



# The KATHMANDU Post

Printed simultaneously in Kathmandu, Biratnagar and Bharatpur



Nadal to face Federer in Australian Open final Pg 8

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NKorea scraps pacts with South Pg 6

## Maoists for One-Madhesh Various-States policy

■ RENU KSHEREY

KATHMANDU, JAN. 30

While various Tarai based political parties are lobbying for 'One Madhesh, One Autonomous Province', Prime Minister and Chairman of Unified CPN (Maoist) Pushpa Kamal Dahal on Friday said the concept goes against Madheshi people and it does not fully represent the entire Madhesh.

"We will announce programmes shortly that will advocate 'One Madhesh-Various States' policy," a party source quoted Dahal as saying. "Rest assured that this will be for the benefit of all Madheshis." Dahal assured his party cadres on the second day of the two-day discussion held to draft the party's Madhesh policy to address Madheshi agendas.

The Maoist lawmaker requesting anonymity quoted Dahal as saying that party cadres would be mobilised for a mass campaign to unify scattered Madhesh groups to check the increasing

separatist forces active in the region.

On Thursday, three central Maoist leaders based in Tarai - Ram Rajan Yadav, Prabhu Shah and Krishna Dev Singh had presented working papers on Madhesh and external rela-

tions, the party's further guidelines to tackle Madhesh issues and inter-party problems regarding Madhesh respectively. Singh had mentioned 'One Madhesh-Five States' in his document.

Yadav said in his report that Madheshi Janadhikar Forum, Tarai-Madhesh Loktantrik Party, Nepal Sadbhavana Party

**"We will announce programmes that will advocate 'One Madhesh-Various States' policy."**

(Contd on Pg 3)



President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav poses for a group photo with participants of the nationwide Little Doctors Training Programme at his residence at Dhapasi on Friday.

POST PHOTO: LAXMI P NGAKHUSI

## Journalist threatened with death

KATHMANDU: An unidentified person has threatened Rajesh Verma, Siraha correspondent of Annapurna Post daily, to leave Siraha district within seven days or face death.

The person phoned Verma using India-registered cellphone (91624627533), according to president of the Federation of Nepali Journalists, Dharmendra Jha.

Verma has been covering news reports related to the murder of Dhanusha-based journalist Uma Singh. (PR)

## Jaleshwor sees no respite

POST REPORT

MAHOTTARI, JAN. 30

Clashes between locals and security personnel were reported in various parts of Jaleshwor, district headquarters of Mahottari on Friday despite the curfew imposed by the local administration.

Over a dozen persons, including some policemen were injured in clashes. Locals claimed that security personnel entered houses and beat up innocent people.

District Administration Office (DAO) of Mahottari had clamped indefinite curfew at Jaleshwor beginning Thursday evening after locals resorted to violence to protest the government decision to establish Integrated Service Centre at Bardibas.

Activists of Nepali Congress (NC) and Tarai Madhesh Loktantrik Party (TMLP) are also involved in the protest.

Market places, education institutions, transportation and offices at Jaleshwor have remained shut since the past two weeks due to the ongoing protest.

Meanwhile, life at Saptari, Morang, Bara, Parsa and Rautahat districts were also affected due to the protest launched by TMLP and NC against the government decision to establish a service centre at Bardibas of Mahottari district.

TMLP and NC activists staged protests in the four districts since early morning. Long and short dis-

Locals were agitated as they interpreted the government decision to establish the service centre at Bardibas as a plan to shift the district headquarters to Bardibas.

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TMLP and NC activists staged protests in the four districts since early morning. Long and short dis-

tance vehicles were brought to a grinding halt.

### Tarun Dal cadres burn Kantipur, Post, Saptahik

BIRGUNJ: Activists of Nepal Tarun Dal, sister organisation of Nepali Congress, burnt 12,000 copies each of *Kantipur*, *The Kathmandu Post* and *Saptahik* at Gandak Chowk of Birgunj in Parsa district, Friday.

Tarun Dal activists, who were protesting the government decision to establish Integrated Service Centre at Bardibas of Mahottari district, seized the papers from a bus and set them ablaze. The papers were being taken to Birgunj for distribution from *Kantipur*'s Chitwan-based regional office. Sunil Patel of Nepal Tarun Dal claimed responsibility for the arson.

## Govt to present 2009/10 budget in May

■ PRITHVI MAN SHRESTHA

KATHMANDU, JANUARY 30

The government has decided to present the budget for the next fiscal year 2009/10 in the second week of May. This is a break from the present tradition of presenting it in mid-July.

Rana Bahadur Shrestha, joint secretary at the Ministry of Finance (MoF), said this decision was made recently with the aim of starting development activities as early as possible.

According to him, the National Planning Commission (NPC), after discussion with the finance ministry sent letters to all ministries on

January 23 asking them to present budgetary requirements for their programmes by the end of February.

"There will be consultations on the proposed programmes and budgetary ceiling at the NPC from mid March till mid-April before finalising the budget," Shrestha, who is also the chief of budget division at the ministry said.

This is the second time the government is poised to introduce the budget before mid-July. Former Finance Minister Mahesh Acharya had once presented the fiscal policy about a decade and half ago according to finance ministry officials.

Given the delay in implementing the budget, which leads to sluggishness in construction activities, experts have been asking the government to present the budget before the ongoing fiscal year ends.

The main reason attributed to failure to optimally utilise the development budget this fiscal year has been the late release of the budget.

According to MoF, development spending decreased by 23 percent to Rs. 7.8 billion during the first six months of the current fiscal year against Rs. 10.28 billion during the same period last year. The

government aims to spend Rs. 124 billion in the development sector this year.

Shrestha said early presentation of the budget would open the door to begin administrative and actual work at the earliest.

"Entrepreneurs will also get time to make business plans in accordance with the new budget," he said. "This will enhance predictability in economic activities."

But, he made it clear that the timing of the fiscal year would not change and the ongoing budget allocated for development would be spent by the end of the current fiscal year.

### ORDINANCES SPARK CRITICISM

## Tyranny raising head: Koirala

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, JAN. 30

The Nepali Congress (NC) said on Friday that introduction of three ordinances -- Investment Board Ordinance, Ordinance to Declare Special Economic Zone and Public Service Ordinance -- was the Unified CPN (Maoist)-led coalition's "bid to impose totalitarianism".

On Wednesday, the Cabinet had also agreed to introduce separate ordinances on social reforms and Commission on Disappeared.

The introduction of the three ordinances is in violation of norms of parliamentary democracy, NC President and former Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala said in a statement read out by NC leader Prakash Sharan Mahat at a press meet in the party office in Balkhu.

Instead of tabling bills in the parliament, the government has promulgated ordinances to deal with crucial issues, Koirala pointed, calling for the withdrawal of the ordinances.

Koirala maintained the introduction of an ordinance for the formation of the Commission on Disappeared violated parliamentary norms.

"Political parties must engage in serious discussions on the issue of formation of the said commission," Koirala remarked.

He added that no democrat would accept moves that trample on human rights, promote the culture of impunity, weaken the rule of law and violate parliamentary norms.

"Though the government is aware of the need for consensus and adherence to democratic norms to draft a new constitution and bring about lasting peace, it has adopted totalitarian modus operandi. This will deepen the prevailing crisis."

The former prime minister requested people from different walks of life to save the nation from erroneous activities of the Maoists and urged the government to refrain from acts that undermine democracy.

Instead of maintaining law and order, the government has intensified overt or covert attacks on the free press and resorted to political interference in Pashupatinath, Koirala said.

"Instead of boosting the morale of the Nepal Army and mobilising it to defend national

interests, this government has demoralised the institution by triggering disputes," the statement reads.

NC Acting President Sushil Koirala said his party would reach out to people if the latter refused to rectify mistakes.

Meanwhile, CPN-UML

General Secretary Jhala Nath Khanal has termed the introduction of the ordinances the Maoists' "bid to impose dictatorship".

Speaking at a programme in Bharatpur on Friday, he said, "This act undermines the Legislature-Parliament."

## Mahara says no rollback

KATHMANDU: Terming the newly introduced ordinances

for the sake of protesting. But he dismissed speculations that the government was introducing more ordinances in coming days. "It is just a rumour," Mahara said.

The government had, on Wednesday, introduced Investment Board Ordinance, Ordinance to Declare Special Economic Zone and Public Service Ordinance.

Political parties have criticised the government for introducing ordinances just nine days after the prorogation of the Legislature-Parliament. They say the government act is in violation of parliamentary practice.

(PR)

### Int'l right groups express concern

KATHMANDU: Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) on Friday urged the government to submit the draft bills on Disappearances (Crime and Punishment); and Truth and Reconciliation to parliament and not implement them through ordinances.

The Cabinet meeting on Wednesday had agreed on principle to promulgate

an ordinance on a high level commission for disappearance.

In a statement, ICJ said adoption of such legislation should follow broad based national consultations and should fulfil Nepal's human rights obligations.

In separate joint statements, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said, when these ordinances are submitted to parliament for

approval, transparency and public participation in the legislative process would be ensured.

"The Nepalese government's decision to establish a Disappearances Commission and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission are steps toward ensuring accountability and bringing perpetrators to justice," said the joint statement.

"However, both draft bills currently fall short of internation-

al standards and contain serious flaws that would fatally compromise the credibility and effectiveness of the commissions once they are established."

They also said, "The bills should be amended to ensure that they are consistent with international law and that they deliver truth, justice, and reparations for victims and their families."

(PR)



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**NEWSLINE****Blast in Birgunj**

**PARSA:** Five people were injured when a bomb went off at Maisthan in Birgunj on Friday. The wounded are: Jaya Devi Turaha, Suraj Kumar Shah, Nek Mahamad, Bebi Khatun and Pragya Thakur. Talking to the media over phone, Madhesi Mukti Tiger's Parsa district in-charge Bhagat Singh owned up to the blast.

**JTMM-Rajan warns govt**

**JANAKPUR:** The Government has not followed the code of ethics agreed upon with Rajan Mukti faction of Janatantrik Tarai Mukti Morcha (JTMM), claimed a member of the outfit. Organizing a press meet on Friday in Janakpur, coordinator of the talks, Rajiv Jha, said that contrary to the promise made by the government earlier, police have severely beaten up cadres of his group. He also warned that if such incidents do not stop immediately, his group will be left with no alternative but to walk away from the talks.

**Aussie envoy returns**

**KATHMANDU:** Australian Ambassador to Nepal, Graeme Lade left Kathmandu today upon completion of his tour of duty in Nepal. Ambassador Lade was seen off by protocol officers of Foreign Ministry at Tribhuvan International Airport, according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Girl rescued from India**

**SARLAHI:** A girl from Shreenagar-5 of Sarlahi, who was kept as hostage in the house of an Indian criminal, was rescued by the Nepal police on Thursday. The girl aged 14 belonging to Muslim community was found at the house of an infamous Indian criminal, Jugal Thakur. She was taken to India some two months ago alluring with a good job, said the Sarlahi District Police. The girl will be handed over to her kin today, Police Inspector Lalbabu Saha said. She was rescued with the support from the Indian Police from Sonbarsha.

(PR/RSS)

# PLA to follow suit if NA recruits: PLA chief

**POST REPORT**  
KATHMANDU, JAN. 30

Commander of Maoist People's Liberation Army (PLA) Nanda Kishore Pun on Friday said PLA would also begin recruitment if NA doesn't stop its ongoing recruitment.

Referring to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and Agreement on the Monitoring of Management of Arms and Armies (AMMAA), he said, "The agreements apply to both Nepal Army and Maoist Army. If Nepal Army violates the agreement then there is no compulsion for us to respect it."

Pun said there should not be any recruitment of armies until the peace process is complete.

The PLA would go ahead with the recruitment to take it to 'full strength' of 32,000 since about 13,000 were disqualified by the United Nations Mission in Nepal, Pun said. During initial registration there were about 32,000 listed as Maoist combatants, but this figure came down to 19,602 after the second stage

of verification in 2007.

NA began recruiting some 2,800 personnel in November last year. This led Defence Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa to ask the army to stop recruitment until completion of the peace process. On December 31, NA furnished a clarification saying the move was within the confines of the peace agreement and Interim Constitution.

According to the CPA signed between the then Nepali Congress-led government and Maoists in November 2006, neither the Army nor PLA can recruit 'additional' troops. The Army has however gone on with the recruitment saying it is doing so only to fill vacant posts and is not adding to its strength.

Pun said NA should be under control of the government which has the people's mandate and under political parties. "The Chief of Army Staff should comply with the government's command without any condition," said Pun.

Pun also said NA is now run by another 'king'. He urged prominent political party leaders

not to make any public speeches against army integration since it might affect the peace process.

"Maoist combatants and NA cannot be compared at all," said Standing committee member of CPN-UML Bharat Mohan Adhikari, speaking at the same programme. He pointed out that since the green signal for NA's recruitment process was given by the former government, there should not be any controversy over it now. "NA has started the recruitment process by staying within the recruitment system and filling vacant positions, not swelling its ranks," said Adhikary.

Referring to Pun's comments on recruiting Maoist combatants, Nepali Congress leader Ramesh Lekhak said the CPA has clearly referred to the Maoist army as 'combatants' and that is basically different from an army.

"The Maoist-led government should read the Interim Constitution and the country's laws carefully," said Lekhak. "The country does not run on the whim of a defence minister or some other person."



President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav with Sri Lanka's Envoy Thosapala Hewage after receiving credentials from the latter at his office on Friday. South African Envoy Buyisiwe Maureen Photo and Brazilian Envoy Marco Antonio Diniz Brandao also presented credentials.

POST PHOTO: LAXMI PD NGAKHUSI

## No involvement in Joshi's murder, says Labour Minister Bhatta

**POST REPORT**  
MAHENDRANAGAR, JAN. 30

Minister for Labour and Transport Management Lekh Raj Bhatta has said that he has no connection with the murder of Dhangadhi-based journalist Jagat Prasad Joshi.

Speaking at a press meet in Mahendranagar of Kanchanpur district on Friday, Minister Bhatta said that he is ready to face any legal consequences if he is found guilty in the murder.

He also said that with the investigations still in progress, there is no point in putting the blame on the Maoists or anyone else, for that matter.

Family members of the slain journalist has claimed there is a Maoist connection in the murder. The fact-finding mission of Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) formed to investigate the murder of journalist Joshi too suspects that Maoists are involved in the case. The government has formed a separate panel to probe Joshi's murder.

On Dec. 2, people from various rights organizations, journalists and police had recovered Joshi's remains from a community forest at Malakheti VDC-3 in Kailali, two months after his disappearance.

## CA members split over province formation Step up Tarai security: PM

**POST REPORT**  
KATHMANDU, JAN. 30

Constituent Assembly (CA) members from different parties presented differing views on the issue of formation of provinces on Friday.

Speaking at a meeting of the Committee on State Restructuring and Sharing of State Powers, leftist CA members said ethnic and cultural identities should be the main bases for dividing the country into provinces, while Nepali Congress maintained that provinces should not be formed on the bases of ethnicity and cultural identity alone.

Bishnu Bhakta Dulal of the United CPN (Maoist) argued that the country was going federal due to ethnic, linguistic, and regional oppression. He said the federation would be meaning-

less unless ethnic, linguistic and regional problems were addressed.

Mangal Siddhi Manandhar of the CPN-UML said ethnicity should be the basis for the formation of provinces.

Gopal Man Shrestha of the Nepali Congress differed. Together with language and ethnicity, other factors should also count, he said. Shrestha said his party would gauge public opinion before coming up with its official view on the delineation of provinces.

Madheshi lawmakers said fresh census should be conducted before forming provinces. Ramjanam Chaudhary of the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum and Anil Jha of the Sadbhavana Party said fresh census should be conducted before forming provinces.

**KATHMANDU:** Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal on Friday directed chiefs of security agencies to step up security in the Tarai region.

During a meeting at the Prime Minister's official residence in Baluwatar, the head of the government said he wanted the security chiefs to implement security pledges that he made during his recent address to the nation. According to sources, Dahal ordered the chiefs to make all-out efforts to ensure security to people in the Tarai and keep tabs on criminal outfits operating there, sources said.

