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NEPAL'S LARGEST SELLING ENGLISH DAILY



■ The section of Pushpalal Highway that was obstructed at Kharidhunga in Dolakha district on Tuesday. It had snowed in the area since Monday evening, leaving hundreds of passengers stranded. Traffic resumed when the road was cleared after 18 hours.

POST PHOTO: RAJENDRA MANANDHAR

UML urges govt to move in consensus

Main opposition hints at ending month-long obstruction of Parliament

TIKA R PRADHAN
KATHMANDU, JAN 3

The main opposition CPN-UML has claimed that the constitution amendment bill registered at the Parliament Secretariat lost significance following the Supreme Court's verdict, urging the government to withdraw it.

A Standing Committee meeting of the second largest party held at the residence of party Chairman KP Sharma Oli on Tuesday concluded that there was no point in deliberating on redrawing the federal boundaries as sought by the amendment bill following the

court's ruling. The party has been on the warpath over the proposal to split Province 5, obstructing Parliament since November 29.

A division of the apex court ruled that amending the constitution is the business of Parliament, cautioning the parties, however, that any revisions must not be inconsistent with the charter adopted last year.

Welcoming the apex court verdict of Monday, the meeting also called on the government to withdraw the constitution amendment proposal registered in Parliament and move ahead in the spirit of political consensus.

Interpreting the ruling, the party said "the apex court's decision has given more reasons to withdraw the bill" as

any changes in demarcation of the provinces would be invalid without the approval of the state assemblies.

But the party has not decided whether it will roll back its decision to resume the House proceedings or continue to obstruct it. Leaders, however, that any revisions must not be inconsistent with the charter adopted following the court's order.

The party has decided to sit with the ruling and other opposition parties before taking a decision in the regard. Leaders said the UML may lift the obstruction of Parliament but will seek consensus on demarcation of provincial boundaries.

In the changed political context, the UML also decided to take further steps only after consulting with the parties represented in Parliament, the alliance of opposition parties and other stakeholders.

SC upholds NEA board reshuffle

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, JAN 3

The Supreme Court has upheld the decision of the government to sack three board members of the Nepal Electricity Authority.

A division bench of Chief Justice Sushila Karki and Justice Jagadish Sharma Poudel issued the verdict on Tuesday.

Last week, a single bench of Justice Prakash Man Singh Raut had issued a show-cause notice to Energy Minister Janardan Sharma, seeking clarification why the NEA board members were sacked.

The bench had also issued an interim order to put the decision on hold.

On December 19, the Energy Ministry had sacked Manoj Kumar Mishra,

Laxman Prasad Agrawal and Suraj Lamichhane on the charges of obstructing the reforms process initiated by NEA Managing Director Kulman Ghising.

Ghising has made power supply in Kathmandu Valley regular since October-end. He had denied dedicated supply of power to some industries, which effectively ended load-shedding

hours in the Valley. The dismissed members had moved the apex court challenging their ouster.

As the hearing was going on, a group of youths demonstrated at Maitighar near the court demanding annulment of the interim order in order to allow Ghising to work effectively. Police detained dozens of demonstrators briefly.

Amendment bill will be passed as it is: Deuba

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, JAN 3

Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba said on Tuesday that the constitution amendment bill would be approved without revision and with the backing of the CPN-UML that has been protesting against the proposal.

"I believe that the UML will

support the bill at last," he told reporters at his residence in Budhanilkantha. Deuba stressed the need for consensus among the parties to preserve the political gains of the past decade. "It's our responsibility to preserve the achievements. But we need consensus among the parties to end the political stalemate."

The UML will allow parlia-

mentary business from Sunday, he said, without specifying how the ruling coalition would take the opposition into confidence.

On the elections, Deuba said the government was prepared to hold the local polls by May. "We have talked to the Election Commission. It is feasible to hold the polls within the next four months."

14 Chandannath idols recovered

LP DEVKOTA
JUMLA, JAN 3

Fourteen idols and two conch shells, which were stolen from the Chandannath Temple in Jumla district headquarters Khalanga on November 26, were found at Depalgau-2 in the district on Tuesday.

Local women had spotted the idols at Rokayawada while they were going to the forest to collect firewood. One of them immediately telephoned her relative in Khalanga who informed the police about the idols.

Idol of the main deity Dattatreya was among the 21 centuries-old images and other valuables that were stolen from the temple. The Chandannath-Bhairav Nath Guthi Management Committee said the idols of



■ The stolen idols were found in a stream at Depalgau-2. POST PHOTO

attended by hundreds of people. According to Gaurinanda Acharya, former chief of the Guthi Management Committee, the idols were reinstalled in the temple.

Police mobilised a search team suspecting that other idols and valuables could be hidden in the area.

After the theft, locals had staged demonstrations in the district for days, criticising the administration for failing to nab the culprits. A team led by Additional Inspector General of Police Bigyan Raj Sharma had reached Khalanga for inspection. Chandannath, a revered Hindu temple, is a major tourist attraction in the Karnali region. It is believed that Chandannath Baba, an ascetic, had brought various idols and installed them at the temple in 1855.

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Morcha hails court ruling

Calls for tabling of constitution amendment bill without delay

ROSHAN SEDHAI

KATHMANDU, JAN 3

The Supreme Court's refusal on Monday to issue a stay order against the constitution amendment bill has drawn cheers from the Madhes-based parties, which claim that the order "validates" the move.

The remarks from the regional parties come at a time when both the governing CPN (Maoist Centre) and Nepali Congress, and the opposition CPN-UML are interpreting the verdict in ways to serve their political interests.

"We welcome the ruling. The apex court has rightly stated that it's within the rights of the sovereign Parliament to amend the constitution."

The government should take the amendment bill forward without delay," Sanghiya Samajabadi Forum Nepal Chairman Upendra Yadav told the Post.

Leaders of the Samyukt Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha, an alliance of seven parties protesting against the constitution, have taken strong exception to the UML's "misinterpretation" of the court order.

"The UML's interpretation doesn't hold water as the court has clearly said Parliament reserves the right to amend all the articles of the constitution including Article

274," said Yadav, who also leads a broader alliance of Madhesi and Janajati groups.

Sadbhawana Party Chairman Rajendra Mahato said the UML should take the opportunity to correct its "erroneous and dangerous position" on constitution amendment rather than prolonging the stalemate.

"The UML is betraying the Madhesi people, who voted them, by standing against their rights. If the party doesn't change its harsh stance on amendment, a day will come when the people of Madhes will punish the UML," said Mahato.

Morcha leaders have also warned against the ongoing deliberation among leaders of major parties to push forward the amendment bill, putting the clause on federal boundaries on hold.

"The constitution amendment bill should be forwarded as it is. The issues of the boundaries should not be left out on any pretext," said Ram Naresh Raya Yadav of the Tarai Madhes Sadbhawana Party.



POST PHOTO: NIMESH JANG RAJ

A meeting of the Business Advisory Committee held on the Parliament premises in New Baneshwor on Tuesday.

House postponed again after parties pledge deal

BINOD GHIMIRE

KATHMANDU, JAN 3

The meeting of Legislature-Parliament has been postponed for five days after the parties sought time to intensify negotiations on the constitution amendment bill, assuring the Speaker that the House would function smoothly from Sunday.

Speaker Onasari Gharti postponed the meeting following the request from the Business Advisory Committee on Tuesday. In the meeting attended by top leaders from the parties represented in

Parliament, both the ruling and opposition sides softened their stances following the Supreme Court ruling which cleared the way for the government to table the amendments in Parliament.

The opposition has been obstructing the House for a month claiming that the proposed amendments are against "national interests".

Gharti said she agreed to wait for five days after the opposition assured her of finding a way out by Sunday. She claimed that former Speaker and deputy Parliamentary Party leader of



Opposition parties had requested the Speaker to wait until they are done with their mass meeting

the main opposition CPN-UML Subas Nembang assured her that there would be no obstruction from Sunday.

"I am hopeful that the parties will keep their words," Gharti told the media after issuing a notice of meeting postponement. "The court has opened the door for us to proceed with our business." She

said the parties would either forge consensus or allow Parliament to decide the matter through a vote.

Opposition parties had requested the Speaker to wait until they are done with their scheduled demonstration on Friday. Nine opposition parties are set to organise a mass meeting against the amendment bill in the Capital. They have announced to parade around 100,000 cadres and supporters on the streets.

The parties are set to consult with legal experts over the court's order. According to sources, the ruling coalition was also considering whether to withdraw the proposal to redraw the boundaries of some provinces from the bill.

The court hinted that boundary revision is impossible without the provincial parliaments endorsing it as provisioned by Article 274 of the constitution.

In the meeting, the Rastriya Prajatantra Party had proposed reviving the High Level Mechanism to find solutions to contentious issues and creating an environment for forming an all-party government. However, the matter was not discussed.

Call for electing PAC chair pronto

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, JAN 3

Members of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament have decided to press Speaker Onasari Gharti to appoint the panel's chairperson.

The post has been vacant for five months after Janardan Sharma was appointed a minister. A meeting of the committee on

Tuesday decided to meet the Speaker and ask her to appoint the chair as several complaints lodged in the PAC had not been heard for long.

Besides, the meeting agreed to sort the issues pending in the committee immediately and direct the Investigation, Study and Monitoring Committee to carry out its works effectively, senior most member of the committee Sarbendra

Nath Shukla said. It was also agreed that the Arrears Settlement Subcommittee will take initiatives for clearing the arrears in the government bodies. The meeting decided to summon the acting auditor general, the chief secretary and secretaries of 10 ministries having maximum arrears on January 9 for discussion.

Committee member

Ramhari Khatiwada said they had urged the Speaker earlier to work on electing the new chairperson. The PAC's role is deemed crucial for maintaining a check and balance in the government's activities. Though there is the practice of having an opposition MP as the committee chair, the PM's party CPN (Maoist Centre) has also staked its claim to the post.

sowing season



A woman prepares the field to cultivate potato at Thecho in Lalitpur on Monday. Rainfall in the Valley has cheered farmers.

POST PHOTO: KESHAV THAPA

19,213 officials didn't disclose property last fiscal

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, JAN 3

As many as 19,213 public officials didn't submit their property details in time grew to 412,801 last fiscal from 336,731 in the previous fiscal year. Among the officials, the highest percentage of teachers (12.34pc) did not submit their property details followed by civil servants (5.35pc), army (2.83pc) and police (0.5 pc), according to the NVC.

According to the National Vigilance Centre (NVC), which has been authorised to monitor whether public officials submitted their property details in time, those not submitting their property details in the fiscal year 2015-16 make 4.41 percent of the total public officials against 6.63 percent in the previous fiscal year.

The public officials include politicians holding state posts, officials of constitutional bodies, civil servants, teachers, army, police and staffers of different public enterprises, the NVC said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Due to our consistent effort, there has been progress in ensuring that more public officials submit their property detail in the last fiscal year," said NVC Spokesperson

Bishnu Raj Lamichhane.

The number of public officials who submitted their property details in time grew to 412,801 last fiscal from 336,731 in the previous fiscal year. Among the officials, the highest percentage of teachers (12.34pc) did not submit their property details followed by civil servants (5.35pc), army (2.83pc) and police (0.5 pc), according to the NVC.

