



TRIGON M
EXECUTIVE SET



Indexfurniture
EXCLUSIVE FURNITURE FROM THAILAND

LAZIMPAT 4419308
& JAWALAKHEL 5544270

Plenty of special offer on the way.
Stay updated!

VISIT US
www.indexfurniture.com.np

LIKE US
facebook.com/INDEXFURNITURENEPAL

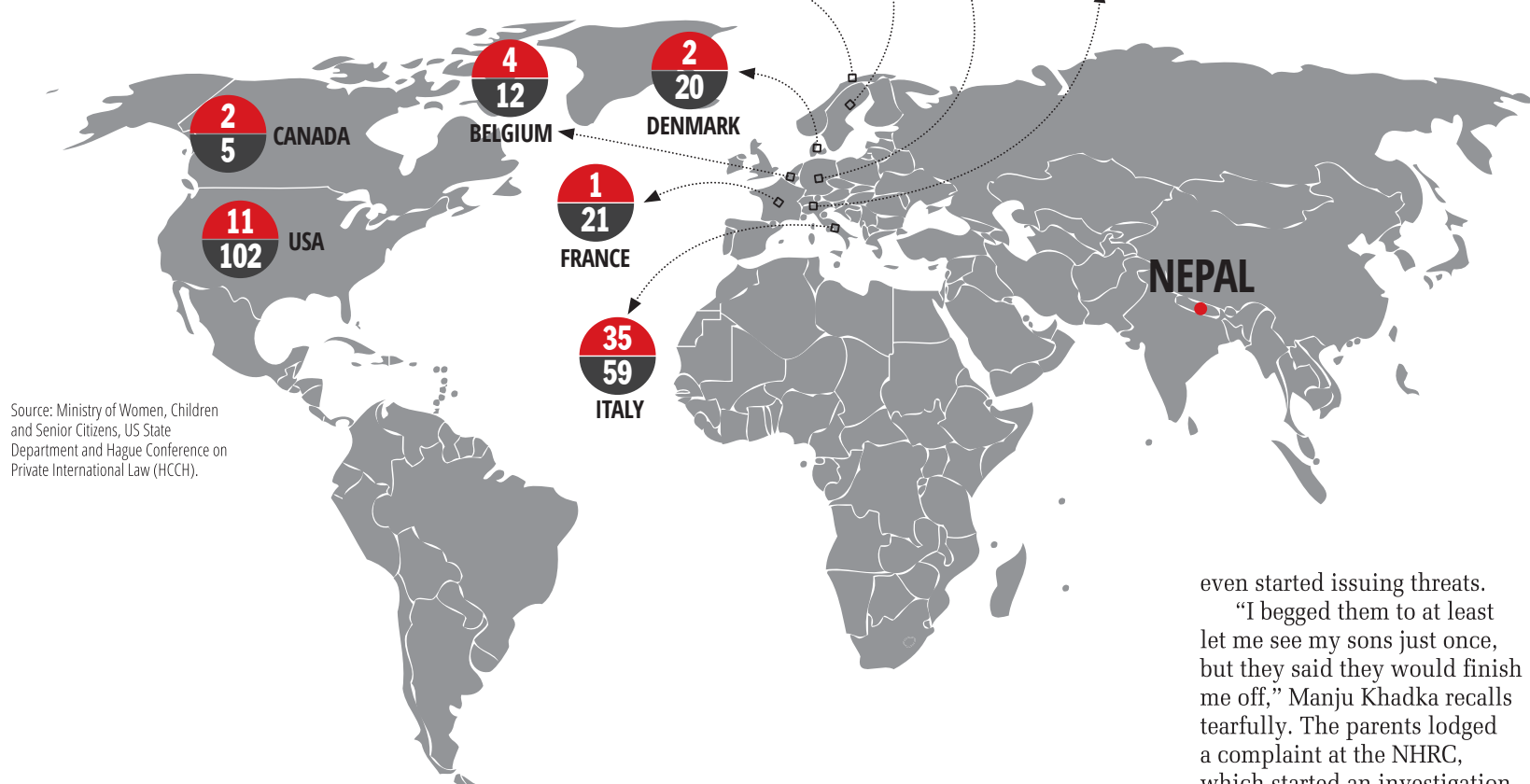
FOLLOW US
instagram.com/INDEXFURNITURENEPAL

**TOTAL
ADOPTED
CHILDREN**
2010-2019

64
242

Nepal government records

Actual number



Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, US State Department and Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH).

Nepal's baby export

A major discrepancy between Nepal government and foreign records of the number of Nepali children adopted in North America and Europe has exposed a trafficking ring that involves various child welfare agencies in Kathmandu.

The Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens has records of only 64 children from Nepal sent for adoption to ten western countries from 2010 to 2019. However, a list submitted to the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) by the US Department of State and the nine other countries reveals that 242 Nepali children were taken for adoption in those nine years.

The ten countries are the United States, Denmark, France, Norway, Switzerland, Canada, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Sweden. There are

178 more Nepali children adopted internationally than the government has records for. Why the discrepancy?

"The data we have is authentic," maintains Ministry spokesperson Gyanendra Paudel. "We have no idea how the details in other countries showed more numbers."

But for Manju Khatiwada at the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), this is a clear case of child trafficking. She says: "The traffickers produce fake documents and influence both the government officials and parents to smuggle the children abroad."

Official adoptions by foreign nationals have virtually stopped after reports of corruption and payoffs were publicised in the media ten years ago. But there is a high demand for adoption,

especially in western countries, and a plentiful supply of poor Nepali parents who cannot support their children, and this differential drives trafficking. Some parents are also tricked by traffickers into giving up their children.

Manju and Bhimsen Khadka from Sindhupalchok used to sell roasted corn by the roadside in Kathmandu. One day ten years ago, a neighbour named Sarita Shrestha and her husband took pity on their three boys, and offered to place two of them, Rajkumar and Balkrishna, aged 8 and 6, at a children's shelter.

The parents agreed because it would relieve the burden of feeding and educating them. But once the children were taken from them, the shelter's management repeatedly refused to allow Manju and Bhimsen to visit them, and

even started issuing threats.

"I begged them to at least let me see my sons just once, but they said they would finish me off," Manju Khadka recalls tearfully. The parents lodged a complaint at the NHRC, which started an investigation, and found that Rajkumar and Balkrishna had already been adopted in Italy. (See pictures, page 11.)

Says NHRC's Khatiwada: "It is clear that the parents were tricked into thinking their sons would be educated, but they were instead stolen and sold by the shelter, which prepared original-looking fake documents at the Nepal Children's Organisation in Naxal."

The NHRC notified the government, saying Bal Mandir had sent the children to Italy for adoption, and recommending that Nepal's adoption laws and policies be amended to plug the loopholes. It also said a public awareness campaign was necessary to warn parents about child trafficking.

Akash Chhetri

Centre for Investigative Journalism-Nepal

Full Story:
Data mismatch proves adoption bypasses Nepal law

PAGE 11

Coffee Brewing Class

Foundation Level
14 Mar 2020



For booking or more info
#9851023082
@ncacoffee.nepal
ncacoffee.nepal



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



www.hamrokitchen.com | 01-4005253/4005254



AMBIENCE LIFESTYLE PVT. LTD.
Bijuli Bazar, Naya Baneshwor, Kathmandu
Ph: 4781 071, 4781 072
Email: ambiencestyle@gmail.com



CONSTELLATION PVT. LTD.
Tel: 5549252
www.constellation.com.np



Experience Australia like never before

Journey beyond wild coastlines and vast horizons, across the Martian red sands of the outback. Catch sight of koalas and kangaroos. Explore lush northern rainforests, or the vivid coral gardens of the Great Barrier Reef. Adventure is written into the history of Australia.

Contact our sales office at +977 1 4440467
or your preferred travel agency

qatarairways.com



QATAR
AIRWAYS القطرية

GOING PLACES TOGETHER

WHEN PANIC GOES VIRAL

The global public health crisis caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus has hospitalised tens of thousands and killed hundreds of people, wrecked tourism in the Asia-Pacific region, impacted civil aviation and slowed down the world economy.

An attempt by the Chinese authorities to suppress first reports from Wuhan is blamed for the initial rise in case load, and its dissemination across China and the world. But it is also China's willingness to strictly quarantine a whole province that is slowing the virus's spread globally.

The epidemic has also exposed the challenges to containment in the age of social media. Rumours and conspiracy theories resulting in stigmatisation and xenophobia have become the norm in a global village interconnected instantaneously by internet-based apps.

The media's habit of magnifying the negative is now exacerbated by the split-second reach of individual posts, click-baits, fake news, and chain-reactions through shares and likes over web platforms.

At presstime Thursday, 2,129 people had died from the Wuhan virus, and 57,065 were hospitalised. The numbers seem to be going down. Yet the media shows countries where it has spread shaded ominously on a world map – giving the impression of a global pandemic.

There are very few mentions anywhere that nearly 17,000 infected people have made full recovery, or that the fatality rate for the virus is a low 2%. Even though no one has yet died in the United States from this virus strain, there is saturation coverage in the media that likens the epidemic to the one in the Hollywood thriller *Contagion*. Few make comparisons to the common flu that killed nearly 35,000 people in the United States last winter.

The psychology of terror, irrationality of panic, and fear of diseases without cure are not new. What is new this time is mobile communication which allows panic about the virus to go viral.

In Nepal, too, the media was obsessed with the plight of 182 students trapped in Hubei province. The issue was politicised by those opposed to Prime Minister Oli's government – both within his NCP and without. Media gave prominence to tearful parents and highlighted a letter to the prime minister about his callousness and disregard. Under pressure already for non-performance, the government found the evacuation of the students to a quarantine camp in Bhaktapur a convenient way to show-case action.

If only the government reacted with similar efficiency to other, much more serious national emergencies like Nepal's

unacceptably high maternal mortality rate (page 14-15). Although there has been a steep drop in the number of women who die in childbirth from 900 per 100,000 in 1990 to 239 today, Nepal has missed the target of reducing that number to 125 this year. It does not look like we will hit the SDG goal of 75 by 2030, either.

More than 1,200 women die in child birth every year in Nepal, that is three every day. Most of these are easily preventable either by ensuring proper nutrition, enforcing the ban on child marriage, ensuring access to ultrasound machines to detect complications in time, and encouraging institutional delivery.

As Buddha Basnyat of the Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS) comments, (page 14-15) it is only political will that is stopping

Nepal from adopting the game-changer drug Tranexamic acid (TXA) in the treatment of post-partum haemorrhage, (PPH) the most common cause of maternal death. There is a huge 44% unmet need for contraceptives, which is leading to unwanted pregnancies and preventing a further drop in Nepal's total

fertility rate. (See story inside.)

Tuberculosis kills 6,000 people in Nepal each year, and every other Nepali is a carrier of the bacillus, which means half the population should actually be quarantined. Yet the health system is supremely unconcerned, and the public is not aware of the risk.

There were 2,736 fatalities in road traffic accidents in Nepal last year. Yet, even though the coronavirus has not killed anyone and there has been only one suspected case, Nepalis are hoarding supplies of masks and hand sanitisers. Meanwhile, vehicles continued to be driven recklessly over precarious roads. Where is the outrage?

