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# Keep door open

## India's take on the political gridlock in Kathmandu

PRASHANT JHA  
in NEW DELHI

There is a great deal of confusion in India about the political confusion in Nepal, but officials here say they want the Maoists to "reform internally" and support the Madhav Nepal government.

Sections of the Indian establishment concede Nepal's government suffers a legitimacy crisis. They insist that the process must move forward in the present framework.

"You cannot start undermining a government as soon as it is formed. They deserve a chance. These parties represent the middle ground of Nepali politics and must be strengthened," a top policymaker in New Delhi told *Nepali Times* this week.

The Indian support was expressed when Manmohan Singh met Madhav Nepal on the sidelines of the NAM summit on Thursday. Madhav Nepal, who was supposed to visit India on his way to Egypt, postponed it for 18-20 August. India sees it as a goodwill visit but expects little to progress on the bilateral front.



KONG YEN LIN

OPEN SESAME: Children wait for a film show in Sandhikharka recently.

"Not an inch has moved on any of the hydropower projects," said an official, "there is just no interest and energy from the Nepal side."

Indian officialdom wants the government now try to get the political process back on track. India is learnt to have told Madhav Nepal to "keep the doors open" for the Maoists and constantly engage with them.

"We are also in conversation

with Maoists, and do not want to push them out. We have to do business with them," said the official.

However, Delhi feels that the onus lies on the former rebels to "prove their commitment to democratic norms, moderate their ambitions, and join this government".

Security agencies have also been concerned about the truck that was carrying explosives from

Jharkhand to Nepal and was nabbed by the Bihar Police in mid-June and fear sections of the Maoists have still not given up plans of an armed revolt.

India claims it is committed to the peace and constitution writing process and will not back any right wing alternative. Delhi has made it clear that it does not see any reason why General Katawal should get an extension. A senior official dismissed talk of army coup or army-backed presidential rule as "wild fantasies which India will never support".

At a time when there is speculation here about the Indian Army being used against India's Maoists, Delhi's defence establishment has taken a hardline against Maoist fighters being accommodated into the Nepal Army.

Defence minister Bidya Bhandari will be visiting India next week to discuss integration issues with the Indian defence establishment. Said one senior official: "At best, we can talk about individual level entry of some, but the Nepal Army's structure cannot be changed. That is the bottom-line." ●

**Times** nepalnews.com  
Weekly Internet Poll # 460

Q. What should the new budget's priority be?

Total votes: 3,636

Agriculture	20.2%
Infrastructure	40.5%
Industry	12.5%
Health	5.2%
Education	21.5%

Weekly Internet Poll # 461. To vote go to: [www.nepalintimes.com](http://www.nepalintimes.com)

Q. Will the Maoists now join the government?

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# Nepal's take

Madhav Kumar Nepali's government lacks credibility due to the second-rank leaders sent to it, including many who did not win elections. But it is legitimate and appointed according to parliamentary practice by a majority in the house.

"No one need take Maoist propaganda of its illegitimacy or lack of longevity seriously," said one senior cabinet member.

Indeed, independent observers have seen a consolidation taking place, albeit slowly. With the full backing of India and western powers, pressure was brought to bear on the Maoists to finally allow parliament to function.

Chairman Dahal earned praise for following parliamentary



KIRAN PANDAY

procedure by stepping down on 4 May, but squandered it all by not letting the house function for two months. It was an act of diminishing returns, which is why the Maoists finally allowed the president to give his speech and the budget to be read.

Nepalis need law and order restored and that can only come with political stability at the centre. For that the Maoists need to stop playing spoilsport," said one policy adviser at Baluwatar.

And it's not just the Maoists, the UML party leadership of Jhalanath Khanal is lukewarm towards the government led by his own comrade, Madhav Nepal. Indeed, the NC is more supportive of Nepal than Khanal is. There is a history of petulance within the party, and its ministers in government don't seem to have a sense of destiny and The Maoists, of course, could lead the government if they could muster the numbers. But it's no big embarrassment in a parliamentary democracy to join as deputy prime minister for the sake of the peace process.

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# Rollback violence

## Let us build a grand alliance to put pressure on groups that incite violence

### AUDACITY TO HOPE

Forget the politics. Nepal is in crisis because of the stagnating economy, falling farm productivity, a rising population and negative job creation.

All these point ominously to a looming disaster. Combined they will have political repercussions for whoever rules Nepal in the coming years.

At a time like this, what is needed is a paradigm shift in the way politics is practiced. We need a dramatic departure from the past so that political parties, realising that they're all in the same boat, stop rocking it.

There is no point fooling the people with yet more meaningless promises of abolishing crime, eradicating poverty or uprooting corruption. You can't fool them all the time. And it's too late for speeches. What we need is a simple checklist of five national priorities to get everyone to sign on, even the Maoists:

- A Marshall Plan of infrastructure investment to immediately create jobs
- A determined effort to cut cartel-induced inflation
- Asserting state presence to restore law and order
- Agree on demobilisation to conclude peace process
- Write constitution on time

The kindest way to describe Finance Minister Surendra Pandey's budget is to say that it is ambitious and populist. But not quite ambitious enough where it should be. In fact, overall, it's just stale. The only success of the budget is that it was passed at all by a 22-party coalition whose members have nothing in common except the fear of a Maoist takeover.

Critics deride this government of being made up of losers, that it has a short-lifespan and exists at the whim and fancy of the Maoists. All true.

But what we shouldn't forget is that it came out of a legitimate parliamentary procedure following the leader of a coalition government losing the trust of its partners. And it represents a partnership of parties that all opposed a Maoist attempt to foist totalitarian rule on the country that nearly succeeded on the night of 4 May.

In the past week or so, Madhav Kumar Nepal is showing belated signs of taking the bull by the horns. If only the other parties reminded themselves about how they came to be on the same boat, and the Maoists stopped behaving like petulant brats, everyone could start working on the priorities listed above.

Unfortunately, the rot has spread to the VDCs and DDCs where the local leaders are all in cahoots to plunder development contracts. This is a result of the absence of representative government and erosion of what little accountability there was.

More immediately, the Nepali people need to be protected from an unnatural inflation that defies rational economic explanation. It is a result of businesses hoarding, cartelling and price-fixing because of the breakdown of the state. Consumer groups and community organisations need to be involved in monitoring the market.

All these have a direct bearing on the peace process and drafting of constitution. They will be mirages if the Nepal government fails to convince the people that it's a government that works.

It has been three years since a comprehensive peace agreement was signed, and a violent civil war came to an end in Nepal. But ordinary people have yet to see any peace dividend.

During the decade of conflict, Nepal's national army increased from 46,000 soldiers to 96,000. Its annual defense budget increased from Rs 4 billion to 12 billion. Nepal today



#### GUEST COLUMN

**Kul Chandra Gautam**

desperately needs at least 60,000 additional primary school teachers and a similar number of pre-school monitors and primary health workers. But we seem not to have enough budget for these national priorities, while we maintain our bloated security apparatus and the upkeep of 20,000 Maoist combatants in cantonments.

Another tragic development is the widespread availability and use of small arms across the landscape of Nepal. We have an estimated 55,000 small arms and light weapons in the hands of armed gangs, criminals, private militia, and ordinary citizens: far more than the small cache of

weapons locked up in the Maoist cantonments.

This is leading to criminalisation of politics and politicisation of violent crimes, particularly in the Tarai and eastern Hills, but increasingly in Kathmandu and other towns as well. The recent spate of kidnapping for ransom, murder and mayhem that have made headlines in Nepal is directly related to the ready availability of small arms, and the glorification of violence that has been nurtured into Nepali politics in the last decade.

In all post-conflict countries, including Nepal, easy availability of such arms makes legitimate law-enforcement increasingly difficult. While we address the culture of violence, it is urgent for all of us, political leaders, civil society activists, concerned citizens, and friends of Nepal, to immediately launch a 'rollback violence' campaign that seeks to make the possession and use of small arms unfashionable, not just illegal.

As a country that saw the spiraling rise of violence in the public sphere in the course of the last dozen years, and as a country which is in the middle of a peace process, Nepal is a

perfect place to start a broader campaign for disarmament and human security.

In the name of national security, many countries allocate huge chunks of their budgets to military uses that seriously undermine people's human security. The continuing acceptance of violence as a method of political change further endangers not just human security, but universally accepted human rights and the prospect for faster human development.

We hear much talk about "civilian supremacy" in Nepal these days. Yes, we do need civilian supremacy where ordinary citizens feel that nobody can trample on their fundamental human rights. In a democracy, people have the right to protest, engage in collective bargaining, and press their demands peacefully.

But the concept of civilian supremacy is grossly violated when paramilitary youth groups or sister organisations of political parties subject innocent civilians to violence, intimidation, and extortion with impunity.

Not allowing ordinary people to live in peace, not allowing children to go to school, not allowing innocent passengers to travel on highways, not allowing patients to go to hospitals, not allowing labourers to earn a living, not allowing shop-keepers to open their shops, all these are a violation of civilian supremacy.

We must acknowledge that 'structural violence' of poverty, inequality, exclusion and marginalisation has long persisted in Nepal, but widespread physical violence in public life is a recent phenomenon and a by-product of the decade-long armed conflict.

Let us build a grand alliance of civil society, including religious organisations, the media, parents and teachers associations to put pressure on political parties and other groups that incite or condone violent activities, and help our youth to find peaceful ways of addressing their concerns. ●

*Kul Chandra Gautam is former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF. This is an excerpt from his keynote address at the International Summit of Religious Youth Leaders on Disarmament for Shared Security in Kathmandu last week.*



KIRAN PANDAY

## LETTERS

#### EAST-WEST

It brought tears to my eyes reading Kunda Dixit's travel-blogs 'A State of Lawlessness' (www.nepalitimes.com). The piece describes just how much the country has deteriorated, how disillusioned and frustrated the people have become with their rulers and how the culture of impunity is now so ingrained that people are taking the law into their own hands. This is a recipe for anarchy.

