



**VIEWPOINT:**  
**DR. TILAK RAWAL**



**INTERVIEW:**  
**ANDREW ELLIS**



**FACE TO FACE**  
**SANGITA NIROLA**

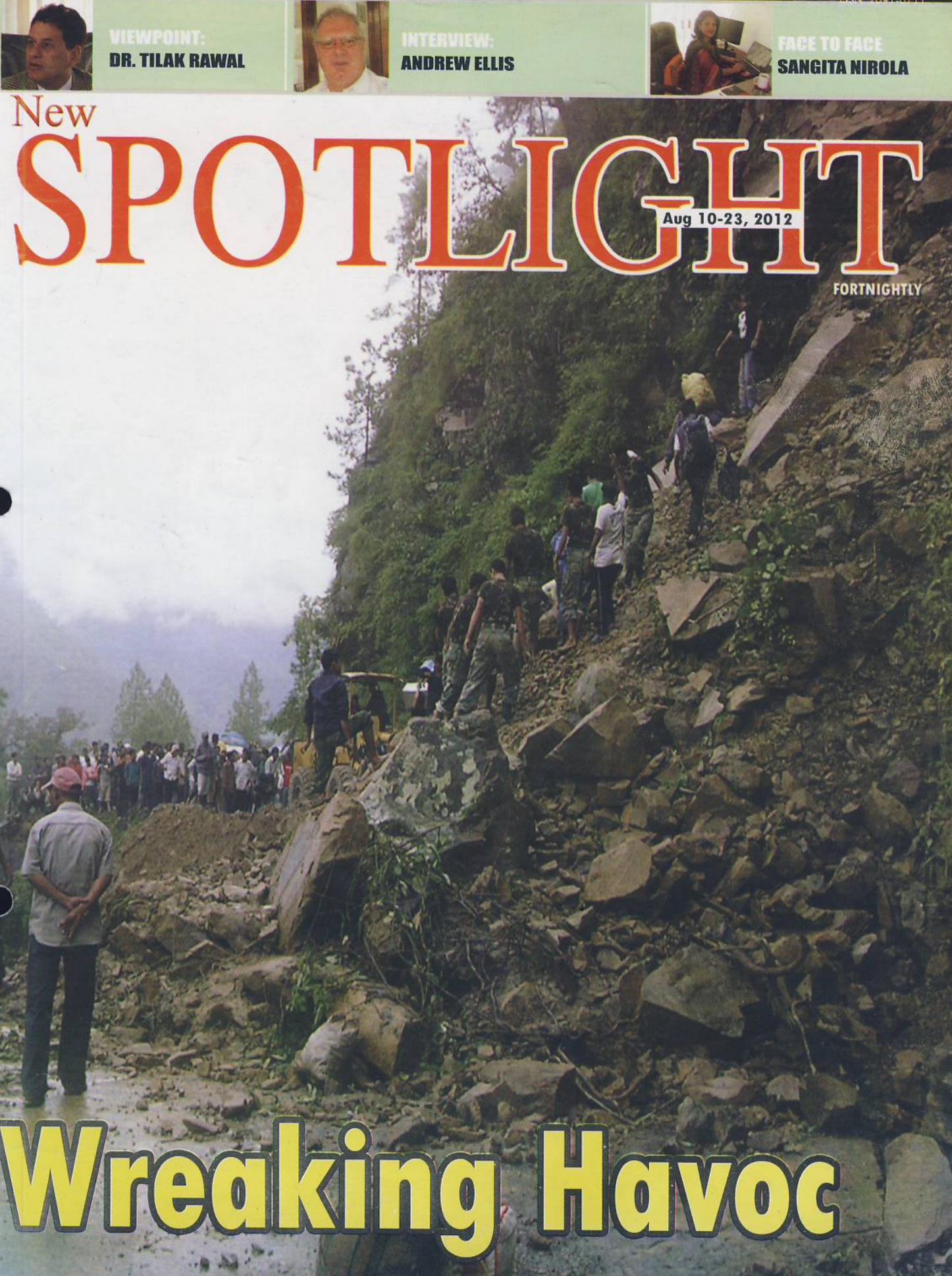
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# Wreaking Havoc



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**Editorial**

Nepal is going through a long phase of political instability and there is every likelihood that the instability will continue. On that course, Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai seems to be following the fate as all his predecessors. Despite political pressure created by two major parties, Nepali Congress and CPN-UML, there is no sign the prime minister will resign right now. Political instability, in the meantime, has affected the economic, social and development sectors. After the recent rainfall, Nepal's mid-western and western regions are devastated by floods, causing loss of property worth billions of rupees. Nobody is there to listen to the voices of the people suffering from floods and landslides. The approach of rescue and rehabilitation is also very ritual and traditional. Instead of taking a long term approach, disaster management is confined to rescue and rehabilitation. In that context, we have decided to make the recent flood havoc as our cover story. Similarly, the political instability is also taking a toll on the INGOs sector. Despite the contribution of INGOs in serving the rural poor, the government is yet to take any major decision recognizing their role. Our coverage also focuses on INGOs with a peg in a recent interaction.



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**Office :** Kathmandu, Nepal  
**Printers :** Pioneer Offset Printers (P.) Ltd., Dhapasi, Kathmandu. Ph: 4363624  
 Kathmandu DAO Regd. No. 148/11/063/64, Postal Regd. No. 36/068/069  
 US Library of Congress Catalogue No. 91-905060, ISSN : 2091-0711 (Print), ISSN: 2091-0754 (Online)

## Chinese Embassy Marks PLA Anniversary

On 28 July, 2012, Senior Colonel Cheng Xizhong, Defense Attaché of Chinese Embassy in Nepal, held a grand reception in Kathmandu to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). Chinese Ambassador to Nepal, Yang Houlan and wife Ruan Wei, along with all the diplomats of Chinese Embassy attended the reception.

According to the Chinese Embassy Website, senior Colonel Cheng delivered a speech saying that over the past 85 years, the Chinese PLA has made great achievements in its modernization, and is now beginning to make progress towards informationization. China and Nepal are traditional friendly neighbors. The exchanges between the Chinese



PLA and the Nepalese Army have maintained an all-dimensional, multi-tier and wide-ranging trend in recent years. Especially during last year, Gen. Chen Binde, Chief of General Staff of the Chinese PLA, and Gen. Chhatraman Singh Gurung, Chief of Army Staff of Nepal, exchanged their visits to each other's country, which strongly advanced the comprehensive development of the bilateral military relationship.

## Indian Ambassador With Veterans

Indian ambassador to Nepal Jayant Prasad interacted with the veterans and distributed grants under various schemes Indian government has extended for the welfare of the pensioners.

According to a press release of the Indian Embassy, the valour of a Gorkha soldier is recognized by India well beyond his terms of service. Pursuing the cause of looking after its war veterans, the Indian government, through the envoy, distributed mobility equipment at Bharatpur to two such war veterans who lost their limbs.

Since 1959, in its unique endeavor, Pension Paying teams have established their offices in remote areas closer to the place of residence of the pensioner for distribution of the well earned pensions to the old and fragile but yet motivated pensioners. During such camps, the issues of veterans are identified and resolved by interaction with GoN officials. In all, 17 Seasonal Pension Paying Camps are conducted twice a year by three Pension Paying Offices located in Kathmandu, Pokhara and Dharan.



to approximately 1,25,000 pensioners. "We are proud to have served in Indian Army which even after our retirement looks after us," said war veterans Lal Bahadur Thapa, who received the mobility equipment.

## EU Funds Lead Project

The European Union (EU) funded a lead-based paint elimination project and launched it at a special event, aiming at raising widespread awareness among business entrepreneurs, consumers and policy makers about the adverse human health impacts of lead-based decorative paints, particularly on the health of children under six years old.

The project is being implemented in seven different countries (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand) with a total EU funding of EUR 1.4 million over a period of three years by the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) - an international network with 700 participating organizations working in 116 countries that promotes safe chemical policies and practices aimed at protecting human health and environment.

The Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED) is implementing the project in Nepal which will launch activities geared towards eliminating the manufacture, import, sale and use of lead in decorative paints

through a widespread awareness raising campaign.

Addressing the inaugural session of the project launch, Lluís Navarro, Charge' d affaires of the Delegation of the European Union to Nepal said, "I am glad to note that we are also joining the global effort to eliminate the production and use of all decorative lead paints. Dr. Keshav Man Shakya, Minister for Environment, Science and Technology, during the launching of the project said that the government has been trying to put into place certain policy measures that would make it mandatory for all to comply with standard regulatory measures on the use of lead in decorative paints.

## Korean Support For Health Work In Tikapur

A ground breaking ceremony of the "Health Services Improvement in Tikapur" (HIT) project was organized in Tikapur Hospital in the presence of KOICA Resident Representative Ms. Doh Young Ah and Chief District Officer of Kailali District, Kailash Kumar Bajimaye and other officials working in the health sector in Kailali District.

The government of the Republic of Korea, through KOICA, will spend US\$ 5.5 million for HIT project for 42 months. This project will be implemented in Tikapur municipality and 4 other VDC's namely Pathariya, Durgauli, Narayanpur and Dhanshingpur in Kailali district.

## ADB Providing \$11 million To Water Projects

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$11 million on a grant basis to help the Government of Nepal ensure that critically important water projects can be implemented quickly and efficiently by advancing preparatory activities.

"Delays in the start up of Nepal's water projects has put the country's progress on improving irrigation schemes and preventing water-induced disasters at risk," said Jiangfeng Zhang, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist at ADB. "This funding should significantly speed up the process, and ultimately lead to better outcomes."

The funds will be used to prepare potential projects aimed at upgrading irrigation schemes, improving irrigation efficiency, and preventing water-related disasters.

The funds will also be used by the departments of Irrigation and Water-Induced Disaster Prevention for job training and social and environment capacity enhancement, to update the government's Irrigation Master Plan, and to set up a facility management unit.

## “No Cheap Loans Like Before”

ANIL GYAWALI,  
CEO of Nabil Bank

Nepal Rastra Bank has recently brought the monetary policy. As a banker, what negative and positive aspects do you see in it?

There are many positive things in the monetary policy. The talks of base rate and interest rate corridor have been positive. But the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) might bring some problems. Along with the monetary policy, the governor has also cleared up some issues. Financial institutions have surplus liquidity currently, this will affect interest rates. If interest rates go down, the value of money will decrease. This will bring problems in the economy and might also lead to previous problems, like investment in the realty sector.

If talks about agriculture and power related issues in monetary policy are included in directives then it will be easier for banks to work. The main intention of increasing bank rate to 8 percent is to control haphazard lending.

Monetary policy has brought forward the issues of interest rate corridor and base rates. What kind of effects will it have on financial sector?

Base rate will be better than interest rate corridor. Right now there is unhealthy competition in interest rate, it should be controlled. If banks were self-disciplined then I don't think there will be even the need of base rates.

People are complaining that the interest rate has not gone down. The governor is also saying that the interest rate has to go down. But the situation is different. What are the main reasons for that?

Interest rate is going down. But if somebody is expecting rates to go down to 7-8 percent then it will not be possible and it should not be like that as well. Rastra bank is also not in favor of decreasing rate like that. The rates will not go down up to 7-8 percent like in the past. In Nepal the banks operations costs also doesn't give the freedom to decrease rates freely. Banks also invest 25 percent in low rate bonds. So the rate will not go down like in the past.

The governor has said that banks have enough liquidity so interest rates should be brought down from bargaining, while unveiling the monetary policy. What kinds of



customers have taken this benefit?

The first thing that determines interest rate is investment risk. If banks have liquidity, investment risk is low and if customers are paying interest installments regularly then that type of customers will have bargaining option. In this situation, banks will definitely bring the interest rates down. Even in personal loan, the ability of people to pay interest, their income and their past records will determine the bargaining power.

It is mandatory that banks should invest 10 percent in agriculture and power sector. What kind of effects will it have?

There are no new major projects. Majority of banks are investing in old extended projects. Banks are also studying various options. Nabil bank is on par with Rastra bank's directive.

What is the current situation of Nabil bank and what are its future strategies?

Nabil is still the top bank. Although there were several problems in the market, but it has no effect on our profits. Banking sector is not magical. We should improve the quality of service gradually. Nabil bank has been providing quality service to its customers in all respects. As the current population has majority of youths, it is necessary to include them in our plans. Nabil will always provide good service to its customers.

*(Extracts of the interview published in Karobar daily)*

### Himalayan Bank brings new loan plans

Himalayan bank has brought new housing and auto loan schemes. Bank has said that the new scheme will make customers free from the fluctuations of interest rate.



हिमालयन बैंक लिमिटेड  
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The Power to Lead

For those who take housing loans will have same interest rate for the first three years. After three years the bank will fix the interest rate according to the market rate. Likewise, in the case of auto loans there will be fixed rate for first two years.

In housing loans 10.90 percent interest will be charged for first three years and 11.25 percent rate will be charged in auto loans for the first two years.

Customers will be able to take from NRs. 5 lakhs to 10 million for home loans and from NRs. 2 lakhs to 2.5 million for auto loans. Himalayan bank will even give 25 percent discount in service charge for these schemes. Home loans will provided for 20 years and for auto loans it will be for up to 8 years.

### NIBL's new home loan scheme

Nepal Investment Bank Ltd (NIBL) has launched a new loan scheme, 'Housing Loan', at an interest rate of 10.5 per cent per annum for loans of



up to Rs 10 million for 15 years on EMI basis. The loan can be availed through all NIBL branches for buying property, it said. The commercial bank regularly comes up with innovative products and services to satisfy the financial needs of its customers, said the bank that was the first to launch an innovative saving scheme of Re 1. It operates through a strong network of 41 branches and 68 ATMs across the country. The bank has also received the prestigious 'Bank of the Year' award four times, in 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2010.

# Failures Galore

By DR. TILAK RAWAL



When Baburam Bhattarai became Prime Minister some ten months ago, Nepalese were happy that a very honest and popular leader, probably the most admired political leader then, had risen to power. They hoped that Bhattarai would provide economic relief to the poor and bring the long-debated peace and constitution writing work to a happy conclusion. His declaration that he would quit the chair of power if he failed to make significant progress on these fronts (peace and constitution) within forty-five days of assuming power further enhanced people's respect for him.