Air pollution in Kathmandu Valley, Chitwan and the Tarai is so bad that it is making many people die prematurely, reducing our lifespans by 3.5 years. Where is the people's anger at having their lives cut short? It is ironic that residents of Kharipati are more worried about Nepali students from Wuhan being quarantined in their neighbourhood than about the toxic fumes emitted by dozens of brick kilns nearby.

To be sure, we cannot afford to be complacent when it comes to new epidemics like Covid-19. However, it is the neglect of easily preventable diseases that kills more people in Nepal -- most often the poor in rural communities. We need a robust health system that prioritises primary health care, trains medical professionals, and builds a well-equipped infrastructure to handle future epidemics.

But that does not make it into the news. **Sonia Awale**



The evacuation of Nepali students from Wuhan was carried out well. But we need the same sense of urgency about maternal mortality, tuberculosis, road accidents, or air pollution, which each kill thousands of Nepalis.

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

A discrepancy in the number of Nepali children adopted abroad has exposed a trafficking ring in Kathmandu. The investigation on pages 1 and 11 in this issue takes us back 10 years when the government suspended inter-country adoption because Nepali orphanages were selling children to the highest bidder. An excerpt from #490 19-25 February 2010 by Malika Aryal gives us a clue to why the trafficking has continued:

The Nepal Government suspended inter-country adoption in 2007 following evidence that 'orphanages' were selling children for thousands of dollars to foreign parents. Nepal then drafted new Terms and Conditions and once again opened shop for adoption. Although the new policies were an improvement, they were still full of loopholes. The committee includes representatives from orphanages - a blatant conflict of interest. Bureaucrats, not social workers, match children with adoptive parents. A growing number of Nepali parents want to adopt and can give children safe homes. Let us seriously develop foster families and in-country adoption. Only where this is not possible should we send a child abroad permanently.



ONLINE PACKAGES



REPLICAS OF THE GODS

It is difficult to get western museums to return trafficked deities, so Nepalis are making copies of the missing statuary. Get the first look of the Museum of Stolen Arts, set to open in 2022 and listen to Rabintra Puri explain why it is needed. Also hear from Bhai Raja Shrestha about the discovery that the 12th-century deity stolen from his neighbourhood has turned up in Dallas, Texas. Story: page 12-13.



MADE IN NEPAL

This week *Nepali Times* features ten Nepali brands that make refined, minimalist and chic products. We visit Nochini, famed for its healthy cold-pressed juices, chocolatier Nana's Delight and board game developer Kazi Play to find out how they have taken traditional ideas and incorporated them into contemporary items. Story: page 8-9.



READING ALOUD

Best-selling children's book author Bruce Coville talks about the importance of reading aloud for children and reads an excerpt from one of his most popular books, *Aliens Ate My Homework*. Story: page 7.

NEPAL-INDIA-CHINA

It is strange that the role of China did not find a mention in this interview with Sudheer Sharma ('Two takes on the Nepal-India nexus', Alisha Sijapati, #997). Everything said and done, China has figured as the new critical variable for redefining and mending Nepal's ties with India. Compared to 2015, India is more amenable and respectful in its dealings with Nepal.

For instance, the cross border petroleum pipeline that has been on the anvil for ages has since been realised, only because, following China's major inroad into Nepal, India found out that its traditionally sadistic attitude of browbeating Nepal into submission would work no longer.

While India has been viscerally unprepared to deal with smaller neighbours in equal terms, Nepal's own politicians of whichever stated ideological hue, have been unprepared to put Nepal First in their dealings with their overlords in India.

Bihari Krishna Shrestha

I read Shyam Saran's book, and my impression is that he is in cloud cuckoo land. We saw ourselves a lot of what happened in Nepal, we were part of it and he writes the opposite of that in a few places. Makes you wonder how trustworthy his account of world events is vis a vis India.

Manohar Budhathoki

MAHARA AQUITTED

I don't know what example the Nepal's legal system wants to set ('Mahara acquitted', Laxmi Basnet and Deepak Kharel, nepalitimes.com).

Supral Raj Joshi

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

There does not appear to be thorough checks at the border between Nepal and India ('Trafficked Nepali woman's testimony', #997). And there are many good charities working to stop the abuse such as Maiti Nepal in Kathmandu, Child rescue Nepal etc.

Alan Roadnight

WHAT'S TRENDING



Building an information bridge for Nepal's farmers

by **Nareesh Newar**
Rajan Bajracharya left his job as GIS specialist to develop GeoKrishi, an information app for farmers. The project recently won the US Data-Driven Farming Award and got a cash prize of \$100,000. Read Bajracharya's story of success and watch a video on our YouTube channel.

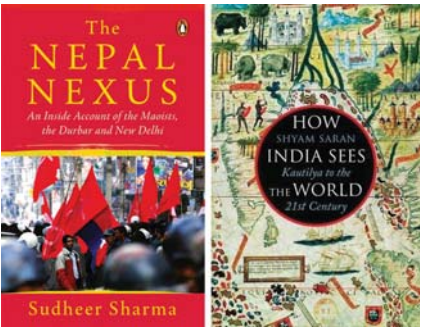
Most reached and shared on Facebook



Love of heritage

by **Kunda Dixit**
Ever wondered about the eroticism on Nepal's temples struts? The reasons for them are explored in a new book by Wolfgang Korn and Sukra Sagar Shrestha, who catalogued some of the artifacts after the 2015 earthquake. Review at nepalitimes.com.

Most popular on Twitter



Two takes on the Nepal-India nexus

by **Alisha Sijapati**
Former Indian envoy to Nepal Shyam Saran and editor Sudheer Sharma have diametrically opposing views on Nepal's political transition as has been made apparent in their respective books *How India Sees The World* and *The Nepal Nexus*. A review and an interview with Sharma on our website.

Most commented

Trafficked Nepali woman's testimony

"I was 14 years old when my aunt sold me for Rs10,000. First I was at brothel in New Delhi. They sent three customers to me on the very first day and eventually up to 25 clients a day... Arjun, a truck driver from Gorkha eventually rescued me."

Most visited online page

QUOTE TWEETS

Nepali Times @NepaliTimes
#Nepal has the greatest variety of birdlife for its area in all the world. Of the 880 species recorded in the country, 150 are migratory #birds that travel from places as far away as #Siberia. But what does the on-going bird census say? Find out here: <https://nepalitimes.com/banner/the-great-trans-himalayan-bird-migration/>

Krishna Bhusal @Krishna41959902
Great insiting feature, community ownership and leadership in avifaunal conservation in country is appreciative

Nepali Times @NepaliTimes
Former Indian envoy to #Nepal Shyam Saran & editor @sudheerkm have diametrically opposing views on Nepal's political transition, writes @AlishaSijapati in the #review of Nepal Nexus & How #India Sees the World.
@CPR_India @PenguinIndia @juggernautbooks

raaz dhakal @DhakalRaaz
The moment I read writer having soft corner towards Prachanda and crediting him for major restructuring of state, I stopped. That's enough for me!



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

Publisher and Chief Editor: **Kunda Dixit**
Digital Producer: **Sonia Awale**, 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: 01-50055601 Fax: +977-1-5005518
Marketing: **Arjun Karki**, **Surendra Sharma** rachanas@himalmedia.com
Subscriptions: **Santosh Aryal** santosha@himalmedia.com
Printed at Jagadamba Press | Production Plant: 01-5250017-18
City Office: 01-5529210-11 | www.jagadambapress.com | sales@jppl.com.np



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

DISCOVER MORE: USA

with the airline that flies to
more countries than any other



TURKISH AIRLINES

LOS ANGELES
SAN FRANCISCO

What next for Kathmandu, bottled air?

Something is not working if officials elected to protect the public only protect those who fund them

Nepal has restructured its polity and installed local, provincial and central governments. People have been promised economic prosperity and happiness by a Communist majority government at all three tiers of government.



1/2 FULL
Anil Chitrakar

Though there is confusion on the devolution of rights and responsibilities to local government, urban and rural municipalities have created plans for the benefit of the local populations.

Many elected representatives have also gone abroad on study tours to see how other 'municipalika's around the world serve their people. There are examples of recognized good work: The mayors of Seoul and London have gone on to become President and Prime Minister of their respective countries. And in the US a Democratic Party candidate for president is also a mayor.

Many of Nepal's local governments have made tourism a key pillar of their economic development agenda. Tourism appears as low-hanging fruit until a deadly virus strikes, reminding us of the risks of dependence on visitors, and how having a beautiful landscape and monuments is not enough.

Many municipalities are in a Catch 22 situation because the



NT ARCHIVE /GOPEN RAI

things that they must do are not popular with their voters. How can an elected official start taxing the informal economy, fraudulent businesses and net tax evaders when these very people are his/her voters or party funders? This is the dark flip side of the democratic system that we have chosen. The right thing to do may not be the popular thing to do.

Local governments need to clean up the air and water, clear litter and manage waste if they are to make urban spaces more liveable, and if they are to benefit the local population from tourism income.

There were simpler times

when we could drink from the neighbourhood water spout, well, or street-side tap. As water became polluted and spread disease, we were forced to buy and drink bottled water. We are not alone in this unfortunate trajectory. The world-famous brand Evian started selling bottled water in Switzerland in 1929 because of the fear of cholera.

What will we do if the air is as polluted? Breathe bottled air? That is already happening in some bars across the world that offer piped oxygen. The day may not be far away when we start seeing tourists at Darbar Square not just carrying

bottled water but also oxygen cylinders in their backpacks. With the Covid19 scare, we are already seeing them masked.

If, god forbid, a disease outbreak were to occur in Nepal, could our elected officials impose a strict quarantine of the kind we have seen in Hubei? Can they clear illegally occupied land or river banks? Will they stop breweries from polluting rivers upstream from national parks? Or shut down an illegal asphalt factory in the middle of a residential area in the capital?

China can build a 1,000 bed hospital in two weeks because it never had free and fair elections.

This is not the path Nepal has chosen, but something is not working if officials elected to protect the public only protect those who fund them.

The government wasted tax rupees to 'train' rivers by building gabion embankments which did not even last the next monsoon due to poor design and bad engineering. Local governments now make a fortune allowing corrupt contractors to extract of sand and boulders from rivers. Tipper trucks mine river beds and have killed the Trisuli, Sun Kosi and Indrawati rivers. They are not done yet: now they are moving upstream to damage watersheds and water sources.

Nepal needs a national compact to protect air, water sources, springs, wells, and watersheds like the Chure Hills. Timber, sand and boulders will allow contractors to make a fortune, and government officials to strike rich with kickbacks. But the people need water tomorrow for drinking and irrigation, and not so much that it floods the downstream Tarai.

Governments were elected to ensure development that can sustain us into the future, not to irreversibly destroy it. We must all work together to get our elected governments to protect open spaces for the next disaster, our monuments and cultural assets for the next generations, and plants, birds and animals for the sake of humanity. In a federal Nepal, these responsibilities are greater at the local level. 🇳🇵

Anil Chitrakar is President of Siddharthinc.