*Ruchi Pandey, email*

- Kunda Dixit's travelogue was a beautiful depiction of modern Nepal's ugly realities, boiling from east to west. The picturesque presentation reveals a bleak picture for any positive change in Nepal and poses serious questions about the ability of



the current leadership to tackle the challenges of new Nepal. It looks unlikely

that any big transformation will happen here soon. Political bickering and blame-game is unlikely to end at this stage. Let us hope, perhaps, that Pashupatinath will offer some wisdom and commonsense to our leaders at wits-end.

*Bhuaneshor Sharma, email*

#### VIGILANTISM

Mallika Aryal has spoken our mind ('Vanguards of vigilantism,' #459). The lawlessness has made us more insecure and so desperate that we are ready to take the law into our hands. But the result is more insecurity, vigilantism, anarchy, abduction, robbery and lynching. Our society has become the melting pot of restlessness, chaos and pessimism. What an apocalyptic premonition! Never in the past have

Nepali people gone through such a period of turmoil. We are frightened. But who are we waiting for to put together the shattered pieces of our system? Can we expect hope out of such desperation, trust out of so much doubt?

*Sabitri Gurung, email*

#### CORRECTIONS:

- The editorial 'Budget items' (#459) got the name of the finance minister wrong. He is, of course, Surendra Pandey.

- Rajjan M Chitrakar, who wrote 'Where have all the zebras gone?' (#459) is with Nepal Engineering College, and not as appeared.

# A flailing state

MAHOTTARI-Tarai villagers are on the verge of panic: after a long winter drought, it looks like the monsoon is also failing.

Rice transplanting should have been finished by now. This year, the paddy fields are dry with caked mud. Food has run out, and many are preparing to migrate for work.

The winter exodus to Assam, Haryana and Punjab was the norm here in Mahottari. But when the government started distributing passports from district headquarters in the mid-1990s, people began to pawn the family heirloom, mortgage the ancestral home, sell land or borrow from moneylenders at exorbitant interest rates to go to Qatar. Qatari is a neologism in



**STATE OF THE STATE**  
C K Lal

Maithili that differentiates a Nepali Worker Abroad (NWA) with seasonal migrants to India.

Out of the 6,000 population of Suga village near the Indian border, over 300 work abroad. The remittance-based economy has transformed this village in many ways even as society remains mired in caste orthodoxy and general backwardness.

Relative ease of life for even the very poor is another reassuring feature of the benefits of a remittance boom. Malnutrition still haunts Dalit quarters but the death-inducing hunger whenever the monsoon failed is mercifully a thing of the past. It's oddly reassuring when seemingly impoverished villagers complain about the quality of rice or the price of edible oil.

## The tragedy of living in a remittance state

More children go to 'English Boarding Schools'. Grocers sell expensive, sometimes spurious, antibiotics. Arrack shops have sprouted on street corners and there are more motorcycles on the road. Antennas announce from rooftops that the family has an Indian cell phones. At teashops, the cacophony of ringtones of Mero, CDMA and Namaste mobiles often drown out the din of conversation as people shout into mouthpieces in the hope of being heard over weak signals.

With most able-bodied men gone, there are fewer hands left to toil in the fields. Agriculture stagnates, as people waiting to become Qataris prefer to pull rickshaws in Jaleswar or Janakpur. The word 'visa' is pronounced with reverence.

The world of remittance-beneficiary families falls apart once a NWA meets with an accident. Loans with compounded interest multiply. Children are pulled out of school, the remaining land sold off. Medication for the elderly is discontinued. It takes time for the family to adjust. Human beings possess extraordinary capacity to cope, but the initial shock of losing the sole breadwinner is extremely disorienting.

Two of the dozen Nepalis killed in the boat accident in Doha on 30 June were from Mahottari. One of them was Rajiv Kumar Dutta, a boy I had known since he was born. The loss was personal: I had failed to help Rajiv find a job when he completed his post-school Auxiliary Health Worker course few years ago. His family is devastated.

Suryakanta, Rajiv's father, was a colleague of UML General Secretary Ishwar Pokharel at RR Campus. He has remained steadfastly loyal to his party even in a village that is overwhelmingly NC. He lead the life of conscientious and proud citizen, doing his part and expecting nothing in return from either his party or the state.

The delivery capacity of a flailing state is limited. When the government machinery fails to perform even its primary function of securing the life, property and dignity of its citizens it would be too much to expect it to come to the rescue of a family that doesn't ask for help even when it needs it. ●



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# India confused by Nepal's confusion

NEW DELHI - India wants the Madhav Nepal government to succeed. It also wants the Maoists to come back to the process. But in New Delhi one gets the sense that India is not able to see that there is a contradiction between the two.

Any substantive movement on constitution-writing and the peace process will require a shift in a present power alignment since the Maoists are not in the mood to join as junior partners in this government.

India wants the peace process to conclude, and it is also resistant to the idea of integrating the PLA soldiers into the Nepal Army. How can you conclude the process while still having two armies in place?



**PLAIN SPEAKING**  
Prashant Jha

The Indian Army says there was no integration in India, so there is no need for it in Nepal. Sections of the intelligence agencies and foreign office agree. There

are other relatively saner voices that recognise that token integration is essential. But these voices are lost in the anti-Maoist mood that has engulfed the power corridors here.

India wants to strengthen the 'middle ground', namely NC, UML and pliable Madhesi parties, and weaken the Maoists. But paradoxically, it also recognises the necessity of working with the Maoists. The two goals can be pursued simultaneously up to a point, but then will work against each other.

To weaken the Maoists, India will have to try to engineer splits within the party, create disillusionment among the cadre and block any attempts of Maoists to consolidate power. As soon as they do that, India and Maoists will develop an adversarial relationship. The present crisis is only a manifestation of that.

Add to this maze the presence of multiple actors, each with their own concerns. MEA, RAW, IB, the Indian Army, and the political actors: all have a say in framing policy.

On 19 June, the Bihar Police and Special Task Force nabbed a Nepal-bound truck that had left from Kodarma in Jharkhand. Bihar police sources told us it had 18 sacks of explosives, 81 packets each containing 100 detonators, two sacks of safety fuse wire coils, and 10 packets of fuse wire attached to detonators.

Six people were arrested. One of them, Ram Parvesh Mishra, is the brother of Indian Maoist politburo member Pramod Mishra. Two people (Diwakar and Raj Kumar Yadav) are Nepalis from Siraha. Security sources claim interrogations have revealed that 14 such trucks of explosives have already been transported to Nepal. They suspect that Matrika Yadav, with the collusion of the hardliner faction of Maoists, could be amassing weapons.

## Conflicting objectives have led to a drift in India's Nepal policy.

The security hardliners warn of operational links between Indian Naxalites and a faction of Nepali Maoists, and say the latter must be kept out of the political process in Kathmandu.

Then you have the politicians. The Nepal Democracy Solidarity Committee (formed after 1 February 2005 and defunct since April 2006) has been revived. At a meeting this week, attended by left parties and other smaller groups, Nationalist Congress Party's DP Tripathi, who introduced Prachanda to Sitaram Yechury and played a role during the 12-point agreement days, was chosen chairman of the committee.

Tripathi told us: "During the Katalwal crisis, Prachanda was right about civilian supremacy over the army in substance, but Maoists made tactical errors in practice. For consolidation of democracy in Nepal, there has to be a government of national reconciliation. There is neither a right wing nor an ultra left alternative in Nepal." The committee is expected to keep the political pressure on the Indian government to stick to the present process, as well as try to act as a bridge between Nepali political actors.

And then India has to deal with Nepali politicians. For all his anti-India bluster, Upendra Yadav was in Delhi last week to lobby hard with politicians and bureaucrats, trying to convince them that he is actually pro-India. Yadav's line was that only he could resist the Maoist onslaught in the Tarai. The Indian message to him was to go back, patch up with Bijay Gachhadar and cooperate with this government.

All this is happening at a time when India has a foreign minister who is new to the job. The foreign secretary has a lot on his plate: PM's foreign visits, Pakistan talks, Hillary Clinton's India visit next week, and is about to retire. But South Block is keeping a close eye on Nepal.

Ambassador Rakesh Sood was in Delhi this week and updated his ministry colleagues.

Asked about the drift in policy, a senior official responded, "There is confusion in Nepal. The confusion here is only a reflection of the lack of clarity there. As things crystallise, we will review the situation." ●



KIRAN PANDAY

# Earning greenbacks by greening Nepal

## We can cash in on our community forestry success, but first we need to get our act together

DEWAN RAI

In the past 20 years, the forests in Nepal's midhills have expanded by 20 per cent because of the success of our community forestry. Those trees absorb carbon dioxide and contribute to the reduction of global warming.

The question now is whether Nepal is eligible to reap rewards for its contribution to mitigating climate change.

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) is the international mechanism through which countries that restore forests can be recognised and rewarded for greening their landscape. The scheme is also on the agenda of a big climate change conference in Copenhagen in December.

However, there is intense debate about which countries are eligible, what are the threshold levels of reforestation for qualification and what are the conditionalities.

"We have a lot of work to do before the scheme is endorsed in Copenhagen," says Jagadish Chandra Baral of the Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management.

Thirty per cent of Nepal's land area is covered with forest or shrub, and 20 per cent is set aside as national parks. Community forests have expanded the canopy cover in the midhills, but forests have been decimated in the Tarai and the high mountains by crossborder timber smugglers and

population pressure.

There are 14,300 community forestry user groups all over the country protecting 1.2 million hectares of forests: more than one-fourth of the total forest area. The community-protected forests sequester 188 million tons of carbon, according to a survey by the Livelihoods and Forestry Program.

The total amount of carbon offset that Nepal can realise from community forestry alone is between 1.8 to 3.6 million tons per year, and this means the country could earn anywhere up to \$ 54 million a year in green brownie points from a future agreement coming out of the Copenhagen Summit.

