

NEPALI Times

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NO FLY ZONE

This plane junkyard at a corner of Kathmandu airport is a powerful symbol of the state of Nepal. These vintage aircrafts were once the mainstay of the nation's aviation, and are a mute testimony to political interference that bled the national airline dry, and businessmen who bankrupted their airlines and looted shareholders. The planes lie scavenged and neglected, just like the country whose faded flag they still fly.

Story by Dewan Rai page 4

Corner people

Half the 50 families in Olangchungola in the remote northeastern corner of Nepal have left. The rest are preparing to leave this neglected, harsh land. Offered no relief after last September's earthquake, locals feel they have nothing left to lose.

Photo Feature by Krishna Sinjali page 12-13

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For photo galleries of stories in this issue.



ASHUTOSH TIWARI

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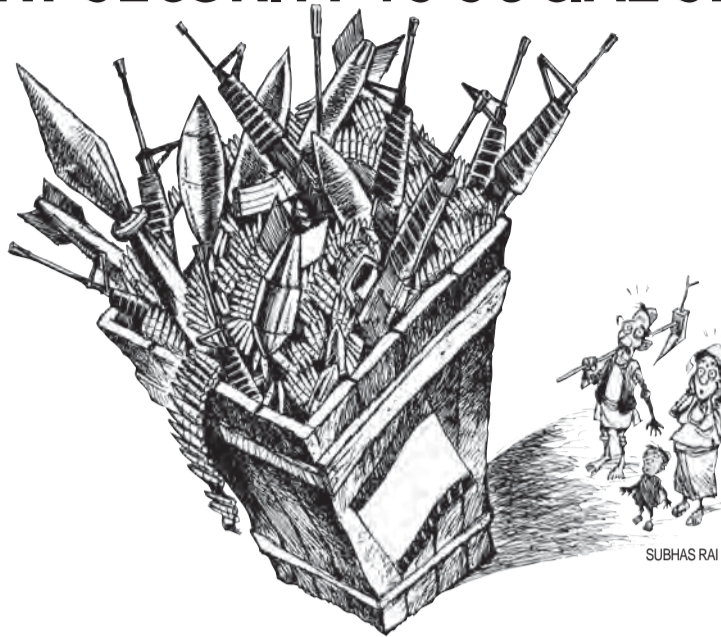
MILITARY SECURITY VS SOCIAL SECURITY

How come the countries that can't feed their populations have lately started testing long-range ballistic missiles? India fired a guided missile last week that can deliver a nuclear payload as far as Beijing, and North Korea's rocket turned out to be as unguided as that country's government. Then Pakistan had to rattle its sabre, too.

Pyongyang's disastrous totalitarianism has made that starving country a case study in how an outdated ideology can allow despotic dynasties to survive in the 21st century and use nuclear blackmail to get the world to feed it. India, on the other hand, may be rising and shining but half its children are still undernourished. Pakistan should have other priorities than firing expensive rockets into the sky.

Having nuclear warheads and the rockets to deliver them, do not a more secure country make. It's not just tyrants who are obsessed with military security, elected democratic leaders supposedly accountable to the welfare of their citizens do so, too. Part of the reason could be that ever since the Pharaohs and the Greeks, the history of empires have been based on the glorious battles they fought to expand territory. The modern history of nation states are annals of military conquests, history books are long lists of leaders who killed large numbers of people to get to power. Histories are rarely about ordinary people, they ignore descriptions of the everyday life and the sacrifice made by citizens during the reign of Mr So-and-so the Great.

To this day, security is wholly defined in the framework of national sovereignty and the need to guard sacrosanct frontiers of nation states. Our obsession with expanding and defending territory shows we have evolved little from mammals who have to regularly irrigate the perimeters of their domains. That is why we reserve a special place for militaries in our nation states.



Military security trains people to kill other people, human security is about saving people's lives.

When it comes to the army, even the most democratic nations shroud them in inordinate secrecy, they give the brass unquestioned leeway, and a lavish budget.

Numerically, South Asia has most of the world's poor. If governments in our part of the world were really concerned about the welfare of their citizens, they would pay less attention to military security and pay more for social security. Traditionally, security has always been about training people to kill other people, whereas human security is about trying to save people's lives.

One of the early proponents of human security in South Asia was the late Mahbub Ul-haq who used figures and statistics to prove just how absurd the military

budgets of India and Pakistan were in relation to the mass deprivation of citizens in both countries. If Pakistani leaders had listened to Ul-haq and done more in the 1990s to ensure education, health and jobs, perhaps the country wouldn't be in the explosive political situation it is in today.

Here in Nepal, the successful conclusion of the peace process offers the opportunity to turn our attention to long-term peace building. An essential part of that must be to harness the peace dividend by cutting back on our bloated military budget, as well as investing in human security.

The induction of ex-Maoist combatants and extra Madhesis into the army are political compromises, and make a mockery of the glaring need for Security Sector Reform. There is no reason to keep the Armed Police Force, the paramilitary army that was set up to fight the insurgency. And if we must have a military, its size must be slashed to focus on disaster relief, infrastructure and UN peacekeeping.

In the constitution debates, our leaders split hairs about presidential and parliamentary systems. But if we look around the region, we see democratic governments so beholden to their militaries that they have no money left for anti-poverty programs, but we also have governments that may not be democratic but have done a much better job in cutting military spending to ensure social welfare. We can have any kind of government we like, but it must put human security at the top of the agenda.

For Nepal's long-term peace, underlying social injustice, discrimination, exclusion and inequities must be addressed. Maintaining an outsized, expensive army drains resources away from human development. The threats to Nepal's survival come not from external invaders, but from domestic instability caused by the state's neglect of its citizens.

ON THE WEB

www.nepalitimes.com

JOURNALISM OF DECEPTION

Nepali Times is lucky to have a columnist like Rubeena Mahato ('Journalism of deception', #601). She has impacted many people's lives through her writing and makes the paper better. I hope *NT* will give her all the tools she needs so that she can continue making Nepali women proud.

Caroline K C

• Thank you Rubeena Mahato for a brutally honest piece. I am sure you will go a long way in your career, if you are not forced to compromise your integrity or hounded by the Federation of Nepalese Journalists.

Party Peedit

• In a country where ethics amongst journalists is a rarity, Mahato deserves kudos for an honest and hard-hitting piece.

Saili P

• Let's hope journalists stop merely rewording press releases and doing more in-depth investigations, and asking tough questions of those with power (including themselves).

James

• Rubeena Mahato, you encourage other women journalists to become leaders in the field rather than just following losers. I am a fan and look forward to reading more of your exceptional reports.

Shanta Gurung

• Rubeena is a very brave columnist. With the power of her

pen, she can bring justice and help clean up the mess in the country. She is a true Nepali hero and has our full support.

Anjali Shrestha

GIVE AND TAKE

This is by far the most direct, honest and spot-on editorial that I have read in a long time ('Give and take', #601). Thank you *Nepali Times* for this much needed clarity in a time of hush-hush nation building. As a Nepali I am happy that the peace process is progressing so swiftly and that we might actually have a new 'constitution' by 27 May. But on the other hand, all the decisions are being made by the top male leaders of the three main parties. I am slightly skeptical of a constitution created behind closed doors through plain give and take negotiations. No public debate? No procedures? How far will such a constitution go towards addressing the deep grievances of Nepalis?

Nepali Cheli

• The constitution writing process has not been inclusive of all parties or all people, especially women. Where were the female leaders during the Hattiban meetings? The unfair domination by Nepali men has to end. I think we need a woman to lead the country post 27 May.

Bimala Pradhan

• Earlier Gyanendra and his few cronies used to plunder Nepal. Today the NC, UML, Maoists, and Madhesi parties all loot the country every day. No law and order, no security, growing criminal culture and corrupt government, police, army. Is this the

price we have to pay for democracy? Without a new generation of leadership, we will keep getting the same rubbish.

Nirmal Gautam

• The Maoists have been openly looting the Nepali public, Dahal lied blatantly to the UN, and Baidya and gang may still be hiding weapons. If we are all aware of these facts, why are we still silent? Nepal is ruled by criminals and we Nepalis seem to love it.

Srijana Shrestha

• We can't only blame politicians for pushing us into poverty, ethnic strife and authoritarianism. Who chose to support the Maoists, including Dahal and Bhattarai, as heroes of the poor? Who red-carpeted them to power and legitimised their violence? Who provided them the opportunity to (re)write a 'New Constitution' when we already had a good one from 1990? Who chose to ignore all warning signs while highlighting the false 'peace' aspect? And who labelled those trying to express the truth as regressive, extremist, rightist royalists? Today these same intellectuals, journalists, editors and opinion-makers who hoodwinked the masses for so long are shocked and surprised at the way things are turning out.