Escape to, and from, Pokhara

Pokhara is changing before our eyes. Its lakeside area is packed with hotels and restaurants, and the paddy fields of the suburbs are filling up with concrete and tarmac. Innovative hoteliers are increasingly branching out into side valleys and up the surrounding hills.

One such hotel is Sunshine, which describes itself as a 'boutique resort', with 22 rooms looking up to the panorama of the Annapurnas. What you have here instead of Lakeside is an ornithological paradise above the Phusrey Khola, a tributary of the Seti on the southern rim of the Valley.

There are great walks to be had all around, and the fragrant air reminds us of the old Pokhara of little farms, grazing buffalos and fluttering butterflies. Sunshine is located exactly in the transition zone between the rock-strewn basin that makes up Pokhara's valley floor and the hills that rise up from it.

Several hundred years ago, there was catastrophic glacial lake outburst that brought down a flood that deposited boulders and debris 150m deep along the Seti River. This is what made Pokhara's uniquely flat terrain, which also backed up the Harpan rivulet to form Phewa Lake and the other lakes for which Pokhara is famous.

The city's foundation is made up of boulders that, when eroded, give us the grassy ledges that are Pokhara's landmark. Sunshine Resort sits on one such ledge and with a mountain flank rising behind it. Few in the tourism trade even know about this geological history of Pokhara, which is described to visitors with enthusiasm by Sunshine's proprietor Rajendra Dhoj Kiran.

A veteran of Nepal's hospitality industry and once general manager of the Hotel Phulbari, Kiran says, "I searched for a decade before locating a plot I thought would be best for the kind of small hotel with full facilities which I felt Pokhara deserved."

"I am on the lookout for guests that are excited about small things," says Kiran, as he takes visitors on a personalised tour on the trails. He stops at one place and points across the Phusrey rivulet towards Mt Machapuchre, but he is directing the visitor's attention not to the mountain but to an interesting collection of five giant simal trees in the foreground.

"You can see Machapuchre from any point in Pokhara, but these trees which were once common in Pokhara are now mostly gone except here." 🇳🇵 <https://sunshineresortpokhara.com/>

BIZ BRIEFS

Turkish Airlines

Turkish Airlines, which has recently announced the passenger and cargo traffic



results for January, recorded 80.6% load factor in this month while its number of international passengers increased by 10%.

Mahindra

The Mahindra XUV300 has achieved Global NCAP's first ever 'Safer Choice' Award, an accolade only available to automakers achieving the highest levels of safety performance for cars sold in India. Mahindra XUV300 was able to score five-star safety rating for adult protection and four stars for child occupant protection in January 2020, making it the highest score under this campaign.

Qatar Airways

Qatar Airways has concluded the 2019-2020 season final as partners of the 'A' Division Martyr's Memorial League at the Dashrath Stadium on 15 February. The



final saw San Miguel Machindra Club emerge victorious against Tribhuvan Army Club after a competitive match attended by thousands of spectators.

Samsung Exchange

IMS, the national distributor for Samsung Mobiles in Nepal has announced Samsung Exchange Facility across most of its IMS

BOK

Bank of Kathmandu Limited held a press meet on 19 February to mark its 25th anniversary. With Nepal Rastra Bank's Governor Dr. Chiranjibi Nepal as the chief guest, the bank's board of directors, management committee and media personnel were present at the event. As a part of a CSR campaign, the bank donated Rs 10 million to Kathmandu Institute of Child Health for the construction of its ICU.

Nepal media feels China’s wrath in coronavirus fallout

Wednesday was Nepal’s Democracy Day, it was the 27th anniversary of Kantipur Media Group, and it was the day Anup Kaphle was stepping down as editor of *The Kathmandu Post*. What Kaphle had probably not expected was a high-profile send-off from the Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu.

A strongly worded statement by the embassy named Kaphle, accused him of being ‘always biased’ against China and issued threats of unspecified action against the paper for a column reprinted (*pictured right*) from *The Korea Herald* by former US ambassador to NATO Ivo Daalder, which criticised China’s response to the Covid-19 epidemic.

It was uncharacteristic of an embassy that usually keeps a low profile in Nepal, and has upheld a policy of noninterference in Nepal’s internal affairs, to go so public with such a direct attack against a local media. In the past, the embassy has preferred to work discreetly behind the scenes by channelling complaints against editors through the Foreign Ministry or Home Ministry.

However, the reaction from China was not restricted to Nepal, but part of a broader worldwide offensive against negative coverage of China over the coronavirus epidemic, a backlash from Beijing against those it saw as ‘kicking China when it is down’. China has been critical of especially the United States for using the epidemic for geo-strategic gain.

Also on Wednesday, China cancelled the press accreditation of three *Wall Street Journal* reporters for a story that in its headline called China ‘the real sick man of Asia’. The Foreign Ministry in Beijing said the story was racist and set back the country’s efforts to combat the epidemic. This is the first time that there have been multiple expulsions of Beijing-based foreign correspondents since Mao Zedong.

In Kathmandu, the embassy’s press statement brought on a quick rebuke from



a group of editors from a cross-section of the media, which hit out at the embassy for naming the editor and threatening the paper.

‘We condemn the statement by the embassy which also violates diplomatic norms,’ the statement, signed by 17 of the editors of Nepal’s mainstream newspapers and magazines, said.

The Chinese embassy statement lashed out at *The Kathmandu Post*, and singled out its outgoing editor for special mention. It said the Ivo Daalder op-ed ‘deliberately smeared the efforts of the Chinese government and people fighting against the new coronavirus pneumonia and even viciously attacked the political system of China ... This fully revealed its ignorance and prejudice on China, deeply hurt the feelings of the Chinese people ...’

The statement concluded with the following sentences: ‘It is regrettable that Mr Anup Kaphle, Chief Editor of The Kathmandu Post has always been biased on China-

related issues. This time he went as far as disregarding the facts and becoming a parrot of some anti-China forces and, therefore, his ulterior purpose is destined to failure. The Chinese Embassy in Nepal has made solemn representations to the newspaper and himself and reserves the right of further action.’

Chinese Ambassador Hou Yanqi immediately tweeted the statement, provoking a firestorm in social media from both those who supported and opposed the issue. Some pointedly reminded her that Nepal was a democracy, unlike China — and that it had no right to tell Nepal’s media what to do, on the country’s Democracy Day no less. Others criticised *The Kathmandu Post* for insulting a friendly neighbouring country,

and most of those posts used an identical analogy: asking what would have happened if it was an illustration of Gandhi wielding a gun in Kashmir.

The objection seemed to be less about the content of the Daalder op-ed, which many did not even seem to have read, and more about the Shutterstock image of Mao Zedong on China’s 100 yuan banknote wearing a mask. The Chinese Embassy in Seoul has not issued a public statement against *The Korean Herald* which first published the op-ed.

Many social media users posted pictures of the cover of a recent issue of *The Economist*, (*left*) which also recently depicted Mao wearing a mask, and asked what the fuss was all about. Others dug up an image from *Himal* bimonthly magazine from 25 years ago in which a Nepali cap was photo-montaged on to Mao Zedong to illustrate a story about the spread of Maoism in South Asia.

In a strongly-worded editorial, *The Kathmandu Post* fired back on Thursday: ‘... the Chinese embassy did not just express its discontent with the article published; it went so far as to disparage the Post’s Editor-in-Chief and employ threatening language. The undiplomatic—and frankly menacing—manner in which the Chinese embassy made its objections known is condemnable ... If Nepal is to keep its sovereignty, it needs to ensure that no foreign nation, no matter how powerful, gets to dictate what principles Nepalis uphold.’

China is sensitive to the coronavirus epidemic bringing out racist stigmatisation of people of Chinese ethnicity all over the world, and feels that it is not getting credit for quarantines to prevent the virus spread.

Nepal has felt the geopolitical fallout. For a country that hardly ever sees anti-Chinese content in its media, the embassy statement and the debate it has sparked marks a watershed.

Kunda Dixit

God created WINTERS,
we created HOT RUM PUNCH

Khukri XXX Rum

Cinnamon Powder

Lemon Juice

Star Anise

Cardamom

Hot Water

Honey

Clove

www.khukrirum.com

khukrirumnepal

@khukrirum

Enjoy responsibly.

The power of reading aloud

Sanghamitra Subba

Instilling a habit of reading in children supplements what they learn in school, but reading aloud to children by parents, teachers or even other children, is a way for them and adults to bond and to share experiences of wonder, joy, and discovery.

When children are able to turn the pages of a book but not yet to read words, they often tell stories from memory or make them up as they go along. These are all essential steps in the inculcation of a reading habit. Following words on the page as a parent reads aloud helps children to understand the connectedness of the spoken and written word.

Reading aloud to and with children has benefits far beyond the development of language and literacy skills. A study in the journal *Pediatrics* found that shared reading and play between parents and children has long-lasting impact on the children's social and emotional development, helping to curb hyperactivity, aggression, and difficulty with attention.

There is in fact a performance gap in school between children who are readers and those who are not. Children who have books in their lives from before formal schooling have better vocabulary, comprehension, and communication skills, and these set them up for success in school, says early childhood development expert Meenakshi Dahal.

"Parents who do not speak to their children in proper sentences hinder their child's verbal fluency, communication skills and even reading skills," says Dahal. "The lack of proper communication hinders a child's reading ability and the lack of reading ability hinders the development of communication skills."

A recent campaign by children's publisher Rato Bangala Kitab (#ReadAloudwithRBK) encourages parents to post videos on social media platforms reading aloud to children. Says Monita Gurung of RBK: "We wanted reading to be a part of the family's daily life and reading aloud is an easy and fun way to do that. The new generation of parents is



PHOTOS: RATO BANGALA KITAB

aware of the benefits of reading to children, and the culture of reading is picking up."

Pedagogues say there is a clear correlation between children's reading habits and their performance in school. And the benefits to learning go beyond that. Reading helps children develop a love for literature, which results in the child becoming a reader.

"A good reader becomes a good writer and a person

who can think deeply and see different perspectives. The child develops empathy and a stronger understanding of the world and becomes a life-long learner," says Milan Dixit, principal of Rato Bangala School.

Children's publishers have been publishing more books in Nepali so that there is more available for children and parents to read. Illustrated children's books like *Didiko Scooty* by Diwakar Chhetri

Why read to children?

Kids, especially around the ages of three and four, have a sponge-brain for language. They will take as much as you can give them and if you starve them of reading aloud, you starve them of words that they need for the future. The way we impact the world as adults is mostly through words, whether spoken or written. If we do not have a mastery of language it will be much harder for us to convince and persuade and thereby change the world around us.

So you need to pour words into a child's brain. Rich and creamy language. It needs to start early on. They need to hear their parent's voices. It is also a great bonding experience for the parent and child, and sometimes a child will want to read the same book again and again and again. The fate of anybody who writes a well-written picture book is that parents will have read it 75 times a week.

As children grow older they are hungry for your time and attention. Reading to them is a great way to give them that, and it gives them confidence in school with their own language. There are no negatives about reading aloud to children, only positives.

And stories teach ethics, morals, behaviour, and decision-making. Reading aloud shows children that you also value reading and value literature. If a child never sees you reading then they will never take it up themselves or see the importance of it.

