


FURNITURE LAND STORE
www.furnitureland.com.np

 bedroom	 living room	 dining	 office	 garden
Tripureshwar 4-224797	Maitighar 4-266372	Maharajgunj 4-016277	Chabahil 4-481902	Pokhara 61-536596

0% Financing Options NOW Available

Trial balloons

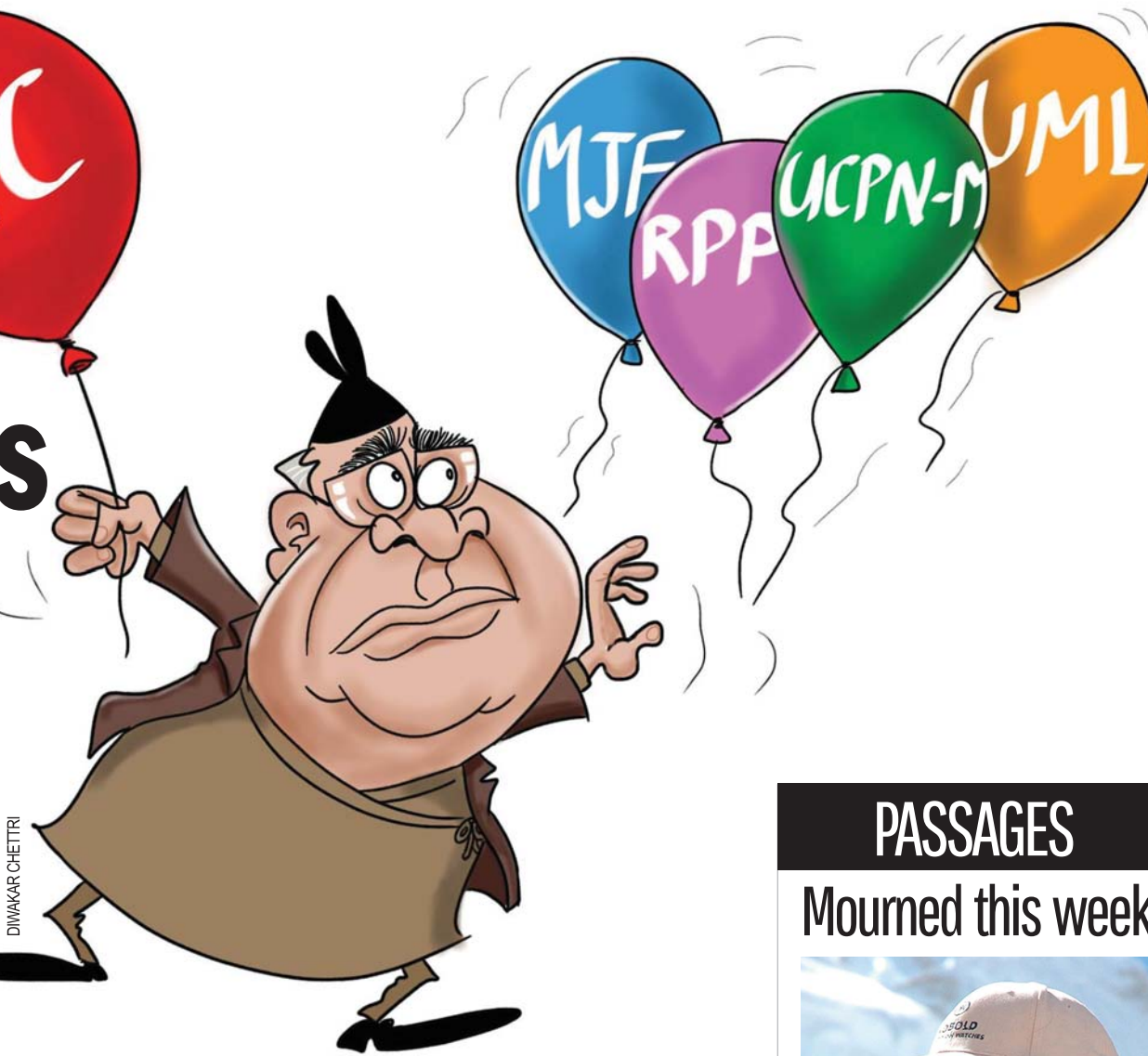
As protests over the Second Amendment to the Constitution continued for a second consecutive day on Thursday, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal tried to persuade Madhesi leaders to go along and prepare for local elections.

Madhesi leaders not only rejected Dahal's proposal but also threatened to disrupt elections if the bill was pushed through without their consent. The Maoist-NC coalition will fail to secure two-thirds majority to pass the bill without the Madhesi support. The main opposition UML has been even more vocal in criticising the bill, disrupting House proceedings on Thursday and also carrying out protests, particularly in west Nepal.

The Tarai Madhes Democratic Party (TMPD) leader Laxman Lal Karna said that inserting Sunsari, Morang, Jhapa in the east and Kailali and Kanchanpur in Far West into Tarai-only provinces is still his party's bottomline. "Until we get these districts, we will not go for elections," he told *Nepali Times* on Thursday.

Dahal is still hoping that Madhesi parties will eventually support the bill, probably after a few corrections in its content. If he wins over Madhesi support, the newly unified RPP and other fringe parties could also come on board, enabling the Maoist-NC coalition to secure a two-thirds majority.

NC President Sher Bahadur Deuba is confident that the UML too will support the bill if the



DIVAKAR CHETTRI

top three parties reach a deal to endorse the impeachment motion against the CIAA Chief Lokman Singh Karki, which is still being debated in Parliament. There are powerful NC leaders who are not backing Deuba on impeachment, but he may need this card to strike a deal with the UML over the constitution amendment. It was the UML that initiated the impeachment motion after learning that Karki was about to go after its leaders.

India did not welcome Nepal's constitution and backed Madhesi protests last year, but has sent positive signals about the amendment. This could be the main reason the UML is unwilling to amend the charter under which five hill districts which were in Province 4 have been grafted to Province 5. Now Nepal has two Tarai-only federal provinces. Last year, during the constitution making process, the UML had presented a similar federal map in

the Political Dialogue Committee of the Constituent Assembly (CA).

Naya Shakti Party Chair Baburam Bhattarai, who was the President of that CA committee, has slammed the UML, saying it claimed to be 'nationalist' when it proposed two Tarai-only provinces in Madhes but is now dubbing others 'anti-nationalist' for floating a similar idea.

UML leader Bishnu Rimal, a close confidante of the party Chair KP Oli, retorted: "That was then. That was one of the many ideas we floated. If that idea works now, why was it not accepted when we were in power?"

The UML is suspicious that India is pushing the second amendment bill to fragment Nepal. "The second amendment is part of a conspiracy to divide Nepal," he told *Nepali Times*. "They first create two Tarai-only provinces, then the five disputed plains districts will be separated from hill provinces and eventually the Madhes will be separated." 🇳🇵

Om Astha Rai

PASSAGES

Mourned this week



THUNDU SHERPA

Died while climbing on Ama Dablam when the 5.3 M earthquake on the morning of 28 November brought blocks of ice crashing down on mountaineers.



ALEXANDER MAXIMOV

Killed when his light plane crashed while towing a glider in Kaski.

PAGE 8-9


LAVAZZA
 ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE



Red Onion Bistro - Kamaladi
Lakpa Chulok - Jhamsikhel
For Further Information Mail to :
lavazza@subhashingalini.com

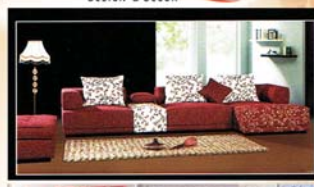
CREATE YOUR "OWN" ENVIRONMENT

Divine Wines



For Trade Inquiry | Ph.: 01-4032624 | Mob.: 9801215111

Step in for more varieties at
LIFE STYLE
 DESIGN & DECOR



Show Rooms: SRD Building
New Plaza, Patalsadak, Te-4425402


cello



for life ...


TRANQUILITY SPA
 "Balancing Body, Mind and Spirit"

☎ 01-4420424
www.tranquilityspa.com.np



The most convenient way to book your ticket

Book online and pay cash. Qatar Airways offers the flexibility to book online and pay offline. Within 48 hours of making your reservation on qatarairways.com, you can either pay online or by visiting Qatar Airways office at Hattisar, Kathmandu.

Check-in online 36 hours prior to departure, skip the queue and save time at the airport.

Download our mobile app for greater convenience with each journey; book flights, check flight status or check-in on the go.

For more information and to book your tickets:

🌐 Visit qatarairways.com 📞 Call us on +977 1 4440467

 **QATAR AIRWAYS** 
 AIRWAYS القطرية
 GOING PLACES TOGETHER

KAKISTOCRACY

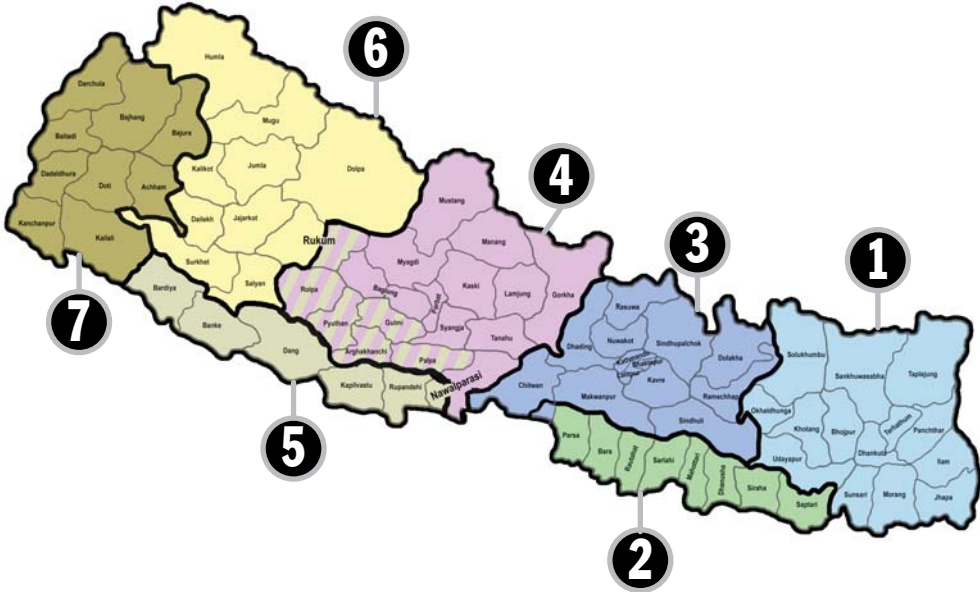
‘Government by the most incompetent elements of society’

The Cabinet’s endorsement of the Second Amendment to the Constitution has left no one happy. Not even its chief architect, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, sounds content. Like all compromises, the seven changes don’t satisfy anyone in Nepal’s zero-sum politics where the kakistocrats are used to winners taking all.