As per the Corruption Control Act 2002, all public officials are required to submit their property details, including that of their close family members, 60 days before the end of a fiscal year. They can get additional 30 days for submitting the property details if there is a genuine reason for the delay.

Those failing to submit the property details even in the extended timeframe, are subject to a fine of Rs 5,000 and the concerned agency could launch an investigation into their property. The NVC is also authorised to write to the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority, calling for a probe into the property of those public officials failing to submit the details.

South Korea calls Trump's tweet 'clear warning' to North

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SEOUL, JAN 3

South Korea said on Tuesday that US president-elect Donald Trump had sent a "clear warning" to North Korea with a tweet dismissing Pyongyang's ballistic missile claims.

"North Korea just stated that it is in the final stages of developing a nuclear weapon capable of reaching parts of the US," Trump tweeted. "It won't happen."

Trump's tweet came a day after North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un appeared to try to pressure the incoming president by announcing his country is in the "final stages" of developing an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

Kim also said his country had significantly bolstered its nuclear

arsenal last year.

Washington has repeatedly vowed that it would never accept North Korea as a nuclear-armed nation, but Trump has not previously clearly stated his policy on the isolated state.

Pyongyang's nuclear threat thanks to South Korea's "active outreach".

US policy on the North would remain largely unchanged, he said.

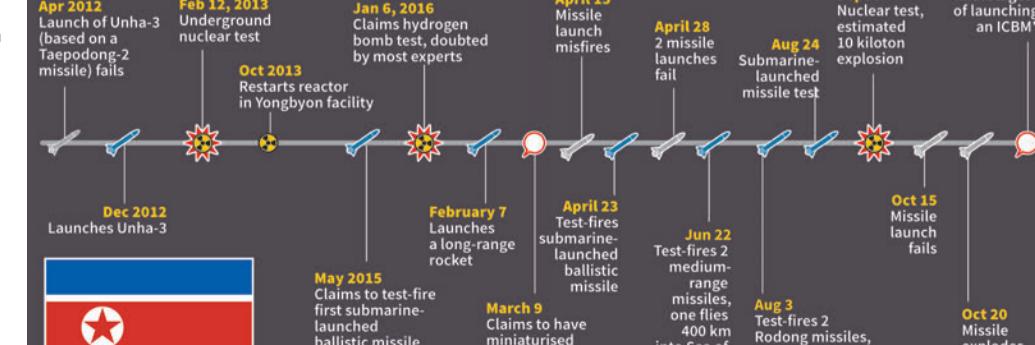
"They are maintaining an unwavering stance on the need for sanctions on North Korea," Cho said.

Trump also blasted Beijing for not doing enough to help stop North Korea's nuclear programme.

"China has been taking out massive amounts of money & wealth from the US in totally one-sided trade, but won't help

Kim Jong-Un's nuclear and missile ambitions

Key events in the North Korean leader's nuclear arms and missile programmes



*Intercontinental Ballistic Missile

with North Korea," he tweeted. "Nice!" Following Trump's

remarks, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman again declared

that Beijing would "stay committed to denuclearisation" on the

peninsula.

"Efforts made by the Chinese side are obvious for all to see. We hope that relevant parties would refrain from words and deeds that will lead to the escalation of tension," Geng Shuang told reporters.

In a New Year's speech on Sunday, Kim did not make a specific reference to the incoming Trump administration. But he called on Washington to make a "resolute decision to withdraw its anachronistic hostile North Korea policy".

Analysts are divided over how close Pyongyang is to realising its full nuclear ambitions, especially as it has never successfully tested an ICBM. However, it carried out two nuclear tests and numerous missile launches last year alone.

Election Commission preparing for local polls against all odds

■ The election-governing body may formally ask parties to register names for local polls in a week
 ■ Officials believe the decision could spur parties into shifting their focus towards elections



■ A woman casts her vote during the second Constituent Assembly at a polling station in Kathmandu on November 19, 2013. (Right) The CA endorses the new constitution on September 17, 2015.

PRITHVI MAN SHRESTHA

KATHMANDU, JAN 3

The Election Commission (EC) is preparing to issue a formal notice to the political parties asking them to get their names registered for the local level elections through their district election offices, according to Election Commissioner Ila Sharma.

Sharma has said the election offices in all 75 districts could issue the notice within a week, as the EC is accelerating its preparations to hold the polls by April-May

this year.

Pressed by the constitutional deadline for staging all three-level polls by January 2018, the election-governing body is preparing to conduct the local level elections in April-May.

However, the formal date for the local level elections has not been announced yet since there is still confusion over whether the government or the EC should decide the poll date. Neither the constitution nor any election law has specified who should make the call.

The prospects of holding the local level elections in time have also been further muddled by the uncertainty among the political parties regarding local level restructuring. The parties are still undecided whether to contest the polls in the existing structure or the new one, as recommended by the Local Level Restructuring Commission.

Likewise, several election-related bills, registered in Parliament, have also been put on hold, which could upset the EC's plan for holding the planned local

elections in time.

The Bill to Amend and Integrate Laws related to the Election Commission, the Bill Related to Voters' List, and the Bill to Amend and Integrate Laws Related to Political Parties have been languishing at the State Affairs Committee of Parliament for nearly three months now.

Similarly, two other election-related bills to amend the Local Election Procedure Act and the Election (Offence and Punishment) Act, which were registered at the Parliament Secretariat in the second

week of December, are awaiting deliberations in Parliament for weeks now, thanks to the repeated obstructions in parliamentary proceedings caused by the opposition lawmakers who are protesting the constitution amendment bill for reconfiguration of Province 5.

The EC has also been urging the government and the political parties to pass these bills as early possible, so that it could have sufficient time to prepare for the local level elections.

Sharma believes that the

decision taken by the EC concerning the local level elections, despite the confusions and political bickering, could spur the political parties into shifting their focus towards the elections with a sense of pressing urgency.

Other EC officials agree. They said the preparations made by the commission could give momentum for staging the elections at the earliest.

The EC is doing its part and the political parties and the government should do the same, they added.

MUM AND DAUGHTER DEAD, 2 GIRLS HOSPITALISED

POST REPORT

SARLAHI, JAN 3

A 30-year-old mother and her 10-year-old daughter died in an apparent murder-suicide in Sarlahi district on Monday. Her two other daughters were admitted to hospital for poisoning.

Police said the mother, Gundru Devi, of Pipariya VDC-3 had fed poison-laced juice to her three daughters before drinking it herself.

Gundru Devi and one of her daughters, Chanda Kumari, were pronounced dead on arrival by doctors at the District Hospital. Two other girls, Puja, 13, and Radha, 3, were referred to a Birgunj-based hospital for treatment.

The victims were found by their neighbours after hearing one of the girls crying.

Gundru Devi's husband, their only son and a fourth daughter were not at home at the time of incident. Deputy Superintendent of Police Sitaram Rijal said they have launched an investigation to find the motive behind Gundru Devi's action.

The story seems like a good script for a Bollywood film, or as one observer put it, "something straight out of the hit US TV series House of Cards".

"Shake with your right hand, but hold a rock with your left," says Frank Underwood, the ruthless US president in the TV series.

Something similar has played out in real life in the last two weeks in India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh.

The chief of the state's ruling Samajwadi Party (SP), Mulayam Singh Yadav, on Friday expelled his son, Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, from the party for six years for "breaking his trust".

The 77-year-old looked in pain when he said that "the future of his son looked bleak", and he was "not listening or taking any advice" from him.

He had done the unthinkable, in his own words, he had "expelled his son after deciding to make him the chief minister" of Uttar Pradesh in 2012. The news rocked the political landscape of the state, which is likely to go to

polls in February.

TV news channels showed the supporters of the father and son violently clashing in the state's capital, Lucknow.

But in a sudden move, the senior Yadav took his son back into the party the following day, with a promise to fight the upcoming elections together. He also cancelled the expulsion of his cousin Ram Gopal Yadav, whom he had blamed for giving the chief minister "wrong advice".

The storm seemed to have blown over. But just like in any good TV script, a twist was in store.

The chief minister on Sunday called a meeting of senior leaders and legislators at his house where he was unanimously elected the party's new president.

He said he went against his colleagues to appoint his son chief minister in 2012. Many at the time saw Yadav's move as his way of securing his legacy in Indian politics.

He gave his father a largely

ceremonious role of "chief mentor". Mulayam Singh Yadav has called the changes "unconstitutional". The party now looks set for a split with both groups approaching the Election Commission to claim the SP's poll symbol, the bicycle. The elder Yadav is a veteran politician—he's served three terms as the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, and was the defence minister of India between 1996 and 1998.

Considered a shrewd politician, he is known for surprising his colleagues and opponents alike with his decisions. But as 2016 drew to a close, it was his turn to be surprised.

He said he went against his colleagues to appoint his son chief minister in 2012. Many at the time saw Yadav's move as his way of securing his legacy in Indian politics.

Following the defeat, Yadav publicly criticised his son. The chief minister did not respond publicly, but decided to change his style of working, and took two noticeable decisions.

First, he became more assertive to quell speculation that he was a weak chief minister and that his relatives, including his powerful uncle Shivpal Yadav, were actually calling the shots behind the scenes.

His administration went on a publicity overdrive. Billboards, TV and radio ads all portrayed him as the face of a state hungry for success and growth.

His second decision was to announce big projects like new motorways, power plants and job creation schemes.

The absence of his father's image from these promotional activities did not go unnoticed in the press, leading to speculation about a rift between the two.

However, the known reason for their current war of words is differences over the selection of candidates for the upcoming elections.

PREPS ON TO SHIFT 20 WATER BUFFALOES TO CNP FROM KTWR

KATHMANDU: The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation has started the construction of an enclosure inside the Chitwan National Park for the transfer of water buffaloes from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. The DNPWC will set up the enclosure in an area spread over 40 ha land in partnership with the CNP, Green Forest Programme and the National Trust for Nature Conservation. In the first phase, the DNPWC will transfer five male and 15 female water buffaloes. (RSS)



■ There have been growing differences between Akhilesh Yadav and his father, Mulayam Singh Yadav.



'Govt working to attract youths in agriculture'

RASTRIVI SAMACHAR SAMITI
BHADRAPUR, JAN 3

bridge and promotion of the lowest place in Nepal, Kechana Kawal.

Similarly, Minister for Agriculture Development, Gauri Shanker Chaudhary, stressed on the need for modern agriculture system, saying expected benefits cannot be achieved without modernising the agriculture sector.

Inaugurating the Paddy Super Zone Programme under the Prime Minister's Agriculture Modernisation Project in Baniyani, Jhapa, on Tuesday, he said the super zone programme has been introduced in all seven proposed provinces with a focus on paddy in Jhapa.

Expressing happiness over the rise in agro productivity this year, the prime minister said the possibility of country's economic, social and political advancements were closely tied with agricultural growth.

On a different note, Prime Minister Dahal said unity among the parties was inevitable for stability and prosperity of the nation. "The date for the upcoming elections would be announced soon based on coordination, collaboration, unity and dialogue among the parties," he said.