Bruce Coville

have been very popular, and RBK is releasing its first colourful board books for very small children that can take rough handling at the Bal Sahitya Mahotsav on Saturday.

Read More Nepal's Kartikeya Ghimire says reading aloud to children not only arouses interest in books and language, but is an

interactive experience. He adds: "Through reading parents can also impart values like compassion and empathy."

As popular children's author Bruce Coville says, (*see box, and overleaf*) there are no negatives to reading aloud to children. There are only positives. 🇳🇵



नेपाल सरकार
सञ्चार तथा सूचना प्रविधि मन्त्रालय
सूचना तथा प्रसारण विभाग

“लोभ, लालच र प्रलोभनमा नपरौ अब:
लैङ्गिक हिंसा विरुद्ध लागौ सब ।”

“समन्वय, सहकार्य र साझेदारी सरकार:
लैङ्गिक हिंसाको अन्त्य मानवअधिकार ।”

“सीप, सृजना र रोजगारी सहित अघि बढौ:
लैङ्गिक हिंसा र दुर्व्यवहार हामी नसहौ ।”





We are looking at a pretty wet weekend. Not that it is not welcome, the farms need it, so do the dusty streets. A wide westerly front (pictured in this satellite image, left) is sweeping across northern India, and it will bring snow to higher regions, start raining by mid-day Friday and the precipitation will linger into Saturday and Sunday. The good news is that the rain will hopefully clear the crossborder inversion-trapped pollution that filtered out the sun and kept maximum temperatures low. Things should warm up as the rains taper off early next week.

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
19° 9°	20° 8°	19° 8°



This author is an alien

Bruce Coville describes his interest in firing the imagination of children with science-fiction books

Inspired by Dr Suess, *The Mushroom Planet* series, *Dr Doolittle*, C S Lewis, Tolkien, myths, legends, science fiction and fantasy at a young age, American author Bruce Coville writes stories about futuristic gizmos -- quirky, fantastical and bizarre stories that are a favourite with children all over the world.

But not all his imaginary gadgets stay imaginary: he predicted the invention of smartphones and voice-recognition translators 20 years ago. In his *My Teacher is an Alien* series published in 1989, characters use

a device called the URAT (Universal Reader and Translator), a powerful pocket computer that seems to belong to our world today. Nowadays, Coville writes about brain-zapping intelligence boosters and machine-based telepathy, which we may also see become reality in future.

Coville's *The Unicorn Chronicles* series, *Rod Albright Alien Adventures*, *The Magic Shop* series and other playfully-titled books show that the 69-year-old author has a child's wide imagination, and an understanding of the way young minds work.

Coville is in Kathmandu for the Bal Sahitya Mahotsav children's book festival on Saturday at Rato Bangala School and will be doing readings from his books there and in other schools.

One day when Coville was six in cow country in upstate New York, his father, a travelling salesman, pulled out Victor Appleton's *Tom Swift in the City of Gold*. "It was a big, ugly book, and he put me on his lap and started reading aloud," recalls Coville. "We read night after night and went on a journey together. In those times, for boys you almost needed permission from an adult male to read and I became a reader because of the model my father was."

It was in Grade 6 that Coville realised he wanted to be a writer, among the multitude of other things that a child dreams of doing. His teacher encouraged him to do a long-term short-story project where he had the freedom to write whatever he wanted to, and the young Coville had produced an Aesop-esque

version of Sheila Burnford's *Incredible Journey*.

As an adult, Coville took many jobs as he got his start in writing. He has worked as a toymaker, cookware salesman, assembly line worker and even as a gravedigger, but the biggest influence on his work and approach to children has been his time as an elementary school teacher. (Although in *The Ghost Wore Gray* his gravedigging knowledge did come in handy.)

Now a best-selling author, Coville is also a performer who puts on storytelling concerts and performs plays, narrations, audiobook recordings and read-alouds.

"Reading aloud is a great passion of mine," says Coville. "I read aloud to my children till they were 16 and now I read aloud to my two-year-old granddaughter every night."

Reading to children has also helped him understand what children enjoy most. "I start my stories off in wacky ways because I want to get the gift of their attention," explains Coville. "Only after they know I am on their

side will they enjoy my books and continue to read them, even when I take years to complete a series."

Fans of *The Unicorn Chronicles* were in elementary school when the first books came out in 1994. It was only hundreds of cranky fan mails and 16 years later that the final book in the series was published. Many of his fans, some of them in Nepal, are now in their late 30s.

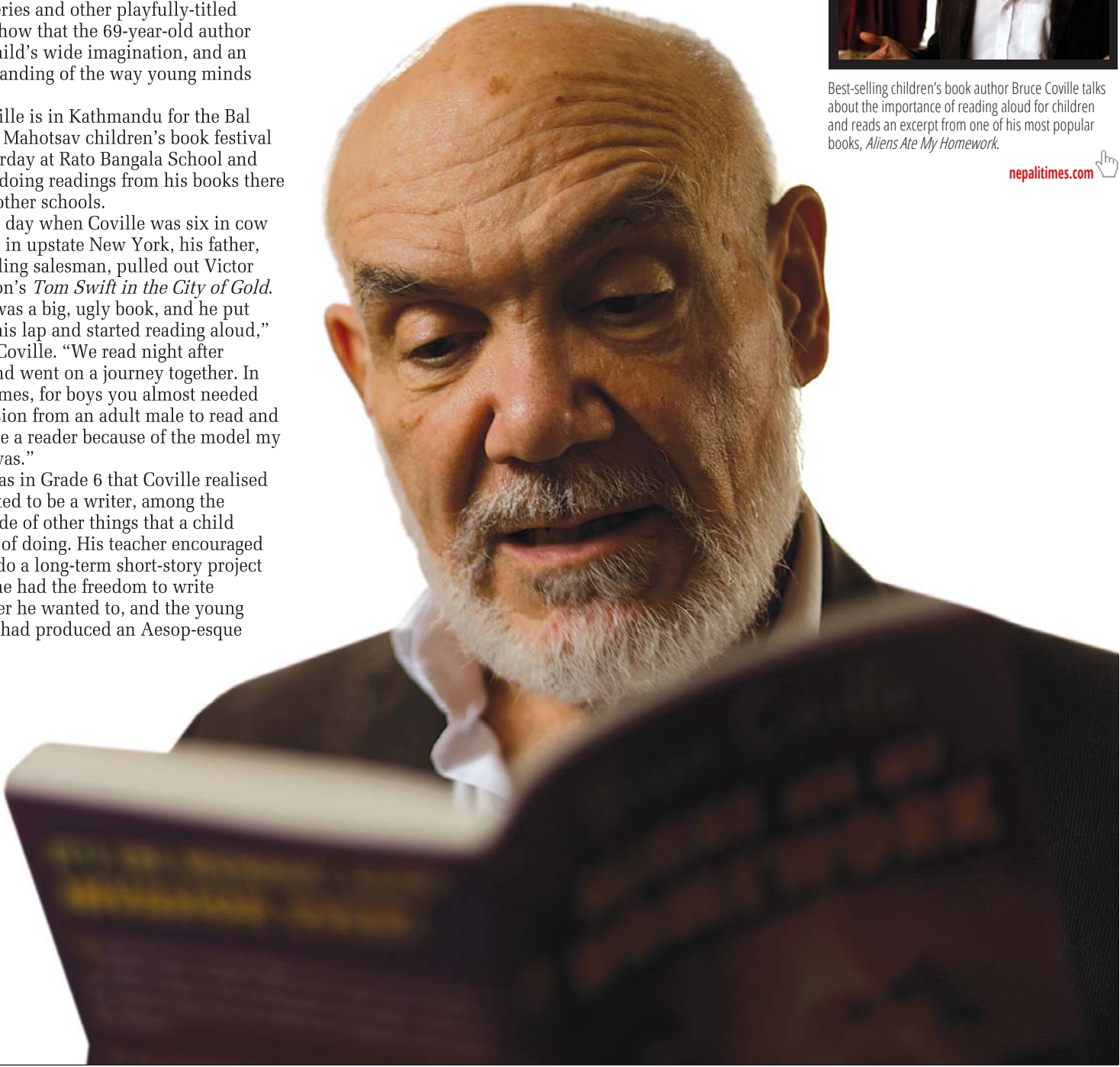
After four decades and 105 books, however, Coville wants to do something different. His possible next project? Making children's literature safe for farts -- an outlet for his fairly rowdy sense of humour and a homage to a bodily function children everywhere find hilarious. 🇳🇵

Sanghamitra Subba



Best-selling children's book author Bruce Coville talks about the importance of reading aloud for children and reads an excerpt from one of his most popular books, *Aliens Ate My Homework*.

nepalitimes.com



MONIKA DEUPALA

OFFERTUNITY

ON THE OCCASION OF 19TH ANNIVERSARY, SUBISU PRESENTS

25 Mbps
INTERNET

+

clear tv

FULL HD PACKAGE

(275 Plus Channels, 95 Plus HD)

@ JUST Rs. **1040***/Month

clear tv

@ JUST RS. 221*/MONTH

(245 PLUS CHANNELS, 65 PLUS HD)

GET 3 MONTHS FREE PREMIUM PACKAGE
(20,000+ NEPALI SONGS)

SUBISU

GIGIFiber

www.subisu.net.np

clear tv

www.clear.tv.np



← Makara USB (Allaré)

Traditional Nepali iconography meets the digital age in Allaré's Makara USB. The makar is a half-terrestrial, half-aquatic creature that is the vehicle of the water god Varuna and a guardian of gateways in Newa and other South Asian cultures. It features prominently in Kathmandu Valley's traditional devotional art forms, including on stone water-spouts and Rato Machhendranath's chariot. Allaré has engraved a makar on the wood that houses its USB.

Price: Rs2,000

Specifications: 16GB, 3.0 USB

Dhampus Backpack → (Yatri Supply)

Dhampus 13L is a go-to backpack for city dwellers and spontaneous adventurers. It is lightweight and waterproof and it offers multiple spacious pockets. The smaller front pocket is easily accessible and the perfect place to keep your frequently used items; the larger pocket has a compartment to fit a 14" laptop and slots to keep your knick knacks organised.

Price: Rs2,800

Colours: Grey, Space Black



← Planters (Kala Kathmandu)

Kala Kathmandu's minimalistic animal-shaped planters provide a cute home for small plants and succulents. The ceramic planters come in the form of beige-and-brown cats, tan capybaras, tan-and-grey elephants, and beige-and-white sheep. The company also sells a beautiful, earth-inspired espresso tea set, colourful vases and contemporary wall-clocks.

Price: Rs950

Cold-Pressed Juice → (Nochini)

Instead of guzzling sugary, additive-filled canned or boxed juices, try Nochini's healthier, sugar-free and preservative-free cold-pressed ones. They come in 13 different fruit and vegetable combinations, including the Hydrator (watermelon and chia seed), Beet It (beet and apple), and Revitalise (carrot, cucumber and pomegranate). When the company started in 2018, the juices came in glass bottles, but they were later sold in BPA-free plastic. Now the customer-favourite 250-ml glass bottles are back, so you can drink Nochini without worrying about creating a lot of plastic pollution.