However, we may be counting our chickens before they hatch. Nepal does get compensated about \$ 600,000 a year for the carbon it doesn't pump into the atmosphere because of its successful biogas program. But there are still too many uncertainties about reducing emissions through forestry.

"To benefit, Nepal has to prepare measurable, reportable and verifiable reductions in emissions," explains Ugan Manandhar at the Worldwide Fund for Nature office in Kathmandu, "the mechanism will also need adequate and reliable funding starting immediately. Developed countries should commit to providing such funding in Copenhagen."

If Nepal gets this aid, it could set up a backbone for

conservation, maintenance and management of its forests. The money will also be an encouragement to protect existing forests and for extending community forestry.

Experts say a lot will depend on how the compensation for mitigation is calculated, how the baseline is defined. Nepal's community forests aren't eligible for carbon credit under the present interpretation because they have a stock of only 1.8 tons per hectare per year, which falls below the threshold.

Says Baral: "We need to make alliances, negotiate skilfully if we want to get full credit for the carbon stock in our forests."

Countries like Nepal also need technical support to develop carbon inventory systems. There should be government bodies to regulate carbon financing, verifying, assessing and quantifying carbon stocks and offsets. There is also a question of who benefits from the credits.

Nepal has already got \$200,000 from the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partner Facility for a Readiness Plan Idea Note and \$ 3.4 million has been pledged to fund a Nepali carbon credit.

The government has also been too distracted with politics, so carbon credits and climate change is too far off in its time horizon. Said one official at the Ministry of Environment: "The coordination between the ministries is not a problem, politics is. Politicians go on junkets to summits, and there is no policy continuity." ●

## Easy trade

To facilitate trade, finance and remittance between Nepal and China, Everest Bank in association with the Bank of China has opened a Nostro Account, which allows Nepali traders to open LC and to transfer and receive money directly to and from China.



## Vision tour



Natraj Tours and Travels organised a tour for 30 visually impaired people last week, marking the 10<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of late PP Prasai, their founding member. Pledging 'Tourism for all,' the participants were taken for visits to Bhaktapur and Nagarkot.

Another such program will be held on 17 July, where the participants will talk about their experiences during the tour. They will be judged on the quality of their speech and the winner will be awarded a mountain flight ticket.

## Lucky two

Winners of the fifth lucky draw for Pepsi's campaign 'Make your Dream Team', Rukesh Shrestha and Bikash Bhusal of Kathmandu, collected Pepsi crowns featuring international footballers and won a free trip to Bangkok and Pataya at an event in Kathmandu last week.



## Free fix

Mercantile Office System Darbar Marg organised a free service camp for EPSON brand products earlier this week. Besides offering free service, it also trained its customers in the proper handling of their EPSON equipment.

## NEW PRODUCTS

**DIGITAL:** Golcha group's Him electronics has launched Samsung digital cameras. With mega pixels ranging from 8 to 10.2, the cameras have three inch LCD, optical zooming, high sensitivity ISO 3200, dual image stabilisation and auto contrast balance. Also, on the purchase of the digital camera, a year's warranty is guaranteed and a two gigabyte memory card is given for free.

The Beed has been harping a lot on how the government's presentation of the budget has become just another annual ritual. This year too, so-called experts drift from one tv channel to the next like a deusi/bhailo band, saying immemorable and insignificant things. It is sad that such a strong financial management tool like the budget has become an annual joke.



**ECONOMIC SENSE**  
Artha Beed

Everyone in the government, bureaucracy, politics, private sector and other sectors who keeps on commenting about the budget needs to go through a Budget 101 lesson. A budget is part of the greater apparatus of fiscal and financial management, that also includes the oversight and evaluation of programs and expenses laid out in the budget. To expect the budget to be an economic cure-all is totally ridiculous.

More than allotting money, budgets should garner resources, create and implement strategies. But in Nepal, it has come to mean other things. For government employees, it's a source for salary increases. For politicians, it's a way to dole out favors. For the private sector, it's an announcement of tax increases

# Bad joke

## The budget has become an annual and tired ritual

or cuts.

One cannot expect much from the political parties as there are few who really understand or appreciate economics. Therefore the lead on the budget preparation should also be taken by the private sector. It needs to work with the government to help implement and evaluate the budget.

But if private firms themselves misuse the budget, it wouldn't make sense to hand

companies hinges on the budget's success.

People in government need to realize that they have made this budget a ritualistic affair to the extent that it has lost its effectiveness as a governing tool. When the number of tax payers is less than the number of motorbike owners, one needs to evaluate the composition of the tax-base. When expenses are allocated to revive political slogans one needs to ask who is distributing the money.

Come next week, the discussions about the budget will vanish from the house and the newspapers. We will not discuss the progress of the revenues and expenditure each month or each quarter, but will wait till the next budget to lambast the government. The reality is that no government in Nepali history and especially the ones formed after 1990 have been able to meet the obligations set out in the budget. So why have we expected so much of our last two governments? ●

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them these responsibilities. They should learn from multinational and transnational companies who operate in Nepal and use the budgetary control tools effectively. This is why they continue to grow even when the economy hasn't. Unlike many firms, the fate of the CEO and other managers in these

# "There is no reason why Nepal can't prosper"

Guy Ullens is a Belgian businessman. In the early 1970s, he took over his family's food empire, and turned the troubled conglomerate around. Just prior to his retirement in 1999, his Artal Group bought a majority stake in Weight Watchers from food giant H.J. Heinz. His philanthropic work around the world includes the Ullens School in Kathmandu. *Nepali Times* spoke to him about his business empire, his interest in art and his support for education in Nepal.



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

**Nepali Times: You turned around your family business in Europe. How did that happen?**

**Guy Ullens:** It's always been about finding good people, and letting them produce the results. Putting good people to work, working with them to solve problems that come up, setting priorities, and having a sense of what is coming up are all important. Then again, life is difficult, and you never know what is going to happen tomorrow. But once you make up your mind to do something, have good people at every level, and you get to work. This was how I was able to do my work. I see many such good people everywhere in Nepal, waiting for opportunities.

**And you also founded an arts centre in China?**

I was not successful in my business in China. Running a company there was hard in the 1980s. I started visiting local artists on weekends, and from the money I had, I started buying their art. Over time, my collections grew with the works of many up and coming artists. I started loaning what I had to museums around the world. Then shows in Europe about contemporary Chinese art followed. Finally, in 2004, we decided to house the growing collections in a permanent venue in China.

**And you also set up a school in Nepal?**

As an entrepreneur you really go step by step. You test the water all the times. My knowledge of the country is not what it should be. While my wife Myriam was working at an orphanage in Kathmandu, we thought about looking after a public school where the children from orphanages could go. We looked for schools in the Dhulikhel area. Somehow, those schools did not work out and we set up the Ullens School.

**But there is a perception that Ullens is a very expensive school catering to wealthy kids in Kathmandu.**

I think that the school needs to communicate more to the public what it is and what it isn't. I think that our team is delivering value for money. Many parents recognise what kind of unique education their children are getting at Ullens. We hire top-quality teachers, and we have to pay them well so that we don't lose them. We have an active board, which monitors the quality of the school. Around 30 per cent of our students come from an underprivileged background.

**Ullens is the first school in Nepal to introduce the two-year IB (International Baccalaureate) programme. Why should**

**Nepali students be interested in IB?**

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**Can Nepal ever be a quality educational destination?**

I think the key requirement in Nepal is peace. If the Nepalis can settle their differences, set up priorities for the future, and agree on them, that will help. Else, if we start good high schools and colleges, and we continue to have political problems in the country, we will be unable to succeed. This country is waiting for investments, and for many foreign firms to come in and set up factories and companies. That is all part of the future and there is no reason why Nepal should not reach this point for growth and prosperity.

# Incomplete budget

In *Janadesh Saptahik*, 14 July

जनादेश

Maoist Chairman Prachanda expressed discontent over the latest budget that was announced last week as no provisions have been made for the martyrs of Jana Andolan II.

The budget made under the guidance of UML leader Madhav Kumar Nepal and under the shadow of the Indian government is useless. In his three hour speech on the budget, Finance Minister Surendra Pandey didn't so much as mention the 10-year-long 'people's war', completely undermining its importance. The Maoists had planned to provide the families of the martyrs of the 2006 April Uprising Rs 100,000 annually,

adding up to Rs10,00,000 in 10 years, but this is not included in the new budget.

This budget is only a more revised form of the old development campaigns of the early 1990s. This shows that the current government of Nepal is not heading in a new direction.

This time's budget is set to be 285 billion, which is much more than the ones that the Maoists had made last year. It however seems to be allocated disproportionately. For instance the Rs 8 billion set for agriculture will be of no use without proper mobilisation.

The government hopes to raise the foreign grant-in-aid by 63 per cent. With an unstable government this objective is not likely to be met.



KIRAN PANDAY

# Action now

Editorial in *Nepal Samacharpatra*, 14 July

समाचारपत्र

The budget that the finance minister presented for the fiscal year 2009-2010 in the parliament on Monday is the biggest one so far, amounting to 285 billion. While the main focus of the expenditures should be on the marginalised communities, the budget should also make sure that no Nepali citizen is left behind. This budget does address the needs and development of the

groups that have thus far been discriminated against. The budget also focusses on ways to tackle inflation, which is a positive step. But this is a country where leaders put the interest of their political parties before the people all the time. There's so much political corruption that we fear that these positive plans will not be translated into action. Time will tell whether the present government has the wisdom, political will and foresight to implement such an ambitious budget.



Plans and policies, 2009-2010

कान्तिपुर Batsayan in *Kantipur*, 12 July



SURYA MANI GAUTAM

# Right priorities

Editorial in *Nagarik*, 10 July

नागरिक

While the politicians in Kathmandu are busy squabbling, 34 people in Jajarkot and Rukum have died because of diarrhea and dysentery. It's a shame that even in the 21st century people lose their lives because they cannot get treatment for easily curable diseases. This area also suffers from severe famine. The government has tried to address these problems but the efforts have not been effective because of a lack of commitment on the part of the political leadership. And now the death toll is rising.