The opposition UML, still smarting from having being removed from power in a coup in August, is angling for revenge and has decided not to make it easy for the Maoist-Centre’s Pushpa Kamal Dahal to sit easily on the Prime Minister’s chair. The Nepali Congress, wavering as always, is not even able to convince its rank and file about the wisdom of backing the amendment. Defence Minister Bal Krishna Khand of the Congress, is openly critical of the amendment, especially the plan to chop his district in half. The Madhesis are divided about whether to back the Amendments, but they cannot be happy with the fact that their original demand for a single Madhes province spanning the Tarai has now been watered down to such an extent that it is unrecognisable. Prime Minister Dahal himself looks war weary, and prefers to issue directives to bureaucrats and hobnob with Indian godmen-tycoons.

The anger is spreading, especially in the five districts of the mid-western mountains which have been shunted around like pieces in a game of Chinese Checkers. The UML has been the most vocal opponent of this move to take out five districts from Province 5, and fuse them into Province 4. This is the UML’s heartland and the party sees it as a Maoist-NC ploy to dilute its vote bank. Others consider it as a strategic outside move to keep the plains and hills separate, and to cut off access of the central mountains to the Indian border.

Why does Province 5, which Dahal has informally



put forward as a lollipop for the Tharu community, not include Kailali and Kanchanpur -- the districts with the highest concentrations of West Tharus? Actually we know the answer: because the NC’s Sher Bahadur Deuba would have none of it. Deuba has also insisted that Kailali and Kanchanpur remain in his Province 7 stronghold and not in a Tarai province. In the east, the dispute over the fate of Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari which deadlocked negotiations on the amendments for most of 2016 is mysteriously not an issue any more, again because they are the vote banks of powerful local politicians.

The other six points in the amendment concern the relaxation of rules on naturalised citizenship for foreign wives of Nepali nationals, recognising as official languages those spoken by a majority in a province, and determining the number of representatives from each province in the federal Upper House. Mixing populism and vote bank politics with

boundaries and languages can be volatile in an unstable transitional democracy like ours. But nothing seems to deter our male kakistocrats from being narrow-minded and short-sighted.

It is clear that the amendments are more about gaining an upper hand in present power politics and ensuring future electoral vote banks, than an effort to address the real demands of the Madhesi and other marginalised communities for autonomy. The Madhesi parties are on a permanent agitation mode and are keeping their radical options open with an eye on cashing in on disenchantment with the constitution for local and provincial elections next year.

To be sure, the reason the amendments look watered down could be because Dahal was trying to appease the UML and keeping its coalition partners in the Nepali Congress happy, while showing the Madhesi parties and India that he has tried his best to push the

amendments through. In doing so, however, he appears to have antagonised everyone. It is unlikely that the amendment that has been registered will get the necessary two-thirds majority in Parliament without the UML, the second largest party in Parliament, on board.

The long and short of it is that such arbitrary and inconclusive amendments, instead of steering the country finally towards stability and prosperity, will keep us tangled in day-to-day politics. It will polarise Nepali society further, and make local, provincial and federal parliament elections even more difficult to hold before the 21 January 2018 deadline. The only solution is for the Maoist-NC coalition to sit down one more time with the UML and Madhesi parties to hammer out a sustainable and meaningful agreement on setting aside intractable disputes for now, and conduct free and fair elections. At the moment that sounds like a tall order.

Times

THIS WEEK

DINESH SHRESTHA

Most reached on Facebook
Shadowing Prachanda by Shreejana Shrestha
A photographer's pictorial documentation of Pushpa Kamal Dahal from revolutionary to two-time prime minister. (4,455 people reached)

Most shared on Facebook
Freedom is not free by Smriti Basnet

Most popular on Twitter
Pencilling in Kathmandu by Niels Gutschow (23 retweets, 49 likes)

Most commented
Shadowing Prachanda by Shreejana Shrestha

Most visited online page
Shadowing Prachanda by Shreejana Shrestha

YOUR SAY

www.nepalitimes.com

VISHNUMATI

Cleaning rivers like Bagmati and Vishnumati is not as difficult as people portray it to be ('The ecology of worship', #834, Rajani Maharjan). The pollution is recent, dating back maybe 40-50 years and compared to a river like Danube which passes through several countries, the actual polluted part of Bagmati is way too small and only limited within the Valley. It should be an easy task. The only thing missing, apart from the funds, is the political will. Maybe if government officials spend more time planning this than constructing an exotic walkway along the river bank then we can have a clean Bagmati/Vishnumati in no time!

Ravi Bajracharya

WOMEN FREEDOM

What Wasfia has done is commendable, and I'm sure it has inspired many women around the world ('Freedom is not free', #834, Smriti Basnet). However, I feel just this and setting up an organisation is not enough to uplift the status of women in the society. For as long as we know, Nepali women have been scaling Everest, not once but several times. It

has received wide accolades and media attention but all is temporary. It has not ushered in the kind of 'change' in perception. Yes, we need to encourage them to take up sports and activities but at the same time we also need to educate them.

Swati Gurung

PRACHANDA

The world knows about Pushpa Kamal Dahal's journey from revolution to two-time Prime Minister ('Shadowing Prachanda', #834, Shreejana Shrestha). The load shedding of Kathmandu Valley ended in his tenure, hats off! Now his utmost priority should be providing shelter to the earthquake victims. This is a real chance for him to prove that serving people is his first priority. But there is no sign that he will succeed.

Bhavna Nepali

JUSTICE-IN-CHIEF

We need to adopt the US model where Chief Justices can stay until their demise ('Justice-in-chief', #834, Binita Dahal). The terms of CJs in Nepal are almost at par with tenure of prime minister and ministers.

Ram Chaudhary

Mahesh Paudel @mpoudyal
Just for a photo-op? Let's see him take a bus everyday or cycle to work!

Amulya R Tuladhar @AmulyaSir
I welcome this!! Part of the Solution. Let us register how UML is a minority stand and isolated de jure.

Mahesh Paudel @mpoudyal
Just for a photo-op? Let's see him take a bus everyday or cycle to work!

Amulya R Tuladhar @AmulyaSir
I welcome this!! Part of the Solution. Let us register how UML is a minority stand and isolated de jure.

Mahesh Paudel @mpoudyal
Just for a photo-op? Let's see him take a bus everyday or cycle to work!

Amulya R Tuladhar @AmulyaSir
I welcome this!! Part of the Solution. Let us register how UML is a minority stand and isolated de jure.

Mahesh Paudel @mpoudyal
Just for a photo-op? Let's see him take a bus everyday or cycle to work!

Amulya R Tuladhar @AmulyaSir
I welcome this!! Part of the Solution. Let us register how UML is a minority stand and isolated de jure.

Mahesh Paudel @mpoudyal
Just for a photo-op? Let's see him take a bus everyday or cycle to work!

Amulya R Tuladhar @AmulyaSir
I welcome this!! Part of the Solution. Let us register how UML is a minority stand and isolated de jure.

Mahesh Paudel @mpoudyal
Just for a photo-op? Let's see him take a bus everyday or cycle to work!

Amulya R Tuladhar @AmulyaSir
I welcome this!! Part of the Solution. Let us register how UML is a minority stand and isolated de jure.

Mahesh Paudel @mpoudyal
Just for a photo-op? Let's see him take a bus everyday or cycle to work!

Amulya R Tuladhar @AmulyaSir
I welcome this!! Part of the Solution. Let us register how UML is a minority stand and isolated de jure.

Mahesh Paudel @mpoudyal
Just for a photo-op? Let's see him take a bus everyday or cycle to work!

Amulya R Tuladhar @AmulyaSir
I welcome this!! Part of the Solution. Let us register how UML is a minority stand and isolated de jure.

Mahesh Paudel @mpoudyal
Just for a photo-op? Let's see him take a bus everyday or cycle to work!

Amulya R Tuladhar @AmulyaSir
I welcome this!! Part of the Solution. Let us register how UML is a minority stand and isolated de jure.

Mahesh Paudel @mpoudyal
Just for a photo-op? Let's see him take a bus everyday or cycle to work!

Amulya R Tuladhar @AmulyaSir
I welcome this!! Part of the Solution. Let us register how UML is a minority stand and isolated de jure.

Mahesh Paudel @mpoudyal
Just for a photo-op? Let's see him take a bus everyday or cycle to work!

Amulya R Tuladhar @AmulyaSir
I welcome this!! Part of the Solution. Let us register how UML is a minority stand and isolated de jure.

Mahesh Paudel @mpoudyal
Just for a photo-op? Let's see him take a bus everyday or cycle to work!

Amulya R Tuladhar @AmulyaSir
I welcome this!! Part of the Solution. Let us register how UML is a minority stand and isolated de jure.

Times

Nepali Times on Facebook

Follow @nepalitimes on Twitter

Follow @nepalitimes on Instagram

Publisher and Chief Editor: Kunda Dixit

Associate Editor: Om Astha Rai | 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.jagadambaprp.com

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

WIDEN YOUR
W O R L D

TURKISH
AIRLINES



DISCOVER THE USA AND EUROPE

STARTING FROM NPR 33000*

TRAVEL PERIOD: NOW UNTIL 31ST MARCH 2017
SALES PERIOD: NOW UNTIL 31ST MARCH 2017

*TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. TAXES ARE NOT INCLUDED. FARES MAY VARY DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY OR DEPARTING/ARRIVING DESTINATION.
TURKISH AIRLINES INC., EAST WING 1ST FLOOR, 495 NARAYAN HITI PATH, KATHMANDU, NEPAL KATHMANDU 977-1-4438363 | 4438436 | 4438856
KTMSALES@THY.COM | TURKISHAIRLINES.COM

REETI SHARMA
in ACHHAM

Nepali boy runs away from home, is rescued from Delhi and reunited with his mother nine years later

Potti's father used to work in India, and would occasionally come home with his savings and urge his son to go to school. He

Potti made friends at the bus station and started to work

Soon he was lured by the even brighter lights of Delhi, about which he had heard exciting stories. As he was getting down into the platform at Delhi's railway station, he was rescued by activists of the group, Childline. He was taken to a shelter in the city where he lived with many other lost boys from India and

Back home, Potti's parents looked for him everywhere, but

Prakash sat with his mother and told her how he stole his father's money to run away to Delhi. How he started studying and excelling in sports, right up to the time the group ChoraChori



अन्नपूर्ण पोस्ट

OMG!