Nochini also offers a one- to three-day juice cleanse that comes with detailed instructions. Also try their yogurt-based smoothies, which will energize you for the day. If you'd like, Nochini will even create a dairy-free option for you.

The company will soon be launching +977wtr, a line of bottled water, and The Juice Wala, a more affordable version of its flagship cold-pressed juices.

Price: Rs300 per bottle

Juice Cleanse: Rs1800 (one day/three juices), Rs3600 (two days/12 juices), Rs5400(three days/18 juices)



Double Ribbed (Lumina)

Gone are the days when wool was scratchy. L is delightfully soft. Woven in sheep's wool and Woolen Hat is available in an array of colours featured straight, interethnic, inter-caste and products while in an embrace or gazing at knits.

A pity that winter

Price:

Available in: ash gray, brick brown, mustard yellow, muted blue

Sanghami

On the well-lit shelves of The Local Alchi Ko Pasal, shoppers encounter clothes, games, jewellery and created by Ne

All these items have in common and chic. Many incorporate t contemporary uses, taking Nepali forms. The social media posts of t show the products in action, cr situations, and use them as a pl

This week, *Nepali Times* these elegant



Woolen Hat (Wear)

Lumu Wear's beanies, scarves and mittens are lined with warm fleece, the Double-Ribbed. Lumu Wear's latest 'Love is Love' campaign features LGBTQI+ couples and friends wearing their hats to each other -- warmed by their love and the weather.

Price is nearly over.

Rs800
Brown, leaf green, midnight black,
beige, olive green, teal blue

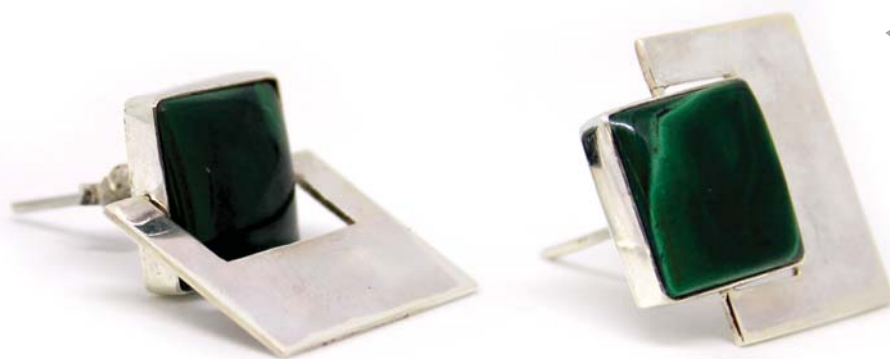
Modern touches to traditional concepts

Extra Subba

al Project, Timro Concept Store or
er tastefully arranged rows of bags,
and stationery designed and
Nepali artisans.

that they are minimalist, refined
traditional Nepali themes into
handicrafts beyond their familiar
the companies that produce them
creatively place them in everyday
platform to promote a larger idea.

imes profiles some of
t new brands.



Earrings (Sí by Sichu Khairegoli)

Sí presents bold, minimalist, and geometrical handcrafted silver jewellery. These earrings are a favourite of designer Sichu Khairegoli, who sees them as embodying the refined simplicity and contemporary nature of the brand. All jewellery is made with genuine silver and semi-precious and precious gems from Nepal, India and Thailand. Khairegoli also custom-designs jewellery.

Price: Rs6,800

Price Range: Rs2,000-Rs15,000



Payoo (Kazi Play)

Payoo, Kazi Play's latest card game, tests customers' reflexes and knowledge of Nepal's endangered animal species. Suitable for players of any age, Payoo is a great way to learn about wildlife while enjoying some friendly competition. It consists of 57 cards with colourful illustrations of animals like the Bengal tiger and the Himalyan tahr, and players must find the match between their card and the card on deck. Kazi Play also has board games like Samrajya, which takes players on the journey of Prithvi Narayan Shah's conquest of Kathmandu Valley, or Bhatti, a fun drinking game that can be an extension to Samrajya.

Price: Rs600

Premium Dark Chocolate Mustang Apples and Roasted Pistachios (Nana's Delight)

Nana's Delight's Mustang Apples and Roasted Pistachios variety is the first of its new Premium Dark Chocolate line. While the cacao is imported from the Philippines and India, the Mustang apples are from Jumla and the nuts from around Nepal. The apples add a sweet, tangy bite and the roasted pistachios give a pleasing crunch to the 70% dark chocolate bar.

Price: Rs90 (small)/ Rs450 (large)



Skateboard decks (Arniko)

Arniko's sleek, modern and carved decks are not just skateboards, but works of art. Kathmandu Valley artisans intricately engrave the Indian Apple and Eucalyptus finish of the Canadian maplewood boards. You can opt for the standard geometrical designs with Arniko insignia or ask for custom work. Arniko also makes trendy apparel, bags and furniture.

Price Range: Rs4,000-9000

Variations: Pointed, Curved

EVENTS



Art Exhibition

Nepal Art Council is hosting an exhibition titled *Blessed Features and True Gestures of Nepal* 19-22 February, 10am-5pm, Nepal Art Council, Babar Mahal (01) 4220735

NOWTHERE

NOWTHERE features work by artists from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. 20 February-10 March, 11am-5pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babar Mahal Revisited (01) 4218048



Illustration Workshop

Ettore Montesi, a visiting artist from Italy, will conduct a two-day illustration workshop for drawing enthusiasts, aspiring artists, beginner drawing hobbyists, and illustrators. Bring your art supplies. 21-22 February, 10am & 12pm respectively, Square Studio, Jwagal, 9802025808



Hike to Shivapuri

Sooriya Wellness and Yoga Centre will host a meditation hiking trip from through Shivapuri National Park to Shivapuri peak. 22 February, Price: Rs1,500 (01) 4001714/19

Bird Watch

Join world-renowned author and ornithologist Carol Inskipp at the Godawari-Naudahara Community Forest for Bird Conservation Nepal's bird-watching event. 22 February, 7:30pm-12pm, Meeting at Godawari Buspark, 9851210987



Boudha Farmer's Market

Buy fresh and organic produce, original art and craft, and other delicious goodies. Support local products and farmers. 22 February, 8-am-12pm, Utpala Cafe, Boudha, 9801978106

Music Matters

Nepali musicians share their experiences from the World Music Expo (WOMEX) events, and discuss how Nepali musicians can better prepare to explore and participate in various world music platforms. 22 February, 3pm-4pm, Music House Kirtipur, Kirtipur, 9841243284



Garage Sale

Shop for pre-owned clothes, household objects, tableware, accessories, toys, electronics and more. 23 February, 11am-2pm, Cafe & Restaurant U, Bakhundole

Japanese Film Festival

The Embassy of Japan and JALTAN presents a two-day Japanese Film Festival. All films include English subtitles. 28-29 February, Timings vary, Tribhuvan Army Officer's Club, Tundikhel (01) 4426680

MUSIC



Folk Rock Night

Enjoy folk rock music from Trishna Gurung after an opening performance by Samiran band. Stay for the after-party DJ session. 22 February, 7pm-11:55pm, VIP Restaurant Lounge Bar, Thamel (01) 5364160

Tribute to Nirvana

Celebrate rock legends Nirvana this Shivaratri with live performances by the bands Torn, Artaj, and Bookhya. 21 February, 2pm onwards, Jatra Restaurant, Kirtipur (01) 4330780

Acoustic Night

Satkul Giri will perform original and cover songs live. 21 February, 6pm-9pm, Fusion Pizzeria & Café, Boudha, 9860721129



Friday Night Live

Enjoy an evening of great music and good beer with Rohit John Chhetri. 21 February, 6pm-9pm Tickets: Rs1,199, Attic, Gyaneshwor (01) 4417843

Shivaratri at Moksh

Celebrate Shivaratri with live reggae music from Peace Joint (Japan) and Joint Family Internationale. 21 February, 7pm-11:30pm, Entry: Rs500, Moksh, Jhamsikhel (01) 5528362

OUR PICK



Opens in Kathmandu 21 February

An adventure film, *The Call of The Wild* is based on the 1903 novel by Jack London of the same name. The film tells a story of a St. Bernard dog named Buck who is stolen from his Santa Clara home in California. During his struggle to get back home, Buck crosses path with John Thornton (Harrison Ford). Together Thornton and Buck embark on a journey to the wild. Along with Ford, the live-action movie also casts Dan Stevens, Omar Sy and Karen Gillan.

DINING



Kairos Cafe

Kairos serves great customizable breakfasts. Try their BlackBerry smoothie bowl, made with fresh berries and topped with house-made granola and their own peanut butter 7am-9pm, Jawalakhel, 9813493902

Muse Restobar

A multi-cuisine family restaurant and bar with a sophisticated wooden interior. Uttarahoka, Lazimpat (01) 4445533



Frydays'

The place to go for all things fried. Try their delicious Frydays' farm breakfast and leave with your bellies and hearts full. 8am-8pm, Jhamsikhel, 9808224159

Sizzling Sizzler

Give your taste buds a sizzling treat and make your weekend great. Enjoy soups, dessert, and unlimited beer with your sizzler every Friday and Saturday. 7pm-10pm, Price: Rs1999, Kava Restaurant, Thamel (01) 4217999



Gangnam Galbi Barbeque

Korean barbecue, grill, and galbi stick food. Your mouth will water as you watch it cook and your tastebuds will be tantalised when it arrives at your table. 11am-9:30pm, Naxal (01) 4434780

GETAWAY



Hotel Country Villa

From the top of Nagarkot hill, this hotel provides spectacular views of woods, sunrise and sunset, and showcases the mountain ranges on clear days. A relaxing retreat in nature for those wishing to escape the chaos of the city. Nagarkot (01) 4700305, 9851192106

Hattiban Resort

Hattiban Resort is the perfect place to get away for the weekend. Have breakfast at the hotel's buffet, lounge in the sunny courtyard overlooking the mountains, book a massage at the spa and tour nearby Pharping, Champadevi Temple and Khokana Village. Hattiban (01) 6916140



The Inn Patan

What was once a traditional brick-and-timber Newari house has been transformed into a beautiful heritage hotel. Experience the vibrant living history of Patan Darbar Square during your stay here. Patan, 9851066897

The Old Inn

This bed-and-breakfast offers a cozy getaway with a beautiful view of Annapurna, Langtang and beyond. Its traditional timber-and-brick architecture is reminiscent of old Newa houses. Bandipur, Tanahu (65) 520110



Heritage Hotel Suites and Spa

Re-discover wonder amidst an oasis that brings to life a 5000-year-old cultural history. Enjoy comfort, style and adventure under the magical Himalayas. Lakeside, Pokhara (61) 462125

ECOLOGIC WITH MISS MOTI

KRIPA JOSHI



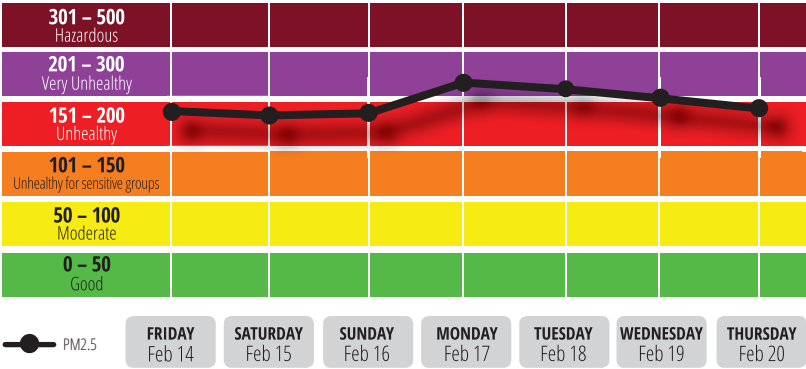
SWAP BACK TO HANDKERCHIEFS



Facial tissues, although convenient, has a much bigger environmental impact compared to handkerchiefs. It requires a lot of water and energy to grow trees, produce pulp and manufacture the required virgin fibres. Moreover, tissues are also non-recyclable and create waste. If you need to use tissues then try to find ones that are made from chlorine-free recycled paper and compost them after use.