This situation would not have arisen if the government had been attentive. Diarrhea and dysentery spread through polluted water. While the villagers don't have food, sacks of rice rot in the district headquarters. In order to effectively control this situation there is a need to not only provide treatment and medicine but also make provisions for food supply.

The health minister and high officials have already visited the affected areas but there have been no serious initiatives to combat the problem. This unfortunate condition is possibly the result of the lack of importance our politicians give to non-political issues.

Officials say that food and medicines are stuck at the headquarters because there is no way to transport them. But the government's priority should be to deliver medicines at any cost, even if that means chartering choppers. Security forces can be actively mobilised for the purpose.

The government has to make it a priority to address the basic needs of Jajarkot and other affected areas. The civil society and the international community should contribute when the government makes plans. We have to end a situation where people die because their basic needs for food and medicine and so forth are not fulfilled.

# Kinglike

Akhanda Bhandari in *Kantipur*, 12 July

कान्तिपुर

A few days back former king Gyanendra lamented Nepal's situation saying how little things have changed since he left and Nepal was declared a Ganatantra. The ex-king's words rang true last week when Kathmandu came to a standstill for the president's 'sawari' reminding the residents of the royal years.

Kathmandu's traffic was disrupted for five hours that day, and people could neither walk on the streets nor move their vehicles. Incidents like these make Nepalis question whether things have actually changed since the king left.

People feel let down by the very person they thought would end such traditions. It is true that the president needs security but the government must not harass its citizens while providing such facilities. Instead of stirring up this chaos on the roads, the president should have been picked up by a helicopter. This could have been cheaper, saved people trouble and the president all the criticism.



YUBAK SHRESTHA/NAGARIK



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

# Fragmentation danger

The Maoists should convince their ethnic fronts or step back

The Maoist war effort was multi-pronged, but it was after the formation of their ethnic fronts that the revolution really progressed. That is the reason a small and unimportant party in 1996 was propelled to power so quickly. The ethnic fronts were the main reason for the success of Maoists' armed revolution.



COMMENT  
Sarjan Gautam

Initially, the Maoists succeeded in bringing ethnic issues under the class struggle but could not contain it for long. Maoist leaders themselves admit that it is the Maoist movement that gave rise to various ethnic organisations after restoration of democracy. From Upendra Yadav to Jaya Krishna Goit, they are all ex-Maoists.

Now, this has opened a Pandora's box of militant ethnic groups that are not under the command of the Maoists. However, they are not free from Maoists ideology. For instance, Laxman Tharu of Tharu Autonomous Province Council, an ex-Maoist has been demanding that the provinces should be created on the basis of ethnicity and their history and they should be given the right to self-determination like the Maoists had demanded. The Limbuwans in the east are also demanding a state of their own with the right to self-determination.

There are three interpretations of the right to self-determination. First is Lenin's model of the right to self-

determination which arranges the autonomous regions under a centralised state. Second, the UN charter has mentioned the right to self-determination in the context of colonised countries, allowing them independence. Third, the ILO Convention's Article 169 provides the right to self-determination for indigenous nationalities to preserve their ethnic, linguistic and cultural identity.

This article says the Janajatis have the right to ethnic autonomy but not the right to separate from the state.

The Maoists are advocating Lenin's self-determination model. Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal writes, "The reactionaries who think that right to self-determination and autonomy lead the country to fragment are as orthodox as those who think all women will leave their husband after the right to divorce."

Baburam Bhattarai writes, "First of all, we have to understand the dialectical relationship between the right to self-determination and autonomy. This is the policy of liberal unification, which can't be truly autonomous without the right to separate."

The Maoists have given continuity to this policy since their 1996 Politburo meeting. In 2001, they divided the country into nine autonomous regions then later into 11 and 13 provinces and 15 provinces in June this year.

No doubt, the Maoists created awareness among Nepal's ethnic groups about their rights. But by being copycats of Lenin, they are making a mistake. Lenin's right

to self-determination wasn't for the liberation of ethnic communities but for the nation. Nepal's ethnic groups have not developed into nations as believed by the Maoists. As per the Marxists definition, common history, land, economy, culture and language are the basis of a nation. Nepal's ethnic groups have everything except economic sustainability which is why autonomy doesn't make sense. It also means that we can't allow the right to separate in the right to self-determination. If this is done, it will lead to disaster.

In Nepal, the right to self-determination should be understood as mentioned in the ILO Convention Article 169 to preserve their ethnic, lingual, social and cultural rights.

The Maoists seem to have realised their mistake, but only recently. After the party's unification with Unity Centre, Dahal has mentioned the danger of separation in his political documents. The Maoists' draft constitution has also defined the right to self-determination in line with ILO article 169.

But the Maoists risk losing support of their ethnic fronts by abandoning the Lenin model. If the regional ethnic fronts gets stronger at the expense of the central leadership, the party gets weaker. History shows the separatists emerge when national parties get weaker. Therefore, the Maoists should hold discussions within the party and convince the ethnic fronts before finalising the issues of ethnicity. ●

Sarjan Gautam is the president of Maoist-affiliated Intellectuals' Society of Dang district.

## "The Maoists raise issues, not solutions"

Ram Krishna Chitrakar, CA member from Nepali Congress, Kathmandu

**How much of the constitution have you written?**

The work hasn't been properly done, even after the schedule has been revised four times. The Constitutional Committee and subject committees should have finished their deliberations and preliminary drafts by 22 May, but that didn't happen. All in all, the drafting bodies aren't working as they should.

**What does your committee do?**

My committee will decide the country's new justice system. We're getting information from experts on the subject, the parties and those who will have a stake in that system. We've had 18 meetings under committee president Prabhu Sah, but we haven't made much progress, partly because the Maoists keep raising new issues without proposing solutions. Sometimes they say the power to appoint and sack judges belongs to the parliament, other times, the president. Congress and other parties think both options suggest an improper separation of powers. The Maoists also say that each province/state should have their own supreme courts but we say they should only have their high courts. They argue that the parliament should interpret the constitution and we say the Supreme Court should. They want to destroy all existing structures, but we think we should preserve the good ones.

**Will the constitution be written on time?**

Not unless politicians and CA members change their mindsets and become more accommodating.

**Do you think you accomplished less than you could have this year?**

I've been working as hard as I could have, but the politicians should treat the constitution with more urgency.

**What's delaying the constitution writing process?**

Political instability, the lack of determination of the part of politicians to fulfill their election proclamations, inattentiveness among CA members, inactive drafting mechanisms and poor time management.

**The Constitutional Committee is leaderless. Will this affect the constitution?**

That committee won't have work until the subject committees finish their drafts, so for the time being, at least, it doesn't matter. But, the politicians better work things out soon.



## "Elected to write, not quarrel"



Bhotani Devi Khabas, Nepali Congress CA member from Morang

**How much of the constitution have you written?**

First, we went to the villages to ask people what they wanted in the constitution. We've finished our deliberations and are currently preparing a draft. Two other committees have finished their discussions and five have submitted drafts. Those that haven't finished their drafts are working hard to do so quickly.

**What does your committee do?**

I'm in the Capacity Enhancement and Resource Management Committee. Although we're not writing a draft, we're helping others to do so. We're putting into operation suggestions to make the assembly run more smoothly.

**So will the constitution be written on time?**

We're already behind schedule and yet the politicians continue squabbling. How, then, will we finish the constitution on time?

**What's delaying it?**

Besides the wrangling, it's being held up the lack of peace and security and the grasps for cabinet positions.

**How was the last year spent?**

I'm not satisfied with the work we have done. As soon as a government is formed, everyone else stands in protest. People forget that we were voted into the assembly to write the constitution, not quarrel endlessly.



**FINALLY HOME:** Scrawny Lucy when she was initially found by the KAT centre turns into a stunning beauty after the treatment (top). Malnourished and mangy Mango when she was first captured by the KAT centre, bathing during recovery and finally a plump and healthy dog after the complete treatment (bottom).



# K9-Frie



## Communities come to the rescue as dogs languish in the streets

SUBEKSHA POUDEL

**F**or a culture that reveres the dog as the gatekeeper of Yamaraj, Kukur Tihar is perhaps the only day they are treated well. If one were to judge the status of a society by the way it treats its animals, Kathmandu's will perhaps rank the lowest. Stray dogs are beaten and kicked around, they walk around with gaping open sores or skin disease and scrawny puppies go from one shopfront to another foraging for food.

Worst of all, there was a time when the city fathers used to poison the local canine population in order to control the spread of rabies. Lumps of food laced with strychnine used to be strewn about, and the dogs faced a terrible fate as they writhed in pain for hours and even days before they died.

Much of that has changed. Along came an organisation called the Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre (KAT), which preferred to term the strays 'community dogs'. In Nepali, that would be 'samudayik



KIRAN PANDAY



# endly



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kukur' instead of 'bhussyaha'.

"In the areas we work, they no longer use strychnine to deal with unwanted dogs," says Jan Salter, the famous artist of Nepali faces, who is also founder of KAT. Her organisation believes in Animal Birth Control (ABC) as a means to control the dog population and protect the urban

population from rabies.

KAT works out of its facility on the road to Budanilkantha, where it has a hostel that temporarily houses dogs. The work program is for KAT teams to go out to the neighbourhoods in the white Maruti dog-catcher van, and bring five to seven dogs back a day. Mostly female community

dogs are thus captured.

At KAT, the dogs are vaccinated, dewormed and sterilised. The canines are then kept as guest for five-six days, and released back to their original neighbourhoods, healthy but sterilised. This is how successful ABC programs have been organised, from Jaipur to Rio, and the program has begun to assume the shape of a success in Kathmandu, thanks to a healthy sense of cooperation between the Kathmandu Municipality and KAT.