He also pledged to support the development of the Kechana-Charali road, construction of the Mechi

Secretary at the Agriculture Ministry, Dr Saroj Pokharel, and Director General of the Agriculture Division, Dr Yubakdhoji Joshi, shed light on various aspects of sustainable development of agro sector.

Senior Agriculture Development Officer, Meghnath Timalsena, said that super zone programme has been launched in 1,000 hectares of land in Balwadi, Baniyani, Pathamari, Prithivinagar, Kechana and Pathariya VDCs in Jhapa district from this year.

PM announces special relief package for Tehrathum fire victims

CHANDRA KARKI
TEHRATHUM, JAN 3

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal has announced a special relief package including a fund of Rs 10 million to the fire victims of Sankranti Bazaar in Tehrathum district. The prime minister made such announcement during his visit to Sankranti Bazaar area on Tuesday.

Addressing a local gathering, Prime Minister Dahal announced a special relief package for the fire victims to reconstruct their destroyed houses and businesses, including collateral-free low interest loan scheme.

The prime minister

said the government will soon provide fire engines for the district, noting that Sankranti Bazaar suffered would not have suffered a huge loss if there were fire engines to respond to the fire.

A massive fire had broke out at Sankranti Bazaar on December 16, destroying 32 houses and rendering 56 families homeless. Properties worth around Rs 141 million were destroyed.

Prime Minister Dahal also said that he has directed the Energy Ministry to expedite works for Tamor Hydropower Project and drinking water projects in Sankranti Bazaar and Myaglung, the district headquarters.

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
Central Level Project Implementation Unit
Earthquake Emergency Assistance Project (EEAP)
Kupondole, Lalitpur
ADB Loan No: 3260 - NEP

Notice of Intention to Award the Contract

Date of Publication: 4th January 2017

This is to notify to all concerned bidders that pursuant to section 27, sub section 2 of the Public Procurement Act 2063, we intent to accept the bid for the following contract packages dated 19th October 2016 for execution of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of road surface, drainage and structures of the following roads under Earthquake Emergency Assistance Project (EEAP). The Bidders Bid Prices as corrected and modified in accordance with the ITB as follows

S.N.	Contract No:	Responsive Bidder	Bid Amount including VAT (NPR)	
			In Figure	In Words
1	Contract No: MoFALD/ CLPIU/ EEAP/ Works/ NCB/ 07-2073/74, Godamchour-Godabari-Badikhel-Lelebhanjyang Road Sub Project, Lalitpur District	M/S Kumar Shrestha/ Nepal Adarsha JV, Kuleshwor, Kathmandu	253,703,151.78	Two Hundred Fifty Three Million Seven Hundred Three Thousand One Hundred Fifty One And Paisa Seventy Eight Only
2	Contract No: MoFALD/ CLPIU/ EEAP/ Works/ NCB/ 08-2073/74, Thaiba-Godamchour Road Sub Project, Lalitpur District	M/S Biruwa/ P.R JV, Maharajgung, Kathmandu	57,100,802.90	Fifty Seven Million One Hundred Thousand Eight Hundred Two And Paisa Ninety Only

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Name: Bhoj Lal Shrestha
Symbol No.: 9600031213506
Year: 2016
Address: Jarayatar-8, Sindhuli

MAN SHOT AT, ROBBED OF RS 500,000,

BIRATNAGAR: An unidentified group shot at an operator of a Biratnagar-based money changer at Pipalchowk along the Biratnagar-Jogbani road section on Monday night. Bates Sah, the owner of Kriti Money Changer, sustained bullet injuries in his thigh and arms.

According to Sah, the motorcycle-borne assailants also looted Rs 500,000 from Sah. The injured is receiving treatment in BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences in Dharan. (PR)

Transgender man wins legal battle

A Chinese transgender man declared victory on Tuesday after a court ruled he had been illegally fired in the country's first such unfair dismissal case. The plaintiff, who was born a woman but identifies as a man and generally wears men's clothing, was sacked after seven days working for a health centre in Guizhou.



Germany plans security overhaul

Germany's interior minister Tuesday outlined plans for an overhaul of the country's security apparatus, seeking greater federal powers on domestic intelligence and the enforcement of migrant expulsions in the wake of the Berlin truck attack. The minister, Thomas de Maiziere, also called for wider oversight for federal police.

India anger over groping comments

An Indian minister faced a severe backlash on Tuesday after he criticised women for dressing "like westerners" at a New Year's eve celebration where a mob allegedly carried out a series of sex assaults. Although police have yet to charge anyone in connection with the violence on Saturday night in Bangalore.



NEWS DIGEST

Gunman in Turkey attack may have trained in Syria

ISTANBUL: The gunman who killed 39 people in an Istanbul nightclub on New Year's Day in an attack claimed by Islamic State appears to have been well versed in guerrilla warfare and may have trained in Syria, a newspaper report and a security source said on Tuesday. The attacker shot dead a police officer and a civilian at the entrance to the exclusive Reina nightclub on Sunday. He then opened fire with an automatic rifle inside, reloading his weapon half a dozen times and shooting the wounded as they lay on the ground. In a statement claiming the attack on Monday, Islamic State described the club as a gathering point for Xmas celebrating their "apostate holiday" and said the shooting was revenge for Turkish military involvement in Syria.

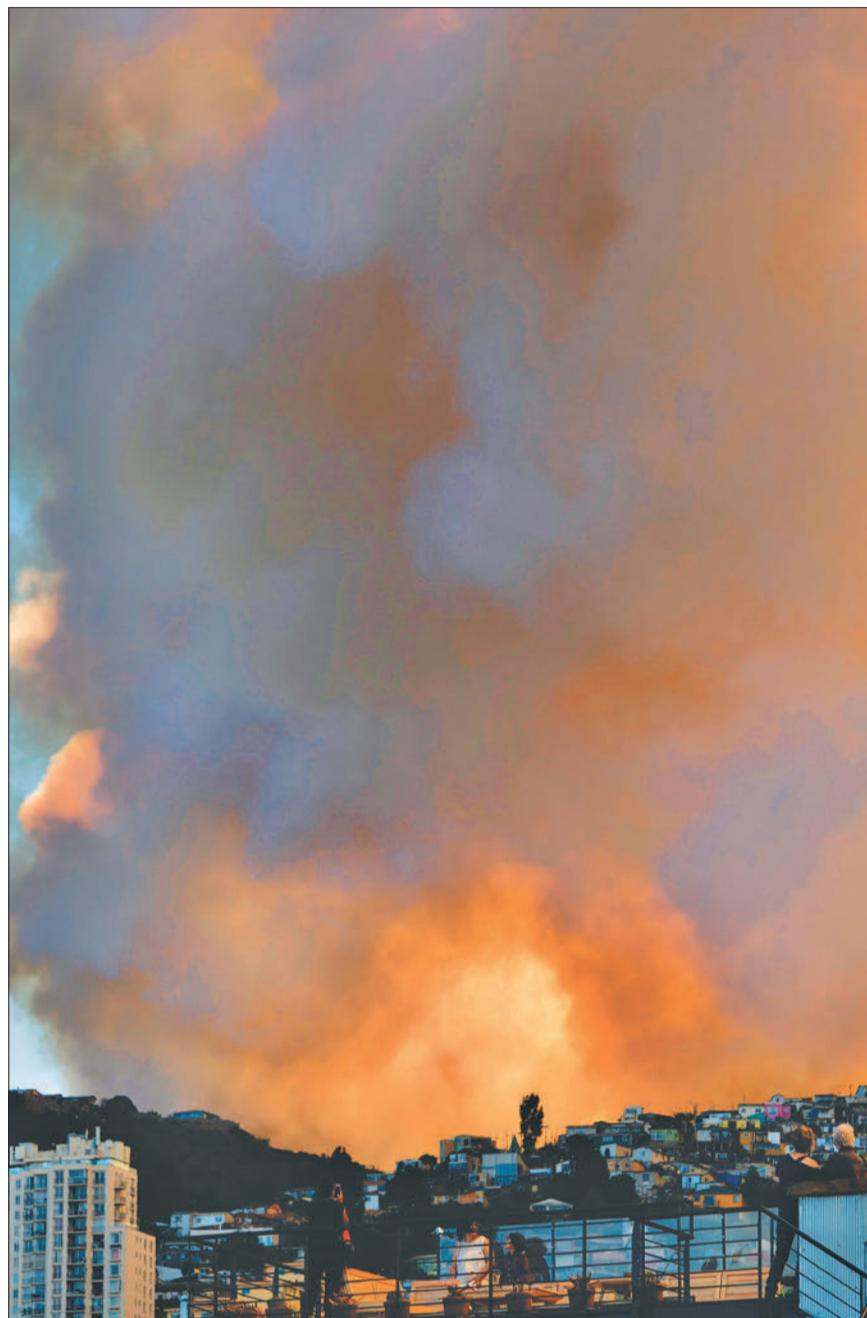
Top French paper drops polls after forecast failures

PARIS: A leading French newspaper said Tuesday it had decided to stop publishing political polls, which have been widely criticised for failing to predict the biggest shocks of the last year. Le Parisien daily said it would stop commissioning polling group Ipsos and would base its stories in the run-up to this year's presidential election on reporting by its own journalists. "We have decided, and it was the subject of a lot of debate, to return to the heart of our profession which is working on the ground," the paper's editorial director Stephane Alibouy told France Inter radio. He did not however rule out referring in stories to polls carried out by other media.

Chinese official gets 10 years in vaccine scandal

BEIJING: A former official of China's Food and Drug Administration has been jailed for taking bribes from vaccine manufacturers, reports said on Tuesday, in a case with echoes of a major scandal that rocked the Asian country last year. Yin Hongzhang, the former deputy director of the administration's drug testing centre, received a 10-year sentence and was fined 500,000 yuan for taking bribes to help vaccine manufacturers gain approval for their drugs, a local newspaper reported. (AGENCIES)

red alert



■ Smoke billows from a forest near Valparaiso, in Chile, on Monday as a wildfire threatens to reach the city's port. Authorities have declared a red alert in the area. The wildfire ravaged woods and burned 100 homes in Valparaiso, forcing authorities to evacuate hundreds of people. At least 19 people were reported hurt after the fire broke out on the outskirts of the historic city, the government said.

AFP/RSS

SKorea president shuns impeachment hearing

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SEOUL, JAN 3

duct a fair and thorough review of the case," said Judge Park Han-Chul.

Regardless of whether Park shows up when the hearing resumes Thursday, the case will go ahead.

Her lawyers said she was unlikely to attend future hearings. Park has been suspended from executive duties and the country is being temporarily led by Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-Ahn.

The Constitutional Court has up to six months to decide whether to confirm Park's impeachment. If it does, a presidential election must be held within two months.

Park is accused of colluding with close friend Choi Soon-Sil to coerce big companies into handing over nearly \$70 million to dubious foundations which Choi controlled

and allegedly plundered.

Choi—dubbed South Korea's "Rasputin" due to her influence over the president—is now on trial for coercion and abuse of power and her daughter has been detained in Denmark as the scandal spreads.

Park has repeatedly denied the corruption allegations in sometimes tearful televised addresses, while apologising for lapses.

She allegedly ordered aides to leak state documents to Choi, who has no official title or security clearance, and let her meddle in state affairs including the appointment of top officials.