Satya Nepali

• Your editorial is full of hypocrisy. Doesn't Dahal want to become president through a directly elected system? If we think someone else can do a better job then we should vote for him or her. It's as simple as that.

Krishna S

• The editorial is a wish-list.

Current events, possible results and geopolitics have been totally ignored. Can we be more realistic, please?

K K Sharma

PRESIDENTIAL ROADSHOW

There is too much pessimism and intolerance among Nepalis these days ('Presidential roadshow for unity', Kunda Dixit, #601). By directly reaching out to the people, the President is transcending party lines and ethnic ideologies and helping reaffirm unity. Perhaps I am too optimistic, but I feel Yadav has played his presidential role perfectly.

Doer

• We need someone to think about the whole of Nepal and its collective identity and the President has articulated this sentiment very well. Although there will be critics and controversies at every step, Yadav should just ignore them and carry on with his bold moves.

Sudha

• For someone holding the highest ceremonial position in the country, I feel Yadav has disappointed. But we shouldn't expect too much from him. He became the president not because of his capabilities but rather because of the ego war between PK Dahal and GP Koirala.

Rajesh Prajapati

• President Yadav's 'dharma' sounds like King Gyanendra's rhetoric of 'raj dharma'. As the first president of republican Nepal, he should ensure that Nepal is not a Titanic where only those travelling first class survive.

Nirmal

ASS FANS

Ass, you are great ('Crossing the t's and dotting the i's', Backside, #601). Keep pressuring our failed and corrupt leaders through your satire. Who knows, maybe you will inspire someone honest to take charge.

Deepak Sharma

• The Ass is popular among students in the US, and we read *Nepali Times* just to see what you have to say. Your funny insights provide joy and sadness at the same time.

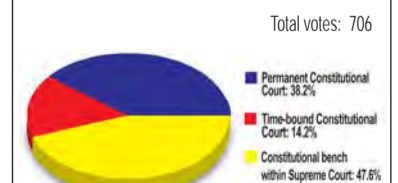
Gopal Subedi

• Although the gender roles are reversed, the Ass makes it sound like he (?) thinks sexual harassment is not a big deal and that people should welcome it, which is precisely the mindset of men when they wolf-whistle and can't understand why women make a big fuss and don't take it as a compliment. The Ass would get it if he was she-donkey.

Henny

Nepali Times nepalnews.com
Weekly Internet Poll #602

Q. The debate on Constitutional Court should pave way for:



Weekly Internet Poll # 602. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. What kind of executive is best suited for Nepal?



GUEST COLUMN
Michel Lummaux

Dangers of cohabitation

Former French ambassador to Nepal says the French model may be inappropriate

Now that the peace process is almost complete, the Constituent Assembly is about to start carrying out its main task of writing the new constitution.

Reading the Nepali press every day it appears that two main issues remain to be sorted out among the political parties in this difficult exercise which will affect the country for several decades to come: the form of governance and the nature of federalism.

Any constitution of any country must be adapted to suit the prevailing conditions. At the moment when they sit down to discuss the draft constitution, the members of the Constituent Assembly should keep in mind that Nepal is the oldest nation state in South Asia made up

of more than 100 ethnic groups which have succeeded in living together throughout the long history of independence that Nepali people are legitimately proud of. It is a model for many countries torn apart by ethnic-separatism, but this model is fragile. The national unity that served Nepal so well and took so long to build can be destroyed in a moment.

The parties are trying to decide whether to go for a presidential system or keep the parliamentary one. The compromise is the so-called 'French model' in which the president is directly elected by the people and holds the bulk of executive power, appointing and dismissing the prime minister at will and dissolving parliament if he wants. This is why the president in France is often referred to as a 'republican

monarch'.

The presidential form of governance has its pros and cons, but I am not sure it suits Nepal. In France a candidate for the presidency is simply French. In Nepal, any candidate besides being a Nepali citizen, will also belong to a particular ethnic group and a particular caste. The danger then is that electoral competition will oppose not only two or more men but also, willingly or unwillingly, two or more ethnic groups or castes.

Victory will then be the victory of one group and defeat for others. If one wants to protect the unity of Nepal, the parliamentary form of governance seems to be a much better option. This is the system which was in force during the period of constitutional monarchy from 1991 and it worked reasonably well. The

only difference, now that the monarchy is abolished, lies in the election of a ceremonial president by parliament who embodies the unity of Nepal and Nepalis in all their diversity.

The second point of contention is federalism, which in itself is a positive form of governance. It gives the people the possibility of finding local and better adapted solutions to the problems they are confronted with. It takes the administration much closer to the citizens when the central government is too often far away and tends to be oblivious of their daily needs.

Despite these benefits, however, there are difficulties. To be effective, federal states or provinces have to recruit good and skilled staff capable of running the day-to-day administration. Also, defining

federal units by ethnicity is very risky for Nepal and has the potential to split the country. A few ethnicities may be satisfied but many others, too small to get their own province, will resent the new administrative divisions as not responding to their needs and aspirations. The best form of federalism for Nepal should be based on economic criteria where regions are regrouped in a way that allows different ethnic groups to work together to lift their populations out of poverty in cooperation with neighbouring regions. 🇳🇵

Michel Lummaux served as ambassador of France to Nepal between 1996 and 2000. The views in this article are personal and do not necessarily reflect the French government's position.

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Where old planes go to die

PICS: ASHUTOSH TIWARI

The carcasses of planes are a mute testimony to political interference and private greed that bled Nepal's airlines dry



DEWAN RAI

Old planes lie scattered, scavenged, cannibalised, picked clean for spare parts of airliners that were once a part of Nepal's aviation history.

Of the 10 abandoned planes in this aviation junkyard is the veteran of the Nepal skies: "Alpha Uniform" one of the very first Hawker Siddeley 748 manufactured in 1969 and acquired by Royal Nepal Airlines.

It's a story of how far we have regressed in Nepal that the then head of Royal Nepal Airlines is said to have got the manufacturer in 1970 to cut the price by 15 per cent by getting Hawker Siddeley to agree to minus the sales commission. Alpha Uniform with its sister ship, "Alpha Victor" served RNAC well, flying international routes to Delhi and domestic destinations

as well as the popular Mt Everest sightseeing flights for more than 25 years.

Victor is stored at the Nepal Airlines hangar, but Uniform is here rotting away slowly in the sun with other planes from the private airlines that flew high briefly after privatisation in 1990 and then went belly-up. The planes of Royal Nepal Airlines, Necon Air, Nepal Airways, Everest Air and Cosmic Air are a mute testimony to the political interference that bled the national airline dry, and the unscrupulous tycoons who looted shareholder investment.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) seems to be aware that the plane junkyard is unsightly and is offering them up for auction to scrap dealers. Some of the private airlines still owe CAAN millions in unpaid fees, but they may have to be written off. Only Yeti Airlines has agreed to remove its SAAB 42.

"The airline companies are supposed to pay accumulated parking fees," says Shyam Sundar Bhakta Shrestha deputy managing director of the airport, "but since the planes are junked there is no chance of getting operators to pay up." CAAN has received bids for only two of the Nepal Airways Y-12s and no one seems to want the Dorniers, Fokker 100 and other planes even to sell to aluminium scrap merchants. Nepal Airlines wants to hand over the other Avro to the proposed Civil Aviation Academy.

The reason scrap dealers are not interested is because whatever they bid for, the airline will first have to clear its dues to CAAN. Cosmic Air alone owes the airport Rs 20 million. Shrestha says the planes will be removed if there are no bids and the space leased to private airlines which need hangar space. 🇳🇵

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Educated, but unskilled

New Nepal needs to have a consciously skill-centric focus on creating and sustaining jobs



STRICTLY BUSINESS
Ashutosh Tiwari



BIKRAM RAI

For the last five years, as a part of my work in two different organisations, I've been on panels that select and hire new employees. At both places, I've been struck by how much discussion there is about a candidate's education and experience or lack thereof, and how little about the candidate's skills, as in what the person can actually do.

In the national conversation about creating jobs, there is a stronger emphasis on setting up more BBA and BBS colleges and more universities which award degrees in specialised-sounding, if of dubious value, subjects. Indeed, in the last one year alone, people in eastern and far western Nepal have actually rioted to pressurise the government to establish universities in their areas.