AIR QUALITY INDEX

KATHMANDU, 14 - 20 February



People in Kathmandu are well-aware that they are breathing some of the dirtiest air in the world. The Air Quality Index (AQI) in the city centre averaged above 180 throughout the week and peaked on Monday at 220. But it is likely to get only worse. Shivaratri on Friday will add to the concentration of pollutants with bonfires, and the Army exercises in Tundikhel will add to the pollution, although vehicular emissions will be lower. <https://np.usembassy.gov/embassy/air-quality-monitor/>

Data mismatch proves adoption bypasses Nepal law

Akash Chhetri

After malpractices were uncovered in the 2000s, the Nepal government tightened laws on adoption. According to the ‘Terms and Conditions and Process Required for Approving Adoption of a Nepali Child by an Alien – 2008,’ prospective foreign parents cannot choose the child they want to adopt.

Foreign couples wishing to adopt a Nepali child must apply through a registered international agency or their embassies in Nepal, filling out forms offering details about the age, gender and other particulars that they seek in a child. A joint secretary-led ‘Family Matching Committee’ is then assigned to find the child from shelters. Clause 14 of the Terms and Conditions stipulates that these adoptions will take place on a first-come-first-serve basis.

However, the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) documents make clear that many adoptions have skipped the whole process. The documents show that Denmark received 20 Nepali children through adoption from Nepal in the last nine years. But government records in Kathmandu show only two children had paperwork to leave for that country. The mismatch is even starker for France, for which government records here show only one adopted Nepali child, but the HCCH records 21 Nepali children adopted by French families. (See map, page 1.)

Numerically, the United States shows the biggest discrepancy. The State Department report reveals that 102 children were adopted from Nepal in the last nine years, but the government’s records here show only 11.

According to the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the US Department of State, an American citizen wishing to adopt a child should be at least 25 years old, and in the case of couples both husband and wife should agree to adopt the child. Prospective parents should not have any criminal background and should meet the criteria of the country from which they seek to adopt. The fact that 91 Nepali children adopted by Americans have no records in Nepal prove that they were transported outside of legal channels. HCCH records show that Norway, Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden and Italy had similar inconsistency with Nepal government records.

Only figures for Germany show the opposite: government records here show four children were adopted by German parents between 2010 and 2019, and HCCH data shows only two children were adopted in Germany.

Chapter 8 and Chapter 9 of the Civil Code 2017 have the provisions in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. And there are a slew of policies and strict regulations governing inter-country adoption. For example, the Standards for Operation and Management of Residential Child



AKASH CHHETRI

Care Homes 2013 says it is the state’s responsibility to look after children who have lost both parents, or the children of invalid parents, provided their kin cannot take care of them. The priority is for in-country adoption, and international adoption is only a last resort.

All these legal provisions make inter-country child adoption so strict that it is inconceivable that such adoptions take place without the knowledge of several government agencies. The discrepancy of HCCH and Nepali records thus reveals that children are being trafficked abroad in the guise of adoption.

An NHRC report on Trafficking in Persons 2019 points to a nexus between orphanages, child-care centres and foreigners wishing to adopt children. The report says there are 14,864 children in 533 children’s homes all over the country. Nearly 80% of children in such centres are not orphans, and have either one or both parents.

The only government shelter for orphans is Bal Mandir and it is run by the Nepal Children’s Organisation (NCO), which provides care, nutrition and education to orphans all over the country. The NCO has been implicated in facilitating documents for illegal inter-country adoption.

In August 2019, British national Dona Smith was arrested at Kathmandu airport with a newborn baby she claimed was her daughter. Smith was carrying a birth certificate from Lalitpur Metropolitan City and the baby’s passport, issued by the British Embassy, carried her name as Anna Bella Laxmi Shrestha Smith. Smith told suspicious immigration officials that the baby’s father was Nepali.

An investigation later found out that the baby’s real mother was a rape victim who gave birth to her at Paropakar Maternity Hospital. Smith admitted to paying Bal Krishna Dangol, director of the NCO, Rs450,000 for the baby and another Rs2 million to procure the necessary documents to take her out of the country. Deputy Superintendent of Police Hobindra Bogati says Dangol was found to be involved in a larger child-trafficking network. Both Dangol and Smith are now in jail.

“I want to see my sons again”

Ten years ago, two of Manju Khadka’s three sons, Ram Kumar, 8, and Bal Krishna, 6 (right) were taken to a children’s shelter by a neighbour who promised they would be educated and fed there. For three years, Khadka was repeatedly prevented from seeing them. Finally, she found out they had been adopted by a couple in Italy.

“I gave birth to them. I did not send them as babies, they were grown up and going to school,” says a tearful Khadka (/left). “They threatened to finish me off.”

When she went to the police, they were rude and accused her of selling her children to the shelter. So Manju and her husband went to the National Human Rights Commission, but were unable to receive the help they needed to get their boys back. Ram Kumar and Bal Krishna are now 19 and 17 and living in Italy.



eager to adopt children.

“The children who are trafficked are often from the poor and underprivileged families or are street children,” Silwal says, “Traffickers prefer them because it is easier to tempt their parents.”

NHRC Commissioner Mohna Ansari says it difficult to curb such crimes unless there is public

awareness. “In our poverty-ridden society with rampant illiteracy and scarcity, parents think sending children to shelters will at least give them a good education. They are easily tempted by strangers who promise to take care of them.”

Centre for Investigative Journalism-Nepal

Affordably Brilliant.

High-definition, long-life, 3LCD and value-for-money projectors.



Epson Business Projectors

WXGA resolution | Equal white and colour brightness of up to 3,500 lumens
High contrast ratio of 16,000:1 | Long lamp life of 6,000 hours | HDMI and USB connectivity | Optional wireless connectivity | Built-in speakers

Range includes: EB-S05, EB-X39, EB-X05, EB-W05 and EB-535W



GET UP TO
3X BRIGHTER
COLOURS
with Epson Projectors*

Now available with
2 YEARS
STANDARD
WARRANTY



Designed to support
the Sustainable
Development Goals
(SDGs) set by the UN

Visit Mercantile Office Systems Pvt. Ltd.
Hitti Pokhari, Durbar Marg, Kathmandu.
Or call: 977-1-444 0773, 444 5920 for more info.

*Source: FutureSource Consulting. *Compared against similarly-priced leading 1-chip DLP® business and education projectors based on NPQ data from July 2011 through June 2012 (available at www.npq.com). Colour brightness (colour light output) measured in accordance with IESNA 15.4. Actual colour brightness will vary depending on actual usage conditions. 3LCD® is a registered trademark of Seiko Epson Corporation. DLP® is a registered trademark of Texas Instruments, Inc. and its use here does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement by them. *Applicable on new purchases and for existing customers with an existing warranty.



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY

vianet

अब सबै connected

ISO 9001:2015 Certified

Upgrade to vianet

अब Vianet को अपग्रेडसँग वार्षिक ग्राहकहरूले रु. १५०० को उत्कृष्ट छुट सहित अनुभव गर्नुहोस्
super-fast internet र 230 भन्दा बढी Channel भएको NetTV Combo Pack. साथै पाउनुहोस् Ultraboost, Viasecure, Viashop र Service Assurance जस्ता उत्कृष्ट features!

30 Mbps
Rs. 13,500*
per year
with NetTV

40 Mbps
Rs. 15,300*
per year
with NetTV

60 Mbps
Rs. 19,140*
per year
with NetTV

*Conditions apply

Included features

NetTV

230+ HD Channels

Ultraboost

100mbps Boost for Speedy Work

viasecure

Child Safety for Safer browsing

viashop

Exclusive Discount on Various Retail Outlets

Upcoming Feature

Call to upgrade
01-5970444,
9801046410

✉ sales@vianet.com.np | 🌐 www.vianet.com.np | 📱 [vianetnepal](https://www.facebook.com/vianetnepal) | 📷 [vianetffth](https://www.instagram.com/vianetffth)
Available in Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Banepa, Birgunj, Butwal, Bhairahawa, Biratnagar, Itahari, Chitwan, Tandil, Hetauda, Pokhara, Lekhnath, Dadeldhura, Dhangadhi and Darchula.

Service Assurance

Nepal's stolen gods



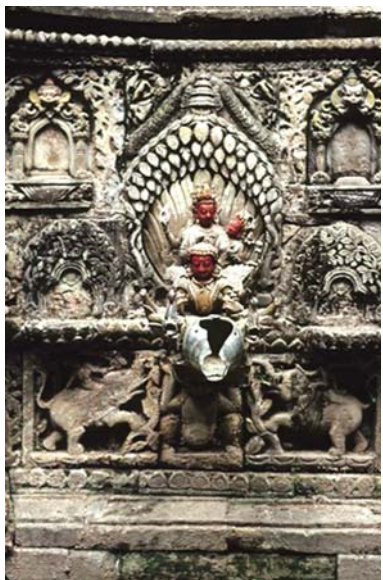
Bhai Raja Shrestha stands before the 1993 replica of the Laxmi-Narayan this week in Patan.



The Laxmi-Narayan figure as memorialised by Joy Lynn Davis in 2015.



The deity in the Dallas Art Museum in 2014.



MARY SUSSER



MONIKA DEUPALA

The Sundari Chok Garuda bronze spout in 1968 before it was stolen. A replica at Sundari Chok. The original now on display at the National Museum in Chhauni.

Kamala, is one of those many Kathmandu Valley deities that find themselves in museums or at auction houses in Europe and the United States. Although the government abides by UNESCO's international laws on import and export of cultural properties, and has its own Ancient Monument Preservation Act, the process of repatriating stolen antiquities is legally cumbersome.

"The Dallas Museum has to return our cultural property. It is

proven that it's ours, and we are working to get it back," acting director of the Department of Archaeology Damodar Gautam, told Nepali Times. He admitted the process is tedious: his department has to write to the Ministry of Culture, which will forward the request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the US Embassy and the Nepal Embassy in Washington, DC, the last of which will take it up with the US government and finally the Dallas Museum of Art.

The Department of Archaeology has a scanty inventory of stolen deities, and does not keep a record of artifacts that have been returned. Its records of the latter say merely that 32 stolen figures have been returned since 1996 (mainly from museums in Europe), from the thousands that have been trafficked by art thieves.

