



# NEPAL VISION

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gj ji.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2058 B.S.**

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<b>Executive Advisors:</b>	<b>Rajendra Shrestha, Ph.D Hari Paudel, Ph.D. Jagadish Sharma, Ph.D.</b>

**Contacts:**

**Nepalese Association of Houston**  
6776 Southwest Freeway, Suite 450  
Houston, Texas 77074

**Tel: (713) 773-4348**

**Fax: (713) 773-1948**

**Email: [info@nepalvision.org](mailto:info@nepalvision.org)**

**Egroup: [houstonnepali@egroups.com](mailto:houstonnepali@egroups.com)**

**Web: [www.nepalvision.org](http://www.nepalvision.org)**

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*Cover: Glimpses of Nepal*

***Disclaimer***

*The articles views and opinions, unless otherwise noted, contained herein are those of the authors and do not represent the official statements or views of the Nepal Vision.*

***editor's desk***

Failure is not an excuse, nor is it an escape, it is a solution within itself. For this reason, I have always been optimistic. I have been optimistic since day one that Nepal Vision (NV) would contribute at its best to serve Nepalis living in the Americas. NV team is proud to pursue continued publication in an effort to bring the Nepali community closer.

Nepal Vision has made attempts to broaden its horizon and its scope by presenting diverse articles and reaching people in all walks of life. We still encourage students and professionals, who envision that their articles will make a positive impact to the society to a certain degree or bring an awareness at the least, to contribute to the future issues of NV.

Articles presented herein touch different perspectives of on-going national issues. An article by Dr. Jagadish Sharma on IT opportunities in Nepal in 21st century is certainly noteworthy, and his concepts and ideas are tremendously applicable to boost the national economy. Mr. Hari Malla's research on "World Peace Through Religious Coordination" is highly informative and presents a clear picture on the sequence of evolution to perfection. Ms. Rebecca Wolf, currently working for an INGO in Kathmandu, has made all of us aware of the social injustice and stigma, poverty and illiteracy that still widely prevail in Nepal.

On behalf of NV editorial team, I would like to extend deep appreciation to businesses who have made financial contributions by advertising their products and services in NV. We expect such continued support, especially from Nepal/Nepali related businesses, both national and international.

On behalf of NV editorial committee, I wish all Nepalis in the Americas and abroad, a very happy and prosperous New Year 2058 B.S.

**NEPAL VISION FAMILY  
WISHES  
HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR 2058 B.S.  
TO ALL THE NEPALIS  
LIVING IN THE AMERICAS  
AND  
REST OF THE WORLD**

## letter to the editor

*Dear Nepal Vision,*

*I was delighted to have received your reply with the information that you have published my article on Hindu marriage, written ages ago, as the local correspondent of your periodical. If my understanding of your periodical is correct, you cater primarily to Nepalis presently residing in the United States. Will it not hence be only appropriate if I pose the following questions to your readers hoping fully well that I get a good response?*

- 1. Information Technology is the wave of the future. We Nepalis did miss out on industrial revolution but can hardly afford to miss the opportunities the future may have in store for us. The US is the hub of Information Technology. What then are the possibilities for us piggy back riding on Nepalis presently residing in the United States as has IT in India done with the help of NRI's ?*
- 2. In order to materialize the above possibility, which is as general as it can be, we would have to solicit the help of Non-Resident Nepalis (NRN) from Nepal. In order to do this, we would require a data base of all the NRN's. Does such a data base exist somewhere? If it does, it is well and fine. If it does not, can it not be created and subsequently sent to us?*
- 3. What is the best strategy to market Nepal abroad? What advice can you give to a fresh graduate wanting to emigrate to the US? What are the skills that are most in demand presently in the States?*

*Affectionately Yours,  
Jagadish Sharma, Ph.D.  
Kathmandu, Nepal*

## president's corner

Try making a difference in someone's life. The means does not necessarily have to be a financial one. Kind gestures – a brilliant smile, a few sweet words, a warm hug, or a friendly handshake – are capable of making a world of difference in somebody's life and changing it for ever. And believe me, the gratification you achieve by helping others is incredible and immense, which is a reward in itself.