There are a total 20,500 street dogs within the Ring Road, and KAT has sterilised and vaccinated about 1,500 each year over the last six years. The organisation started its work north of the city centre and is spreading out in all directions and down towards the Bagmati. The funds required for KAT's functioning (about Rs 1,500 per dog) comes entirely from dog-lovers in Nepal and canine support organisations overseas, such as the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).

The entertainer Hari Bangsha Acharya is chair of KAT, and his alter-ego Madan Krishna Shrestha is a member. Says Hari Bangsha, "We used to be deeply hurt when we used to see the poisoned animals in such pain, and today feel a sense of satisfaction that KAT has evolved as such an effective organisation."

Anil Rajbhandari is the program officer of KAT. He emphasises that KAT is not a dog pound that houses canines, instead it is a treatment centre which has a link to the neighbourhoods from where the dogs are brought. "We are very happy that we collaborate with the Kathmandu Municipality, because this gives us access as well as continuity to our work," he says.

The result of KAT's work in its area of operation is beginning to be evident. With the decrease in the number of dogs, the locals are being much friendlier towards the canines it is found. A resident of Narayan Gopal Chok, Vinayak Tamang, says he can see the difference. "The number of litters has definitely decreased as the dog population has gone down," he says. "The quality of life of the dogs also seems to be much improved now."

At present, the KAT staff is working overtime with the Kathmandu Municipality and some other organisations as part of the Alliance for Rabies Control Campaign. Over the last three months, they have caught, vaccinated, colour-sprayed (as a marker) and released nearly 2500 dogs. The program was supported by WSPA, which in its website speaks of the 'amazing results' achieved by the KAT Centre of Kathmandu in addressing the matter of community dogs.

In a country where little happens, and where there is loud trumpeting for little that is done, KAT Centre seems to be an organisation that works quietly - until it is found out! ●



KIRAN PANDAY

## Dogs for adoption:

Name: Seti  
Age: 3 years  
Sex: female  
Contact: Bal Krishna Bhujel, 9841241040

Name: Thamel  
Age: 2 years  
Sex: male  
Contact: KAT Centre, 4373169

Name: Kelly  
Age: 5 months  
Sex: female  
Contact: Bal Krishna Bhujel, 9841241040

Name: Khairi  
Age: 4 and half months  
Sex: female  
Contact: KAT Centre, 4373169

Name: Nani  
Age: 1 and half years  
Sex: female  
Contact: Bal Krishna Bhujel, 9841241040

Name: Pangre  
Age: 3 and half months  
Sex: female  
Contact: KAT Centre, 4373169

Name: Kale  
Age: 3 months  
Sex: female  
Contact: Bal Krishna Bhujel, 9841241040

Name: Sango  
Age: 4 years  
Sex: male  
Contact: KAT Centre, 4373169

Name: Chirke  
Age: 2 and half years  
Sex: male  
Contact: Bal Krishna Bhujel, 9841241040

Name: Chiple Kale  
Age: 4 years  
Sex: male  
Contact: KAT Centre, 4373169



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PIC: KAT CENTRE

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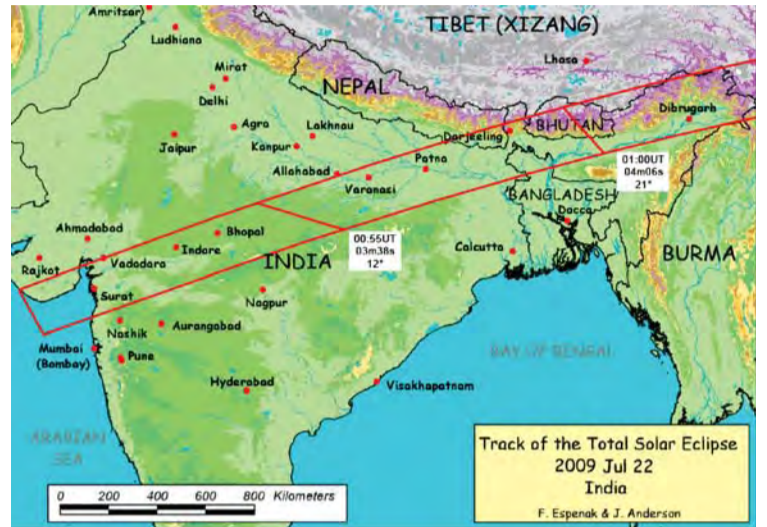
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# Up close and personal with the eclipse



**N**ext week's total eclipse of the sun is being touted by astronomers as the event of the century, the longest total eclipse. And we in Nepal have a ringside view of it as the umbra races across from Janakpur to Ilam on the morning of 22 July.

The rest of the country will witness a partial eclipse, ranging from 96 in Kathmandu to 75 per cent in western Nepal. In Kathmandu where the eclipse will start at 5.45AM, reaching its climax at 6.42AM and ending at 7.45AM. In Pokhara the eclipse will first appear at 5.46AM, end at 7.44AM, and reach its maximum extent, obscuring 93 per cent of the sun, at 6.42AM.

The only problem, of course is that we are in the middle of the monsoon and mornings are usually overcast, but even under the clouds there will be total darkness for nearly four minutes.

## Take a unique flight next Wednesday to see darkness after sunrise over Mt Everest

But if you want to get even more up close and personal, you fly above the clouds and 'chase' the eclipse. Buddha Air is 'pre-poning' its daily mountain flight to 6AM on Wednesday to take passengers above the clouds to see Mt Everest in the darkness, silhouetted over partial sunlight over the Tibetan plateau.

"Because it is such a unique cosmic event, we have decided to bring forward our regular mountain flight by an hour to be able to combine the eclipse with Everest," says Rupesh Joshi of Buddha Air, which plans to have at least four of its Beechcraft 1900D planes up in the air to meet the demand from tourists.

Buddha has also got permission from the civil aviation authorities to fly at 30,000ft, instead of the normal mountain flight altitude of 22,000 ft. "We want to make sure that we are above the clouds," says Joshi. Those who can't afford the Rs 7,000 ticket for the one-hour flight will just have to cross their fingers that the clouds will part at the time of the eclipse. Going up to a mountain-top like Pulchoki or Sarangkot may not help since monsoon cloud cover is even thicker there.

### ECLIPSE VIEWING DO'S AND DON'TS

- Don't ever view the sun directly, even during a partial eclipse
- Use certified glasses or filters
- Don't use sunglasses, photographic films, slides, x-rays or any other dark lensed device
- Prolonged viewing is dangerous

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# Phone-in to have your future foretold

SABHYATA TIMSINA

The switchboard is lighting up at tv astrology programs as the total solar eclipse approaches

As the day of solar eclipse draws near, nervous, hasty, last minute appointments are being made with astrologers all over the country, and phones are ringing off the hook at tv stations that have live astrology programs.

On 22 July just after sunrise, southeastern Nepal will plunge into total darkness. The whole of the country will be under a partial eclipse. For many Nepalis steeped in superstition, this is a bad omen. They want their zodiac sign examined for do's and don'ts, the future predicted and their karma settled.

There was a time when Nepalis wanting to have their futures foretold would have to wait for days for an appointment with an astrologer. No more. The proliferation and popularity of phone-in astrology programs on tv suggests many people now have their questions answered from the comfort of their rooms. Who wants to call a tv station to request a music video when your karma can be read to you on the phone?

No one could have predicted when these shows started two years ago that they were going to be such a big phenomenon. Today astrology show hosts hardly have time to sit still during their one-hour show. The phones ring continuously.

S Suneel the host of Image Channel's 'Janam Kundali' laughs



MALLIKA ARYAL

as he says he couldn't have predicted how successful his program would be. "The daily hardship has made people insecure and impatient and getting helpful hints about the future gives their lives some stability," he explains.

Basudev Krishna Shastri is the best-known tele-astrologer, and is known fondly as "laptop jyotishi" by his fans. He wears a

daura suruwal, topi and sits behind a computer for his live show on Kantipur Television every morning. He takes at least a dozen calls and dispenses advice after callers tell him their time and place of birth. "The show runs well because it is more feasible and less time consuming for people to make a phone call," Shastri says.

Even as society moves towards

a more modern, rational lifestyle, Nepalis seem to believe even more in astrology. Experts say this is perhaps because astrology has a scientific base in astronomy and the movement of the planets vis-à-vis the constellations.

Validating this to an extent are the various astrological tools, software and formulae astrologers use. But the debate

between astrologers and astronomers continues. Jayanta Acharya, Professor of Astronomy puts it bluntly: "People are put under an illusion that these things have a scientific basis but they don't, so we should stop wasting our time going to astrologers."

But astrologers say there are many things that astronomy and rational science can't explain in nature, and astrology has a proven track record through history of determining an auspicious time based on the movement of heavenly bodies.

And scientific or not, astrology seems to fill a spiritual void in people's souls that modern, materialistic life can't. Proof is the growing popularity of the phone-in shows where callers range from 10-year-old school goers to 60-year old retired grandparents.

Ram Chettri, Professor of Sociology at TU explains the reason behind the popularity of tele-astrology is because materialism has failed to answer people's existential doubts, and also that the Nepali people are deeply religious.

He adds: "Astrology fills the gap, it provides answers. It doesn't matter whether its true or not, it provides spiritual solace." ●



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# Climate change bailout

## War and the financial storm have blinded us to the climate crisis

MAURICE STRONG

BEIJING—A recent study by the Global Humanitarian Forum, headed by former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, postulates that the economic and human costs of climate change could now amount to some 125 billion dollars per year and the loss of 300,000 lives. Many more are being increasingly affected, mainly the poor.

The financial measures that must be devoted to the successful achievement of climate security go beyond anything yet being seriously considered by the more developed governments and demanded by China and developing countries. This will not simply be one lump sum, but a package of firm commitments over time initially adding up to an order of magnitude of at least US 1 trillion dollars.

If the figure of trillion dollars and beyond seems unrealistic under today's conditions, we must be reminded that it is only a portion of what the United States alone has spent in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and in current attempts to bailout its major financial institutions and revive its flagging economy. The climate change crisis is in even greater need of a bailout than the economic and financial crisis, though both are inextricably related.