All this is not surprising. A bias that is firmly entrenched in our minds from the era of the failed New Education Reform Plan of 1971 is that we continue to equate, both socially and culturally, the act of acquiring an education in a formal setting with the act of acquiring skills that the modern workplace demands. This equation was certainly true 20 or 40 years ago,

when there were fewer educated Nepalis who had their choice of jobs.

To be sure, times have changed and have become more complex. But it is in this complexity that the old equation is less true today. There are now millions of educated Nepalis with skills that are similar to what thousands, if not millions, of other people have. These skills are neither unique nor advanced, nor particularly valuable for employers, inside and outside of Nepal, to start hiring applicants by offering high wages.

Indeed, thanks in part to the internet which offers free courses on just about any skill one wants to be good at, and in part to the stories of drop-outs who have done well for themselves in today's skill-driven national and

global economy, the overlap between the two circles – one of educational attainment and the other of skill-sets that the evolving job market values – has gotten smaller and smaller, and is likely to further diminish in the coming years.

This is not the narrative we hear during talks about creating jobs through foreign investments, as though investors would easily find idly-sitting skilled manpower when they come here to set up businesses. Formal education is important, and with 70 per cent literacy rate (according to Nepal Living Standards Survey 2011), we should continue to raise the importance of schooling.

But educating people and attracting investments alone will not help create jobs when the neglected discussion is still about raising our collective

skills (increasingly complex abilities with which one can complete a task in demand) which actually lead to and generate high-paying jobs inside and outside Nepal. Businesses,

after all, pay more to acquire skills, and not so much to acquire education.

This is why, in New Nepal, we need to have consciously skill-centric focus on creating and sustaining jobs for most people. These skills could be about plumbing, carpentry, bakery, and the like on one hand, and about being medical, dental and hydropower technicians on the other.

For this, the government needs to look for ways to raise the importance of institutions such as CTEVT by offering more funds, by facilitating their linkages with reputed foreign counterparts, and by making it easier for any interested party to start and run accredited technical and vocational institutes in places in Nepal where there is demand. It is Nepalis with skills to sell to the market who will help make their families, their communities and their country prosperous. ■

Past Strictly Business columns
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BIZ BRIEFS

Home sweet home

On the occasion of New Year 2069, Bank of Asia is introducing its Easy Home scheme. This scheme provides customers with 100 percent loans to purchase lands, buildings, apartments and for construction or renovation purposes at an interest rate of 11.99 per cent.

Accolades abound

Qatar Airways has been honoured with two major accolades at the annual Skytrax 2012 World Airport Awards held in Vienna. For the second year in a row, Qatar Airways' Premium Terminal at Doha International Airport (DIA) was named the World's Best Premium Service Airport and Qatar Airways-owned Oryx Rotana, a five-star hotel at Doha International Airport won the Best Airport Hotel in the Middle East award and was ranked 10th best airport hotel in the world.

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BIKRAM RAI

A problem with

Bullied children in Nepal are trapped between their tormentors and an insensitive school system

TRISHNA RANA

30 percent of the population still can't read or write, so making children attend school is the biggest priority for parents, teachers and the government in Nepal. Then there are problems like high dropout rate, an increasing gap between private and public schools, a lack of classroom resources, shortage of trained teachers, and sexual harassment.

School bullying comes way down in the list of problems, although all indications are that there is an epidemic of abuse of school children by fellow students. Most schools don't even acknowledge the problem exists.

"When we approach schools and request them to introduce anti-bullying policies, the principals and teachers become very defensive and tell us it does not happen in their schools, they are afraid that if they admit to bullying, their reputation will be damaged," says Niti Rana, chairperson of Rakshya Nepal

which is dedicated exclusively to minimising the effects of bullying.

Children are also reluctant to admit to bullying to teachers or parents because they are scared of the consequences or have no faith that it would make things better. This secrecy surrounding bullying makes it very hard to determine the frequency, assess the severity and push for timely intervention.

The responsibility then falls on the teachers and parents to pick up on signs that their children might be being bullied, or are bullying others. Psychologists and child development experts agree that children who are bullied are usually physically fragile, weak in academics, shy, don't speak up in class, have lower self esteem or a combination of these factors.

Hima Pradhan, a student counsellor at a school in Kathmandu, says potential bullies can also be identified and begin to display signs starting from first grade. She explains, "Children who are

larger and stronger than rest of their classmates when they are six or seven years old are most likely to become bullies in their teenage years, they start with innocent acts like pinching their friends and then move on to more violent and hurtful activities."

Among girls there is a greater tendency to isolate and exclude the victim by not talking or playing with her. Boys, on the other hand, are more likely to hit or push the victim while in the football grounds or toilets. Name calling ("fat", "ugly", "dark", "stupid"), ragging victims to complete assignments, stealing possessions, or forcefully pairing them with someone of the opposite sex are also common bully behaviours.

Ganga Pathak, chief psychologist at the National Institute of Psychology in Baneshwor, says that despite warning signs, detecting that a child is being bullied is still tricky. She explains, "We find that many teenagers who come for counselling because of their

Friends of conservation

BHRIKUTI RAI

When the Friends of Zoo started a program to encourage school children to visit Jawalakhel Zoo 15 years ago, it met with a lot of skepticism.

Nepal's only zoo at that time didn't have much to show for itself. The cages were small and smelly, the animals looked sick, and it was an example of how not to run a zoo. Today, Friends of Zoo (FOZ) is a showcase for conservation awareness in the country, helping promote a wildlife friendly culture among 300 member schools in the Valley and surrounding districts.

For an annual membership fee of Rs 200,

Nepali students are offered free entrance to the Zoo, discounts at various stores in Kathmandu and can participate in taking care of the animals and feeding them. FOZ also conducts regular training for solid waste management, bird spotting, summer and winter camps, and night tours of the zoo.

"We want to connect the lessons students learn in their environment science classes with wildlife conservation and turn them into young animal enthusiasts," says Rachana Shah, conservation education officer at the Zoo.

The Zoo is currently collaborating with the National Trust for Nature Conservation, the UK chapter of Trust for Nature Conservation in Nepal (UKTNCN), and the recently launched Sustainable Education for Environment and

Community (SEEC), which brings together groups involved in conservation education in Nepal.

"We started SEEC to form a common platform to share knowledge and expertise and also to stay connected with the larger conservation community," explains Amita Sen, a UKTNCN trustee (see box).

The British involvement with the Jawalakhel Zoo is a unique global partnership. In 2003 three British schools (Whitefield, King Alfred and Hendon) participated in a two-year joint project to promote the three Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) at Kathmandu's Shuvatar, St Xavier's and Neptune schools. The six schools were awarded the global curriculum award by DFID and the British Council, which funded the project.

Students from the British schools visited Nepal and along with their Nepali counterparts, made an pledge as a part of the sustainable environment project, which was sealed in a time capsule in 2005. The capsule consisted of students' commitments as well as messages urging future leaders to work towards a cleaner environment

The capsule was opened amidst a ceremony at St Xavier's School in Jawalakhel three weeks ago. Students were excited to see how many of them had fulfilled their promises from seven years ago. One of the pledges which was read aloud at the event said: "I will walk to school as much as possible to save fuel and do my part in becoming a responsible eco-friendly citizen."

"Students from both countries benefited immensely from the partnership and we hope this initiative will encourage more young people to play active roles in conserving their environment and wildlife," says Tom Mann of Hendon School.

The central zoo is planning to set up a Centre for Environment Education (CFEE) to promote conservation education in Nepal and extend its reach beyond the capital. 🇳🇵

The central zoo at Jawalakhel is not just home to animals but also a leading centre for conservation education



WALLACE WOON

Green in the inside

Amita Sen, a dyslexia specialist, who is the only Nepali trustee of the UK chapter of the Nature Trust Conservation in Nepal (NTNC), has been working for the past two decades promoting conservation education. An environment enthusiast since her teens, Sen also helped develop the syllabus for environment education in Nepal.

She says that Nepal's environment education has come a long way since the early 1990s when she started out and is happy to see young Nepali students stepping up and taking responsibility for conservation. She adds: "Natural resources and environment are Nepal's biggest wealth and it is encouraging to see growing number of youngsters working hard to conserve these precious resources."



nepalimes.com

It's a zoo out there, #111
It's still a zoo out there, #134

no name

aggressive, violent behaviours or because of depression are actually victims of bullying and their anger and depression is only an external expression of their frustration. Many younger children don't even display these outward emotions, so it's hard for parents and teachers to know what's wrong."