जहाँ छ सपना, त्यहाँ हुन्छ अन्नपूर्ण पोस्ट

तपाईंले जित्न सक्नु हुनेछ...

FULLY FURNISHED BUNGALOW वा नगद रु. १ करोड २५ लाख !

माघ २९ गते

Scratch Card माफत जिन्हुोस्

मासिक उपहार (१ जनालाई) BAJAJ PLATINA

साप्ताहिक उपहार (१ जनालाई) HOME APPLIANCES

रु १००० देखि शतप्रतिशत नगद छुट ।

सफिङ्ग मीचर

स्मार्ट फोन

ल्यापटप

३२" एल.ई.डी. टी.भि.

फ्रिज

वार्षिक ग्राहक दर रु ३,८००/- पुराना ग्राहकहरुले पनि नवीकरण जारी यस योजनामा सहभागी हुन सक्नुहुनेछ ।

काठमाडौँ: अनन्त (९८४९९९९९९), विजय (९८४९८८८८८८), ब्रजेस (९८४९००८४८८), दिलिप (९८४९७७७७७७), कपिल (९८४९६६६६६६)
पोखरा: शिवहरि (९८४९५५५५५५), इन्द्रजी: नरेश (९८०९०८०८०८), विद्यालय: रोशन (९८४९०३०३०३), वृद्धाल: अमिल (९८४९०२०२०२),
नारायणगढ: युधिर (९८४९०२८४८०), नेपालगञ्ज: लक्ष्मण (९८४९०२८४८०)



LONG ROAD HOME: Potti on the final stretch of his trip home to his village in Achham. As ‘Prakash’ he is reunited with his mother after nine years (*left*).

brought him back to Nepal. Prakash is one of the many rescued children at ChoraChori’s Kathmandu Refuge Centre in Godavari, and was in a group brought back from Delhi in March. He is continuing his studies where he left off, and after schooling wants to join the Nepal Army. “This was the most difficult reunification I have ever done, emotionally as well as physically,” explains Shailaja of ChoraChori Nepal who brought Prakash back from Delhi in March and took him home to Achham last month. “His mother’s face after she saw Prakash was priceless and that is what keeps us moving despite hurdles.”

Home coming

Hundreds of Nepali boys who have run away from home, and girls who are trafficked end up in shelters in Indian cities. ChoraChori Nepal works to bring them home and reunites them with families. Most Nepali boys are rescued as they arrive at New Delhi railway station. From 2010 to 2013, over 200 Nepali children lived in Central Delhi Homes, 84 per cent of them boys. Given that there are more than 500 children homes in the Indian capital and over 5,000 across India, the total number of Nepali children here is estimated to be in the thousands. The children mainly come from western Nepal and make their way through the open border, usually in groups of two to three. It is also easier for boys to cross borders without attracting attention, since police are mainly on the lookout for young women being trafficked. Since it was set up in September 2014 ChoraChori Nepal has repatriated over 50 Nepali children from shelters in Delhi and Bengaluru. Prakash (Potti) was among 17 boys from four children’s homes in Delhi brought to Kathmandu in March. The boys aged 10-17 were first taken to ChoraChori Nepal’s temporary shelter in Kathmandu’s Godavari area and another in Hetauda where efforts are made to trace the families. In cases where the familial environment is deemed unsafe for the child, ChoraChori Nepal places the child in a long-term care home and provides for their education. www.chorachori.org.uk

prabhu BANK BIZ BRIEFS

Travel together

Qatar Airways has introduced a 30% discount for customers travelling in groups of three to



nine people under its ‘Travel together, save together’ campaign. Customers can avail this offer when booking for flights until 15 June 2017. They can book between 28 November and 5 December.

Cake mixing

Hotel Shangri-La organised a cake mixing



program in Kathmandu in keeping with the tradition of Christmas. Followed by a luncheon, the event hosted distinguished guests in the hotel premises last week.

Helping hands

Etihad Airways flew a team of surgeons to Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital to support the work of Working Hands organisation in the hospital. Essential equipments like sterilizers, diagnostic kits, and other operating



equipments were also donated to the hospital. Domestic carrier Yeti Airlines also provided complimentary excess baggage to the surgeons.

Tech savvy Turkish

Turkish Airlines introduced Denon headphones recently for its business class travellers on America-bound flights to



enhance its in-flight experience. In addition to the headphones, passengers can also use Samsung Galaxy S2 tablets, provided by the airlines, to view movies and play games.

prabhu BANK

उत्कृष्ट **Coke** को स्वाद
zero सुगर

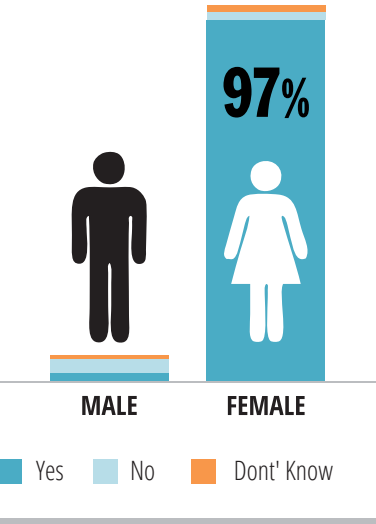


TASTE IT TO BELIEVE IT
Now in Nepal

Coca-Cola Zero and the Dynamic Ribbon are the registered trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company. Coca-Cola Zero contains no Part. Coca-Cola Zero contains added flavors. Not recommended for children. No sugar added in the product. Not for pharmaceuticals. © 2016 The Coca-Cola Company.



Have you faced any forms of harassment in the streets of Nepal?



who said they had faced harassment were between 20-29 years old, and 41 percent were between 13 and 19. It isn't only the figurative abduction of girls and women that we should fight against as a society. Street harassment, so often mistakenly seen as harmless, is a precursor to more severe forms of violence against women.

So many of the stories respondents shared didn't stop at confessing to being harassed on the streets. As illustrated by the sampling of anecdotes in this piece, girls and women in Nepal are exposed to greater dangers than cat calls and wolf whistles.

'As I've grown older, I've learned to become more straightforward and unafraid of such men and stare directly at them and tell them exactly what I'm thinking or just throw up the middle finger and a dirty look,' wrote one. It may be time to take some pointers from this brave young woman.

Don't shrug at these horrifying, heartbreaking stories. It is upon every man and woman to think of what can be done to change how these stories are shaped, to ensure they do not end with helpless rage or leave scars. 🇳🇵

Asmita Gauchan is a volunteer for Code for Nepal, a non-profit that works to increase digital literacy and the use of open data in Nepal.

Survey reveals young women in Nepal are exposed to greater dangers than just cat calls and wolf whistles

ASMITA GAUCHAN

That women are harassed at home, in the workplace and in the streets of Nepal is well known. What was hidden was the true extent of the problem.

Now, an online survey by Code For Nepal #IWalkFreely has shown not just the shocking extent of the problem but even more disturbing are the testimonies which speak of the horror Nepali girls and women face daily.

'I was once harassed by my own relative,' wrote a 12-year-old girl. Another 13-year-old female respondent said: 'I was walking alone in an alley in the evening and a man (not so old) groped me. I was totally shocked, couldn't

process what had just happened and he ran away.'

By staying silent when a woman is being teased on the streets, bystanders accept that women will always be oppressed and let it flourish.

'Verbal teasing and unwanted looks are things that I don't go a day without facing. Molestation has happened so many times you can't count it on 5 fingers. Because that doesn't mean this is only happening to me, thousands of other females in Nepal are just like me -- and that shocks me,' wrote another respondent.

There is little repressed anger in their words because what is happening to the girls and women is unfair and unjust. There is hurt, resignation.

'Once I was returning from school and some vagrant was flashing. Another time I was returning home from college in

a bus and a guy was running his fingers over my thigh. I scolded him and he left the bus. I was walking in a crowd during Machindranath Jatra and an old man pinched my ass. Every day as I leave home I hear comments from people, no matter if I dress up in shorts and a tight dress or in a kurta,' wrote another.

The #IWalkFreely survey collected over 1,000 responses and 98 percent of all women said they had been harassed. Besides the streets, 71 percent of respondents of both genders also reported harassment in public transportation, 63 percent said they were subjected to physical harassment of some form, and 20 percent reported sexual harassment.

Here is another respondent in the Code for Nepal survey: 'During the India-Nepal Blockade, it was 7pm and carpooling was

a highly chosen option. I also chose to take a lift at RNAC. My home was 30 minutes far and with a bike it can take only 10 minutes. So the motorcyclist and I were talking and going. Just some simple conversation. Then on the way there was a place where there was a bit of dark. He began to touch my legs. I told him to stop there and then. But he didn't stop. Then he advanced his hands backwards again and touched my thighs. I screamed and he told me not to. I lied to him and said that my father is a DIG then he halted. I jumped off his bike and ran away. Crying and crying. I didn't stop till I was near my home and didn't even look back. I didn't have the guts to tell anyone at home. I just cried all night and promised myself never to take a lift from strangers.'

Nearly half the participants



Imitating nature

Nepal's most modern printing facility. Jagadamba Press. now makes natural colours come alive with its state-of-the-art equipment.