We are the wealthiest civilization ever. Can we really accept we can not afford

to save ourselves and future generations?

Fortunately, the problem is more tractable now that we can manage our civilization more effectively with our increasingly sophisticated information technology. Resource-poor Japan and Korea, for example, have built their success on the development of advanced technologies and high rates of investment in educational and research capacities. China too is fast becoming a knowledge and technology based economy.

But there is still work to do. First of all we need a new economic paradigm which integrates the disciplines of traditional economics with the new insights of ecological economics. This 'new economics' must provide the theoretical underpinnings for a system that incorporates into economic pricing and national accounts the real values of the environment and services which nature provides. It must include fiscal and regulatory regimes with positive incentives for the achievement of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

In a market economy which drives the processes of globalization, the market provides the signals that motivate sustainable development. This means shifting taxes to products and practices which are environmentally and socially harmful from those which are least harmful. In effect, getting

the prices right. No nation can do this alone without disadvantaging its own economy; it can only be effectively done within an internationally agreed framework.

The forthcoming meeting of the parties to the Climate Change Convention in Copenhagen (December 7-18) will be one of the most important and one of the most difficult international agreements ever attempted. It is an ominous paradox that as our future depends on unprecedented levels of cooperation we are experiencing growing competition and division, motivated both self-interest and differing values.

At the same time, there's little evidence that governments are prepared to undertake the kind of commitments that will lead us to this new era. The countries, the organisations and the people participating in this dialogue will clearly have a critically important, indeed I would say decisive, role to play in Copenhagen.

Let us all give this the highest priority in our own lives that we expect from governments. ●  
(IPS)

*Maurice Strong was the Secretary General of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, first Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Secretary General of the 1992 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (<http://www.mauricestrong.net>).*

# Treason in the air

## There should be open and free debate about climate change

COPENHAGEN—Discussions about global warming are marked by an increasing desire to stamp out 'impure' thinking, to the point of questioning the value of democratic debate. But shutting down discussion simply means the disappearance of reason from public policy.

Al Gore's science adviser and prominent climate researcher, Jim Hansen, proclaimed that when it comes to dealing with global warming, the "democratic process isn't working." Paul Krugman, Nobel Laureate in Economics, called votes against the Waxman-Marey bill in the United States treasonous although they were cast democratically.



COMMENT  
Bjorn Lomborg

There is clearly a trend. The climate threat is so great—and democracies are doing so little about it—that

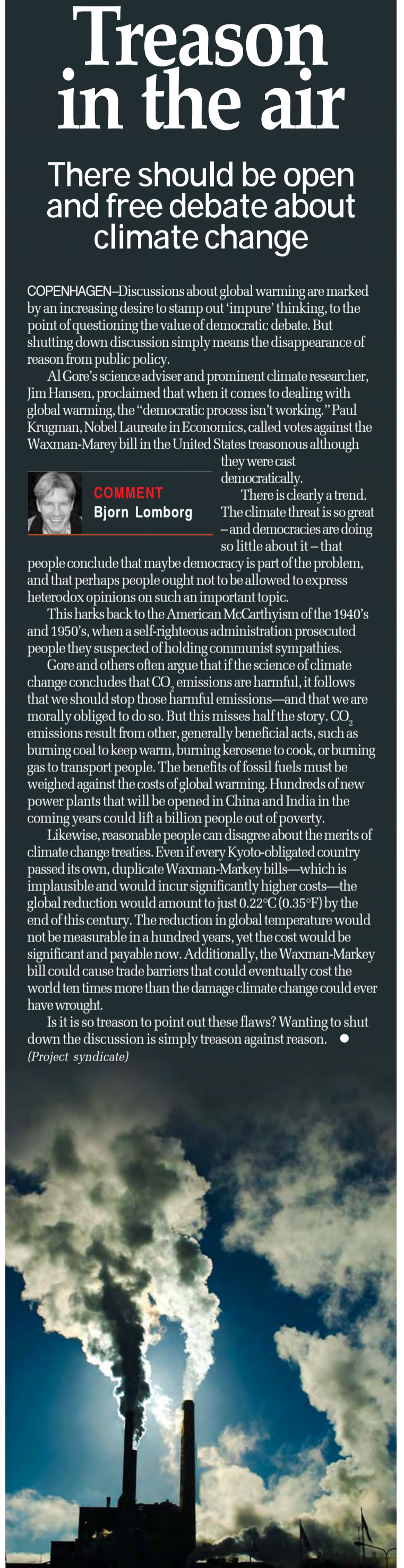
people conclude that maybe democracy is part of the problem, and that perhaps people ought not to be allowed to express heterodox opinions on such an important topic.

This harks back to the American McCarthyism of the 1940's and 1950's, when a self-righteous administration prosecuted people they suspected of holding communist sympathies.

Gore and others often argue that if the science of climate change concludes that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are harmful, it follows that we should stop those harmful emissions—and that we are morally obliged to do so. But this misses half the story. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions result from other, generally beneficial acts, such as burning coal to keep warm, burning kerosene to cook, or burning gas to transport people. The benefits of fossil fuels must be weighed against the costs of global warming. Hundreds of new power plants that will be opened in China and India in the coming years could lift a billion people out of poverty.

Likewise, reasonable people can disagree about the merits of climate change treaties. Even if every Kyoto-obligated country passed its own, duplicate Waxman-Markey bills—which is implausible and would incur significantly higher costs—the global reduction would amount to just 0.22°C (0.35°F) by the end of this century. The reduction in global temperature would not be measurable in a hundred years, yet the cost would be significant and payable now. Additionally, the Waxman-Markey bill could cause trade barriers that could eventually cost the world ten times more than the damage climate change could ever have wrought.

Is it so treason to point out these flaws? Wanting to shut down the discussion is simply treason against reason. ●  
(Project syndicate)



# Climate change bailout

War and the financial storm have blinded us to the climate crisis

MAURICE STRONG

BEIJING—A recent study by the Global Humanitarian Forum, headed by former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, postulates that the economic and human costs of climate change could now amount to some 125 billion dollars per year and the loss of 300,000 lives. Many more are being increasingly affected, mainly the poor.

The financial measures that must be devoted to the successful achievement of climate security go beyond anything yet being seriously considered by the more developed governments and demanded by China and developing countries. This will not simply be one lump sum, but a package of firm commitments over time initially adding up to an order of magnitude of at least US 1 trillion dollars.

If the figure of trillion dollars and beyond seems unrealistic under today's conditions, we must be reminded that it is only a portion of what the United States alone has spent in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and in current attempts to bailout its major financial institutions and revive its flagging economy. The climate change crisis is in even greater need of a bailout than the economic and financial crisis, though both are inextricably related.

We are the wealthiest civilization ever. Can we really accept we can not afford to save ourselves and future generations?

Fortunately, the problem is more tractable now that we can manage our civilization more effectively with our increasingly sophisticated information technology. Resource-poor Japan and Korea, for example, have built their success on the development of advanced technologies and high rates of investment in educational and research capacities. China too is fast becoming a knowledge and technology based economy.

But there is still work to do. First of all we need a new economic paradigm which integrates the disciplines



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of traditional economics with the new insights of ecological economics. This 'new economics' must provide the theoretical underpinnings for a system that incorporates into economic pricing and national accounts the real values of the environment and services which nature provides. It must include fiscal and regulatory regimes with positive incentives for the achievement of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

In a market economy which drives the processes of globalization, the market provides the signals that motivate sustainable development. This means shifting taxes to products and practices which are environmentally and socially harmful from those which are least harmful. In effect, getting the prices right. No nation can do this alone without disadvantaging its own economy; it can only be effectively done within an internationally agreed framework.

The forthcoming meeting of the parties to the Climate Change Convention in Copenhagen (December 7-18) will be one of the most important and one of the most difficult international agreements ever attempted. It is an ominous paradox that as our future depends on unprecedented levels of cooperation we are experiencing growing competition and division, motivated both self-

interest and differing values.

At the same time, there's little evidence that governments are prepared to undertake the kind of commitments that will lead us to this new era. The countries, the organisations and the people participating in this dialogue will clearly have a critically

important, indeed I would say decisive, role to play in Copenhagen.

Let us all give this the highest priority in our own lives that we expect from governments. ● (IPS)

Maurice Strong was the Secretary General of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, first Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Secretary General of the 1992 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (<http://www.mauricestrong.net>).

## STOP BAD CHEQUES

A Responsible Banking initiative of Laxmi Bank

### • What is a "Bad Cheque?"

A "Bad Cheque" is a cheque issued by an account holder, which is not honored by Bank where the cheque is drawn on.

This can be due to a number of reasons. The most common of them being:

- Balance in the account is not sufficient (Insufficient Funds),
- Signature of the account holder on the cheque does not match with Bank records,
- Stale cheque (presented after 6 months of issuance) or post dated cheque (future date)
- Amount in words do not tally with the amount in figure

### • Is writing a Bad Cheque punishable by law?

Yes, if a cheque is returned due to "Insufficient Funds" it is punishable under the prevailing law of Nepal (Negotiable Instrument Act 2034 - clause 107 Ka). Nepal Rastra Bank has issued a separate directive that requires all financial institutions to take specific actions in case of account holders who issue Bad Cheques.

### • Why is Laxmi Bank driving the Stop Bad Cheques initiatives?

Apart from legal issues, writing a Bad Cheque not only results in loss of trust between the concerned parties but more importantly, it affects the credibility of cheques as a mode of payment and pushes us back to being a "cash-based" economy.

