



the kathmandu post

CAPITAL EDITION • PRINTED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN KATHMANDU, BIRATNAGAR, BHARATPUR AND NEPALGUNJ

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NEPAL'S LARGEST SELLING ENGLISH DAILY

STAND PRICE RS 5.00

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016 (21-06-2073)

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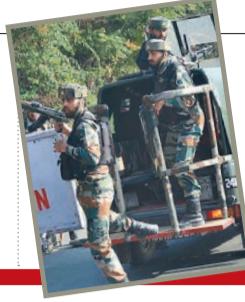
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**PAGE 7
LIFE & STYLE**

Singer Meera Rana makes a comeback

**PAGE 9
WORLD**

India says it foils attack on Kashmir

**PAGE 10
SPORTS**

Miller bats Proteas to epic run chase

money

Multi-stakeholder panel to be set up to steady prices


skiing on high mountain


■ German skier Julius Seidenader displays ski techniques on the route to Mera Peak in Solukhumbu district on Thursday. At 6,470 metres, Mera Peak, the highest of the trekking peaks in Nepal, has been identified as one of the possible skiing areas.

RSS

**YU TO SUCCEED
WU AS CHINA'S
AMBASSADOR
TO NEPAL**
POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, OCT 6

Outgoing Chinese Ambassador Wu Chunhai on Thursday paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal.

■ Yu Hong is returning to China after completing his more than three-and-a-half-year ambassadorial stint in Nepal.

"My stay of three years and eight months in Kathmandu was very successful and positive," Wu told PM Dahal.

China has already proposed Yu Hong as the new ambassador to Nepal. She is expected to arrive in Kathmandu later this month.

Yu is currently serving as the consul general in Surabaya, Indonesia. Before taking assignment in Indonesia, Yu spent three years (2011-2014) at China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs where she served as the deputy director general of the Department of Consular Affairs.

Prior to that, she served as the consular and division chief at the Department of Asian Affairs in Beijing from 2006 to 2011.

surgeon on hunger strike: 11th day

Govt turns blind eye to Dr KC's empty stomach battle

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, OCT 6
**DOC'S EARLIER
INDEFINITE FASTS**

Date	Number of days
July 5-8, '12	4
Aug 11-17, '12	6
Jan 11-24, '14	14
Feb 8-15, '14	8
Feb 20-March 3, '15	12
Aug 24-Sept 6, '15	14
Sept 19-29, '15	11
July 10-25, '16	16

One of his demands that can be immediately addressed is appointment of the dean of the Institute of Medicine (IoM).

"At least the government can address the issue of appointment of IoM dean; this would have paved the way for starting talks with Dr KC," said Jiwan Kshetry, a close aide to Dr KC.

Dr KC has been calling for appointing Dr Jagdish Agrawal, who he says is the most eligible candidate, but TU has refused to appoint Dr Agrawal, saying he is being investigated by the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of

Authority (CIAA).

The anti-graft body had asked TU to take action against Dr Agrawal, along with six other doctors, for their "negligence while inspecting a medical college". The case has been stayed by the Supreme Court.

Post's repeated attempts to contact TU Vice-chancellor Tirtha Khaniya went in vain.

Dr KC's other demands include initiating an impeachment process against CIAA Chief Commissioner Lokman Singh Karki and Commissioner Raj Narayan Pathak "for their interference in the medical education sector" and endorsement of the Health Profession Education Bill.

Amid all this, Minister for Health Gagan Thapa said on Thursday that the government "is serious about Dr KC's demands". "But we need some more time because of some practical issues. We are trying to convey this message to Dr KC," said Thapa.

notice to ciaa chief

Court attempt to serve summons fails again

SC official tasked with delivering letter suddenly 'goes out of contact'

DEWAN RAI
KATHMANDU, OCT 6

A new drama unfolded on Thursday after a court official tasked with delivering a summons to Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) chief Lokman Singh Karki "went out of contact". Hence, the Supreme Court (SC)'s Thursday's attempt, second in as many days, to serve the notice to Karki went in vain.

Thursday's unsuccessful attempt to serve summons to Karki comes in a series of incidents that many have described as "bizarre and uncanny".

On Wednesday, SC officials had returned from Karki's house at ward no. 10 of the Kathmandu Metropolitan City without pasting the summons on his house after local ward officials, whose presence is necessary for the deed, failed to show up.

Court officials were also told that the house was

rented out.

Advocate Om Prakash Aryal, who has challenged Karki's appointment as the defendant, to appear before the court. The court has given Karki to appear before court in person within 15 days from the date of receiving the notice.

"It may delay the date, but a court hearing is unavoidable," he said.

Earlier in July, when the Supreme Court had sought documents related to Karki's

As per the rule, Karki has to present himself before the court within 15 days from the date of receiving the notice

case, one of the high-profile cases in recent times.

As per the rule, the court summons should be handed over to the person concerned.

In case the concerned person is not available to receive the notice, it should be handed over to individuals living in the house. In the absence of individuals whom the notice was lost in the earthquake".

Earlier in July, Karki had skipped a meeting of the Good Governance and Monitoring Committee of Parliament, saying he was not keeping well and that his "doctor had advised not to speak".

Two days have passed since a full bench of Justices Dipak Kumar Karki, Biswambhar Shrestha and Ishwar Prasad

body. According to the CIAA, Karki has not returned from his foreign trip.

According to the court rule, after receiving the notice, Karki will get 15 days before appearing in the court. But he can seek additional one month.

Karki was appointed as the CIAA chief in May 2013 by Khil Raj Regmi-led government following a political agreement among the major parties.

Advocate Aryal in his petition has claimed that Karki's appointment was unlawful as his tenure in government service "falls short of what has been provisioned in the constitution and he does not hold high moral character to lead the anti-graft body".

After getting rapped by the apex court for not producing documents related to Karki's appointment "because they were lost in earthquake", the Prime Minister's Office had sent all the relevant minutes to the SC on September 23.

Ladymatic
NICOLE KIDMAN'S CHOICE

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REGENCY WATCH: Annapurna Arcade • Durbar Marg • City Center • Kamalpokhari

OMEGA

Portugal's Antonio Guterres set to be next United Nations chief

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
UNITED NATIONS, OCT 6

The UN Security Council was poised on Thursday to back Antonio Guterres, a former Portuguese prime minister and head of the UN's refugee agency for a decade, as the next secretary general.

The 67-year-old socialist politician, who will be the first former head of government to become UN chief, has pledged to revamp the global diplomatic body to boost its peacemaking efforts and promote human rights.

His path to the job of world's diplomat-in-chief was smoothed in a decisive Security Council vote on Wednesday, during which 13 of the 15 members backed his candidacy and none of the five veto-holding powers blocked him.

Russian ambassador Vitaly Churkin emerged from the council chamber along with the 14 other ambassadors to



Antonio Guterres
Age: 67
Born in Lisbon, Portugal
Studied engineering
Secretary general of the Portuguese Socialist Party
1995 - 2002 Prime minister
1999 - 2005 President, Socialist International Organisation
2005 - 2015 Head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
October 5, 2016 Set to succeed Ban Ki-moon as UN secretary general

declare that Guterres was on course to succeed Ban Ki-moon. "We have a clear favourite and his name is Antonio Guterres," he said. Churkin added that Thursday's vote was expected to confirm the choice of Guterres "by acclamation."

"We wish Mr Guterres well in discharging his duties as the secretary general of the United Nations in the next five years," he added.

During the secret election, Guterres won four positive votes and one "no opinion" from veto holders Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, who used colour-coded ballots to indicate whether they intended to block a candidate.

Guterres, Portugal's prime minister from 1995 to 2002, had held the number-one spot in the previous five informal votes, but the quick consensus decision took many diplomats by surprise. The position has previously been held by sever-

al foreign ministers, most of whom were chosen during

closed-door Security Council meetings. This time around, the selection involved a new, more open process that allowed candidates to appear at hearings to make their pitch for the top job before the General Assembly. Once the Security Council formally endorses him, Guterres will be presented to the General Assembly for approval. The new UN chief begins his five-year term on January 1.

Departing UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday hailed his likely successor Guterres as a "superb choice". "I know Mr Guterres very well and consider him a superb choice," Ban, who has served as UN chief since January 2007, said in Rome, where he was meeting the Italian president.

In Portugal the selection of the former Socialist prime minister was met with pride on both the left and right, traditionally deeply divided over most issues.

NEPAL RATIFIES CLIMATE DEAL

KATHMANDU: Nepal's Permanent Mission to the United Nations deposited the instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change with the UN secretary general in New York on Wednesday.

Following a parliamentary decision on Tuesday, the instrument was sent to the mission by the Foreign Ministry, according to a statement. The submission of papers related to ratification by Nepal and other countries fulfilled the requirement necessary for the Paris Agreement to come into force on November 6. As of Wednesday, the agreement has been ratified by 72 states. (PR)

NEA, AEPC join hands to develop renewable power

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, OCT 6

The Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) and the Nepal Electricity Authority have agreed to promote, develop and strengthen mini- and micro-hydropower projects in rural areas to improve people's access to renewable energy.

As per the agreement signed on Thursday, the AEPC and the NEA will coordinate to develop at least ten mini-hydropower plants with installed capacity above 100

kilowatts each as pilot projects in remote districts in an effort to make electricity available to all.

"On one hand, we are facing power outages up to eight hours a day. On the other, some areas supplied by renewable sources have excess energy due to the lack of connection to the national grid," said Ram Prasad Dhital, executive director at the AEPC.

An estimated 42-megawatt of excess energy generated from micro- and mini-hydropower projects in several districts is being wasted, according to the AEPC.

The NEA has agreed to work on developing and upgrading lines required to transmit power generated from the different renewable energy sources. Both NEA

and AEPC are working on rural electrification, chiefly in areas without power supply available to all.

"The two agencies will work jointly to strengthen the development and promotion of various other renewable energy sources including solar, wind and bio-gas in rural areas that are yet to be connected to the national grid," said Ram Prasad Dhital, executive director at the AEPC.

An estimated 42-megawatt of excess energy generated from micro- and mini-hydropower projects in several districts is being wasted, according to the AEPC.



■ People wait for their turn to buy Tata Sumo tickets to destinations including Hetauda, Birgunj, Rautahat and Lahan, at Balkhu in Kathmandu on Thursday.

POST PHOTO: SHALIGRAM TIWARI



Government of Nepal Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR) Invitation for Bids

First Date of Publication of Bid Invitation Notice: 7th October, 2016 (Aswin 21, 2073)

Name of Project: Trail Bridge Sector-Wide Approach Program (TB SWAP)

Name of Contract: Supply of Steel Wire Ropes.

1 Government of Nepal, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR) is implementing the Trail Bridge Program under Sector-wide and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for Supply of Wire Ropes through International Competitive Bidding (ICB).

2 The DoLIDAR invites sealed bids from national and international manufacturers of steel wire ropes for the supply of steel wire ropes:

3 Eligible bidders or their authorized agents may purchase Bidding Document from the offices of

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a) DoLIDAR | b) Suspension Bridge Division |
| Shreemahal, Pulchowk | Shreemahal, Pulchowk |
| Lalitpur, Nepal | Lalitpur, Nepal |
| Tel/Fax: + 977 1 5555724 | Tel: + 977 1 552 4681 |

Within office hour on or before 20th November, 2016.

On the submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as described in the table below. The authorized agents will be required to submit a letter of agency issued by the manufacturer of wire ropes. The bidder must be manufacturing company and bid must be purchased and submitted in the name of the manufacturing company.

For the purpose of Bidders who choose to submit their bids electronically through Nepal Government's Centralized eprocurement portal <http://www.bolpatra.gov.np>, the Bidders may either purchase the hard copy of Bidding Documents or may choose to download the necessary part of Bidding Documents, prepare their bids and submit their electronic bids as specified in the Instruction to Bidders. In case, the Bidder chooses to download and submit electronically, the Bidder shall be required to deposit the cost of Bidding Document as specified below in the DoLIDAR's Rajaswa (Revenue) account either by direct deposit or by Tele-transfer of deposit in the DoLIDAR's account for the purchase of the bids as specified below and electronic scanned copy (PDF format) of the bank deposit voucher or Tele-transfer certificate shall also be submitted along with the electronic bid files.