The government's responsibility to protect Nepal's living heritage is being filled by people like Roshan Mishra, curator of the Taragaon

Museum, who has documented many of the stolen artefacts on his website, Global Nepali Museums. Mishra's data shows that most of the smuggling has occurred since the 1970s, and 41 museums all over the world exhibit stolen stone, bronze, terracotta and wooden religious artefacts from Kathmandu. These institutions include the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Denver Art Museum and the San Diego Museum in the United States, the Royal Ontario Museum in Canada and many others.

"Our idols are auctioned for millions of dollars abroad and we cannot do much about it because of the long and slow bureaucratic process. The government needs to be more resolute in getting them back, otherwise they will remain abroad," says Mishra.

In 2010, a bronze Garuda water spout, a centrepiece of the Sundari Chok in Patan Darbar Square, was stolen. It was retrieved by police a year later in Kathmandu. Currently, the exquisitely carved 120-year-old figure is on display at the National Museum at Chhauni. A replica bronze created by artisans at the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT) is now at Sundari Chok.

"It was essential that we come up with a solution rather than

wait for the statue to return to the original place," explains Rohit Ranjitkar, director of KVPT, who says that putting the original back would have risked another theft.

Lain Singh Bangdel's *Stolen Images of Nepal* (1989) and Jürgen Schick's *The Gods are Leaving the Country* (2006), both written by art historians, document the stolen artefacts, and they catalogue what Nepal has lost in past decades. Many of the pieces have been traced to western museums and collectors.

Whether or not to replace the originals with replicas, and where the originals should be housed if they are returned from museums and art collectors abroad, are hotly debated subjects. Some temples in Kathmandu now have replicas, and original deities are protected by iron grills, or are bolted to walls.

Nepal is not the only country that is putting pressure on western museums to return antiquities. Greece and the British museum are haggling over the Parthenon Marbles stolen by Lord Eglin in 1806. The British Museum is also under pressure to return the stolen Benin bronzes from Nigeria, but is saying that the artifacts are too "fragile and delicate" to travel. 🇳🇵

REPLICAS OF THE GODS



It is difficult to get western museums to return trafficked deities, so Nepalis are making copies of the missing statuary. Get the first look of the Museum of Stolen Arts, set to open in 2022 and listen to its founder Rabindra Puri. Also from Bhai Raja Shrestha about the discovery of the 12th century deity stolen from his neighbourhood that has turned up in Dallas, Texas.

nepalitimes.com

A museum of copies

Bhaktapur architect Rabindra Puri has come up with another way of documenting Nepal's stolen deities. As part of his Mission Panauti Project, he is working on the Museum of Stolen Arts, set to open in 2022 in this town that has lost many of its religious objects.

The museum will initially have 50 stone replicas of sacred statuary that have been trafficked abroad. So far, artisans have hewn 36 of them.

"All the replicas in our display are of stolen idols that are Nepal's property and we have clear evidence of this. We need to raise awareness of the theft. It is public pressure and not the lengthy government process that will help us retrieve our heritage," Puri says. Puri hopes that the museum will raise awareness among Nepalis and build pressure on western museums and auction houses to return statuary to Nepal.

While appreciative of the effort, KVPT's Rohit Ranjitkar is not entirely convinced that a museum of replicas will help in the struggle for repatriation. He says: "It is easy to copy them, but there is little chance that international museums will agree to repatriate our deities. Also, even if they are returned, how will we preserve them in their original location?"

If the security of returned statuary cannot be guaranteed in their original locations, returned deities will find themselves in Nepali museums. Ranjitkar sees little value in this.



MONIKA DEUPALA

AITABARE

A weekly Sunday market at Dhokaima, with new stalls and interesting local products added every week. Support Nepali small business owners and shop for organic produce as well as unique handcrafted items at this special curated market. Shop at Aitabare!

Venue: Dhokaima Cafe/YalaMaya Kendra
Time: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur, Tel. 977-1-5553767/ 9803 228588
email: dhokaimacafe@yahoo.com



Who will save Nepal’s poor

Rojita Adhikari
in Bajura

Recently, four women lost their lives in childbirth here in Bajura district in remote Far-Western Nepal. All of them died at local healthcare facilities. Although Nepal has made vast improvements in maternal health, with the maternal mortality ratio dropping from 539 per 100,000 live births 25 years ago to 230 today, tragic stories like that of Rejiya Nepali (box, right) are still common. An estimated 1,200 women still die in childbirth in Nepal every year — most of them because health posts are not properly equipped or staffed.

According to the target set under the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, Nepal’s maternal mortality ratio (MMR) should drop to 70 per 100,000 in the next ten years. Nepal has already failed to meet the interim target of reducing MMR to 125 by this year. Bajura District Hospital in Martadi recorded two maternal deaths within a month. Rupchandra Biswokarma, the physician in charge of the government hospital, said both mothers could have been saved if the facility had an Intensive Care Unit and an ultrasound machine. The hospital carried out 300 deliveries last year, including 15 caesarians, and yet does not have these facilities.

“Most mothers brought here are in their last stages,” says Biswokarma, “First, they try to give birth at home. If they cannot they go to the nearest health post, and if the health post cannot deal with the case, they are referred to us. Forget about a well-equipped maternal ward, an ICU or a gynecologist. We do not even have a skilled birth attendant or trained doctor here. Actually, God is saving new mothers here, not us” Pandusain Health Post is a busy place, delivering up to 15 babies a month. It has neither an ultrasound machine not a skilled birth



25-year-old Batu Chadara from Pandusen village of Bajura is nine months pregnant and is returning a rooster she borrowed to make sure the hen she had at home would produce eggs. The eggs will be the main source of nutrition for mother and baby after delivery.



Krishna Nepali, 27, and his four-year-old son Amrit are missing Amrit’s mother Basanti, who died in Bajura District Hospital three months ago.



Lali Nepali, 26, from Bisal Nagar village, is six months pregnant and in constant pain. The health post worker told her to go to the hospital in Bayalpata or in Dhangadi. She has decided not to go because she cannot afford the cost of travel. “What happens will happen,” she says.



attendant for ante-natal checkups. Even after childbirth, many new mothers and their children lack of proper diets and suffer from complications. Basanti Bohora, 29, mother to a one-month-old baby, had experienced terrible labour pain. She first went to Pandusain Health Post but the health worker told her to go to the district hospital, which is four hours’ drive away on a very bad road. When Basanti and her family got there, the nurse there told them to go to Bayalpata Hospital in Accham, which is run by the non-profit Nyaya Health. “All along the way I thought I would die. It is a miracle that the baby and I are both alive today,”

she says, playing with her baby boy. This is not just the story of a handful of women, a few villages and one district. Conditions for women in childbirth are dire across Far-Western Nepal, says Bikash Guachan, Healthcare Director of Bayalpata Hospital, which delivers 90 babies every month. The mothers come from Achham, Doti, Bajura and Dailekh districts, mostly as referral cases from local health posts. “If the case is seriously complicated we cannot even treat it here as we do not have a blood bank or an ICU,” says Gauchan. “The main problem is that most mothers do not go through proper checkups, like ultrasound exams.” But ultrasound machines are scarce

Miracle drug to reduce maternal

Buddha Basnyat

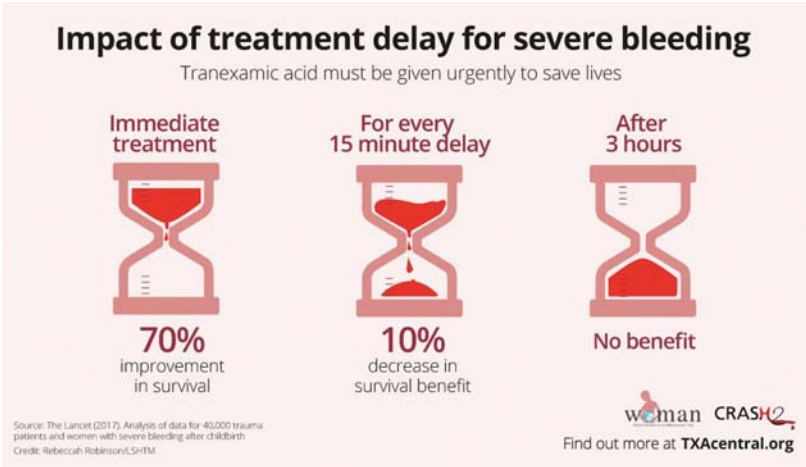
Tranexamic acid (TXA) is a game-changer drug in the treatment of post-partum haemorrhage (PPH), the main cause of death in women immediately after giving birth. Unsurprisingly, 99 % of these deaths occur in under-developed countries like Nepal because many patients cannot afford treatment. The good news is that TXA is inexpensive, and is widely available in South Asia. Most doctors, especially those who work in emergency room settings, have certainly heard about this drug and probably use it often. The drug’s scope is clearly not limited to PPH: it is very often used in trauma victims to stem bleeding. However, many doctors, including those in obstetrics and gynecology, may not know why exactly this well-known and often-used drug has recently shot to prominence in the treatment of PPH. It all had to do with the WOMAN study. In order to avoid



Why is this cheap and easy way to reduce maternal mortality so underutilised in Nepal?

unnecessary bias regarding drug recommendations, Western medicine is generally based on randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials called RCT (randomised controlled trials). These rigorous methods are applied so that the final results will have as little to do with chance as possible. (In fact this year’s Nobel Prize in economy went to a couple, Banerjee and Duflo, who used the RCT method to arrive at their conclusions on alleviating global poverty.) For the TXA study, the investigators recruited women aged 16 years and older with a

clinical diagnosis of post-partum hemorrhage after vaginal birth or caesarian section from 193 hospitals in 21 countries, including BPKIHS and Birat Hospital in Dharan and Nepal Medical College in Kathmandu. Between March, 2010 and April 2016, 20,060 women were randomly assigned by the international panel of study investigators to receive either 1 gram of intravenous TXA or a matching placebo (a look-alike sugar pill) in addition to the usual care that included other drugs. The results were groundbreaking. When given within three hours after the onset of PPH, one



in three maternal deaths were prevented with TXA. The study was published in the medical journal *Lancet* in May 2017. The World Health Organization (WHO) took note. In fact the WHO had already recommended the use of TXA in PPH back in 2012, but the recommendation at that time was to use TXA almost as a last resort after the uterotonics failed to control the bleeding. Uterotonics are drugs like oxytocin and prostaglandins that are commonly used to contract the

uterus to stop haemorrhage. TXA does not work by tightening the uterus but by inhibiting the breakdown of blood clots (fibrin and fibrinogen), a completely different mechanism of action. In 2017, based on the WOMAN trial (the World Maternal Antifibrinolytic acronym is in keeping with TXA’s mechanism of action), the WHO put out new recommendations prioritising the use of TXA in the treatment of PPH: to use it as soon as possible with the uterotonics and not to wait and watch.

pregnant women ... a government plan, or God?



ALL PHOTOS: ROJITAADHIKARI

Rejiya Nepali, 31, was mother to three small children of Chhatara village. She died at a health post on 2 November after five hours of labour to give birth to a baby boy.