Inspector General of Police Hem Gurung termed the meeting 'regular', adding it was arranged with the objective of presenting security reports to the head of the government. "The meeting dwelt on current security situation in the country," Gurung said. (PR)

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**News****Call to team up for statute****POST REPORT**  
KATHMANDU, JAN. 30

Constitutional experts have opined that political parties represented at the Constituent Assembly should forge minimum agreement on certain constitutional principles before moving ahead with the constitution-making process.

"If an agreement is reached on certain principles of the new constitution, it will greatly facilitate the constitution-making process," said constitutional expert Surya Prasad Dhungel at an interaction held by the Constitutional Committee on Friday.

He said parliament can pass a resolution in this regard if CA members forge an agreement. Dhungel also suggested incorporating a provision for a constitutional court in the new constitution to monitor implementation of constitutional provisions. He stressed the need for separation of power in the new constitution, but cautioned that such constitutional provisions should not disable government organs. Krishna Belbase stressed the need of check and balances in the new constitution so that rulers would not turn tyrannical.

Kashi Raj Dahal said the government should impose restrictions on registration of parties.



Young Newar girls participate in the traditional Bel-Bibaha ceremony at Basantapur, Kathmandu on Friday. Two-hundred girls took part in the ritual organised to mark the 10th anniversary of Kathmandu Cleaning Club.

POST PHOTO - BHIM GHIMIRE

**MJF stands firm on single Madhesh state: Yadav****POST REPORT**  
LAHAN, JAN. 30

Minister for Foreign Affairs Upendra Yadav has said that his party Madheshi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) is struggling for the rights of Tarai people in the government, House and streets-all at the same time.

The mode of our struggle has changed but we are still fighting for an autonomous Tarai state and the rights of Madheshi people," Minister Yadav said while addressing the national gathering of Nepal Madheshi Civil Servants Forum at Lahan of Siraha district, Friday.

He said that MJF had joined the coalition government to guarantee the implementation of the past agreements between the Madheshi parties and the then government.

Minister Yadav, also the chairman of MJF, said that

his party will pull back from the government and launch a decisive movement if the government did not implement the agreements reached with the Madheshi parties.

Education Minister Renu Yadav said that the demand for a single Tarai state has to be fulfilled at all costs or else the MJF will withdraw from the coalition government and launch a very strong stir. (PR)

**NPU passes declaration**

KATHMANDU: Nepal Press Union (NPU) on Friday passed a 12-point declaration for the welfare of working journalists. The two-day conference of NPU held in far-western Nepal passed the declaration.

The declaration states that government run media should be brought under the parliament committee, immediate initiatives should be taken to end attacks on media houses and bring to book culprits who committed atrocities against journalists, among other things. (PR)

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**Vacancy Announcement**

Caritas Nepal, a national non-profit making social organization invites application from Nepali Citizens to fill in the post of a Receptionist in its Kathmandu based Central Office.

**Qualification and experiences required:**

- Completion of Bachelor's Degree.
- Minimum 2 years of working experience in similar field of work.
- Should possess excellent and effective verbal and listening communication skills.
- Computer skills including ability to use spread sheet and word processing programs at a highly proficient level.
- Should be able to maintain general filing system.
- Should possess stress and time management skills.
- Required to maintain comprehensive knowledge of the work of an organization; provide information, referrals and follow-up.
- Should be able to demonstrate sound work ethics.

Candidates meeting the above qualifications can apply by submitting a C.V., recent pp sized photograph and names of two referees to: Caritas Nepal, G.P.O.Box No. 9571, Kathmandu, Nepal, no later than February 10, 2009. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview.

**No telephone queries will be entertained. Decision of Caritas Nepal will be final. Women are encouraged to apply.**

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**Rural Baglung enjoy 24-hr power supply****LAL PRASAD SHARMA**

BAGLUNG, JAN. 30

At a time when rest of the country is reeling under prolonged load shedding hours, over three dozen remote VDCs in Baglung district are enjoying uninterrupted round the clock power supply.

Most of these VDCs have partial or no link at all with the national grid, but thanks to the help from various modes of power generation such as micro hydro electricity projects, solar panels and pelvic sets, folks in the entire area never have to worry about power cuts.

Locals at Tara VDC, located some 33 km west from the district headquarters, was the first to introduce micro hydro electricity project in Baglung district some 14 years ago by setting up a five megawatt plant on the nearby

Tara River. Over the course of years, micro hydro electricity projects have thrived in the VDC. At present, there are 23 micro hydels in operation within Tara VDC alone.

These micro hydro electricity projects are not only powering the houses at Tara VDC, the locals are also running furniture industry, mills, telephone, photocopy and computer services with the power being generated.

"There is no power outage in our village," Chiran Rokka says. "Each household donated Rs. 5000 to Rs. 15000 to power the VDC."

Besides Tara VDC, many other rural VDCs in Baglung district have also harnessed their local rivers and solar energy to generate electricity.

Alternative Energy Promotion Center, Rural Energy Development

Program, District Energy and Environment Center and Dhaulagiri Community Resource Development Center are helping the rural VDCs in Baglung to generate power at the community level.

There are around 55,000 households in the whole of Baglung district. Of them, some 30,000 households are said to be powered under the national grid, micro hydro projects, pelvic system and solar energy combination.

Shambhu Raj Kandel, engineer at Dhaulagiri Community Resource Development Center, claims that if micro hydro electricity projects and other alternative energy development programmes are implemented in Baglung at the current pace the entire district will be lit up within a matter of two years.

**One-hour traffic halt****POST REPORT**  
KATHMANDU, JAN. 30

KATHMANDU: Students studying Health Assistant (HA) course on Friday obstructed vehicular movement for one hour in front of Ministry of Education (MoE), demanding they should be made eligible to get enrolled in MBBS level straight away.

Speaking to The Post, coordinator of Health Assistant Concern Forum (HACF), Tulashi Ram Adhikari said that their demands include they should be enabled to get enrolled in MBBS level without hurdles, support for opening pharmacy outlets and guarantee of job in government run hospitals as per their qualifications. There are over 31 institutes operating with the permission of Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) across the country and about 300 HAs pass out every year. (PR)

Bhairahawa and Nepalganj road-Nepalganj as per a previous agreement. The ICPs at major transit points will have state-of-the-art infrastructure facilitating integrated customs and immigration for smooth cross-border movement of people and goods, according to a statement of the

Embassy of India. The ICPs at Raxaul and Birgunj will be established under Phase-I since two-thirds of the total trade between Nepal and India takes place through this point and ICPs will be set up at the remaining three border points under Phase-II, the statement adds.

**Boost for border post plan****POST REPORT**  
KATHMANDU, JAN. 30

The government of Nepal and India on Thursday decided to speed up work to set up Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) on both sides of the border at four major transit points --Raxaul-Birgunj, Jogbanil-Biratnagar, Sunauli-

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT** United Nations Human Rights  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Nepal was established in May 2005, following the signature of an agreement with the Government of Nepal. The Office has a mandate to monitor the observance of human rights with a view to advising the authorities of Nepal on the formulation and implementation of policies, programmes and measures for the promotion and protection of human rights in Nepal. The office is seeking to fill the following position:

**IT Assistant, G-5: Kathmandu**

Based in Kathmandu under the direct supervision of IT Officer, the incumbent will perform the following main functions: Assist in performing software distribution updates, scripting, testing and support; Troubleshoot, clean and repair/rebuild equipment; Assist in routine installation, configuration and testing of server hardware and software, including LAN, Operating Systems, Lotus Notes, Database systems and various security software; Implement backups of servers following standard backup procedures. Perform other duties as required.

**Qualifications and other desirable skills for the positions:** Completion of High School or equivalent diploma.

A minimum of 5 years of progressively responsible information technology field. Ability to plan own work, manage priorities to meet deadlines and work under pressure. Good communication (spoken and written) skills including the ability to understand and carry out instructions and communicate in the same language. Good computer skills, including proficiency in word processing, spreadsheets and relevant software packages. Good interpersonal skills. Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals. Ability to maintain effective working relationship with partners, and work in multi-cultural environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity. Fluency in oral and written English and Nepali is essential; Experience in Information Technology and knowledge of UN procedures are assets.

Candidates are requested to complete a UN Personal History form available either at UN offices throughout the country or the OHCHR's webpage <http://nepal.ohchr.org>. The deadline for applications is 10 February 2009. All applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their applications by email mentioning the vacancy title, at [pnp@ohchr.org](mailto:pnp@ohchr.org) or mail it to Personnel Officer - OHCHR - Nepal P.O. Box 24555, Kathmandu, Nepal.

**Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Women, indigenous and disadvantaged candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.**

**Call for Experienced Consultants for A Joint Evaluation of Koshi Flood Response Projects Implemented by Oxfam and CARE Nepal**

Organisations	: Oxfam and Care Nepal
Assignment	: Evaluation (Short Term Contract/Consultancy)
Duration & Period	: 12 days in February 2009 (16 – 27 February 2009)
Location	: Nepal
Number of Consultant	: Two (one man and one woman).

One will be a lead evaluator and the second one will be a co-evaluator (to be decided by the recruitment panel based on the experience and qualifications of the applicants).

Oxfam and Care Nepal supported by the European Commission through its Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) are currently implementing Koshi Flood Response projects in Saptari District through local partners and NGO volunteers directly covering approximately 6,000 families (approximately 30,000 people). The broad objective of this Evaluation is to assess the effectiveness of these Actions in achieving the stated Objectives and Results as well as to assess the effectiveness of the 'Cluster Approach' in Saptari District.

**Consultant(s) who is qualified and interested in carrying out this assignment should:**

- Be experienced in undertaking evaluations of disaster response/preparedness projects with experience and knowledge of DRR concepts and approaches.
- Have proven experience and expertise in disaster management with emphasis on response and community based disaster preparedness.
- Have understanding of the local context related to flood disasters in the Terai region of Nepal and the main response actors (UN, INGO and Government).
- Have excellent English and Nepali verbal and writing skills.
- Have experience in managing ECHO projects and contracts.
- Have experience in participatory evaluation methodologies and inclusive approaches with regard to gender, caste and ethnicity.
- Desirable skills include:-
- Knowledge and understanding of local languages used in Saptari & Sunsari districts.
- Experience in working in the Terai region of Nepal
- Knowledge of gender issues in emergency response

The detailed TORs can be obtained upon request to [oxnepal@oxnepal.org.uk](mailto:oxnepal@oxnepal.org.uk) and/or [care@carenepal.org](mailto:care@carenepal.org)

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**Maoist for one...**

Contd from Pg 1

According to the lawmaker, answering the criticism leveled by Madheshi leaders on the party's inadequate policy with regard to including Madheshi-based leaders in higher positions in the party, Dahal said the party has no intention of taking action against politburo member Matrika Yadav, who had on Jan. 11 announced he would form a separate party.

According to the party source, Dahal said Yadav should clear up misunderstandings within the party. "We even initiated talks to bring in Upendra Yadav and Jai Krishna Goit to the party fold but could not reach agreement on their stances on India," Dahal said.

Dahal also appealed to all Madhesis and other groups to protest against political parties who are against those ordinances that aim to effect affirmative action measures to boost Madheshi, Janajati, Dalit and marginalised groups' presence in civil service.



## 4 Editorial



## We are here too

The state is once again ignoring the assertions of identity across the nation

This trend has become familiar through repetition since the start of the peace process: Consensus between the major political parties breaks down, and for months all the effort expended is towards regaining consensus. The centre doesn't have energy to spare to address other burning political matters, and the various marginalised groups asserting their rights grow increasingly resentful towards the state. The tumult and ferment of this assertion goes unnoticed in Kathmandu. When relations between the major parties have temporarily been repaired, they finally turn around to address issues of identity politics. But by then the ground has shifted, the identity movements have become more intense, more fragmented and more difficult to manage.

This happened during the period between the Jana Andolan of April 2006 and the Madheshi movement of January 2007. Too busy negotiating the modalities of the Maoists' entry into the parliamentary structure, the nation was taken by surprise with the depth of Madhesi grievances. And this had hardly been addressed when the Maoists pulled out of government in September 2007. Then all efforts were focused on renegotiating their re-entry and Madhesi was forgotten. Meanwhile, anger towards the state increased, and, immediately after a compromise was finally reached with the Maoists in December 2007, the Madhesi revolt started again. This was temporarily resolved in February 2008, just in time for the elections. But both times the state's response was inadequate and only increased the fury of Madhesis and other marginalised groups, and convinced them that violent revolt was the only method to get Kathmandu to listen to them.

Things were supposed to be different after the elections. All matters regarding inclusion of marginalised groups and federalism were meant to be openly debated in the Constituent Assembly (CA). This, it was hoped, would shift the energies of the various ethnic movements from the streets to the CA. The various politically assertive groups would find compromise with all other sections of the Nepali nation in the assembly. But this has not come to pass. Rather, the current period is reminiscent of previous periods in the peace process. All political attention is focused on the rifts between the major political actors. The CA is making some progress, but without the full participation of all political forces, appears something of a sideshow. All issues regarding respect and dignity for the rights of all social groups have been pushed to the shadows. But political activity in the districts has not, while waiting for Kathmandu to sort out its troubles, come to a halt. Frustration and resentment has increased. Various groups have fragmented or come together. Various agitations are ongoing. To mention only incidents that have taken place in the past few days: The Tharuhat Autonomous State Council has mobilised armed militants in Dang to take over soil, water and forest resources. There is an indefinite curfew in Jaleshwor, Mahottari where protesters had attacked government establishments, police posts and the offices of political parties.

This state of affairs is unlikely to change unless the centre begins prolonged engagement with the districts, improves law and order, and above all, is able to demonstrate its commitment to address the demand for rights of all of Nepal's social groups.

## Marital dispute

**SAMIR PRASAD TIMALSINA**

We can safely say that there are no relationships that never have to face quarrels, arguments at one point or other unless one of the partners is unusually acquiescent and pacific, and willing to completely subdue her or his personality to the demand of the other. Marriages are often fraught with altercations. After all, when two individuals, usually from totally different backgrounds, are thrown together to live in close intimacy, there are bound to arise situations where there is discord.

Disputes can do much damage to the relationship. Constant bickering and quarrels can eventually stem all affection between the couple, leading to a cold war, or worse still, a separation or divorce. This discord between husband and wife can strain the atmosphere in the house severely and cause grave psychological damage to the children.

**POST PLATFORM** Such enforced docility is harmful. It breeds bitterness and antipathy in the bullied person toward the stronger spouse.

In short, to ensure that the fight does not cause irreparable damage to the fabric of the marriage one should follow the rules of win-win situation. This can only happen if you are willing to accept that your spouse is not your foe or antagonistic.

When you find yourself fighting with your spouse over something, remember that the result of the argument should not mean that one of you should win or lose. The ideal end of every spat should be win-win situation, with both of you feeling that you have made your point and have not been humiliated or disgraced.

What is most important is that we have to be able to forget about each other's past. Most of us have a little black book in which we write down meticulously all the wrongs our spouses have committed over the past years. When we get into the quarrel we dredge up old grievances and try to settle scores.

To avoid this, stick to the present only and let the past be buried.

Lastly, it is necessary for your children to see their parents "making up" after the fight and becoming loving and warm toward each other again. It means you should try to remain calm after the storm. Forgetting each other in the marital life is the best way to avert quarrel and be happy forever.

## The house of Garcia Lorca

Our inability and our reluctance to preserve and share the spares of the great writers and poets and artists of Nepal gives the impression that we have less than we do



**SUSHMA JOSHI**

I'll be honest with you. The only reason I heard about Spanish poet Frederico Garcia Lorca is because a favorite song of mine is inspired by him. "Take this waltz," by Canadian singer Leonard Cohen, I learnt, was based on Garcia Lorca's poetry. Singer-songwriter Cohen spent twelve or thirteen tours writing out the lyrics after reading a Lorca poem. Not only did Cohen write songs inspired by Lorca, he even named his daughter after him.