Information regarding the deposit of the cost of Bidding Document in the Bank:

Name of the Bank: Nepal Bank Ltd., Gabahal, Lalitpur

Revenue Account No. 180-41-2440

Account Operating Office: DTCO, Lalitpur

Office Code No. 28-365-04

Revenue Heading No: 14227

Amount to be deposited in the name of Office: Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agriculture Roads (DoLIDAR), Shreemahal, Pulchowk, Lalitpur

4. The prices must be quoted in USD on C.I.P. basis for per linear meter of steel wire ropes and deliver up to the destination of different delivery points in Nepal as indicated in Bid Document.

5. Bids must be submitted to the office of Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR), Local Bridge Section, Pulchowk, Lalitpur on or before 12:00 hrs. Noon on 21st November, 2016. Documents received after this deadline shall not be accepted. Alternatively, Bidders may submit their bids electronically through Nepal Government's Centralized eprocurement portal <http://www.bolpatra.gov.np>, as specified in the Instruction to Bidders.

6. Bids shall be opened physically and electronically after the bid submission in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend on 21st November, 2016 at 13:00 hrs. at the office of Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR), Local Bridge Section, Shreemahal, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. Bid and Bid security must be valid for a period as mentioned in the table below.

Information regarding the Bid Security deposit in the Bank:

Name of the Bank: Nepal Bank Ltd. Gabahal, Lalitpur

Deposit Account No. 0180-51-0016856

Account Operating Office: DTCO, Lalitpur

Office Code No. 28-365-04

Amount to be deposited in the name of Office: Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agriculture Roads (DoLIDAR), Pulchowk, Lalitpur

7. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 11th November, 2016 at 12:00 noon at LBS/DoLIDAR, Pulchowk, Lalitpur.

8. Eligible Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the Department of Local Infrastructure Development & Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR) located at Shreemahal, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal, Tel: ++977 1 5531850; Fax: ++977 1 5555724.

9. If the specified date of pre-bid meeting, last date of bid doc purchasing and submission/ opening falls on Government holiday then the same time on the next working day shall be considered for such events. However, the last date of bid submission and opening shall be the next working day after the last date of bid purchasing. In such case the validity of bid security shall be considered from already specified last date of bid submission.

10. All government rule and regulations shall be according to the law of Nepal. DoLIDAR reserves the right to accept or reject, wholly or partly any or all the bids without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

Job details:

S. No.	Contract No.	Description of job	Bid validity/ Security period from last date of bid submission	Bid Security amount USD	Bid document purchase amount Nrs.
1	ICB/TB/WR/1-2016/017	Supply and delivery of 9,12,13,26, 32, 36 and 40 mm dia Steel wire ropes	Bid validity 120 days and Bid security 150 days	75,000	10,000



■ People wait for their turn to buy Tata Sumo tickets to destinations including Hetauda, Birgunj, Rautahat and Lahan, at Balkhu in Kathmandu on Thursday.

POST PHOTO: SHALIGRAM TIWARI

Movement out of Valley may double from today

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, OCT 6

The number of people leaving Kathmandu Valley for the Dashain holidays is increasing by the day.

More than 650,000 people have left the Valley in the last six days, with over 100,000 leaving on Thursday alone, according to the Kathmandu Metropolitan Traffic Police Department.

The volume of people leaving for their hometowns to celebrate Dashain is expected to double from Friday, when the holidays begin in many offices.

According to the Home Ministry's estimate, two million people are expected to leave the Valley this festival season.

Superintendent of Police Lokendra Malla, spokesperson of the department, said more than 10,000 buses are exiting the Valley daily.

Despite increased number of daily bus departures-the government has added extra buses on long routes for Dashain- hundreds of people are still struggling to get tickets. Many people were seen travelling in the back of trucks to get to their hometowns on Thursday.

The department has issued a strict warning against carrying passengers beyond vehicle's capacity and charging high transport fare.

It has also set up 12 help desks inside the Valley where passengers can report complaints if they are being charged more than the normal fare by transport operators.



■ The landslide debris being removed from the Prithvi Highway in Tanahun.

POST PHOTO

Hundreds stranded at Aina Paharo

POST REPORT

TANAHUN, OCT 6

Vehicular movement along the Muglin-Abukhareni stretch of the Prithvi Highway remains clogged due to the authorities' failure to remove the landslide debris from the road to resume two-way traffic.

"There are still long queues of vehicles on both sides as the dozers are clearing the

landslide triggered by heavy rains blocked the section for 10 hours on Wednesday.

Ramesh Shrestha, Inspector of the Area Police Office, Abukhareni, said bulldozers are clearing landslide debris from the road to resume two-way traffic. "There are still long queues of vehicles on both sides as the dozers are clearing the

landslide," said Shrestha. Hundreds of people headed home for Dashain have been stranded due to the highway obstruction. Amar Adhikari, a passenger, said many people spent the night at lodges in Muglin, Kurintar and Abukhareni on Wednesday.

The landslide had damaged a 100-metre stretch, said police.

Rs 9 billion spent on relief for conflict-affected people

PRITHVI MAN SHRESTHA

KATHMANDU, OCT 6

The government has spent nearly Rs9 billion in relief for the conflict-hit people as well as those affected during the 2006 people's movement as of the fiscal year 2015-16.

According to the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, a total of Rs8.97 billion was spent on relief to 111,379 people suffering in different ways due to the conflict and the people's movement since the peace process began in 2006. The highest amount went to the next kin of those killed during the conflict. They received a total of Rs5.84 billion in three phases.

Although the registered number of those killed during the conflict is 17,886, the kin of all of them were not compensated for. In the first phase, 14,418 family members of conflict victims got compensation while in the second and third phases, 10,810 and 11,302 family members received the aid.

"Although we sent the compensation amount meant for the kin of those killed during the conflict to the District Administration Offices for

THE RECIPIENTS

Beneficiaries of regular aid	Number
Families of martyrs (People's Movement II)	26
Injured (PM II)	28
Scholarships for children of injured (PM II)	38
Amputees in armed conflict	744
Orphans losing both parents	620
Beneficiaries of irregular relief package	
Kin of dead and disappeared in conflict	12464/159433*
Spouses of killed and disappeared males	5301
Displaced during the conflict	25,000
Owners of damaged property	9294
Amputees	8191
Abducted persons during the conflict	3142
Injured (People's Movement II)	3216
Relief for those killed after the peace deal	59
Those receiving relief on NHRC recommendations	108

* Different figures of compensation at different times

Source: Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction

distribution, the DAOs did not receive claims from all the beneficiaries," said Dev Bahadur Adhikari, information officer at the Peace Ministry.

The next of kin of those disappeared were also provided

Rs500,000 each in three different phases, as in the case of those killed during the conflict. They received a total of Rs691.40 million as of the last fiscal year, according to the ministry.

Of the 9,000 civilians killed

during the Maoist insurgency, a total of 4,649 single women received the relief package. Besides, as many as 652 wives of the disappeared males got the relief package.

Aid was distributed also to the displaced people, those facing damage to property and the individuals who suffered injuries during the conflict.

Relief package was also distributed to the conflict-affected people as recommended by the National Human Rights Commission in the form of employment and self-employment training programmes.

The government also provides monthly allowances to the family members of those martyred during the People's Movement II and scholarship for the children of those injured people during the Janandolan.

In monthly allowances for the martyrs' families, the government spent a total of Rs156.29 million and Rs153.87 million for the injured of the popular uprising.

The children who lost both their parents are also regular recipients of the monthly allowance.

fulpati rehearsal

Nepal Army personnel push a cannon at the Tundikhel ground in Kathmandu where they are rehearsing for the annual Fulpati event to mark the Dashain festival.

TMLP, SP intensify unification talks

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, OCT 6

The Tarai Madhes Loktantrik Party (TMLP) and the Sadbhawana Party, two key allies in the Samyukt Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha, have intensified unification talks in a bid to bolster their strength in the Madhesi political landscape.

Claiming that there has been a significant progress in informal discussions, leaders from both the parties hinted at a possible merger if they could agree on organisational and ideological aspects of the new party.

The two parties had held

several rounds of negotiation in the past for unification without much success. But Sadbhawana Party Chairman Rajendra Mahato is hopeful of a merger this time given an enormous public pressure for unification.

"The good thing is everyone seems to agree that there is no need for so many parties with similar ideologies and agendas," said Mahato, referring to around a dozen Madhesi parties. "I am hopeful that the ongoing talks will bear fruits."

Mahato said that the idea was to form a unified force for relevance of the regional parties in national politics and to take forward the

identity movement. In a recent interview, TMLP Chairman Mahantha Thakur had also stressed a need of unity among the fringe Madhesi parties for electoral success and political significance.

Leaders advocating for the unity argue that the presence of several fringe parties have weakened their position at the centre. They also claim that the unification is also necessary to revive the waning movement for a greater autonomy of Madhesi.

"Our support base has expanded following the Madhes movement. But it would be extremely hard to

translate that support into electoral gains if we go to the polls divided. That's why there is growing urgency for unification," said a TMLP leader.

Although some Madhesi leaders are advocating for turning the SLMM, the alliance of seven Madhesi parties, into a unified force, the chances of unification are slim given the long-standing rivalry among senior Madhesi leaders. Sources said that the unification was an effort to counterbalance increasing dominance of the Sanghiya Samajwadi Forum Nepal, a Madhesi-Janajati party, in the regional politics.

Congress state ministers 'after Dashain holidays'

SARIN GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, OCT 6



The Nepali Congress will not be sending state ministers to the Pushpa Kamal Dahal-led government before Dashain holidays owing to disputes among several quarters within the party.

As the agenda failed to make it to NC's parliamentary party meet in Singha Durbar on Thursday, party leader Chin Kaji Shrestha confirmed that their state ministers would only be inducted after Dashain holidays.

NC President Sher Bahadur

Deuba, who had earlier set sights on sending state ministers by Friday, is facing intense pressure from both his and the rival camps to accommodate the high number of aspirants.

Ram Chandra Poudel, Krishna Prasad Sitaula and Khum Bahadur Khadka—all of whom run their own mini groups within the party—have demanded a stake in the

Wagle from Tanadhu are likely contenders, while frontrunners from the Poudel faction include Surendra Acharya from Kailivali, Kanchan Bade Shrestha from Kawre and Jeevan Pariyar from Kaski. Sudhir Siwakoti or Tara Man Gurung will likely come from the Sitaula faction.

Sources also claimed that Deuba wishes to send state ministers in an inclusive manner, taking into account the representation of states and communities.

PM Dahal, who had kept four ministries—Drinking Water and Sanitation; Livestock Development; Women, Children and Social Welfare; Science and Technology—to himself for fringe parties willing to join the government, is now set to distribute one ministry each to the NC and the Maoist Centre.

From the establishment side, Min Biswakarma from Sunsari, Abdul Razak from Rupandehi, Dilip Gachhadar from Morang, Dirgha Raj Bhatt from Kailali, Sitaram Mehta from Sunsari, Dhurba

handing one each to Sitaula's and Khadka's group.

Leaders close to Poudel insist that if the party gets eight berths, their faction would need four state ministers. "By no means will we settle for two," Poudel told the Post. "The party president should make up for the injustice done while sending ministers earlier." Of the 15 NC ministers, five represent the government, is now set to distribute one ministry each to the NC and the Maoist Centre.

The EC had earlier sent five essential election-related bills to the government for necessary paper works to be tabled in Parliament. Out of them, only three have so far been tabled in the House.

MAHAT-LED MoFA TEAM TO ATTEND ADC SUMMIT

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, OCT 6

Foreign Minister Prakash Sharan Mahat Affairs is leading a Nepali delegation to the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit in Thailand on Friday. The event, to be held in Bangkok from October 8-10, will have attendance of leaders of 34 member states.

Mahat is scheduled to attend the ACD Foreign Ministers' Working Dinner hosted by Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai on Saturday. According to the Foreign Ministry, the minister will also participate in the ACD Connect Business Forum

The ADC was established in 2002 aim to promote regional cooperation in its priority areas across Asia

2016: Innovative Financial Connectivity for a Sustainable Asia on Sunday. Mahat will address the summit which is being held under the theme 'One Asia, Diverse Strengths' on Monday. He is scheduled to return home on Tuesday.

The summit will consider and adopt three milestone documents, namely Bangkok Declaration, ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030 (ACD Vision 2030) and ACD Statement on Reigniting Growth through Partnership for Connectivity.

