees in fields such as environmental protection,



GOPEN RAI

human rights, sustainable development, education and health.

Shrikrishna Upadhyay, himself the first Nepali recipient of the award in 2010, hosted the event. He was honoured for a lifetime of work on micro-credit and rural development through his NGO, Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal (SAPPROS).

"It is a great honour for us to be holding this conference, and our Kathmandu Declaration will

send out a strong message that being green is not an alternative anymore, it is a mainstream concept," Upadhyay said.

Also present was noted Chinese solar entrepreneur, Huang Ming (*pic. above*) who won the Right Livelihood Award in 2011. Recipients like the Ladakh Ecological Development Group and the Seikatsu Club Consumer's Cooperative of Japan were also represented.

"If China develops with the

same energy-intensive economic model as the West, we would need the natural resources of five planets to sustain it," Huang told *Nepali Times* in an interview at the sidelines of the conference. "The future is in decentralised solar systems that address wastage of energy as well as renewable energy generation."

Huang Ming's Hi-min Company manufactures and promotes stand-alone solar systems for homes, hotels, businesses with the motto 'Blue Sky for Our Children'. He is worried about deteriorating air quality in cities across Asia, including Kathmandu and says this calls for a paradigm shift in government policy for economic growth.

"Energy saving is not about saving money, it is about saving lives," Huang Ming said.

Also attending the conference was Monica Griefahn, former member of the German parliament from the Green Party and currently Chair of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation. She said she was very happy to

bring Right Livelihood laureates to Kathmandu.

"The key to self-reliance is participation of people in decision-making in a democracy," Griefahn said, "and that can only happen when the public puts pressure on government and parliament to implement green policies that benefit communities in the longterm."

The conference also heard success stories of community-based efforts, like those introduced by SAPPROS in Nepal, to achieve sustainable infrastructure development, employment, income generation and public awareness, keeping hundreds of thousands of people in rural Nepal gainfully employed.

On the second day of the conference, Huang revealed upcoming plans for solar projects in Nepal. The entrepreneur, who showcased innovative solar products during the seminar, said the plans would serve the needs of the rural poor and social entrepreneurs. 
Liew Yu Wei

UNIVERSITY

KTG BELT: Kangchenjunga from the north.

A view of Banpala community forest in the upper BELT, one of the many large community forests safeguarded in Yangshila by village ancestors.

A fisherman in Bhaisetaar on the Koshi.

The vertical university will deepen skills in sustainable technology, craft, and medicinal plants, and seeks to conserve and activate local knowledge while also creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. It does this through ‘learning grounds’, which are micro-conservation hubs and the

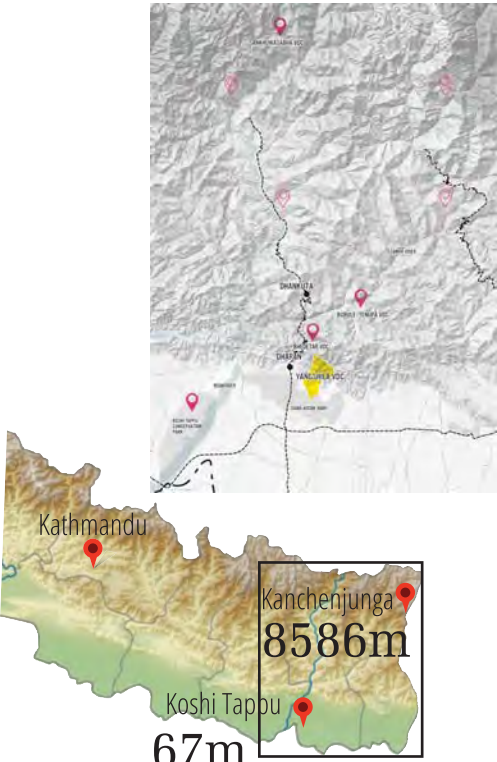
‘classrooms’ of the university at different elevations in the landscape.