### • What is Laxmi Bank doing to curb/stop the practice of writing Bad Cheques?

A Bad Cheque not only causes great inconvenience to the payee but is also an offence. Laxmi Bank is proud to take this first small step towards curbing / stopping intentional writing of Bad Cheques and will introduce the following measures:

- If a cheque drawn on us cannot be honored for any reason we will return the cheque with a standard "Cheque Return Memo"
- Where applicable we will also levy a penalty to the account holder for writing Bad Cheques
- We will maintain a record of Cheque Returns due to "Insufficient Funds" and communicate to concerned account holders requesting them to correct their account behavior
- Lastly, we will retain the right to suspend or initiate process to close an account if an account holder chooses to ignore our requests and continues to issue Bad Cheques with Insufficient Funds repeatedly

### • How can you avoid issuing Bad Cheques?

The following precautionary measures can be adopted to avoid a Bad Cheque incident:

- Ensure there are sufficient funds in your account before issuing any cheques
- Subscribe to services like SMS Alerts, Internet Banking or Email Solutions to keep up to date with your account status
- If you need to transfer money from another account to account on which the cheque is drawn, always check with your Bank that your instruction has been executed
- Check with your Bank to ensure that the cheque you deposited for clearing or collection (i.e. a cheque drawn on another bank) has been cleared and balance is available for you to use (note that clearing time for cheques drawn on different locations differ)
- Notify the Bank if your address and contact numbers change - this ensures that you can be contacted by the Bank for any important matters without unnecessary delays

### • What are your rights as a Customer?

- To inquire from the Bank the available balance in your account which will ensure that your cheques are not dishonored
- To be notified when cheques you issue are repeatedly dishonored; the Bank will correspond with you through the best available means of communication, so it is important to keep your contact details updated at the Bank
- To be notified in writing if the Bank initiates process to close your account as a result of excessive issuance of Bad Cheques

We are introducing this policy in line with our Responsible Banking initiatives which include adopting a set of practices that encourage prudent financial behavior of our customers and all stakeholders.

As always we look forward to the continued patronage and support of our valued customers in our joint effort at "raising the bar" of our financial system.



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# Moonwalker

The recent death of pop icon Michael Jackson has generated many tributes to his life and work, but perhaps the most honest and probing of these is a piece of work he created when he was still alive. Coming out in 1988 when Michael Jackson was at the height of his career (or soon after it), when his enormous celebrity became ungainly and uncomfortable, *Moonwalker* is a



**CRITICAL CINEMA**  
A Angelo D'Silva

bizarre and yet fitting memorial to Michael Jackson, a kind of video scrapbook melding into a dream journal.

His seventh solo album *Bad* had come out recently and was spawning a bevy of now-easily recognizable hits. That year, when he packed stadiums on his world tours, was easily a period of his ascendancy as an international sensation. But it was also the first time his eccentricities were aggressively coming to fore, doggedly reported by the tabloids, from his seeming addiction to cosmetic surgery to his odd purchases, including a Chimp he named Bubbles.

*Moonwalker*, in its meandering self-indulgent way, concerns these two major themes of Michael Jackson's career: his incredible success as a

commercial artist (with a hagiographic self-regard) and the struggle to negotiate his celebrity and image (with admonitions to the media along with some comfortable self-mocking).

The tagline of *Moonwalker* is "From the imagination of Michael Jackson comes a movie like no other," a rousing marketing statement that is accurate but makes no specific claims about the film's contents. And it is easy to understand why. Directed by Jerry Kramer, it is an assemblage of a few past music videos with its last, 'Smooth Criminal', lengthened into a bizarre, nonsensical, and now perhaps controversial, mini-movie involving Michael Jackson keeping the world safe for kids. He is shown transforming into various machines—a car, a robot and, yes, even a spaceship—and killing or running away from gangsters. In videos that show his skin turning liquid and his face and body morphing, one catches a theme that resurfaces in his later videos, from 'Black or White' and 'Remember the Time', and, earlier, the superb 'Thriller,' where he changes into a werewolf.

*Moonwalker* doesn't hold coherently but it is fun. This is not surprising, as Jackson has undoubtedly been responsible for some of the most memorable music videos in history. There is a delightful parody of his Martin



A wacky, but poignant and fitting, tribute to MJ's life that MJ himself created

Scorsese-directed 'Bad' video with Michael Jackson and his crew of dancers replaced with cute and uncannily similar children-doppelgangers, running around in a frame-by-frame, move-by-move imitation of that rampage through the subway station.

Even though music television stations today give less play to music videos, their short length, the premium on keeping your attention and their viral addictiveness anticipates the

youtube generation. Of course, the transition from the small screen to the even smaller screen shifts many of the rules of the arts but still one is struck by how current these videos seem. For instance, Jackson's 'Man in the Mirror', which opens *Moonwalker* with footage of his concerts interspersed with clips of Gandhi, Mandela, King and Kennedy, could easily have been made by a devout fan today. The lo-fi but detailed and effective video animated with deft virtuosity by

Jim Blashfield in 'Leave Me Alone' anticipates the striking ingenuity of video artists who have carved out little followings of their own on the internet.

Jim Blashfield, who seems to have single-handedly defined the American pop music videos of the 80s with his oeuvre of idiosyncratic and absurd animations tapping uncomfortably into the subconscious, captures the conflicted relationship the Jackson had with his public in his 'Leave Me Alone.' In a satirical rollercoaster ride in what could be Jackson's famous Neverland Ranch, Blashfield explodes the tabloid headlines that plagued his subject. Blashfield somehow champions Jackson, even as he manages to probe his complicated psyche.

*Moonwalker* opens with the video to 'Man in the Mirror,' a kind of Gandhian exhortation to be the change you want to see in the world. It is a kind of song that becomes a staple of his songbook, political platitudes converted into stirring anthems.

But the video is also remarkable for the scenes of legions of his fans at his concerts, delirious and ecstatic, a testament to his power and draw as an icon. And icon is the appropriate word for this strange, stylish, talented man-child, part-Fred Astaire, part-Pee Wee Herman, whose cult-like and devoted fan-base would put megachurches to shame in their size and extravagance. MJ might be held to ridicule (and even this critic can't seem to withhold a few potshots), but in our global pop culture, he is a giant that divides everything that comes before him from everything that comes after. ●

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e.g. AST ARI  
WEEK ARI

**Result**  
Daily astrology of Aries  
Weekly Horoscope of Aries

\*\*initial 3 letters of zodiac sign

**LOVE-METER**

**Keyword**  
LM NAME1 NAME2

**Result**  
Love Percentage

**JOKES**

**Keyword**  
JOKE SANTA  
JOKE SILLY  
JOKE DOC  
JOKE BLOND  
JOKE OFFICE

**Result**  
Santa jokes  
Silly jokes  
Doctor Jokes  
Blond jokes  
Office jokes

**DICTIONARY**

**Keyword**  
DICT WORD  
e.g. DICT LIVE

**Result**  
Meaning of word  
meaning of LIVE

**CALENDAR**

**Keyword**  
CALNEP DDDMMYYYY  
CALENG DDDMMYYYY

**Result**  
Nepali to English  
English to Nepali

**FOREX**

**Keyword**  
FOREX BUY  
FOREX SELL  
FOREX CURRENCY ID

**THOUGHT**

**Keyword** **Result**

**THOUGHT** THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**WEATHER**

**Keywords** **Result**  
CLI CITY NAME\*  
e.g. CLI DHARAN  
Dharan weather update

\*Bhaktapur, Bharatpur, Biratnagar, Butwal, Dhangarhi, Dharan, Hetauda, Janakpur, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Mahendranagar, Pokhara, Bharatnagar, Joms, Sankhet

**TOP 5**

**Keyword**  
TOP5 Nepsong  
TOP5 Engsong  
TOP5 Bolsong

**NEWS**

**Keyword** **Result**  
NEWS National News  
SPO Sports News  
BIZ Business News  
INT International News  
ENT Entertainment news

**CRICKET**

**Keyword** **Result**  
CRI Score update

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## ABOUT TOWN

## EXHIBITIONS

- ❖ **In a Different Light** an exhibition of Photography by Zoe Childerley at Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revisited, til 18 July at 5PM. 4267063
- ❖ **Humanity in War**, a photo exhibition by The International Committee of the Red Cross(ICRC), Nepal Arts council, Baber Mahal, til 18 July.
- ❖ **More than Ambassadors**, a photographic exhibition by the ambassadors of USA, India and Denmark at Indigo Gallery, Gairidhara til 19 July at 8AM-6PM. 4413580

## EVENTS

- ❖ **Some Like it Hot**, a 1959 comedy starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon screening at Lazimpat Gallery Café, 18 July 5.30PM. 4428549

## MUSIC

- ❖ **Roots and American music**, American music on electric and acoustic guitar, slide guitar and harmonica by Desmond O'Flattery and Anthony Correll. 17 July 5.30-8.00PM
- ❖ **Yala maya classic**, a classical music series featuring Sitar Player Bina Shrestha and Tabla player Rabin Lal Shrestha, Yala Maya Kendra, Patan Dhoka. 17 July at 5PM
- ❖ **Live band** every Friday and rooftop bbq everyday at Kausi Kitchen, Durbar Marg. 4227288
- ❖ **Sunday Jazz brunch** barbecue and live jazz music at the Terrace, Hyatt Regency from 12-3.30 PM. 4491234
- ❖ **Jazz evening** at Delices de France Restaurant every Wednesday, 11AM-2PM. 4260326
- ❖ **Some like it hot** every Friday BBQ and live music by Dinesh Rai and the Sound Minds, 7PM onwards, Rs 899 at Fusion, Dwarika's Hotel. 4479488
- ❖ **Happy cocktail hour**, 5-7PM, ladies night on Wednesday with live unplugged music at Jatra Café & Bar.
- ❖ **Live Band Sensation** performance by Aprilrush, every Saturday till late, Rox Bar, Hyatt Regency Kathmandu. 4489362
- ❖ **Sunday Jazz Brunch** by Inner Groove with barbecue, Sunday, 12PM-3.30 PM, The Terrace at Hyatt Regency Kathmandu. 4489362
- ❖ **Nepali Ghajals** and songs at D'Lounge Beijing Duck Restaurant, every Thursday 6.30 PM onwards. 4468589