The Nepali delegation to summit also includes Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi, Nepali Ambassador to Thailand Khagnath Adhikari, Joint Secretary at the Foreign Ministry Mani Prasad Bhattacharjee and other officials from the ministry and embassy.

The ADC was established in June 2002 with an aim to promote regional cooperation in its priority areas across Asia. Nepal joined the dialogue as its 34th member in March 2016.

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NC TO DISCUSS EC ISSUE WITH OTHER PARTIES

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, OCT 6

The Nepali Congress has decided to intensify talks with other major forces on the reservations put forth by the Election Commission on some of the election-related acts tabled in Parliament.

At a Parliamentary Party meeting on Thursday, NC leaders urged the party leadership to hold talks with its coalition partner Maoist Centre and the main opposition CPN-UML after the EC on Wednesday took exception to the government's decision to revise various provisions in the three election-related bills.

"Since the EC had reservations about some of the revised work done by the government, we decided to take up the matter with other major parties keeping in mind the urgency to hold local polls at the earliest," NC lawmaker Minendra Rijal said.

The EC had earlier sent five essential election-related bills to the government for necessary paper works to be tabled in Parliament. Out of them, only three have so far been tabled in the House.

I AM THE CELEBRATION

This Dashain, celebrate the end of ordinary.
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D7100	D750
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WARRANTY

EDITORIAL

It's finally here

Let's have fun during the holidays, but let's also practise some moderation

Dashain is one of the greatest festivals for Nepali Hindus—one that marks the victory of good over evil. But it is not only a religious celebration; for many other Nepalis too, Dashain is a cultural festival of sorts.

Dashain is particularly attractive to children, for whom it is a time to play with cousins, fly kites, ride on swings, wear new clothes and engage in other fun activities. It is the time of the year when the weather gets more pleasant, particularly in the hills. October skies in Kathmandu are supposed to be blue and clear. Kites, though no longer as common, thanks mainly to smartphones and video games, can still be seen in the air.

Although Dashain began officially with Ghatasthapana last Saturday, for many working people it will only start at the end of the business day today since government holidays begin on Sunday. The holidays are generally considered a time for renewing old ties as well as merry-making, with many adults playing cards, drinking alcohol and eating good food, particularly meat.

The burden of cooking and most other household chores generally falls on the women though. While the menfolk relax and make endless demands for delicacies, it is unfortunately the women in the household who usually have to supply them.

We have already written this week about the problems Dashain brings to most of those who travel to their ancestral homes due to stresses ranging from finding a bus ticket to bearing the risk of a hazardous journey. Two million people are expected to leave Kathmandu during Dashain. Such a mass exodus of people is never seen in the country at any other time of the year.

Dashain can also be a burden for the poor and the middleclass who have to deal with soaring market prices for almost all consumer goods. Although the Ministry of Supplies has opened some fair price shops across the country, they are far too few in number and the prices there are not much lower than in the regular market.

In spite of these and other problems, the kind of festive mood that Dashain engenders is already palpable in the air. Compared to the last Dashain at least, when the effects of the earthquake and the unofficial Indian blockade were still raw, this Dashain is better.

We wish all Nepalis happy holidays and hope that they have plenty of fun. Moderation though, as wise men (and women) say, is probably a good thing. It is probably also a good idea for us to spare a thought or two on how we as individuals and as a society can do a better job at helping those in need, especially the ones affected by the earthquake, as we indulge in celebrations.



NOTE OF DISSENT

SHYAM KC

When the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) formally came into existence in Dhaka in December 1985, many thought that it was an unreal dream that had miraculously come true. Ardent supporters, including me, of regional cooperation were made to visualise the bright prospects brought about by the birth of the South Asian grouping—there were vast and unimagined opportunities for interaction, social and economic cooperation, including the proper and just development of water resources for the benefit of all the countries and the peoples of the region.

In the latter part of the 1970s, in his address to a meeting of the Colombo Plan consultative committee in Nepal, the late king Birendra put forward the proposal for regional cooperation for sharing Nepal's water resources. Bangladeshi President Ziaur Rahman pursued the concept despite the reluctance of two virtual superpowers of the region—India and Pakistan. Later in the 1980s, Bangladesh under President Ershad advocated the regional body followed by a series of official and ministerial meetings which finally led to the creation of Saarc. It was, and still is, in the economic and security interests of the small countries of South Asia to form such a union. (Whatever others may think, my view is that the initial South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC)—which later became Saarc—was the brainchild of king Birendra.)

Plaything of the mighty

It has been over 30 years since the creation of Saarc but, for one reason or the other, only 18 Saarc summits have been held during this period despite the Saarc Charter specifically stipulating that a summit should be held each year. For the first four years, the summits were held regularly, but in 1989 it was not held and this started the series of breaks that continue to this day. It might be interesting to note that the UN General Assembly is held every year in September regardless of whether a head of a certain country is able to attend it or not. But the Saarc Charter mentions, for reasons unknown, that if a country cannot attend the summit, it will be postponed.

Unreal dream

Perhaps it's time to form a new regional cooperation group among the smaller countries in South Asia



The regional body originally consisted of seven countries—Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. But politics above and beyond regional cooperation began entering when a member country advocated the inclusion of Afghanistan, a Central Asian country, in the grouping. It was an attempt to balance the same proposal made by another country for China. But while Afghanistan became a Saarc member, China only attained the status of an observer. Many may think otherwise, but I feel these developments were the undoing of the main purpose of Saarc, which today is nothing more than a plaything of the high and the mighty.

A point of departure

Recent events in the South Asian subcontinent show that the big powers always have sway over their smaller neighbours and explain why groupings such as Saarc prove to be an anathema to them. Saarc, in its own small way, had paved the way for some sort of cooperation and friendship among the peoples of the member countries. Though

tall sounding themes like economic cooperation and free trade still remain a distant dream, the cooperation among the people in the field of the arts is indeed commendable and is a way towards greater cooperation in other fields.

But with a power-driven and dominating mindset of some countries, prospects for change for the betterment of the region is dim. Once there was the ECC or the European Economic Community, which later donned the European Union cap. It might be useful to note just how big or small the countries that constitute the European Union are. They were almost of the same size and the populations of the original countries were not all that different. The economies of the countries were not too different either, even though the economic strength of Germany outweighed that of the others. With more countries joining the European grouping, differences over the economies of new members have arisen.

There are just five permanent members in the UN Security Council (SC): China, the US, the UK, Russia and France. And all of them

have nuclear weapons and economic power but mainly they possess the power of veto at the UNSC. The big powers dominate the small ones in the UN. (Our Prime Minister visited India recently and is said to have pledged support for India's permanent UNSC membership without obtaining similar pledge for permanent SC membership for the landlocked and island countries. There are 44 landlocked countries in the world and a large number of small, underdeveloped sea-locked countries. Surely this geographically disadvantaged group deserves a permanent seat at the UNSC.)

The existence of Saarc has been questionable for the past decade or so. Recent events that led to the cancellation of the scheduled summit have only brought to the fore the almost irreconcilable differences that prevail in the region. Maybe the time has come to forget about Saarc and forge a new regional cooperation group among the small countries, free of the domination of India and Pakistan. But such as a scenario is almost impossible to achieve; it is an unreal dream but still a dream worth having.

WORLDVIEW

US-Filipino relations

Duterte has found many ways to damage his country's ties to the US

The New York Times Hardly a day goes by that President Rodrigo Duterte fails to come up with some new way to poison the relationship between the Philippines and the United States.

On Tuesday, the Philippines began annual joint military exercises with the Americans, but Mr. Duterte has threatened that this will be the last time.

Riding high in the polls, Mr. Duterte, a bullying leader with a vulgar mouth and volatile temperament, has been compared to Donald Trump and seems determined to shake up Filipino foreign policy as much as domestic policy. In so doing he could undermine not only relations with the United States but, more broadly, stability in Asia.

With the Obama administration rebalancing American interests in Asia as a counterweight to China, the relationship with the Philippines is more important than ever.

In the three short months since he took office, Mr. Duterte has called President Obama a "son of a bitch," threatened to evict American special operations forces training Filipino troops to fight terrorists on the southern island of Mindanao, and hinted at new alliances with China and Russia.

This could all be bluster. Mr. Duterte's senior aides have assured American officials that nothing will change, and so far there has been no effort to remove the special forces. The Philippine peso has fallen, and credit rating agencies have warned that they could soon downgrade the country's creditworthiness. Some American lawmakers, meanwhile, have suggested cutting aid to Manila.

So far, the Obama administration has held fast, reaffirming its commitment to the alliance while issuing statements against Mr. Duterte's violation of the rule of law and disregard of human rights. It is not an easy situation to manage, however; given Mr. Duterte's volatility and erratic ways. The hope is that in time he will temper his ideas. But a lot of damage could be done to his country and its ties to America in the meantime.



SIMONE GALIMBERTI

In recent months, quite a few bills related to the economy have been passed by Parliament, showing a renascent interest of the government in harnessing the business potential of the country. Last among them, the Industrial Enterprise Act has been welcomed by both the Federation of Nepali Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of Nepali Industries, the two major associations of entrepreneurs and business leaders. The government has also recently tabled the Cooperative Bill that is aimed at better regulating a sector that had gone astray since long with many cases of mismanagement and misappropriation of resources.

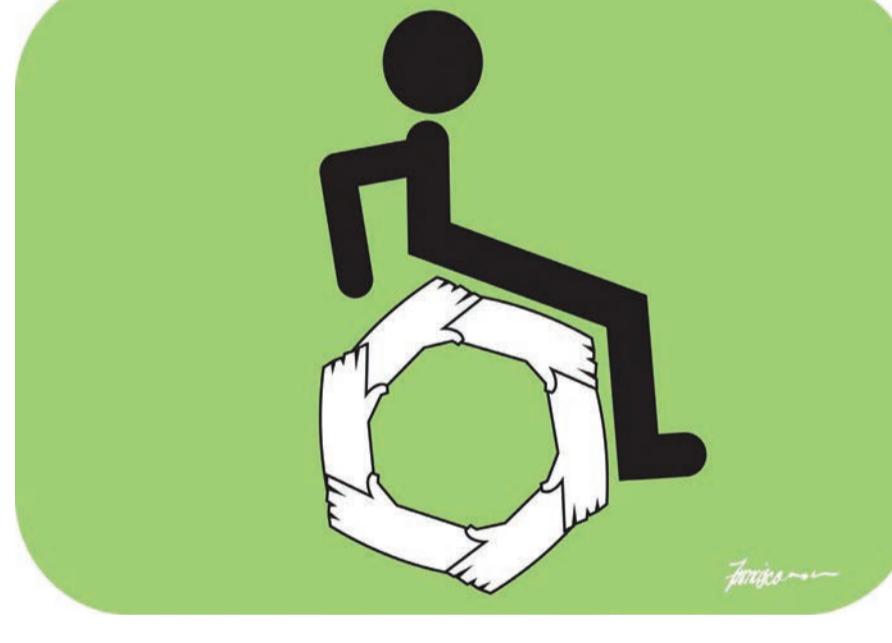
In spite of everything, we should not forget the roots of the cooperative movement. Robert Owen and William Kin, the latter the founding editor of the magazine *The Co-operator* whose first edition was published in the UK in 1828, felt the need to create financial institutions run by the members and able to fill the gaps faced by workers in the midst of the industrial revolution. Therefore, cooperatives by default should be economic entities strongly led by a social mission, something not too different, at least in substance, from the more recent phenomena of social entrepreneurship and social business. Yet, most of the co-operatives in Nepal are unfortunately not open for business for vulnerable and disadvantaged youths.

Left behind

The business leaders of the country should be able to seize the momentum offered by the new legislative framework and truly leverage it not only for their own good but also for expanding the limited and often exclusionary economic opportunities for the

Not working

Many financial cooperatives in Nepal are not open for business for vulnerable and disadvantaged youths



people. Business leaders should do much more to make their companies more open and inclusive.

It might be not a coincidence that I never heard of or met any business leaders representing vulnerable groups like the Dalits or persons living with disabilities, showing that a vast gap still prevails in terms of access to economic opportunities.

On October 12, the International Labour Office (ILO) Global Business and Disability Network will host its global summit in Geneva where many multinationals will sign the Business Charter on Disability that offers a framework for inclusive business practices, specifically targeting persons with disabilities.