While intervention by parents and teachers helps in the short term, empowering the children is a better way to deal with bullying. Smriti Ghimire at Ankur Counselling Centre says, "We try to build assertiveness among children who are bullied and teach them how to protect themselves. We also conduct workshops which help boost their self-esteem. These skills are far more beneficial for children in the long run."

Bullying is often dismissed as part of growing up, and the focus is completely on students getting good grades or being the best athletes. Both Pathak and Ghimire say attitudes of urban parents and schools are slowly changing and they are paying more attention to children's social-emotional well being.

Rana who is the first Nepali to research bullying points to the apathy shown by schools as the biggest hurdle: "Schools don't want to spend their already

limited resources on something they don't consider a serious enough issue. But even easy and inexpensive measures like including an anti-bullying policy in the student handbook, adding a section on school bullying in teacher training manuals, starting an anti-bullying week campaign to raise awareness will go a long way in improving students' well being."

Pathak goes a step further and recommends mandatory orientation programs for new students in every school where they are taught what bullying is, its consequences and who to go for help. And adds, "Typically hostels have a post called 'discipline in charge' who is usually someone who students are scared of and avoid. Schools should get rid of this position and hire trained counsellors instead. Even parents need to play an active role and should talk to their children about bullying at the beginning of the school year."

The Department of Education has no policies on school bullying and is completely silent about the issue. Rana's suggestion: "The government could start by finding a Nepali term for the word bullying. At the moment we don't even know what to call it in Nepali." ■

A least bit different

For 20 years, I thought I was the problem. I blamed myself for the name calling, the physical abuse, for being friendless. But today after all these years, I can talk openly and honestly about bullying. I went to St Xavier's, an all boys school where classmates taunted me for being different. But I believe people who bully usually have problems within their family or have been bullied at some point in their lives. It's a vicious circle.

I consider myself lucky. I came from a privileged family background and had a very strong support system. Usually boys tend not to share their emotions with their parents, but I was extremely close with my parents and siblings and they stood by me throughout those rough years.

In hindsight, I can say that my experience with bullying has gotten me to the position where I am today. Since I was already 'different' I was free to experiment with new and unusual fields. I chose a profession like fashion designing

and have made a name for myself. In the end, my life has turned out to be positive.

I wanted to show the documentary *Bully* to children and teachers in Nepal because the experience of being bullied cuts across geography, race and class. The pain and hurt is the same. And although I am not an expert, I want to tell parents with children who have been bullied to keep communication channels open and tackle the issue as early as possible.

Prabal Gurung

Prabal Gurung is a Nepali American fashion designer based in New York. On a visit to Nepal a month ago he organised the screening of the new documentary, *Bully*, at Rato Bangala School.



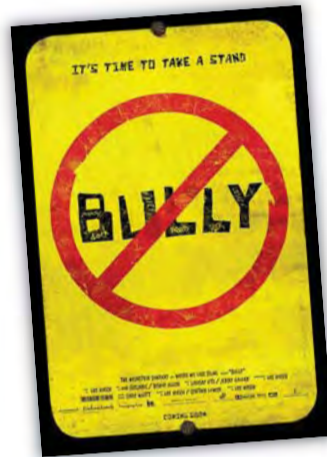
Tormented teens

Directed by Lee Hirsch, *Bully* depicts the epidemic of school bullying across the US through the lives of 13-year-old boy from Iowa who is called 'fish face' and physically harassed by his peers on the bus; a lesbian in Oklahoma who finds acceptance hard to come by in her small town; and an honour student in Mississippi, who is sent to juvenile prison for pointing a gun at her tormentors. The documentary also follows the grieving families of Tyler Long and Ty Smalley, victims of bullying who killed themselves. As the families try to raise awareness and make school administrators more responsive and accountable, they are met with a lot of resistance and the children are left to navigate their way through the incredibly hostile world of bullies all on their own.

The film released in US theatres on 30 March. www.thebullyproject.com

nepalitimes.com

Watch trailer



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COVER STORY

Road to nowhere:
The constitution, even if drafted may not lead the nation out of transition

EDITORIAL

Thorny issues

COMMENTARY

Federalism Feud
Bihari Krishna Shrestha
Beyond integration
Jainendra Jivan
Spacious Madhes
Chandrakishor Jha

REPORTS

Exclusive inclusion
Estranged in a foreign land
On fast-track
Silent success

INTERVIEW

Dev Gurung
Central committee member, UCPN-M

EVENTS



MOUNTAINS AND FLOWERS OF THE SACRED KHUMBU VALLEY, water colour paintings by Bhikshuni Jamsung Wangmoo depicting the serene beauty of Khumbu. 27 April to May 6, Park Gallery, Pulchowk. 10:30 am to 6 pm. Call 5522307



EKPHRASIS, an art performance showcasing poetry, music, acts and fashion which will be followed by an art exhibition by Milan Rai. 5 May, 7pm, Trisara, Lazimpat

India-Nepal Crafts Festival, organised by Embassy of India in association with Government of Goa, B.P.Koirala India-Nepal Foundation and South Asia

Foundation. 7 April to 2 May, Nepal Academy, Kamaladi. Free entry

Dutch Queen's Day, be a part of a special flea market where you can buy or sell used products. Rs 600 (for stall), starts from 30 April, 12.30 pm to 5pm, Summit Hotel, Kupondole



LEARN PHOTOGRAPHY, learn the basics of photography in this 12 day long session. Rs 2999, 17 April to 28 April, 7am to 9.30am, 4244348, 9841240341

MUSIC



NEPFEST: BEGINNING OF THE END, this promotional gig of Decapitated features an array of bands like Amokkshan, Bidroha, Imperium and Scarlet Void. Rs 100, 28 April, 2pm onwards, Neon Pub, Thamel

SIGN, Live music by SIGN band every week except Tuesdays and Wednesdays. 7:30 pm onwards, Corner Bar, Radisson Hotel, Lazimpat. Call 4411818

DINING



ALCHEMY, an authentic Italian restaurant which serves dishes like Pizza Quatro Stagioni and Spaghetti alla Puttanesca. Thamel



DRAGON CAFÉ, enjoy momos, sizzlers and vegetable coins at the most reasonable prices. Kumaripati



SAL'S PIZZA, almost round, almost cheap, always delicious, try out the cheesiest pizzas in town. Lazimpat, behind Jazz Upstairs



PICNIC, enjoy this Korean restaurant which offers affordable prices and heaping portions. Thamel



FUJI BAKERY, tucked in Chakupat this bakery offers homemade goodies like apple pie, pain du chocolat and banana cake. Chakupat



THE OLIVE GARDEN, now offering a revamped dinner menu with various trout dishes. Radisson Hotel, Lazimpat

Irish Pub, for the simple reason that the place actually feels like a bar. Don't miss out on their Irish coffee. Lazimpat, Ananda Bhawan, 4416027



BRONCO BILLY, a new restaurant in town offering Tex-Mex and Indian dishes. They make their own corn tortillas, which get a big thumbs-up. Pulchowk, opposite Namaste Supermarket



CHONGQING FAST FOOD, gear up for some mouth watering Chinese dishes like Sour and Spicy Pork and Kung Pao Chicken. Thamel



ALFRESCO, for homemade pastas and other lip-smacking delights. Soaltee Crowne Plaza, 4273999

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अफर

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एक जनालाई काठमाडौं नयाँ बानेश्वर नजिक वागमती अपार्टमेन्टमा २ बेडरुम अपार्टमेन्ट



हरेक महिना

TATA Nano कार र Mahindra Rodeo 125 स्कूटर एक एक जनालाई



हरेक साता

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हरेक दिन

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हरेक क्षण

हरेक ग्राहकले पाउनुहुनेछ हात खाली बजाने स्क्र्याच कुपन भित्र लाखौंका उपहार



हामी आउँदैछौं तपाईंको घरदैलोमा फेरि एक पटक

रजिष्टर गर्नका लागि CIR टाइप गरी ५२२५ मा एस.एम.एस. गर्नुहोला। यो सेवा नेपाल टेलिकममा मात्र उपलब्ध छ।