On Sunday the scandal enmeshed Chung Yoo-Ra, Choi's 20-year-old daughter, who was arrested in Denmark for overstaying her visa.

In a Dec 19 interview with Kentucky Educational Television, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, said that before the election, he assumed Democrats would take back control of the Senate and hold on to the White House, ending any talk of repealing Obamacare. "I didn't think ... Trump had a chance of win-

ning," McConnell said. The opposite occurred and now Republicans find they have to deliver on their campaign promise, even though they have not agreed on a replacement healthcare program.

The first meeting of the 115th Congress will be full of ceremony, as the 435 members of the House of Representatives and a third of the 100-member Senate are sworn in. Amid the celebration will be a move by House Republicans to clear the decks for Obamacare repeal.

That will come in the form of a vote on rules governing House procedures in the two-year term of the chamber. Tucked into the rules package is a move to prevent Democrats from slowing or stopping Obamacare repeal legislation because of the potential cost to the US Treasury of doing so.

Speaking to reporters, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said they would launch an effort to mobilise grassroots support for Obamacare by explaining how repeal would create a ripple effect hurting a majority of Americans.

Obama is scheduled to meet on Wednesday with congressional Democrats to discuss strategies for fending off the Republican attacks on Obamacare.

The Senate will kick off hearings on Trump's choices to head his Cabinet departments and other top jobs in the new administration.

It is also expected to receive a Supreme Court nomination from Trump early in his term to replace conservative Justice Antonin Scalia, who died last February.

SYRIAN REBELS FREEZE TALKS AFTER TRUCE VIOLATIONS

REUTERS
AMMAN, JAN 3

Syrian rebel groups said on Monday they had decided to freeze any talks about their possible participation in Syrian peace negotiations being prepared by Moscow in Kazakhstan unless the Syrian government and its Iran-backed allies end what they said were violations of a ceasefire.

In a statement, the rebel groups also said that any territorial advances by the army and Iran-backed militias that are fighting alongside it would end the fragile ceasefire brokered by Russia and Turkey, which back opposing sides, that came into effect on Friday. "The regime and its allies have continued firing and committed many and large violations," said the statement signed by the mainly moderate rebel groups operating under the umbrella of the so-called Free Syrian Army (FSA).

The UN Security Council on Saturday gave its blessing to the ceasefire deal, which are slated to be followed by peace talks in the Kazakh capital, Astana.

The statement said the main violations were in an area northwest of Damascus in the rebel-held Wadi Barada valley, where government forces and the Iran-backed Lebanese Hezbollah group have been trying to press advances in an ongoing campaign.

Rebels say the army is seeking to recapture the area, where a major spring provides most of Damascus's water supplies and which lies on a major supply route from Lebanon to the Syrian capital used by Hezbollah.

Like previous Syria ceasefire deals, it has been shaky from the start, with repeated outbreaks of violence in some areas, but has largely held elsewhere.

The rebel groups questioned Russia's ability to force the Syrian government and their allies to abide by the terms of the ceasefire deal.

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EDITORIAL

Sluggish development

Govt should accord high priority to national pride projects

Residents of Kathmandu have been awaiting water from the Melamchi river for the last two decades. Over the years, the Asian Development Bank-funded project has suffered numerous delays for one reason or another. But in a positive signal last week, the project developer completed construction of 22 kilometres of the tunnel by blasting the two-metre section of the earth that divided the tunnel into two segments. This was hailed as a major breakthrough in the project. Tunnel construction will be over after digging the remaining section measuring 5.5km. The recent development has given hope that the work will be completed by June and water delivered to Kathmandu by October, in line with the developer's target.

The Melamchi venture has been categorised as one of Nepal's 21 'national pride' projects—a concept introduced during the prime ministership of Baburam Bhattarai in 2012 in an attempt to accelerate the construction of schemes considered vital for Nepal's development. Experts claim that the completion of these projects could change the country's face and put it on a high growth trajectory—something Nepal desperately needs.

Unfortunately, however, the progress of many of these pride projects is far from satisfactory. According to the latest report of the National Planning Commission (NPC), the apex body that formulates the country's development plans and programmes, more than half of these projects failed to meet even half their performance targets in the first four months of the current fiscal year.

The worst performer during this period is the Kathmandu-Tarai Fast Track Project, which met a paltry 0.1 percent of each of its physical and financial targets. Many other projects have not performed significantly better.

While there are some immediate difficulties such as delays in land acquisition and disputes between project officials and locals over compensation, low capital expenditure is an entrenched and long-standing problem in Nepal. In an effort to buck the country's disastrous spending trend, this year the budget was presented and approved by Parliament before the beginning of the fiscal year. Yet this does not seem to have made much difference. According to the Financial Comptroller General Office's daily budgetary status as of January 2—half way through the fiscal year—only 9.04 percent of the capital expenditure has been spent.

Prime Minister Dahal's instruction to the NPC to design an implementation modality for all national pride projects within a month and his statement that it is time to think radically to expedite the construction of these projects are welcome. But his talk will ring hollow if he does not follow up his words with concrete action.

Between a rock and a hard place

There might be civil conflict if we drive the constitution on the basis of a resurgent nationalism and refusal to accommodate differences



AJAYA BHADRA KHANAL
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As final negotiations take place among the mainstream parties over the current political deadlock, considerable challenges remain ahead for Nepali politics.

The most important component of Nepal's political transition is the next round of elections to the federal, provincial and local levels. Only a year remains before the term of the current Legislature-Parliament ends, requiring Parliament to clear the path for future political processes before that deadline.

In such a scenario, the current crisis of the legitimacy of political solutions being sought may be a trifle compared to the constitutional and political challenges that may emerge next year. In addition, there is a threat of civil conflict from two different dimensions—one from the Madhes movement and another from the nationalist royalist movement.

Politics of contention

One agenda of political contention is whether a constitution amendment is required to appease the Tarai-based political parties that are leading the Madhes movement. So far, the CPN-UML's position has been that it wants to move ahead with the elections without giving in to the demands of the Madhesi Morcha—an alliance of disgruntled Madhes-based political parties. The current government, however, was formed with the central assumption that elections are not possible without appeasing the Madhesis through a constitution amendment.

The Supreme Court has not prevented Parliament from moving ahead with the constitution amendment process. However, it has asked the body to take note of Article 274, which requires any decision about boundaries of the provinces to be approved by the provincial parliament. Although Parliament can formulate laws regarding the rights of provincial assemblies until provincial elections, amendments to the federal boundaries require the consent of the provinces.

Another challenge facing the political parties is Article 296, which limits the term of the current Parliament to January 21 of next year. It means that Parliament has to pave the way for future political processes, including elections, before it



is dissolved.

indicate that something more fundamental is taking place in the Nepali political landscape.

A new political grouping, the new nationalist force campaign (Rashtrabadi Shakti Abhiyan) is attempting to forge a formidable alliance. The force, confident of support from external powers, is preparing for a show of strength in the streets with the promise of participation by Gyanendra Shah himself.

Whether such a movement is merely intended to counter the UML-led Nepali nationalism, or it will become a real alternative to ensure 'stability' in Nepal is yet to be seen. However, the rise of the force does indicate a fundamental shift in Nepali politics that can lead to civil conflict.

If anything, the rise of royalist nationalism, and the continued backing of India to the Madhesi Morcha, could force the mainstream political parties to come together rather than face an uncertain future after the dissolution of Parliament next year.

Two possible scenarios

Even if the political parties, including the UML, come to an agreement with the Madhesi Morcha, many challenges will remain. The first issue of contention will be the sequence of elections. At this moment, local elections are the most feasible as they only require the consent of the Tarai-based parties to move ahead. National elections require demarcation of

Experience of the last decade shows that different armed groups in the Madhes can be operated and backed by clandestine political forces prior to political negotiations

constituencies to 165 from the existing 240 and will generate a lot of dispute.

The second issue of contention will be power-sharing. Parties in opposition will continue to obstruct parliamentary proceedings, delaying formulation of new laws required to propel Nepal into a new political structure. The third source of conflict will be elections. All the parties, like the UML at present, will immediately switch to electoral mode and attempt to build up their constituents.

What will happen to the agenda of nationalism and federalism, however, is anyone's guess. The power of nationalism was demonstrated during the 2013 Constituent Assembly (CA) elections. The primary reason for the loss of Maoists in the 2013 CA elections was the resistance of the *pahade* (hill) Hindus.

The Maoist's agenda of federalism, inspired by Lenin, was a strategy to ride on the wave of ethnic sentiments and create a strong totalitarian centre. Formation of ethnic states was only a ruse to manage ethnic sentiments, which the communists had realised was more potent than class consciousness.

An ethnicity-based federal state required the sacrifice of *pahade* Hindu nationalism, which was also seen as the only way to weaken the NC and the UML. However, this strategy by Baburam Bhattarai to align the Maoists with the Janajatis and the Madhesis backfired because the *pahade* Hindus refused to sacrifice their nationalism. On the contrary, they propelled the UML and the NC to power and turned Prachanda into another Gorbachev.

The factors described above provide us with two scenarios. The first one is that if we attempt to drive the new constitution on the basis of a resurgent nationalism and a refusal to accommodate differences, we might be entering a path of civil conflict. The second is that if we are able to resolve our differences on federalism and move ahead, then the salience of nationalism in deciding national election outcomes may gradually go down over a period of 12 months. However, this is only possible if contentious issues like demarcation of constituencies are resolved as early as possible and resentment generated by provincial boundaries is managed well.

WORLDVIEW

Media freedom

Information is a public right that the state apparatus cannot withhold

DAWN

What on the face of it the news appears positive, the underlying implications are undoubtedly stark. In its special report launched last week, the Committee to Protect Journalists said that over the year past, it "did not identify anyone singled out for murder in Pakistan because of journalistic work". This may be encouraging, but the fact that this is the first time the committee has made such an assessment concerning Pakistan since 2001 amounts to an indictment of the impunity with which media personnel have for years been targeted.

No media worker may have been singled out and killed for his or her work in 2016, but that does not mean that there have been no violent deaths at all in the community. In August, DawnNews cameraman and AajTV camera man were killed in the line of duty in a bomb blast at the Quetta Civil Hospital. And it is not just tragedies such as this that continue to illustrate how media freedoms in Pakistan, and therefore the right of the citizenry to public-interest information, stand compromised. As the CPJ report notes, journalists and media organisations here have, under threat, had to resort to self-censorship in some cases, and several individuals have had to leave the profession as a result of coming under pressure from either non-state or state actors. Certainly, Pakistan desperately needs to protect its hard-won media freedoms and ensure safety for media personnel. Yet beyond that there is much more work to be done. Consider the manner in which citizens' right to information laws have proved helpful across the world in nurturing an environment where public-interest information is able to see the light of day. Perhaps what is needed is a change in optics: information, whether through the media or otherwise, is a public right that the state apparatus cannot withhold.

Trump cannot destroy American democracy, but his success sets a terrible example for struggling democracies like Nepal



NARESH KOIRALA

Winston Churchill once said: "You can always count on Americans to do the right thing—after they've tried everything else." I shared Churchill's optimism until the United States' presidential election. Not anymore! Americans elected the worst of all candidates. And it is not the first time they have done this. They elected George W Bush 16 years ago.