City Office
Bakhundol, Lalitpur
Tel: 977-01-5529210/11

Printing Plant
Hattiban, Lalitpur, Nepal
Tel: 977-01-5250017/18
sales@jppl.com.np
URL: www.jagadambapress.com



Britain
Nepal

1816-2016

MICHAEL KOBOLD

Perhaps the biggest honour a man can aspire to is to be called A Hero To Men. On the outside, Lakpa Thundu Sherpa was an unlikely candidate for this high compliment. Of slight build, endowed with a quiet voice and an unfailingly humble demeanor, Thundu was nonetheless considered a giant among his peers -- the exclusive club of Nepali mountain guides.

Much has been made of these brave people in Western folklore. What few Westerners realise, however, is that Sherpa men only turn to high altitude mountaineering as a job, not for fun. It was thus out of necessity that as a teenager, Thundu signed on to his first expedition in the role of kitchen boy. A few seasons later, he advanced to cook at one of the higher altitude camps and then went on to become a high altitude porter before graduating to the esteemed and rarified position of mountain guide. A calm character and natural cheerfulness belied his supreme agility and strength at higher altitudes.



PICS: MICHAEL KOBOLD

Thundu Sherpa, 46

On Monday morning as the earth shook, the diametrically opposed worlds of mountaineering and horology lost a legend

Thundu became known as a quiet giant. He carried the biggest, heaviest loads and effortlessly moved at the fastest pace, all the while maintaining his trademark cheerfulness. Yet no one can

remember hearing him speak of his own achievements. Kham Sherpa, Thundu's sirdar, his bosses Iswari Paudel and Henry Todd, his colleagues and his clients would speak all the more

boastfully of Thundu's prowess.

Climbers fought over the privilege to have Thundu as their guide. The British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes refused to make his third attempt on Mt Everest

unless Thundu was assigned as his guide. Ran's wish was granted and together with Thundu, his climbing partner Ang Namgel Sherpa, Kenton Cool and my future wife, Anita, we all reached the summit on 25 May, 2009.

In 2010, we found ourselves on Mt Everest again, and it was then that Thundu, as well as Namgel, would show their true greatness. After the reaching the summit, we returned to Camp II, where Anita began experiencing difficulty breathing. She suffocated and soon expired, pronounced dead by our physician Rob Casserley. On



PICS: KUNDA DIXIT

THE MAXIMUM PILOT

Nepal's tourism industry has lost a devoted professional

Capt Alexander Maximov exuded professionalism with every step and gesture as he did the pre-flight check of our Aeroprakt leisure aircraft at Pokhara airport one morning four years ago.

Although the Russian pilot used to fly MiG supersonic fighters for the Soviet military, you could tell that he felt more at home here - taking a flimsy, small, slow plane

up past the highest mountains to treat thousands of passengers to the most spectacular scenery on Earth.

Maximov was a man of few words, but you could tell from the concentration on his face, the way he constantly scanned his cockpit instruments and the terrain outside, that he was in his element up here. Even from 12,000ft, he had to tilt

TIME TO CLIMB: Thundu Sherpa on the summit fo Mt Everest in 2010 with the author, and trained as a watchmaker for Kobold.

hearing this Thundu and Namgel ran out of the mess tent where Anita lay stone cold and blue as ice, only to return a few minutes later, panting and holding a medic bag containing syringes of adrenaline and steroids.

This cocktail jump-started Anita’s heart and she began breathing again - over four minutes after the episode began. With Anita still unconscious and after almost 40 hours of climbing, I told Thundu and Namgel that I would take a short nap. My last memory before falling asleep is of our friends standing resolutely on either side of Anita.

On waking, the first thing I noticed was that Thundu and Namgel had not changed their position at all, so I naturally assumed I had only napped for half an hour or so. I checked my watch and was stunned to discover that it had been over five hours. Thundu and Namgel hadn’t moved. An hour later, Anita woke up and to our surprise spoke as if nothing had happened. The frigid temperature had preserved her cognitive abilities. After breakfast, and without sleep in over two days, Thundu carried his and Anita’s rucksack out of Camp II, nimbly crossing the long, shaky ladders spanning deep crevasses.

Out of gratitude, we invited Thundu and Namgel

to America where we taught them watchmaking. Thanks to their low resting pulse, their natural aptitude at this task was unrivaled and a year later we opened the world’s first Kathmandu-based watch company owned and operated by two Sherpas. The BBC, The New York Times and other media covered their incredible transition from mountain guides to watchmaking Sherpas. Yet Namgel, and Thundu in particular, felt very uneasy about their newfound fame and celebrity.

The goal was simple: to keep “our” Sherpas off mountains forever and to train other Sherpas in watchmaking, so that they, too, might escape a life of mountaineering. Unfortunately, I made some grave mistakes by assuming that Thundu and Namgel would enjoy this thoroughly sedentary occupation. Moreover, it became evident that watches ‘Made in Nepal’ did not create quite the buzz I had envisioned. The earthquakes and India’s unofficial blockade in 2015 only accelerated its demise: Thundu and Namgel would not be able to keep their families afloat with watchmaking.

On 28 November, Thundu was making his way up Mt Ama Dablam with his usual effortless speed. The earth shook, an avalanche descended and Thundu was struck by a large block of ice. That day, the diametrically opposed worlds of mountaineering and horology lost a legend. Thundu Sherpa, really was a hero to men. 🇳🇵

Michael Kobold is a German-born watchmaker based near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA.

police and FM radio stations. He then flew back, following the flood back to Pokhara. Officials credit Maximov’s alertness and early warning to saving many lives that day.

Avia Club, the pioneering Pokhara-based sports aviation company that Maximov flew for had suffered another tragedy in 2013 when owner-pilot Stephan Shrestha, 35, was killed together with a Chinese tourist when his plane hit an electricity wire above the Peace Stupa.

The Club was beginning to recover from that loss, and had started air safaris on powerless ultralight gliders from its own air field in Lauruk near Pokhara. On 23 November 2016, Maximov was piloting a Dragonfly aircraft with a Canadian passenger, towing an ultralight when something went wrong with the cable. Maximov lost control of his craft and it plunged into a paddy field soon after takeoff.

Nepal’s tourism industry has lost a devoted and professional pilot for whom flying in the Himalaya with the wind on his face was life’s greatest passion. 🇳🇵
Kunda Dixit

 nepalitimes.com
Watch video



RAYMOND WEIL

GENEVE



PRECISION IS MY INSPIRATION



Scan for watch details

SULUX CENTRE

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

raymond-weil.com



j

HOTEL JAL MAHAL

For Family and Corporate Retreats!

Gharipatan (nearby Airport), Pokhara 061-466652, 9851054404
info@jalmahalpokhara.com | facebook.com/jalmahalpokhara

EVENTS



KIMFF,

Join the 14th annual festival, where over 80 films from 28 countries will be screened over 5 days aiming to entertain, challenge and inspire its audience.
8 to 12 December, QFX Cinemas-Kumari and Russian Culture Center, Kamal Pokhari, (01) 440635, media@kimff.org/

Celebrating art,
Mark your calendars for an art fair showcasing 12 Bangladeshi and 54 Nepali artists under one roof.
9 to 11 November, 10.30 am to 5.30 pm, Park Gallery, Pulchok, www.parkgallery.com.np, (01) 5522305, 9808525790

School theatre,
Don't miss Neil Simon's Rumours involving one hilarious evening of lies, slamming doors, mistaken identities and police break-ins, presented by Ullens IBDP theatre.
2 to 3 December, 5.45 pm, Ullens School, Khumaltar, Lalitpur, (01) 5570724, info@ullens.edu.np



Divine debris,
Attend an exhibition of sculptures by artist Meena Kayastha at Siddhartha Art Gallery.
Until 11 January, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revisited, (01) 4218048/4433930

Art market,
Teaming up with the 2016 Adventure film festival, the art market will have an amazing line up of independent films alongside the best contemporary Made in Nepal brands for sale.
3 December, 3 to 7 pm, Moksh, Jhamsikhel, Kathmandu



Rajman's Kathmandu,
Don't miss out on the exhibition of artist Rajman Singh's mid-19th century drawings of Kathmandu Valley.
Until 16 December, Taragaon Museum, Hyatt Regency Kathmandu, Boudha, (01) 5178334

Poetry in extremis,
Run by English PhD student Ellie Walsh, the workshop will analyse poems that challenged injustice and created change throughout history. A discussion designed to help improve one's own poetry will follow.
3 & 4 December, 12 to 3 pm, Quixote's Cove, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur, wordwarriorsnepal@gmail.com, Register: https://goo.gl/lu8DRn

World Warriors live,
A cosy evening of spoken word poetry and conversations featuring a line-up of the core group members of the Word Warriors spoken word poetry collective.
3 December, 4.45 to 7 pm, Nexus Culture Nepal, Maitri Marg, Patan, Lalitpur

Mulled wine,
Enjoy a cup of mulled wine and huddle yourself around a firepit with the rest of the Communitere community.
2 December, 4 to 9 pm, Nepal Communitere, Ward No.3, Pulchowk, (01)5555856, shiwani@communitere.org

MISS MOTI-VATION

KRIPA JOSHI



DINING



Dan Ran,

The best Japanese food this side of Bagmati. Try one of the bento boxes with a fresh lemonade.
Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur (01)5521027

Fire & Ice Pizzeria,
For the best Italian pizzas in town.
Thamel, (01)4250210

The Vesper House,
Stop by for the best in Italian and all local favourites, in their breezy outdoors seating. Also a great venue for wine connoisseurs.
Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur, (01) 5548179, www.vespercafe.com



Dhokaima Café,
Beat the cold with indigenous cocktails at the Rukhmuni Bar.
Patan Dhoka, (01)5522113, dhokaimacafe@yahoo.com

Wine at Hyatt,
Experience the taste of Torres wines recommended by Josep Plana Monsterrat paired with an evening of delectable food.
3 December, 6.30 to 11 pm, Hyatt Regency, Boudha, Rs 3999 per person



Wunjala Moskva,
Treat your palette to Newari and Russian dishes in the lush garden with ancient trees and trickling streams.
Naxal, (01) 4415236

Barista Lavazza,
The Valley's best European-inspired coffee culture café serves excellent mochas and lattes. Don't forget to try their grilled chicken sandwich.
Jawalakhel, (01) 5548597, barista.nepal@gmail.com