## DINING

- ❖ **BBQ Obsession**, on Fridays and Saturdays at Splash Bar & Grill, Radisson Hotel 10-31July, 6PM. 4411818
- ❖ **A cafe's cafe** Dhokaima Cafe, Patan Dhoka. 5522113
- ❖ **Pan Pizza & Risotto** - for pizza cooked in pan with various toppings in wood-fired oven at the Rox Restaurant on Sunday, Monday & Tuesday. 4491234
- ❖ **The Corner Bar**, 3-11PM, 5-7PM, Radisson Hotel Kathmandu. 4411818
- ❖ **7th Annual Monsoon Wine Festival 2009**, til 15 September, Kilroy, Thamel. 4250440
- ❖ **Mango Etagere** with hi-tea at The Lounge from 4.30- 6.30 PM. Hyatt Regency. 4489362
- ❖ **Weekend Brunch** by the Poolside every Saturday and Sunday, Soaltee Crowne Plaza Kathmandu, 11AM-3PM. 4273999
- ❖ **Pizza & Pasta** at the Rox Restaurant every Monday & Tuesday, Hyatt Regency. 4489362
- ❖ **Chez Caroline** for French and Mediterranean cuisine, Babar Mahal Revisited. 4263070
- ❖ **Mediterranean cuisine** every Friday from Greece, Italy and the Middle-East at The Café, Hyatt Regency. 4491234
- ❖ **Teppanyaki** meat items and garlic rice right at Le Restaurant, Gairidhara. 4436318
- ❖ **Plat Du Jour** at Hotel Shangri La, Kathmandu, Rs 600. 4412999
- ❖ **Reality Bites**, The Kaiser Café, Garden of Dreams, operated by Dwarika's Group of Hotels, 9AM-10PM. 4425341
- ❖ **Starry night barbecue** at Hotel Shangri-la with live performance by Ciney Gurung, Rs 999, at the Shambala Garden, every Friday 7PM onwards. 4412999
- ❖ **Himalayan Rainbow Trout** at Hotel Yak and Yeti, Darbar Marg. 4248999

## GETAWAYS

- ❖ **Relax Package** at Hyatt Regency Kathmandu for Rs 5555 plus taxes, for a night on double occupancy with breakfast, complimentary use of spa and, offer valid to Nepalis and local residents only. 4489800
- ❖ **Feel the Hyatt touch**, a 60-minute Ayurvedic massage and access to pool and spa with breakfast or lunch at The Café or hi-tea at The Lounge. 4491234/ 4489359

For inclusion in the listing send information to editors(at)nepalitimes.com



Quest Entertainment

Emboldened by the return of Lord Voldemort, the Death Eaters are wreaking havoc in both the Muggle and wizarding worlds and Hogwarts is no longer the safe haven. Also, Harry's long friendship with Ginny Weasley is growing into something deeper and Ron has also got romantic entanglements. But as romance blossoms, one student remains aloof with far more important matters on his mind. He is determined to make his mark, albeit a dark one. Love is in the air in *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*, but tragedy lies ahead and Hogwarts may never be the same again.

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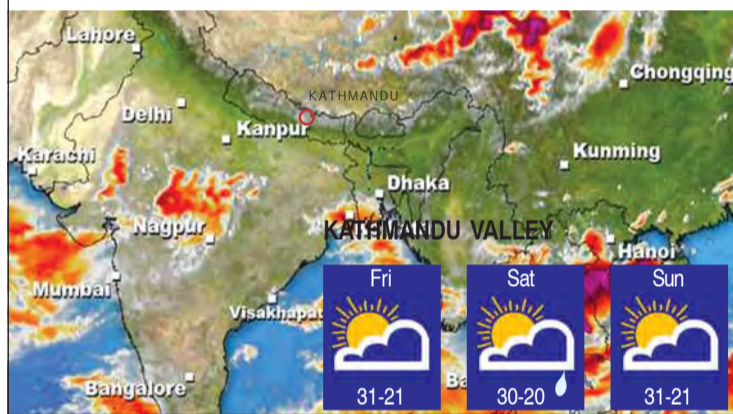
काम सानो ठूलो भन्ने हुँदैन । पसिनाको कुनै रङ र जात पनि हुँदैन । काम गरेर खान लजाउनु पनि हुँदैन । चोरेर, ढाँटेर, छलेर, लुटेर खान पो लजाउनुपर्छ । जो जहाँ रहेर जुन काम गर्छ ऊ त्यसैमा रमाउनुपर्छ, गौरव गर्नुपर्छ र समर्पित भएर गर्नुपर्छ । काम नै शक्ति हो, भक्ति हो र मुक्ति हो । कामको इज्जत गरौं, पसिनाको सम्मान गरौं ।

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## WEEKEND WEATHER

by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

We're experiencing a temporary suspension of the monsoons, what meteorologists call a 'monsoon break'. As a result, we've received less rain than usual over this past month. After two and a half weeks, the skies have deposited only a third of the 360mm of rain that the Valley usually sees in July. Satellite pictures from Thursday morning suggest that the rains won't return until early next week. The days will remain hot until then although passing clouds and short evening showers should provide some relief.



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KIRAN PANDAY

**GOOAL:** CA members celebrate NC leader Gagan Thapa's goal at the charity match between political party leaders and artists in Dasharath Stadium on Saturday.



KIRAN PANDAY

**LOUD AND SHRILL:** Members of the civil service union blow whistles in front of the Ministry of Finance on Tuesday in protest of the budget for not increasing their pay.



KIRAN PANDAY

**MIGRANT SOUL:** The relatives of Kisan Bahadur Sunar, who was a labourer in Malaysia, receive his body at Tribhuban International Airport last week. Corpses of at least a 100 Nepali labourers arrive in Kathmandu every month from abroad.



KIRAN PANDAY

**WOMEN FIRST:** Representatives of Dhanusha's community service committee protest the official neglect of women in front of the office of the secretary of Women, Children and Social Welfare on Tuesday.



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

**POETIC LICENSE:** Students of Bhanu Bhakta Memorial School commemorate the life and work of Adikabi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya at Nepal Academy on Monday.

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# Multiple choices

By now, it is pretty clear that even the Right Honourable Makunay doesn't know whether he is **coming or going**. In fact, the only place he's going is Sharm al Sheikh for the Much-maligned Movement (MMM) and he has postponed a scheduled stop in New Delhi on the way back. The Indians apparently didn't want to risk a visit by a PM whose **longevity** was in question.



Even within the prime minister's own party there is a sense of **impermanence**. And having helped bring down the king, the Maobaddies are playing the consummate king-makers by egging on GPK ("Girijababu, sambidhan lekhne bela ma ta tapain nai pradhan mantri huna parchha) and wooing JNK (Jhahnathji, yo sarkar lai tikaunalai tapaile nai samalnu parcha). PKD is telling both GPK and JNK that if they become PM, his Baddies will join a national govt. Needless to say, Jhallu is getting sorely tempted: especially since Leftist God is being extremely **persuasive** from offstage.

Within the Baddy party itself, there is a move to replace Awesome as the leader of the parliamentary party, and the fact that it will be Mahara Daju and not Baburam Uncle has raised eyebrows about whether BRB is being groomed for **bigger and better** things like prime ministership. Wanna bet?



Meanwhile, Upadro Yadav has **air dashed** to Delhi to mend fences after he realised he went too far by cosying up to the Middle Kingdom. The man should've known about the extreme Sinophobia in certain sections of the Delhi Durbar, after all he was Firinghi Minister in the old govt. And the reason for the trip could also be that BP Yadav has **wormed** his way to be much closer to the corridors of power down south. The Chinese ticked off the Indians by sending an observer team to the Forum conf in Birganj, and hustling Upadro to Beijing earlier this year. So to send the message to keep its hands off the Madhes, they got a bunch of Madhesi MPs to meet His Holiness in Dharmasala and **leaked the pic** to the press, which dutifully printed it.



And now for something completely different. After nearly flunking the written exam in a driving test last week (what's the point asking what a **double yellow line** in the middle of the road means when there isn't a single road in the country that has a double yellow line?) the Donkey would like to suggest some changes in the multiple choice questions that are more relevant to our traffic conditions:

- A blinking right signal light usually means:**
  - Turning right, but not sure yet
  - You can overtake me now
  - I'm approaching you
  - All of the above
- You honk on the highway to:**
  - Greet fellow travellers
  - Curse fellow travellers
  - Because the back of the truck says "Horn Please"
  - To keep myself from falling asleep at the wheel
- When a VIP convoy approaches on Putali Sadak, you:**
  - Speed up and race the prime minister
  - Pull over and salute the national flag
  - Pull over and give the prime minister a dirty look
  - Wait for convoy to pass and chase it to get to your destination faster
- A motorcyclist caught in a traffic jam should:**
  - Squeeze into every available space, knocking out the rearview mirrors of cars
  - Turn on afterburners, climb up the ramp to the overhead bridges, drop down on the roofs of buses to ride on to your destination
  - Ride on the sidewalk and mow down pedestrians
  - Follow traffic regulations so that by the time you get to your office, you have reached retirement age

CORRECT ANSWERS: 1, d. 2, c. 3, c. 4, a.

Suggestions for more multiple choice questions are welcome. Send entries to [ass\(a\)nepalitimes.com](mailto:ass(a)nepalitimes.com) and win a special mention in this column.

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Nirvana Country Club Health and Golf Resort welcomes 5th Reincarnate Tulku Rinchen Rinpoche to Nepal.

Vajrasattva Pooja - 18th and 19th July 2009 at Bisalnagar

The Rinpoche will be at Nirvana country club Health and Golf Resort, Dharan from 22nd of July to 24th where he will be conducting healing sessions and performing a very auspicious Padmasambhava Pooja for the creation of wealth.

Everyone is humbly invited to this grand event.



For further information, please contact 4247071  
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**Nirvana Country Club  
Health & Golf Resort**

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