A few months down the road, however, people began to give a suspicious look at his activities when he not only backtracked on his loud promise but utterly failed over time to provide even an iota of relief to the people facing double digit inflation and scarcity of necessities such as drinking water, electricity, petroleum products and chemical fertilizers during rice transplanting season. Unceremonious death of the Constituent Assembly (CA), without completion of the task it was charged with, has further discredited the government, declared caretaker by the President soon after the CA dissolution. Political vacuum that has engulfed the nation is blamed on the government and the Maoist Party headed by Prachanda. In addition to

this major failure, some other failures of Bhattarai include his inability to bring a full-fledged budget by ordinance for the current fiscal year and declaration of fresh election for a new CA, which he knew he

would not be able to hold. It may be mentioned that the Election Commission had given a deadline to the government to amend the Interim Constitution and four electoral acts, which could enable the Commission to hold election slated for November 22. President Ydav, however, has not approved the related ordinances forwarded to him by the government, probably in the face of opposition by the major political parties and the controversy and embarrassment that acceptance of an ordinance on facilities to former bigwigs has created.

It may not be out of place to mention that the Supreme Court stayed the implementation of the July 18 ordinance aimed at providing facilities to not so popular former VIPs and has asked even the President's office to clarify in writing within 15 days their stance on the ordinance. Almost certain that the President is in no mood to clear these ordinances related to the election, the Commission at a recent press conference has completely ruled out the possibility of holding

elections on the stipulated date. The thick-skinned government, however, does not seem to be embarrassed by these failures because it is likely to postpone the CA elections announced for November, which could help prolong its life.

This scribe has been urging since long those at the helm to pay some attention to the state of the economy which is far from satisfactory, but those responsible have done nothing more than blaming their failure to do so on the political impasse. What our politicians should not forget is the fact that there are countries that have achieved considerable progress in keeping the economy growing and reducing poverty even in the midst of internal instability. In our case, however, like Kathmandu's wretched and disfigured roads where unruly buses and bikes, luxury cars, humans and cattle struggle to move ahead, politics of this country looks jammed. Uncertainty about the next election and growing misunderstanding amongst leaders are pointing towards a more difficult time ahead.

It may be appropriate to mention how some countries have been working to promote bilateral economic relations even in the face of long-existing political tension between them. Appropriate to mention would be the positive developments taking place between India and Pakistan that

**Lessons are in abundance for us to learn but learners are in scarcity in Nepal where corruption has attained new heights, and some of its leaders are seemingly engaged in destroying communal and racial harmony that so happily existed in this country created by late King Prithvi Narayan Shah some 240 years ago. Bhattarai failed as did his predecessors and will take an exit making place for someone in the queue, but the important thing to be noted is whatever the make-up of the next government, no substantive change affecting people's life is expected, leaders and their quality remaining constant.**

have decided to increase bilateral trade, which stood at just \$2.6 billion last year, a pathetic figure for the two Asian countries with combined economies of over \$2 trillion. India, with a population of 1.2 billion, has recently

opened many sectors of its economy for direct investment by 180 million Pakistanis. Likewise, trade between India and China, two countries sharing tense relationship ancestrally, is likely to surpass \$100 billion soon. Problems surface intermittently in every country but the difference between them and us is that problems are fought and resolved there, in our case, however, we tend to be away from them under one pretext or the other, in most cases blaming somebody else for the mess. With Greece, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, etc getting into serious economic trouble one after another, it seems the EU is already in a state of recession. Alarming is the current state of Greece whose debt is likely to reach 160 percent of its GDP and where thousands of unemployed people are furiously protesting on the streets of Athens their government's austerity measures. Major burden of rescuing the ailing economies of EU lies on the shoulder of Germany, largest economy in EU, which is expected to live with little higher inflation, consume more and prop up the weaker

members of the currency union. EU also expects China and India to help them fight the ailment, and keeping the region in an ailing state would not be in the interest of the two strong Asian economies whose exports to EU stand at about 18 and 20 percent of their total exports, respectively. Euro Zone is expected to grow by only 0.3 percent in 2012 and no country or region can remain immune from this European debacle in the present inter-connected global economy. The lesson we can learn from Europe is that their tireless efforts to combat and contain problems are praise worthy and economic reforms can be pushed ahead even in the midst of chaotic political situation. Note worthy also is the effort of Eastern European countries to attain higher level of growth to ensure better quality of life for their people. Mention worthy is the progress made by war-devastated Poland, which attained a growth rate of up to 4 percent in recent years. With a strong public transportation system, very well performing service sector and manufacturing and agriculture offering vast potential for further improvement, one would not be surprised to see Poland, which adopted a policy of economic liberalization throughout the 1990s, as a major European economic power in not too distant a future. Poles are working closely with their former foes to help develop their economy fast and have very wisely decided to take some more time to join the currency union.

Lessons are in abundance for us to learn but learners are in scarcity in Nepal where corruption has attained new heights, and some of its leaders are seemingly engaged in destroying communal and racial harmony that so happily existed in this country created by late King Prithvi Narayan Shah some 240 years ago. Bhattarai failed as did his predecessors and will take an exit making place for someone in the queue, but the important thing to be noted is whatever the make-up of the next government, no substantive change affecting people's life is expected, leaders and their quality remaining constant.

*Dr. Rawal is former Governor of NRB*

BABURAMBHATTARAI

## Back To Yam Analogy

*Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, who often condemned Prithvi Narayan Shah's thinking and termed it irrelevant and regressive, has finally changed his tone*

By A CORRESPONDENT

It took nearly a decade for Nepal's so-called revolutionary Dr. Baburam Bhattarai to accept what King Prithvi Narayan Shah the great, known as the founder of modern Nepal, said 239 years ago, that Nepal is a yam between two stones.

Prime minister Bhattarai, who used a number of words to minimize and diminish the statement, conceded Nepal's geostrategic reality in front of some half a dozen journalists invited to his office for a private meeting.

"We all are gotis (pawns). Nepal's two powerful neighbors are exerting their influence and pressure in a big way on domestic politics," revealed Dr. Bhattarai. "You all know how a leader of a neighboring country commented against ethnic identity. You know how another neighboring country opposed the appointment of the chief secretary," he said to the journalists.

Renowned American scholar late Leo E. Rose, in his book *Strategy for Survival*, wrote, "The present day Nepal thus perceives its critical geopolitical situation in terms of long tradition as a buffer state and with some deeply ingrained attitudes towards the policies and tactics required to maintain its political and cultural integrity."

Although Nepal has transformed from a monarchical to a federal republican secular state, Nepal's reality of being between the two big neighbors is yet to change. In the last six years, Nepal has seen six different prime ministers with closeness with the south but they were all unable to undo Nepal's reality. Prime minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai is not an exception.

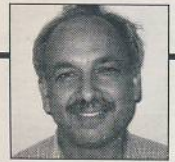
"To Kathmandu, the current potentialities of external domination and subversion are not very different in kind though they may be in danger from



those with which Nepali governments are not particularly new, neither is the repertory of response devised by the Kathmandu authorities. There is a basic similarity between King Prithvi Narayan Shah's analysis of Nepal's role in the Himalayan area and his selection of tactics and that of the ninth ruler in his dynasty, King Mahendra Bir Bikaram Shah Dev," wrote Rose. In part, of course, this can be attributed to the paucity of alternative policies for a country in Nepal's position. Nevertheless there are choices to be made within this strictly limited framework, and the consistency displayed by widely different groups of decision makers over a long period is one of the more notable aspects of Nepal's history."

Be it Prachanda or Babaruum or someone else, they can change their words as per their wishes. However, Nepal's geostrategic position is an unchanging reality and given Nepal's current state no force can undo this. This is where everyone has to live accepting this. ■

# Goti, Statue & Revolution



By YUBARAJ GHIMIRE

Among the first decisions that the cabinet headed by G P Koirala took soon after being sworn in as the Prime Minister by King Gyanendra in April 2006 was to erase Poush 27—the birth anniversary of late Prithvi Narayan Shah — being celebrated till then as the National Unity Day from the list of public holidays. That one single act of the government gave many messages. That national unity was not the major or a priority objective of the new political set-up that took over power post 2006 movement was a message many understood, but only few or an insignificant number of people spoke. Krishna Sitaula, the then Home Minister who announced the decision, many thought, was a mere 'goti' and he initiated this decision to appease the 'string-pullers'. Although the Maoists had not joined the government then, many thought they were dictating the government. And Sitaula was seen as the number one 'goti' of the Maoists.

But that premises fell last week when Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai, the public face of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoists, as well as that of the decade-long insurgency, declared 'We all are gotis', and 'we are being used by others'. But the self-confessed 'goti' did not announce who the striker or life force behind that was. Yet, it exposes the

**'We all are gotis', and 'we are being used by others'. But the self-confessed 'goti' did not announce who the striker or life force behind that was.**

true face of our leaders from Bhattarai to G P Koirala to Madhav Nepal and K P Oli, just to name a few. The confession of Bhattarai also brings many decisions of the past governments—especially the post 2006 ones—into debate.

And what would be the first few assignments given to the gotis? DEMOLISH everything that is national, and for that iconic symbols must be demolished. DEMOLISH everything that represents unity of diversities, including nationalism, culture, religion and language. For that, raising divisive issues is the best way out. First, by denigrating Prithvi Narayan Shah, the post 2006 leadership tried to undo everything that the late king did. Unity of the country, sound administrative, domestic and foreign policy that he advocated, his belief in probity in public life, and his respecting religion and culture of others—all came under attack under the new dispensation. The campaign against Nepal, Nepali and Nepalism began, and most of that with visible support—both political and financial and logistical—from outside forces.

After Prithvi Narayan Shah, Bhattarai ordered the government to bring down the statue of King Tribhuvan from Shahid-gate, something that remains stalled following the order of the Supreme Court. A few months after Bhattarai's order, S. D. Muni says Tribhuvan had asked Nehru to merge Nepal into India, something Muni himself admitted, had no proof. Muni tried to project Tribhuvan as a 'traitor' and Bhattarai was trying to bring down Tribhuvan's statue from the martyr memorial. So, who does Bhattarai go by?

When he sees the prospects of having to get out from the

Prime Minister's position, Bhattarai is trying to emulate his leader Prachanda, who said on May 4, 2009 that he chose to step down rather than appeasing the 'foreign lord'. No political leaders, including G P Koirala, Madhav Nepal, K P Oli or even Jhlanath Khanal, asked him to spell out or identify who the 'foreign lord' was. And Prachanda got away with it. Now Bhattarai says 'we all are gotis or pawns.' Although he made the statement in a closed room of the Prime Minister's official residence at Baluwatar, Bhattarai made it more obvious than Prachanda. He said 'China has openly opposed ethnic federalism'. This was his way of protesting against the 'outside interference' in Nepal's domestic affairs. In the next breadth, he told a select group of journalists that another country (read India) was trying to have a particular person appointed as the Chief Secretary 'but I stood my ground and appointed the most deserving person in the post'.

All these cries over 'foreign interference' and his admission of being a 'goti' came in the wake of disclosure—thanks to

Prof. Muni that Bhattarai and Prachanda had written a joint letter to Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee way back in June 2002 asking for India's support to the cause they wanted to

highlight by raising arms against the state (Nepal) since 1996. In lieu of that support, they promised they would not do any harm to India's interests. Apparently, Indian establishment was convinced that they were making genuine promises, and relaxed restrictions on Maoist leaders' movement and activities, although their attack on Nepali citizens, politicians, and vital installations under supervision of the top leaders from India continued. Prachanda and Bhattarai continued to feed political doctrines to their cadres that they must continue fighting against 'imperialistic U S and hegemonic India'. Five years down the line, the Maoist cadres, including the combatants, are now saying 'we were cheated and betrayed by our leaders in the name of revolution.'

And the revolutionary leaders confess 'we are nothing but gotis'. But the 'gotis'—no matter who their masters are—were elected by the Nepali people, and they need to submit themselves before the people for punishment. From globally mobile elite forming the core of civil society leadership of 2006 to most top leaders of the Nepali political parties, including the Nepali Congress, UML and others, no one has asked Bhattarai to reveal more. Because most of them share the same predicament and status. The days of the gotis must be over if Nepal is to usher in a phase of stability which can be guaranteed only if nationalism and democracy are consolidated together. For that, the major agreements done by the big 'gotis' in the past five years need to be reviewed and rejected whenever necessary for the larger cause. ■



## MONETARY POLICY

# Mixed Reactions

*At a time when Nepal's banking sector has been facing difficulties, how Nepal Rastra Bank's recent monetary policy will solve these will remain to be seen*

By DEBESH ADHIKARI

Monetary policy for this fiscal year was recently made public by Nepal Rastra bank (NRB). Private sector has criticized some of the aspects of the monetary policy, but there are some positive aspects of the policy as well.

After the incomplete fiscal budget brought by the government, all eyes were set on the monetary policy. But as the lack of full-fledged budget has dashed the hopes for development up to a huge extent, the achievements of some of the targets of the monetary policy also look hugely suspicious.

NRB has targeted GDP growth rate at 5.5 percent while the inflation has been targeted to be 7.5 percent. But NRB has failed to maintain the inflation rate in the past, and it is highly doubtful that the inflation rate will only be limited to 7.5 percent at the current state, say economists.

The policy concentrates on financial stability, expanding access to finance, helping achieve economic growth and controlling inflation among others, said Governor Yuvaraj Khatiwada while presenting the policy.

Monetary policy targets Banking and Financial Institution (BFIs) deposit growth to 15.1 percent (Rs 1160 billion). It expects domestic credit growth to private sector at 16 percent.

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) has been increased to 6 percent for commercial banks, 5.5 percent to development banks, and 5 percent to finance companies. Earlier, it was 5 percent for all BFIs. The increment in CRR is to tackle the current surplus liquidity situation of the banks.

"Increase in CRR will help absorb some of the excess liquidity of banks," said economist Bishwambher Pyakuryal. "It will also prevent high inflations as there is lack of effective means to use excess funds," he added.