Believe it or not, NAH is a year old. Time seems to be fleeting us by, but we have had a great year full of excitements and accomplishments.

The Dashain Party on October 7 last year was well attended and graced by Nepalis as well as non-Nepalis. The dining hall resonated with melodious Nepali live music, accompanied by the rhythmic movement of several young feet on the dance floor. NAH would like to thank you all for making it a memorable event.

The historic Nepali movie "Seema Rekha" was featured on Nov. 25, 2000 - the Thanksgiving day. Although the night was cold and wet, our Nepali brothers and sisters took time to come to the movie and had a good time watching it. The movie depicts a playback of the historic events leading to the rise of the Gorkha Dynasty.

On the fateful day of January 26, when the whole India was celebrating the Republic Day, the state of Gujarat was struck by a devastating earthquake of magnitude 7.9, that took a heavy toll of thousands of lives and left hundreds of thousands of people homeless and heartbroken. As a token of our sympathy and concern to India and its people at the time of distress and need, NAH made a financial contribution to the "India Earthquake Relief Fund" through the Office of the Consular General of India in Houston.

As a law of nature, life is rarely fair to anyone at all times. It was certainly not fair to Mrs. Tulsi Bishwakarma from Houston, who underwent a terrible family crisis in the recent past. In order to realize her plan to go back to Nepal for a much needed break, Nepalese Association of Houston rose to the occasion and helped her towards purchasing an air ticket to Nepal through a limited fund raising and use

of its own funds.

The third issue of Nepal Vision, the quarterly newsmagazine of NAH, is in your hands now. This issue, like the previous two, contains a variety of exciting articles full of information about Nepal and the rest of the world. NAH would like to thank everyone involved, for hard work and untiring efforts in bringing out this issue. NAH also gratefully acknowledges the businesses and organizations for their advertisements, without the financial support of which the publication of Nepal Vision would not have been possible. In that regard, they are the true sponsors of Nepal Vision.

In the meeting last month, NAH executive committee has decided to procure computer equipment and send them to schools in Nepal for the benefit of Nepali students. This is the first of a series of charity programs NAH will be conducting to help people in Nepal in a variety of ways. If you have some ideas and suggestions to accomplish this objective efficiently and effectively, please feel free to come forward and help us. We will start raising donations for this purpose very soon.

NAH is pleased to announce the establishment of Nepalese Student Association (NSA) at the University of Houston at Clear Lake. This youngest and smallest student organization seized the opportunity of participating at the International Student Festival on February 28, and then bagged the prestigious First Prize for the best exhibition and performance. Hats off to NSA! We wish them continued success in all future endeavors and competitions. NAH is privileged to extend a helping hand to NSA's success.

The Nepali New Year Bikram Sambat 2058 is around the corner. NAH has planned to celebrate the New Year in a picnic on April 14 in Bear Creek Park, Pavilion 8 at Clay Road in Houston. Please join us to celebrate this auspicious occasion.

Happy New Year 2058! May the New Year bring peace, prosperity, love, health and wealth to everybody!

Rajendra Shrestha  
President, NAH

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### A Big, Meaningful, Sweet Victory for Tulsi!

NAH has learnt moments ago that Mrs. Tulsi Bishwakarma of Houston had been allocated three bighas or nearly 2 acres (1 bigha = 5/8 acre) of land in Dang, Nepal as part of her compensation for separation with her husband.

Tulsi's family in Houston gave her a terrible, hard time in the recent past. In order to get a relief from the stress and duress, she planned to go back to Nepal for a break. In consideration of her pitiful plight, NAH went ahead and financed her Houston-Kathmandu air ticket. She had left for Nepal on March 7.

Tulsi is doing real well in Nepal. She has extended her grateful thanks to the NAH family for rising to the occasion and providing her help when she needed one.



## **nepal news**

### **Nepal Provides an Ideal Learning Environment to US Students**

When it comes to learning about culture and religion, Nepal is like no other country. The combination of ideal history, rich culture heritage, ancient traditions, and strong religion makes it a fascinating place of learning.