With public attention focused on post-earthquake reconstruction, crippling fuel shortages, border strikes, the hills and the Tarai are being torn apart, why should anyone care about deforestation? With the huge demand for wood, one could even contend that without cutting millions of additional trees, those rural farmers at the bottom of the economic ladder will remain hungry and homeless. To understand why deforestation lies at the heart of Nepal’s current social, political and economic challenges, one must look towards what caused it in the first place.

The absence of sustainable economic

alternatives has led to ‘land plotting’, where large swaths of forested land are purchased, divided up and sold as smaller plots for a profit. Inadequate material and financial support for farmers has resulted in people having no choice but to turn towards logging, sand mining, rock excavation and other unsustainable practices for survival. The lack of pragmatic, land-based education for Nepali children and youth has resulted in a lack of awareness about the place-based livelihood opportunities inherent in the forest. And the lack of support for agro-forestry has resulted in conversion of forest into agriculture or built settlement.

Even as Nepal loses its forest cover,



however, between 1998-2008, 353 new species were discovered in the Himalaya. The tragedy of this is that some species will go extinct without having been discovered.

The vertical university could be replicated also in earthquake affected districts, and serve as a model for a new approach to post-disaster regeneration and resilience by linking habitats and people place-based education, conservation and livelihood hubs. 

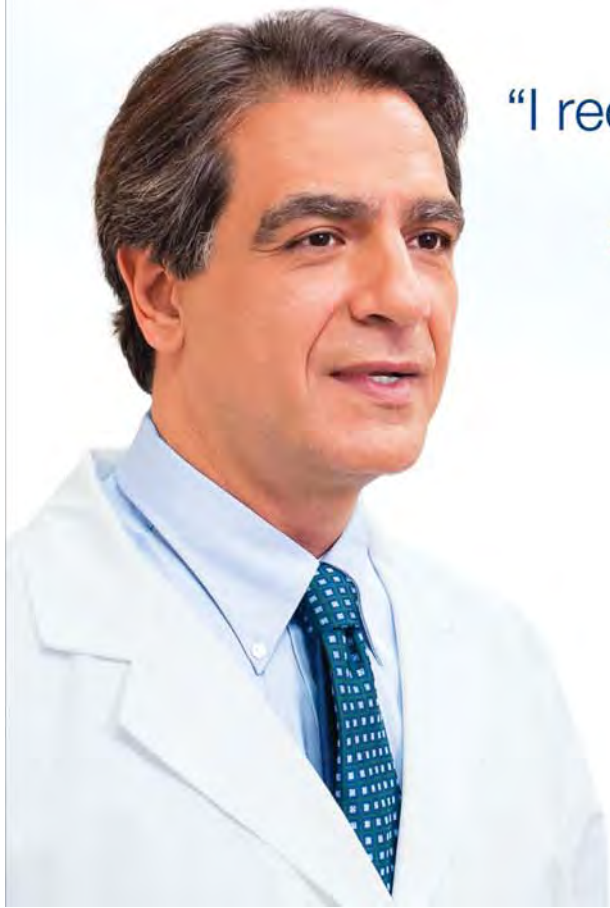
Former Peace Corps Volunteer Rajeev Goyal and Canadian Architect Priyanka



RAJEEV GOYAL

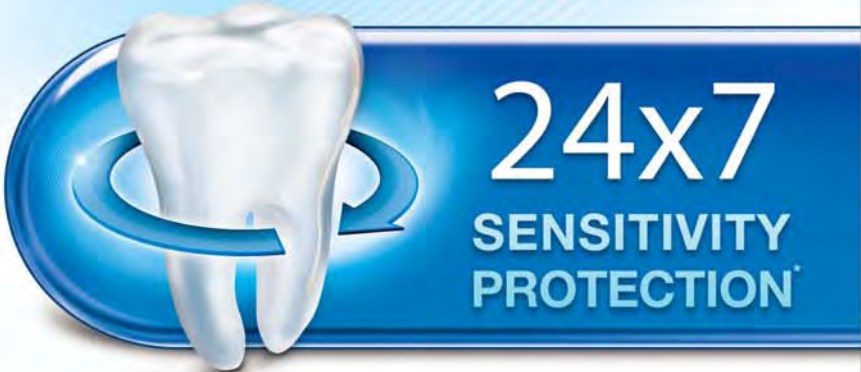
KICKSTARTING V.U

The prototype Vertical University Kickstarter was started last month to raise \$100,000. Funds will support the creation of an educational plant trail where more than 600 local species will be tagged, an agrodiversity seed bank, and a bird conservation zone. More than 240 people from around the world have since joined the campaign and contributed \$101,693. www.theverticaluniversity.org