However, the interest rate is not going to come down like in the past due to increase in CRR and high operation costs of bank.

"If somebody is expecting rates to go down to 7-8 percent than it will not be possible and it should not be like that as well," said Anil Gyawali, CEO of Nabil Bank.

But the private sector has been hoping for sharp reduction in interest rates. "Private sector has been expecting to get some relief in the form of interest rates reduction due to Monetary Policy measures," said Pashupati Muraraka, Vice-president of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

"The increase in CRR will increase cost of fund of the banks and financial institutions," said Vice-president of Nepal Bankers Association Rajan Singh Bhandari.

The central bank also introduced 'base rate' of interest policy. The BFIs will now have to determine their interest rates on the basis of the base rate by using the method fixed by the central bank. BFIs will have to publish such base rates on a regular basis, according to the monetary policy. However, the introduction of interest-corridor has been limited only to talks.

The decision regarding the base rate has been taken to make the interest rate transparent and more competitive, according to Governor Yuva Raj Khatiwada.

"In a free economy, it is like turning back to fix the base rate and bring interest rate corridor. Those who believe in free economy want the interest rate to be determined by the market. It is better to have base rate than interest rate corridor. Governor has fixed the base rate only to remove unhealthy competition in



Governor Khatiwada

interest rates and it should be controlled as well," said Anil Gyawali.

In the case of agriculture and hydropower sector, monetary policy has reduced interest rates of refinancing to 6 percent from around 7 percent in the past. Meanwhile, the NRB is providing fund to banks and financial institutions (BFIs) at an annual interest rate of 6 percent which they will have to refinance at the rate not more than 9 percent.

Nepal Rastra Bank also provides lower rate refinancing facility to priority sectors and current NRB provision only allow to secure funds for six months.

"The sectors for which the facility is announced seek long-term investment. Central bank's policy is useless, as no entrepreneur expresses eagerness to acquire such loans for a period of only six months," said Rajan Singh Bhandari, vice president of Nepal Bankers' Association.

The bank rate has been increased to 8 percent from the current 7 percent.

For overseas travelers, foreign currency facility for each travel increased to US\$2500 for public and US\$5000 for entrepreneur. Earlier, there was a cap of US\$5000 for a year.

Rastra bank has targeted to keep Forex reserve that will be able to finance 8 months of imports. ■

# “Transitions Are Unique”

- ANDREW ELLIS

At a time when Nepal has been passing through a very critical political situation, International IDEA's Regional director ANDREW ELLIS recently visited Nepal. Ellis spoke to NEW SPOTLIGHT on various issues on his rich experiences of countries on transition. Excerpts:

Since Nepal has been passing through a critical political phase following the dissolution of Constituent Assembly, as an international expert how do you view the new situation?

The impression I got talking to people from across the political spectrum is different. After the CA did not reach an agreement and got dissolved, people still want to move forward. The lesson we learn from the transition in general is particularly uncertainty. There is a need for broad political understanding and consensus behind whatever solution or whatever track people take. Perhaps there are quite a range of options. The most important is to guarantee the legitimacy, that the political players, stake holders and people regard a solution or way forward sustainable and legitimate.

There are two lines of thinking. One group of people arguing for dismissal of this government and others arguing that there is no role for the president to do so. How do you suggest the way to end the deadlock?

As long as there is disagreement and lack of political consensus, then presumably, the situation remains a deadlock. I would not, as a matter of principle, as the regional director of an international organization, take a view either of these options or other options is indeed a correct way forward. It is up to different stake holders, both players who are directly on the sides of that argument and others who are concerned with the future direction and framework for democratic Nepal, to find the solution which everybody is happy to take

forward or at least everybody is happy to live with it taking forward.

Given international experiences, are these kinds of situations part of a normal process or special only to Nepal?

All transitions are unique because all countries have their own ways. It is the basic principle of working in democracy building and democracy support. You cannot import directly the experiences of any country just unloaded from boxes assembled to use it exactly as to the same way from somewhere else. There have been transitions taking significant period of time before. It probably took fifteen to twenty years for Mexico to move fully from the one party authoritarian state of PRI. Which still exist? Let's say in late 1980s to multi-party democratic presidential system it has now. It took Indonesia six years from the big reformatic movement of 1998 through to the first free, credible and legitimate elections under the new and strongly amended constitution in 2004. The experience of transition taking a long time is not unusual.

When there is a vacuum like Nepal's without legislature, there is different opinion about the role of the president. Is there any country in the world which has seen the same kind of situation like in Nepal? Or can judiciary play some sort of a role?

All of those are possibilities. There are different experiences in relations to the system when legislatures are dissolved. There are different experiences in the formalities and relations to caretaker government and relations to executive and judiciary which is partly a matter of formal framework and, sometimes, precedence differs between different countries. It clearly makes a difference whether the countries are presidential, parliamentary or semi-presidential. In the Nepalese case where the institutions of president as a head of the state and the prime minister look semi

presidential in form but are fairly very new. May be those questions are even more subject to discussions. There is a range of options and experiences from around the world and one of the things that perhaps we can do to assist the process is to help those who want to codify that experiences. Even when you have codified that experience, what does it mean for Nepalese actors as they talk about it or a political consensus in substantial works.

As you said the transition in Mexico and Indonesia took a long time and South Africa quite a long time, do you think Nepal's transition will also go for a longer period of time?

Yes. Transition is always difficult. Not necessarily something to worry about that is taking to be a long time. There are many examples of transitions as well where things have got stuck in the particular round of negotiations, indeed in failure and people have to get disappointment and blame, and create another window of opportunity. All of those are established patterns and clearly there can be a worry if there is a deadlock and deadlock. No new opportunity emerging. Yes that does provide a challenge to political stake holders and actors and to the people as a whole.

An international agency like International IDEA has been supporting Nepal in strengthening democratic process and shorten the transition. In a situation following the CA's dissolution, how can Nepal get benefits from organizations like International IDEA to overcome the existing situation?

IDEA's global mission is to support the locally owned and sustainable democratic change worldwide. In this context, the two most important words are perhaps support and locally owned. We or any other international agencies cannot and should not be driving the process to transition. We can support Nepalese political actors who are seeking to take the process of democracy



building forward and we can encourage and provide and may be facilitate through the comparative experiences perhaps bringing people together for dialogue and supporting the process of building up standing between the different views. Ultimately where the process in Nepal goes is up to Nepalese actors. We are ready to continue to help Nepalese actors from many different viewpoints, but the struggle they have to do.

**How do you look at Nepal's present situation as an outsider?**

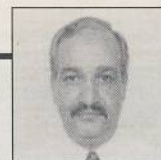
It clearly is not an easy time at the moment. I am not going to predict how it will go forward, partly because I actually did not know. Perhaps, partly, even if I do know, I won't do so. But, I hope there is a sufficient good will and sufficient commitment, sufficient belief investment in building Nepalese democracy but the process will go forward and the momentum again that we have seen in different times. We are very

happy to help and support Nepalese actors as they strive to do that.

**From federalism to judiciary and governance to elections, there are so many differences there. One of the reasons behind the collapse of CA is the conflict of interest among various forces. Do you see some possibility to find a long term constitutional solution in a short period of time?**

Perhaps one of the things that, may be, is not so obvious in current thinking that the whole CA process; there was a disagreement which caused the CA not to complete its task or tenure. There are also huge ranges of things in which the parties- stake holders and participants have actually all agreed. Now if, let's say, ten years ago you said an agreement would be possible in a very wide basis on this whole range of things. You might find that quite a surprising, so there is a record there of an agreement following discussions which is a result of people thinking of another way forward. I might

actually be here talking a bit more about Indonesian experience because Indonesia is obviously a different political structure to Nepal. The process of constitutional change there was handled through the people's consultative assembly and there was a committee of that assembly that worked on the process through four years that may recommend each year and at the end of third year a lot were agreed and most of the press coverage the next day was there was not a complete agreement. It took some months for political stake holders and indeed wider circles of political discussions to realize just how much have been agreed in that session in 2001 and what subsequently happened was that there were further discussions in 2002 which led to the final constitutional amendment and which led them to implement legislation and led to 2004 elections. It was very much step by step process. ■



# LDC Coordination On UNFCCC Process

By BATU KRISHNA UPRETY

Following an article on 'Nepal in Climate Negotiations', published in Spotlight (6-26 July 2012) fortnightly, this one attempts to share what has happened in the Least Developed Country (LDC) coordination during the last decade, and what can be done to make LDCs more visible and influential in the climate negotiation process during Nepal's time as the Chair for LDC Coordination Group for 2013 and 2014.

The Climate Change Convention has obliged the developed countries to support LDCs, particularly their funding and technologies. For this, Parties have made a package of decisions in 2001 (adoption of LDC Work Programme and NAPA preparation guidelines, and establishment of LDC

Fund and LDC Expert Group, LEG). In 2001, LDCs realised the need for and established the LDC Coordination Group.

Mali, Tanzania and Bangladesh, as the Chairs of the Group from 2001 to 2006 (two years for each country), made concerted efforts to make the Group visible in climate negotiations. The Maldives, during 2007 and 2008, focussed, *inter alia*, on adaptation as one of the pillars of the Bali Action Plan. Lesotho as a Chair of the Group for 2009 and 2010 expanded its coordinating role. In 2010 in Cancun (Mexico), three countries were fully engaged in key decision-making regarding LDC matters – Lesotho as the current Chair and The Gambia as the future Chair (for 2011 and 2012) of the Group on UNFCCC process, and Nepal as a global Chair of the LDCs. It worked well. In 2011, The Gambia and Nepal (including from NY mission) worked together in Durban. The Gambia has initiated a number of activities to make the LDCs more active and influential in climate negotiations.

The Chair of the Group has several responsibilities. Some of them include: (i) issue statements in plenary (opening and closing sessions) of the

Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC, COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties (CMP) to the Kyoto Protocol, its subsidiary bodies (SBs) and ad hoc working groups (AWGs); (ii) meet the COP President and Chairs of the SBs, AWGs and Convention's other bodies, different negotiating groups, bilateral and multilateral partners, and climate stakeholders to seek their support for LDCs concerns; (iii) meet the press and inform the international community for supporting LDCs on climate change matters by engaging the

**Nepal could build on what has been done so far. As the nearest climate change meeting will be in Bangkok from 30 August to 5 September, Nepal may wish to engage in stock taking on Group's activities, and in consulting the previous chairs, subject specialists and institutions supporting the current Chair, on ways to strengthening linkages with New York for political mobilization.**

spokesperson; (iv) organise and Chair daily meetings and ensure internal coordination during sessions; and (v) establish strong coordination and consultation, and ensure balanced LDCs representation in different committees. The Chair is equally responsible to prepare and ensure timely submissions in areas of LDC's concerns, and raise funding to support LDCs participation. The current Chair has received technical and financial support and has supported some delegations from LDCs to participate in climate negotiations and report to the Chair on key areas, including adaptation, finance, technology, and mitigation. The current Chair is also taking evidence-based inputs, expert advice and services from selected professional organisations in key areas of negotiations and science of climate change. The Chair has equally coordinated to prepare key messages for particularly the ministers. Similarly, the Chair has successfully implemented its communication strategy by operating, *inter alia*, website and twitter. Some of the African LDCs speak other than English language and Chair has to address their language needs as well.

Nepal could build on what has been

done so far. As the nearest climate change meeting will be in Bangkok from 30 August to 5 September, Nepal may wish to engage in stock taking on Group's activities, and in consulting the previous chairs, subject specialists and institutions supporting the current Chair, on ways to strengthening linkages with New York for political mobilization. LDC participants, present in Bangkok, may also wish to know on Nepal's coordination approaches for 2013 and 2014.

Taking into consideration the scope, roles and responsibilities of the Group on UNFCCC processes, and roles played by the current Chair till mid-2012, this position may provide Nepal ample opportunities to

develop its human resources on climate negotiations. Engagement of Nepal's negotiating team (at least from diplomatic and legal sectors, subject specialists, and scientists) might develop their negotiation skills and learn the procedures and substances. As negotiation takes place between Parties and Parties are represented by government delegations, it is equally necessary to follow the 'code of conduct' by team members who may be from outside the government organisations. Delegation members should not be limited in number. For example, Bangladesh included over 100 persons in government delegation to attend Durban Conference in 2011.

In 2013 and 2014, the Chair of the LDC Coordination Group might travel frequently to attend meetings, and conferences on behalf of the LDCs. Any obstacle to the Chair will not only affect Nepal but also to 48 LDCs. The 'dream' of making Nepal as the Chair of this Group in the fall of 2010 has become a 'reality' in mid-2012. This is an opportunity and should also be used rationally to address the needs of the climate vulnerable. ■

INGOs

# Searching Relief

As Nepal's political process shows no immediate sign of settlement, it will have far reaching consequences on Nepal's development process. The instability and uncertainty factors are likely to create more hurdles for Nepal's development partners, particularly the International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs) in the coming days

By KESHAB POUDEL

Be it during a major flood in Rapti or diarrhea epidemic in Jajarkot, it is the International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) which reach the spots with relief packages to support the government in carry out the necessary services to the needy people.

Even in the recent floods in the mid-western region in Dang, Kapilbastu and Banke, where over two dozen people died and hundreds of houses were washed away and crops worth millions of rupees devastated, INGOs went with relief materials to support the government's efforts.

According to the Social Welfare Council, there are over 200 INGOs registered with the Council working in health, education, human rights, climate change, democracy and other such issues in all 75 districts of Nepal.

As Nepal's political process continues to shake, it will definitely affect the overall government's development policy. Due to a lack of

strong leadership at the government level, there are cases of virtual anarchy among various government ministries.

The caretaker government, by nature, cannot take any major policy decision. As the stability of the prime minister and the government depends on the unity of coalition partners, their priorities will be in placating the partners to keep the coalition intact rather than dealing with the development agenda and INGOs.