Dr. Craig R. Janes, professor of anthropology from Colorado University, USA has been organizing the “study abroad program” trips to Nepal for his undergraduate students for last five years, and he is very happy about it. From visiting the birth place of Buddha, to studying the ancient Hindu temples, and monuments, Nepal offers it all.

The American students are hosted by the Malpi International College in Nepal, where the Nepali undergraduate students study for two years, and then go on to the Colorado University, to complete their degrees. The Malpi College holds a series of lectures about Hinduism, Buddhism, Hindu rituals, history, and geography of Nepal. One of the lecturers at Malpi College is Father Loche, who holds a Ph.D. degree in Newari Buddhism, and has lived in Nepal for last 42 years.

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### **Singha Durbar Main Gate closed to the Public for Good**

Effective February 12, the entrance to the Singha Durbar, the central government building in Kathmandu, through the main gate is limited only to the top government officials above Secretary level, and foreign dignitaries.

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### **Clinton Funds U.S.\$22 Million for Bhutanese Refugees**

The outgoing U.S. President Bill Clinton authorized U.S.\$22 million for the refugees of Nepal and the Balkans, a few days before his departure from the White House.

Since 1990, the refugee camps in eastern Nepal have accommodated over 100,000 Bhutanese refugees. The Bhutanese refugees were very grateful for Clinton’s generous gesture towards them. Thus far, it is not clear as to how much of the total amount of \$22 million will be allocated for the Bhutanese refugees in Nepal.

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### **The Fitness Craze in Kathmandu**

It is refreshing and energizing to note that keeping up in shape constituted the top of the list of most Kathmanduites as one of their new millennium resolutions.

The slogan “Thin (slim) is beautiful” is catching up pretty fast in Kathmandu. The diet magazines and the fitness centers are doing booming business, as people have started to direct their attention toward taking care of their physique.

The fitness euphoria however carries a hefty price tag of around Rs. 50,000 for an annual club membership at the five star hotels. Alternatively, aerobic exercise classes cost a lot less – to the tune of about Rs. 150 for a one-hour session. On the darker side, the fitness trend also serves to widen the gulf between Nepal’s rich and poor. To the general populace of Nepal, this becomes an unaffordable luxury.

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### **Nepalese Garment Industry Diversely Affected by U.S. Decision**

Nearly 85 percent of the garments manufactured in Nepal are exported to the United States. This industry has been growing at a healthy rate of 30 percent annually for the last three years. In the year 1999/2000, the amount of the garment export was Rs. 13.92 billion.

However, all this may soon change, and the vibrant garment industry in Nepal may slow down thanks to the U.S. government’s decision to scrap duties on garments imported from Sub-Saharan African countries. In addition, the U.S. government revoked the quota system that restricted the import of garments from a particular country. Although good news to those African countries, this move has a significant potential to serve adversely to the interest of the Nepalese garment businesses, considered to be one of the largest foreign currency earner of the nation. The garment export to the U.S. is estimated at Rs. 15 billion in the year 2000/2001.

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### **UN Secretary General Kofi Annan Commends Nepal’s Role in Peacekeeping**

The United Nations (U.N.) Secretary General Kofi Annan arrived Kathmandu on March 12 and extended his deep appreciations for the role Nepal has played in contributing to U.N.’s global peacekeeping missions by sending peacekeepers to Lebanon and East Timor. According to the U.N., currently 1,030 Royal Nepalese Army personnel including 22 observers, 24 policemen and 884 troopers are serving as peacekeepers worldwide. Nepalese peacekeepers will be serving in Sierra Leone and Congo also in the near future. During his first visit to Nepal, Kofi Annan expressed his high regards for the outstanding Nepalese peacekeepers.

## **Kathmandu – A Regional INGO Hub**

The city of Kathmandu already boasts as the center for a dozen International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) regional offices. And chances are more INGOs will open up regional offices there.