On January 20, Donald J Trump will become the 45th President of the United States of America. For the next four years, President Trump will set the direction of his country and influence world order. A wrong decision by the president can destabilise the world for a long time. George W Bush's stupidity, hubris and ignorance led to the rise of the ISIS. His financial policies caused the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Millions of people suffered.

The rich and the famous
No one knows exactly how Trump will perform, but his public persona and private behaviour invoke the worst fears. Trump was already known in the US even before he declared his candidacy for the Republican Party ticket. He was recognised as the owner of a successful real estate company, the owner of the Miss Universe Pageant and the star of a popular reality show called "The Apprentice". He loved the limelight and frequented a third-rate radio talk show



where women were berated as men's playthings and where unfettered profanity was the norm of public conversation. He incessantly bragged about his wealth and the "great company I built". Even before the election, Trump's core values could be summed as: if you are rich and famous you can do anything. Trump entered politics by leading a year-long campaign which questioned Barack Obama's birthplace and therefore his legitimacy as president (the US constitution prohibits those born outside the country from running for president).

Trump's private persona became of

public interest when he was nominated

for the Republican Party's ticket and journalists started digging into his personal life. What they uncovered turned out to be even more disgraceful than what was already known. An online poll asking people to describe Trump sums up the man: a vain, egotistical, pompous, narcissistic, sexist, lying, racist, policy-ignorant, foul-mouthed, vengeful and pathological man who judges someone's success based only on the person's financial wealth. Evidently, Trump is a man driven only by the basest instincts. Soon this person will become the most powerful individual in the world.

Jeffrey Sachs, a celebrated Columbia University professor, commented in a recent speech in Kathmandu that the Trump presidency might cause a huge 'brawl' in the United States. Scholars like him are busy crystal-gazing, guessing the likely impact president Trump will have on the world; yet there is little discussion on the damages already inflicted by Trump's election. These damages are long-term and affect the very core of democratic values.

Deep disappointment

The election has severely damaged the image of the United States as a beacon of democracy and strengthened anti-democratic forces in struggling democracies. Take Nepal for example.

There is a huge respect for altruism, humility, integrity and moral character in Nepal. Politicians are expected to be role models, who reflect these values in their public as well as private life. But Nepal's democracy has repeatedly brought politicians to power who have been replicating 'Trumpism' in their conduct even before the arrival of Trump: they play fast and loose with facts, they are manipulative, self-serving and corrupt; money is their

only objective in life. The disappointment with these politicians is turning into disappointment with democracy itself.

Trump's election has deepened the disappointment. It has emboldened politicians to continue with their cunning. It has reinforced the idea that the best politics is repeating lies; value-based politics, ethics and integrity are anachronisms. The spectacle of Republican Party leaders—who had abandoned Trump during the election campaign as a sexist, racist comman—parading around him after his victory has intensified ordinary Nepalis' disappointment with democracy.

Nepal's anti-democratic forces have seized the opportunity provided by Trump's election to denounce democracy. They now point to the ills of democracy by citing Trump's election. "What does America stand for?", they ask. What are its core values? Although I live in Canada, I have been taunted with comments like: "This is your democracy!"

Trump's election has exposed the worst of electoral politics: the inability to prevent the elevation of demagogues to power. History shows that in countries where democracy does not have strong historical roots, the demagogues soon do away with democracy and become authoritarian. Russia slid from full democracy to pseudo democracy after Putin's election and Duterte is turning the Philippines' judicial system into a joke. Hitler came to power through a legitimate democratic process.

Democratic roots and the rule-of-law in the United States are strong. Trump will not be successful in destroying American democracy. But his election has set a terrible example for struggling democracies like in Nepal.

Koirala is a Canada-based Geotechnical Engineer

Troubled waters

BUDDHA RATNA TANDUKAR

We have been trying to clean the Bagmati River for many years. A huge amount of money has been invested in the effort. Every Saturday, a whole bunch of people including soldiers, police officers, jobholders, leaders, teachers, students and do-gooders are still trying to clean it. Cleaning up the Bagmati is a good idea from religious, environmental and natural aspects. This mission has to be completed because it is very important to stop all types of pollution and keep

the Kathmandu Valley neat and clean.

The Bagmati River used to be sparkling clean only about three decades ago. People used the river water for drinking, washing clothes and bathing. The water used to be so clean you could see the sand on the riverbed. Taking a bath in the river was necessary during funeral rites. It was believed that its water was holy. But now the water has become polluted and dirty. It cannot be touched or smelt. It is not only spreading pollution in the Kathmandu Valley, but also spoiling its beauty. If we really want to clean up the

Bagmati River, first we should immediately stop pouring raw sewage directly into the water. A sewage treatment system should be well developed. The entire drainage system in the Kathmandu Valley

should be properly managed. Until these problems are settled, all the efforts that we have been making to complete our common mission will be futile. In addition to these existing problems, people have not totally stopped throwing garbage on the banks of the Bagmati. This is a challenge to

our clean-up mission. Sometimes, I wonder how we will be able to complete our mission at all because while we are cleaning up the Bagmati River with great effort, it is simultaneously being polluted carelessly.

But let's hope that one day in the near future, our mission will be a success and our Bagmati River will be clean. There will not be any kind of pollution. The environment will be better than ever. The Bagmati River will be naturally beautiful. This will add much beauty to the

Kathmandu Valley. It will fascinate everyone's heart, and it will be the centre of attraction. Ultimately, our dissatisfaction over the present condition of the Bagmati River will be fully replaced by pleasure at its beauty and fresh environment. The water of the Bagmati River will regain its holiness. Such a drastic change is possible if we all show great perseverance in the face of difficulties to complete our mission. But it should begin from ourselves, and we should inspire others too. Then, obviously, the final destination of our mission will not be so far away.

RANJ ALAALDIN

The Syria ceasefire agreement brokered by Turkey and Russia this week could bring much-needed respite to a population that has suffered a brutal and bloody war for nearly six years. In theory, this respite will bring an end to the conflict and translate into a lasting settlement. In practice—and at best—it is likely to last only a matter of days or possibly weeks, and may fall apart like previous agreements.

It is the political and military realities on the ground that will decide Syria's conflict and its prospects of peace and stability. The backdrop to the latest ceasefire agreement is not one of goodwill and trust between the various belligerents. It comes only two weeks after the fall of Aleppo to the Assad regime and its backers, Russia and Iran, who for many months brutally and indiscriminately besieged Aleppo's population. Hundreds of thousands were forced into submission, their communities decimated.

Unless carefully monitored and implemented, ceasefire agreements can end up being superficial and can distract attention away from intensified military campaigns and human rights abuses. The tragedy is

that the evacuation that followed the fall of Aleppo simply displaced the local population to Idlib, the last remaining rebel stronghold that is dominated by more extreme factions within the opposition group.

The deal brokered by Turkey and Russia does not include these factions and, while it is more accommodating of a number of rebel groups in comparison to previous agreements, Russia and Iran have in the past applied loose criteria for the groups that it considers to fall within the parameters of "terrorism"—and do not normally differentiate between the different rebel factions. In other words, this week's deal could yet again provide them with plenty of political cover to intensify their attacks and worsen the humanitarian crisis in the country.

Other aspects of the deal are also vague. We know little about the details of the control mechanisms that are supposed to enforce its conditions. Both

Untill a ceasefire covers all rebel groups, war will rage on in Syria



Tens of thousands of rebel fighters have dedicated themselves to continuing the war against the Assad regime.

■ SYRIA

Fragile pact

not necessarily have the same long-term political and geopolitical objectives as Moscow. As these militias and other Assad loyalists make further gains, they are likely to grow increasingly assertive and diverge further away from Russia's sphere of influence.

The ceasefire deal could potentially be a prelude to what many hope will be successful peace talks in Astana, Kazakhstan next month; but without more credible and legitimate brokers, it is more likely to be just another temporary fix that provides a mere breather for those involved.

Turkey and Russia may lack the leverage that can force belligerents into accepting the ceasefire agreement.

Turkey has not asserted whether it will deploy any troops to monitor and police events on the ground, which is normally a fundamental prerequisite for ceasefire agreements and one that also allows humanitarian actors to go into conflict areas and do their job effectively. Tens of thousands of rebel fighters have not necessarily agreed to accept the ceasefire and have dedicated themselves to continuing the war against the Assad regime in the wake of the fall of Aleppo.

Russia's hands are also tied. As Iran's disruption of the Aleppo evacuation process two weeks ago showed, it is Iranian proxy militias and other Assad loyalists who control the local political and security environment and will ultimately decide the fate of ceasefire arrangements. Yet, Russia has no control over these groups, who do

■ PSYCHOLOGY

Trump's personality will help us

Intense scrutiny of the president-elect's neurological quirks provide a starting point for insight into what makes us so creative, and so destructive

DEBORAH ORR

A fair number of people are implacably opposed to seeing any hope for the future after the election of Donald Trump to the presidency of the United States. But there's one good reason to be hopeful. Many observers saw quite quickly that Trump's personality was highly disordered. People with yet more dangerous personality disorders have gained power many times in human history—probably far more often than not. This time, however, the phenomenon is being scrutinised on those terms. The opportunity for everyone to learn a lot about this domineering, exploitative, unstable and superficially charismatic personality type has presented itself on a grand scale.

In fact, there has never been a better time than now for human beings to start gaining far greater insight into ourselves, what makes us so creative and what makes us so destructive. And it's not just a matter of information. All the neuroimaging, all the psychological theorising, all the psychiatric experimentation with pharmacology, it's already prompting huge need for careful, scientifically anchored engagement with the ethical and philosophical debate about what it is to be human.

There's no doubt that people are wary. For some, calling a serial killer a psychopath is somehow excusing them. In the judicial system,

where brain scans have been used by defence lawyers, the "it wasn't me, it was my brain" defence is mistrusted. It is odd, this idea that we are anything at all, if not our brains. We like to believe we have free will, and have become used to judging criminality as a moral failing rather than a neurological failing. Yet scientific evidence that ethical choices are the consequence of the processing of information through an adequately developed mind, is mounting.

The idea that every human brain is mechanically perfect—with cruel or annihilating impulses somehow separate from it, as if repugnant thoughts were like stagnant water running through an infallibly reliable plumbing system—is silly but somehow comforting.

Donald Trump regularly advertises the marvellous health and top-functioning of his brain. Even relatively benign neurological quirks—say, learning disabilities such as dyslexia—attract cynicism and suspicion. They are seen by some as deluded excuses rather than helpful explanations.

A New Zealand study reported earlier this month that "high social cost" adults could be predicted from as young as three from a 45-minute survey of their brain. It has long been known that early intervention is important for vulnerable children. But the Dunedin Longitudinal study is a real wake-up call. It signposts how catching early developmental problems and helping children develop their minds more fully is of benefit to all of society, if only we have the will.

Humans find threatening the idea that thought is the product of complex, robust, yet highly plastic physical processes, that can be flawed from birth and can develop, repair or compensate for flaws, depending on environment. Somehow, even in our secular age, we prefer to believe we have souls. Yet our potential for understanding that it's all in our minds, and working out how individual minds can develop in a well-adjusted way, has never been greater. That, to me, gives great hope for the future.