Due to the lack of coordination and failure to understand their legal roles, other ministries are stepping in and projecting themselves as organizations to regulate and register INGOs. The Foreign Minister, in his recent statement, stressed that INGOs must be regulated by Ministry since they are international organizations. Similarly, the Ministry of Finance is reportedly preparing policies to bring the financial contributions made by civil society organizations under the scrutiny of

foreign aid division.

The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare is nowhere as the current minister represents a small political party which has no significant influence at all to take the case of the ministry to the cabinet level, compared to the access of the foreign ministry, and finance ministry.

The Social Welfare Council Act authorizes the Social Welfare Council as the sole body to deal with the entire affairs of the NGOs and INGOs. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare is another institution created to monitor and regularize these organizations.

#### AIN and SWC Interactions

Given ongoing confusions and contradictions, the Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN) and the Social Welfare Council (SWC), the government apex body for I/NGOs, jointly organized an interaction program to share and discuss issues of mutual

interest and concern, and to explore ways of working together to create a more favorable working environment for development work in the country.

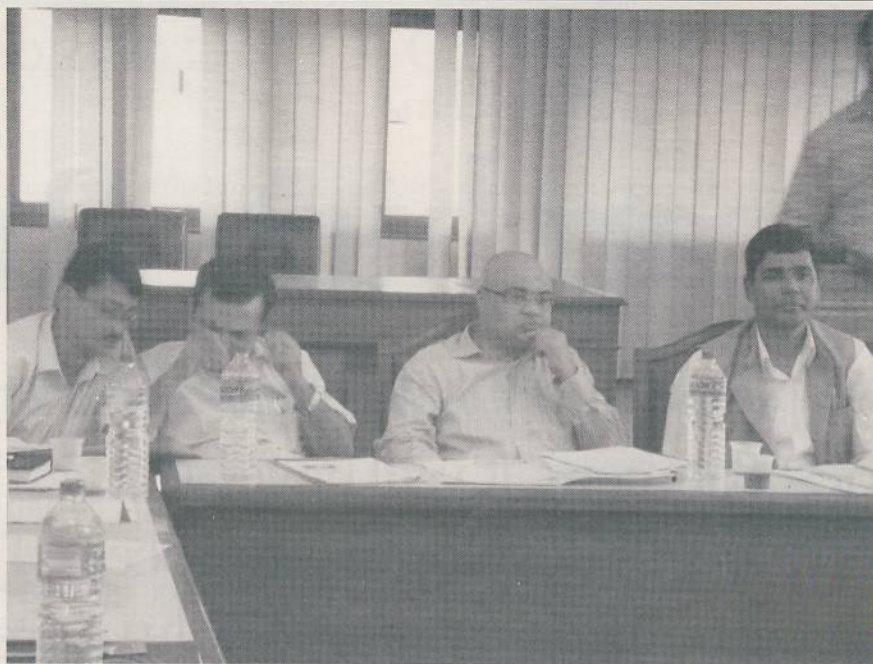
Attended by representatives of AIN and its member INGO's, SWC officials, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Ministry of Finance, National Planning Commission and bilateral donors, the function saw various stake holders trying to understand each other's difficulties.

Among the issues shared and discussed were expectations from each other, policy related and procedural challenges faced by INGOs, strengthening the capacity of SWC and making it well resourced and making one window policy more effective.

Issues such as balancing between sectors and geographical areas (by INGOs), customs duty and tax/VAT exemption, coordination between local bodies and INGOs, earmarked funds and improving monitoring and evaluation of projects were also discussed.

"The need is of mindset change so that SWC is perceived as a facilitator body and not as a controlling one and that AIN was ready to work with SWC in future," said AIN Chair Ashutosh Tiwari.

SWC, which is now itself in a weak position, shows that it is ready to work with AIN. "We need to form a task force comprising representatives of SWC, AIN



AIN Meet

and the ministries concerned. It would develop guidelines on key areas of mutual concern, including monitoring and evaluation of projects," said Ravindra K Shah, the Member Secretary of SWC.

Others too agreed. "We need to come together to have better understanding about each other. This kind of regular interaction will help to fill the gap existing between SWC and INGOs," said Dr. Dibesh Chandra Regmi, AIN Steering Committee Member.

As Nepal's current transition is likely to go for a few more years with weak

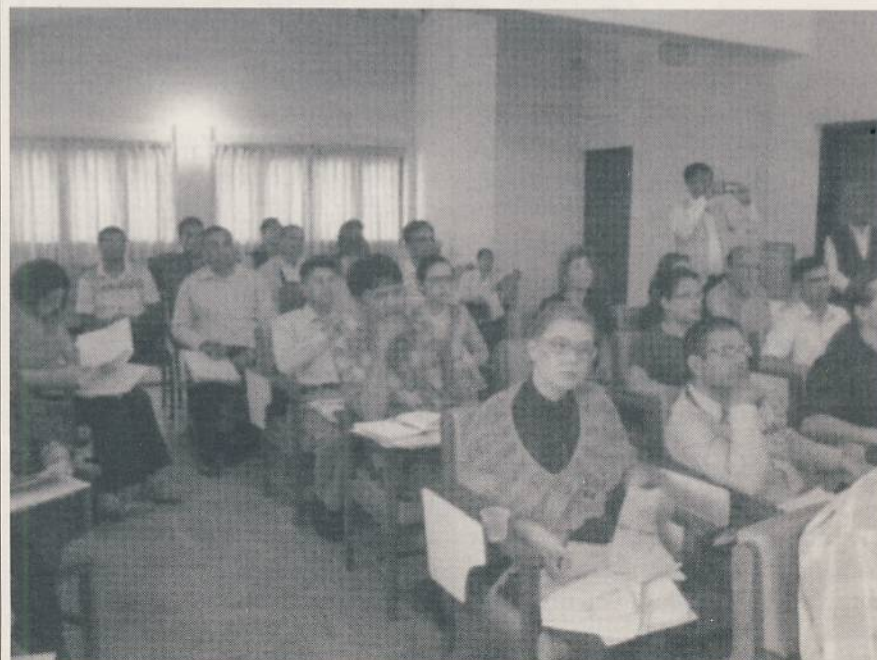
coalition governments at the center, INGOs will face more difficult times in the process of implementing the projects. This will ultimately hit the projects run for the poor and marginalized population of Nepal.

At present circumstances, when the government development budget continues to decline and the government cannot allocate additional budget for new projects, the pressure will mount on INGOs to continue work. Failure of the government to bring a full budget has been a likely cause to affect programs and projects with a long term agenda. However, by prolonging the political instability, various ministries have continued to indulge in the controversies over regulating the INGOs. This will restrict the INGOs including AIN members.

"Here the interaction between AIN and SWC has its significance to find a way out. The interaction has helped to improve better understanding and clarity about each other in key issues of concern," said Dr. Regmi. "This help to facilitate collaboration in the area of common development interest for improving the systems towards transparent and accountable."

#### AIN's Role

The process of improving understanding between AIN members and SWC started since when Achyut Luitel



# “INGOs are partners of Nepal’s Development”

BALANANDA PAUDEL

At a time when various ministries have been talking about the need to regularize INGOs working in Nepal, BALANANDA PAUDEL, secretary of Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, talked to NEW SPOTLIGHT on policy related issues regarding regulating INGOs. Excerpts:

**At a time when various ministries have been issuing conflicting opinions regarding INGOs, how do you look at them as a secretary of a ministry directly responsible for the issue of regulating NGOs and INGOs?**

According to the Working Procedures of the Cabinet, it is the sole responsibility of this ministry to regulate the NGOs and INGOs. Even the Social Welfare Council Act clearly mentions about the monitoring issue. According to the act, a separate Social Welfare Council is constituted to regulate and monitor the aspects of NGOs and INGOs.

**How do you see the situation now?**

Frankly speaking, we are yet to prepare any framework to streamline NGOs and INGOs. It is a prerequisite to develop a framework to identify the areas to encourage INGOs and NGOs and prioritize their programs. It is true that Nepal government is yet to have any framework to guide and support INGOs and NGOs in implementing projects.

**Why do you need a framework?**

By making a framework, we can check the gaps and overlaps in the projects and programs implemented by INGOs and NGOs. The ministry has already directed Social Welfare Council to develop a working framework which guides and facilitates INGOs and NGOs.

**Why do you need it?**

At present, there are many gaps and overlaps. According to existing Local Governance Act 1999, NGOs and INGOs which want to implement the development projects at local levels need early permission from concerned DDCs, Municipalities and VDCs. Such programs need to be included in local development planning. Although it is legally mandatory, practically it is not possible to do so.

**How do you see the facilitation committee?**

There is also a Project Facilitation Committee under the governorship of joint secretary of ministry. The committee includes the members from various other ministries. This committee approves the programs and projects presented by the INGOs based in Nepal. There is no framework even for the committee. We don't have a framework to coordinate INGOs. Such framework must be guided by periodic policies, rules and regulations of the country. It should prioritise interventions and resources. Even NGOs and INGOs will welcome such implementing framework.

**How do you look at the monitoring and evaluation aspects?**

There are also lapses in the monitoring and evaluation part. We are unable to monitor and evaluate the performance of NGOs and INGOs properly. Social Welfare Council performs evaluation and monitoring part. However, it is a very ritual work and the government is yet to prepare plans for such programs allocating the budget. The current evaluation and monitoring work is conducted by employees of Social Welfare Council on the basis of the budget allocated by concerned NGOs and INGOs.

We also need to encourage the INGOs to follow the frame work. Evaluation and monitoring should be supported by the government of Nepal under its own priority. I don't think there is any ambiguity and confusion among various ministries. Finance Ministry has its own mandate regarding the resource matter; Ministry of Foreign Affairs might have also some concern. However, so far as overall coordination of NGOs and INGOs are concerned, it lies under the purview of the Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare.

**How do you see the role of INGOs in development?**

“Although AIN is a small player in Nepal’s aid economy with just over 10 billion rupees annual contribution, their



The government of Nepal is highly appreciative of the work done by INGOs. This is the reason the government is encouraging INGOs to work freely and independently. In some cases, there are some shortcomings and the government is yet to recognize the INGOs role. Overall, the role of INGOs and NGOs are highly recognized by the government. The government wants to encourage INGOs and NGOs to be transparent and replicate their work in different parts of the country. We will fully cooperate with INGOs.

**Anything else on the role of INGOs?**

We see NGOs and INGOs as the arms to carry out the mandate of the government. The INGO sector is one of the strong and effective arms of the government to reach to the people. There is no confusion and doubt in terms of our policies on that. The government is like a ship and it cannot go to every nook and corner of the country. Thus, it needs smaller boats, that is, NGOs and INGOs to reach the nook and corner of the country. Without the support of INGOs, we cannot reach to the people. In many instances, INGOs have been working even in the areas where government is yet to reach. We need to encourage and support INGOs to implement their programs in the priority sectors. We have to develop certain framework. ■

role is much bigger in terms of the contributions they do. Not only in the areas of development but they also play

was chair of the AIN. Out of over 200 INGOs registered in Nepal, 100 INGOs have a network through AIN.



AIN Members In Interaction

role in advocacy and rights based issues," said Ashutosh Tiwari. "Key shared values of AIN members include advancing the public good, no discrimination, serving the poor and the excluded people of Nepal, working through local partners and maintaining transparency and accountability."

#### Where AIN Work

Recently, there is a wide criticism against the role of INGOs. INGOs are even blamed for encouraging and supporting ethnic issues in Nepal. After the collapse of the Constituent Assembly, the government officials forwarded the idea that they needed more hardware projects. Even some ministries including Home and foreign proposed ways to restrict INGOs.

However, they forgot that INGOs had played many other roles in development. One of the important aspects of AIN members is that they work in places where the local economy has not developed and in places where the government and local organizations/communities need (technical and other) assistance.

A recent study (BS 2066/67) showed that AIN members (60 INGOs) made a total annual contribution of about 10 billion rupees, which worked out to be: 6 % of development budget, 12 % of foreign aid, 15 % of total grant, 45 % of foreign loans and 18 % of deficit budget

AIN members' work covers all 75 districts. Their aim is to contribute to an

improved quality of life of Nepal's people. Local partners' work is often embedded in the fabric of local institutions and communities. AIN members focus on sustainable and equitable development, environmental protection and humanitarian response. They work on sectors such as education, health, mitigating the effects of climate change, human rights, small-scale rural infrastructure, water and sanitation, child protection issues, and many, many more.

AIN's values and governance mechanisms emphasize service, knowledge sharing, national and international replication of best practices, and minimizing duplication of efforts.

#### The pattern of relations

One of the hindrances now is general incomplete understanding of INGOs: what they are, what they do, how they work, how they are governed. "INGOs' contributions are overlooked (Red Book, White Book, Nepal Development Forum, etc). There are lengthy processes to receive approvals from DDCs and VDCs, unclear legislative framework and lack of clarity on coordinating authorities and unclear guidelines for evaluation processes," said Tiwari.

There is demand for facilitative bureaucracy for procedural work (such as project agreement and general agreement and visa renewal) when all

INGOs have been experiencing delays, lengthy processes, fines and lack of clarity.

"We are making efforts to shorten the PA process and visa renewal process for the expats working in INGOs," said Madan Rimal, director of Social Welfare Council. "We are making a plan to take up all these issues."

"We want to have good relations with INGOs and want to settle the problems faced by them. Their contribution is in launching programs focused to the socially excluded, geographically marginalized and economically backward community," said Mohan Sharma, member of SWC. "Select district, groups, class whose Human Development Index is low and there must be the balance between hardware, software, economic empowerment and service delivery components."

Despite their contributions in uplifting the life of rural population and serving them at the time of desperate need, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) are still facing a lot of problems in the process. They have been playing an important role in Nepal's development efforts. However, their work remains to be fully appreciated by the government officials, political leaders, and even the civil society members and the media.

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# Is Congress Conservative?

By DHRUBA SIMKHADA

Unimaginable political and social changes have taken place in Nepali society since 1950. In almost 60 years of history, people of Nepal came to the streets three times - in 1950, 1990 and 2006. No doubt, all of these struggles were led by Nepali Congress, the Grand Old Party, in the context of Nepal. It means that we cannot ignore the role of Nepali Communist Parties in shaping the democratic political framework despite their claim to establish the communist regime under the proletariat dictatorship. It has been proven that the rhetoric of dictatorship of proletariat by the Nepali Communist parties' is just a utopia uttered for public consumption.