The INGO's selection of this city is based on some solid reasoning. For one reason, living standard in Kathmandu is lower than the major cities in the surrounding region. For the other, by virtue of the accelerated growth in the Information Technology (IT) industry, Nepal has an improved communication system. Those apart, the central geographic location, the climate, good facilities, etc., act in favor of the city of Kathmandu, as a prime location for the INGOs.

The various INGO activities including conferences, seminars, and trainings are expected to bring in a sizable influx of visitors in the capital city, strengthening its tourist business and the foreign currency inflow.

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## **Is Nepal a Paradise for Paleontologists?**

Would you believe me, if I said thousands of hippopotami dwelled in the Chure (Siwalik) hills of Dang-Deokhuri area of Nepal circa 5 to 10 million years back. Not now, but long time ago – a thing of the past. Well, if you don't, you are at a disadvantage, because a team of paleontologists from the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, has unearthed over 2000 fossils from that area. The fossil collection includes a wide variety including those of the hippopotami, ancient horses, elephant like mammals, fishes, amphibians, and reptiles, dating back to between eight and ten million years.

The team, led by Fulbright Professor Dr. Nina Jablonski applied the paleomagnetic method to date those fossils. These animals and reptiles lived near the river banks and back swamps. Large catfish, gharials (crocodiles), snapping turtles, and fish-eating snakes over six meters in length inhabited these areas millions of years earlier.

The sediments thicken up to 5000 meters in the Siwaliks in Nepal and comprise a nearly complete record of the history of animal life from approximately 12 million years ago to date. This book, comprising pages of sedimentary layers, constantly issues invitations to the fossil hunters to come and devour every page of it and accomplish new findings.

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## **Ban on News Broadcast by FM Radio Stations**

As a significant impediment in this day and age of lightning-speed communications, the Government of Nepal put a ban on the privately owned FM stations from broadcasting domestic/international news collected by them on their own. These FM stations will now have to be dependent solely on the governmental communication media as the only source of information. News from any other sources will have to be verified and cleared by the government before being put into the air. In addition, the information-oriented programs require governmental clearance a week before they are aired.

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## **The Second World Buddhist Conference**

Participated by delegates and representatives from 14 countries, a two-day World Buddhist Conference was held in Lumbini in February this year. Targeting the youths and their participation in the Lumbini development, the theme of the conference appropriately revolved around "Lumbini in the New Millennium: Youth and Community."

People and government of Nepal desire to see Lumbini become to Buddhists what Bethlehem is to Christians. The two-day conference aimed at gaining world-wide support in developing Lumbini – the birth place of Lord Buddha. As an outcome of the conference, places like Kapilabastu, Dev Daha, and Ramgram, would be developed under a master plan, that would be drafted within six months.

The construction of Maya Devi temple will begin within two months. The need for excavation and preservation of the Tilorakot Durbar (palace) where Buddha spent 29 years of the early part of his life, will also be addressed in the near future. It was also agreed to stress inclusion of Buddhist education in the course schedules of schools and colleges in Nepal.

The planned construction of the second International airport at Lumbini is expected to facilitate the logistics in the Lumbini development project, as well as promote tourism.

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## **US to Provide \$100 Million to Nepal**

The United States of America will be providing \$100 million through the USAID program over a period of five years (2001-2005) to be utilized in sectors including health, natural resources management, hydropower development and democracy and governance. In the past the USAID program had provided assistance in agriculture, forestry, irrigation, family planning and health, women's empowerment and hydropower development programs in Nepal.

## Slovenian is First to Ski down Everest

- *Houston Chronicle*, October 10, 2000

Kathmandu, Nepal —A Slovenian ski instructor has become the first person ever to ski nonstop down the steep slopes of Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, mountaineering authorities said Monday.

It took Davo Karnikar, 38, of Jezersko, Slovenia, five hours on Saturday to ski from Everest's 29,035-foot summit to its base camp, which is at 17,500 feet. He took only a few breaks and never removed his skis, according to the Nepal Ministry of Tourism.

"I feel only absolute happiness and absolute fatigue," he told Reuters by satellite phone.

"It is something that was in my head for a long time," Karnikar said in an interview posted on his Website, [www.everest.sinobil.si](http://www.everest.sinobil.si). He said he did it with out getting frostbite.