नोट : वार्षिक ग्राहक यी सबै योजनामा सहभागी हुन पाउनेछन्। अर्धवार्षिक ग्राहक बम्परबाहेक अन्य योजनामा सहभागी हुन पाउनेछन्। त्रैमासिक ग्राहक भने हरेक दिन र हरेक क्षण योजनामा मात्र सहभागी हुन पाउनेछन्। *सर्तहरू लागू हुनेछ



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CINNAMON GRILL AND LOUNGE, mouth watering delicacies with live music. Try the grilled tenderloin steak and quiche lorraine with fresh fruit salad. *Jhamsikhel, 5521339*



MANNY'S EATERY AND BAR, special lunch packages for a quick snack or filling lunch. *Jawlakhel, Shaligram Complex, 5536919*

Pasto Vostro, a pretty place with some great pasta. Their bacon wrapped sausages are a must. *Thamel*

Yellow Chili, enjoy renowned chef Sanjeev Kapoor's dishes as this restaurant serves mouthwatering Indian delicacies. *Thapathali*

Japanese Crêpe Station, try the unique Nepali khuwa crêpe for a quick fix. *Khichapokhari and Basantapur, call 4256655*



NEW TUSHITA RESTAURANT, relaxing ambience and good food. Don't miss out on their Penne with creamy bacon and mushroom sauce. *Lazimpat, 44432957*



ROX RESTAURANT, Enjoy Sunday Pranzo at Rox Restaurant from 12am to 3.30 pm. *Hyatt Regency, 4491234*

GETAWAYS



THE BORDERLANDS ECO ADVENTURE RESORTS, raft in the mighty Bhothe Kosi, try a canyon descent, or an off-the-beaten trek to a hidden monastery. *Call 4700894*



HOLIDAY AT GRAND NORLING HOTEL, enjoy a quiet weekend at Gokarna. *One night and two days at Rs 4500 and two nights and three days at Rs 7000, call 447948, Gokarna*

Fulbari Resort, enjoy the scenic view of Pokhara as you pamper yourself with tennis, golf, drinks and dinners. *Rs 6500 per person for 2 nights and 3 days, Call 4461918, 4462248*



Walk for respect

Walk for Respect, the Nepali version of 'slut walk', is scheduled to take place this Saturday. The walk is part of UNDP's global initiative to encourage men and women to stand up against sexual harassment and the first event took place in Toronto on 3 April 2011. The rally also aims to make victims more open about the trauma and shed their discomfort regarding issues of molestation.

The walk will begin at 1pm from Nepal Airlines Corporation building (next to New Road Gate) and end at Kathmandu Durbar Square. Call 9841375107 or SMS YUWA SW to 4001.



SOMEPLACE ELSE

RUBEENA D SHRESTHA in DHARAN

Dharan doesn't boast of many fine dining options. But as a first time visitor to the city, friends told me to include 'lunch at Nirvana Golf Club' on my to-do list. Located inside the vast compound of BP Memorial Hospital, Nirvana Country Club Health and Golf Resort is lush and beautiful - a cool oasis from Dharan's heat. The food, however is another matter altogether.

The menu is extensive and has everything from Indian to Chinese to the ubiquitous continental dishes that every restaurant worth its salt insists on including. It also had sandwiches, soups, and salads. The overly ambitious menu is probably why the food suffers. Instead of trying to impress us with a multitude of dishes, the restaurant should have stuck



Nirvana Golf Club

to the basics: serving good, wholesome, tasty meals.

The lassis were warm and not well blended. Chunks of yogurt in the mouth do not make for a pleasurable drinking experience. Although the staff was



PICS: RUBEENA D SHRESTHA

very polite and helpful, the service was painfully slow. The ice we asked for came after we had almost finished drinking our warm glasses of what can be best described as mush.

Having decided to skip starters, we ordered the 'Nirvana Special Sandwich', vegetable shaslicks and chicken basket. Our waiter encouraged us to try the Nepali Thali set which at Rs 525 a plate, seemed expensive for what was described as a regular plate of dal-bhat-tarkari.

The bread was crumbly and plain and the meagre fillings of dry chicken bits and wilted lettuce ensured that there was nothing special about the 'special' sandwich. And the vegetable shaslicks, well those were an eye opener. We were

expecting vegetables skewered and grilled, served over a bed of rice, but what we got instead was a mix of boiled vegetables dunked in thick white sauce.

The chicken in the basket was crisply fried, but drowned in a thick congealed mass trying to pass itself off as a brown sauce, accompanied by unpalatable French fries and plain boiled noodles. I judge a restaurant by its quality of fries and it's shocking how many get it all wrong. A classic plate of French fries is crisp on the outside but after biting into the potato, yields a rich smooth softness- a clash of textures that makes this a perennial favourite. At Nirvana, we got served thick chunks of potatoes dripping in oil with no hint of crispiness anywhere.

The saving grace of our meal arrived with the Nepali Thali set. A heap of rice, thick dal, mixed vegetables with grated paneer, tomato chutney and chicken in creamy gravy finally had us satisfied.

Nirvana wants to please everyone and in its eagerness to make all patrons happy, it instead does just the opposite. The restaurant should downsize its menu, emphasise on what its chefs cook well and then bask in the collective sighs of appreciation from satisfied and satiated customers. 🍷

Enter BP Hospital grounds and follow the road past the hospital and the disused swimming pool to the resort gates.





Eastern Promises

MUST SEE
Sophia Pande

played by Naomi Watts, finds a diary on the body of a young unidentified woman who dies while giving birth to a baby girl. Khitrova is of Russian origin and as she looks through the diary she realises it is written in Russian. She takes the diary to her slightly troublesome, grumpy, old-fashioned uncle Stepan (Jerzy Skolimowski), who after glancing through it, refuses to translate it, urging caution.

Anna, however, who has become increasingly attached to the baby girl, starts to look for the "Trans-Siberian" - a restaurant, whose card she finds in the dead girl, Tatiana's, diary. She turns up at the restaurant and encounters the patriarch/owner Semyon (Armin Mueller-Stahl) - a soothing figure who fusses around her, asks her dead father's name, makes her taste his famous borscht and agrees to translate the diary. Anna leaves the photocopied pages of the diary. While she is at the restaurant she encounters the vicious Kirill (Vincent Cassel), Semyon's petulant son and his enigmatic driver Nikolai Luhzin (Viggo Mortensen) for the first time.

When Anna returns home, Stepan has grudgingly translated a small part of Tatiana's diary. It is clear that Tatiana was a young girl trafficked from Russia and held forcibly in a Russian mob-run brothel run by the infamous "Vory" wing of the mob. Even more distressingly, it seems that Tatiana had been raped by Kirill, Semyon's son.

As Anna investigates further she is both warned and abetted by the inscrutable Nikolai whose intentions are still unclear. As we start to puzzle out the various twists in the intriguing plot, we are treated to a number of unforgettable scenes, one of which involves Mr Mortensen's character, Nikolai, fighting off a pair of hired assassins, with deadly curved knives, while stark naked in a Turkish bath.

Each character is lovingly fleshed out, Anna's investigative drive is not annoying, as some main characters tend to be when excessively driven; Kirill turns out to be more of an abused son than an arch villain, and of course, there is the endlessly wonderful Viggo Mortensen who is able to make even a taciturn mob-driver into an arresting character whose every move is fascinating to watch.

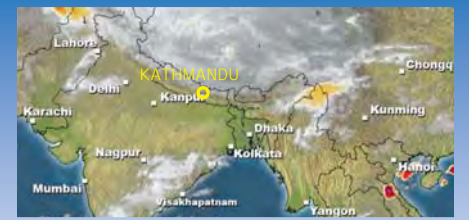
In the end, *Eastern Promises* rises above its other genre-typical counterparts because of its unflinching look into the heart of darkness. There is a world of evil out there and watching *Eastern Promises*, entertaining though it may be, does leave a chill in the heart, the last scene in particular. 📺