Two diametrically different political forces are on the way of creating a just, developed and democratic state in modern Nepali history. One represents peoples' democratic aspirations and the other values the communist ideals. The mode of political contention is apparently zero sum. Thus the Nepali society is suffering from two opposite 'ism's. Nepali Congress as the only democratic force is struggling for spreading democratic norms and values for an egalitarian society. On the other hand, Communist parties claim they're the sole agents of the social underdogs. Public expectation expanded along with the formation of the governments led by the communist parties one after another in the aftermath of the Constituent Assembly elections in April 2008. But they are now disillusioned as their aspirations are belied.

There are a few disputable issues for constitution making. The contending issues are the federal structure, political system, independent judiciary, plural values of Nepali society etc. Nepali Congress has been standing for the creation of provinces with plural character, separation of powers and parliamentary democracy. But the Maoist has been stressing for single ethnic based federal structure, controlled judiciary and presidential system. From the beginning these two forces have pursued these conflicting notions. Unable to reach consensus on a few disputable issues, the jumbo 601 member rainbow Assembly was left high and dry on May 27, 2012 with drafting a constitution. The inclusive constituent assembly was dissolved by the Maoist-led government with declaration of another election in November without taking major political forces or even the election commission into confidence. Elections in democracy are a competition with consensus, which legalizes the process. But the way election was abruptly declared does

not clarify whether it is for Constituent Assembly or else!

In such a situation a few analysts have accused the Nepali Congress of being against the elections. It is suspected to have feared to face the voters. The question however is: Has Nepali Congress become a conservative force which is obstructing the whole constitution making process and the bid to create a New Nepal? It is not true; it is just a blame-game. Those party men, who dared and led the nation on three difficult times in history, are not status quoists; they are the motors of change and transforming the status quo. Nepali Congress fought the anti-Rana movement in 1950, fought against the party less Panchayat regime for 30 years and again led the movement for the restoration of multiparty

**Nepali Congress is the defender of pluralism, and wants to write down the word pluralism in the constitution. On the contrary, the UCPN (Maoist) does not agree to include plural character in the constitution.**

democracy in 1990. The party leadership is central for introducing Nepal as a federal democratic republic in the world. The Nepali Congress has played a pivotal role in abolishing monarchy and peacefully transforming the country to a secular state. Can these be understood as conservative acts?

On the other hand, some other analysts have defined the Maoist-Madheshi Morcha combine as a progressive force. In the conservative and progressive continuum, the party or parties that really internalize the aspirations of a plural society can be classified as progressive.

The present Maoist-Madheshi Morcha government, liable for the demise of the popular constituent assembly, has also utterly failed to deliver the needs such as of fertilizers to the farmers on time. The basic needs related to the livelihood of the people are yet to be met. The coalition that stands for creating single ethnic based provinces thereby undermining the rights of majority of people in the 'designed' province can be considered neither democratic nor progressive. Because such practices cannot be justified, they would be considered undemocratic and non-progressive as well.

Nepali society is not homogeneous. It has not only the prismatic aspirations; it has also a multicultural characteristics. It is our ground reality. None of the castes and ethnic communities living in Nepal are in a majority.

So we must categorically define the conservative and progressive forces issue-wise. For example, Nepali Congress opposes the single ethnic province and the Maoist supports the single ethnic federal structure. People can judge and give their verdict and know who is conservative. The former stands for plurality and the later cannot accept the plurality. Which is democratic and progressive? People from every caste and creed can find their space in the plural character of Nepali society.

Nepali Congress is the defender of pluralism, and wants to write down the word pluralism in the constitution. On the contrary, the UCPN (Maoist) does not agree to include plural character in the constitution. Those who claim the UCPN (Maoist) is a progressive force forget its social motives and move. The observable behavior of UCPN (Maoist) is full of double standards. Its craze for power and purse is an established fact. It's a kleptocratic group disguised as a political party and thrives on opportunistic use of the support available whether they be from

their 'Peoples Liberation Army' personnel now left in the lurch or any political dispensation, the monarchy, for example, against the parliamentary democracy in the 1990s.

Presently, the UCPN (Maoist) is fuelling the ethnic tension by promoting exclusive ethnic provinces. They're talking about the communist state in which they imagine communist centrality. It is more interesting to think and see how their republican centrality fits in federalism. Federalism and Communism are two opposite characters. The first accepts the local autonomy and the self rule when the later imagines proletariat dictatorship and centrality under the flimsy concept of democratic centralism. How can we imagine that the UCPN (Maoist) creates federal states with such a centralizing political mindset? So where does their progressive character lies?

The UCPN (Maoist) Chairman Puspa Kamal Dahal a.k.a. Prachanda has again started another ploy in politics. He wants to form 'federal democratic alliance' with party crooks and the NGOs' saviours. The big question therefore is what would be the shape of the federal democratic alliance? And who would be its leader? Obviously, Prachanda. A political party that has long thrived on bluffs and is acting as a dream merchant can never be considered as a progressive entity despite its being a 'spark on the Prairie fire' in the Nepali state. ■

# A Window On Literary And Archaeological Research



By BIPIN ADHIKARI

The book *A Journey of Literary and Archaeological Research in Nepal and Northern India* is a window on some very important aspects of the region's rich cultural heritage. To a Nepalese reader, the study of inscriptions and colophons in this book is as much important as the study of several such historical objects by Daniel Wright, Bhagwanlal Indraji, Harapada Das Chattopadhyay, Sylvain Levi or K. P. Jayaswal in the past. It is a little yet remarkable piece of work.

Written by Cecil Bendall, a senior assistant at the University of Cambridge in the department of Oriental MSS from 1882 to 1893, the book is based on many Sanskrit manuscripts collected by the author for the University Library from north India, Nepal and Bombay with a grant from the Worts Fund in 1884-5. Before Bendall, in the 1870s, Daniel Wright, surgeon to the British Residency at Kathmandu Nepal, had collected a large number of Sanskrit manuscripts from Nepal. The new book of Bendall goes forward in this pursuit.

Bendall arrived in Kathmandu on November 9<sup>th</sup> of 1884. Before reaching Nepal, in India, he had consultations with Pandit Dr Bhagwanlal Indraji, whose researches in Indian antiquities, chiefly published in the *Indian Antiquary*, were well known both in India and Europe. In his prefatory statement, Bendall cautions that his study will seem "very partial and meager, if compared, for instance, with the admirable accounts and extracts given in the reports of Professors [Peter] Peterson and Ramakrishna Bhandarkar." His visit to Kathmandu was short. Time was an important factor in the study. However, the book deals with classified lists of MSS personally collected by the author, tough list of MSS from Bombay, notes on particular MSS acquired, and notes on MSS in private possession. They bring many new facts about Nepal to light.

In Kathmandu, the author occupied the travelers' bungalow belonging to the Government of India. He was first acquainted by the Resident with the Durbar explaining the purposes of archaeological search. His conversation with Pandit Indranand, the son of the late Pandit Gunanand, who helped Dr Daniel Wright to compile the *History of Nepal* was very helpful during his stay in Kathmandu. He helped Bendall with necessary guidance in his pursuit, especially in visiting several of the more distant localities of archaeological interest. He also profited much by the cordially rendered assistance of the Residency Mir Munshi Durga Sharan Mishra – an Indian native. Bendall was able to study numerous historical inscriptions and Nepalese literatures. He was also able to acquire several MSS in the valley.

The author was favoured with an interview with the Prime Minister Runoo Deep Singh as well.

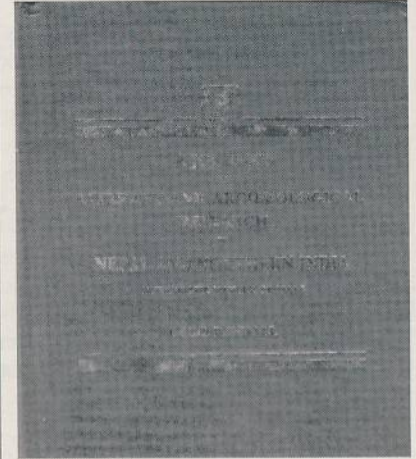
In his preface to the book, Bendall remembers him, even though he was already slain during the disturbances in Kathmandu in November 1885. His remark that "whoever may be the new rulers, I trust they will be no less ready than the late Premier to afford a courteous reception to scholars" – shows that the Premier had been supportive to the research undertaken by him. He also sent him a number of coins to examine.

It is interesting to find from the book of Bendall that the Prime Minister of Nepal had a wonderful library. Bendall says: "I did not, however, enter the room in which the books are usually kept, but the whole collection, consisting of many thousands of MSS, was brought for me from the palace to the Durbar school building. So much trouble having been taken for my convenience, I made no enquiries as to the library room itself. Possibly the books are usually stored in one of those small rooms in which some of the best Indian collections of manuscripts (e.g. that in the splendid palace at Oodeypore) are even not kept and which contrast so curiously with European ideas of a commodious library. If this be the case, we must hope that educational progress, now, we trust, commencing in Nepal, will extend to the affording of still greater and more regular facilities for the study of the unique literature of the country preserved in this collection of MSS, in many respects, as we shall see, the finest in India."

"As to the obliging library staff, I will only say that, however, the books are kept, they are found with a quickness that many a European library cannot equal." Referring to Daniel Wright's 1875 comment that the subject of schools and college in Nepal may be treated as briefly as that of snakes in Ireland, Bendall makes a point: "now we have at least one building in which both English and Sanskrit, and, as I have every reason to believe, well taught."

At one point when he was visiting a temple of Narayan in 'Khaumar-tol' in Bhadgaon, Bendall comments, "I regret that the crowd of idle followers who pursued me into the quiet little courtyard where the inscription, with some others of later date, was fixed, so disturbed the tenants of the 'Math' that, on returning to take a copy, I found the door closed against me. I generally found, I may observe, that, in Nepal, where Tibetans and Chinamen attract no notice, the mere dress of a European is sufficient to draw a train of 30 or 40 idlers, which would soon be doubled if an object like a photographic camera were produced."

At another point he noted that his success in searching MSS was greater than I expected,



Cecil Bendall, *A Journey of Literary and Archaeological Research in Nepal and Northern India during the Winter of 1884-85* (New Delhi: Asian Educational Services, 1991) (originally published by Cambridge University Press in 1886)

but his negotiations were, he feared, interfered with by the officiousness of the Nepalese 'Mukhiya', or guard in attendance on him. As a general rule he noted he had nothing to complain of in the demeanour of these men; on the contrary, on several occasions, so far from acting as spies or standing in the way of his investigation, they were of great use in overcoming the stupid prejudices against strangers manifested especially by the Buddhists of this country.

In a footnote, Bendall points out that the people of Nepal seem stronger and far more active than most of the inhabitants of India. Appendix I of the book has a table of inscriptions with the original text and translation in English. Appendix II includes the revised chronological tables of the kings of Nepal. The Index of the book chiefly deals with the names of persons and of places visited. The titles of MSS (not the names of their authors) are also included, and printed in italics, in cases where some special notice or citation is given in the text. They all make the book very useful to the students of Nepalese studies.

# “There Need Reform In Civil Service”

LEELA MANI PAUDYAL

Following wide debates, finally LEELA MANI PAUDYAL, is appointed as the chief secretary of the government of Nepal, succeeding his predecessor Madhav Prasad Ghimire, who formally retired recently. A man known for his hot temperament, Paudyal, who also worked as the consulate general in Lhasa, was appointed to the top bureaucratic job, creating some ripples in the civil service. Some secretaries tendered resignation following Paudyal's appointment. As Nepal has been passing through a very unstable political situation, the challenges before Paudyal are how to translate high expectations into reality.

**As some secretaries tendered resignation after your appointment as the chief secretary, how do you look at this?**

I don't see any point in such resignations. The Civil Service Act and the Civil Service Regulation provide clear basis for promotion of secretary from joint secretary and chief secretary from secretary. According to the act and regulations, the promotion will be made on the basis of working capability and seniority. We all 27 joint secretaries were promoted on the same day in 2007, on October 11. We all were promoted as joint secretaries between 1996 to 2002. Some are joint secretaries since 1992; they retired without being promoted as secretary. They were senior to us and retired not on any ground or charges. Some retired joint secretaries were more capable than us. They even worked under us as joint secretaries. Those who are now raising the voices about seniority were not seen at that time.

**Don't you think your promotion violated seniority criteria?**

I have already told you about the criteria for promotion of secretary. Had seniority been the only provision for the promotion, Trilochan Uprety would have been promoted and all 12 of us would have gone home. All 13 of us tried to become the chief secretary and those who

are raising the issue of seniority were in the forefront of the race. There is no reason now to start the foul cry.

**What steps would you take for administrative reforms?**

Sometimes, I feel anxious when I see so many bad precedents and practices prevailing in the civil service. I don't know from when and where to start. If I get involved in petty issues, I will lose momentum for broader reforms. My aim is to go for broader reforms with long term implications and not to run behind actions and reactions which will ruin my creativeness.

**What reforms do you expect?**

The time has come now to make civil servants responsible to the service seekers rather than certain individuals. If one wants to make drastic changes in the civil service, there is the need to revamp the present act, but that is not possible in the present circumstances. Don't raise expectations high in present context.

**How do you contain indiscipline in the civil service?**

Our system is not different than previous favoritism of the Panchayat days. There is no scientific hire and fire system. After 1990, we have made a provision under which we cannot fire any employee. This secure situation has turned our civil service into lethargic, incompetent and undisciplined lot.

**How do you control irresponsible acts of unions?**

I individually cannot do it alone. It is not true that everything is bad in trade unions. There is the need to move ahead by agreeing on common agenda. Elections are mandatory for trade unions and secretary of General Administrator is creating some point of agreement.

**How do you control the corruption in civil service?**

The more you are accountable, the less the possibilities of corruption. We need to strengthen the system to make civil servants accountable to service



providers. The government has already announced anti-corruption strategy recently. If it is implemented properly, corruption will decline.