Karnikar had a camera attached on his helmet, capturing images of hi maneuvering down the snowy slopes of Everest, which is an icy grave for nearly 200 climbers.



"At some sections I had to ski very to escape from the Breaking ice," the exhausted ski instructor said immediately after arrival at the base camp.

The father of three has already skied down Mont Blanc and Annapurna in the Himalayas, but lost two fingers to frostbite in a failed attempt to ski down Everest in 1996.

Karnikar said he came across a frozen body of a climber during his descent. The identity of the dead climber was not known.

"This mountain is always full of surprises, seeing a dead man out there was a really shocking experience for me," he said.

Meanwhile, the ministry said that Andrej Markovic of Ljubljana, Slovenia, died Friday when he slipped and fell at least 3,300 feet while attempting to climb Janak Himal mountain.

In another accident, a Sherpa guide identified as Tsublim Gylzen, 35, was swept away by an avalanche on Oct. 2, while climbing the 26,950-foot Mount Dhaulagiri with a Japanese expedition. His body has not been found.

## Proceed With Caution

- *Kathmandu Post*: Jan 16, 2001

An ordinance on the formation of an armed police force is to be promulgated soon as it has now been given the green signal by the Royal Palace. Announcing this at a press conference the other day, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala also said the force would be used against the Maoist rebels, something, which has never been in doubt. The armed police force, which will initially have a strength of 15,000, is eventually to grow to 25,000, and the personnel who comprise it will have modern weaponry. Armed with this new force, the government may at last have an edge over the elusive but effective Maoist guerrillas. The existing police force has not been able to contain the insurgency, first because it is poorly armed, and also because it is too thin on the ground. As Mr. Koirala put it, the armed police force is part of a four-fold strategy that the government has adopted. The other components of the strategy are dialogue, political consensus, and an economic package for the Maoist-affected districts. The economic package approach could have a gestation period that is too long. As for political consensus, it can be ruled out for the time being as no consensus would be meaningful without the Maoists themselves becoming a party to it through a process of dialogue. That leaves dialogue and the greater use of armed force. What then are the prospects for the armed police force option? Exercise of this option will lead to a dramatic escalation in the bloodshed. Already, over the past five years of Maoist insurgency, the police have killed just over 1,000 Maoists. A sizeable number of civilians

have also been killed in the crossfire. Yet the increased cost in lives may not bring about the desired goal. The armed approach will in all probability involve the tactic of hot pursuit and denying the Maoists their base areas. That could only mean pouring more men and material into the conflict. The Prime Minister has also said that if the deployment of the armed police proves inadequate the next step will be to mobilize the army. If things do go that far, and if the army also proves unequal to the task, then that will be the end of the game. Use of the armed police force will also involve inordinately higher expenditures. And should the fighting escalate still further, so will the bill. Where is the government going to find the resources without putting the economy under a severe strain? The poor subscription to a recent issue of government treasury bills already indicates the low confidence that the public has in the soundness of our public finances. Before going down the path of greater armed conflict the government should proceed with caution, and seriously think about giving dialogue a sincere try. Past record of dialogue with the Maoists has not been a particularly good one. The talks held have been more about more talks than about seriously getting down to business. It should be added in fairness that the Maoists have not been particularly enthusiastic about talks either. Both sides have made a show of willingness to talk, only to score political points. The government should approach talks in good faith the next time round.

**If on the other hand he went to pay his respects to The Door and it wasn't there...what then?  
The answer, of course, was very simple. He had a whole board of circuits for dealing with exactly this problem, in fact this was the very heart of his function. He would continue to believe in it whatever the facts turned out to be, what else was the meaning of belief? The Door would still be there, even if the Door was not.**  
-- Douglas Adams (*Dirk Gently: Holistic Detective Agency*)

## who's who

Nepal Vision features who's who in its every issue. We select a true Nepali role model who has made the community proud and incessantly become a source of moral and academic inspiration.

We are privileged to introduce Mr. Dinker Govinda Amatya in this issue of Nepal Vision.