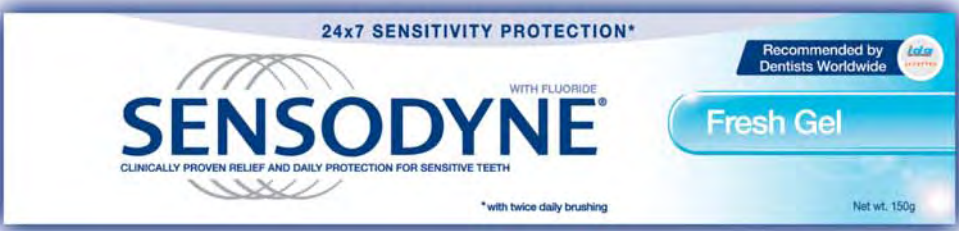


“I recommend Sensodyne for all day every day sensitivity protection.”

-Dr. Spiro Condos, dentist practicing in the US



24x7 SENSITIVITY PROTECTION



24x7 SENSITIVITY PROTECTION*

SENSODYNE WITH FLUORIDE

CLINICALLY PROVEN RELIEF AND DAILY PROTECTION FOR SENSITIVE TEETH

Recommended by Dentists Worldwide

Fresh Gel

*with twice daily brushing

Net wt. 150g

World's No.1 Sensitivity Toothpaste

*Brush twice daily for continuous protection



© 2014, GlaxoSmithKline. Sensodyne is a trademark of GlaxoSmithKline group of companies.

Mao chic

Even as we mark the 20th anniversary of the start of the Mau-Mau war and the 10th anniversary of its end next month, there is a sense of nostalgia among some that we as a nation couldn't even blockade the country ourselves anymore, we needed the Indians to do it for us.

Gone are the glory days when Kathmandu Valley would be under a Maoist siege for weeks on end. There were highway ambushes, skirmishes, petrol tankers blown up with landmines and nothing got through. This gave the citizens of the capital really good rehearsal in coping with shortages, which is why we were so well prepared for the Bharatiya blockade when it happened. We'd seen it all before.

Speaking of which, it looks like the Indians have learnt well from our Baddies how to organise blockades. The agitators in Haryana who are blockading the Indian capital and the SSB which blockaded Nepal for five months just borrowed from Mao's book on how to turn the screws. Which is why it is so painful for Nepali nationalists to witness the downfall of the once-fearsome ex-gorillas who fought ruthlessly for the liberation of we the people.

Today, Nepalis are forced to be underwhelmed by a feeling of nostalgia for the halcyon days when the end justified the means, when the Mao Buddies furthered the cause of the proletariat by purging the bourgeoisie and working for the downfall of running dog capitalists and their imperialist henchmen and henchwomen.

The comrades followed Mao by the book in those days, taking very seriously his famous dictum that “you can’t make an



omelet without first counting the chickens before they are hatched". No revolution can be brought to its logical conclusion without the sayings of the Great Helmsperson, which is why the comrades took very seriously other Mao dittaks as follows:

- “A revolution is not a dinner party, it is an orgy”
- “Political power flows out of double barrels of whiskey”
- “War is politics with the bloodshed of the toiling masses”
- “Let a hundred flowers bloom before we pluck them”
- “The people are the sea, and

revolutionaries are fishy”

- “The party can’t advance without making mistakes, and we intend to make many more of them”
- “All reactionaries are paper tigers with aphrodisiac properties”
- “A thousand mile journey begins with the first national shutdown.”