**Is it possible to work independently in the present context when the society and the civil society has been polarized in a big way?**

We have to learn to work within the limitations. Nobody can enjoy or exercise absolute independence. In this context, it is important to exercise the individual independence in the context.

**It is reported that you were promoted to secretary and chief secretary under some influences. How can you establish your independent posture?**

I can tear my chest to show Ram in my heart. However, my promotion is based on my efficiency. I can challenge anybody to prove that I have taken any decision favoring the Maoist Party. I am not promoted to the chief secretary as a party loyalist. I am promoted to chief secretary because I was secretary. Had not I been a senior secretary, nobody would have promoted me. I am promoted to chief secretary on the basis of my seniority and work performance. I will work under the rule of law and it will not make any difference whoever is in the power.

(Based on Nepal and BBC)

# Man With Vision

*Industrialist Binod Chaudhari, who is also the president of the Confederation of Nepalese Industries, shares of his vision of the nation's economy through a new book*

By A CORRESPONDENT

Although he is an industrialist, Binod Chaudhary has the passion to write and express his views clearly. Whatever be the position he holds, Chaudhary always finds some time to express his own views and visions. Despite his busy schedule, industrialist Chaudhary, who spares his time in writing, does not hesitate to express his views which are sometimes critical or even hostile to the people in power.

Industrialist Binod Chaudhary has seen many ups and downs in the country's economic life in his three decades of involvement in the industrial sector. From license Raj Panchayat days to the liberalized and competitive political system following the political change of 1990, Chaudhary has confronted with the transformation of Nepal's economy by remaining in the forefront. He has been on the path as the nation saw its ups and downs.

"I am a representative of the private sector who not only worked as the president of FNCCI or CNI but also developed the guts to stand on my own feet," said industrialist Chaudhary in his book. "The present changing industrial environment is the result of our more than two decades of struggle," said Chaudhary.

Growing up in Kathmandu's core locality, during the happy days of walking in the narrow lanes of Kathmandu, Chaudhary was the eye witness of the transformation of Nepal's economy from merely a traditional and subsistence one to the present stage of modernity as part of the global community.

Chaudhary knows the ins and outs of Nepal's social, economic and political situation. As a member of the recently dissolved Constituent Assembly, Chaudhary also has the experience of working as a legislator.

In his recently published book, one can find sparks of wisdom he acquired through his learning and experience, and his vivid views and opinions expressed in different times and contexts of Nepal through the national media. Looking at the global perspective, industrialist Chaudhary compares Nepal's situation and suggests the ways to make it economically more prosperous country in the world.

From articles published from early 1991 to the recent times, Chaudhary, former president of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries, touches on all aspects of Nepal's economic and industrial development. With full sense of patriotism, Chaudhary, in his articles, discusses how to take Nepal into the world stage as a prosperous nation by harnessing her resources.

Chaudhary has the dynamism as well as the leadership quality. During his tenure as the president of FNCCI, he mobilized not only domestic industrialists but also brought together internationally reputed industrialists to share Nepal's experience. Whether it was in celebrating the silver jubilee of FNCCI or taking part in international conferences representing Nepal, Chaudhary firmly put his vision on economic prosperity.

Divided in four parts, the book consists of articles and opinions published in various stages. The first chapter includes the commentary and opinions published in various newspapers. Second chapter includes the statement and key note speeches he gave during his tenure in FNCCI. The third chapter includes his opinions, speeches and keynote addresses



**Udhyami Ko Ankha Ma  
Arthtantra  
(Economy in the Eyes of an  
Industrialist)  
By Binod Chaudhary  
Published by CG Foundation  
Price: Rs. 100.00  
Pages: 216  
BINOD CHAUDHARY**

delivered as the president of Confederation of Nepalese Industries and the last and fourth chapter includes articles on other subjects.

The articles, opinions and views compiled in the articles reveal Binod Chaudhary's personality and his views and perceptions on nation, national economy and other agenda of the country. By publishing the book, industrialist Chaudhary has produced a valuable document for use by all.

Chaudhary's is book is very useful for those involved in Nepal's economic and development sector. The book will also help the younger generation of Nepalese students at the University level and scholars to understand Nepal's decades of economic and social transformation. This book also narrates the stages of Nepal's economy under which Chaudhary Group has established itself as a leading industrial house of Nepal as well as the region. ■



# Endless Debate

By SUGAT RATNA KANSAKAR

Nepal is a country with many ingredients which can easily make her the richest country in South Asia, if not in Asia. Mt. Everest, Birth Place of Buddha, world's best trekking routes, Switzerland-like scenic beauties, big hydropower/irrigation potential with 6000 rivers, excellent climate, fertile land, a brave country never colonized entire history, legendary Gurkha soldiers, hard-working rural population and above all increasing numbers of skilled "knowledge workers" and educated youths are some of the features of Nepal. But, presently Nepal is even lagging behind countries like Ethiopia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Bhutan and many other countries in Africa and South America. Looking back at Nepal's socio-economic development scene in the past four decades, it will be a futile exercise to try to prove that we have had "good" governance. It is altogether a different matter that few politicians, who were responsible in the governance in the past, used to defend their "rule" by trying to prove that country developed satisfactorily using yardsticks totally different from universally accepted norms.

Four major political upheavals and political changes took place in the years 1950AD, 1960AD, 1990AD and 2005AD, all of them occurred without any violent resistance from then rulers, unlike in many other countries of the world. It proves Nepal is a peaceful country with peaceful people. In the last political change, the country went for full-fledged democracy (LOKTANTRA), "best" system ever invented by political scientists, without any major fuss from 300 years old monarchy to the surprise of the entire world. But again governance in the past six years is still not encouraging and socio-economic development has yet to take-off.

Million dollar question is what went wrong and who were responsible for this state of affairs. Those responsible for running any country could be broadly classified in two groups- rulers (kings, politicians & dictators) and bureaucrats. Obviously, rulers will be at the helm of affairs, so they are mainly responsible for governance. Next to politicians, second biggest responsibility lies with bureaucrats. Within bureaucracy, a visible group of technocrats, especially engineers, exists, who also are definitely responsible for socio-economic development of the country. Although

private sector, that is trade industry, and social organizations like NGOs and INGOs play substantial role in socio-economic progress of the society, they have minimum role in governance of the country. Quite often people, in general, are also blamed by few intellectuals, politicians and journalists for nation's problems. This is absolutely rubbish judgment.

Endless debate can take place, if we start analyzing which group of citizens-politicians, bureaucrats and technocrats- are responsible by what proportion for the present state of affairs in the country. One typical guess-estimate could be as follows: if 100% weight age is given to those three groups-politicians, bureaucrats and technocrats, almost 50% burden lies with politicians, about 40% with bureaucrats and 10% with technocrats. Many may raise eyebrows regarding this percentage break-down

**Governance, basically, is function of 26 ministries and 38 public sector enterprises (PSEs). And in all those 64 "organizations", technocrats play a big role, especially in development works.**

of responsibility and accountability for building the nation. But if we look at existing Acts, rules, regulations and authority to amend them; work-culture; traditional "TIPPANY CULTURE" way of decision-makings etc, it could be easily proven that engineering community "inside" government has the least responsibility as well as accountability in socio-economic growth of the country.

Governance, basically, is function of 26 ministries and 38 public sector enterprises (PSEs). And in all those 64 "organizations", technocrats play a big role, especially in development works. According to The Pulitzer Prize winner author Thomas L. Friedman, for developing a country, the nation needs to get four basic things right:- infrastructure, education, governance and environment. Many prominent experts believe that one reason why China did better than India is the priority given to infrastructure development three decades back, where as India did not invest much in infrastructure building. Story is not much different in Nepal- Lumbini master plan project achieved just 15% in 40 years, 19 years of Melamchi, 16 hours of load shedding, no new aircraft in national flag carrier for past 25 years, 10/12 years

of only discussion about Mega-hydropower projects, Second International Airport, Fast Track Highway between Kathmandu and Terai, outer ring road in Kathmandu and so on. And of course, common man will say that infrastructure building is in the domain of engineers and so engineering community is to be blamed. But the ground reality is different.

Characteristics, social position, values and expectations of engineers differ somewhat from others. One reason is "higher level" of education and engineering is a specialized knowledge. Due to this very nature of engineers' knowledge and expertise, they tend to be somewhat detached from main stream bureaucracy. But bureaucracy is the engine of governance. Hence, engineering community must realize that they have to work as members of an "organization" or bureaucracy or society. Only an organization can convert engineering into performance effectively. Engineers in Melamchi project and Lumbini Master Plan project may be excellent, but after 19 years of Melamchi and 40 years of Lumbini,

project completion is still nowhere in sight. It proves that engineers inside government are treated as "employees", whereas administrators "think" they are the bosses. Unless this mentality or mind-set or system is changed, we will continue to have many more Melamchis and Lumbinis.

While talking about infrastructure building, one topic, which always comes up for discussion is corruption. It is surprising that Nepalese intelligentsia including media is creating the impression that single biggest reason for slow economic growth for the past few decades is the corruption. In fact, main reason for non-performance in socio-economic development of the country is total weakness shown by political executives and bureaucrats in priority-setting, decision-making and implementation. Political turmoil and uncertain political environment could be placed in the second position. Corruption could be placed in the third position for the sorry state of affairs in the country. Many may raise eyebrows of placing corruption in the third place for slow pace of development in almost all sectors in the past few decades.

Coming few more years will surely be period of continuing political, social and economic turmoil in the country. So, challenges looming ahead for engineering community will be more serious and more daunting. Obviously, engineers responsible for infrastructure building need more and more management and leadership lessons to deal with political-bosses and bureaucrat-bosses. ■

# FLOODS

# Wreaking Havoc

The heavy rainfall has resulted in heavy floods, killing dozens of people and destroying millions of rupees in property. Yet the response of the government is ritual, often confined to rescue and rehabilitation of the victims. Annually floods affect tens of thousands of people, showing the need to realize the time has come to seek a long term solution rather than going for a short term ritual response

By DEBESHADHIKARI

Over one hundred houses were washed away in Dang and over 500 houses were inundated by floods in Laxamanpur areas of Banke district bordering India due to the embankment built on other side of border.

When the life of tens of thousands of people was at stake due to floods, the government responded with the traditional approach, providing some relief materials and rescuing them to put in temporary settlements.

Despite the development of several methods and ways, Nepal's approach to dealing with the floods and landslides remains decades old. Instead of working for a long term solution, the government finds it easy to work for rescue. Normally, a dozen police officers are deployed and the district level Disaster Relief Fund distributes relief materials for the

victims.

The response of the prime minister is also no different. "After knowing the devastation, I have already asked concerned officials to take rescue and rehabilitation work," prime minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai told. "Affected people should be given enough materials,"

Nepal is one of the most vulnerable countries in terms of disaster and recent studies have shown that climate related disaster will also affect a large number of people. However, Nepal's response to disaster has not changed. Under the District Disaster Relief Committee, chief district officer normally mobilizes police, Army and local Red Cross Representatives to carry out the rescue work.

"We have been taking the disaster

relief and rehabilitation work as part of the existing act," said spokesperson of Ministry of Home Affairs. Although the intensity of disaster is going high, the response of the government has nothing changed.

"Nepal's disaster rescue and rehabilitation work needs a revamp and there is need for more coordination among different stake holders," said Purushottam Ghimire, spokesperson of National Planning Commission.

Along with national agencies, international agencies including INGOs and UN agencies have also been in the disaster risk reduction sector supporting disaster management. However, there is no tangible change being seen as of now.

The recent rescue and rehabilitation work conducted in three districts of western and Midwestern region showed



Flood

that Nepal's disaster response method is too little and too slow.

#### State of Devastation

After the monsoon season started at least 15 people were killed in different parts of Nepal. Ten persons were killed as incessant rains battered the country triggering landslides and floods since last Thursday.

More than a half a dozen of districts in western, mid-western and far western regions, including Manang, Gulmi, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke, Bardia and Kailali have been largely affected. As the rain continues, it is likely to affect more areas.

From inundation to landslides and floods, all these districts have seen all kinds of disasters but the response is too poor as no efforts have been taken to prevent such disasters. Although Banke and Bardia are prone to inundation due to embankment built at the border side in India, Nepal government is yet to take the issue with concerned Indian officials. Rapti river, which is also a cause of concern in the Indian state of Utter

Pradesh, is creating havoc in Nepal.

As Nepal lies in geographically very vulnerable parts, it is natural for Nepal to see these kinds of disasters. What is now required is a long term solution to cope with the situation. Had a new disaster management bill been passed by parliament, the situation of rescue and rehabilitation would have improved.

With a country of over 6000 rivers and streams and many fragile mountains, floods and landslides are nothing new in Nepal. As the climate change is

gradually making effects on weather patterns, Nepal will have to see a very hostile weather pattern in the coming days.

What Nepal requires now is to make preparation with a long term vision and long term strategy. At a time when India is gradually building embankments in the bordering rivers in south, water inundation will affect the people. Thus, Nepal needs to start a constructive negotiation to save the people living in southern borders. ■

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# Active Age Needs A Push

SANGITA NIROLA

Having worked for a long time in the civil society sector, SANGITA NIROLA has brought her experience to bear on the work of HelpAge Nepal. Niraula, the country representative of the new INGO, spoke to Debesh Adhikari on various issues. Excerpts:

**In what areas does the HelpAge International-Nepal work?**

HelpAge basically works with the older people. It has been working in 60 countries. We have recently established it in Nepal too. It has been some 4-5 months now. We have one project running at the moment. There is a social pension facility in Nepal for the old people. Every old people above 70 gets NRs. 500 per month as social pension. But what we have been hearing is that the money allocated for the old people has not reached their hands. They are not being able to use that money. So to solve this situation, we have started a project: older citizen monitoring group that monitors these social pensions and makes sure that more old people of the community receive the pension. We are also coming up with another project. We have already opened a group, but what is the main concern is that they want to group from the lower level, from ward level, not directly from the district level. We are planning to activate that group, involve older people's group actively in other fields. NRs. 500 that they receive is not a big amount, so we are planning to involve them in other income generating activities. The new projects will look after these issues. HelpAge International Nepal is the first INGO that is working for the people in old age; there are NGOs but no INGOs. It's a new concept and challenging as well.