### Mr. Dinker Govinda Amatya



- Son of Mr. Purna Govinda Amatya and Nir Laxmi Vaidya Amatya; born in Mangal Bazar, Patan.
- Graduated from AVM High School; acquired diploma in Electrical Engineering from Engineering Institute (1982) in Kathmandu and Business degree (1983) from Tahachal Campus.
- Founded Raj Pustakalaya and established Three Star Club in 1973.
- Captain of Three Star Football Club, member of National Football Team, nationally recognized football player in late 70's.
- One of the few successful Nepali entrepreneurs in the U.S. since mid-80's.
- President and CEO of Houston Provider Management Services, Compass Orthopedic Technologies & Products, Tierra Real Estate & Investment, Orthopedic Products & Accessories, Shiraz, Inc., and Himalayan Art & Craft.
- Active in community services: raised thousands of dollars for various organizations in Nepal.
- Secretary of Nepalese Association of Houston, Houston, Texas; very well-liked in the community.
- A family person - lives in Houston, Texas with his wife Iren Joshi Amatya and their 5-year old son Devin and 1-year old daughter Alina.

## *Reincarnation!*

*My father believed in REINCARNATION so much that in his will he left everything for himself.*

### **FAILURE IS THE PILLAR OF SUCCESS!**

Einstein was four years old before he could speak.

Isaac Newton did poorly in grade school and was considered "unpromising."

Beethoven's music teacher once said of him, "As a composer, he is hopeless."

When Thomas Edison was a youngster, his teacher told him he was too stupid to learn anything. He was counseled to go into a field where he might succeed by virtue of his pleasant personality.

F. W. Woolworth got a job in a dry goods store when he was 21, but his employer would not permit him to wait on customers because he "didn't have enough sense to close sale."

Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team. Boston Celtics Hall of Famer Bob Cousy suffered the same fate.

A newspaper editor fired Walt Disney because he "lacked imagination and had no good ideas."

## Do you love Nepal?

- Satish Neupane

Namaste, all of my Nepali brothers and sisters! Aren't you proud of being from Nepal: the country of Mt. Everest – top of the world, the birth place of Lord Buddha – symbol of peace and love, birth place of Sita – ADARSA NARI (the ideal lady), Arniko – symbol of great artist and sculpture, the land of braves and pristine natural beauty.

Nepal is geographically divided into, basically, three regions including a series of white, snow-clad higher Himalayas, the lower green mountains and midland valleys and the fertile land of the plains. All of these regions carry their own importance and build a wonderful country in the world known as Nepal. People living in the country inside the border of Nepal are Nepalis and, so are people living far away from their motherland, whose hearts are filled with the love for Nepal and Nepalis. We may look different, may carry different religious beliefs and speak different languages, and we may have a variety of different cultures, but we are all Nepalis and love Nepal from the bottom of our hearts. Each drop of our blood belongs to Nepal. Deep in our hearts and minds, we are always thinking about the development of our country.

Peace is one of the main properties and symbols of our nation. We all want this, right? And we all love Nepal, right? Then what's the problem? Why are we fighting each other for nothing? Why we do we listen to others instead of listening to ourselves (using our conscience). Do you think we have lost our to think properly and rationally?

I am surprised and very disappointed about the incident that occurred in Kathmandu a few months ago because of an Indian actor's comments about Nepal and Nepalis that he claimed he did not make. Even if he had said such things, why should common people suffer? Why did we have to damage and destroy our own properties and kill our own people? Did we want to prove that we were brave people and could do whatever we wanted to do? No, this is not a wise thing to do. We could just have simply ignored his movies totally. Why didn't we tackle it peacefully? Let's say, if one Nepali is bad, then how can all Nepalis become bad? Likewise, if the actor did something wrong, then why should we punish other innocent people? And what's the fault of Terai people or plains people, if they look like Indians? If some Tibetans say something against Nepal, are we going to beat and burn and destroy the properties of the Himali people just because they look like Tibetans?