Mao must be turning in his Maosoleum and shaking his head looking at how we have abandoned the Great Leap Forward into the Deep Abyss as his Nepali protégés walk away into the sunset. The Ass has just been perusing *The Collected Works of Mao Zedong* (4th Volume, Foreign Language

Press, Peking, 1970, 155 pages) where the Great Helmsman reiterates the Three Main Rules of Discipline and the Eight Points for Attention. For anyone who wants to know when our own Baddies deviated from Mao's straight and narrow, they just have to read this section (with Ass' asides in brackets):

Instruction of the General Headquarters of the Chinese People's Liberation Army October 10 ,1947

The Three Main Rules of Discipline are as follows:

1. Obey orders in all your actions (except when there are exceptions)
2. Don't take a single needle from the masses (poke them with it in the haystack)
3. Turn in everything captured (you mean even these cool Nikes?)

The Eight Points for Attention are as follows:

1. Speak politely (yeah, sure, thank you)
 2. Pay fair for what you buy (in kind?)
 3. Return everything you borrow (don't steal, just "borrow")
 4. Pay for anything you damage (yeah, whatever)
 5. Don't hit or swear at people (take that, you royal reactionary mongrel)
 6. Don't damage crops (loot them)
 7. Don't take liberties with women (liberate 'em)
 8. Don't ill treat captives (eliminate them)
- 
- The As**



The Ass

INTRODUCING THE ALL NEW

DASH

With a host of very interesting features for the interesting generation, the all new Hero Dash is a feature-packed ride that is sure to add a dash of excitement in your everyday life.

GET SET DASH

POWERFUL 111CC ENGINE

EXTERNAL PETROL LID

MOBILE CHARGING SOCKET

ALWAYS HEADLIGHT ON

EURO 3 COMPLIANT

LX Rs. 167,500

VX Rs. 171,500

Nepal General Marketing Pvt. Ltd.
 PO Box 133, Jyoti Bhawan 1911, Kantipath, Kathmandu, Nepal
 Phone: 01 4225377, 4104540, 4248949
 Fax: 01 4212415, Finance: 01 4261770
 Toll Free No.: NTC: 16600122033, Ncell: 9801571023
 Email: customercare@ngmhero.com, www.ngmhero.com
www.facebook.com/ngmheromotocorp

**ON EVERY PURCHASE
Don't forget your
FREE HERO HELMET**

**अब ९ वर्षको वारेण्टीको साथमा
९ वटा फ्री सर्विस***

Kathmandu Valley Balkumari 5006184 • Banepa 661981 • Bhaktapur 6613112 • Buddhabari 4104540, 4104541 • Gathaghar 6638444 • Gyaneshwor 4428970 • Kantipath 4225377, 4266517 • Kumaripati 5004103 • Maharajgunj 4373514 • Nayabazar 4361786 • Putalisadak 4435155 • Ravibhavan 2290970 • Swoyambhu 4289737

Outside of Valley Attaria 551244 • Baglung 520174 • Bharatpur 526697 • Bardibas 550552 • Bhairahawa 523930 • Bhairahawa 524290 • Biratnagar 545227 • Biratnagar 463754 • Biratnagar 536896 • Birgunj 526894 • Birgunj 529667 • Birtamode 543248 • Butwal 542725 • Chandranigahapur 540739 • Damak 581463 • Damauli 560477 • Dang 560262 • Dhangadi 417115 • Dharan 526522 • Gaidakot 502399 • Gaighat 420032 • Gaur 521109 • Golbazar 540327 • Gorkha 420560 • Guleria 420608 • Hetauda 525386 • Inaruwa 561498 • Itahari 587580 • Jaleshor 521095 • Janakpur 523644 • Kalaiya 551526 • Kapilbastu 550160 • Kawsoti 541001 • Kohalpur 540280 • Lahan 562202 • Lalbandi 501628 • Mahendranagar 520745 • Malangawa 521711 • Mirchaya 550803 • Narayanghat 532255 • Nawalparasi 521002 • Nepalgunj 551598 • Parsa 583199 • Pokhara 535444 • Pokhara 539389 • Pyuthan 460464 • Rajbiraj 523542 • Siraha 520442 • Surkhet 525196 • Surunga 551010 • Tikapur 560426 • Tulsipur 520808 • Waling 440610

CDO Regd No 194/056/57 Lalitpur, Central Region Postal Regd. No 09/066/19