All DVDs reviewed in this column are available in the writer's favourite DVD store: Music and Expression, Thamel, Phone # 014700092

nepalitimes.com
Watch trailer

WEEKEND WEATHER

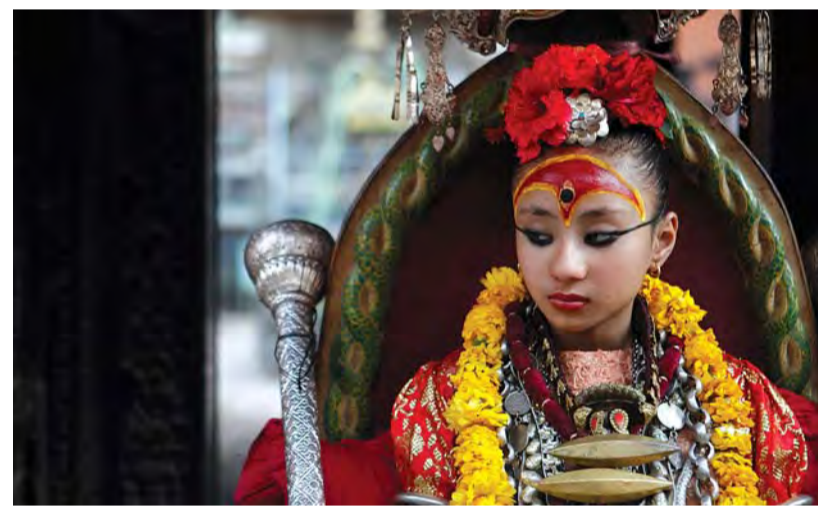
Despite the start of the chariot festival in Patan of the rain god, it looks like the high pressure system over northern India is going to hold for a while longer. After all, we have had all the average rainfall for April falling already in the first week. However, the higher mountain valleys will see afternoon buildup and brief, violent storms over the weekend. Other areas of the midhills will have windy afternoons with chances of isolated convection showers. The minimum temperature is climbing, and will now be 15-16 degrees celsius. Maximum will stay above 30 for the most part of afternoons.



FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
31-16	29-15	29-15



READY, GET SET, GO: Motorcyclists are finally allowed to fill up their tanks, after waiting in que for several hours in front of the Army gas station at Bhadrakali.



DIVINE GAZE: The Living Goddess Kumari looks on during the Rato Machindranath Nath Jatra in Patan which started on Wednesday. The chariot festival is celebrated in honour of the rain god.



WE THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE: Women from the Tamang community gather at Khulamanch on Wednesday for an event celebrating indigenous people.



WELL DONE: Shaikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum hands over the 2012 UNESCO Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers to Shanta Dixit, president of the Rato Bangala Foundation. The event was held in UAE on Tuesday.

The erratic pulse



By carefully taking the pulse, ghata (riverside) vaidyas (physicians) in Nepal determine the time when a seriously ill patient may die. With the advent of modern medicine there are fewer vaidyas now. But in past, many relied on them to predict the hour of death of their loved ones so that religious rituals along the riverside could be auspiciously carried out.

There are many stories of these riverside physicians making arbitrary, life and death calls at the Aryaghat in Pashupatinath. After taking the pulse of a dying man, if the ghata vaidyas determine that death is imminent, the patient is put on a tilted slab of stone (bhramanal) next to the water. Relatives then put a handful of the holy (albeit contaminated) Aryaghat water into the mouth of the dying to facilitate salvation. Unfortunately sometimes people who are not quite dead yet, choke and aspirate water into their lungs.

But taking the pulse and making an important diagnosis is very common not only in Ayurvedic but also in Greek, Tibetan, Chinese, and Islamic medicine. In these traditional medicines, problems in the intestines, liver, gall bladder, kidneys, lungs and brain are



determined through careful assessment of the radial pulse. Even psychological health is determined by the pulse. Avicenna, the famous Islamic physician of the tenth century used the pulse as a lie detector to figure out that a sultan's sick

wife was actually pining for her lover and that nothing else was wrong with her. This is akin to the scene in countless Hindi movies where the doctor after studiously taking the pulse of a beautiful, unmarried woman and performing no other examination announces gravely to the parents, "Apki beti ma banne wali hai" (your daughter is pregnant).

In modern medicine, doctors use the pulse to determine the seriousness of an illness as just one of the important means of assessing the patient. Light reflexes in the eyes, response to any kind of stimuli (especially pain), breathing, blood pressure are some other determinants besides pulse which are included in the assessment. But figuring out the exact time of death is still scientifically very important. For example harvesting the organs for donation from people who have given consent needs to be done immediately after death to optimise the chances for the organ to work in another patient. Perhaps with some fine tuning, the roles of ghata vaidyas could be expanded for organ harvesting when Nepal is ready for this. 📺



BY THE WAY
Anurag Acharya

The ongoing constitutional debate has yielded positive results and the parties have further threshed out their differences. After having resolved the issues of constitutional court and citizenship, the leaders have left the hardest part for last.

On one side of the negotiations are the Maoists and Madhesi parties who want a clear departure from the parliamentary system, which they say has bred political instability and corruption in the past. The NC and UML are convinced that parliamentary system with all its flaws is still better than gambling with an untested system that may breed a dictator.

So, as the deadline for the statute drafting draws closer, the parties are nervous about backtracking from positions that may give the opposition an upper hand in the debate. But they also know the other side is not going to relent either, and both sides know the perils of a void. It is against this backdrop that a new consensus is being forged.

NC negotiators realise that the Maoists will not give up their demand for a directly-elected executive president, and have agreed to it in return for a prime minister with executive powers elected by the parliament. In a departure from the French model, this is the Finnish model. But whatever model we chose, it will only be as good (or as bad) as the players. Given our immature political milieu and protracted lawless transition, any dual power centre is going to lead to a power struggle between future executives.

This is not to say we go back to the old ways of letting parliament elect an



Mixing things up

In an effort to seek a 'win-win' arrangement, let's not settle for something that will make us all losers

executive whose entire tenure would then be spent under the burden of its grace. The loyalty of such an executive lies with selective power brokers inside and outside the parliament, and not with the people. While it is essential to ensure that the executive is an upright individual free from any personal obligations, it is equally important to

avoid power deadlocks resulting from overlapping arrangements. No matter how powerful, a parliament-elected executive will have little moral ground to exercise authority over a directly-elected president.

In an effort to seek a 'win-win' arrangement, the parties must not settle for something that will make us all losers.

If they are sincere about a consensus, one side will have to take a step back. An executive, be it a president or a prime minister must be directly elected to ensure accountability.

The other office could be a parliament-elected nominal head. In case the parties agree on a directly-elected prime minister, the president can be given certain emergency powers clearly stating the circumstances under which they can be exercised. Or if they agree on a directly-elected president, a prime minister elected by the parliament can be given a stronger legislative role as a leader of the house. To limit the power of future presidents, their tenure in office can be limited to a maximum of two terms. Also, a strong impeachment mechanism can be put in place as further safeguard.


The other knot to untie is over federalism. The leaders of indigenous groups including those in the CA have taken to the streets demanding ethnic federalism. From the early days of statute drafting, it was clear that state restructuring would be the most difficult problem to resolve. Federalism based on devolution and identity has been at the core of political movements in this country over the years.

All this is being decided hush-hush behind closed doors with the clock ticking. If the parties ignore Madhesi, Dalit and Janajati groups during the final negotiations on federalism, there will be street protests instead of celebrations on 28 May. The Madhesi front has already shown willingness to openly discuss alternative proposals based on identity and sustainability. The leaders must now engage indigenous pressure groups as well.

Until now the parties have been involved in a competition for brownie points. Engaging with one of their own and coming to terms with the demands of others will test their true negotiation skills.


काम सानो ठुलो
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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The corner people of Olangchungola

A village in the remote mountains of north-eastern Nepal makes a distress call

TEXT and PICS by KRISHNA SINJALI in SANKHUWASABHA



A village near the north-eastern tip of Nepal was once on the busy and historical trade route with Tibet. Located at 3,100 m on the Tamur River, Olangchungola is named after the local inhabitants, the Walung who were refugees from Tibet. Although most now have Nepali

citizenship, they still retain a Tibetan way of life, speak their own language and have kin on the other side in China. It takes a day's bus ride from Birtamod to Taplejung's district headquarter, and then a three-day trek to reach Olangchungola but the newly built airport 10 km east of Funling will shave

off an entire day. The road from Funling to Tapethok and further up is under construction. Other than the road and abandoned VDC buildings and a primary school, there is little here to suggest presence of the Nepali state. The once vibrant trading route is deserted. A nine member border police force is




CLOCKWISE (FROM ABOVE): 1 Jogem bridge, green hills surrounding Olangchungola, 2 an elderly man with photos of his children in the background, reminisces about family members who have moved out of the village, 3 trekking route to Gola, 4 rhododendrons blooming in the high himalayas, 5 map of Taplejung, 6 Gola villager with her Tibetan goat, 7 rocky road leading to Gola.

posted here, two days walk from the Reiyu post on the Tibet border which is often closed.