■ RUSSIA

US-Russia relations are stuck in the past

While Moscow's cyberwar capacity is cutting-edge, the flurry of expulsions and misguided sanctions simply rehash the mistakes of the cold war

SIMON JENKINS

So Barack Obama expels 35 Russian diplomats because Moscow apparently hacked the American election campaign. Big deal. The gesture is, as Moscow replies, "the death throes of political corpses". In another bout of this archaic ritual, Russia threatened to close Moscow's Anglo-American school and expel a batch of Americans from Moscow—though Vladimir Putin eventually said he would not stoop to such "irresponsible diplomacy". The next thing we know, Britain will ban Russians from Harrods. It is like reacting to Pearl Harbor by not eating sushi.

The essence of cyberwarfare is precisely that it needs no diplomats. They are little more than bureaucrats

ic flotsam. Just as defence policy is passing to bombardiers sitting thousands of miles from the action, so foreign policy is moving from cocktail parties and embassies to hackers sitting in their own attics.

Washington's FBI and Homeland Security report into Russian government-sponsored interference in the recent US election is unanswerable. Russian hacking has been widespread and multifarious, as during the Olympic doping scandal. Why Moscow felt it worth the risk of meddling in a presidential election is puzzling. Did Putin really think he could fix the outcome? The reason was probably hackers' hubris: "We did it because we could." Rather than tell barefaced lies, Moscow should perhaps boast—and warn the world—of its new-

found proficiency.

American policy towards Russia since 2000 has been a catastrophe. It misjudged Moscow's visceral response to cold war defeat. It failed to learn from its disastrous adventure in Afghanistan. It recklessly pushed Nato and the EU into eastern Europe, where Russian sensitivities have always been strong. Finally America allowed itself to be humiliated by Russia in Syria.

Back in 2009, Obama promised to "reset" relations with Moscow. In this too he failed. The US has taunted, provoked and sanctioned Russia to absolutely no advantage. It has merely forestalled the role that trade and contact should play in opening up Russian society to outside influence. It has diminished opposition to Putin and driven Russia back to the threat of cyberwar.

Except, what is the point? As Edward Snowden and WikiLeaks have shown, an electronic secret is a contradiction in terms, whether personal or governmental. There can be no such thing. Perhaps we shall need those diplomats after all.

■ SOCIETY

Age of hate and violence

It's easy to mock old hippies, but what 2017 needs is peace and love

CAROL BIRCH

I've been getting pangs of nostalgia for past times. Not that I'm naive. I was there. It was all very well to sing along to All You Need Is Love, but it was never simple. The air reeked of sanctimony and hypocrisy and, as ever, the biggest, hardest egos surged to the top. We had Vietnam and the cold war and Charles Manson.

It's easy to look back with indulgence on those glory days of We Shall Overcome and Give Peace a Chance, of smiling flower children sticking daffodils into the barrels of soldiers' guns, Rastas advocating the smoking of herb and the practice of sitting together and reasoning. It feels hard to imagine, after 2016, that love and peace was once all the rage.

We do hate so much better now. The death threat has entered everyday discourse. Nice people on social media who I happen to know would not hurt a fly and are firmly against capital punishment; even they are at it. None of them means it. Some do though, like the far-right extremist who said "Britain first" as he murdered the MP Jo Cox in June last year.

When Cox was awarded a posthumous peace prize, some people complained. Should only saints win peace prizes? Of course she deserves the prize. She was a good woman who died doing her job, trying to help people. But we don't do shades any more.



Intolerance is the new vogue. I made a neighbour cry not long ago because I mildly criticised a politician she likes. "That's it!" said a friend, "that's the last time I take his parcels in for him," suspecting her neighbour had voted for the other lot the morning after 2015's general election.

We're losing the knowledge of how to disagree peacefully. Never has keeping your mouth shut been more attractive, because never before in my lifetime has free speech been so endangered. Every pathetic maudlin idiot is slammed into the grand, new, respectable stocks and pelted. People are destroyed because of what they tweet or blurt stupidly. Cox died because someone hated what she stood for.

Hate permeates the zeitgeist like a smell we've got used to. It's called by

other names but it's the same old thing, thriving on a massive dehumanisation of the other that spreads like mould. The scum enemy is vile and loathsome, and all the other words you might use of a cockroach, just as the Nazis did of the Jews.

This year, against the prevailing grain, we should reclaim such terms as peace, goodwill and unity from soppy bathos, read them anew and mine their original strength. This doesn't mean being an apologist for tyrants or appeasing genocidal bullies, who must always be confronted. There will be blood. This is the world and we're human.

But who was stronger than Martin Luther King? We need a new peace movement that aims to minimise violence wherever possible. It's hard

when you feel like smashing someone's stupid face in. I feel like that all the time. But if we give in to the hate, we're sunk.

In my youth we would sit for hours on end, a whole bundle of us together in a smoky room, talking about anything and everything under the sun. We didn't all see things the same way. We were just as messed up as any other generation. Peace, love and understanding was never more than a catchphrase. A whole load of hippy drivel was no doubt spouted in those times, but there was less hate in the air.

Come together. If only. Instead, we're all running away from one another very fast. Where are the holy fools, the peacemakers? All out of time, sleeping in a cave under the hills.

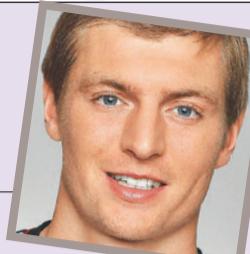


Coffee with D under threat

The director and producer of Coffee with D—a film which revolves around a journalist's attempt to fix an interview with Dawood Ibrahim—filed a complaint against callers who have been threatening them to make changes in the film if it shows the underworld don in bad light. Vishal Mishra, the director alleged that they were receiving threat calls since Dec 14.

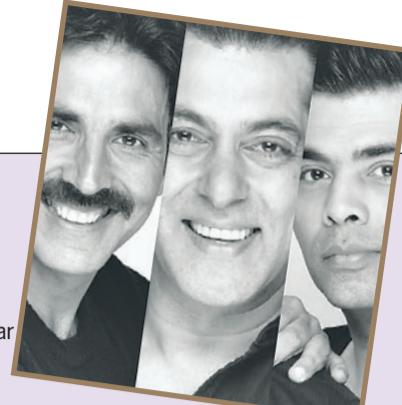
BORN TODAY

German footballer Toni Kross is 27
 American chef Graham Elliot is 40
 German musician Till Lindemann is 54
 English footballer James Milner is 31
 Indian singer Gurudas Maan is 60



KJo & Khan to produce a film

Bollywood celebrities and friends Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar and Karan Johar are coming together to make a "special film". "Supremely excited to co-produce with Salman Khan on a film starring Akshay Kumar and directed by Anurag Singh. Releasing 2018," Karan tweeted.



CUMBERBATCH AND SHERLOCK A MATCH MADE IN HISTORY

REUTERS

LONDON, JAN 3

Why does actor Benedict Cumberbatch cut such a dash as British literary detective Sherlock Holmes?

That's elementary, according to genealogy website Ancestry.com. Cumberbatch is distantly related to author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who created the brilliant but quirky sleuth some 130 years ago, the website said on Sunday. Cumberbatch, 40, star of the Emmy award-winning BBC TV series, Sherlock, is a 16th cousin, twice removed of Doyle.

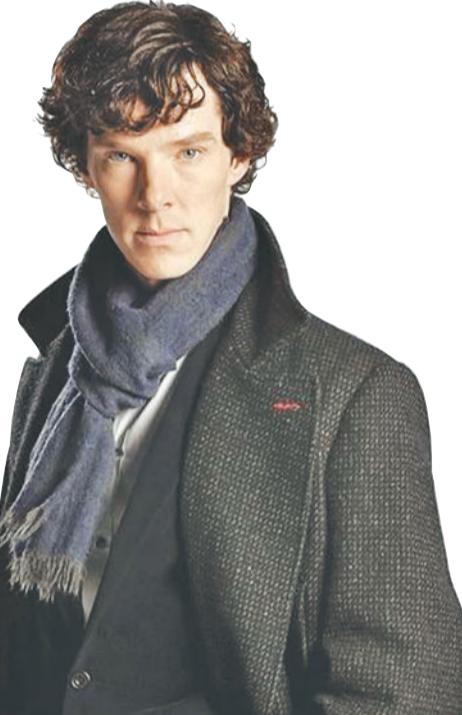
The two are related through 14th century English nobleman John of Gaunt, who, according to records, was Cumberbatch's 17th great-grandfather and Conan Doyle's 15th great-grandfather, Ancestry researchers said. John of Gaunt, born about 1340, was a son of England's King Edward III, meaning that Cumberbatch and Conan Doyle also have a distant royal connection.

"How rare that an actor in a major series has the chance to play a character created by a relative, especially one as iconic as Sherlock Holmes," said Jennifer Utley, a family historian at Ancestry. Sherlock, modern twist on the life and investigations of the 19th century London detective, first aired in 2010 and returns for its fourth series on Sunday on both US and British television.

The show, in which Cumberbatch plays Holmes as a haughty, socially inept detective to Martin Freeman's calm, practical Dr John Watson, is the most popular TV drama in Britain, according

to ratings data, and has been sold to 180 other countries. Conan Doyle published the first of about 60 Sherlock Holmes stories in 1887. The eccentric, violin-playing character has since become one of the best-known fictional detectives in the world and the inspiration for hundreds of movies, stage plays, books and TV shows.

Ancestry said its researchers looked at everything from church records, censuses, land deeds, newspaper announcements and tombstones to establish the link between Cumberbatch and Conan Doyle.



HUMAN BODY AND THE ARTS

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, JAN 3

A two-day seminar, Talking Bodies: Redefining Arts, Culture and Society, concluded in the Capital on Monday.

The event was attended by a host of scholars, artists, litterateur and cultural experts, who presented their assessments of the significance of the human body through lenses like modernism, post-modernism, and critical inter-

pretations that characterise contemporary arts and literature.

At the event, Professor Arun Gupta presented his paper on how mythical arts and sculptures, and the posture of gods and goddesses, can render multiple meaning to people and the impact they have on cultural behaviour and daily activities.

Organised by Shilpee Theatre, the event also saw Rajendra Dulal Chhetri, chairperson at Blind Help Center Nepal, talk about his struggle in coping with his blindness.

"Once I lost my eyesight five years ago, I had to work differently. The whole process of bodily work has changed," he said.

Meanwhile, Salil Subedi, a professional Didgeridoo player and performance artist, presented a dissertation titled Body of Nobody. He explained his own experiments with performance arts in various parts of the country and abroad and his bodily experiences. "Artists communicate their ideas through their body language. It is a strong medium to

convey message with," Subedi said.

Speaking to the Post, programme moderator Shiva Rijal said, "We aimed to talk about a topic—the human body—that is seldom talked about. We don't give much importance to our own body."

The seminar was also attended by professor Abhi Subedi, activist Mim Parayar, linguist Bhim Narayan Regmi, banker and economist Kamal Subedi, director Bimal Subedi, Megaraj Adhikari and director of Shilpee theatre Ghimire Yubaraj.