MUSIC



Songs with Akhu,
Do not miss the chance to see the frontman of Imphal Talkies, Akhu Chingabam playing songs of freedom at Basecamp.
14 December, 7 pm to 10 pm, Basecamp, Arun Thapa Chowk, Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur, Rs 300

Purple haze,
Come and listen to bands Atrocity, Rage Hybrid and more as they join together to support street children in their charity music event. Donations of winter supplies are welcome.
10 December, 1 to 5.30 pm, Purple haze rock bar, Thamel, Kathmandu, Fee: Pre-sale Rs 300, Door-sale Rs 500

Ciney live,
Live performance by Ciney Gurung every Friday evening at Shambala Garden Café.
Every Friday, 7 pm onwards, Shambala Garden Café, Hotel Shangri-La, Rs 2000 per person, (01) 4412999 Extn. 7520, 7508



Open mic night,
Grab the mic and sing your heart out at the House of Music every Tuesday.
House of Music, Thamel, 9851075172

Night market,
A night of music accompanied by art, shopping, eating and relaxing.
10 December, 5 to 11 pm, Basecamp, Arun Thapa Chowk, Jhamsikhel

Reggae at Shamrock,
Join four national and international artists as they perform great, classic reggae tunes.
2 December, 1 pm to 6 pm, Shamrock Irish Pub, Kathmandu, 986-7811892



Music workshop,
Grow in your passion for music through workshops that cover how to pitch your work, impact sponsors and promote new releases.
5 and 12 December, Rs 1000 per class, www.katjazz.com.np

GETAWAY



Shivapuri Village,

Eco-tourism close to the Shivapuri National Park replete with a charm of bygone days.
Patiswara, Shivapuri National Park, (01)4017725, 985-1034141, info@shivapuri.com

Glacier Hotel,
Good value and friendly service for travellers on the lap of Lake Phewa.
Gaurighat, Lakeside, Pokhara, (061)-463722, www.glacienepal.com

Shangri-La Village,
Spend your weekend under the shadow of breathtaking mountain views, landscaped gardens, water bodies and a relaxing ambience.
Gharipatan, Pokhara, (61)462222, (01)4410051



Pataleban Vineyard,
Just 16 km west of Kathmandu city, the resort is a perfect place to spend your weekends with food and wine. The resort offers astounding views of sunset and Himalayan range of Langtang, Ganesh, Manaslu and Annapurna.
Chisapani, Kathmandu, 9841679364, pataleban@mail.com.np

Famous Farm,
Wake up to the sounds of chirping birds and a fresh morning breeze wafting in through the aankhijhyal.
Nuwakot, (01)4700426, info@rural-heritage.com



Buddha Maya Gardens,
Add value to your travel in Lumbini with a stay at probably the best hotel in the area.
Lumbini, (71)580220, 9801033109, info@ktmgh.com

Grand Norling,
Countryside weekend package offering suite room, swimming, gym, massage, and discounts on other facilities.
Gokarna, (01)4910193



ALL PICS: JESSICA CORTIS

Healing Langtang

Australian researchers caught up in avalanche last year building a cultural museum to boost tourism

JESSICA CORTIS
in LANGTANG

Emma Waterton and Hayley Saul from Western Sydney University were in Langtang last year researching its archaeology, heritage and development when the 25 April earthquake set off a massive avalanche that buried the village.

At least 200 people were killed, 70 of them tourists trekking along the scenic valley in the Langtang National Park. Surviving villagers were rescued by helicopter and spent months at the Yellow Monastery in Kathmandu.

"We had just finished our research in the village and were half way through our trek. There were so many reasons why we should have died," Saul said, recalling the horror of watching the cliff face opposite them peel away and fall into the river below.

When Waterton, 34, and Saul, 38, trekked to Langtang five years ago, they knew nothing about it. Last year they were helping write its history when they narrowly escaped the disaster.

This week, Saul and Waterton

were visiting the village for the first time since the tragedy. It was a silent descent as they arrived in Kyanjin Gumpa by helicopter. They were greeted with khadas and a quiet exchange filled with emotion.

"I think about it a lot more than I normally would so I was very nervous going back," Waterton reflected.

Temba lama, head of Reconstruction and Management in the Himalaya saved the two Australian academics from the landslide last year. "They both have very good hearts so it was very emotional seeing them. I'm happy that they're here, but it reminds me of everyone who is not," he said.

Since the earthquake, research objectives have shifted with plans to use the data collected to make a commemorative Sacred valley of Langtang Museum. With funding from Western Sydney University, an exhibition will extend outside to various locations attached to stories and histories of the people in the village.

"It is much better than us presenting our research in literary form. It will be more special coming from the words of the people," Waterton said. Indebted to the people of Langtang, Saul and

Waterton have started a Langtang Survivors Fund which has raised over Rs 7,000 000.

The earthquake struck just before noon on 25 April, shaking off a large chunk of Mt Langtang Lirung (7,227m) which fell on a glacier and swept the debris to the valley below. The shock wave that preceded the avalanche blew away the village, and most of the bodies were found on the other side of the river. Langtang village still lies buried under 100m of rock.

It is hoped that the museum will not only be a reminder of the cultural history of Langtang, but will bring tourists back to the village. Even though the Langtang Trail has been repaired, there



has been a 50 percent drop in the number of trekkers since the earthquake.

The project will be a big step in the redevelopment of the village. Wind and hydro technology has been incorporated in the design and will make the outdoor exhibition multi-modal and interactive.



WSU and KU

During their visit to Kyanjin Gumpa, Vice-Chancellor of Western Sydney University, Barney Glover presented a scholarship for a student from Langtang to study a Bachelor of Tourism Management in 2017 in Australia. WSU academics also attended the convocation ceremony at Kathmandu University where a Mobility Agreement was signed to enable ease of overseas exchange between the two institutions.

CONSERVING CULTURE: The site of the museum in Kyanjin near where prayer flags mark a memorial for each person who died in the 2015 earthquake avalanche. (above, left).

Villagers gather in the community centre to see the draft plan for the museum. (above).

Australian researchers Hayley Saul (left) and Emma Waterton visited Langtang this week for the first time since the earthquake.

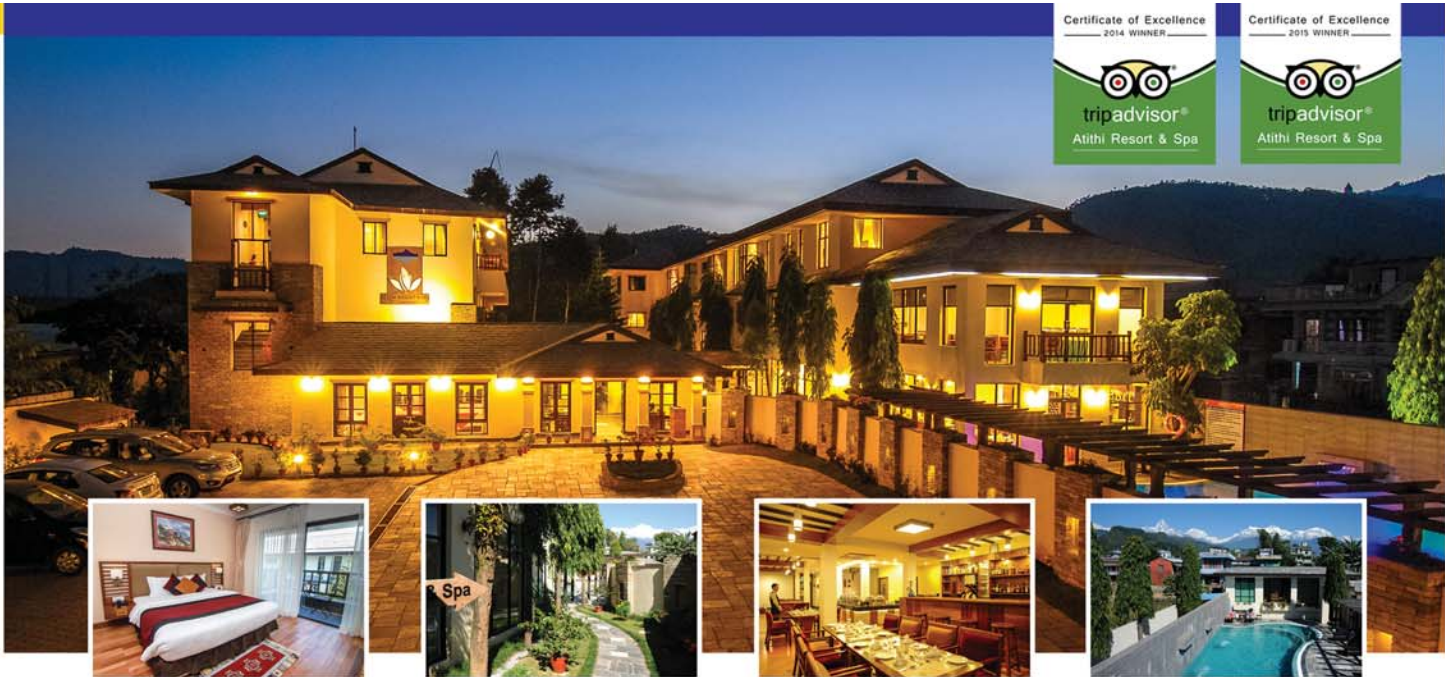
"In the long term this will be what we leave behind and what the younger generations will learn about us. If the design is successful, we will look at using these technologies for other things like generating electricity in the village," Lama said.

Locals are currently finalising museum plans presented to them by the Vice-Chancellor of Western Sydney University this week when he visited the Valley. Locals hope that the museum will attract more visitors and encourage them to stay extra days here.

"It's a debt that we have as a university to the people of the valley of Langtang," said Kevin Dunn, Dean of the School of Social Sciences And Psychology of Western Sydney University. The museum is projected to be completed in April 2017 to commemorate the two-year anniversary of the earthquake. 🇳🇵



nepalitimes.com
Watch video



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

Jason Bourne



The most riveting part of *Jason Bourne* is the inscrutable titular character played by Matt Damon as he weaves and punches and slams his way through the film (there are now five in the franchise to date, four of which star Damon) in action sequences that are



MUST SEE
Sophia Pande

now the go to standard for those who aspire towards this kind of visceral, fast paced drama first pioneered by Paul Greengrass in the second Bourne film *The Bourne Supremacy* (2004).