Who was this Lorca who had inspired a man whose songs draw reverent crowds in college campuses all over North America? Cohen is an iconoclast -- an intellectual who does several things at once, and all with perfect grace. He writes novels and poetry, he composes songs, he plays music, and he sings. After touring the house of Garcia Lorca, I understood why Cohen had been inspired. For like Cohen, his spiritual guru Lorca was also a Renaissance man, an artist who drew, wrote poetry and plays, and who directed theatre. Unlike many contemporary artists, who are often boxed into one genre or another, these folks were free to move from one media to another, understanding that there are no boundaries for expression, and for an artist all forms of creation is fair game. Lorca was also lucky -- unlike many artists who do many things and are condemned for it in times and places that don't understand them, he was born in a place and time in which a poet could also paint, and a painter could also write poetry. Granada in the twenties was a hotbed of creative activity, and it was clear Lorca was at the center of it.

I am determined to see Lorca's summer home in Granada. But each time I go, it is closed. A group of feral cats congregate outside, being fed by a kind young man who explains to me that the house is only open at specific times, and I should return at the right time. The next morning, I get up early

and walk there. And this time, it's open. "You're lucky," the museum assistant told me, as I showed up early morning to see the house. "This house is meant to be seen in the sunlight." And sure enough the sun poured in through the windows, highlighting the simple living room which still contains the original furniture when the Garcia Lorca family had used it as a summer home. Paintings done by obscure artists hung on the walls. Who is the artist, I ask. Oh, a friend of the family, the assistant dismisses. Not important. And yet, despite his obscure status, the painter had inspired the young Lorca.

I see a small framed painting in a corner which has many signatures. The drawing, explains the museum assistant, has been done by Lorca for a fellow artist, and everybody else has signed it. This sign of a vibrant artistic community which drew upon and thrived upon each others creative work reminded me again that art is a communal activity, and there is no person who is not inspired by his context.

Upstairs, where the parents' bedroom used to be, I see small notebook pages with his magical, playful and

**THE GLOBAL AND THE LOCAL**

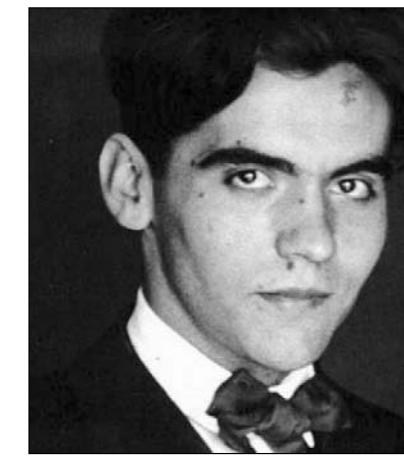
sparse drawings. Lorca's special signature, in which he plays with the letters of his own name, interweaving it with weeping suns, vines and faces in profile, is now found everywhere, from fridge magnets to t-shirts. The figures have something about the naive folk art about them, but also the sense of play with profiles which would inspire another Spanish born genius, Picasso.

Lorca's bedroom is small and simple -- there is a small iron frame bed with a picture of a Mary above it. There is a big desk and above it is the poster of his theatre troupe. On the walls are paintings done by local artists. "This is it?" I say. The museum assistant smiles at my astonishment. "This is it." The window looks out into the green trees which provided the restful atmosphere so important to an artist's creativity.

Most of Lorca's plays were written on this same desk.

After reading Lorca's poems in the hills of Southern Spain, I saw a spec-

tacular dream in which thousands of birds took flight into the sunset. Either there is something in the olive oil, or else there is some magic element in Southern Spain that heightens the emotions to extremes, making joy and sorrow feel so much more intense than at other places. Perhaps it is the background of Arabic history which spins poetry from stone and water in the background -- the Alhambra, an old palace left by Moorish kings, is an ever present reminder that Spain is a mixed



place, where the sounds of Arabic music still resounds in the voices of children humming songs.

Lorca was one of the first people to popularize the then dying art of flamenco by holding a public competition in Granada. A photograph of his sister, dressed up in the flamenco outfit, hangs in one corner. Now, flamenco enjoys a popular revival on international stages and in theatre halls. Lorca also believed that classical theatre should be enjoyed by all people, and to this end he took touring troupes which performed radically modern interpretations of classical plays to rural areas of Spain. This work was funded by the Second Republic's Ministry of Education.

On 19th August, 1936, Garcia Lorca was shot by the Nationalists, who had started a mass campaign to eliminate all supporters of the Republic. Some believe his sexuality -- Lorca was homosexual -- may have played a part in his killing. In a remarkable instance of clairvoyance, Lorca wrote: "Then I realised I had been murdered. They looked for me in cafes, cemeteries and

churches .... but they did not find me. They never found me? No. They never found me."

Walking through the house of Lorca reminded me again how important it is to preserve the physical spaces where artists lived and worked. In Vermont, I had walked through the home of another poet, Robert Frost. Frost's "Stopping by woods on a snowy evening" was a poem I had to memorize as a child. Walking through his small cabin in the woods, seeing the old books on his bookshelves, seeing the kitchen with the sugar cans with the Sixties label still on it, and the markings on the bulky fridge, all of that was a truly incomparable experience. It was clear to all of us impressionable writer types walking through the cabin that the ghost of Robert Frost watched us as we walked through his bedroom. In the kitchen, I lifted up the telephone and said: "hello?" And was that a raspy breath I heard down the telephone? Later that evening, we sat in a circle and one woman produced a recording of Frost's voice. The sixty second recording brought home again how art lives on, even when the artist dies.

It is not that Nepal doesn't have great writers or artists in its history. No, it seems more that our inability, and our reluctance, to preserve and share the spares of the great writers and poets and artists of Nepal is what gives the impression that we have less than we do. Witness, for instance, the solid sculpture of Bhanubhakta Acharya which graces the Chaurastha plaza in Darjeeling. As a Nepali, I felt proud to see the image -- unfortunately, I have to cross the border to India to see it.

A while back, I met a woman who shared with me a plan to restore and renovate Balkrishna Sama's home, and make it financially viable as a cultural institution. It appears to me that we need more of these ventures and initiatives, not just from individuals but also the government which should put aside politics in a major campaign to preserve and revive cultural and artistic endeavours. The French and the Spanish keep all their artwork and their entire heritage, whichever end of the political spectrum the works were inspired by. It's about time we started to do the same.

## Lost in transition

The peace process hit rough weather immediately after the CA elections when differences between the NC and the Maoists grew

**AMRESH SINGH**

**A**s someone who has been involved in the peace process from the beginning, I say this with a heavy heart that Nepal's peace process is in danger like never before. The peace process started between mainly two actors -- the Nepali Congress (NC) leading the democratic forces and the CPN (Maoist) leading the armed rebellion -- with the support of the international community. The peace process was essentially a compromise between these two players, not a transformation of one force into another. After Gyandendra's takeover, the NC was struggling to restore democracy, whereas the Maoists were looking for a safe landing after years of armed struggle. Their goals converged in the 12-point peace agreement, and a written compromise was signed.

The deal was that the NC would accept a democratic federal republic and the Maoists would abide by the principles of multi-party democracy. While the formation of a coalition for the 2006 April movement was considered the starting point of the peace process, its conclusion was envisaged as the integration of the Maoist army and the drafting of a democratic constitution. The peace process started with the victory of the April Movement, and the successful holding of the Constituent Assembly elections took it to the next stage, opening the door for drafting a new constitution. But as we are approaching the final stage, the peace process has been deadlocked.

The peace process hit rough weather immediately after the CA elections when differences between the NC and the Maoists grew. Intoxicated by their unexpected win, the Maoists forgot all about their past understandings. The peace process was really jeopardized when Prachanda surrendered to hard-

liners at the party's recent national convention in Kharipati. Baburam Bhattarai's silence made it worse; he has chosen to keep quiet even though hardliners have taken control over the party. Harmony between Prachanda and Bhattarai has always been crucial in shaping the peace process. But presently, the distance between them

process. Continuous discrepancies between Maoist words and actions also made them more suspect. The new nexus between royalists and Maoist hardliners aided by some foreign powers looking for a new ally also increased distrust of Maoist intentions. Statements like going for an armed revolt or capturing power by force only

On the other side, hardliners of the Unified CPN (Maoist) who opposed the peace process calling it a trap have taken charge. Confrontations with the media, religious structures and the army are not coincidences but well thought out strategies of the hardliners to weaken any structure that could possibly be an obstacle to their consolidating power. In the bureaucracy, the Maoists have replaced competent people by loyalists.

The international community including India are not happy at the Maoists' constant bad behaviour. They are also worried about Nepal's democratic future. After the CA elections, Prachanda had two choices: adhere to democratic principles and lead the peace process or cave in to party hardliners and jeopardize the process. By choosing the second option, Prachanda has secured his position in the party for now, but he has hurt the peace process. In such a situation, completing the most important part of the peace process -- integration of the Maoist army -- is difficult. Maoist hardliners want group entry of their rebel soldiers into the Nepal Army. But the democratic forces in the country and the international community will not accept it.

If the peace process falls apart, Nepal's future as a country will be endangered. The Maoists and the NC are confronting each other at a crucial phase in the peace process when management of the former combatants has to be dealt with. The peace process has come under threat many times in the past, but mostly from external quarters. However, the two protagonists stood firm; and the peace process moved forward despite many ups and downs. But now, with one of them moving in the opposite direction, survival of the peace process looks extremely difficult. It is an alarming prospect.



has grown, thereby threatening the entire peace process.

Due to these factors, the two partners of the peace process, the NC and the Maoists, have gone into confrontation mode. In the NC, forces that were against the peace process are gaining prominence. The voices of the people who thought that an alliance with the Maoists would be destructive for the party have grown louder. The people who initiated and were involved in the peace process are being marginalized.

**Opinion**

# Winter flagbearers

JNU holds its multi-national food festival in the midst of a Delhi winter that is not very cold



DINESH WAGLE

The hottest news in Delhi is the absence of cold. "Who stole Delhi's winter?" asked the *Times of India* the other day and went on to conclude that "winter has cheated Delhiites this season."

It was widely reported in December that the month entered record books as the second warmest in 108 years. January -- traditionally the coldest month in Delhi -- too has been freakishly warm with as many as 20 days out of 28 having recorded above average minimum temperatures, wrote the paper. The average minimum temperature of the Indian capital for the first 28 days of January was 8.9 degrees celsius.

Before I came to Delhi almost three months ago people had warned me in Kathmandu about the extreme weather conditions in the Indian capital. "Flying crows fall on the ground in summer heat," one well-wisher had cautioned me. "And people die because of cold. Delhi has a very different kind of cold: treacherous and dangerous."

I didn't want to take any chances. After all, I was coming to Delhi to write, among other things, about cold not to die from it. I stuffed all of my warm clothes into my suitcase, including the down jacket that had kept me very warm at Kangla Pass in Manang, which stands at 5200 metres above sea level. The weight of the luggage exceeded the limit but the guys at Druk Air were kind enough not to charge me for the excess. With my jackets and sweaters neatly put inside the wardrobe in my Delhi apartment, I patiently waited for the cold. I wanted to face it.

"So how's the cold in Delhi?" friends in Kathmandu asked in some of those chat sessions on Gtalk.

"Well, it's not very cold, but it might yet become terrible as the winter isn't completely over yet," I kept replying throughout the months of December and January.

"Bring your jackets," I instructed some of my colleagues who were coming to Delhi. "It's not very cold at the moment but you never know." The cold here is treacherous, I lectured.

At the beginning of January I took out the down jacket and inspected it for several minutes. I will need your service soon, I told the jacket and, for a second or two, I thought of putting it on right away. But it was still warm. The cold worthy of wearing a down jacket never came. (Or, at least, hasn't come yet.) I wonder whether I am not feeling very cold because I come from the Himalayan republic. But it seems I am not the only one to wonder about the absence of cold in Delhi. "The notorious Delhi chill has been absent, except for a brief spell of four-five days, leaving the city residents wondering whether their heavy woolens would be needed at all this year," noted the *Times of India*.

Winter is the season of Momos in Kathmandu. It is in Delhi too. Momos are sold everywhere -- from the streets of Delhi to the university campus -- and, as I have found, almost all Momowallas are from different parts of Nepal.

A Nepali scholar leads the Foreign Student Association (FSA) of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), one of the prestigious educational institutions of the Indian capital. That is why, I think, the Nepali stall at the international food festival organized inside the vast university campus last week was the most attractive of all the stalls. Apart from the distinct national flag of Nepal, and



Nationalistic fervour is always at a high pitch. Anything that hurts the pride of their nation draws strong reaction. When the flag of a participating country in the food festival goes on missing, now, that's really a serious matter.

A publicity poster of the food festival that was supposed to carry the flags of all participating countries somehow missed the Palestinian flag. The Palestinians became very angry and, according to Prasain, challenged the FSA by saying that they would distribute their food for free at the festival to protest against the offence. The organizers then hastily added the Palestinian flag on the poster which brought back smiles to the Palestinian faces.

"Sorry about the flag thing the other day," said Prasain when he came across a student from the Palestine stall.

"It's okay," said the woman touching Prasain's elbow. "Take it easy."

Even as they differ vastly regarding their world views, all students were unanimous in tasting the food. The stalls were all crowded to capacity by the foodies.

(The writer is the New Delhi bureau chief of The Kathmandu Post.)

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**School of rock**

Sunny Mahat's piece "School of rock" (City Post, Jan. 27, Page 1) depicts the harsh reality of children grinding stones with their parents for survival. And these are kids who can barely hold a hammer. Their parents are helpless because of crushing poverty. We can see many such families within the Kathmandu Valley itself. When will this cycle ever break? I hope the government and non-government agencies will do at least something to ensure that these kids do not spend their whole life grinding stones.

Ranju Shrestha  
Bandipur, Tanahun

**Obama's world**

With reference to Jayaraj Acharya's "Obama's world" (Jan. 29, Page 4), the writer's conclusion suggests that Nepal has no future as an independent country. He

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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talks of "close relationship" and stops short of suggesting total integration with India. Why does he beat about the bush?

**Aravinda Acharya**  
Bansbari, Kathmandu

In the article "Obama's world", Hillary Clinton says there are three legs of American foreign policy: defense, development and diplomacy. As much as I admire President Obama, until America re-prioritizes itself, with diplomacy first, development second, and "defense" third, America will continue to flounder.

**Oshen Oshenia (US citizen)**

Everyday I read the papers of your publications and see politicians' speeches being highlighted in the main pages. This is true of most newspapers in Kathmandu. Sure,

# Manmohan Singh's political future

The Congress party faces an interesting question: when a re-vitalised Manmohan Singh is sent home from hospital, will he be the party's prime ministerial candidate?

**HARISH KHARE**

Manmohan Singh's conspicuous absence from this year's Republic Day celebrations only helped underscore his centrality in the current Congress scheme of things and, by extension, in the United Progressive Alliance arrangement.

Even before he was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences for bypass surgery, a debate was raging within the Congress on whether or not the Prime Minister should contest the Lok Sabha elections due in April-May. Although it was acknowledged that it would be decidedly odd and even distract from the UPA's electoral sales-pitch if the incumbent Prime Minister was to be seen as unwilling to submit himself to the democratic test of going to the electorate to renew his governing license, Dr. Singh himself was reluctant personified. Those who interacted with him in recent weeks heard him say it was time for young people to take over the responsibility. The euphemism was not lost on any of his visitors: "I am ready to make way for Rahul Gandhi."

The outpouring of concern and sympathy for the Prime Minister over these last few days has unconsciously reaffirmed that he has come to symbolise decency in public life. In particular, the middle classes have come to appreciate the importance of having an honest and decent man at the helm of the government. Admittedly, there have been times when he was not able to prevent Cabinet colleagues from departing from the norms. But there was always this comforting feeling that the country had a Prime Minister who himself would not bat for this or that unscrupulous voice or give in to unbecoming pettiness.