Director reveals he has turned down several projects because of the 'non-reality of the situation of the superhero' and says 'cinema mainly is pretty bad'

THE GUARDIAN

LOS ANGELES, JAN 3

Ridley Scott, the British director famous for Alien, Blade Runner, Gladiator and The Martian, has said he would never direct a superhero movie. Speaking to Digital Spy, Scott, 79, said the genre is "not my kind of thing".

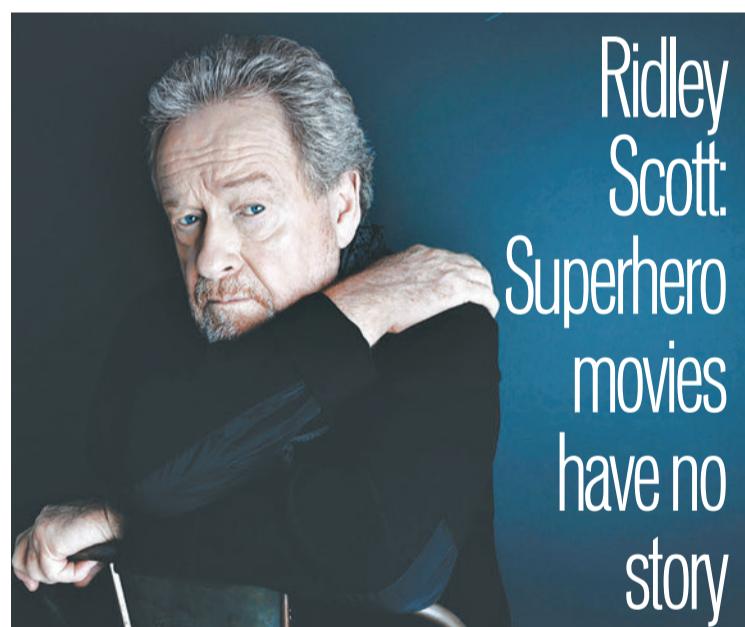
He said he has turned down several offers. "I can't believe in the thin, gossamer tightrope of the non-reality of the situation of the superhero," he said.

Scott conceded that Blade Runner—the 1982 sci-fi starring Harrison Ford—is not wholly dissimilar to today's superhero

films, but that it boasted elements that they lack.

"Blade Runner really is a comic strip when you think about it," he said. "It's a dark story told in an unreal world. You could almost put Batman or Superman in that world, that atmosphere, except I'd have a fucking good story, as opposed to no story!"

Scott added: "Cinema mainly is pretty bad." A sequel to Blade Runner, directed by Denis Villeneuve and starring Ryan Gosling, is scheduled for release this year. Scott is currently putting the finishing touches to Alien: Covenant, a follow-up to 2013's Prometheus and a prequel to 1979's Alien.



Hollywood sign to get new security measures

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

LOS ANGELES, JAN 3

The Hollywood Sign Trust, the non-profit organisation that oversees maintenance for the landmark here, is looking to improve its security after someone turned the Hollywood sign into 'Hollyweed'.

The prank took place in the early hours of Jan 1 when somebody climbed the Santa Monica Mountains and changed the iconic sign to 'Hollyweed'.

"The Hollywood Sign surveillance system is constantly evolving but an incident like the one that occurred early Sunday morning shows us where there are opportunities to make improvements," Chris Baumgart, chairman of the Hollywood Sign Trust said.

"The new year's prank was no



exception and we will be deploying additional technology to tighten up surveillance and thus deter unwanted visitors in the future," said Baumgart.

"This is more than preventing pranks or trespassing at the sign. Our

concern is the safety of the neighbourhood and the trespassers that put themselves at risk because it is extremely unsafe to be on the sign, let alone traversing the treacherous hillside that is home to those nine famous letters," he added.

On Sunday, while people were ringing in 2017, an unknown person managed to hang white and black tarps over the 'O' letters on the landmark. The individual or individuals responsible committed a trespassing violation, Los Angeles police officer Mike Lopez said. But there has been no arrest made or the suspect publicly identified.

The sign is currently watched over by a security camera system that is monitored by the Los Angeles Police Department. It was first installed in 1994 and updated several times since.

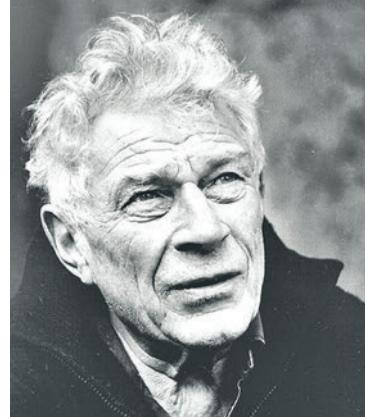
Robin Williams was eager to play the half-giant gamekeeper Hagrid in the Harry Potter films—but was turned down by producers on account of his nationality.

Casting director Janet Hirshenson has confirmed that Williams fell victim to the "Brits-only" rule imposed by producers on the series of films. "Robin had called because he really wanted to be in the movie," she told the Huffington Post, "but it was a British-only edict, and once he said no to Robin, he wasn't going to say yes to anybody else, that's for sure. It couldn't be." The part went to Robbie Coltrane, who was reportedly JK Rowling's first choice for Hagrid.

Williams had spoken about his thwarted Potter ambitions, telling the New York Post in 2001: "There were a couple of parts I would have wanted to play, but there was a ban on [using] American actors."

Other key roles for which Williams was considered included leads in The Shining, Philadelphia and Richard Attenborough's biopic of Charlie Chaplin.

John Berger: A life in quotes



THE GUARDIAN

PARIS, JAN 3

ohn Berger, one of the most influential writers of his generation, has died at 90. The Booker prize-winning author of titles including Ways of Seeing, G and A Painter of our Time helped transform the way people looked at and perceived art.

His best-known work was Ways of Seeing, a criticism of western cultural aesthetics, but he also won the Booker Prize for his novel G.

Berger was born in Hackney, north London, and began his career as a painter. Soon after his work was

exhibited in the 1940s, he turned his hand to writing. His works ranged from poetry to screenplays, writings on photography, the exploitation of migrant workers and the Palestinian struggle for statehood.

Here are some of the art critic and novelist's most memorable quotes.

- "Men look at women. Women watch themselves being looked at."
- "The relation between what we see and what we know is never settled. Each evening we see the sun set. We know that the earth is turning away from it. Yet the knowledge, the explanation, never quite fits the sight."
- "When we read a story, we inhabit

it. The covers of the book are like a roof and four walls. What is to happen next will take place within the four walls of the story. And this is possible because the story's voice makes everything its own."

■ "What makes photography a strange invention—with unforeseeable consequences—is that its primary raw materials are light and time."

■ "The poverty of our century is unlike that of any other. It is not, as poverty was before, the result of natural scarcity, but of a set of priorities imposed upon the rest of the world by the rich. Consequently,

the modern poor are not pitied ... but written off as trash. The twentieth-century consumer economy has produced the first culture for which a beggar is a reminder of nothing."

■ "Hope is not a form of guarantee; it's a form of energy, and very frequently that energy is strongest in circumstances that are very dark."

■ "To be desired is perhaps the closest anybody in this life can reach to feeling immortal."

■ "The past is the one thing we are not prisoners of. We can do with the past exactly what we wish. What we can't do is to change its consequences."

WORDS OF CHANGE

'Morning shows the day' aptly describes Yubaraj Nayaghare's journey in literature. Nayaghare, the author of 16 collections of essays and travel memoirs, published his first poem when he was only 10. In this conversation with the Post's Samikshya Bhattarai, Nayaghare, a recipient of the coveted Madan Puraskar, talks about challenges of writing essays as well as the transformation in literature scene over the last two decades. Excerpts:



How did you first start reading and writing?

I believe that talent is inherent; some people discover what they're good at early on, while others find it later in their lives. In my case, I was invested in reading and writing since my childhood. I used to read books on rental basis—at just one paisa from a nearby stationery store. I read books anywhere and everywhere—even when I was out in the jungle grazing cows. While my brothers spent their little pocket money on leisure, I spent it on books. Writing also came very naturally to me. I was only 10 years old when my first poem was published. Once I started writing, I never really stopped.

You started out with poetry but later switched to prose—essays and travel memoirs—and they became your forte. What invoked the change?

Poems and songs came to me very easily, but with time, I got more drawn towards essays. I think it was the intellectual and philosophical aspect of the genre that attracted me. Even when it doesn't seem like very creative genre of literature, essays play an important role in preserving the art of language. It is a great way to make a very powerful impact on the society through words. I got into travel memoirs because I am an avid traveler. Travelling is a very important part of life. I started writing travel memoirs to encourage readers to get out of their homes more often.

I try to tell people what's inside me through my essays and what is out there in the world through my travel memoirs.

What are the challenges of writing prose as opposed to poetry?

Firstly, essay is a very intellectual part of literature. Unlike poetry, essay is not about pouring out your heart and writing down whatever comes into your head. The genre demands continuous effort and rigorous research before you sit down to write. Secondly, essay is like an umbrella that holds a single idea supported by many facts and figures—hence, it's very important to identify both the idea and the supporting details and to organise them in a systematic way. Essays cannot convey its message adequately until everything falls into place. These are the challenges that daunt writers from pursuing the genre. Because travel memoirs branch out from essays, the challenges are similar. However, finding the time, energy, and resources to travel is a challenge in itself. One must have determination and courage to face the unforeseen obstacles to thrive as a travel writer.

You have been a part of Nepali literature for the last two decades; how has the scene changed during this period?

Literature has taken a huge leap in the last few years in Nepal. There are more books being published and the readership for Nepali literature has increased. Also, the gap between readers and writers has been reduced—thanks to many literary discussions and talks being organised. But along with this, challenges have also increased. Today's generation wants everything fast and is easily distracted, so writers have to be more creative in finding ways to engage readers.

What makes you a good writer?

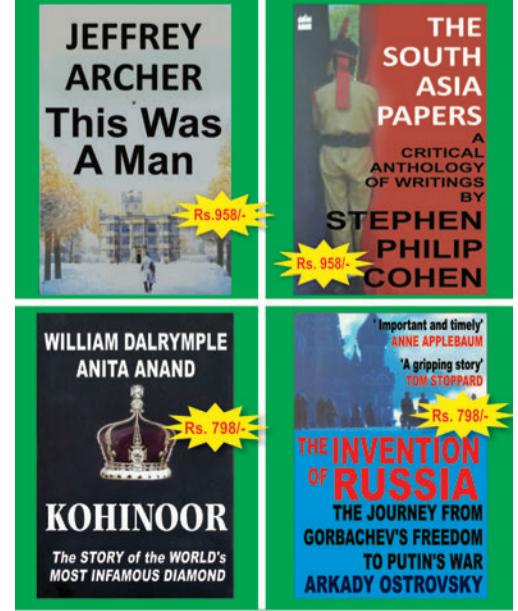
I think, to be a good writer the person should have discipline, patience, and child-like curiosity. They should also be able to get into the depth of a matter and create something that moves the readers. I also believe, to be a good writer, it is very important to be a good reader first. I believe that one should read a 100 books before they write a 100 lines.

What advice do you have for readers?