Greengrass went on to direct *The Bourne Ultimatum* (2007) and now this latest film that continues to follow Jason Bourne's tortured struggle to find out how his life was co-opted by the CIA, making him into the formidable killer that he is.

Years after Bourne has (somewhat) come to terms with the CIA's nefarious and

murky programmes designed to train killers like him using morally untenable methods, he is still plagued by bouts of hazy memories surrounding his father's death just before he chose (he thinks willingly) to go into the murky Treadstone programme that made him who he is now.

Pursued by the CIA after an old friend and former CIA agent Nicky Parsons (Julia Stiles) alerts Bourne about the anomalies regarding his own recruitment into Treadstone, Bourne is once again caught in a web where he must stay a step ahead, both to uncover the truth and to save his own life.

There are a few new characters to liven up this film which is not as good as the preceding ones but still exhilarating enough action wise to give it a chance. Talent is wasted with the usually compelling Alicia Vikander as the one note Heather Lee, a young, brilliant CIA cyber ops whiz who ought to be enigmatic but isn't given enough screen-time or real depth to truly mystify. Tommy Lee Jones is similarly squandered as the boring, evil CIA Director Richard

Dewey, and Vincent Cassel plays an endless iteration of his usual baddie as an unnamed assassin with a personal vendetta against Bourne.

Jason Bourne is a bit of a washout for Matt Damon who really came of age as an action hero with the Bourne character in the early 2000s. This is a film which desperately tries to bring an old story into the new age with a worn out subplot about hacking, government spying (guess which agency is behind it) and a certain not-so-veiled hint regarding a ubiquitous social networking phenomenon that has, however unwillingly, facilitated big brother's interests in listening in on individuals' private lives.

At the end of an interminable chase scene finale, the only thing that will keep you from walking is the rough-hewn charisma that is Matt Damon as he surprises you one more time. 🇳🇵

nepalitimes.com

Trailer

M-Series Printers

EPSON
EXCEED YOUR VISION

Get the most
ECONOMICAL
B/W PRINTERS ever
Best for Office and
Commercial purpose



MERCANTILE
OFFICE SYSTEMS PVT. LTD.
Authorized Distributor
Hiti Pokhari, Durbar Marg
Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 1-4440773/4445920

Kathmandu Valley Dealers:
Lazimpat : 4410423, New Road : 4220058
New Road : 4227854, New Road : 4260173
New Road : 4222384, Patan : 5538649
Putalisadak : 4266820, Putalisadak : 4415786
Putalisadak : 4227474, Putalisadak : 4436307
Putalisadak : 4417050

Outside Valley Dealers:
Banepa : 011-860888, Biratnagar : 021-538729, Biratnagar : 021-532000
Baraha : 023-540150, Butwal : 071-545399, Chitwan : 056-571764
Dang : 082-561022, Dhangadhi : 091-523801, Dhangadhi : 091-521392
Janakpur : 041-525565, Lahan : 033-561205, Mahendranagar : 099-523872
Nepalgunj : 081-527092, Pokhara : 061-525300, Surkhet : 083-522488
Tulsipur : 082-562575

HAPPENINGS



BIKRAM RAI

SAJHA SARARA: Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal goes to Singha Darbar by a new Sajha Yatayat bus. Sajha Yatayat has added 30 new buses to its fleet, which were inaugurated by Dahal amidst a ceremony in Pulchowk on Sunday.



BIKRAM RAI

NO TO AMENDEMENT: All Nepal National Free Students Union (ANNFS) and Youth Association Nepal (YAN) burn tyres to protest against registration of the second constitution amendment bill in Parliament on Wednesday.



RAMDEV/TWITTER

YOGA THERAPY: Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal performing yoga with Ramdev in Birganj on Tuesday.



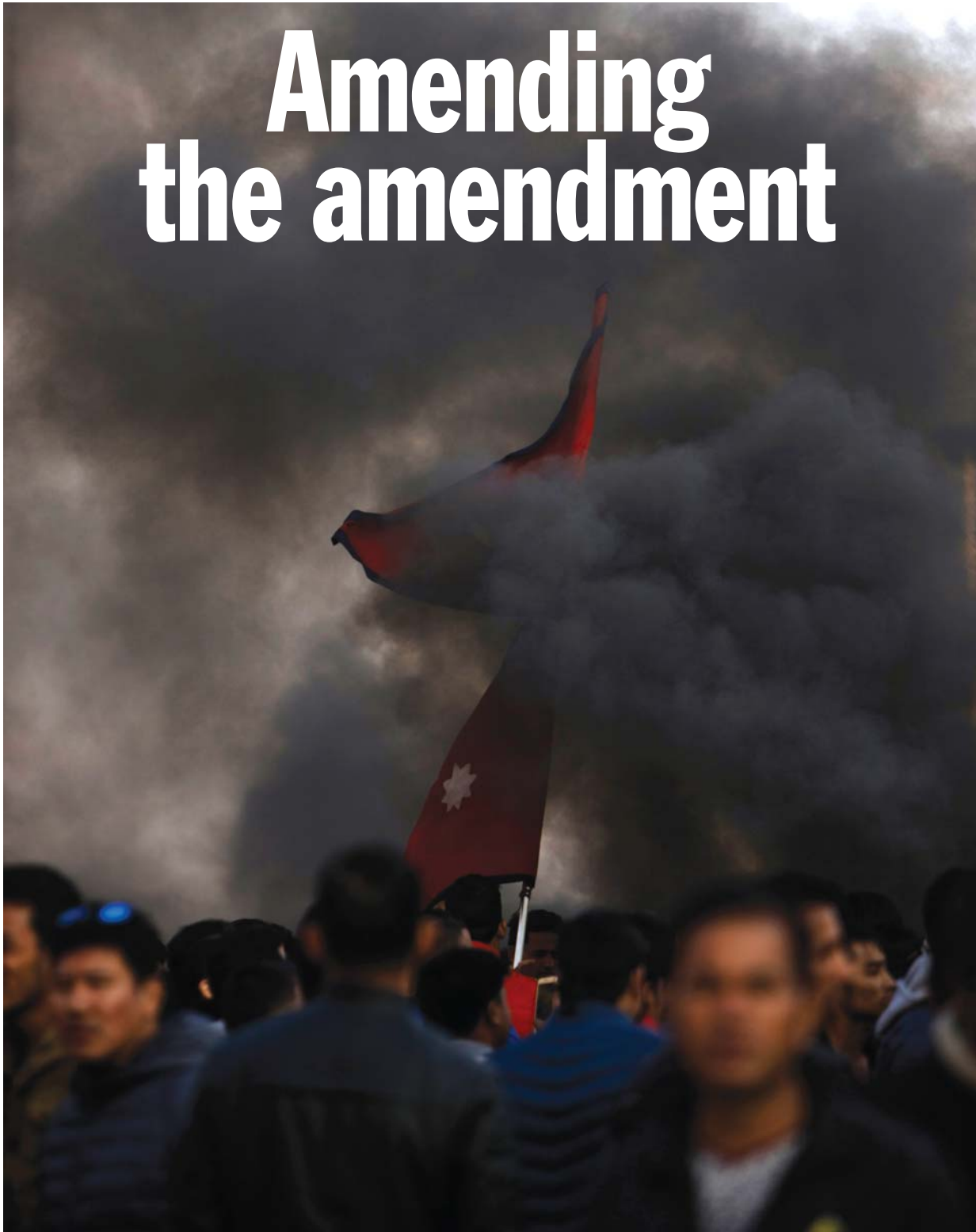
GOPEN RAI

MEMORIAL DAY: Devotees light oil lamps in memory of their deceased family members during the Bala Chaturdashi festival at Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu on Monday.



BIKRAM RAI

SPREADING AWARENESS: Students participate in a rally organised on the occasion of 29th World AIDS Day in Basantapur on Thursday.



BIKRAM RAI

Editorial in *Naya Patrika*, 1 December

नयाँ पत्रिका

The Second Amendment to the Constitution bill has sparked the expected protests. Last year, after the promulgation of the Constitution, the country had faced a similar situation. Back then, some people lit lamps in jubilation to welcome the charter while others set fire to the document. The past year taught us neither of them was right.

The parties that registered the bill in Parliament this week are divided, and not trying their best to justify why an amendment was needed. The parties that oppose the bill are just angry, and are not criticising it logically.

Federal Alliance leader Upendra Yadav has rejected the bill, saying it does not address the grievances of Madhesi and Janajati peoples. The UML has decided to intensify protests in Parliament and on the streets. In fact, it was fueling fire in the hill districts of Lumbini Zone even before the bill was registered. The protests over the bill have reignited debate on the assumptions of federalism and provincial demarcation.

The way boundaries of Province 4 and 5 have been redrawn in the amendment bill is closer to the concept of identity-based federalism. It creates clusters of communities sharing the same ethnicities and cultures. But this redrawing of boundaries does not make sense if we look at it from the perspective of administrative decentralisation. If Rukum, Rolpa and Pyuthan are inserted into province 4, people living there will have difficulty in accessing public services.

The debate on this readjustment of boundaries can continue, but it needs to be more constructive. Getting all worked up will not help. The present political stalemate is the result of the government's failure to implement the constitution. And this failure is the result of Madhesi resistance. We need to find a fine balance between Madhesi demands, Janajati aspirations for identity-based provinces and the fears of the nationalists that Tarai-only provinces will only serve Indian interests. Only then will it be possible to uphold national unity.