More particularly, the people at large have noticed that after a long time the country has a Prime Minister who has not allowed his family to suddenly acquire traits of dubious entrepreneurship. No big deal, one can say, but at a time when much of the political class at the Centre and in the States has obliterated all distinctions between public and family, Dr. Singh has remained uncontaminated by this debilitating filial devotion.

It will be no overstatement to suggest that he has managed to re-define the office of Prime Minister in terms of personal integrity, professional competence, and intellectual calibre. Those who wish to succeed him will certainly find it difficult to emulate him in this respect.

Yet curiously enough Dr. Singh's relationship with the Congress party remains far from joyful. First of all, there are those Congressmen who remain unreconciled to the May 2004 division of power and authority. They genuinely believe that they ought to owe their primary allegiance to the person who matters most, Sonia Gandhi. With these Congressmen, all the sentiments and calculations associated with the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty kick in effortlessly. Perhaps they entertain no malice towards the Prime Minister but neither do they feel any warmth towards him. It is simply that they believe that their, and the party's, political fortunes are tied up with the family.

These Congressmen, then, believe that Manmohan Singh is at best a passing phenomenon. They have calculated there are no brownie points to be won in being seen as loyal to, or enthusiastic about, him. Silently, they wait for the rising son

to shine. Then there are those Congress leaders who honestly believe that unschooled as he is in the hurly-burly of grassroots politics, Manmohan Singh is not entitled to their respect. Some of them even believe that they will make a better Prime Minister.

There are colleagues who did not defer to him, smarting under the impression that they owe their place in the Cabinet to Sonia Gandhi. They extend minimum institutional deference and respect to the Prime Minister in public. But in private they behave as if they have been exempted from the protocol and etiquette of the parliamentary system of government.

The combination of these two impulses produces a third calculation: pre-empt the 'PV' (P.V. Narasimha Rao) precedent, when an incumbent Congress Prime Minister was seen to have used the enormous prestige and power of the office to try to sideline the family from centre-stage of the national political theatre.

Dr. Singh has seen this phenomenon himself from close quarters. As PV's Finance Minister he must have observed how senior Congress leaders came to believe - rightly or wrongly - that the Prime Minister was not being the perfect custodian of Congress values and history. These intriguing leaders assumed that they had the 'family' behind them in their insurgency. Finance Minister Singh must have seen how these unhelpful internal battles within the Congress parivar distracted the government from the larger responsibility of safeguarding the best interests of the Indian state. Nor has Prime Minister Singh allowed himself to



forget how fellow Congressmen engineered his defeat in the South Delhi Lok Sabha constituency in 1999.

Admittedly, from the standpoint of these Congressmen, circumstances are propitiously different. A representative of the Nehru-Gandhi family is now firmly in control of the party. No one has ever suspected Dr. Singh of forgetting that he was a nominated Prime Minister. Nor has he done anything that even remotely suggests that he has not been sufficiently respectful towards the Congress president. On its part, the Congress high command is much better versed in the Congressmen's penchant for carrying tales, causing suspicion, and a weakness for conspiracy theories.

The aura of stability and sobriety that Prime Minister Singh has managed to impart continues to make him central to the Congress as it struggles to recapture its image as the party of responsible, reasonable governance. Petty ambitions, pet-

tier intrigues, and a nasty itch for power combined to make Congressmen bring about the downfall of two Prime Ministers - H.D. Deve Gowda and I.K. Gujral - in 1997 and 1998. This manoeuvring and politicking seriously damaged the Congress's century old reputation, allowing the BJP to inch its way into national acceptability as the alternative party of governance.

That process of recovering the Congress party's reputation is far from over. As India changes and faces a fast changing world currently in deep economic distress, the country's need for a stabilising anchor becomes even more pronounced. Prime Minister Singh's middle path and mild manners have engendered a confidence that the governing process will never be allowed to go berserk, that the Congress will countenance neither a Narendra Modi nor another Sanjay Gandhi.

Another factor works in Dr. Singh's favour. Rahul Gandhi is not ready. Assuming he has overcome his earlier reluctance to inherit his father's job one day, he is not ready, mentally, politically, and organisationally. Age is on his side and he seems to be more level-headed and unhurried than those who want to see the Manmohan Singh innings come to an end sooner than later. No one in the Congress party is going to acknowledge this but the fact remains that non-Congress UPA constituents are far from excited about Rahul Gandhi in a prime ministerial role. If for some reason Congress party managers insist on pitchforking the young man into the race, they may end up reviving the many dormant prime ministerial ambitions.

As the country moves towards its 15th general election, Prime Minister Singh has managed to introduce the idea of competence and calibre at the highest level. For too long has it been assumed that all that one needs to be Prime Minister of India is to be the right man in the right place, without any kind of executive experience in governing this vast country. That assumption is no longer acceptable. The Prime Minister of India is central to the complex web of institutional relationships. The incumbent should be able to command the respect of judiciary, the armed forces, the bureaucracy, the intelligentsia, corporate India. Equally, the Prime Minister should be able to deter all those who seek to harm India.

Leadership cannot be reduced to the simple art of winning elections and votes, though that remains a primary legitimising process in a democracy. In a vastly plural society like India, all segments need to feel comfortable with and have confidence in a leader. The relationship between leader and citizens has, of necessity, to be based on the perceptions of the ruler's inclination and ability to provide conditions for fair play for all groups and individuals across the land.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has come to represent a different leadership model. In the old politics, public life was all about intrigue, scams, stings, personal animosities, caste vendettas, violence, conspiracies, manoeuvring, manipulation, money, and muscle power. These impulses are still rampant in the political class. But new India is poised to reject the old practitioners and their calculations and stratagems for a plain and decent reason: Dr. Singh has proved one of a kind.

*The Hindu*

review in your Post Platform column ("A must-see film", Jan. 29, Page 4). How could you give space to such an article in that column? I have been reading many interesting and socially relevant pieces in this column. Couldn't that particular piece have gone to City Post instead?

**Sanjay Shrestha**  
Balaju, Kathmandu

**M.B.B.S. results**

The M.B.B.S. first year results of the Tribhuvan University were published on Jan. 26, 2009, but the students have still not been able to see them because the TU exam website is not working, and the University has not sent the results to respective colleges by fax or other means. Why has Nepal's largest academic institution fallen so far behind in this age of information and technology? This is a serious matter, and we should all think how we can rescue TU in New Nepal.

**Rajesh Regmi**  
Kathmandu

**Baby Grace**

The news report "Baby Grace torture a lesson for many" (Jan. 29, Page 1) is shocking indeed. The paranoid behaviour of some parents should not, however, give the impression that all parents behave abnormally. Many parents bring up their children lovingly and with care. What we also learn from this report is that human passions such as anger, greed and cruelty can be found everywhere, including in developed countries. The myth of "civilization" as the "white man's burden" rings hollow in the face of such realities.

**Mohan Lohani**  
Kathmandu

**Film review**

I was very disappointed to see a film

## 6 International

# NKorea scraps pacts with South

## North paving way for 'military provocations'

■ AFP

SEOUL, JAN. 30

North Korea announced Friday it is scrapping agreements with South Korea on easing military tensions, accusing Seoul of pushing relations to the brink of war.

The communist state said all political and military agreements would be nullified, including one covering their Yellow Sea border -- the scene of bloody naval clashes in 1999 and 2002.

The statement from the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea, a state body, heightened tensions after the North's army this month threatened an "all-out confrontational posture" against Seoul.

South Korea stepped up border monitoring and vowed to respond firmly to any violation, but said no unusual activities have been detected.

Seoul's unification ministry, which handles cross-border ties, expressed "deep regret."

Raising tension between the

two Koreas "is not desirable for settling peace on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia as well as throughout the world," it said, renewing an offer of dialogue.

"The confrontation between the north and the south in the political and military fields has been put to such extremes that inter-Korean relations have reached the brink of a war," the North's statement said.

It blasted the conservative South Korean government of President Lee Myung-Bak for "ruthlessly scrapping" pacts reached at summits in 2000 and 2007.

Lee, who took office a year ago, rolled back the "sunshine" engagement policy of his liberal predecessor and said he would review the summit pacts.

"The group of traitors has already reduced all the agreements reached between the north and the south in the past to dead documents," the committee said in its

statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

"Under such situation it is self-evident that there is no need for the DPRK (North Korea) to remain bound to those north-south agreements."

The North has also staked out a tough position in stalled nuclear disarmament negotiations with the United States and four regional partners.

Pyongyang, which staged a nuclear test in 2006, has said it may keep its atomic weapons even after ties are established with Washington, as long as any US nuclear threat remains.

Some analysts believe the North is trying to ensure it remains a diplomatic priority for the new administration of Barack Obama, and is also pressuring Seoul to reverse its tough stance.

But others, like Paik Hak-Soon of the Sejong Institute think-tank, said armed clashes may break out soon.

"This is something bad. The

North is apparently paving the way for military provocations," said Yoo Ho-Yeol, a professor at Korea University.

"It is also seeking to shift responsibility for a possible military clash to the South."

However, Baek Seung-Joo of the Korea Institute for Defence Analyses said that the statement aims at "heaping pressure on Lee Myung-Bak" and does not mean clashes are more likely.

The North refuses to recognise the Northern Limit Line, a sea border drawn unilaterally by US-led United Nations forces after the 1950-1953 war.

The two sides have remained technically at war since 1953 because the conflict ended without a peace treaty. But a 1991 reconciliation pact which the North has now nullified recognised the line as an interim border.

After a naval clash in June 1999 which killed dozens of North Korean sailors, the North demanded the border be redrawn.



Russian President Dmitry Medvedev (centre) and Cuba's President Raul Castro enter a hall for talks in Moscow's Kremlin on Friday. Russian president hosted Cuban leader Raul Castro for talks promising to intensify ties with Moscow's Cold War ally.

AP/RS PHOTO

## Pakistan rejects Mumbai siege plot

AP

NEW DELHI, JAN. 30

A senior Pakistani diplomat said the Mumbai attacks were not planned in Pakistan and suggested Friday that India's evidence linking Pakistan-based militants to the deadly siege could be fabricated.

The comments from Wajid Shamsul Hasan, Pakistan's high commissioner to Britain, were the first from a senior Pakistani official since India handed over a dossier of evidence earlier this month that New Delhi said proved the November siege that left 164 dead had been plotted from Pakistan.

"Pakistan territory was

not used so far as the investigators have made their conclusions," Hasan told India's NDTV news channel in an interview. "It could have been some other place."

India's package of evidence included details from extensive interrogations of the lone surviving gunman and information gleaned from satellite phones used by the attackers, as well as details of weapons recovered and supplies used.

Pakistan has not yet officially responded to the dossier, but Hasan indicated that Pakistan did not accept the evidence.

"Why do the numbers keep going up? We cannot

tell you," said Army Secretary Pete Geren. "We can tell you that across the Army we're committed to doing everything we can to address the problem."

It's all about pressure and the military approach, said Kim Ruocco, 45, whose Marine husband was an officer and Cobra helicopter pilot who hanged himself in a California hotel room in 2005. That was one month before he was to return to Iraq a second time.

She said her husband, John, had completed 75 missions in Iraq and was struggling with anxiety and depression but felt he'd be letting others down if he sought help and couldn't return.

"He could be any Marine because he was highly decorated, stable,

the guy everyone went to for help," Ruocco said in a telephone interview. "But the thing is... the culture of the military is to be strong no matter what and not show any weakness."

Ruocco, of Newbury, Mass., was recently hired to be suicide support coordinator for the nonprofit Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. She said she feels that the military has finally started to reach out to suicide survivors and seek solutions.

"Things move slowly, but I think they're really trying," Ruocco said.

At the Pentagon on Thursday, Col. Elspeth Ritchie, a psychiatric consultant to the Army surgeon general, made a plea for more professionals to sign on to work for the military.

the United Nations evacuated hundreds of severely wounded civilians from behind rebel lines in Sri Lanka Thursday as government troops fought to secure final victory over the Tamil Tigers.

Human rights bodies have called for immediate steps by both the Colombo government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to save up to 250,000 civilians trapped in the combat zone in the northeast of the island.

"About 350 critically wounded civilians, including 50 children, crossed the front lines," UN spokesman Gordon Weiss

said, adding that the evacuations were the result of lengthy negotiations with the rebels.

"A quarter of a million people, perhaps as high as 300,000, are stuck in a pocket of land, a third the size of London," he told UN

Tamil Tigers.

"Our own staff witnessed the injury and deaths of dozens of people over the weekend at close quarters," he added. "The three or four hospitals in the area are being overwhelmed by the numbers of wounded. The fighting is only intensifying."

Weiss called on the warring sides "to exercise due restraint, so the civilians are not unnecessarily killed or wounded."

## No civilians, says Tigers

COLOMBO: Rubbing the Sri Lankan Government's claim that it is holding civilians in Wanni as "human shields", the LTTE today said it has not imposed restrictions on anyone to leave the war zone in northern areas as Colombo set a 48-hour deadline for the rebels to surrender.

"We made clear that any individual who wishes to leave the combat zone has an individual right to move anywhere," LTTE's political head said. (PTI)

## UN evacuates war-hit Lankans

AP

COLOMBO, JAN. 30

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## Hillary's job challenged

### NEWSLINE

#### 13 dead in Nairobi fire

WASHINGTON: Former first lady Hillary Clinton's appointment as US Secretary of State has been challenged by an American diplomat, who has filed a lawsuit terming it as "unconstitutional".

The lawsuit has been filed yesterday by Judicial Watch, a Washington-based watchdog group on behalf of David C Rodearmel, a US diplomat working in the State Department.

The lawsuit maintains that Clinton is constitutionally ineligible for the post and as such Rodearmel cannot be forced to serve under her, as it would violate the oath he took as a Foreign Service Officer in 1991, said a statement issued by the Judicial Watch. (PTI)

NAIROBI: Thirteen people were confirmed dead and dozens others were still missing Friday, two days after a massive fire swept through a supermarket in downtown Nairobi, officials said. Joseph Mwangi, spokesman for Kenya's Disaster Management Center, said earlier that 47 people had been reported missing. Red Cross workers were sifting through the rubble.

#### Zimbabwe unity accord

HARARE: Divisions have broken out within Zimbabwe's main opposition on a unity accord with President Robert Mugabe, party officials said, as they prepared to meet Friday to decide whether to accept the deal.

(Agencies)

## Want good sleep? Find right partner

■ AGENCIES

NEW YORK, JAN. 30

Forget counting sheep, ditch the sleeping pills and don't bother with a glass of warm milk, a good remedy for women who can't sleep is a happy marriage.

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh have found that women who are happy with their husbands or partners have less trouble sleeping than their single, unattached counterparts.

Money worries, alcohol and caffeine consumption, and how often they had sex, had little impact on getting a good eight hours of sleep each night.

"We found that happily married women report

fewer sleep disturbances including difficulty falling asleep, nighttime awakenings, early morning awakenings, and restless sleep, as compared to women reporting lower marital happiness," said Wendy Troxel, an associate professor of psychiatry who headed the study.

Women usually report more sleep problems than men, but most research has focused on how men's sleep problems such as snoring and sleep apnea affect their wives.

Troxel and her team took a different approach. They interviewed 1,938 women aged 42 to 52 of different ethnic backgrounds

in seven major U.S. cities to explore the link between marital happiness and sleep.

They also considered other factors that might contribute to sleeplessness such as depressive symptoms, economic hardship and employment status, alcohol and caffeine consumption, children and sexual activity.

"The results showed that even after taking into account all of these factors that are known to influence sleep, the level of marital happiness emerged as an independent risk factor for the existence of sleep disturbances," Troxel, who reported the findings in the journal Behavioral

Sleep Medicine, added in a statement.

Caucasian and African-American women reported more sleep complaints than Japanese, Hispanic and Chinese women, although Caucasian and Japanese participants reported the highest rate of marital happiness.

"Being happily married was associated with fewer sleep disturbances, even after accounting for sleep medications," Troxel said.

The study included African American women in Boston, Chicago, Detroit, and Pittsburgh, as well as Chinese women in Oakland, California, Japanese women in Los Angeles and Hispanics in Newark.