Here we are talking about big multinationals that have the resources, means and skills to reasonably accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities. But interestingly, closer to home, Bangladesh is moving ahead on its quest to make its industries

more inclusive and accessible. Last February, the ILO and the Bangladesh Employers' Federation convened a workshop to locally replicate a network promoting inclusive practices.

Moreover, the Ministry of Education in Bangladesh, as part of the Bangladesh Disability Welfare Act (2011) and the National Skills Development Policy (2011), enforced a 5 percent quota for persons living with disabilities to access technical and vocational institutions throughout the country. Nepal should also make efforts to promote policies or practices that can gradually make the national economy more open for vulnerable groups.

Way forward

At the moment, many industries in Nepal are being led by persons who have studied overseas and know firsthand about the inclusive practices in countries like Australia and the US. While we should all

push for a new disability Act, the younger generations who are taking over many of the business houses in the country and who are continuously exposed to the global world and international best practices, should do some introspection and think if they can also play a role in creating a more inclusive economy where everybody, regardless of their vulnerabilities, can have a shot.

After all, organisations like Rotary, Lions and Round Table, whose members are mostly in key positions within the private sector, could play an important role in starting a national conversation and doing away with some outdated mindsets according to which a person with disability is not suitable to work.

They should not do this as a part of their charity or corporate social responsibility but rather because excluding big portions of the population from the national economy will, in the long run, affect them adversely.

Interestingly, the country saw an upsurge in the number of cottage, small and medium enterprises in the recent decade. There are even special funds to incentivise more women to become entrepreneurs. Unfortunately, there has not been a national campaign to promote such actions, and often the resources available are either unspent or misused. How many youths from disadvantaged or vulnerable groups have tried to access the Youth and Small Entrepreneur Self Employment Fund? My guess is that too few, if any, benefited from it.

The country will be more economically vibrant and inclusive only if we work at multiple levels, for example, with more provisions and policies enacted by the state, by starting new internship and traineeship opportunities offered by the major business houses and by expanding the entrepreneurship space for those youths unfairly excluded till now. Small but incremental steps at the beginning can be scaled up to make Nepal's economy more vibrant.

Galimberti is the Co-Founder of ENGAGE and Editor of Sharing4Good

Rice on the forehead

We have unique traditions. Because we are habituated and adapted to them, we don't see them as such. But if we looked at them from a neutral angle, we will think that we have really strange systems. Smearing coloured powder on the face during Holi is a strange system! Similarly, worshipping the cow, dog and crow are other unique features of our tradition. Dashain has its unique systems as well. The 'tika' (red paste mixed with rice) put on the forehead and the 'jamara' (barley

shoots) worn in the hair that we see during this festival have their unique features. I wonder what can be the true benefits of this tika and jamara. Focusing simply on the tika, are we not using rice in such a foolish manner? The more tika you have on your forehead, the more blessings you are considered to have!

I am not criticising the Hindu tradition, but the way of celebrating Dashain is not good. I have no right to speak about animal sacrifice as I am a non-vegetarian. But don't you sometimes think why we are spending such a huge amount of rice on tika?

Nepal is an underdeveloped country where leaders are obsessed with the game of gaining power and ignoring other aspects. There are many people in Nepal who are unable to get one meal a day. They are really below the poverty line. If we could save the rice used in making tika, those hungry people

would have food to eat. Oh! How does sticking rice on our forehead benefit us? After all, in the end, the tika is to be thrown away. Now, don't get me wrong! I don't want to break the old tradition. But I believe that a simple

modification will make our festivals really meaningful and wonderful.

Let our upcoming generation, who will be more scientific, not curse on us. It's us who pass the system to the next generation, so we should inject a few positive things into our culture and remove the negative aspects. Let's start a new way of celebration; let's collect rice and give it to the needy ones instead of making it into tika. That will help to gather more blessings. We can put a simple tika of vermillion on our forehead. I understand this is

really a challenging task for our generation, but we can definitely go for practical ways. "Please put less tika on my forehead." This statement can bring positive changes to our traditions. If only a dozen people can say this, enough rice can be saved to make lunch for one person. Wasting rice for the sake of tradition hurts me. It's not possible to completely stop it, but we can certainly minimise it. Let our upcoming generations not curse us for bequeathing them customs like putting rice on the forehead as they will certainly find it irritating.

Needs a little tweaking

Saarc has gone through many ups and downs in its history, but it's still the best hope



RISHI RAJ ADHIKARI

The 19th Saarc Summit scheduled to be held in Pakistan from November 10-11 has finally been postponed following a commotion among its eight member states. After India expressed its inability to participate in the meeting due to rising tensions in the region, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka quickly followed suit. Current chairman of the regional grouping Nepal had to play the role of a mediator. It urged the member states to exercise restraint, sort out the differences and hold the conference as scheduled. The reason behind the unfortunate turn of events could be the strained relations between India and Pakistan following an attack on a military installation at Uri in Kashmir in which 18 Indian troops were killed.

India has blamed Pakistan for supporting the raid, and claimed the attackers came from its side of the border. Pakistan has denied the charge. The incident has sparked speculation and statements in the media that Saarc has fallen into a coma and is near death. After the summit was postponed, the general public, think tanks and civil societies in the member countries have shown concern at the deterioration of the situation. They feel that the deferment has greatly jeopardised the process of any meaningful dialogue on the basic issues concerning the region, namely poverty, marginalisation and injustice. This is bound to deepen the distrust and antagonism already prevailing in the region. They feel that Saarc should be better activated to address the burning issues and to create common convergences by keeping the countries together.

For a cause
South Asia is the poorest region on earth, which houses two-fifths of the world's poor. A shared aspiration among the governments and peoples in the area to eliminate endemic poverty and margin-

alisation led to the formation of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc). There is concern that Saarc has not included the people in its functioning and that its performance has not been satisfactory. However, it must be noted that the European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) underwent many years of development to reach the present stage. From this standpoint, there is every room for optimism that Saarc will continue to grow for the realisation of its objective of improving the quality of life of the people in the region.

Even though Saarc's achievements have fallen short of expectations, it has laid a solid foundation for the growth of the association with the development of institutional and legal frameworks, and different areas of cooperation for the region's socio-economic development. Nepal was deeply involved in the establishment of Saarc before it was formally founded in December 1985 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Considering the tangible contributions made by Nepal's diplomatic efforts, the headquarters of Saarc was set up in Kathmandu in 1987.

The association was founded in a bid to promote "peace, stability, amity and progress in the region" with particular respect for the "principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, national independence, non-use of force and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and peaceful settlement of all disputes". In the initial years, Saarc made steady progress as enshrined in its charter. However, ripples created by the uneasy ties between its more powerful and competing member states, coupled with political wrangling in the domestic politics of other member states, stunted progress in the following years. This has resulted in the postponement of summits and other important meetings on several occasions. Just as there are ample opportunities for the growth of Saarc, so are there numerous challenges before it.

Measures to take
Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal proposed making changes to the Saarc Charter at the Saarc Regional Effectiveness Conference held recently in Kathmandu.

Adhikari is foreign affairs advisor to the prime minister

representative, Andy Cohen, who is gay, rarely misses an opportunity to toast his close kinship with the guitar hero and ultimate ladies man John Mayer.

Mr Cohen mentions Mr. Mayer no fewer than 14 times in his best-selling book "The Andy Cohen Diaries." He also wrote an article for Entertainment Weekly last year chronicling their bromosexual exploits. In one outing, during gay pride weekend, they attended a concert by an incarnation of a band both men love, the Grateful Dead.

Mr Cohen wrote that a friend had texted him: "If I'd celebrated gay pride in any more of a straight way, I'd have had sex with a girl at the Super Bowl." Another night, Mr. Cohen and Mr. Mayer went to a gay bar, where Mr. Cohen found that his heterosexual pal was the "ultimate wing man."

"Straight men are very good that way," said David Toussaint, whose compilation of essays, "Toussaint!," contains many humorous pieces about sexual identity. "If I'm walking down the street with this young, straight guy I know, and he sees a guy look at me, he'll say, 'Go get him!'"

Vin Testa, 26, a math teacher in Washington, D.C., who is also an L.G.B.T. liaison for the district's public schools, said the changes in relationships between straight and gay men have been so rapid that he sees a significant difference just since he graduated from high school. One of his greatest obstacles in coming out, he said, was something he thinks many gay men share: "the intense fear of losing those masculine friendships we have had."

As it happened, the main impetus for Mr. Testa to come out in college was discovering that friends from his high school football team were "the ones who most wanted me to do it," he said. "They were honestly concerned for me."

Mr. Gregory, the Irish author, thinks that one connecting point for the younger generation is the proliferation of geek culture. "It's technology, superhero movies, PokéMon Go and even some indie rock," he said. "They're all part of an often male culture that young gay guys feel part of, too."

For men of an older generation, there is more distrust to surmount. "Our traditional way of thinking of relationships with gay and straight men is that they are hostile, even bullying," said Michael LaSala, 57, the author of "Coming Out, Coming Home: Helping Families Adjust to a Gay or Lesbian Child." "For that reason, gay men have traditionally not felt comfortable in these relationships."

Mr. LaSala, who is gay, said he could not imagine being close friends with a straight man when he was in his 20s. In the last few years, however, he has formed a warm bond with Dr. Robert Garfield, 70, a straight man who wrote the book "Breaking the Male Code: Unlocking the Power of Friendship." The two lecture together on the negative effects of homophobia on straight and gay males. "My relationship with Michael, and with other gay men, is wonderful for me," Dr. Garfield said. "It expands me as a human being. There's a playfulness in talking about sex that I don't hear from my straight male friends."

Wing men
In the recent documentary "Strike a Pose," about Madonna's dance troupe from her "Blond Ambition" tour, a key plotline traces the arc of the lone straight dancer from homophobe to a man who becomes emotionally liberated by his many gay friends. Another Bravo series, "Manzo's With Children," prominently features the relationship between the heterosexual lead brothers and their gay best friend, who was previously their roommate.

And that network's most recognizable

A balm for old wounds
"There's a sense of a reprieve," said Odie Lindsey, 45, a straight fiction writer and gulf war veteran, whose new book of short stories, "We Come to Our Senses," features several gay characters. "With heterosexual male friends, sometimes a subject comes up that will require a particular allegiance to what guys are expected to say and do. That can feel blustery and false. It's nice not to have to listen to a chorus of people who feel

compelled to act the same way."

For gay men, Mr. LaSala said: "friendships with straight men can be very healing. When you experience a close friendship with a straight guy and that person is very accepting, it's a balm for some old wounds."

At the same time, striking contrasts exist in the two worlds. Gay men say it is common for their heterosexual male friends to be jealous of, or at least compelled by, the efficiency and seeming ubiquity of man-on-man hookups.

"Straight guys complain, 'You can just meet a guy and go home and have sex,'" Mr. Toussaint said. "One hot straight guy I know complains, 'With a girl, I have to take her out and put on all these airs, when all I want to do is sleep with her and move on.'"

In sex and dating, straight men also have to navigate complex power imbalances between the genders. Gay men can avoid that anxiety.

On the other side, some gay men express jealousy over certain aspects of heterosexual male presentation. "Straight guys can let themselves go and no one cares," Mr. Gregory said. "Gay men are judging each other worse than women in terms of body shaming."

If such contrasts create fascination, other distinctions can be damaging. The cliché and lingering suspicion that a gay man may harbor a crush on his straight friend potentially throws off the power balance and erodes trust. "A gay man can worry, 'What if this guy thinks I'm coming on to him?'" Mr. LaSala said. "And what would that mean for the relationship?"

The writers of "Scream Queens" exercised that anxiety through satire in a scene that gained traction on YouTube. It portrayed Mr. Jonas's character conning his way into the bed of his straight best friend.

"That kind of crush seems really antique," said Lucas Whitehead, 29, a straight man who lives in a brownstone in Fort Greene populated by a revolving mix of heterosexual and homosexual males.

Amid his milieu, he reports zero self-consciousness about having gay friends or roommates. Yet disconnects do linger, some of them concerning sex. "I'll talk to gay friends about the before, not the after," Mr. Whitehead said.