After she went into painful labour at home, Rejiya was taken to the nearest health post by her husband and relatives. There was no one at the health post, so Rejiya's family spent an hour going to the health post nurse's house and bringing her over. In the meanwhile, Rejiya had already given birth on the stretcher on which she was brought to the health post, and a few hours later, she died on it.

Rejiya's 80-year-old mother-in-law Deuma Nepali (*left*) holds the two-month-old baby alongside Rejiya's children, Abit, 6, Sapana, 4 and Maha, 2. Deuma says: "I am old, I cannot see properly and cannot cook. My son has been drinking a lot since he lost his wife. When Rejiya was with us everything was better. Now we have no milk for the baby and no food to eat."

-- there only two in the district of Bajura -- and the cost of the exam and of travel to it are prohibitive for 90% of pregnant women. Thus, complicated pregnancies go unidentified until delivery.

Many fetuses Gauchan has seen at Bayalpata show signs of anencephaly, caused by lack of adequate nutrition and frequent pregnancy. He also frequently encounters ruptured uteruses due to prolonged or obstructed labour.

"Doctors and nurses often call me when they find ruptured uteruses in district hospitals and I have to drop everything and run because otherwise the woman would have surely died," says Gauchan.

The Nepal government is about

to finalise a 10-year roadmap to reduce maternal deaths and meet the SDG target with a focus on home-visit delivery. "The health worker will visit the home to see the pregnant woman and follow her conditions," explains Punya Poudel at the Family Welfare Division of the Department of Health Services.

However, former Health Secretary Kiran Regmi argues that until health posts around villages can provide full antenatal checkup facilities, it will be difficult to reach the 2030 target. He says ultrasound scans and antenatal tests would save many lives of many mothers who now have to rely on miracles. 🇳🇵

deaths

This updated recommendation may not be known to many health care professionals on the frontline of post-partum haemorrhage treatment in Nepal. The use of TXA for a patient with PPH will only succeed if there is the political will to push it. Otherwise this tremendous advancement in medical care will be relegated to the dustbin.

Fortunately, the Nepal government may soon be endorsing new guidelines for the prompt use of TXA, especially in remote health facilities, to further reduce Nepal's maternal mortality rate.

The prompt use of TXA can also decrease the financially-devastating helicopter rescues that poor Nepali families in far-away districts have to resort to to save the lives of relatives suffering from PPH. Most cannot afford to hire helicopters and bleed to death.

In most cases, TXA has to be given intravenously, and since many Nepali births (and deaths) take place at home, this approach may not be feasible. Who is going to put in the intravenous line even if the drug is available and cheap?

Amazingly, the tablet form of

the drug is already easily available in Nepal, but more research is needed to find out if giving the drug orally will achieve the same result. If TXA tablets stop post-birth bleeding as injections do, that would be very welcome news for Nepali mothers-to-be. 🇳🇵



Buddha Basnyat, MD, is a physician at the Patan Academy of Health Sciences and writes on health issues for *Nepali Times*.



Watch a video that graphically demonstrates the tragedy of women dying unnecessarily in child birth due to blood loss. There is a cheap and easily-available solution in a drug called TXA, if only governments promoted it.

nepalitimes.com 🖱️



Jamuna Nepali is seven months pregnant with her fourth child in her village in Bajura. At 22, she wanted a gap between her third and fourth babies because the family could not afford to feed another mouth. She went to a health post in Bajura and was given some pills. But despite taking these, she became pregnant again. Her husband is working in India to feed the family.



At 42, Bhana Jaisi (*breast-feeding her baby, above*) from Achham has ten daughters. She gave birth to her last child last year when her eldest daughter was already 25, and had four children of her own. "My life will not be complete if I don't give birth to a son," Jaisi says tearfully. Her husband Raghe says: "We believe we will not go to heaven if we do not have a son."

No conceivable reason for unwanted pregnancies

Lack of access to and awareness of family planning, the prevalence of unhealthy superstitions and taboos, and the desire to produce a son together explain why Nepal's average fertility rate has stalled after a steep drop in the last decades.

Many families in the far western hills and the central Tarai still believe that contraceptive use is against god's wishes. These areas also tend to be steeped in patriarchy, with low female literacy rates and a high incidence of child marriage.

It is a vicious cycle: women are anemic, malnourished, uneducated, disempowered, physically weak because of annual pregnancies, and poor. And they do not use family planning methods even when they are available at rural health posts.

In these villages in the mountains of Bajura, Achham and Baitadi there are many families where a mother and her daughter are giving birth simultaneously. The region's medical services are also basic, which means a low incidence of institutional delivery and a maternal mortality rate that remains more than twice the national average.

The government offers five types of contraception for free in health posts: condoms, pills, injectables, implants and intrauterine contraceptive devices (IUCDs). However, belief that contraceptives affect health or the unavailability of the desired device means many do not opt for family planning.

"Every day an average of five women come to our health post to ask about long-acting contraceptives like IUCDs or implants, but we either do not have the devices or the trained health workers to insert them," shrugs Sabina Thapa, a nurse at a Bajura health post. "Even women on pills miss the timeline and get pregnant."

Currently, 43% of all married women of reproductive age in Nepal use modern contraceptives, and another 10 % use traditional family planning methods. A 2016 survey showed that there is a 44% unmet need for family planning measures in Nepal.

A recent report by the Guttmacher Institute showed that Nepali women have 1.2 million pregnancies each year, of which 539,000 are unintended. Nearly a quarter of these result in unplanned births and two-thirds are aborted.

"Actually, we have achieved a lot with the little money we have invested," explains Bhim Singh Tinkari of the Family Welfare Division in Kathmandu. "But the money is mainly to buy contraception and family planning products. There is a huge gap in contraceptive supply, public awareness and trained health workers."

"If all unmet need for modern contraception were met, unintended pregnancies would be reduced by 87%, or 469,000 annually, and unplanned births, abortions and miscarriages would decline by the same proportion. Fully meeting women's need for contraception would reduce maternal deaths," The Guttmacher Institute report concludes.

To address the unmet need would cost only \$30million according to a survey, but this is five times more than the government's current family-planning budget. Without this funding Nepal is unlikely to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target of 75% contraceptive prevalence.

"The situation has become more complicated than before with the new federal system. Local health needs are now the responsibility of provincial and municipality governments, but work has not started yet," says Tinkari. "We need the money and we need to act soon if we are to meet the 2030 target."

Rojita Adhikari in Achham



Kewara Koli, 34, is already mother to seven daughters and one son. Her eldest daughter, Laxmi, is in Grade 10 at a local school in Baitadi. Laxmi advised her mother to get an implant from a nearby health post. "My mother was giving birth every two years, and she became weaker after every baby," says Laxmi (*standing at back*).



Kokila BK (*sitting at right, with her sixth child on her lap*) from Achham was married at 14. Now 30, she is the mother of seven children. Her oldest child is a son of 16, and her youngest a five-month-old baby.

"It has not been easy. Every time I felt like I would die," says Kokila of her pregnancies. "I really want to stop it now." Her husband Ujire BK (*first from left, above*) is a shaman and does not believe in birth control.

The family is gathering the corn harvest, and grows enough food to last only five months of the year. Kokila's son is away in India working as a porter, and his 15-year-old sister Bishna (*standing with baby sister*) cannot wait to get married herself so she can escape the family's grinding poverty. The woman standing at the door is Jamuna BK, Kokila's mother-in-law.



Sunita Gurung is 21, but is already mother to four children aged five, three, two, and four months (*above*). She thinks contraception is bad for health because her friend using an IUCD is bleeding, and another who uses pills is putting on weight. "I do not want more children, but I am scared to use contraception," she says.



#1
Choice
of DIGITAL
WORLD

eScan™
Anti-Virus

eScan™
Total Security Suite

eScan™
Internet Security Suite

TOTAL PROTECTION
for Computers, Mobiles & Tablets

Key Features

- Anti-Virus • Safe Browsing • Parental Control
- Pendrive Security • Rescue Mode • Facebook Safety
- Unknown Virus Prevention • Two-Way Firewall

NEW Advanced Ransomware Protection

An ISO 27001 Certified Company

Contact no.: 01-4330980 | www.escanav.com

* Features may vary from product to product

Legal niceities

A copy of the controversial Media Consul Bill leaked exclusively to The Ass by a highly-placed authoritarian source reveals that everything that happens in this country can heretofore and hereinafter only be divulged on a need-to-know basis. This means if there is a need to know anything then you'll be told there is no need to know it. In other words, as they say in legal parlance, STFU. Below is the leaked draft, which means that it is against the law to read the rest of this column. So, stop right here. DO NOT read any further.

WHEREAS you are already committing a crime by flouting the law by reading this restricted document, and are liable to face 5 years in jail and/or Rs 1 crore in bribe money, the government reserves the right to suspend freedom of expressionism until the Security Printing Press Kickback Scandal, the Nepal Trust Scam, and the Baluwatar Land Swindle blow over. The media will henceforth be referred to as a lapdog and not a watchdog.

REAFFIRMING that freedom comes with strings attached and even though the truth must be adhered to at all times, during extraordinary circumstances exceptions shall be made, such as when the news is:

- (a) Boring
- (b) Uncomfortable
- (c) What actually happened, or
- (d) Hurts the feelings of a northerly neighbour

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO, that subject to provisions of Subsection (2) of Section 3 of the Constitution, every citizen shall have right of access to official information from the state media, the aforementioned shall cover all

functions in a prominent manner and repeat the entire proceedings without expunging any visuals of the dignitary pontificating ad nauseum. The clip shall be broadcast during three segments of the morning news:

- (a) The Main Points of the News
- (b) The News in Detail, and
- (c) The Weather Forecast

PURSUANT TO the entire unexpunged version being aired in its scintillating detail after the evening news broadcast, failure to do so will result in an immediate angry phone call from Ministry of Disinformation to the incumbent director of the state media, hereinafter referred to as 'The Mouth Organ'.

NOTWITHSTANDING the provisions of Subsection (2) the people's right to information shall not be curtailed on any of the grounds therein, with the exception of the following categories:

- (i) National security, which includes politics, economics, culture, history, geography, biology, maths, celebrities parked illegally, foreign affairs, or illicit domestic affairs.
- (ii) Items that jeopardise Nepal's fraternal and fragile bilateral relations with fellow-pariah states
- (iii) Freedom of thought is hereby banned, and anyone thinking subversive thoughts will be liable to persecution
- (iv) Weather reports that predict gloomy weather, since they may adversely affect national morale
- (vi) Humour will be barely tolerated but satire is banned with immediate effect.



TATA MOTORS
Connecting Aspirations

TATA

TATA TIGOR

THE SEDAN FOR THE STARS

DESIGNED FOR SAFETY



Enhanced comfort with auto-fold ORVM



Smart Cooled Glovebox



17.78cm (7 Inch) Touchscreen with Infotainment by Harman™



419 L Boot space with innovative 4 Bar Mechanism

Sipradi Trading Pvt. Ltd., Thapathali, Kathmandu
Phone: 01-4250610/ 4250612

SIPRADI
SIPRADI TRADING P. LTD.
A Distributor of TATA Vehicles