I am very thankful to the readers as they have always been very encouraging, but would like to request them to read more. Let's build a culture of gifting books to our close ones. Books make for an inexpensive yet valuable gift. Furthermore, I would like to tell readers to participate in literary discussions as often as possible, as it will help one understand the vision of the writer more and help them select good books.

Mandala Book Point

Kantipath, Kathmandu, Tel.# +977-1-4245570, +977-1-4227711



DRISHAN DAHAL

More than 17,000 were killed and hundreds of thousands were displaced during the Maoist insurgency in Nepal from 1996 to 2006. With the aim of dethroning the 240 years long feudal monarchy and establishing a democratic republic system, the Maoist

kindled the fire of revolution on February 13, 1996.

A large number of Nepali youth either voluntarily, or forcefully, joined rebel army with the hopes of a nation with ethnic, gender, economic, and geographic equity; a nation that granted equal rights to women, Madhesis, indigenous, and the down-trodden and had decentralised governmental

system. With a rush of patriotic feelings inside them, they confronted countless precarious situations over that decade.

Many innocents were killed by either the rebel or the Nepal Army. Along with them, people from both armies were also killed in droves. Country was in total chaos with turbulence all around. Everyone thought that one day the existing monar-

and slowly darkness stirs within us. This darkness keeps invading us like a predator. It lingers over our every thought and move. We might mask the pain of darkness with a fake smile. Though we walk around, we don't want to be seen. Though we speak, we don't want to be heard.

But is it okay for us to live like this and let this devil forever possess us? Of course not. Letting the devil win over us is cowardice. We mustn't run away from problems because what has to happen, happens. Escapism is never a solution.

Unless we have the will to tackle these problems, we can never be free from them. Let us not get shattered by these demons residing within us because in the midst of our suffering the hidden angels are planning something beautiful. So, rather than crying, we must work on creating a happier world, which is only possible when we have courage to battle our deepest fears. Everyone faces problems, but these problems are also important lessons. A game is never amusing unless it has challenges and a movie without antagonists is never entertaining.

So, let us all be heroes and overcome obstacles with courage. Never forget: The hardest battle is always within you.

The darkness descends

Never forget: The hardest battle is always within you

GRISHMA ACHARYA

Life is full of problems.

No human on earth is free from them and so very often we let these challenges win over us.

But since we ourselves are the reason behind these incessant hurdles in our lives, we are bound to be constantly losing to ourselves. Whenever an obstacle knocks on our doors, we tend to shrivel up into a helpless ball. We become emotionally unstable

Acharya is a +2 student at Reliance International Academy



Square-shaped holes

SARTHAK BHATTARAI

The walls of misery,
Held a number of holes,
Holes of comfort,
And holes of warmth
Holes you could fit in
To forget all the misery.

"Go on.
Go in."
They said from within.

"Pick any hole you want,
Any size,
Any depth,
You're free."

I bent down
Used my knees
To squeeze my head,
Deep within.



I tried.
I failed.
Like a blessed few,
My head was round,
I wish they knew.

Bhattarai is a recent graduate from St Xavier's College, Maitighar

Into silence

GARIMA RAJDHAMI

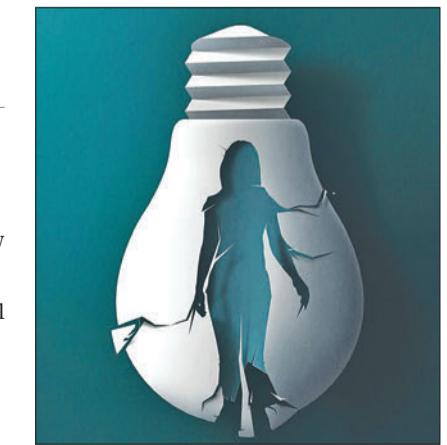
Let me tell you a story,
A story of the girl that lives in me.

Bold and beautiful
She feels the sun rays through her window pane
She is in love with the nature outside,
Because she believes world is a beautiful place to live in:
Peaceful and safe

A place, where she is safe to
Breathe and walk alone
And trust every person
She meets
As she is aware about her rights and theirs.

Do you understand what I mean?
She is courageous; speaks up for any mistreatment
Never aware of acid attacks or murders
Only dreams to make the world better

She complains, for we wake up and sleep



Without addressing the injustice
Nothing will change till we stay ignorant

I find her innocent and wise
Trying to change the world
But, she leaves me in some doubt,
This world is wasteland of the innocent.

Rajdhami is a +2 student at Modern College of Management

Such is the nature of our country: all dreams here remain deferred

chy would fall and multi-party democratic system would pave the way for national development and social change.

When the children of the Maoist commanders Baburam Bhattarai and Prachanda were pursuing their higher studies in foreign countries, the innocent children of the poor were fighting the war. In the age when they should have been gaining knowledge and honing their skills, they were engaged in brutality and violence they should have never experienced in the first place. With rifles hanging on their young shoulders, they had high hopes for change. Their commanders, hiding inside luxurious hotels, kept on imploring them to go to war.

In her book Chhapamar Yuwatiyo Katha, Tara Rai has clearly expressed how she and thousands of other guerrilla fighters were enthusiastic about change. She also discloses that when she was captured by the then Royal Nepal army, they questioned her about her recruitment into the rebel Army. They at the time had told her that this war was only but a "game of



thrones"—one day when the leaders would get what they wanted, the youth and all their selfless endeavours would be forgotten. There would be change, yes, but the change would only be seen in the life of the commanders. The common folk, like her, would live like they had before, and continue to struggle. Now, all these years later, those words of the capturing army officers have become a reality.

Today, all the hopes of those young rebels have become stuck in a quagmire. I still remember the day when Prachanda and Baburam came in front of media for the first time after the decade long civil war. I had at the time turned my Nepali dictionary to find out the meaning of the word Prachanda. It translated into "audacious" and the word really suited a supreme commander of a rebel army. But now, the sheen of such a bold name is gone. The once leader of the destitute, common people, the supreme leader is now the king of ornate palace in Lazimpat and Baburam is making his round around embassies in search for a place in the nation's politics.

Such is the nature of our country: all dreams here remain deferred. And all for what?

Dahal is an undergraduate student at the University of Delhi

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

When it comes to a sign as fiery, outgoing, and personable as yours, it's easy to see how staying at home might not be your favourite activity. So if you just can't force yourself to stay in, even if you're tired, don't.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

There's nothing like the company of family, as you've always known and believed. You'll be reminded of that now, via an insatiable urge to connect with like-minded others who just so happen to share your bloodline and your most intimate memories.



GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

The universe has sent along exactly what you need to change your work situation, complete with a brand-new friend or acquaintance that'll inspire and guide you to get the job done. Enjoy the inspiration and the excitement that goes along with new beginnings.



CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You know that well-deserved reputation you've acquired for being considerate, cooperative and extremely easy to get along with? The thing is you'll be pretty darned good at it without even trying.



LEO (July 23-August 22)

For some reason, individuals of a certain type seem to be gravitating toward you. Practice saying no and walking away. It might be tough to master at first, but you'll get the hang of it. Even celebrities are entitled to decide who they want to be a fan, and who they don't.



VIRGO (August 23-September 22)

After yet another day of teasing you with lingering glances that last just a tad too long to go unnoticed or be written off as something else, a certain person will finally be ready to say exactly what's on their mind. Just don't be surprised once it happens.



LIBRA (September 23-October 22)

Your sign has been amply endowed with charm, the ability to persuade and an absolutely illegal amount of allure. The object of your romantic aim is definitely your mark, and you're doubly lethal at the moment, so good luck to them.



SCORPIO (October 23-November 21)

Your feelings are as deep seated as they come, and you don't usually share them. At the moment, someone who's been distancing from you is about to ask for an audience. Let them back into your immediate circle. If not, maybe it's time for a change.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)

When you reach the end of your rope and you're done trying to bring your usual brand of humour into a tricky situation, you tend to spout off a bit more candidly than usual. If you're with anyone who isn't accustomed to your frank, direct style, there's only one thing to do.



CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)

Your financial situation feels a bit shaky at the moment. If your concerns are real, they won't go anywhere, definitely not in the time it takes to balance the check book, sort through the credit-card receipts and get back to the basics of your well-organized life.



AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18)

You don't relish the thought of it happening, but every now and then, your verbally rebellious streak gets out of control and tough to handle. For now, though, since you're perfectly entitled to let someone have it that's had it coming for some time, indulge yourself.



PISCES (February 19-March 20)

Sometime soon, you'll need to make a decision: whether or not to let a secret see the light of day. That's not an easy thing for you, because you can usually see both sides of the issue. Use that famous intuition of yours to make the decision.

LAUGH OUT LOUD

Why did the physics teacher break up with the biology teacher?
There was no chemistry.

Daddy did you know that girls are smarter than boys? No, I didn't know that. There you go.

Two years ago I asked the girl of my dreams on a date, today I asked her to marry me. She said no, on both occasions.

A man hired a lawyer when he got sued by his company for embezzlement of many millions. At the beginning of the process, the lawyer kindly reassured him: Don't worry, you'll never go to jail with that amount of money. And the lawyer was right. When the man did go to jail eventually, he didn't have a penny anymore.

5:00	Shuvaramba/ Bhaktisur	11:00	Headline News	16:30	New Entry
		11:05	Suman Sanga	17:00	Headline News
5:30	Radhe Radhe	11:30	Music Summit	17:05	Call Kantipur
6:00	Jeevan Bigyan	12:00	Kantipur Samachar	18:00	Kantipur News
6:30	Jyotish Manthan	12:30	VMAG	18:30	Cinema Fest
6:40	Sky Shop	13:00	Headline New	19:00	Kantipur Samachar
7:00	Kantipur Samachar	13:05	Baliyo Gha	19:30	Markt Watch
8:00	Kantipur News	13:30	Ukali Orali	20:00	Kantipur Samachar
8:30	Rise and Shine	14:00	Kantipur Samachar	21:00	Harke Haldar
9:00	Headline News	14:30	Rise N Shine	21:30	Tough Talk
9:05	Sarkar	15:00	Headline News	22:30	Kantipur News
10:00	Kantipur Samachar	15:05	Sarokar	23:00	Kantipur Samachar
10:30	Market Watch	16:00	Kantipur Samachar	23:30	Market Watch

00:00	Non Stop Nepali Adhunik Songs	08:05	Mid Week Morning	17:05	Education Talk
01:00	Non Stop Nepali pop songs	09:00	Kantipur Dairy	18:00	Adha Akash
02:00	Non Stop Hindi Songs	09:10	Traffic Updates	18:30	Kantipur Dairy
		10:05	Bi-Scope	19:00	Close-up
		11:05	Taste-Bud	20:05	I love it I hate it
04:00	Non Stop Bhajan Songs	12:00	Kantipur Dairy	21:00	Kantipur Dairy
05:00	Bhakti Anusthan	12:10	Music Box	21:30	Indreni
06:30	Kantipur Dairy	13:05	Ke cha Nepal	22:00	Sanchai
07:00	The Headliners	15:00	Kantipur Dairy	22:30	Hunuhunchha
07:30	Voice of Nepal	15:15	Sangitometry	23:00	Aaja Dekhi Arko
		16:00	Happy Hour	23:30	Aajha Samma

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EVENTOGRAP

HAPPY

GETAWAY