It's an attitude echoed by one of his gay roommates, Ben Moss, 25, who said: "I talk with straight guys about what surrounds the sex rather than what we've actually done." According to Mr. LaSala, many well-meaning straight guys can feel awkward addressing subjects they know they don't fully understand. He thinks it's important for straight men to acknowledge the differences.

He relates this to friendships between those of a different race. "Some of us who are white are rightfully accused of being 'colorblind,'" Mr. LaSala said. "There's an equivalent for straight men who can be 'culture blind.'"

Sometimes there is dissonance when one friend finds himself in a group dominated by those of another orientation, rather than connecting one to one. "Listening to bunches of straight guys together is like hearing a foreign tongue," Mr. Toussaint said. "The language is so strangely impersonal: 'dude,' 'bro-skies,' 'the game.' They must feel the same way about the things we talk about."

At the same time, many men find value in the distinctions.

"I'm happy that I get to live around people who have a different life experience than I do, and I'm happy that they get to be around me," Mr. Moss said. "A homogeneous experience in friendships isn't good for anyone."

— © The New York Times

'Bromosexual' friendship



The issues that once kept straight men and gay men apart are dissolving, in real life and in popular culture

JIM FARBER

A recent ad for the Bravo TV show "Shahs of Sunset" finds two of its male stars lazing on lounge chairs at the beach. Amid a scene of scantily clad sun worshippers, the best friends Reza Farahan and Mike Shouhed gaze at different objects of desire: Mr. Farahan at musclebound guys, Mr. Shouhed at voluptuous women.

Their distinct lusts, which may have alienated gay and straight men from each other in the past, inspire the ultimate gesture of fraternal connection: a fist bump.

"Mike and I are so similar," Mr. Farahan said. "He has been a womanizer and I've been a player. In the ad, we're having a moment, and it's the same moment. The only difference is that I'm looking at men and he's looking at women."

The bond strikes the Irish author Jarlath Gregory as fresh for the culture and familiar to him. His latest novel, "The Organised Criminal," has at its center a brotherly friendship between a gay man and a straight man.

"That kind of easy relationship would not be credible to a broad audience 10 years ago," said Mr. Gregory, 38, who is gay. "One of the things my publisher liked about my book was that this friendship was something we haven't seen much before."

At least in pop culture we haven't. Obviously, there have always been friendships between gay men and straight men, but only recently have they become more prominent, and comfortably, represented in TV shows, movies, books and blogs.

There is often a traditionally masculine sense of familiarity at play in these portrayals, exuding a feeling particular enough to suggest its own term: bromosexual relationships.

Their emerging representation contrasts with one that has become a cliché: the connection between a straight woman and her gay male best friend.

The latest media reflection also takes a significant leap from one of its earliest iterations. From 2003 to 2007, "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" presented gay men as magical beings who functioned as helpers to heterosexual men, schooling them in matters of fashion and home décor while keeping much of their own lives off-screen.

By contrast, the last season of "Scream Queens" found the hunky Nick Jonas presenting himself as a gay frat boy who bonds over golf with his straight fraternity brother and best friend, Chad.

Wing men

In the recent documentary "Strike a Pose," about Madonna's dance troupe from her "Blond Ambition" tour, a key plotline traces the arc of the lone straight dancer from homophobe to a man who becomes emotionally liberated by his many gay friends.

Another Bravo series, "Manzo's With Children," prominently features the relationship between the heterosexual lead brothers and their gay best friend, who was previously their roommate.

And that network's most recognizable

PRESERVE HERITAGE

Indeed, Nepal's heritage is a part of human heritage and its roots go deep down into antiquity ('Preserving Nepal's Heritage', October 4, Page 6). Nepal indeed has some unique religious, philosophical and artistic heritage and all Nepalis are proud of them. However, the foundations of Nepali social and economic heritage are weakening under the impact of westernisation. In this context, Nepal is at a crossroads and in a dilemma about how to go about preserving the fruits of the socio-economic heritages in time to come. Nepali civilization has survived various vicissitudes over several millennia and I am optimistic that appropriate physical infrastructure will be constructed to advance the cause of preserving the socio-economic heritages of Nepal.

Lal D Rai, via email

NOT COGENT ENOUGH

In the past decade, as the government



of Nepal attempted to hand over community schools either to the school management committee (SMC) or the local body, the teachers unions and organisations raised the issue of concern for the stability and security of their profession. In addition, they often argued that SMCs were under-qualified to recruit teachers (SMCs discharge this responsibility even now), fueling tensions between them in many parts of the country. The conflict between the SMC and the teachers aggravated the situation in many schools.

Against this backdrop, conferring

hiring and firing authority to the SMC or the school without substantial reasoning sounds a bit too simplistic ('On mature reflection', October 2, Page 7). In the past, even if the SMCs were conferred with broad-ranging functions, duties and powers, very few of them were executed in a true sense. Therefore, it is unlikely that merely giving hiring and firing power to the SMC or the school could resolve the complex problem of managing teachers in the community schools.

Shak Bahadur Budhatoki, Kathmandu

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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TOURISM LIMBO

This is the best post-mortem of Nepali tourism to come in a long time, except that we ceased to be a Shangrila years ago. A country that presided over the killings of some 19,000 people has lost the moral or legal right to the title of Shangrila. The decade-long conflict has completely destroyed Nepal's image as a peaceful tourism country. Reverting back to the state of tourism, as the 'country' is struggling to cross the 700,000 mark even by including frugal backpackers and penniless sadhus, we can safely infer that it will take us another 200 years to host 2 million tourists, provided we start removing from today the hurdles and shortcomings so accurately mentioned by the writer ('Trouble in Shangrila', September 30, Page 6).

To worsen the situation, the legend-

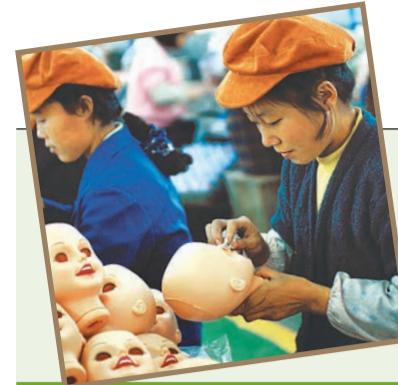
ary Nepali smiles and honesty, once the mainstay of Nepali tourism, have given way to permanent scowl and dishonesty in every sphere of tourist life. There is very little one million travel agencies and two million trekking companies can do to attract tourists through reasonable competitive pricing on which they have almost no control. All they can do is to add up 2 percent instead of 5 or 10 percent on the vendors' rates, which explains why many travel and trekking companies are deserting their business. The extreme seasonal nature of the business forces the local service providers and vendors such as hotels, airlines, tourist restaurants, massage parlours and transporters, among others, to resort to inconsistent and autocratic pricing policy. One cannot really fault them if they do not do that, their names will start appearing on the defaulters' list. The ball is in the government's court, and Nepal tourism mandarins need not look beyond this well written op-ed to formulate policy to attract tourists in the coming days.

Manohar Shrestha, via email

NOT COGENT ENOUGH

In the past decade, as the government

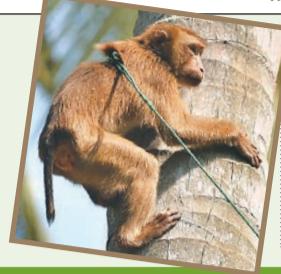
G M T K

**Toys galore**

China has evolved to become an industrial powerhouse in the last century, producing a host of different products that is distributed all over the world. Toys are no exception. Did you know that China produces 70 percent of the toys in the world?

Monkey business

Monkeys tend to be nuisance in Kathmandu when you visit places of religious importance like Pashupatinath or Swayambhu. In some parts of the world, monkeys are trained to work for humans. In Thailand and Malaysia, for instance, trained macaque monkeys are used to collect coconuts.

**Early to rise**

People all over the world struggle to wake up in the morning. Every day, billions of alarms are set up to ensure that people wake up and don't miss important appointments for the day. A recent study suggests that people most often set their alarm for 7 o'clock in the morning.



Liverpool: A club in transition, yet again

After years of false starts, will the Reds finally find glory this season?

By With 18 League titles and five European cups among its list of honors, Liverpool FC are one of the greatest football clubs in the world. They emerged as an English and European force in the 70s and 80s by winning 11 league titles and seven European trophies. However, the last league title came in the 1989-90 season—before the Premier League was founded in 1992. Liverpool have never won the Premier League.

The closest they came to winning the League was during the 2013-14 season, when they finished second with 84 points, only two points behind the champions Manchester City. However, the simple difference in points does not tell the whole story of the season.

In that eventful season, the absence of European competition allowed Liverpool to focus on domestic cups. The initial aim was to qualify for the Champions League by finishing fourth or higher. After an average start, Liverpool started winning games consistently. Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge formed a deadly strike partnership, scoring 51 goals between them. Suarez finished as the League's top scorer with 31 goals. Legendary club captain, Steven Gerrard, made a major contribution too. He ended the season on 12 goals and 13 assists, the most in the league. Having spent his entire career at Liverpool winning everything possible, except the Premier League, Gerrard was desperate for a league title. After winning 11 games consecutively, Liverpool led the title race against rivals Chelsea and Manchester City. However, a 0-2 defeat to Chelsea and a 3-3 draw at Crystal Palace resulted in Liverpool finishing second. What was especially harsh was that a slip by the infallible Gerrard lost Liverpool the game against Chelsea.

The manager for that memorable season was Brendan Rodgers, a young Northern Irishman. He was appointed by Liverpool after getting minnows Swansea City promoted and up to 11th position in the Premier League. However, after



the 2013-14 season, Liverpool's star player Suarez was sold for £75 million to FC Barcelona. Rodgers did not bring in the right players despite spending £117 million, and the 2014-15 season was very disappointing. Liverpool finished sixth in the League and could not get past the group stage of the Champions League. An embarrassing 6-1 loss at Stoke City in the last game of the league epitomised the season. Nevertheless, the owners decided to keep Rodgers at the manager.

In the summer of 2015, Rodgers spent a further £79 million on transfers. He did not start the season well though. Eight games into the season, Liverpool were wallowing in tenth place. Rodgers was sacked an hour after a dull 1-1 draw against

For the moment, us Liverpool fans will sit back and enjoy the way the team are playing. There is a sense of belief in the team many have not felt in a long, long time

rivals Everton. There were divided opinions about Rodgers' sackings. Some fans were happy that the board had finally been decisive on a mediocre manager. While some wanted him to stay, many fans felt that Rodgers should have been sacked in the summer, before giving him so much money to spend.

On October 8 2015, German manager Jurgen Klopp agreed on a

Liverpool over other clubs. Recent arrival Gini Wijnaldum said that he was persuaded by Klopp to join Liverpool over just one meeting. The agent of former Liverpool teenage-star Raheem Sterling, who forced a move away under Rodgers, said that Sterling would have stayed under Klopp. That is one of the main advantages I think Klopp has over Rodgers: his reputation as a passionate, hands-on manager.

Tactically, Rodgers and Klopp play different styles of football. Rodgers modelled Liverpool on intricate passing, while Klopp plays a more intense brand of football. His style is popularly known as "Gegenpressing". His team press after the ball when they lose it up the pitch, leading to mistakes from the opposition, creating chances close to goal.

Liverpool in Klopp's first season were characteristically inconsistent. They beat a lot of top teams including Chelsea and Manchester City, but lost to various smaller clubs such as Watford and Newcastle. They got to two finals but lost both of them. In the Europa League, Liverpool ended a memorable run beating top clubs Manchester United, Borussia Dortmund and Villarreal with a defeat in the final to Sevilla. Winning the Europa League, the second-tier European competition, would have earned Liverpool a place in the Champions League, equivalent to a fourth place finish. Liverpool ended up finishing eighth in the League. Many fans were willing to overlook the underwhelming finish as Klopp had simply inherited his players from Rodgers.

In the summer of 2016, Liverpool fans had a variety of opinions about who Klopp should bring into the team. But Klopp's transfer dealings confused many. The goalkeeper Loris Karius was duly signed, but no left-back or defensive midfielder was added. Despite Klopp signing eight players, Liverpool made a net profit in the transfer market, which angered some fans. Those fans have failed to see the larger picture. Klopp got rid of 13 players he did not want, getting good money for them.