(PTI)

REUTERS

The Kathmandu Post  
Saturday, January 31, 2009

# Business

MARKET

GOLD		Kathmandu Hallmark Worked Hongkong (per ounce)	(per 10 gms) Rs Rs US\$	22720.00 22590.00 906.40	Closed
SILVER		Kathmandu (per 10 gms)	Rs	317.00	

## EXCHANGE RATES OF MAJOR CURRENCIES

CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING (in Rs)	SELLING (in Rs)
Indian Rs (INR)	100	160.00	160.15
US Dollar (\$)	1	78.20	78.80
Euro (€)	1	100.83	101.60
Pound Sterling (£)	1	111.33	112.19
Japanese Yen (¥)	10	8.74	8.80

Exchange rates fixed by Nepal Rastra Bank



Dr. Ram Krishna Timilsina, registrar of the Supreme Court, addressing National Workshop on Intellectual Property Strategy for Nepal in Kathmandu on Friday. The workshop was organised by Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry.

POST PHOTO

## NEWSLINE

### EEC-Nepal visits UK

KATHMANDU: A delegation led by European Economic Chamber (EEC)-Nepal visited London from Dec. 17-24 at the invitation of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) to explore trade related issues. Activities during the five-day visit included familiarisation with commercial happenings in London to enlighten the Nepalese chamber about improving their service to their members by adapting a customer relationship management system, a discussion on how the present global recession could possibly create opportunities for Nepal and a meeting with British investors, says a statement issued by EEC-Nepal.

### RBB branch back in service

KATHMANDU: Rastriya Banijya Bank (RBB) has reopened its branch in Bhaccek, Gorkha. The branch office is RBB's 121st. The outlet was reopened with a view to extending banking services to the rural parts of the nation and making it easier for villagers to take loans at lower interest rates. The branch was inaugurated by Finance Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai.

### NIB in Buddha

KATHMANDU: In a bid to provide international class service to the residents and business community of Buddha, Jorpati, Gokarna and surrounding areas, Nepal Investment Bank Limited (NIBL) has opened

## DFE to start token system from Wed

### POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, JAN. 30

The Department of Foreign Employment (DFE) has decided to introduce the token system and prevent middlemen from entering its offices from Wednesday.

The decision has been taken as per the order of Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, said Mohan Krishna Sapkota, director general of the DFE. The prime minister, in his message to the nation on Sunday, had ordered government offices to keep out

all kinds of agents.

"We have made arrangements not to let middlemen enter the department's offices from Sunday," said Sapkota. "Visitors from manpower agencies will have to carry a pass provided to them," he added.

People have been complaining about being misled by go-betweens when they visit the department to get their paperwork done.

In a bid to keep middlemen out and provide efficient services to the public, the department is starting

the token system. The token system will be applied at the entry and approval branches of the department, Sapkota said.

He added that service would be provided on a first come, first served basis, and that the department would focus on providing fast and effective service.

The token system will be introduced in other departments in the near future.

Sapkota said that Nepal's diplomatic missions abroad had been trying their best to protect Nepalese migrant workers

during the present period of global recession. More than 100 Nepalese workers in Malaysia had to return home after the Malaysian government banned the entry of foreign workers.

Sapkota said that the government was looking for new destinations for Nepal's migrant workforce since demand in the targeted nations had been going down. He added that sending workers to Japan was under progress while Oman and Libya could be potential job destinations.

## Int'l meet in Nepal to discuss alternative economic order

### POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, JAN. 30

Fair Trade Group Nepal and the World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO) are jointly organising a conference in a bid to initiate dialogue and formulate strategies to deal with issues related to the present global recession. Entitled WFTO 2009 Global Conference, the meet is scheduled to be held from May 16-22 at the Hyatt Regency.

The highlights of the conference are the AGM of the World Fair Trade Organisation, regional meetings and AGMs, workshops on fair trade and market issues and a platform for participants to showcase their respective products.

The organisers said that this kind of event

development by offering better trading conditions and securing the rights of marginalised producers and workers, he added.

"More than 400 participants from 75 nations will be participating in the conference," said Prasad. He added that Fair Trade focuses on the people rather than profits for the organisations.

According to the organizer of the conference Chandra Prasad, Fair Trade is a trading partnership based on dialogue transparency and respect that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable

would help publicize Nepal in the international arena and contribute to generating income for the local people. They added that the conference would help to boost motivation for the upcoming Tourism Year 2011.

Speaking at a press meet, Prachanda Man Shrestha, chief executive officer of the Nepal Tourism Board, said that events like these act as a linkage between local producers and the international market. They also help to develop the tourism industry, he added.

Around 350 fair trade organisations from 75 nations are registered with the WFTO.

## Smuggling of chicken on rise

### RSS

SARLAHI, JAN. 30

Though the government has banned the import of fowls and fowl products from India after the detection of bird flu, a large number of chickens and eggs are being imported to Sarlahi from India daily.

They are being imported via Sangrampur and Parsa entry point of the district, it is said. The locals have blamed the local administration and police for being silent spectator despite the massive import of Indian broiler chickens and eggs at a time when the hazard of bird flu has gripped the country.

They said one truckload of Indian chickens and eggs enters into the district everyday via Sangrampur and Parsa, from just in

front of the police post. The smuggled goods are sold in the markets, located along the east-west highway.

According to Chief of the District Livestock Office Dr. Ram Narayan Yadav, monitoring team of the livestock doctors will be mobilised in the rural settlements of the border to control the smuggling of the chickens and eggs.

The armed police personnel were already mobilised in the bordering areas following the complaint of the smuggling of the Indian chickens and eggs in the district, said Chief District Officer Baliram Prasad Singh. It is said that the smuggling is on the rise as they are cheaper than the Nepali chickens and easily available in the market. (RSS)

## Food grain prices continue to rise

### POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, JAN. 30

Infrastructure Development Bank Limited (IDBL) has taken approval from the Security Board of Nepal (SEBON) for issuing rights share worth three times more

than its existing paid-up capital.

The SEBON gave it license to issue the shares on January 21 and take its capital to Rs. 320 million from existing Rs. 88 million, to Niraj Giriraj director of SEBON, said on Friday. The bank will have to complete issuing shares within two months from the date of approval, according to SEBON directive.

Earlier, the bank had failed to meet its target of having its paid up capital of Rs.

ment should revise existing laws guiding patent rights," Joshi added. He was of the opinion that law enforcement agencies have a greater role to play in regard to these issues in coordination with private sector.

Secretary of the Ministry of Industries also stated that it was necessary that all the stakeholders from the government and the private sector should work together with regard to IP matters. He also called on developed countries to extend support to Nepal in order to meet the high cost of administering and enforcing IP regime in the country.

Speaking at an Intellectual Property (IP) awareness seminar, Kush Kumar Joshi, president of Federation of Nepali Chamber of Commerce and Industries outlined the need to enforce strong rules and regulation to counter massive circulation of counterfeit goods as they had been discouraging entrepreneurs to invest in industries.

"In order to attract foreign investment in the country and also save huge revenue losses, the government should revise existing laws guiding patent rights," Joshi added. He was of the opinion that law enforcement agencies have a greater role to play in regard to these issues in coordination with private sector.

Many of the stakeholders expressed their concern regarding the lack of substantive knowledge and initiative among enforcement officials with regard to IP protection. In this connection, the stakeholders urged the government and IP right holders to train enforcement officials to sensitize them regarding the various aspects of IP protection and identification of counterfeit goods.

They also called on the government to establish

## IDBL to issue rights shares

### POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, JAN. 30

640 million in the current fiscal year from the existing Rs. 88 million as per its capital plan presented to Nepal Stock Exchange (NEPSE). Its capital plan for the Nepal Rastra Bank was to increase its capital base to Rs. 168 million.

As it failed to increase its capital as per the plan and its capital plan submitted to NRB was different, NEPSE had suspended its shares from being traded. Its per share price was Rs. 1540 before its share trading was suspended. Dr. Indra Humagain, managing director of the bank said that they would issue shares as early as possible. He also expressed hope that the NEPSE would soon remove the suspension in its trading of shares.

राष्ट्रमन्त्री सेनापति विवादमा नयाँ मोड़

बजेट पारित गर्न २४ करोड रुपै

खोइ काग्जेरामा युवापुस्ता?

मिसन मधेस

मन्दीले निर्माणको संकट

न्यायालयमा प्रेसाको वर्ष

नेपाल

## China, EU join forces to fight economic crisis

### AFP

BRUSSELS, JAN. 30

China and the European Union set aside past differences Friday and vowed to work together to confront the global economic crisis and climate change.

After talks in Brussels, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso also announced that

a major summit, dropped due to differences over Tibet, would take place soon.

"I believe that the larger trend of the EU-China relationship cannot be reversed, like no one can reverse the trend of history," Wen told reporters, during his first visit here in five years.

"As long as China and the European Union work hand in hand, we will be

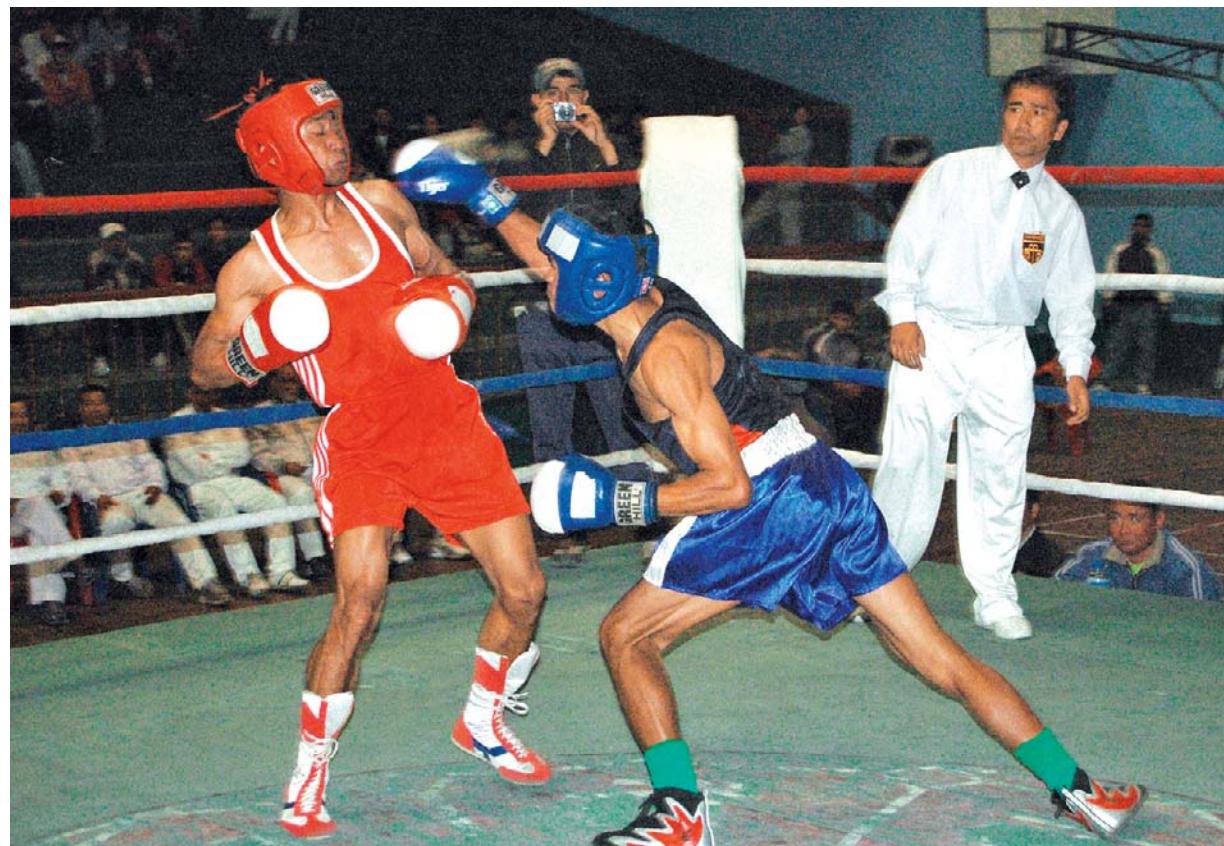
able to overcome the financial crisis and get through the tough times," he said.

Trade between China and the EU has boomed in recent years to some 300 billion euros (384 billion dollars) annually, and officials in Brussels warned their counterparts from Beijing about the need to keep markets open.

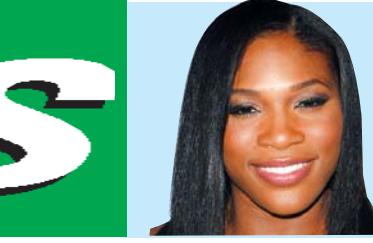
However, Europe's

imports from China have grown by about 21 percent per year for the last five years, leaving a trade deficit with the Asian economic giant of some 160 billion euros in 2007. That imbalance has contributed to trade frictions, which have also flared over numerous anti-dumping cases against Chinese imports believed to be made at below cost.

# Sports



TASTE THIS! Devendra Raj Singh Thakuri of Tribhuvan Club (right) fires a punch at Piyush Ram Bhat Mathema during their bout in the National Open Men's and Women's Boxing Championship in Kathmandu on Friday.



## Serena smashes earnings record

MELBOURNE: Serena Williams said she was "thrilled" after becoming the all-time top earner in women's sport – and then boosted her winnings further by taking the Australian Open doubles title. Williams pocketed \$150,000 US dollars for the win along with her sister Venus, swelling her career earnings to 22,875,475 dollars and further past the record held by the recently retired golfing great Annika Sorenstam. Williams has outstripped Sorenstam's 22,573,192 dollars by reaching the doubles and singles finals. She stands to earn another 1.3 million US dollars if she beats Dinara Safina on Saturday. (AP)

## SA top rankings

PERTH: South Africa followed their Test series win over Australia by replacing them at the top of the one-day rankings, taking the series 4-1 with a 39-run triumph.

The chose to bat in Perth and were anchored by a calm 97 off 117 balls by Hashim Amla. AB de Villiers made 60 off 71 while JP Duminy hit an unbeaten 60 to take them to 288-6. Mike Hussey made 78 and Brad Haddin 63 but debutant seamer Lonwabo Tsotsobe's 4-50 saw Australia all out for 249. (Agencies)

## New football draft for ANFA

**POST REPORT**  
KATHMANDU, JAN. 30

The statute drafting committee formed by the All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) to resolve the prevailing conflict in the footballing sector submitted draft of the new statute to the ANFA on Friday.

The committee led by Nepal Football Association (NFA) President Bijaya Narayan Manandhar submitted the draft to ANFA president Ganesh Thapa in the presence of Member-Secretary of the National Sports Council (NSC)

Jeewan Ram Shrestha. The statute drafting committee formed by the All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) to resolve the prevailing conflict in the footballing sector submitted draft of the new statute to the ANFA on Friday.

Committee coordinator Narayan Manandhar said the draft had been prepared in three schedules and 72 clauses on the basis of suggestions from all concerned sectors, labeling it as the 'most powerful' to brace the football sector. "The draft has been prepared following suggestions from players, referee, women's association and all the con-

cerned sectors," said Manandhar.

Manandhar also informed the new draft suggests that the new ANFA election would be held in the Nepali month of Bhadra.

Speaking on the occasion, ANFA president Ganesh Thapa said the conflict seen earlier in the sector would not recur in the coming days.

Thapa said the draft was yet to be approved and they would present it to the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), the governing body.

## BN sporting earn dramatic win

**PREM NEPALI**

POKHARA, JAN. 30

Nine-man BN Sporting Club from Bangladesh earned a dramatic 3-2 win over Dharan Football Club in a match that saw Dharan give away two own goals to put the visitors in the quarterfinals of the Seventh Aaha Gold Cup, on Friday.

The game that saw Dharan create most of the chances ended in a 3-3 draw, courtesy an own goal each from Amar Subba and Charlie Rai, after both sides were unable to break the 2-2 stalemate in regulatory time.