**Some old people might have the potential and they might not need that much care, so what are your thoughts?**

Normal people think old people cannot be active, so we are trying to change this notion. We are advocating that old people can be a part of the society. Old people also have some criteria. There are people who retire after the age of 60, especially in the cities and central levels. People retire after the age of around 60 from government offices, but they still have the potential to work. Some are very knowledgeable, while some even have PHD, but their knowledge is not used properly. They come under active group. So we are considering 60-70 as active group but above 70 people might have problems and so we are working for that.

**What should be done to make old people more involved in the society?**

Old people should be brought to the mainstream like the way women have been brought. Old people should be kept in mind before making any policy or any program. Aging should be brought to the main frame and that will bring changes in the society.

**How is the government's response in these issues?**



The government response is basically good. They are willing to change the policies. There are different criteria regarding old age. For example people of Karnali get social pension after the age of 60 whereas people from other areas get pension only after the age of 70. At some level, we might need to consider 65 as the old age. Overall the government has been cooperating well and they are positive.

**What is the status of overall INGO's working in Nepal?**

We are being part of the Association of International NGOs (AIN). There is an important role of INGOs in the developmental issues and I think they are doing well.

**Currently there are negative vibes surrounding the INGOs. How are you planning to tackle this?**

Yes, there have been negative talks. But, we are trying to convince people. Recently, we held a meeting with the Social Welfare Council. The ministry people or the government should also do something for us. We are working even in the low level. Our work should be highlighted. It's not that we only claim. If anyone analyzes our documents or things that we have done, they can know for themselves. So INGOs are doing good work. If there were no INGOs then I don't think we would have access to these many districts and these many remote places in many ways. I think INGOs have done quite well but we still need to make people understand that INGOS are working for the good in society and are making good contributions. We still have to raise awareness about the positive works of INGOs because we have done more than we are credited for.

**How much favorable is the overall environment for INGOs to work properly?**

We have been pushing for one window policy. We want everything be taken care by Social Welfare Council (SWC) and the whole AIN is pushing for that. Due to lack of that our projects are taking a long time and we are facing difficulties in starting level. And due to that even our works have been affected.



## REMOVING HOTELS FROM CHITWAN

# Setback To Conservation Tourism

*A recent government decision to remove hotels from inside the Chitwan National Park is a likely to cause a major setback to Nepal's conservation tourism*

By DEBESH ADHIKARI

Basant Raj Mishra, managing director of the Temple Tiger Jungle Lodge, along with many other hoteliers have received severe setback in their efforts towards conservation by government's decision to not renew the lease agreements of their hotels.

For decades, they have spent their resources and learned skills to manage conservation tourism. However, entrepreneurs like Mishra's expertise on conservation is finally made irrelevant by the government decision.

Government's decision to not renew the lease agreement of hotels inside Chitwan National park has received all-round criticisms. But as the government holds firm on its decision, the long established conservative tourism culture by the hotels inside the park has come to a premature end.

Hotels were established inside the park some half a century ago and after the hotels came into existence poaching of wild animals was largely reduced, but the government has failed to recognize the contributions made by these hotels.

"Animal poaching has been reduced to a large extent due to contribution of the hotels inside the park," said Mishra.

Not only in animal poaching, hotels inside the parks also promoted Nepal for conservative tourism. "We are also contributing largely toward conservation and doing everything that we can do for conservation of the park," said Mishra.

Tourism has been nearly the only industry that has been thriving in Nepal in these uncertain times but this open attack on hotels inside the park by government has raised serious questions about government's attitude towards tourism and development. It has sent a wrong message to everyone inside and



Basant Raj Mishra

outside the country, according to a tourism expert.

Out of the seven hotels inside the national park, six were still in operation. Along with Temple tiger other hotels that were forced to shut down include Tiger Tops, Narayani Safari, Chitwan Jungle Lodge, Machan Wildlife Resort and Island Jungle Resort.

Government cannot prove that we have distorted the environment of the park; other countries have taken our example while constructing hotels inside parks but our own government has failed to acknowledge this fact, said an hotelier who was operating business inside the park.

According to HAN, the closure of the hotels and resorts would mean loss of investments worth NRs 2 billion and the jobs of 3,000 people and annual tax loss of some NRs 200 million for the government.

### Numbers Increase

Tourist arrivals, on the other hand, have increased in July by 9.2 percent

compared to the same period last year. Some 38,543 tourists visited Nepal in July from airways. The total tourist arrival number has reached to 332,472 in the first seven months of 2012 which is 18.5 percent higher compared to the same period last year, according to Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA).

Tourist arrivals from India and China again showed healthy rise as Nepal continues to depend on its neighbors for tourists. Some 15,000 Indian tourists visited Nepal in July, an increase of 27.1 percent. While tourists arrivals from China increased by 27.2 percent. Arrivals from the South Asian region registered an overall growth of 18.3 percent.

The number of visitors from Asia (other than South Asia) recorded a growth of 8.5 percent in July with Japan 28.4 percent and Malaysia 19.4 percent. However, arrivals from Singapore, South Korea and Thailand registered negative growths of 23.2 percent, 9.1 percent and 58 percent respectively.

The number of tourists from the European and American countries showed small growths.

Despite the increase in number of tourists, revenue has not been able to increase simultaneously, complain tourism entrepreneurs.

A total of 43,969 foreign tourists departed from TIA in July 2012. ■

## M O V I E R E V I E W

## Jism - 2



Indian storytellers are now breaking out of conventional shackles, while avid moviegoers are stepping into cinemas to view stories rarely attempted before.

JISM 2, an erotic thriller, is touted as the boldest film [in that segment] to hit the Hindi screen, but the question that crosses your mind is, does it boast of a captivating story as well? Do you carry the film and the characters in your heart once you exit the auditorium? Most importantly, do you reminisce about it? Does it have recall value? Or does one forget about it the moment the show concludes?

The star of the show is, without doubt, Sunny Leone. People are looking forward to watching JISM 2 for Sunny, erotica and a generous dose of skin show, in that order. In fact, a wide section of moviegoers might frequent the cineplexes to watch Sunny alone, but for another segment it could be erotica. As the reels unfold, you realize that Sunny delivers as an actor. Unfortunately, the script doesn't.

A porn star, Izna [Sunny Leone], is entrusted the responsibility of luring a dreaded assassin, Kabir [Randeep Hooda]. The people behind the task are two intelligence officers, Guru [Arif Zakaria] and Ayaan [Arunoday Singh], who need to recover some vital data from Kabir. Izna has to confront her bitter-sweet past, but the problem arises when Ayaan falls in love with her. She has to make a choice!

There's no denying that Pooja Bhatt has extracted an arresting performance from Sunny Leone. But the screenplay plays a complete spoilsport. This could've been a convincing take on obsession, vengeance and infidelity, but there's hardly any movement in the story. Plus, a few questions remain unanswered [How does Sunny get into the porn trade? When does Arunoday have a change of heart and fall in love with Sunny?]. Besides, the film is stretched without much reason in



its post-interval portions. Additionally, you don't have compassion for any of the characters, as the film draws to a close.

The music of JISM 2 is soothing and soulful. The emphasis is clearly on melody here. The cinematography is top notch. The DoP captures the lush green locales of Sri Lanka magnificently.

Despite Sunny and the hype adjoining her, Randeep enacts a pivotal character with aplomb. In fact, Randeep has lucratively carved a niche for himself, creating a space of his own with films like ONCE UPON A TIME IN MUMBAAI, SAHEB BIWIAUR GANGSTER and JANNAT 2. He pitches in another striking act in JISM 2. Arunoday tries hard, but is not convincing enough. Also, he is awfully awkward and ill at ease in sequences that require him to breakdown emotionally.

On the whole, JISM 2 has Sunny Leone as its USP, but the lackluster screenplay and the sluggish pace act as deterrents. However, Sunny Leone in the driver's seat, coupled with a generous dose of skin show and erotica, besides an attention-grabbing title, should act as a honey-trap to lure the audiences. But how one wishes this jism had soul as well!

## M O V I E P R E V I E W

## The Expendables 2

Genres: Action

Producer: Avi Lerner, Danny Lerner, Kevin King Templeton

Director: Simon West

Cast : Sylvester Stallone, Bruce Willis, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Dolph Lundgren, Jason Statham, Terry Crews, Jet Li, Chuck Norris

The Expendables are back and this time it's personal...The task looks like an easy paycheck for Barney and his band of old-school mercenaries. But when things go wrong and one of their own is viciously killed, the Expendables are compelled to seek revenge in hostile territory where the odds are stacked against them. Hell-bent on payback, the crew cuts a swath of destruction through opposing forces, wreaking havoc and shutting down an unexpected threat in the nick of time — six pounds of weapons-grade plutonium; enough to change the balance of power in the world. But that's nothing compared to the justice they serve against the villainous adversary who savagely murdered their brother.



## EkTha Tiger

Genres: Thriller/Romance

Producer: Aditya Chopra

Director: Kabir Khan

Cast : Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif, Kabita Ale

EkTha Tiger is a romantic thriller and tells the story of a Trinity

College scientist suspected of selling missile technology secrets to Pakistan.

Release Date: 15-Aug-2012 Length: 1 hour 30 minutes



# 10 tips for a healthy lifestyle

Sometimes it can feel as though eating a healthy diet, getting enough exercise and finding the time to find yourself is impossible. But learning to live a healthier lifestyle is easy when you change one small thing at a time. Follow Rosalind Ryan's advice and you'll soon be full of beans

## 1. Let it beet

It sounds bizarre, but beetroot could be a secret weapon against high blood pressure. The condition is a major cause of heart disease and stroke, but many people aren't aware they have it as it has no symptoms. Now, researchers from Barts and the London School of Medicine say drinking 500ml of beetroot juice could dramatically reduce blood pressure after just one hour. So drink up the pink stuff.

## 2. Think outside the box

Us lazy Brits will spend 17 years of our lives on the sofa, with seven years of that devoted to watching TV. Next time you hear yourself say, "I haven't got time to go to the gym" or you opt for ready meals because you're too busy to cook fresh food, think about switching off the box and doing something healthy instead.

## 3. Don't take the biscuit

It may be a good idea to steer clear of the biscuit tin before you go shopping. A team from the University of Singapore recently discovered that the smell of chocolate chip cookies could make women splurge on unnecessary clothes when they hit the shops. The smell activates the part of your brain that wants instant gratification, although that's no excuse for maxing out your credit cards.

## 4. Embracing good health

Giving your partner a hug doesn't just warm the heart, it can protect it too. A study by the University of North Carolina in 2005 found that hugging your other half for 20 seconds could lower blood pressure and reduce levels of the stress hormone cortisol. High levels of cortisol have been linked to heart disease and other conditions such as diabetes.

## 5. Pouring salt on the wound

We eat around 9.5g of salt a day, but the Government wants us to cut this to no more than 6g, as high levels of salt can push up your blood pressure, raising your risk of cardiovascular conditions. Many food labels only list salt as sodium however, but you can do a simple sum to work out their real salt content; just multiply by 2.5. So 0.8g of sodium becomes 2g of salt.

## 6. Sunny side up

Get outside in the sunshine for a natural boost. The sun's rays on the skin help your body produce vitamin D, which has been shown to fight heart disease, depression, osteoporosis and even some types of cancer. There's not a lot of sun around



at this time of year, so make the most of it when it does appear!

## 7. One is the magic number

One of the largest studies into diet and cancer – the Europe-wide EPIC study – found that eating just one extra portion of fruit and vegetables a day could cut your risk of dying early from any cause by 20 per cent.

## 8. Holding back the years

Add 14 years to your life by following four very easy principles; don't smoke, take regular exercise, drink sensibly and eat five portions of fruit and veg a day. These simple steps can have a huge impact on your life expectancy, say scientists from Cambridge University. If you only manage one thing, give up smoking as the study found this had the biggest impact on your health.

## 9. A step in the right direction

Previously, experts thought taking 10,000 steps a day was enough to control your weight, but a world-wide study has just established that women up to the age of 40 and men up to 50 need 12,000 steps a day to help shift that middle jiggle. Invest in a pedometer to make sure you're hitting your target.

## 10. Laughter is the best medicine

Become a glass-half-full person! Studies have found that those with a positive attitude suffer less from conditions such as heart disease. Find something to laugh at every day to give your feel-good hormones a boost.

(Courtesy: [www.independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk))

## WOMEN MIGRATION

# Wasted work

*Women's contribution to national remittance has increased as a large number of women are going abroad for work*

By DEBESH ADHIKARI

As the country has fallen deep into the spiral of political instability, the number of workers going abroad in the search of better opportunities has gone up by many folds in the recent years. According to the department of foreign employment, some 1228 Nepalis go abroad every day. Previously, only a few women used to go abroad for employment, but now the trend is rising rapidly.

The number of female workers abroad is expected to be around 5 to 6 lakhs. As the women use alternative routes and there is the lack of official documentation, it has become difficult to know the exact number Nepalese women working in foreign countries.

Remittances have become one of the main sources of the nation's economy. They constitute around 23 percent of the total GDP. In the total, the contribution of the female workers is going up every year. Despite their contribution, the work done by them is yet to get the needed attention and recognition.

The money that women migrant workers are remitting back to the nation is mainly used for the repayment of their debt, which, in several instances, they would have taken on a very high rate of interest. Otherwise, it goes to meet the immediate consumption need of their family members, rather than in investing in some productive sectors. Hence, despite all the hard work, women workers



are facing an uncertain future.

A majority of the women workers has no concrete plan for the future or for their old age as their earning is spent for immediate consumption. In such a scenario, the government should introduce some training and launch some schemes for women so that they can plan and save for the future and help use remittances in some productive sectors, say women right activists.

"Banks, the government and the whole economy have benefited from the contribution of women migrant workers. Now, they should bring schemes and give suggestions to women as they are the ones that are benefitting from remittances," said Sharu Joshi Shrestha, Program Specialist, UN Women.