The primary school, which has 22 students opens for only four months because it is too cold for the teachers rest of the time. The locals have repeatedly asked the local administration to stock the health post with medicine and a doctor all year round. But nothing has materialised.

The 250 population of Olangchungola is scattered across seven VDCs and is made up mostly of farmers and traders. Half the population has left. Tibet is closer than the nearest market town in Nepal, and Chinese goods are cheaper than commodities in

Nepal. But last September's earthquake damaged the Tamur trail, and Tibet is not accessible. Repairs are nowhere in sight. The Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project volunteer Tashi Sherpa says the route to Olangchungola is so bad it is swept away every monsoon.

Neglected by the state and left with no choice, the 25 families still remaining in Olangchungola are also considering leaving the area for good. A local health assistant Pasang Kipa Sherpa told us they have requested the district administration to relocate the village to a safer place. She adds: "The area is too harsh for survival and there is no help from anywhere." 



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Abt Associates, a mission-driven, global leader in research and program implementation in the fields of health, social and environmental policy, and international development, seeks qualified candidates for a potential Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) program to build the capacity of the Government of Nepal to plan, manage and deliver high quality and equitable family planning, maternal, newborn and child health services through cross-cutting HSS interventions. Brief descriptions and qualification requirements for positions under consideration are listed below. All positions are contingent on program award.

- **Chief of Party (COP)** :- Provides overall strategic direction, management and technical leadership to the HSS program in Nepal, and acts as the primary liaison between the program, the Funder and the Government of Nepal. Responsible for ensuring responsiveness and quality of program results; guiding senior technical staff; and the overall management of operational, financial and administrative aspects of the program. Qualification requirements: Master's Degree (minimum) in Public Health, Health Administration, or a related degree and 10-15 years of international health experience. Substantial experience in the areas of maternal and child health, health care improvement strategies, health systems strengthening, and capacity building. Demonstrated experience in managing a donor funded program in the South Asia region, in Nepal preferred. Fluency in English and Nepali also preferred
- **Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP)** :- Manages all aspects of program operations, including reporting, contracting and administration, human resources, financial management, and work-planning for implementation of program activities at national and district levels in collaboration with program partners. The DCOP will maintain close working relationships and coordination with the Ministry of Health and Population, USAID-funded partners, and other local stakeholders and partners. Directly supervises the program's Finance & Administration Manager and the Logistics Manager. Qualification requirements: Master's Degree (minimum) in Public Health, Public Administration, Business Management or a related degree, and 10-15 years of international health experience. At least 5 years of experience in a management position for a public health and/or international development project in the South Asia region, preferably in Nepal. Willingness and ability to travel frequently to program locations throughout Nepal.
- **Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Team Leader** :- Provides technical assistance to increase and extend the administrative, managerial, and operational capacity of national and district levels in the identified program areas. Assesses current health system managerial and operational efficiencies; tailors interventions to improve managerial and operational decisions that advance health outcomes. Oversees the HSS Team, including the HMIS, Health Financing, Health Policy and Capacity Building Technical Leads. Qualification requirements: Master's Degree (minimum) in Public Health, Health Administration, or a related degree, and 10-15 years of international health experience. At least 6 years of relevant professional experience in health systems strengthening, policy reform, or health program management.
- **Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) Technical Lead** :- Responsible for assessing the HMIS at national and local levels and providing technical assistance, training, database entry and software solutions required to strengthen current systems and provide quality, measurable results in both health systems strengthening and health outcomes. Qualification requirements: Master's Degree in Information Technology, Computer Programming or other relevant discipline and 8+ years' professional experience in management of complex information systems, esp. health systems.
- **Health Finance Technical Lead** :- Contributes to and supports the implementation of health-care financing reforms within the Ministry of Health and Population, in partnership with relevant stakeholders. Provides technical expertise in producing advocacy tools for increased resource allocation and utilization to support quality, integrated MNCH services. Qualification requirements: Master's Degree in Economics or relevant field and at least 8 years' experience in government public finance and planning.
- **Health Policy Technical Lead** :- Provides technical leadership and strategic direction for the program team in evaluating current health policies, developing working partnerships with Ministry of Health and Population counterparts as well as other stakeholders, and designing and implementing interventions to strengthen current health policies at the national and district levels. Qualification requirements: Master's Degree in Public Health, Health Policy or other relevant discipline and 8+ years' professional experience in policy reform and implementation.
- **Capacity Building Technical Lead** :- Leads and provides technical direction in the development of models, approaches and tools to identify and strengthen strategic service approaches to meet demand and unmet needs while maintaining high quality of services. Provides vision, leadership and state-of-the-art proven practices in the design, implementation, and evaluation of clinical training services. Qualification requirements: Master's Degree in a related discipline and 8+ years' professional experience in health system capacity building.
- **Service Delivery Team Leader** :- Provides technical assistance to increase and extend the administrative, managerial, and operational capacity of national and district levels in the identified program areas. Assesses current health system managerial and operational efficiencies; tailors interventions to improve managerial and operational decisions that advance health outcomes. Oversees the Service Delivery Team, including the Integrated Service Delivery and Family Planning Specialists. Qualification requirements: Master's Degree (minimum) in Public Health, Health Administration, or a related clinical degree, and 10-15 years of international health experience. At least 6 years of relevant professional experience in health systems strengthening, policy reform, or health program management.
- **Integrated Service Delivery Specialist** :- Leads technical activities related to strengthening integration of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) and related services at the district and facility level. Works in consultation with other Technical Team members to evaluate current service integration systems and design methods and activities to strengthen quality and increase cost-efficiency in an integrated approach to service delivery based on best practices. Qualification requirements: Clinical Degree in MNCH, Master's Degree in Health Service Delivery or a related discipline and 8+ years' professional experience in implementing and managing integrated health services in the South Asia region, preferably in Nepal.
- **Family Planning Technical Specialist** :- Provides input and oversight to all family planning (FP) services delivery components of the program as well as supervision of related staff. Activities may include innovative integration of FP services, quality assurance, social marketing, and staff and partner training. Directs the development and preparation of related program documents and deliverables, including guidelines/protocols and training materials. Qualification requirements: Clinical Degree and specialization in Family Planning or related area. 8+ years demonstrated professional experience and understanding of policies, guidelines and existing challenges to family planning in Nepal.
- **Behavior Change Communications (BCC) Specialist** :- Leads development of BCC strategies and activities in conjunction with local partners to reach underserved populations and increase their demand for strengthened maternal, newborn, and child health as well as family planning services. Qualification requirements: Master's Degree in Public Health, Social Communications, or other relevant degree and 8+ years of experience in BCC and program design and management. Experience in South Asia region, Nepal preferred. Fluency in English required; fluency in Nepali and another local language a strength.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation Manager** :- Leads efforts to collect, analyze and present data on program activities. Works with the Nepal Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) and other local partner organizations to develop and track indicators related to health systems strengthening, service delivery, capacity building, and maternal and neonatal health outcomes. Responsible for developing and executing an M&E plan in consultation with the MOHP and other program partners and stakeholders. S/he will also be responsible for planning and carrying out M&E capacity building at all levels, from district health managers to community-level health providers. Qualification Requirements: Minimum of a Master's Degree in a relevant discipline and 10+ years' experience in monitoring and evaluation of MNCH programming. Demonstrated ability in M&E capacity building of local organizations.
- **Finance & Administration Manager** :- Provides leadership and direction for the management of the contract, procurement, subcontracting, financial management and reporting, and general administrative support of the program. Develops and tracks budgets, manages payroll and vendor relations, and controls all financial transactions and reporting, both for the client and for Abt Associates headquarters. Qualification requirements: Master's Degree in Business, Administration, Finance, or Accounting and 8+ years of experience in administration, program management and/or financial management, 5 of which should be working with international donors in a development setting. Experience with USAID contracts strongly preferred.
- **Logistics Manager** :- Provides overall technical assistance to managing procurement and distribution of health products and equipment for the program in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Population and other local stakeholders. Provides capacity building to local counterparts on procurement and supply management best practices. Qualification requirements: Master's Degree in Business, Logistics, Public Administration, or another relevant Degree and 6+ years' professional experience in health logistics at the district or national level.

Interested individuals can learn more about Abt Associates' multi-disciplinary group of dedicated professionals who provide technical assistance, research analysis, and systems strengthening services in more than 100 countries at: www.abtassociates.com

To be considered for any position, an applicant must submit his/her CV and an application letter that provides details of the applicant's specific qualifications for the desired position to: NepalHAL@abtassoc.com

In the subject line of the email, write the title of the position for which you are applying. If you wish to apply for more than one position, please submit separate applications for each position. Applications that do not follow these instructions, or that do not meet the stated minimum qualification requirements, will not be considered. All applications should be submitted by 4 May 2012; applications received after this date may not be considered.