He then got very smart deals. In my opinion, experienced centre back Joel Matip and future prospect goalkeeper Karius could have been worth £25 million each in the current Premier League market. Klopp signed Karius for a measly £4.7 million and got Matip on a free transfer.

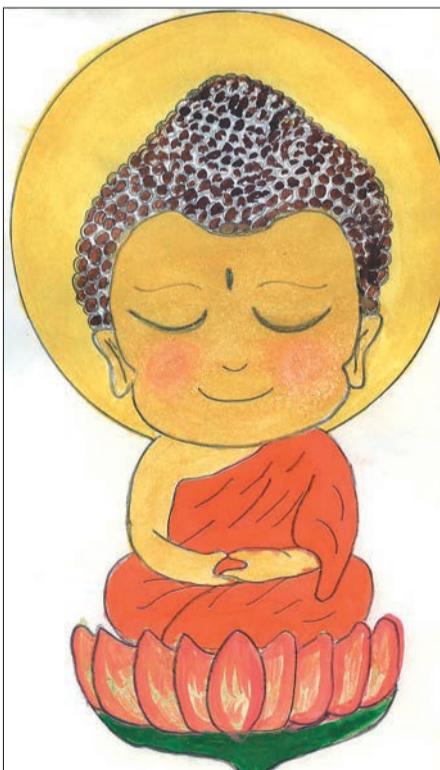
The league opener was a frenetic 4-3 victory over Arsenal, but it was followed by a 0-2 loss to Burnley and 1-1 draw at Tottenham. Many thought Liverpool's problems remained, but the players have since delivered with four consecutive wins. After seven games, Klopp has answered his critics. He recognises players' qualities and their importance in his system. He has converted James Milner, a midfielder, into a left-back. He has rejuvenated players like Adam Lallana and Jordan Henderson, whose Liverpool careers seemed over after last season. They are now regular starters.

Liverpool are fourth with 16 points, only two points off the top. The squad has a lot more balance and depth, and seems to be a lot fitter. Squad competition has also pushed the team to perform better. For example, the signing of Loris Karius, an exciting young goalkeeper, seems to have pushed previous first choice keeper Simon Mignolet to improve.

I feel that Liverpool have made a very good start to the season, given that they have faced several of their direct rivals—Arsenal, Tottenham, and Chelsea—without losing. The team is really clicking together.

Can Liverpool win the League this season? They could. However, a top four finish and thus entry into the Champions League is more realistic, and that would still be a successful season for Klopp. A domestic trophy would also be a bonus. For the moment, us Liverpool fans will sit back and enjoy the way the team are playing. There is a sense of belief in the team many have not felt in a long, long time.

Vishad Onta
Class 10
Rato Bangala School

**hakuna matata**

■ Art by Aadarsha Shrestha, Class 8, GEMS.

THE TOY SHOP

Everyday
On my way to school,
I pass by a shop
Full of interesting toys and
I always like to play with them.

I've an airplane, a copter
Fishing rod, golf, snooker, dagger
And the list goes on.
I wish I had some more.

Whether my dad's pocket
Is full or empty,
I really don't care.
Everyday
While passing by the toy shop
I stand and stare.

Aristocha Humboldt Rapacha
Class 2
St Xavier's School, Jhawalakhel

**DASHAIN AND TIHAR**

Weee! Dashain has come,
We're going to have lots of fun.
Smiles will come,
Days will pass in a flash.
Kites are going to clash;
Foreheads will turn red,
Every day will be great!

Weee! Tihar is here,
Houses will glow here and there
Goddess enters the house;
All the sadness shall be cleared;
Then here comes the firecrackers,
Children are all glad
But when it's over
they will again be sad!

Cindrella Pant
Class 7
Vidhya Sanskar School
(Chelsea Int'l School)

■ Students of AVM School stage the rendition of the popular Disney musical, The Lion King, in the Capital. The show marked the school's 50th anniversary and reproduced the musical, including the hit numbers Circle of Life, Nants' Ingonyama and Hakuna Matata.

SS extended cut to release soon

An extended cut of Suicide Squad will be released next month and will feature scenes that were chopped from the release in theatres. Jared Leto had complained shortly after the film's release that many scenes he shot as the Joker were deleted. Warner Bros unveiled a short teaser touting the extended cut for the film's release.

BORN TODAY

Russian President **Vladimir Putin** is 64
Trinidadian cricketer **Dwayne Bravo** is 33
Brazilian footballer **Diego Costa** is 28
British entrepreneur **Simon Cowell** is 57
Canadian actor **Shawn Ashmore** is 37



De Niro and Walken to star together

Actors Robert De Niro and Christopher Walken are reuniting on the big screen to star in the adaptation of children's book *The War with Grandpa*. The comedy will be directed by Alvin and the Chipmunks' Tim Hill and will start shooting soon. The actors will play best friends in the film.



A COMMUNITY'S QUEST FOR DIGNITY

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, OCT 6

Patan Museum is currently hosting a photography exhibition—titled *Dalit: A Quest for Dignity*—that boasts a total of 80 historical and contemporary photos portraying the diverse aspects of the marginalised dalit community's society and culture. The exhibit is being organised by Nepal Picture Library.

The exhibit traces the many trials and tribulations the dalit community went through to preserve its heritage through history

The exhibit traces the trials and tribulations the dalit community went through to preserve its heritage through history

continues to persist, our goal of eradicating the existing economic gap among the communities will not materialise."

Similarly, artist and lecturer Sujan Chitrakar noted, "This exhibit that focuses on the dalit community does present the voice of the marginalised community in an effective way. The photos not only speak of one particular community but also of the current picture of Nepali society as a whole." The organisers aim to publish a book compiling the photographs being displayed at the event.

The exhibit will run until November 11.



Singer Meera Rana makes a comeback

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, OCT 6

Veteran songstress Meera Rana, who has sang for over 1,600 Nepali songs in her sprawling, 53-year long career, has now released two new albums—*Shri Ram Bhanera* (an anthology of bhajans) and *Geet* (an album of folk songs). The albums were launched, by songwriter Nagendra Thapa, amid a function held in the Capital on Wednesday.

The launch event saw the presence of a host of artists—including Shambhuji Banskota, Madan Krishna Shrestha, Kumar Basnet, Ratna Shumsher Thapa, and Prakash Sayami, among others.

Speaking during the event, filmmaker and musician Prakash



Sayami said, "I feel overwhelmed to be part of Meera Rana's five-decade

long musical journey."

"I recall Gopal Singh Yonjan

referring to her as a comfortable and seamless Russian Jeep for her soothing voice when she was young, and it's astonishing that the pace and voice remains the same," Sayami said.

Speaking during the event, the singer Rana said, "Releasing two albums on the same day was an impromptu plan; I am glad and thankful to the team for their endless support. I have been involved in this field for over five decades now. Having come from a classical background, it was always my wish to come up with a bhajan album."

The event also marked the Makhamali Choli Chahidaina hitmaker's 53rd anniversary in the Nepali music scape and her 64th birthday.

LAMICHHANE STARRER DHANPATI IN PRODUCTION

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, OCT 5

The producer of last year's mega hit *Pashupati Prasad*, Tukee Arts, is soon coming up with a new feature film, *Dhanpati*—the film production company announced issuing a press note on Wednesday. Tukee Arts will pro-

Williams to be honoured with Brit Icon Award

BBC
LONDON, OCT 6

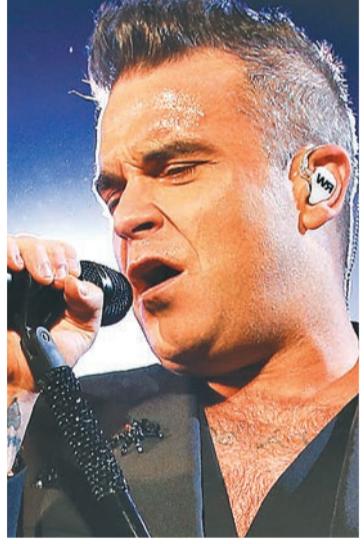
Robbie Williams is being honoured with the Brit Awards' prestigious Icon Award—following in the footsteps of Sir Elton John and David Bowie as only the third artist to ever get the award.

It's the highest accolade handed out by the Brits and in the words of organisers:

"It is only presented to artists whose writing, recording and performances have set them apart as having made a lasting impact on British culture, recognising the very highest level of achievement in music."

Robbie already has a whopping 17 Brit Awards to prove it, more than any other artist.

The singer—whose new album *The Heavy Entertainment Show* is due on 4 November—called it "a real honour". He added: "The Brit Awards



are very special to me, and I'm humbled to be receiving the 18th of my career next month."

venturing into the sonics



■ Young entrepreneur Nirvana Chaudhary speaks during the official launch of the Soundz of Nepal on Tuesday at Patan Museum. Soundz of Nepal, a platform for artists to perform on live acoustic sets, kicked off with performances by Nabin K Bhattarai and Deepak Bajracharya.

POST PHOTO: NIMESH JANG RAI



duce the film in collaboration with Dipendra K Khanal Productions.

The film has been written by Khagendra Lamichhane and will be directed by Dipendra K Khanal.

"Dhanpati is a social drama. It will blend one man's struggle to eke out a living navigating the socio-political happenings he is influenced by," said Lamichhane, speaking to the Post.

The film will feature Lamichhane himself in the lead role while the producers are currently confirming other actors to be featured in the film.

The shooting for the film is slated to commence in February 2017 and the producers aim to release the film sometime in late 2017.

Meanwhile, the producers also announced that *Pashupati Prasad* will be up on view on the video-sharing site YouTube starting Friday.



Representing Nepal at global beauty pageants

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, OCT 6

The Hidden Treasure, the organising body of the Miss Nepal beauty pageant, on Thursday, organised a farewell ceremony with the four winners of the Miss Nepal all set to represent Nepal in four different international beauty pageants. The event was held at Hotel Annapurna in the Capital on Thursday.

The reigning Miss Nepal Asmi Shrestha will be representing Nepal at the Miss World 2016, which is slated to be held at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, Maryland, in the US, on December 18.

Meanwhile, first runner-up Roshani Khatri will participate at the Miss Earth, which will be held at the Mall of Asia Arena, Pasay City, in Philippines, on October 29. Barsa Lekhi, the reigning second runner-up, will participate at the Miss International, to be held at the Tokyo Dome City Hall in Japan, on October 27. Likewise, Anshu KC, who was placed fourth at the Miss Nepal 2016, will go on to represent Nepal at Miss Asia Pacific International, the date and venue of which is yet to be finalised.

Nepal's highest achievement at the global beauty pageant has been Miss Nepal 2013 Ishani Shrestha's performance, who was placed fifth out of top ten finalists at the Miss World 2013. Shrestha also went to bag the Beauty with the Purpose title at the event.

POST FILE PHOTO

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Expect a few ego clashes to slow down your progress today—and be grateful that time is not a big concern of yours right now. A drama is coming, but it will be a very entertaining one for you—because you're not going to be a part of it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

In theory, it should not matter what other people think of you. But in practice, you may have to take on a certain role today in order to impress one or two important people. You need them on your side in order to accomplish what you need to accomplish.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You have strong confidence in your ideas today, so why not take the bull by the horns and put things into motion? You need to stop waiting for that person or that money and just do what you can by yourself with what you have.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

If any financial matters look too good to be true today, you had better look again! Don't let yourself be pressured by the suits in the room. This is your money we're talking about here, and you can't let it go without knowing exactly what's going to happen next.

LEO (July 23-August 22)

You have only just started on your latest endeavour, so if you're getting frustrated about your lack of progress, don't you dare give up! Keep digging today and you could uncover the whole beautiful thing beneath the surface.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22)

When someone says something that confuses you today, don't just reject their comments and walk away. The viewpoints that don't make sense to you are the ones you should try to listen to all the more—they are the ones that have the most to teach you.

LIBRA (September 23-October 22)

Has your wallet sprung a leak? There's some money going out and if you don't know where it's going, you had better find out. Check through recent billing statements, because there's a chance that you have overlooked or forgotten something.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21)

You underestimate your appeal to others sometimes. You have a powerful magnetic effect on many people, and today, you might pull some very insecure people toward you. They are looking at you as someone who can tell them the answers.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)

It will feel like you are living one of your unusual dreams today, as odd coincidences and funny twists of fate greet you at every new corner. So keep going around those corners! The more you move around today, the more excitement you'll get to experience!