Amar Subba's own goal, five minutes after putting Dharan in the

lead, spelled doom for Dharan. Subba opened the scoring for Dharan when he bulleted his header past the Bangla goalkeeper in the 37th minute of the game, but his joy was short-lived

Charlie Rai piled more misery for Dharan scoring another own goal.

However, Budha Chemjeng reigned Dharan's chances of survival four minutes from time scoring the equaliser from inside the penalty box.

BN Sports were reduced to nine-man seven minutes later, after the referee gave two of their players marching orders for their second bookable offences. Despite the numerical disadvantage, BN Sports salvaged a draw three minutes from time to push the game into tiebreakers.

In the penalties, Suraj Sunwar and Charlie Rai converted for Dharan while Laxmi Shrestha and Buddha Chemjeng were denied by the keeper.

## Nat'l boxing kicks off

KATHMANDU: Surajmuni Hemram of Eastern Region Boxing Association and Maya Chaudhary of Armed Police Force advanced to the finals in the 46kg category of the Nation-wide Open Men's and Women's Boxing Championship being held at the Dashrath Stadium Covered Hall on Friday.

Likewise, Santosh Rai, Anjil Maharjan, Shreemati Soren and Devendra Singh Thakuri won their respective games in the 54kg category. Ram Shrestha, Laxman Silakar, Sachin Raut, Ravi Rawal, Raju Kumar Maharjan, Manoj Maharjan and Amit K.C. all bagged wins in their respective categories. Laxman Tamang, Kavindra Maharjan, Kush Basnet, Sankher Bahadur Khadka, Santosh Bhatta, Rajesh Kumar, Keshav Gurung triumphed in the men's 51kg category. (PR)

## KNOW YOUR PLAYERS

**POST REPORT**  
KATHMANDU, JAN. 30

### Amandeep Singh

Amandeep Singh, who comes from Bhairahawa, has two five-wicket hauls under his belt from the recent U-17 national league, one against Biratnagar and

another against Nepalgunj. Currently studying a grade ten in Moonlight School in Bhairahawa, he has been playing local cricket for the last three years.

### Avinash Karna

This lad from Birgunj, Avinash Karna is set to make his mark into the international arena with

superb left-arm medium pace. Currently nursing an

participated in the U-15 national tournament repre-

senting Kathmandu but says he is a bit nervous ahead of his international debut.

### Kirten Gurung

Pratik Singh has been playing cricket for the last three years at school. The left arm spinner from Nepalgunj says his figure of 4-12 in eight overs against Baitadi in the national tournament has boosted his confidence.

### ACC U-17 ELITE CUP

Bhaktapur, who had been knocking at the international arena for the past three years, will finally make his debut against Qatar on February 4. Opening batsman, Rana had last year

Thanks to the strictness

## Nadal in final

William sisters clinch doubles title

**AFP**  
MELBOURNE, JAN. 30

Rafael Nadal survived a record five-set battle with fellow Spanish left-hander Fernando Verdasco to set up a classic Australian Open final with arch-rival Roger Federer on Friday.

Nadal lost his first sets of the tournament but showed incredible resilience to win the epic 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 7-6 (7/2), 6-7 (1/7), 6-4 over five hours and 14 minutes, the longest match in the tournament's history.

On Sunday Nadal will play his seventh Major final against Federer, who can equal the Grand Slam titles record. Nadal beat Federer in both the French Open and Wimbledon finals last year and holds a 4-2 edge in the matches.

The Open's previous longest match was Boris Becker's 1991 win over Omar Camporese, which lasted five hours and 11 minutes.

Friday's match also surpassed Nadal's epic Wimbledon final with Federer last year, (four hours and 48 minutes), and equalled his longest ever match against Guillermo Coria in the 2005 Rome final.

Meanwhile, Serena and Venus Williams won their eighth career Grand Slam



JUGGERNAUT: Rafael Nadal plays against compatriot Fernando Verdasco during their men's singles match at the Australian Open on Friday.

AP/IRSS PHOTO

women's doubles title when they beat Ai Sugiyama and Daniela Hantuchova 6-3, 6-3 in the final of the Australian Open on Friday.

They are now tied with Virginia Ruano Pascual and Paola Suarez as the third most successful Grand Slam women's doubles partnership in the Open era, behind Martina Navratilova/Pam Shriver with 21 and Gigi Fernández/Natasja Zvereva (14).

## NEWSLINE

### Weeka Talentia

KATHMANDU: Ketai Khadka scored 28 points as Prime College defeated Himalayan White House 63-30 in the inaugural game of the Tenth Weeka Talentia Inter-college Basketball Tournament being held at Don Bosco on Friday. Host Don Bosco struggled hard to earn a narrow 51-48 win over Nava Jyoti. Bernhardt College received a walkover from Global College of Management after the latter pulled out of the tournament, and National Campus trounced Nava 58-21 with 30 points from Aditi Subba in the last match of the day.

### NSJF sports policy

KATHMANDU: The National Sports Journalist Forum (NSJF) submitted a proposed concept paper on sports policies of Nepal to the Minister for Youth and Sports Gopal Shakya requesting the minister to amend the existing policies, amidst a program at the World Trade Center on Friday. In the program, Shakya expressed his views on the proposed policies. Other speakers at the program included the president of Nepal Olympic Committee Durba Bahadur Pradhan, Member Secretary of the National Sports Council Jeevan Ram Shrestha and NSJF president Nirajan Rajbanshi.

### Host CCI in semis

KATHMANDU: The 'A' team of Classic College International (CCI) entered the semifinals of the Second CCI Men's Volleyball Championship defeating Nobel Academy 25-13, 25-10 on Friday. Capital College and Research Center (CCRC) and Newton also joined the host in the last four. CCRC downed NIC 21-25, 25-23, 26-24 before defeating Saint Lawrence 25-16, 25-15 in the second game while Newton eased past Nobel 25-11, 25-11. (PR)

## Sunrise Normal Savings Account

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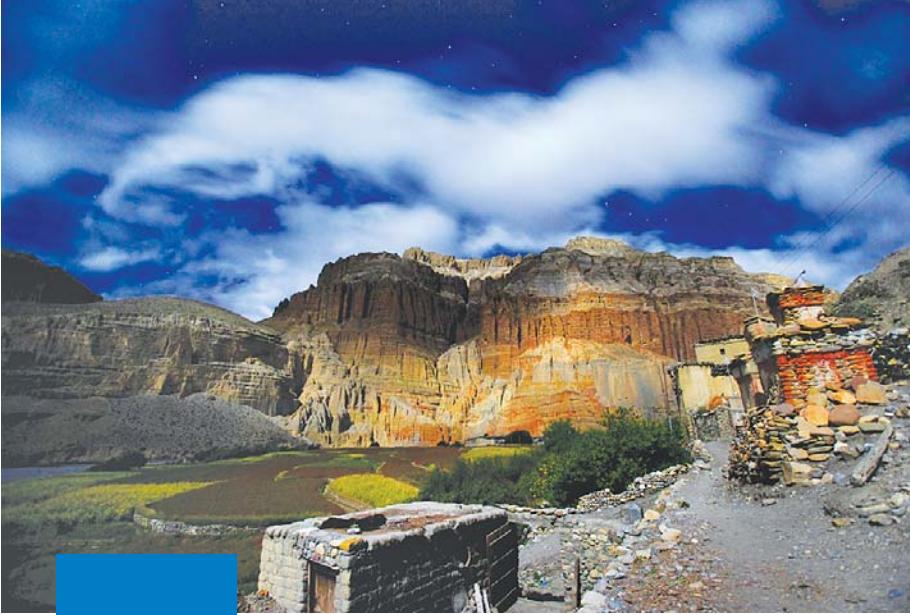
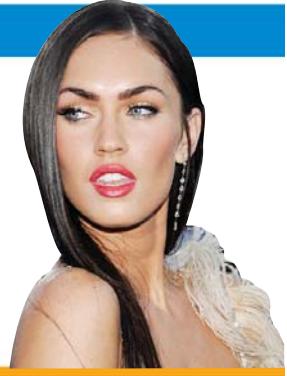


## SCHOOL POST

Value of games  
in my life pg IV

# City Post

## MEGAN FOX

won't take over  
Tomb Raider role pg III

In his eyes, if passion is something, if it exists somewhere, it lies there and in abundance. Their child-like innocence could deceive anyone, but they are the same pair of eyes that see possibilities, that dream and make them come true. These are his eyes, the eyes that gleam with the flame of pure passion and desire, with a craving to conquer the world, with a yearning to make a difference; this is what Kishor Kayastha's eyes are all about and much more...

If the word magic describes his photographs, then Kishor Kayastha is a magician; his creations – all of them miracles. The eyes behind the camera are the eyes of an artist who is magnificent but crazy, completely crazy about photography.

Born into a family of photographers, Kishor grew up with a camera in his hands and shooting everything that caught his attention. At the tender age of eight, this starry-eyed boy had already started earning his daily meal. With both his parents being photographers, cameras and photography were as natural to him as breathing. "I don't even remember getting into this sector. It happened without my being aware of it," he says.

He was very apparent to life – with his desire and aspiration. Life, however, has never been that obvious with him. It played a fair share of games with him. As a dreamer that he

has always been, all his dreams about creating photographs didn't weaken him when his own parents stood against his desire to become a photographer. "They probably wanted what was best for me. As photographers, they knew much about its highs and lows. Their intentions could only have been to protect me," he says.

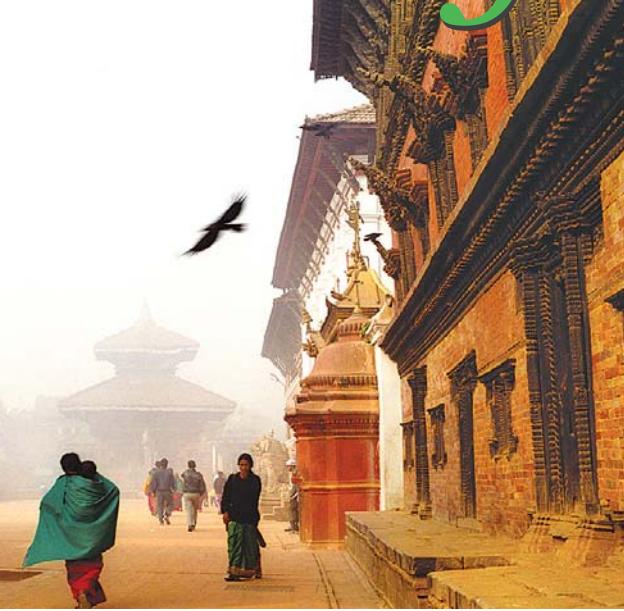
His first battle toward



achieving his dreams had been against his own parents. He was forbidden to do anything with photography. Had he not been as passionate as he was about it, he would have stopped sooner. But neither was his passion so frail nor his dream so palpable. He kept moving, moving toward his goal. Everything he did, all

## FOR your eyes only

■ PALLABI SINHA  
(ALL PHOTOS BY KISHOR KAYASTHA)



creator. Eating, sleeping, nothing has any meaning for him.

This creator, a very accomplished photographer whose photos sell for millions, is the same guy who went through days without food and worked so hard, only to buy for himself a lens.

"I remember an occasion when I desperately wanted to do a photo, and

ed to buy a lens. I managed to scrape up about Rs. 200 with which I bought a second-hand lens that didn't fit my camera at all. I had to hold the lens a certain way and apply some tricks to take a shot. I finally took the shot of my choice, and the result was so satisfying."

Photography is now constantly on his mind. "When I'm doing the gro-

images, be they of important events or not."

Talking about his feelings for photography, he says, "My fascination for the captured image was uncontrollable and overcame everything – even my inexperience. Not knowing what I was doing or why, I went everywhere, shooting anything and everything that caught my attention. The only things I was certain of were the subjects I photographed. I concentrated on people living on the edge of society because their faces, lives and living conditions held a particular fascination for me. Gradually, I became absorbed in their daily lives for months on end, learning from their experiences. My desire to capture it all on film pushed me to go to places I never would have encountered otherwise."

He puts great faith in the power of photography, stating, "Photography is powerful in bringing about change. It has always done so and it will always continue to do so. There will always be the need for a good picture and a good photographer."

Kayastha shares his professional experiences with the *City Post*.



blowing? Their movement can be restricted for a certain time; but their flow, nothing can stop it.

Kishor Kayastha becomes a lost person as soon as he picks up a camera in his hands. It is as though he has entered eternity where it is just him, the camera and light; and using light as his colours and the camera as his brush, this artist becomes a

all I had in my hand was a camera with a broken lens. I did everything to put together the money I need-

ceries, shopping, — it's always there. Even my dreams are all about it. I want to take compelling



## यसपालिको विशेष...

मिहैदै छन्  
डिजाइनरनेपाली  
कलाकारका साथ  
विनियाँ नयाँवर्ष

## मध्य पृष्ठमा

## सामना

## बुदाथोकीको

## आकर्षक लो-अप

## प्रसंग

## क्रियाएँ

## फलु विन्तन

... साथे अस थुपे सामग्रीहरु रहिए

## बजारमा उपलब्ध छ



unaware of what I am doing. And then I am shocked at my own actions. Just few months back, I went to Mustang to shoot landscapes. I walked so much that my legs gave away but I didn't give up. I dragged them with me to take the shoots.

*Q What types of assignments attract you the most?*

A Everything attracts me, but mostly it depends on my mood. When anything interests me, I enter deep inside it; I study it, I research it and I keep doing it until I grasp it. Then when I have had enough of it, I go into something else. Presently, I am into fashion.

*Q What do you wish you'd known about the profession before you entered it?*

A Half the fun of living lies in learning in the process. I mightn't have known anything

about photography, but I don't regret it. My mistakes teach me much more. If I learn a thing after 10 mistakes, then I have the knowledge of those 10 mistakes and also the solution. I am, in fact, glad about my lack of knowledge when I entered the profession.

*Q Do you enjoy your work? What are the best and worst things about it?*

A I am mad about my work. Working gives me the best kind of pleasure. The satisfaction I get when I see one of my shots, it is so fulfilling that I don't have the words to describe it. And when you love something so much, I don't think its negative points will exist for you.

*Q If not a photographer, what would you have been?*

A I love painting. If not a photographer, I would definitely have been an artist.

PHOTOS: PRATIKSHA SODARI



**S**hilpi Theatre Group presented a play and a poetry recitation session against load shedding dubbed "Andhyaroko Biruddha" at United World Trade Centre at Tripatheshwar this Friday afternoon.

The play highlighted the issue of Janakpur-based journalist Uma Singh who was murdered, and a businessman whose business was not doing well because of load shedding among other issues. Ghimire

tured against load shedding, which has been affecting the entire nation. Bairagi Kainla, Bishnubhuji Ghimire, Bikram Subba, Biplov Dhakal, Dr. Benju Sharma, Rajendra Parajuli, Hari Adhikari, Thakur Belbase, Mani Lohani, Suresh Kiran, R.M. Dangol, Bhupal Rai, Tanka Upadhyay and Bimala Tumkhewa recited poems at the programme hosted by film director and poet Rajendra Shalav.

All expressed their feelings on the

# Against load shedding

Yubraaj, one of the organisers, said, "This programme will continue from now onwards. We are planning to organise such programmes thrice every month."

Apart from the play, the programme also hosted a number of poets and politicians who recited poems and lec-

country's situation and how the ongoing power outage is affecting common people. At the same time, they also pointed out the weaknesses of politicians who have failed to live up to people's expectations.

Youth leader Gagan Thapa said we have to change ourselves first before we can

bring change. Poet Bimala Tumkhewa said, "It is not just about load shedding. It is about darkness that has engulfed the country. Through our poems we want to wake the politicians up to their promises to provide everything and also to the need to do their jobs sincerely." (PR)

## hodgepodge

### said who

"Girls are like pianos. When they're not upright, they're grand."

- a) Ronald Reagan
- b) Benny Hill
- c) Joseph Heller

Answer: b

### guess what

What goes round the house and in the house but never touches the house?

Answer: The sun

### fun with english

acromonogrammatic--a. applied to verse in which each line begins with letter with which preceding line ended.