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Hands-out scholarships

Naya Patrika, 22 April

राष्ट्रिय पत्रिका

Foreign embassies in Nepal are flouting diplomatic norms by distributing scholarships without the permission of Ministry of Education (MoE) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). The Indian embassy distributes more than 2000 scholarships every year. Pakistan has an annual quota reserved for 15 Nepali students pursuing MBBS. These scholarships which should have been distributed through MoE are doled out like kickbacks from embassies, often to children and relatives of high-ranking government officials and political leaders. Very few seats are left

for open competition while most are given to favoured candidates.

Chairperson of Foreign Affairs and Human Rights Committee, Padmalal Bishwakarma says that embassies have ignored their directive to distribute education assistance only through MoE. More than 50 seats for MBBS which come from China, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are distributed as 'cultural quotas' without free competition. Government officials admit that politicians frequently visit embassies to secure scholarships for their children. And this is the main reason why no one is keen on regulating the embassies and making these scholarships more accessible.



Dubious donor policy

Ram Bahadur Rawal, Nepal, 29 April

नेपाल

In the past, donor countries would provide assistance to Nepal through INGOs. However, lately they have started opening 'puppet' companies and organisations to mobilise their resources. Such practices violate international norms, Nepal's foreign aid policy and the commitments expressed by donors.

Although donors deny these allegations, organisations such as Rupantaran started by DFID prove that benefactors are now micromanaging Nepal's development sector. The donors have been criticised in the past for ignoring local participation and bringing in projects without assessing ground realities.

Finance secretary, Krishna Hari Baskota says the donors put forth unnecessary terms and conditions and if the government questions them, they work clandestinely through NGOs affiliated with Social Welfare Council. The donors have also been insisting on bringing their own consultants citing the lack of expertise in Nepal, but Baskota says, "They must not doubt our capabilities and should use official channels when offering assistance."



War school

Annapurna Post, 22 April

अन्नपूर्ण पोस्ट

Shahid Smriti Boarding School in Manpur of Dang district is providing opportunities to children of parents who were killed, disappeared, injured or maimed during the conflict. Hemraj Sharma, a member of the school's administration committee says that 90 percent of the 350 students currently enrolled at Shahid Smriti have either been affected by the war or are children of political activists who earn meagre wages. Children from Manpur study free of cost and underprivileged students are even provided food while others pay a nominal fee of Rs 200 per month. School principal Basanta Raj Adhikari says students who study at Shahid Smriti till grade 8 have the option to transfer to Jankalyan Higher Secondary School in Dudhras and live in the hostel.

Green revolution

Prem Narayan Acharya, Annapurna Artha, 23 April

अन्नपूर्ण पोस्ट



The hands that once held weapons are now ploughing the fields. Hemnath Bhusal of Arghakhachi has left the path of bloody revolution and now dreams of green revolution.

Bhusal does not want to pick up weapons anymore and has refused to go take part in the integration process. "Revolution does not necessarily come through the barrel of the gun," he explains. Convinced that it is not possible to change the country overnight, he has returned to his village with hopes of improving local livelihood through agriculture.

Bhusal has rented 1.5 hectares of land for five years in Thada VDC and begun commercial vegetable farming. He says proudly, "I have sold vegetables worth Rs 250,000 in the last eight months."

The farmer says he chose agriculture because he wanted to show the villagers that it is possible to make fortunes on their own soil instead of toiling abroad. "Young people in Arghakhachi are inspired by his determination," admits local social worker Motilal Belbase.

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Baidya: People's revolt
Baburam: Peace and constitution

राजधानी Uttam Nepal in Rajdhani, 22 April

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“ During our 99 day journey through mountains and plains we met people who shared their optimism and trust in change. It is their message of hope for change we wish to share. ”

Everest summiter Apa Sherpa quoted in *Nagarik*, 25 April



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Maoists do the macarena

The website of the Organisation of the Worker's Party of Afghanistan Marxist-Leninist-Maoist, Principally Maoist (such an organisation exists, I kid you not, check out their website: www.mlmpprincipallymaoism.wordpress.com) has denounced Comrade Ass for suggesting in a previous column that Chairman ("Shining Path") Gonzalo had written to our own Chairman ("Prachanda Path") Lotus Flower to give up arms and join the men-stream of national politics. Well, the Afghan Communards have taken umbrage and accused the Donkey of being a spy. A statement published in the **Worker's Party of Afghanistan Marxist-Leninist-Maoist, Principally Maoist** website is reprinted here in its entirety in order to clear any remaining doubts you may have that the Ass is a spook:

It is the task of all revolutionary and Maoists of the world to denounce the "New" hoax of "Letter of Chairman Gonzalo to Nepali Maoists" in *Nepali Times*. We have to uncover such lies. We hate, stamp and crash such bullshit hoax and lies, by upholding Maoism and defending Chairman Gonzalo's Shining Path of Peoples' War Until Communism!

Down with "New" Hoax of "Letter to Nepali Maoists"
Long life Chairman Gonzalo and his All-powerful Thought

Down with ROL and its miserable rats
Down with LOL, Victor Quispe and other miserable rats of imperialism and the reaction
Long life Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, Principally Maoism



BIKRAM RAI

Guess that's that, then. Still can't figure out what, or who, LOL and ROL are, tho.

You think you were the only ones poking fun at the possibility of Comrade "Son Also Rises" Prakash having his nose amputated because his proboscis got frost-bitten even before he reached Base Camp during his bid to be the **first First Son** to climb Mt Everest? You think that is funny, huh? Then you should read the kind of jokes that have been circulating on the Facebook walls of pro-BRB and pro-Baidya factions of the Baddies. Some hint at the other appendages that may freeze over as Mr Prakash goes higher up the mountain. Others

sympathise with the proletarian porters who will have to carry the Dear Leader up the Khumbu Icefall.

The pro-Badal Baddie mouthpiece Janadisha has been dishing out super galis on the establishmentarian comrades led by BRB and PKD. The latest issue calls Comrade Chairman a "Red Traitor" and insinuates that **Comrade Supersonic's** recent indisposition was caused not by a stomach upset, but cholera. The Maobaddies didn't even say this about their class enemies. And compared to this, Comrade Cloudy was being politeness personified when he called the prime minister "corrupt, fascist and anti-national" at Saturday's

CentCom. And CP ridiculing PKD's ambition to be executive president as akin to being "Chief Minister of Nepal" was an even more intellectual insult.

As the fur flies in the Baddie lair, one person we don't hear about much these days is Comrade Mahara Dai. The former information minister who was taped by You-Know-Who asking a Chinese operative for 50 karodes to buy off opposition CA members so PKD could be prez again is conspicuous by his absence from the political radar screens. The Gentleman Comrade seems to be caught between **Bhayanak** and **Baidya**. PKD doesn't trust KBM because of his overtures to Baidya Kaka, and BK doesn't trust KBM because he has a history for being PKD's money bag. Don't tell anyone I told you this, but the other reason Mahara Dai is lying low could be that he suspects the CIAA may be probing him on the frequency scam.

Comrade Upadro seems to miss all the gallivanting he did as foreigner minister, and is itching to get back into the headlines. One sure way of doing that is to predict that the new constitution is impossible. He told reporters at the Club: "How can the constitution be drafted if the

parties hold meetings in hotels and resorts without inviting me?"

So the Babas have threatened a **Dharma Yuddha** if Nepal is not re-declared a Hindu Kingdom. Not to be outdone, NEFIN has threatened a **Janajati Jihad** if there is no ethnic federalism. How many wars are we going to have in this country? Wish they'd tell us so we could be prepared.

Other tidbits:

- Jailed lawmaker Shyam Sundar Gupta has written to Speaker Nembang from his jail cell saying he wants his CA allowance, since he is still a member of the august house.
- Baidya Kaka told reporters he is against PKD being a directly-elected president because he feels it "might invite dictatorship". Of the proletariat, perhaps?
- PKD was asked on Cuntipore Tv if he preferred being called Prachanda or Pushpa Kamal. "I like Prachanda more than Pushpa Kamal Dahal, and you will see more of Prachanda as it signifies people's aspirations for change." Hey, Awesome, is that a threat?



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