Editorial in *Kantipur*, 1 December

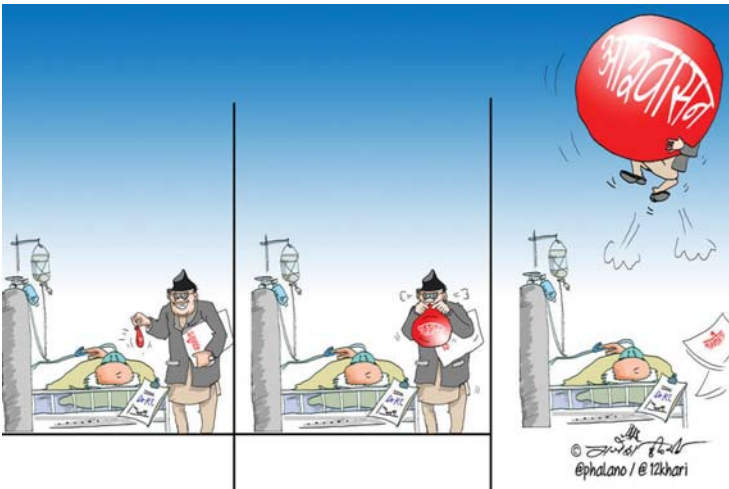
कान्तिपुर

The registration of the Constitution amendment bill in Parliament on Tuesday has sparked fears that the political polarisation will deepen. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal is now in a tight spot because his amendment proposal has been rejected by the Madhesi parties, for whom he wanted to amend the constitution. He should have registered the bill only after forging a consensus with the UML and the Madhesi parties. Now if he fails, he will face a political and moral crisis.

After the promulgation last year of the constitution, each government has used the amendment for its own political gain. The Sushil Koirala government did not reach a consensus with dissenters, but tabled the first amendment bill to reap credit for solving the Madhes crisis. His government collapsed before the bill was passed. The KP Oli government passed it with support from the NC-Maoists, but the Madhesis were again left out. The Dahal government has done what his two predecessors did – registering an amendment without a consensus. Without the UML, he will face an uphill task to secure a two thirds majority even if the Madhesi Front and the RPP support the bill.

Amending the constitution without consensus will be futile. Implementation of the constitution will be possible only if the charter is amended with everyone's consent. The UML has reacted angrily, vowing to obstruct the House and hit the streets to foil the amendment bill. This is not what the main opposition is supposed to do. If the UML opposes the bill, it should raise its objections in Parliament. The Madhesi parties must also stop trying to be seen more radical than the others. Their problem is that they only have a political future in they appear revolutionary.

All big, small and fringe parties must understand that an election is the best democratic exercise to secure public support for their political agenda. And the constitution can be implemented only if local, provincial and federal elections are held in time. There can be debate on the demarcation of provinces, but the government's election proposal is positive. Whether the Second Amendment is passed or not, everyone should get ready for elections.



Balloon: assurances
Paper: agreement

खरि

Rajesh KC in *Baaharakhari*, 29 November

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“ Let alone talk to you, I don't even want to see your face. ”

UML Chair KP Oli to Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal in Parliament, 1 December (As recounted by UML MP Rabindra Adhikari)

Save KC

Editorial in *Setopati.com*, 29 November

सेतोपाटी

Crusader Govinda KC's tenth fast unto death has entered the 18th day, and cumulatively the doctor has been on hunger strike for 119 days. He is the only citizen in Nepali history, probably in the world as well, who has risked his life relentlessly to reform the medical education sector. Hence, it is our responsibility to address his demands and save his life.

Recently, the government breached the agreement signed with KC by appointing a junior person as a new Dean at the Institute of Medicine (IOM). Vice Chancellor of Tribhuvan University Tritha Khaniya appointed KP Singh against existing norms and this prompted KC to stage another fast unto death.

Some politicians have cited KC's demand impractical and criticised it. They argue that the appointment of a dean should be based both on seniority and working capacity.

KC's mind is as sharp as his arguments. He is aware that a person working at an executive post should be picked up on the basis of various factors. Past irregularities have only helped for the for-profit medical education under the IOM.

If capable deans were appointed at the IOM, there wouldn't have been fake doctors in many hospitals, students would have received quality education and medical colleges would not have got additional seats every year by paying big bribes.

WITH KC: The Kathmandu Post editor Akhilesh Upadhyay briefs editors of other publications about Dr Govinda KC's deteriorating health. The crusader's hunger strike entered its 19th day on Thursday.

KC's first strike was against the culture of appointing deans close to politicians. There were signs of improvement at IOM and medical colleges only after deans were appointed on the basis of precedence.

Singh wasn't made dean because of his skills and qualification. The condition of Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH) was unsystematic and haphazard when he was director of the IOM. There were even charges of irregularities on equipment purchases which the CIAA is still investigating.

Singh is a close colleague of KC and helped him in previous hunger strikes. KC is demanding the expulsion of Singh and Khaniya from their posts because KC's fight is for a system and country.

Khaniya himself is an outcome of corrupt politics. Late Prime Minister Sushil Koirala appointed him as TU Vice Chancellor despite charges and proof of plagiarism. KC is fighting for his life. His health is deteriorating rapidly. Who will be responsible if anything untoward happens to him?

The resignations of Singh and Khaniya is the only solution for now. The government must ensure that the IOM dean is appointed on the basis of seniority and competence in future.

We appeal to the political parties not to waste time to sack TU Vice Chancellor Khaniya and Dean Singh of the IOM. KC's life is more important than any of these posts. Singh was appointed the IOM dean four months prior his retirement and Khaniya had expected that KC would remain silent on this issue.



KIRAN NEPAL

FIRST THE GOOD NEWS



BIKRAM RAI

OM ASTHA RAI

Nearly two decades after Nepal initiated a multi-million dollar project to bring snow melt to its parched capital, the residents of Kathmandu Valley are finally hoping to get regular water supply piped to homes.

The good news is that the 27 km tunnel from the fringes of the Langtang National Park to Sundarijal on the Valley rim is nearly complete. Soon, 170 million litres/day from the snow-fed Melamchi River will be flowing into Kathmandu.

So far so good, but political interference is delaying the agency responsible for distributing that water in Kathmandu, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) which is the primary lender in the \$317 million project, is so exasperated it is threatening to pull out.

Also, since the Valley’s population has more than doubled since the project was launched there will not be enough water for

everyone.

The public-private utility, Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited (KUKL), is responsible to manage water supply to the Valley’s 3.6 million people and needs 460 million litres/day if it is to reach everyone. But even after bringing Melamchi water there will be a shortfall of 175 million litres/day.

“The valley residents are probably hoping for abundant water supply when the Melamchi project is complete, but they will be disappointed,” warns KUKL General Manager Mahesh Bhattarai, who fears an outburst of public anger when some neighbourhoods get water and others don’t.

More than 425 km of water pipes have already been laid, and an additional 245 km of pipes are expected to be laid before the arrival of Melamchi water to be pumped into over 100,000 households inside the Ring Road. This network will be fed by nine new and five existing reservoirs on the city’s outskirts. The construction of a receiving facility in Sundarijal is also nearly complete.

“We will get the infrastructure ready well before the Melamchi River is diverted to Kathmandu,” says Tires Khatri, Chief of the Project Implementation Directorate (PID), a government project to replace the 100-year-

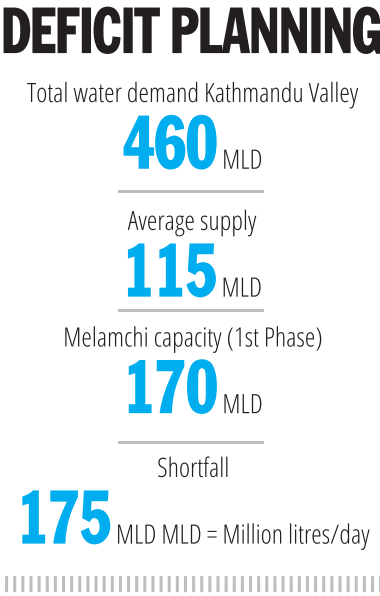


old water distribution network in Kathmandu.

But even if the PID and KUKL finish laying the pipes in the next ten months, two large parts of Kathmandu inside the Ring Road will still be left out of the grid. This means over 40,000 houses in Maharajganj, Dhumbarahi, Gongabu, Swayambhu and

Chhauni areas will have to rely on antiquated and leaky Rana-era mains to get Melamchi water (*see the map above*).

Bhaktapur is not even included in the current phase. And KUKL will have sufficient water to meet the demand of the entire Valley only when an additional 170 million litres/day



is brought from Yangri and Larke Rivers 12 km upstream from Melamchi to the tunnel.

But the ADB, which contributed \$137 million loan and grant for the project has warned it will not lend any further money to build the additional tunnel to connect the Yangri and Larke Rivers to double the water volume in the tunnel.

The ADB is not happy with political interference, which has resulted in chronic underperformance at KUKL. The utility needs strong management and a visionary board of directors, but is crippled by a dysfunctional board backed by corrupt politicians.

ABOUT MELAMCHI

Water from Melamchi will finally flow out of Kathmandu taps, but not everywhere

After the World Bank, Norway and Sweden pulled out in 2005, the cost of the Melamchi project was lowered from the original \$464 million. KUKL was set up in 2008, and it carried the legacy of its predecessor Nepal Water Supply Corruption (NWSC) which was politicised, over-staffed and debt-ridden.

Political leaders used the NWSC to dump unemployed cadre, and KUKL inherited many of them. What was supposed to be a new and efficient water supplier was shackled with the same bloated system that ruined the NWSC.

The KUKL board is virtually paralysed with board members divided and accusing each other of obstructing reforms. At a time when the KUKL needs to get its act together for smooth distribution of Melamchi water, its Chair Suresh Basnet has been abroad for weeks.

The KUKL has redundant administrative staff, but lacks technical manpower like engineers, overseers and plant operators. To end this mismatch, KUKL announced vacancies and interviewed candidates to choose 216 technical employees. But Basnet is allegedly dangling these vacant positions in front of politicians and promising to recruit their family members, relatives and cadre.

“Without sufficient technical and trained staff, it would be difficult to manage Melamchi water smoothly,” says KUKL General Manager



RSS

Mahesh Bhattarai who is trying to introduce reforms like Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition but needs to be supported by the KUKL board.

Instead of making policy decisions and enabling Bhattarai to introduce reforms, Basnet is blamed for trying to oust him. The induction of Rudra Gautam into the KUKL board is a sign that Basnet is still wielding influence. Both Basnet and Gautam have high-level political protection.

Two months ago, Basnet approached Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal to appoint Rudra Gautam as a board member and the Chair of the KUKL recruitment committee. When other board members opposed

him, he called Dahal's adviser Ramdip Acharya straight from the meeting room and told him that the PM's directive was not being followed. Gautam was finally appointed, but not as recruitment chief but a board member.