### food for thought

- A blue whale's heart is the size of a Volkswagen Beetle!
- A chameleon's tongue is twice the length of its body.
- A chicken will lay bigger and stronger eggs if you change the lighting in such a way as to make them think a day is 28 hours long!
- A cockroach can live several weeks with its head cut off - it dies from starvation!
- A completely blind chameleon will still take on the colors of its environment.

### know your nepal

The Royal Bardia National Park (RBPN) is located 400 km west of the Kathmandu Valley. In 1990, NCRTC expanded its wildlife research and monitoring activities to the Royal Bardia National Park by establishing two sub-stations in the Babai Valley and Betani area in the eastern and western sides of the park respectively. Although, KMTNC was involved in a number of conservation activities in Bardia since the translocation of rhinos in 1988, the Bardia Conservation Programme (BCP) was launched in 1994 as a regular project. Besides wildlife research and monitoring, BCP has been mobilizing and supporting local efforts in conservation and development programmes such as community forestry, conservation education, health care, school support and women development.



## New concept fails to click

**N**epali movie 'Swikar' was premiered at Film Development Board on Thursday afternoon.

Set at a remote village near Pokhara, the film draws a fine picture of a backward Nepali community and its attachment to ages-old ways.

The movie revolves around an egoist priest. His daily ritual consists of bathing in cold water every morning followed by a

lengthy prayer. Chauvinistic and proud, he takes everyone except him as inferior.

The priest gets the shock of a lifetime when his daughter runs away from home a day before her marriage. As if to add insult to injury, she marries a guy from a

'lower caste'.

With his feelings hurt, the priest cuts off ties with his daughter.

The community laughs at him and humiliates him in all possible ways while he endures it all.

The priest decides he will not let his son, who is in the United States, humiliate him the way his daughter did, only to find that the son too has let him down by tying the knot with an American girl.

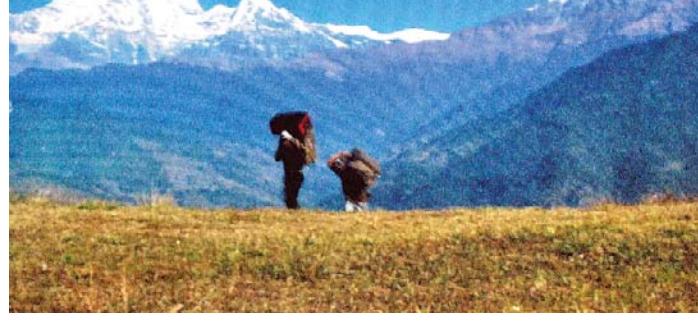
The father cuts off ties with his son. The movie proceeds as the son tries all possible means to come and see his father.

The cast has a good number of new faces. Carla Bachechi, who plays the character of the American girl, looks very unconvincing as a wife or even as an actress. Even the leading charac-

ter of the movie Ariga, the priest's son, needs to work a lot to hone his acting skills.

The typical lines used in the movie like *dai tapai?* (Oh brother! It's you?) can irritate even the most tolerant lot. The director definitely needs to do something about his dialogues. Having said this, the movie deserves admiration because it has experimented with a new concept in the Nepali movie world. The story was moving and I believe a lot of eyes must have welled up seeing it. (PR)

PHOTOS: PRATIKSHA SODARI



## EVENT GRAPH

**Special Offer Rate:**  
Single Room with Breakfast NRs. 1999+taxes  
Double Room with Breakfast NRs. 2699+taxes,for Jan, only  
  
\*Condition Apply

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**Details and Reservation:**  
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### FOOD

- **Lakhey resto n bar** would like to cordially invite you on their **Grand Opening**. DJs performing DJ Yank (Old school) and DJ Sabin (House in France) on Jan. 30 from 5 pm onwards till late. Food Multi Cuisine (American, Italian, French, Chinese, Indian, Nepali)
- Experience the new menu at **Kakori**, Soaltee Crown Plaza Kathmandu. For reservations: 977-1-4273999 Extn. 6535. Open for dinner from 1900 Hrs till 2245 Hrs.
- **Lunch-hour doodles**, illustrations by Preema Shrestha from Jan. 23 to Feb. 15 at The Bakery Cafe, Pulchowk.
- Enjoy a sumptuous high tea with fresh **Strawberry delicacies** at The Lounge from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Please contact Hyatt Regency Kathmandu at 4491234 for details.
- Savor flavours from the exotic orient at **The Cafe** showcasing famous **wok fried specialties and curries of Asia** every Wednesday. Please contact Hyatt Regency Kathmandu at 4491234 for details.
- Enjoy the **wood-fired oven baked pizza with Italian specialties** served in a contemporary style every Monday & Tuesday exclusively at Rox Restaurant. Please contact Hyatt Regency Kathmandu at 4489361 for details.
- Indulge yourself in best selections of **wine and cheese** every Friday & Saturday at **the Lounge**, Hyatt Regency Kathmandu from 5 pm to 8 pm. Please contact Hyatt Regency Kathmandu at 4491234 for details.
- Every Friday join us to explore the **culinary delights** from the Mediterranean region of Italy, Spain and Middle-East at The Cafe. Please contact Hyatt Regency Kathmandu at 4491234 for details.
- Enjoy the various **Pizzas and Juicy and Succulent Steaks**, at the Only Italian Specialty Restaurant in Town - **Al Fresco**, Soaltee Crown Plaza Kathmandu. Open for Lunch: 1230 Hrs to 1445 Hrs and Dinner: 1900 Hrs to 2245 Hrs. For Reservation call: 977-1-4273999 Extn. 6123.
- **"Some like it hot"** BBQ by the pool side at Dwarika's Hotel every Friday from 7 to 10 pm with live music by "Dinesh Rai and The Sound Minds". Rate: 999 plus 10% service charge. Reservations Recommended. Contact 4479488
- Experience an exclusive **Nepali dinner** at our Signature restaurant "The Krishnarpan" at the Dwarika's Hotel (open for Dinner only). Meals from 6-22 courses available. Reservation Recommended. Contact 4479488

### MUSIC

- Enjoy the sensational sounds of live Jazz along with your favourite drinks in the casual atmosphere of the **Rox Bar Every Friday** from 8:30pm onwards. Please contact Hyatt Regency Kathmandu at 4491234 for details.
- **Yankey performs live at Rox Bar with Apirilush band** here from 9 pm onwards. For further details, please contact Hyatt Regency Kathmandu at 4491234.
- Enjoy a relaxing **Sunday Jazz brunch** in The Terrace at Hyatt Regency Kathmandu with barbecue and live Jazz music from 12:00 to 3:30 pm. For details please contact 4491234 or 4489362.
- **Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory** is organizing **Concert Series VIII**. Groups performing-Sarangi Ethnic Project, Poesie and the Fags, KIC Faculty/students Jazz Quintet and All Stars fusion band. Venue: Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory, Gyanodaya College Premises, Jhamatkhal, Lalitpur. Time: 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm at 2nd Flr. Price: NRs. 200.
- Every **Wednesday** ladies night with free cocktail and unplugged music. Happy hour everyday 5 - 7pm, buy one get one free. Free speed wifi everyday at jatra R & B.
- **Jazz evening every Wednesday** (with Mariano Abello), **Chris's brunch on Saturdays and Sundays** at Delices de France Restaurant, cafe & bar from 11 AM to 2 PM, Ganesh Man Singh Building, 2nd floor, Thamel, Kathmandu. Contact no. 4260326
- Live music @ G's Terrace Restaurant N Bar, Thamel every Tuesday with Strings band.
- **Wednesday ladies' night - Live unplugged music** & one free cocktail to ladies at **Jatra Bar**, Thamel. Happiest cocktail hours from 5-7pm. Tel: 4256622.
- **Wild Wednesdays @ Jazabell Cafè**, Chakupat, Patan every **Wednesday**, 6:30pm onwards with live band Epic. Tel: 2114075.
- Live fusion & classical music by Anil Shahi from 8pm onwards every Wednesday at **Absolute Bar**, Hotel Narayani Complex, Pulchowk. Tel: 5521408.



### GETAWAY

- Stay at **Hyatt** at a special offer of NRs. 5555 plus taxes for a night on double occupancy with breakfast, complimentary use of spa and early check in and late check out. Offer valid to Nepalese and local residents only. For further details, please call Hyatt Regency Kathmandu at 4498900 OR 4491234
- **Shangri-la Village Resort**, Pokhara launches the **"Festive Season Family Getaway"** @ NRs 7999/- net per couple. Avail 25% festive discount on all hotel facilities. For more details and reservation, contact 445741/42/43/44 (Ext. 104/121)
- Stay at **Hotel Holy Shiva Pvt Ltd**, lakeside Pokhara for a perfect recreation. Deluxe a/c room @Rs.1999 twin room, Normal room @1299, Budget room @799 (twin room and breakfast included) Contact no: 00977-061-46423, 9846120785, 9804196318

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Show and Interaction on **Meaning of Money - Ziegert III** An in-depth documentary on the story, meaning and conspiracy behind the thing we call money, at 10 AM sharp Sunday 1st February at Mind Body Library, Stadium Gate, Tripatheshwar. To register, sms 9841-896-000.
- The film on Saturday 31 January is **"The Great Debaters"** starring Denzel Washington and Forest Whitaker starting at 5:30 pm. The film on Monday 2 February is **"Cadillac Records"** starting at 5:30 pm at Lazimpatt Gallery Cafe. Tel 4428549. (Book early to avoid disappointment)

Experience your **holiday at Grand Norling Hotel's Resort**, Gokarna. Weekend Package: Rs 4500 (1 night and 2 days), Holiday Package: Rs 7000 (2 nights and 3 days). Contact: 4910193, 4910296, 4910295.

The Dwarika's Himalayan Shangri-la Village Resort presents special Overnight and "Great Escape" package for Locals Residents. For rates please contact 4479488

■ Stay at **Hotel Holy Shiva Pvt Ltd**, lakeside Pokhara for a perfect recreation. Deluxe a/c room @Rs.1999 twin room, Normal room @1299, Budget room @799 (twin room and breakfast included) Contact no: 00977-061-46423, 9846120785, 9804196318

### FILMS

- **JAI NEPAL**  
LUCK BY CHANCE  
RAAZ-2  
Showtime: 9:00 AM, 12:00, 3:00, 6:00
- **KUMAR**  
LUCK BY CHANCE  
ASTA NARAYAN  
LUCK BY CHANCE  
RAAZ  
Showtime: 11:30, 2:30
- **GUA CINEMA**  
LUCK BY CHANCE  
RAAZ  
Showtime: 8:45 AM, 11:45, 2:45, 5:45
- **GOPI KRISHNA MOVIES**  
LUCK BY CHANCE  
RAAZ  
Showtime: 8:10 AM, 11:10, 2:10, 5:10
- **GHAJINI**  
LUCK BY CHANCE  
RAAZ  
Showtime: 9:00 AM, 12:00, 3:00, 6:00
- **RAB NE BANI DI JODI**  
Showtime: 8:10, 11:10, 2:10, 5:10



## ON YOUR television

SONY

STAR WORLD

ESPN

STAR SPORTS

2015 Best of Australian Open Tennis 2009 11, Match: Maria Sharapova vs. Ana Ivanovic, 13:15

Australian Open Tennis 2009 Presented By KIA In Association With Gamier &amp; Ge Money, 17:45

Game, 18:15 Volvo Ocean Race Week, 18:45

Club, 19:15 FIA WRC - The Year Ahead (Season Preview), 20:15 STAR Soccer Saturday 2008/09, 21:45 Barclays Premier League 2008/09, Match: Aston Villa vs. Wigan Athletic

CNN

CNN

7:15 CNN Today, 7:45 The Best of BackStory, 8:15 CNN Today, 9:15 CNN Marketplace Middle East, 9:15 CNN Today, 9:45 World Sport, 10:15 Check Engine: The Detroit Auto Show, 11:15 Business Report, 11:45 Eco Solutions, 12:15 Larry King Live, 12:45 World News, 13:15 World Sport, 15:15 Last Comic Standing, 16:15 Who Wants To Be A Superhero, 17:15 Most Daring, 18:15 American Idol, 19:15 Kyle XY, 20:15 90210, 21:15 Shark, 22:15 Boston Legal, 23:15 Heroes

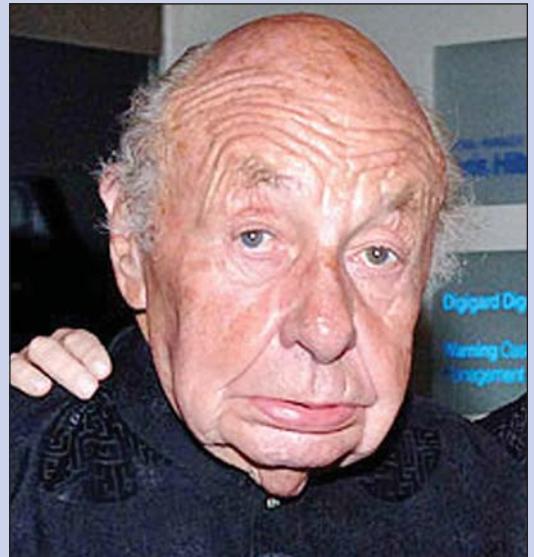
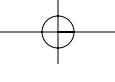
20:45 KFC Twenty20 Bash, 2008-09 Match 12, HA 10:15 Sportscenter Week In Review 2009, 10:45 Hrs 2009 39, 11:45 Football Forecast, 12:15 First Edition, 12:45 Football Asia 2008/09, 13:45 Premier League Highlights, 14:15 First Edition, 14:45 NBA 2009, 15:15 Barclays Premier League 2008/09, Match: Stoke City vs. Manchester City, 18:00 Match: Chelsea vs. Liverpool, 18:45 Barclays Premier League 2008/09, Match: Arsenal vs. West Ham United, 22:45 Final Score

14:45 KFC Twenty20 Bash, 2008-09 Match 12, HA 10:15 Sportscenter Week In Review 2009, 10:45 Hrs 2009 39, 11:45 Football Forecast, 12:15 First Edition, 12:45 Football Asia 2008/09, 13:45 Premier League Highlights, 14:15 First Edition, 14:45 NBA 2009, 15:15 Barclays Premier League 2008/09, Match: Stoke City vs. Manchester City, 18:00 Match: Chelsea vs. Liverpool, 18:45 Barclays Premier League 2008/09, Match: Arsenal vs. West Ham United, 22:45 Final Score

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14:45 KFC Twenty20 Bash, 2008-09 Match 12, HA 10:15 Sportscenter Week In



## Ritchie's dad wishes Madonna a healthy love life

**R**itchie's Dad Wishes Madonna a Healthy Love Life... Madonna's former father-in-law is hoping the pop superstar enjoys a healthy love life after splitting from his son, Guy Ritchie, because then there will be no chance of reconciliation.

John Ritchie is still smarting from the 2008 break-up but he insists his moviemaker son is better off without his ex.

The worst thing would be if they reconciled... We hope she (Madonna) does have a lot of boyfriends because it means she won't ever get back together with Guy.

He tells *In Touch* magazine, "The worst thing would be if they reconciled... We hope she (Madonna) does have a lot of boyfriends because it means she won't ever get back together with Guy."

(Agencies)

# Springsteen promises high-energy halftime show

**A**nybody who thinks it's tough playing the halftime show at the Super Bowl with 150 million people watching should try serenading Barack Obama with the majestic granite visage of Abraham Lincoln staring over your shoulder.

Bruce Springsteen did.

"It kind of was a good warm-up for this," Springsteen joked Thursday after arriving in Tampa with the E Street Band. "That takes some of the pressure off, you know."

In his first news conference in more than 20 years, The Boss was as cool as ever.

Wearing black jeans, a black crewneck sweater and black boots, Springsteen and his band charmed a standing-room-only crowd by joking about his lack of football knowledge, that the group is still together - and its members still alive - and the tremendous year he's having personally and professionally.