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)

Your recent bold behaviour has gotten you noticed by a couple people lately—and they are the people you want to get on your good side. The good news is that they love your brashness—they see it as a breath of fresh air.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18)

You may be starting to be more ambivalent about the future, especially in terms of your career. These unexpected feelings about ambition or advancement might seem like a bad omen, but they are just part of a natural growth process you're going through.

PISCES (February 19-March 20)

You might be in a more relaxed and passive mode right now, but that doesn't mean you should let yourself be treated like a doormat by anyone—for any reason. If you feel like you're being taken advantage of today, stand up for yourself!

LAUGH OUT LOUD

A dog walked in to the telegram office one day. He took out a blank form and wrote on it: "Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof." Then he handed it to the clerk. The clerk examined the paper and said to the dog, "You know there are only nine words here? You could send another 'Woof' for the same price." The dog replied, "But that would make no sense at all!"

My sister asked me to take off my clothes. So I took off her skirt. Then she said, "Take off my skirt." So I took off her skirt. "Take off my shoes." I took off her shoes. "Now take off my t-shirt and sweater." So I took them off. Then she looked at me and said, "I don't want to catch you wearing my things ever again."

KANTIPUR TV			
5:00 Bhaktisur/ AmritBani	1:00 Headline News	9:00 Samkon 2	
6:00 Jeevan Bigyan/ Jyothi Manthan	1:05 Quiz Mania	10:00 MNS	
6:40 Sky Shop	Season 4	10:30 Kantipur News	
7:00 Kantipur Samachar	3:00 Rise N Shine	11:30 Market Updates	
8:00 Kantipur News	3:05 Sajha Sawal	12:00 Call Kantipur	
8:30 Rise N Shine	4:00 Kantipur Samachar	1:00 Kantipur News	
9:00 Headline News	4:30 New Entry	Repeated	
9:05 Marga Darshan	5:00 Headline News	1:30 MNS	
10:00 Kantipur Samachar	5:05 Call Kantipur	2:00 Kantipur Samachar	
10:30 Market Updates	Reloaded	Repeat 1	
11:00 Headline News	6:00 Kantipur News	2:30 Score Board	
11:05 Music Galaxy	6:30 Score Board	3:00 Kantipur Samachar	
11:30 Info plus	7:00 Kantipur Samachar	Repeat 2	
12:00 Kantipur Samachar	7:30 Market Updates	3:30 Samkon 2	
12:30 Kilo Tango Mike	8:00 Kantipur Samachar	4:30 MNS	

00:00 Non - Stop Hindi Songs	10:00 Kantipur Diary	16:00 Kantipur Diary	
02:00 Non - Stop Nepali Pop/Adhunik Songs	10:05 New Releases	16:05 Cine Quiz	
04:00 Non - Stop Bhajan	11:00 Kantipur Diary	17:00 Kantipur Diary	
05:00 Bhakti Anusthan	12:00 Kantipur Diary	18:00 Happy Life	
06:30 Kantipur Diary	12:10 Brunch With Bhumika	18:30 Kantipur Diary	
07:00 The Headliners	13:00 Kantipur Diary	18:55 Kohj	
07:30 Radio Magazine	19:00 Playtronix	19:00	
08:00 Kantipur Diary	20:00 Kantipur Diary	20:00	
08:05 The Good Morning Show	20:05 Wheel No Tension	20:05	
09:00 Traffic Update	21:00 Kantipur Diary	21:00 Kantipur Diary	
09:30 Kickstart	21:30 Club Mix	21:30 Club Mix	
	23:00 Saurashtra Krishna Malla	23:00 Aaja Dheki Arko Saamas	

FOOD & DRINKS



Savour the cardamom and saffron spice, slow-cooked kebabs and kormas at Indian restaurant serving Awadhi cuisine. Contact: 427399, at Soaltee Crowne Plaza

China Garden offers delectable dishes from across Asia, including Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese and Chinese. Timings: Lunch: 1230-1445 hrs, Dinner: 1900-2245 hrs, contact: 427399 at Soaltee Crowne Plaza

The Italian restaurant serves authentic Italian cuisines in an elegant ambient for both lunch and dinner. Timings: Lunch: 1230-1445 hrs, Dinner: 1900-2245 hrs, Contact: 427399, at Soaltee Crowne Plaza

Every Friday evening enjoy Starry Night BBQ from 7 pm onwards at Shambala Garden Café at Hotel Shangri La with live musical performance by Ciney Gurung. Contact: 441299

Enjoy Bubbly Brunch every Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm at Shambala Gardenca and Club Sundhara. Contact: 441299

Experience The Last Resort, the perfect place for family fun adventure and relaxation. Special packages for residents. Contact: 4700525/ 4701247 or mail us at info@thelastresort.com.np

Dip yourself at probably the best pool in the town at Park Village Resort. Rate: Rs. 1500 for adults & 1300 for children and includes french fries, free Wi-Fi & 20% discount on Food & Beverage. Contact: 980103114

Relax and Unwind this summer at Waterfront Resort. Sedi Height, Pokhara @ Rs. 600 Nett per night on Bed & Breakfast basis. Contact: 980133378 / 9849143552

Mako's offers traditional Japanese food served. Don't miss out on Mako's special Tempuras, and green tea ice cream. Time: 11:30-14:30 & 19:00-22:00, contact: 4479448

The Toran, an ideal location for all day lounging and informal dining offers multi-cuisines. Contact: Dwarika's Hotel, 4479488

Asia World Travel Pvt Ltd presents fascinating luxury escapades to amazing destinations: Prague, Ladakh, Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Mount Kailash and Panchphokhari in North East Nepal. Contact: 6222604

Weekends brunch @ Hyatt Regency—treat yourself with a lavish buffet lunch, splash by the swimming pool or laze around outdoor, Jacuzzi, all for just Rs 2300 plus taxes per person. Contact: 4491234

We serve nothing but the finest Arabic coffees at great value prices at Barista Lavazza Coffee Restaurant, Lazimpat, Contact: 4005123/4005124

Bourbon Room, Lal Durbar Marg is open for lunch from 12 noon. Enjoy affordable and delicious meals starting from Rs 99! We are currently offering Indian & Chinese combos along with momos. Call: 4441703

Latin-Gypsy Jazz at The Corner Bar, Radisson Hotel, Kathmandu with Hari Maharan feat Monsif Mzibri, 7 pm onwards, Wednesdays & Fridays. Contact: 4411818

Jungle Safari Lodge, Sauraha Chitwan offers 2 Nights 3 Days package only for Rs 6500 per person. Suman 9851008399

Much needed getaway—1 night/2 day package @ Hyatt Regency. Enjoy luxury stay of a five star hotel for a couple with breakfast and access to spa facilities for just Rs 9999 plus taxes per person only. Contact: 4491234

Sandwich and Crepes: Taste the sandwiches and crepes at The Lounge from 11 am to 6 pm everyday. For further details call Hyatt Regency at 4491234.

Rosemary Kitchen and Coffee shop, Thamel, opening hours: 7:00 am to 10:00 pm offers an international cuisine in reasonable prices. Contact 01-4267554

Out-of-Africa Lunch amid rural splendor: Sat & Sun from 11:30 to 16:00 hours at The Watering Hole, Indrawati River Valley. For prior reservation contact: indrawatering@gmail.com

Make your weekend more exciting with family and friends with sumptuous Satay, Dimsum, Mongolian Barbecue and Pasta at The Cafe from 12:30 noon to 4:00 pm. Call: Hyatt Regency at 4491234

The most delightfully awesome chicken momos & yummy rich chocolate cake on this part of the planet @ Just Baked Bakery & Cafe, Battisputali, offering much more specialties at affordable price.

Starry Night BBQ—every Friday Evening from 7:00 pm at Shambala Garden Café, Hotel, Shangri-La only @ Rs 1799 net per person and live performance by Ciney Gurung. Contact: 441299

Experience the Gyakot @ Shambala Garden, Hotel Shangri-la only @ Rs.1700 Net per person and Rs.3000 Nett for couple. For more details and reservation: 441299

Enjoy live DJ nights, on every Sunday chill out/ ambient, Wednesday tech/ funk house & Friday psy/ proggiv/ full on from 6:00 pm to 10 pm at garden and 7:00 pm onwards at club at Funky Buddha Restaurant & Bar, contact: 4700091

Set within the historic Garden of Dreams, the Kaiser Cafe Restaurant and Bar, Thamel, offers a continental menu and serves as an atmospheric venue for anything from a quiet coffee or intimate meal. Contact: 442543

Trisara offers food and drinks along with good music and great times. Sunday-Live Music by Barbeque Night, Monday, Wednesday- Positive vibes, Tuesday, Saturday-Dj by Joyvan Bhuj, Friday-Live Music by Dexterous

Revolution Cafe, AmritMang, Thamel, away from busy crowded street, offers great music, fast wi-fi and wide menu with reasonable prices. Operation hours: 7 am to 10 pm, contact: 4433630

Yoga detox and Ayurveda treatments and retreats every day at Himalayan Peace & Wellness Centre, Park Village Hotel. Get 10% discount on all Ayurvedic treatments. Contact: 980106661

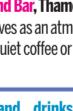
Learn cardio, gym, aerobics, zumba, spa, boxing, kick-boxing, b-boying, bollywood dance at Oyster Spa and Fitness Club, Sinamangal. Time: Sunday to Friday from 5 am to 8 pm. Contact: 4110554

Escape, relax and get in shape @ Hyatt Regency. Embark on a personal well-being at Club Oasis. Remember us for tennis, sauna, Jacuzzi, swimming, fitness centre and Beauty Salon. Contact: 4491234

MIND & BODY



OTHERS



GETAWAY



EVEN TO GRAP



Variety

ACROSS

- 1 Rain slicker
- 4 Sentry's bark
- 8 Tizzy
- 12 Spelling or Amos
- 13 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
- 14 Hypnotized
- 16 Battery word
- 17 Cave formation
- 19 Hooded pullover
- 21 Gunpowder holder
- 22 Made top honors
- 23 Put one's foot
- 25 Incline
- 27 Bucks
- 31 Calm state
- 35 Shoe saver
- 36 Honshu volcano
- 38 City near Phoenix
- 39 Yours and mine
- 41 Jacket choice
- 43 Moose or elk
- 44 Phrase-book entry
- 46 Roman household gods
- 48 Moo goo — pan
- 49 Storm refuge
- 51 Snack (2 wds.)
- 53 Latin hymn word
- 55 Per
- 56 Louver part

DOWN

- 59 Day — paint
- 61 Vast number
- 65 Big blow in Japan (2 wds.)
- 68 Plum shape
- 69 Habituate
- 70 Green Gables gal
- 71 Griffin of TV
- 72 "Only Time" singer
- 73 Pothole locale
- 74 Vane dir.
- 75 Day — paint
- 76 Singer — Guthrie
- 77 Never exploded
- 78 S&L protector
- 79 Throw a party for
- 80 HQ is Knoxville
- 81 Autumn color
- 82 Culture dish goo
- 83 "Diana" composer
- 84 Fishing net
- 85 Bumped into
- 86 Louver part

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

I.S.A.K A.P.A.R.T E.W.E.R
L.E.S.E. R.O.G.E.R L.A.T.E
K.N.E.E. C.R.E.D.O A.S.T.I
S.T.A.N.C.H.E.D O.I.R.P.H.A.N
E.L.I. O.P.I.U.S
A.U.S.S.I.E V.I.N.E.G.A.R
P.H.O.T.O T.H.E.N U.S.E
H.U.B C.H.O.N.G I.N.N
I.R.E O.O.P.S J.A.D.E
D.A.R.K.E.N.S M.O.W.E.R.S
P.E.A.V.E A.I.V.E
P.I.E.R.R.IE I.M.P.I.S.H.Y
E.S.P.N R.U.R.A.L O.M.O.O
A.L.E.E S.H.A.D.E M



Paris climate deal to come into force

The landmark Paris climate pact is poised to enter into force globally after the European Parliament joined the world's top polluters in endorsing the deal to slow the planet's dangerous temperature rise. With UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon watching the vote on Tuesday, the parliament overwhelmingly approved the EU's fast-track ratification of the deal.