A board member told Nepali Times: “Basnet's motive was clear: he wanted to intimidate us by name dropping the PM.” Basnet is also said to have influenced former Urban Development Minister Narayan Khadka to include his cronies into the board. “It was during the general convention of the Nepali Congress, and Khadka needed money to be elected as a central committee member of the party,” the board member said.

Basnet had previously appointed Gautam as KUKL General Manager, but the Supreme Court dismissed him on legal grounds. Gautam says he is not interested to head the KUKL, and has nothing personal against Mahesh Bhattarai. “Instead of being suspicious, he should just focus on running the company,” he said.

The ADB also expressed its dissatisfaction about Gautam's appointment. In a letter to the government, the ADB said that the ‘selection procedure needs to be on the basis of merit, and it

should be transparent’.

In the past, Gautam had to step down as the KUKL Chief after being accused of misusing KUKL vehicles and arbitrarily raising his own salary. He and Basnet also created difficulties for an ADB-hired consultant to introduce reform measures in the KUKL. Gautam denies these charges.

ADB Nepal Country Director Kenichi Yokoyama refrained from singling out individuals wielding political clout within the KUKL, but told us: “Since the Melamchi water is finally coming, strengthening and reforming the KUKL should be a top priority. And the KUKL management must be facilitated and supported by its board.”

Last month, a parliamentary committee instructed the Melamchi Water Supply Development Board to complete tunnel construction by September 2017. As the Italian firm hired by the Board now needs to dig only a 6 km stretch of the tunnel, the new target seems achievable.

The Board's Executive Director Ghanshyam Bhattarai is optimistic: “The tunnel will be complete before the next monsoon, and the Melamchi water will arrive in Kathmandu before the Dasain festival.” 🇳🇵

स्मार्ट पानी
TRIPTI WATER FILTER

in **COPPER**

levels of filtration **4**

modernity in tradition

save time and money

ensure better health

Starting Rs 7300

To book one contact - Smart Paani Pvt. Ltd.
P: 977-1-5261530, 5260506

Show this advertisement and get Special Discount

MALE HAIR LOSS?

Looks Bad, Feels Bad
Don't Wait, Act Now!

Call Malina
9801068837

We help you look good and feel good again.

MACHINE with a MISSION

Bell 407GXP IS NOW AT YOUR SERVICE

Reliability | Speed | Performance | Comfort

140 kts Max Speed
 2558 lbs. Useful Load (IGW)
 6 Passengers
 Exceptional field of view

Simrik Air is proud to present **Bell 407GXP** at your service, now in Nepal. It's an integration of reliability, speed, performance, and comfort that takes heed to an array of mission and payloads. It's a high performance machine, has spacious cabin, and gives smooth ride in virtually all weather conditions.

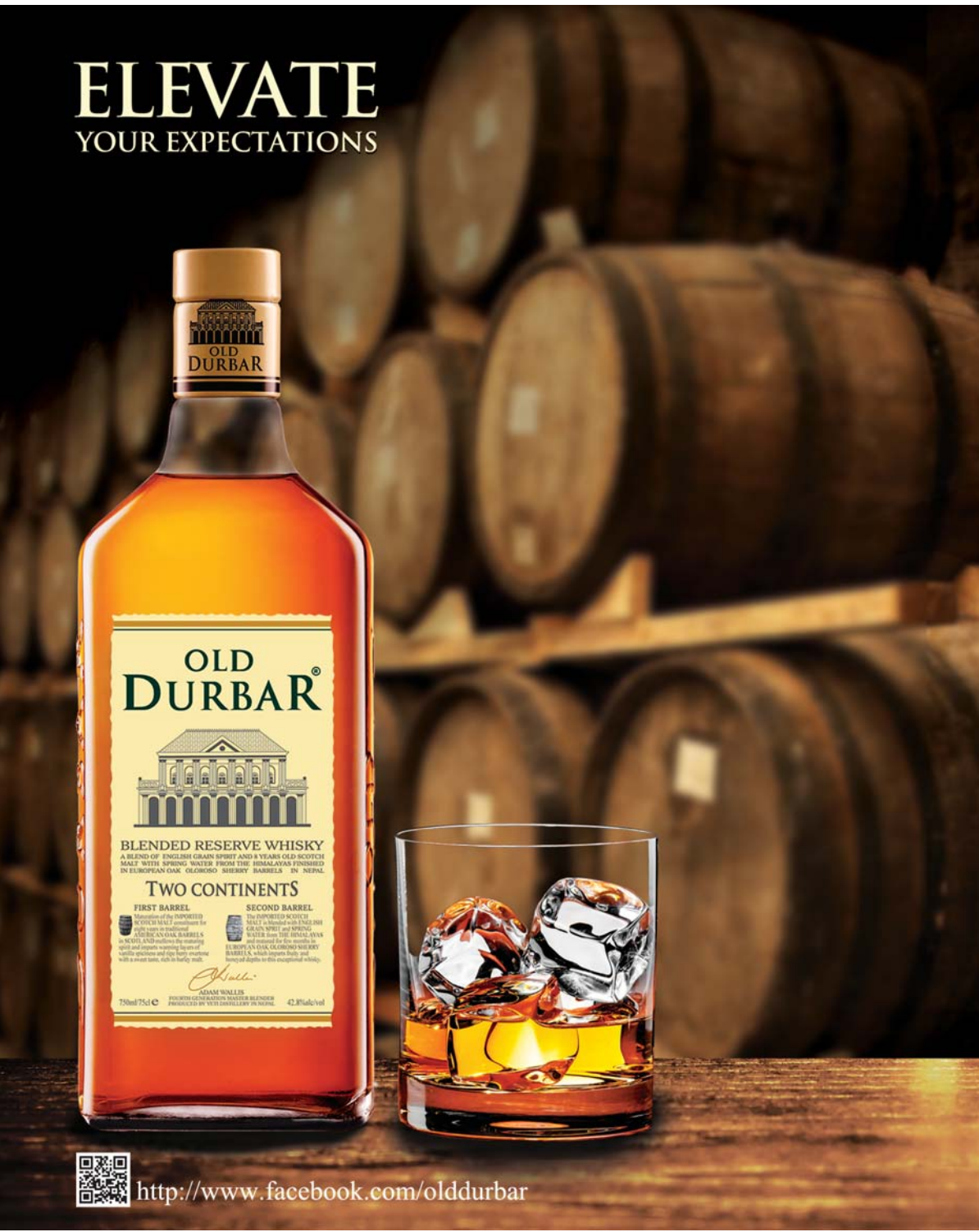
Head Office: P.O.Box: 10288 Puspa Marg, Subidhanagar, Teenkune, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: +977 1 4155341 / 42 / 43 / 44, Fax: +977 1 4155345 / 46
Kathmandu Airport: Tel: +977 1 4483233

Marketing: Tel: +977 1 4155340
Mobile: +977 98510 77000, +977 98510 10695 / 696 / 697 / 698

Email: info@simrikair.com.np, **Website:** www.simrikair.com

Simrik Air Pvt. Ltd.

ELEVATE
YOUR EXPECTATIONS



<http://www.facebook.com/olddurbar>

OLD
DURBAR



BLENDED RESERVE WHISKY

A BLEND OF ENGLISH GRAIN SPIRIT AND 8 YEARS OLD SCOTCH WHISKY WITH SPRING WATER FROM THE HIMALAYAS FERMENTED IN EUROPEAN OAK OILWOOD SHERRY BARRELS IN NEPAL

TWO CONTINENTS

FIRST BARREL

SECOND BARREL

750ml (25.4 fl oz) 42.8% alc/vol

Workable models for federalism

No political discussion in Nepal these days is complete unless you have uttered the ‘F’ word. When the talk around the family dining table turns to constitution-writing, as it often does, minors have to be sent to bed early because their parents punctuate their sentences with ‘WTF’ (What the Federoformication!) In fact, not a second goes by without someone somewhere between Mechi and Mahakali arguing about the prose or corns of federalissimo.

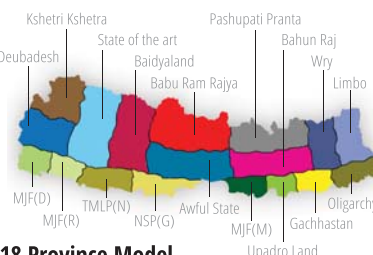
As far as the **Weekly Ass** is concerned, federalism is a no brainer. It doesn’t have to be complicated at all, and here to assist with the debate in Parliament in the coming week we propose various workable models for a fast-tracked Federal Express:



0 Province Model
The most egalitarian formula for federalism that doesn’t have federal boundaries, and therefore nothing to fight about.

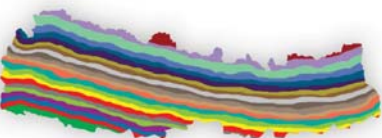


3 Province Model
If the four main parties cannot come up with a formula for federalism, they should simply carve Nepal up into three slices, and we could annex a bit of Kumaon with all the holy sites which used to be a part of Nepal, and declare that an Erstwhile Hindu Kingdom of Nepal.



18 Province Model
While the aforementioned 3 Province Model is a great idea if I may say so myself, it is unworkable

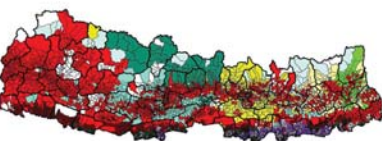
because each party has factions and sub-factions. The 18-state model will accommodate all splinter groups.



22 Province Model
Since federal provinces aligned North-South are anathema to the Madhesi parties. How about slicing Nepal horizontally into 22 states with equal area? Chairman Awesome can be Chief Minister of Prachanda Pranta which will be 1,00km long and 5 km wide.



123 Province Model
All ethnic groups and castes in Nepal will have their own states, and to avoid future conflict we have to set aside separate provinces for Atheists, Agnostics and Vegans.



3,948 Province Model
Of all the proposed federalism models, this one is the most practical. Take existing VDCs and turn them into provinces. To make them easy to administer and to avoid disputes, the provinces will not have names but area codes.



The Ass



NEW THINKING.
NEW POSSIBILITIES.





CRETA
THE PERFECT SUV

“I AM PERFECT
I AM CRETA”

Capt. Surendra Paudel
Simrik Air



SOLE DISTRIBUTOR OF HYUNDAI FOR NEPAL
www.laxmihyundai.com