"Is there anybody from New Jersey? Don't give them the microphone!" the Garden State native called out before taking questions in his first large forum since a 1987 news conference for Amnesty International.

But Springsteen has reason to celebrate.

His song, "The Wrestler," from the movie of the same name, won a Golden Globe earlier this month, and he

followed it with a performance at the National Mall to honor Obama two days before the inauguration. Springsteen was a huge Obama booster during the campaign.

His latest CD, "Working on a Dream," was released Tuesday, and he'll kick off a world tour in San Jose, Calif., on April 1.

"Good times," the 59-year-old rocker smiled. "You just have years where things happen, or years where it's quieter. But what's special for me right now is I really believe our band is going through sort of a golden age. We've made three of what I think are some of our best records in a row, which is really one of the reasons we're here. And the band, on the last tour, played the best it's ever played.

"We've been on the road awhile. We're some old soldiers. But the band is still really burning, and I really want people to know about the record. Good year, you know? It's been great."

So now the band plays Sunday's halftime show of the Super Bowl, which is enjoying a run of booking major talent for the roughly 15-minute slot before the largest television event in the nation. Acts have

recently included the Rolling Stones, U2, Paul McCartney, Prince and Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

The NFL said last year's halftime show with Petty was watched by more than 148 million viewers in the U.S.

Springsteen, for years, had turned down invitations to play the Super Bowl, unsure of the legitimacy of such a performance. After all, for many years the halftime show was made up of local and college marching bands and drill teams.

But Springsteen said the opportunity to promote the album, and the upgraded production team that has given the invitation a prestige factor, changed his mind.

"Initially, it was sort of a novelty and so it didn't quite feel right," he explained. "But it was just like, this is the year... Bands of our



generation, you can sort of be seen on a stage like this or, like, not seen. There's not a lot of middle places. It is a tremendous venue."

The performance is expected to be a teaser for the upcoming tour, and scores of Las Vegas sports books are taking bets on the set list. Asked who ultimately decides what songs will be

played, Springsteen staked his claim as leader of the band.

"I'm the Boss! The Boss decides what we play!" he yelled. "Nobody else decides. People suggest. Hint. Beg. Cajole. But I decide."

Pittsburgh receiver Hines Ward said he was looking forward to the performance, and even had a song request.

"I love Bruce. I hope he plays 'Born in the USA.' He has a great voice when he says, 'Boorrrrn,'" Ward said. "He has a lot of swagger about himself. He's very confident. When he's up there performing, it's all about him."

Springsteen only offered one slight teaser, vowing to pack the bands' usual emotion and energy into their brief performance.

"We want it to be a 12-minute party," he said. "The idea of the show is, you are going to the Meadowlands, you get lost on the way. You are watching your clock, 'Damn, the show is starting right now.' You stop at a bar to get some directions, and the bar gets held up while you are there. So that takes another 45 minutes to get out of there."

"You come back and you miss your exit on the turnpike, and you are driving to get back around. And so you make it into the stadium 2 hours and 48 minutes into the show - that's what you are going to see: the last 12 minutes."

(Agencies)

## Sushmita Sen gets marriage proposal?

**S**ushmita Sen and director Mudassar Aziz have bonded very well right from the start. Now, the director is rumoured to have proposed marriage to the lady.

Mudassar is her director in *Dulha Mil Gaya*. According to sources, Mudassar wants to "formalise" his relationship with Sush. Very recently, he paid visit to Sushmita's house in Kolkata, when her father had undergone a surgery. He is apparently the only man in Sushmita's life who has met her parents.

Sushmita has always been a free-spirited, self-dependent woman who prefers to be in her own world, shunning the limelight. She started seeing Mudassar during the

shooting of '*Dulha Mil Gaya*'. The director, according to some sources,



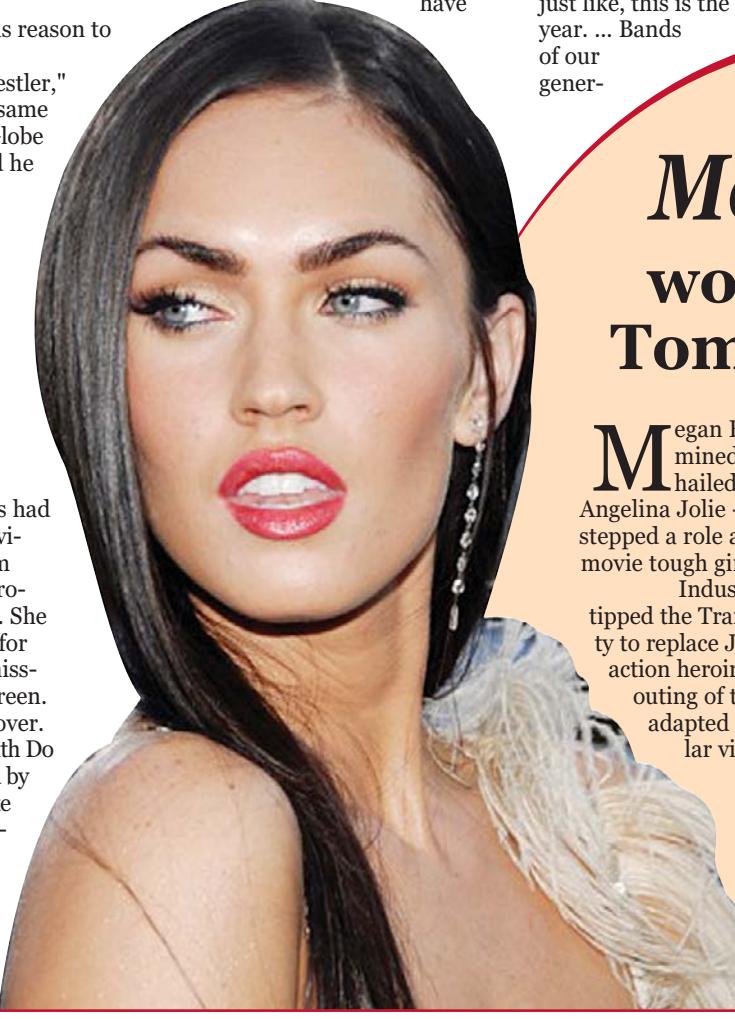
Sushmita. What a thought!

Sushmita, who has had a string of affairs previously, is keeping mum about the marriage proposal from Mudassar. She was recently in news for gaining weight and missing from the silver screen. But the sabbatical is over.

She will be back with *Do Knot Disturb*, directed by David Dhawan opposite Govinda. She has postponed her long-cherished dream project '*Rani Lakshmi Bai*' and will be seen in Kamal Haasan's *Marmayogi* and of course '*Dulha Mil Gaya*' this year.

She is also in talks with some producers to essay the character of assassinated Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto in a movie.

(Agencies)



## Megan Fox won't take over Tomb Raider role

**M**egan Fox is determined not to be hailed as the next Angelina Jolie - she has sidestepped a role as gun-toting movie tough girl Lara Croft.

Industry insiders tipped the Transformers beauty to replace Jolie as the sexy action heroine in the next outing of the franchise, adapted from the popular video game.

Megan is not involved in this movie.

But Fox's representative is

adamant the actress won't be stepping into Jolie's boots.

A spokesperson for the star says, "Megan is not involved in this movie."

Plans for the third film - a follow-up to 2001's *Tomb Raider* and 2003's *Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life* - are still going forward as producers cast a new villain and love interest, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

(Agencies)

## BORN TODAY



American Pop-R&B singer and actor, Justin Randall Timberlake is 28.

- Indian film actress, Preity Zinta is 34.
- Australian actress, Portia de Rossi is 36.
- Canadian francophone rapper, Cyril Kamar popular as K'Maro is 29.
- Australian actor, Anthony LaPaglia is 50.

## It's Farhan versus Harman

**W**hile Farhan Akhtar has already proved his acting mettle, for Harman Baweja his second release this Friday would be a litmus test.

Over! Farhan is returning to the big screen in his sister Zoya Akhtar's directorial debut *Luck By Chance*. On the other hand, Harman Baweja has his fingers crossed for director Ajitpal Mangat's film *Victory*. Harman, who began his career last year with the super flop *Love Story 2050*, has yet to prove himself as a dependable actor who can carry a film on his shoulders.

Though there would doubtlessly be competition, the two films will not eat into each other's market share because they are as different as chalk and cheese.

'*Luck By Chance*' is an insider's view into the working of the film industry. It has Farhan playing an aspiring actor who goes through the grind of an average struggler - hours of waiting outside producers' office, rejections at auditions, humiliations and much more. The movie has Konkona Sen Sharma playing a starlet. How this starlet and struggler end



up changing each other's lives is what the film is about.

The movie has Hrithik Roshan in a guest role and has cameos by a number of Bollywood stars.

'*Victory*', on the other hand, is the story of an underdog. Harman plays a small-town boy who dreams of playing cricket for Team India someday. His dream is realized but instant fame goes to his head and he is kicked out of the team for indiscipline and poor form. How this beaten and dejected underdog rises to the occasion and realizes his dream forms the crux of the story.

Like '*Luck By Chance*', '*Victory*', too, has many cameos, not by filmstars but by cricketers from Australia, India and Sri Lanka.

And though the two films have entirely different stories and setting, the theme is the same - the triumph of human spirit.

(Agencies)

## Sylvester Stallone to bring Rambo back

**S**yvester Stallone is bringing back Rambo for another big screen outing.

The action man was suitably impressed with the success of his 2008 film, *Rambo*, and now he's scouting for locations for a fifth movie.

We're doing another *Rambo*, but the conflict is whether to do it in America or a foreign country.

He says, "We're doing another *Rambo*, but the conflict is whether to do it in America or a foreign country."

His all-action 2008 movie was largely shot in Thailand.

(Agencies)

## Harry Potter stuntman seriously injured

**A**terrifying moment on the Harry Potter soundstages, as Daniel Radcliffe's stuntman was hospitalized with serious back injuries following an onset mishap.

Because the accident took place during preproduction for Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Radcliffe and the film's marquee stars were not on set at the time.

The injury occurred when the 25-year-old man, who has doubled for Radcliffe on all Potter films and whose name has not been released "out of respect for his family," was running through

stunts at England's Leavesden Studios.

During an aerial sequence in which the stuntman was suspended by a harness, a planned blast somehow went wrong and he crashed to the ground.

According to London's Mirror and the Sun, the man was conscious after the fall, but both reports quoted crew members who said the stuntman was unable to feel his legs after the plunge.

The person has been taken to hospital and we are awaiting further news," Warner Bros. said in a statement.

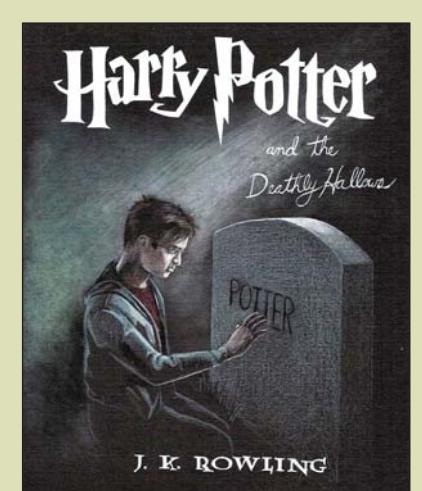
"Paramedics were called to Leavesden Studios yesterday at 11:35 a.m. after a man in his 20s sustained a significant back injury," a spokesman for East of England Ambulance Service said.

"He was stabilized at the scene and taken to Watford General Hospital."

He has since been transferred to an undisclosed facility.

The film, the final in the Harry Potter franchise, will be split into two movies, the first of which is set for release in November 2010.

(Agencies)



IV

# SCHOOL POST

## WILDLIFE Conservation

This world is vast and diverted. Humans have to co-operate with the nature to have a prosperous life. Needless to say, ecosystem between wildlife and man balances the environment. In fact, without the well-balanced ecosystem joyful life on earth is out of question; it is quite impossible. However, man is being cruel day by day, always ready to chop trees and kill rhinos and tigers.

It seems that man has forgotten about the fact that his life is hanging on the rope of nature. He is trying to break the rope where he himself is hanging! Today life on earth has become harder and full of dangers. With the destruction of wildlife man is destroying his base of existence. The life of man is based on the balanced ecosystem with the wildlife. So, it is crystal clear that destroying the



**Adarsha Jung Gurung**  
School: M. A. V., Satdobato, Lalitpur.  
Grade: 10



### Child right



Often and again I have been hearing on child rights. For daily living, no more the children's will have to fight. They all can dream their sweet and happy life. Where they can be happy, keeping their pain aside.

There has been a prolix talk by NGOs on child right. I imagine if they were sleeping during Nepal's civil fight. A child faces the problem ranging from food to education. All of us exploit child right without hesitation.

Those who make the laws live in their own savor. Then how one believes the laws to go in child's favour. Hasn't time come to give every child to live a sweet life? Being future strength of nation why do they have to struggle and fight?

Though many orphanages give them a ray of hope. But all has been done to gain the foreign dollar. Everyone counsels such children but no one favours them. It's a serious matter to talk upon and also a matter of shame!!!

**Sumit-Paudel**  
Anandaban-5, Manigram, Rupandehi  
Grade 10

### Pleasure of reading

Reading gives us great pleasure, when we read a book for the joy of it. Reading offers happiness to man of all tastes, temperaments and age groups. There are many books for children, young men and aged people. Through reading we enjoy this world and life with many eyes, ears and minds. Pleasure of reading is only



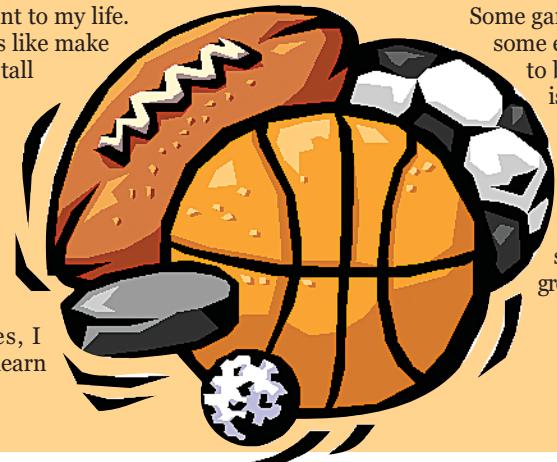
the pleasure through which we improve and expand ourselves. It is the best recreation. It brings great enjoyment and inspires us with original ideas. In reading we enjoy and understand life with more sensitive senses, large hearts and nobler minds. On one hand it brings a sense of peace, health and well-being and on the other hand it keeps us well-informed and up to date. So, no pleasure is greater and satisfying than this pleasure of reading.

**Salina Rana Magar**  
Class: 5 C  
Gandaki Higher Secondary Boarding School, Pokhara

## Value of games in my life

Games are very important to my life. Games do many things like make us fit, healthy, strong, tall etc. A healthy body makes a healthy mind. Playing games is great joy and extreme fun. It is also a time pass.

Games help us to be together and build friendship. It helps us to make new friends and keep old ones. It teaches us teamwork. While playing games, I can learn fairness. I also learn not to cheat.



Some games exercise our body while some exercise our mind. Games help to build our concentration which is very important for our studies. It teaches us discipline and leadership which is very important when we grow up. Games also give us safety lessons, therefore I want to grow up playing games.

**Subhang Upadhyaya**  
Class 4 Kendriya Vidyalaya,  
Kathmandu

### Education tour

We went for education tour to Swayambhu Museum. We reached there at 11:00 a.m. and were a little late because of the traffic jam at Kalimati. At Swayambhu, we saw many monkeys and different gods.

We really saw many nice temples. There were many ladders that I tired to climb. Other visitors were also present there. We enjoyed climbing up and down in the ladders. We saw monkeys swimming pool also. One of the monkeys was sliding down through swimming pool.

Now, about the Museum. There are many things like different animal bones, skin of bear, tiger, leopard, anaconda and many more. We saw king cobra and anaconda. There are many types of plants also. Likewise, we enjoyed with our friends & the greenery around.

**Shrijan Karanjit**  
Class- 5  
Ananda Bhumi Boarding Higher Secondary School



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