Women are facing hard times, despite earning abroad, their lack of knowledge has added to their plight. Some are again returning towards foreign countries after consuming all the money they earned, in daily expenses.

"The investment I have made to work abroad will financially cripple my family if I'm unsuccessful. Once, I return, I plan to invest my earning in an office, buy a house and a car. I do not have much idea about investment possibilities and financial schemes, but would like to know where I can invest safely, so that I do not have to go for foreign employment again," said Geeta Thagimaya Khattri, a young migrant woman worker.

"Remittance also needs to be analyzed in a disaggregated manner especially in terms of impact and use of the remittance received from both men and women," according to Saru Joshi.

Remittances not only bring in economic benefits but also bring in various social benefits. "Remittances have mainly two aspects—economic and social. Women are bringing not only cash but also social remittance i.e. knowledge, skill, training and exposure. Many women have shared that foreign



Saru Joshi

employment has helped to expand their horizon of opportunities and capabilities," said Joshi.

But sadly, very few have been able to completely exploit the benefits and use it in their own nation in a productive manner.

A study conducted on "International Labour Migration of Nepalese Women: The Impact of Remittance on Poverty Reduction" by Dr. Chandra Bhadra some years back has already stated that women's remittance has been able to contribute in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially 1 (End poverty and hunger) and also contributing to Goal 2 (Universal education), 3 (Gender equality), 4 (Child health) and 5 (Maternal health), along with economic aspects.

But from the individual point of view they are not getting the benefits that they should actually get despite their contribution to the economy and society. Hence, the government should give proper attention to the causes of migrant female workers as they are leaving their family and their nation behind just for the sake of sustainability.

"I wonder if money is everything. How will I be able to compensate for all those years that I would lose being away from my husband and specially from my children who need me the most?," said Sabitri Devi Sivakoti, another migrant woman, who is among many who are forced to go to foreign employment.

The workers have also complaints that it's too expensive to send money to their relatives in Nepal and the government should make money transfer less expensive and encourage money transfer agencies for a broader reach. "I remitted home every three months through money transfer and the truncation cost me some NRs. 1,250 which I think is very high for us," said Bipana K.C. ■

# Nuke Issue Needs Better Handling

By AAGAT SHARMA

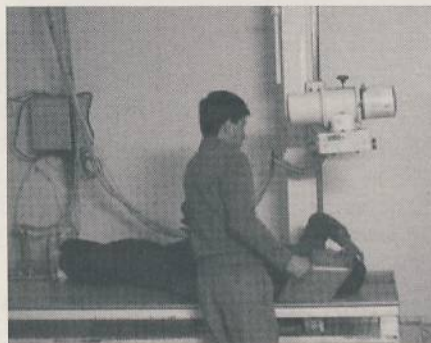
Nuclear technology has touched lives all around the world in many ways. From its role in providing energy to around 15 per cent of the world's population to its application in numerous medical procedures, nuclear technology finds a widespread use. In Nepal, the use of nuclear technology is almost exclusively confined to hospitals, to procedures like PET scans and radiation therapy. While it is positive to see Nepali hospitals using such modern techniques to diagnose and treat patients, it is also important that we be aware that nuclear medicine produces waste, which, if not handled and disposed of properly, can pose serious threat to those who come in contact with it.

There are many types of radiation, including alpha, beta, gamma, X-ray and positron. Radioactive substances produce these radiations naturally (X-rays are produced by atomic reactions), through naturally occurring events called "radioactive decay." How actively a material is 'decaying' is measured by a property called its 'activity.' The greater the 'activity' of a sample, the more radiation it is emitting. Some of these radiations have the capacity to penetrate the skin, reaching the organs protected within. When this happens, these radiations increase the chances of body cells mutating, which may lead to cancer.

Nuclear medicine makes use of radioactive material, which in many cases remains active even after it becomes no longer fit to be used on patients. Generally considered "low-level waste," this spent radioactive material can, however, pose risks for severe accidents. The Goiania accident is an example. In Goiania (Brazil) in 1985, after a radiotherapy unit was decommissioned, a device was left in the premises unattended. Radioactive scrap parts of this device were distributed around the locality, their 'glow in the dark' feature making them attractive. A few weeks later, locals started showing gastrointestinal symptoms due to irradiation. Lives were lost and many were contaminated. With the growing usage of nuclear medicine in hospitals, and without proper management of radioactive devices and units, it is not unlikely

that a similar situation will not arise in Nepal.

But as may be expected, the situation of management of nuclear waste in Nepal seems dismal. Since nuclear medicine is still in its raw stages



in Nepal, and given that Kathmandu is struggling to deal with even normal household garbage, it doesn't come as a surprise that matters of Nuclear Safety are unsystematic and mismanaged. Although it is mildly encouraging to see that Nepal is a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency and that it has signed the international "Joint Convention on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management," we still don't have a regulation board or commission to monitor and control Nuclear Safety. No official records are kept of the use of radioactive materials, while international regulation demands that a facilitated and detailed "log-book" be kept. Also, our government has no track of the number, scale or types of radiological facilities in the country. The lack of a national Act (concerning radiation) means that the international guidelines aren't strictly followed and this inevitably leads to the matter of nuclear safety being taken very loosely.

As such, it is important to raise awareness amongst the mass regarding radiation. As hospitals upgrade their equipment, introducing more complex machines for diagnosis and treatment, it is essential that the safety aspects of the technology are reviewed and monitored. If not, with a likely unchecked and uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear technology, the risk of a tragic nuclear accident will only increase. And clearly, our nation isn't in a position to afford many more problems.

of Education provided through National Society for Earthquake Technology.

"Nepal is vulnerable to natural disasters, and earthquakes pose a major threat to the large number of children studying at schools, the future generation of Nepal. I am pleased Australia is part of a collective donor effort to reduce the risk to Nepali school children," Mr. Marles said.

In FY2011-FY2014 the Department of Education is retrofitting 260 school buildings in the Kathmandu Valley and providing training in school safety best practices to around 4,000 teachers and 50,000 students. The initiative also includes conducting safety assessments; training of masons and engineers in safe school construction; and awareness raising among local communities. Disaster education is also an important element of the program.

Earlier this year AusAID provided AUD3.9 million in partnership with ADB who has also committed USD5 million for the School Safety program in Kathmandu Valley. AusAID is further providing USD500,000 technical assistance to support the capacity building to institutionalize building safe schools. This program is implemented as part of the School Sector Reform Program, a 5-year nationwide program to enhance access and quality of entire school education, which was initiated in FY2010 with the financial support of nine donors, including ADB and AusAID. ■

## Development Partners Laud Nepal Government's School Earthquake Safety Efforts

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the United Nations (UN) today praised the efforts of the Ministry of Education for promoting structurally safer schools and disaster risk education among children, teachers and local communities.

Led by Richard Marles, Member Parliament, Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the heads of the three organizations, representatives of the Government of Nepal and Lalitpur municipality jointly visited Tripadma Higher Secondary School, which was recently retrofitted against the risk of major earthquake. They also met students and teachers who have been trained for safe behavior during earthquake.

"Safe schools are critical, not only for children who rely on these structures to learn and develop, but also for society as schools are the doorway to development and social cohesion," said ADB Nepal Country Director Kenichi Yokoyama.

The school is one of the 15 schools that have been retrofitted in the last two years under ADB's technical support to the Department

# Neglected Illnesses



By **BUDDHA BASNYAT, MD**

TB, HIV, and malaria are well-recognized illnesses that have a great deal of funding as compared to illnesses like typhoid, typhus and leptospirosis. But the latter three cause a lot of problems in Nepal. In general these organisms (typhoid, typhus and leptospirosis) usually cause more problems in the summer than winter probably because they are able to better survive and flourish in the hot, humid, rainy weather. One of the reasons that these three illnesses are neglected is also probably because these illnesses are not often seen in the Western world unlike TB and HIV which are sometimes present together in the West. So this may be a case of "out of sight, out of mind". Malaria has been present for centuries especially in Africa and therefore has been in the limelight. Today we will focus on typhoid, the king of neglected illnesses.

Recently the prestigious medical journal "Nature" published the genomic sequence (decoding) of the organism which caused plague (Black Death) in the middle ages. The bacteria was reconstructed from the medieval plague victims. Genome sequencing of many organisms has happened rapidly, but has this "basic science" enhancement of our knowledge helped us in a practical sense?

Ten years ago genomic sequencing of the typhoid bacteria was carried out. Many scientists at that time wrote ecstatically about how this sequencing would lead to revolutionary changes in typhoid fever treatment. Sadly ten years hence we have made no obvious progress in taking care of our typhoid patients. The academic thrill of discovery did not translate to more effective patient outcome.

Because typhoid can affect anyone in Nepal (from highly-placed officials to high-altitude climbers to school children), we all continue to suffer from the lack of prompt, proper diagnosis and treatment for this ubiquitous disease despite a huge gain in theoretical knowledge. What happened?

After the laboratory scientists sequenced the typhoid bacteria they moved on to other "virgin territories" in sequencing. And because diseases like typhoid have no spokesperson or lobby groups and are considered biblical diseases generally confined to the developing world population, there is clearly no incentive to take advantage of the sequencing to, for example, make cost-effective, accurate diagnostic tools to help with patient care.

Compare typhoid fever with HIV disease which continues to make important gains in prevention and treatment. This favorable bias towards diseases like HIV is obvious in the funding pattern of the US National Institute of Health (NIH) and even the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

So it was indeed good news when a

new organization called the Coalition against Typhoid (CaT) pledged to help deal with this neglected disease. At the core of CaT's mission is a responsibility to provide a voice for the communities impacted by typhoid fever, to better define and increase awareness of the burden of typhoid at the global, regional and national levels, and to foster use of existing vaccines. CaT does not have a substantial operating budget but relies upon the collective, cooperative activities of its members to support its work plan.

Of course if we had clean drinking water and improved sanitation and plumbing, typhoid would disappear; but tremendous political will is required for this. In the meantime we need to increase awareness and have more effective diagnosis and treatment even to inhibit transmission of this common illness. ■

आफ्नो अधिकार प्रयोग  
गर्दा अरुको अधिकार प्रति  
सजग र सचेत हुनु  
असल नागरिकको  
कर्तव्य हो ।

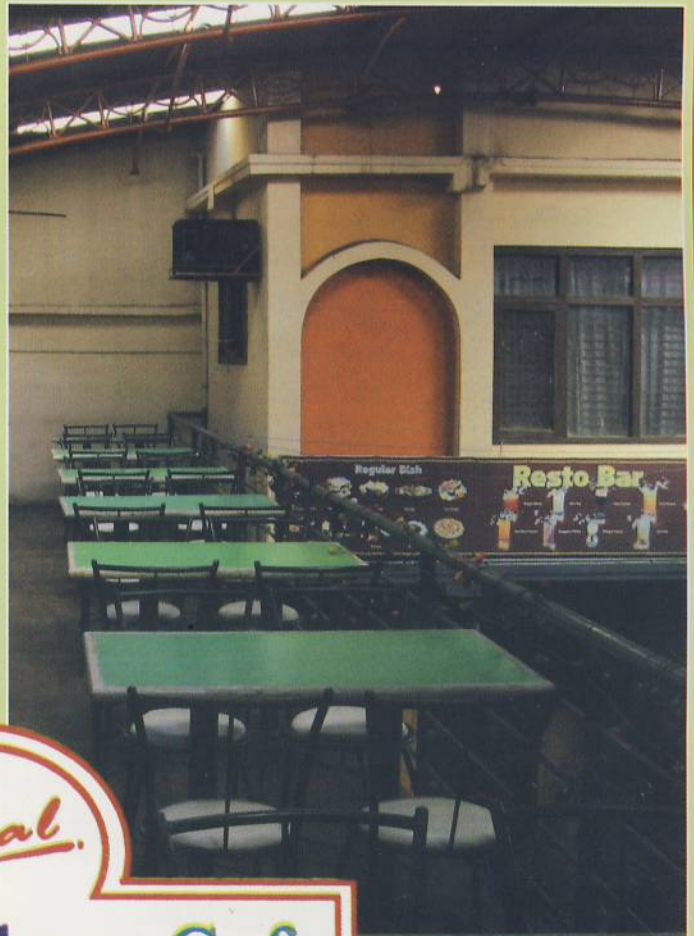


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## Unaccountable Rule

After holding a meeting with election commissioners, leaders of major political parties unanimously expressed their view that it is impossible to hold the election on November 23 in the existing political scenario.

The leaders of three major political parties Prachanda of UCPN-Maoist, Jhala Nath Khanal of CPN-UML, and Ram Chandra Poudel of Nepali Congress drew the conclusion that the election is impossible as scheduled for November.

The meeting between EC officials and top leaders of major political parties ended inconclusively as the leaders remained divided over...

### CURRENT ISSUE



Vol. 06 No. 04 July 27-2012 (Shrawan 12, 2069)

Past Issues

### MAIN HEADLINE

## Water Undercurrents

Reliable water and energy supplies are a sine qua non for any self-respecting country hoping to achieve economic prosperity. Unfortunately, in Nepal thanks to myopic political leadership within each major party that cannot think beyond the welfare of its coterie, both these sectors are in a dism...

By - Dipak Gyawali



### OTHER TOP STORIES

## "Budget Has Become A National Fairytale"

RAJENDRA KUMAR KHETAN is a well known industrialist of Nepal. Chairman of Khetan Group, Khetan has keenly watched the economic development of Nepal. Khetan spo...

By RAJENDRA KUMAR KHETAN



### NEWS UPDATE

ADB providing \$11 million to help prepare key water projects in Nepal.

Development Partners Laud Governments Earthquake Safety Efforts

A leadership deficit

## Prez Can Act As Nation's Conscience: Tripathi

DINESH TRIPATHI is a well known name in the legal sector. As an advocate, Tripathi has taken part in land mark constitutional issues at the Supreme Court. Tripathi, executive member of South Asian Human Rights Watch, spoke to NEW SPOTLIGHT on various issues.&nbs...



## Youths want better leaders, a better Nepal

I have been reminded several times, through experiences and encounters, that Nepal is a third-world country. Development is slow...



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