Polish House rejects abortion ban

Poland's parliament on Thursday rejected an abortion ban after women staged massive nationwide protests, in a nation where the law is already among the most restrictive in Europe. Right-wing and liberal parliamentarians in the 450-member lower house joined forces to vote 352 against 58 to reject the controversial bill, with 18 abstentions.

Duterte's popularity soars: Poll

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's popularity has soared during his first three months in office, an independent survey showed Thursday, in an apparent endorsement by Filipinos of his brutal crime crackdown. The unprecedented purge has left more than 3,000 people dead and raised fears of mass extrajudicial killings, triggering global condemnation from defence ally the US, the UN and the EU.

NEWS DIGEST

Afghanistan wins aid pledges at Brussels talks

BRUSSELS: World powers pledged billions of dollars for war-ravaged Afghanistan until 2020 at talks in Brussels on Wednesday amid fresh calls for the Taliban to make peace 15 years after they were driven from power. Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani met officials from more than 70 countries and international groups, including US Secretary of State John Kerry and UN chief Ban Ki-moon, at the conference.

World wildlife talks end with tighter rules

JOHANNESBURG: A global conference on wildlife trade wrapped up on Tuesday after adopting a slew of decisions to curb rampant trafficking of threatened species such as sharks and pangolins. Officials and conservationists meeting under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species have been gathered in Johannesburg for the past 11 days seeking to toughen restrictions on the trade of species nearing extinction. All trade of the reclusive, scale-covered pangolin will now be banned.

(AGENCIES)

power of the storm



■ A woman walks on a highway blocked by rocks after the passage of hurricane Matthew on the coast of Guantanamo province, Cuba. More than two million people on the US southeast coast faced an urgent evacuation order Thursday as monstrous Hurricane Matthew bore down on track for a direct hit in Florida, braced for waves as high as two-story buildings. Up and down the coast, highways clogged as people fled inland to escape the storm, which killed at least 27 people as it blasted its way through the Caribbean. Haiti remained essentially cut in half.

India says it foils attack on Kashmir

REUTERS

Srinagar (India), Oct 6

Indian soldiers shot dead three suspected militants who tried to raid an army base in northern Kashmir on Thursday, police said, the latest in a wave of attacks that has raised tension with neighbouring Pakistan.

In a sign of how fraught relations have become, Pakistan's military chief lashed out against India on Thursday and warned that Pakistan would react strongly against any aggression.

The three suspected militants were found in an orchard near the army base in Kupwara district near the Line of Control, the de facto border that divides Muslim-majority Kashmir between India and Pakistan, which both claim the Himalayan region. Police superintendent Ghulam Jeelani said the attackers engaged in heavy firing with soldiers before they retreated from the base, the second to be attacked in days in northern Kashmir.

The attack came as India and Pakistan exchanged more gunfire across the frontier in Kashmir, despite a 2003 ceasefire, setting off panic among residents in border areas.

"Any aggression, born out of deliberate intent or even a strategic miscalculation, will not be allowed to go unpunished and will be met with the most befitting response," said General Raheel Sharif, the head of Pakistan's military.

"While Pakistan wants good relations with all its neighbours, no one should make any mistakes about our collective resolve to defend our motherland," he said.

Pak cracks down on TV airing Indian content

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's media regulator has launched a crackdown on companies airing Indian television channels and content, officials said on Thursday, after an escalation of violence in the disputed Kashmir region between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

"Given the recent tensions between India and Pakistan, the public is demanding that Indian channels and sitcoms be completely banned," a spokesman for Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) said on Thursday.

Pakistani law only allows 86 minutes of Indian content to be aired by a channel daily, but entertainment channels and cable operators routinely flout the rules as Indian films and soap operas are so popular.

The sale of Indian direct-to-home service is also forbidden but common in Pakistan.

the Pakistan side of Kashmir and inflicted significant casualties.

Pakistan denied such a strike had taken place and accuses India of fabricating the raids to give Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi a domestic political boost.

India accuses Muslim Pakistan of backing the militants and of infiltrating them into Indian Kashmir. Pakistan denies that saying it only offers moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people in their campaign for self-determination.

Tension increased sharply when militants killed 19 Indian soldiers in a raid on an army camp on Sept. 18, the heaviest toll in nearly two decades.

Syria army seizes rebel territory

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BEIRUT, OCT 6

Syrian government forces advanced against rebels inside Aleppo on Thursday, making their biggest gains in the ravaged city in years just hours after announcing they would ease their air bombardment.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said loyalist fighters now controlled around half of the Bustan al-Basha district near the cen-

tre of the divided metropolis.

"It's the most important advance for the regime in Aleppo since 2013," said Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman.

The advances come two weeks after the government announced an operation to recapture the rebel-held east of the city following the collapse of a short-lived truce negotiated by Russia and the United States. The assault has seen rebel-held areas pounded relentlessly with air strikes,

barrel bombs and artillery fire that have killed more than 270 people, according to the Observatory.

On Wednesday, the army said in a surprise announcement it would reduce its bombardment "after the success of our armed forces in Aleppo and cutting off all terrorist supply routes into the eastern districts".

The military command has decided to reduce the number of air and artillery strikes on terrorist positions

to allow civilians who want to leave to reach safe areas," a statement said.

"Anyone who does not take advantage of the opportunity to lay down their arms or leave will meet their inevitable fate," it added.

The Observatory said there had been fewer air strikes on Thursday, but that heavy clashes were underway in Bustan al-Basha, with the army now controlling several key vantage points and half of the neighbourhood.

The attack came as India and Pakistan exchanged more gunfire across the frontier in Kashmir, despite a 2003 ceasefire, setting off panic among residents in border areas.

Tension has escalated since last week, when India announced its special forces had carried out a strike against militants camped on

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**Loew skeptical about 48-team WC**

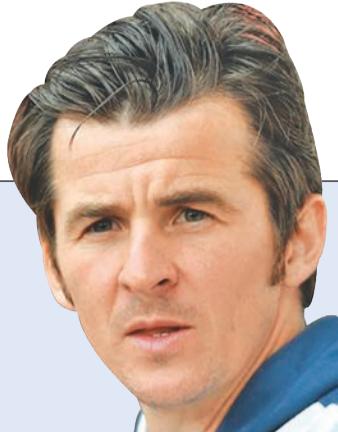
Germany coach Joachim Loew appears to be skeptical about Fifa President Gianni Infantino's suggestion that the World Cup could be expanded to as many as 48 teams. On Monday, Infantino outlined the idea that would see 16 teams go home after playing one game in a new opening playoff round.

Infantino 'surprised' at Allardyce exit

Fifa president Gianni Infantino has admitted to being "extremely surprised" and "very sad" at the affair that ended Sam Allardyce's brief reign as England manager. "Of course I am extremely surprised. I am also very, very sad about what has happened, about what we are reading, that this is just the tip of the iceberg," Infantino said.

**Barton charged for betting**

Controversial Rangers midfielder Joey Barton was issued with a formal "notice of complaint" by the Scottish Football Association on Wednesday after being accused of betting on football matches. The SFA issued a statement on Wednesday in which it English footballer Barton placed 44 bets between July 1 and September 15 this year.

**SPORTS DIGEST****Australians freed after F1 'stunt'**

SEPANG: Nine Australian men who had provoked anger in Malaysia by donning skimpy swimwear bearing the Muslim-majority country's national flag at a Formula 1 race were let off with no charges on Thursday. Four days after the arrest, nine fans were brought to a Malaysian court to face potential charges of public indecency and national insult. But after expressing remorse they were released without charge. (AFP)

Hong Kong arrest over match fixing

HONG KONG: Five professional footballers and a suspected bookmaker have been arrested over alleged match fixing in Hong Kong's football league, the city's anti-corruption watchdog said on Thursday. Local media reported the five footballers played for Hong Kong Pegasus, a strong team in contention for the title, which unexpectedly lost a match last week against a Chinese Super League team made up mostly of youth players. (AFP)

Mexico to appeal against Fifa fine

MEXICO CITY: The Mexican Football Federation has vowed to appeal a new fine imposed by Fifa over a homophobic chant used by fans against opposition goalkeepers. Fifa announced on Tuesday a set of sanctions against several federations, with Mexico ordered to pay around \$31,000 over the use of the slur at the 2018 World Cup qualifying game against Honduras in September. It was the fourth time since November 2015 that Mexico was fined for the chant. (AFP)

Rose to take 2-month break

LONDON: Olympic champion Justin Rose said on Wednesday he would be taking a two-month break from golf in order to fully recover from a back injury. "Following an intense summer schedule and discussion with my team, I have decided to take the next eight weeks off for rest and recovery," the 36-year-old Rose, who won two points in Europe's Ryder Cup defeat by the US last week, said. His decision means the Englishman will miss next week's British Masters. (AFP)

Miller bats SA to epic run chase

south africa-australia odi series

■ South Africa's David Miller celebrates after scoring a century against Australia during the third One-Day International match at the Kingsmead cricket Stadium in Durban on Wednesday.

107 balls and captain Smith made 108 off 107 deliveries.

It was only the third time in 42 ODIs that a team had made 300 or more at Kingsmead, a ground which seldom yields big totals. South Africa were always close to the required rate, with opener Quinton de Kock making 70 off 49 balls, but the hosts kept losing wickets. Miller, though, was undeterred despite hobbling between wickets because of a groin strain. He hit 10 fours and six sixes, one of them bouncing off a grandstand roof out of the ground, in making his third ODI century. "It was the best win that I have been involved in," said Du Plessis. "Most teams would have felt they were dead and buried."

Warner made his runs off 107 balls, with 13 fours and two sixes, while Smith, who said at the toss that "every match is a final for us" after they lost the first two games, faced 107 balls and hit nine fours and a six. Warner and Aaron Finch gave Australia a blazing start, putting on 110 for the first wicket off 81 balls, with fast bowler Dale Steyn coming in for particularly heavy punishment, with both batsmen hitting sixes off him.

Although Steyn picked up two wickets late in the innings, he conceded 96 runs in 10 overs, the most by a South African in ODIs. Fellow fast bowler Kagiso Rabada was also expensive, taking 1-86 in 10 overs.

**WORLD NO 1
KERBER OUT OF CHINA OPEN****AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**

Ukrainian Elina Svitolina scored her second win this year over a world No 1, ousting Angelique Kerber in the round of 16 in Beijing on Thursday.

In the tenth-ranked Svitolina took just two sets to beat newly crowned No 1 Kerber—who ascended to the top spot at the US Open, the same week she also claimed her second Grand Slam crown—with a 6-3, 7-5 win. The 22-year-old left Serena Williams in tears in Rio in August, denying the 22-time Grand Slam champion a fifth Olympic gold medal with a straight set win. "When they announce (the names at the start of the march) you have this weird feeling because you realise you're playing against world No 1", Svitolina said after the match. "I try to really don't think about it. If I think too much, I lose my way," she added. Kerber, who had her right thigh taped during the match, had a break lead in each set but appeared glued to the baseline and was unable to take control. "I know that I have to move very well when I play my game, and I couldn't play my game like I play,"

Kerber said. The German still plans to play in Hong Kong next week as she chases points to end the year at No 1—but her right leg may alter her plans.

India eye clean sweep as Kohli looks for runs

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

INDORE, OCT 6



because cricket is a game where you prepare well but the result cannot be in your hand all the time, especially batting where you have only one chance."

Kohli aside, India's batting has been sound in the first two Tests but Shikhar Dhawan's broken thumb has opened the door for a recall at the top of the order for veteran Gautam Gambhir. The aggressive left-hander, who enjoyed a successful opening partnership with the now retired Virender Sehwag, played the last of his 56 Tests on India's tour of England in the summer of 2014. But he has forced his way back into contention after a strong showing on the domestic circuit.

"I don't think there is anything called form. It's how you feel on a particular day," the 27-year-old said in comments carried by Indian media this week ahead of the third Test at Indore's Holkar Stadium. "My own form? I don't really think about these things.

There will also be a change to the bowling lineup after medium-pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who took six wickets in Kolkata, was ruled out on Wednesday with a back strain and the uncapped Shardul Thakur drafted in as a replacement.

With a string of bouncers, Kohli, who has been widely praised for soaking up the additional pressure since taking over from MS Dhoni as Test captain last year, has been playing down the concerns about his own form.

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Since scoring his first Test double century against the West Indies in July, the normally prolific Kohli has failed

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