Again, what I am saying is, we are listening to

the people who are seeking an opportunity to destroy Nepal and its peaceful environment rather than listening to ourselves. Also, may be this is all part of some people's game plan to use Nepal and it's people for their own benefits. I know all Nepali love their country that's why we react in words the way we do. We could tackle any problem peacefully. What did we learn from Buddha then? Why are we proud of Nepal for being the birthplace of Lord Buddha?

Currently, Nepal is going through the crisis of political instability. We are looking for a good and honest leader who can serve and lead Nepal without being selfish and greedy. We want him to work hard for the development of Nepal as well as maintain peace and help bring prosperity and safety to the people and property, keep all Nepali people united, save Nepal's sovereignty and die for Nepal. We pray Lord Pashupatinath to bestow the power to all the people of Nepal to gain peace and prosperity, and spread the message of peace and love in the whole world.

It is about time to ask - do you love Nepal?

*(Mr. Neupane is studying B.S. in Computer Science at University of Houston - Clearlake. He is also an executive member of NAH and actively involved in establishing Nepal Students Association at University of Houston in February 2001)*

## rajendra's column

### Charles Darwin and the Himalayan Songbirds

- Rajendra Shrestha

Nepalese people love to sing and dance, so do the birds in Nepal. This is the story of the singing birds known as greenish warbler (Phylloscopus trochiloides) found in the Himalayan foothills and across Central Asia.

Not only the warblers sing and dance, they also lend support by providing evidence to the Darwinian theory of evolution. Charles Darwin, the father of the theory of evolution, believed in coexisting forms of the single group of organisms that will not interbreed, according to his theory of natural selection which deals with the speciation process in which one species gradually diverges into two.

Charles Darwin never lived to see the evidence of the speciation process. However, the painstaking research conducted by a team of biologists headed by Darren E. Irwin at the

University of California, San Diego, has led to



the conclusion that the Himalayan greenish warblers, i.e., the singing birds, serve as an example of the speciation process in action – live.

According to Dr. Irwin, the greenish warblers are the ring species that help unravel one of the great mysteries of the evolutionary biology which believes in one species gradually becoming two.

Now what on earth is a ring species?

Ring species are a single group of organisms

that show variations at all levels, from minor differences between neighboring populations to the difference in the level of species, according to Darren Irwin. Needless to say, the ring species are unique and valuable. The greenish warblers are such a ring species. Ring species have the capability of providing evidence of all of the intermediate stages that occur when one species slowly and gradually diverges into two. This is a rare phenomenon, and the greenish warblers are one of a kind in that sense.

The greenish warbler males sing for two purpose. First and foremost, to attract mates. Next, to defend territories.

So how is the singing of the greenish warblers related to the speciation process?

Their singing styles give a clue to this process. For example, the singing birds from the Himalayan foothill region sing songs that are simple, short and repetitive. The songs of the greenish warbler became more complex and

longer as one travels to the north, to the west of Tibet, and moves through central Asia.

Irwin and his colleagues studied 15 populations of greenish warblers in a belt surrounding Tibetan plateau, and extend to the Himalayas to the south and central Siberia to the west. The song patterns and genetic markers of these interbreeding greenish warblers changed gradually from the Himalayas to each side of the Tibetan plateau. In central Siberia, the songs eventually became different to the extent that when the recordings of the songs from the Himalayan region were played to the warblers of Siberia,

they could not recognize them – hence they were unable to select the mates based on these songs, and breed. Thus, the ring species reached the breaking point in central Siberia where they acted as two different species. This finding is supported by the genetic evidence of the greenish warblers in that region.

The greenish warblers present the first such case where we can observe all the steps involved in the change in behavioral and genetic characteristics during the process of divergence of two species from their common ancestor. This is the piece of the missing

evidence from Darwin's theory of natural selection.

Just what Darwin had in mind – *minor evolutionary changes are capable of making differences causing reproductive isolation between species.*

Darren Irwin, and his colleagues Staffan Bensch and Trevor Price have published this landmark study in the January 18 issue of the journal Nature, volume 409, pages 333-337.

## A Peek at the Governance – Nepalese Style

- Rajendra Shrestha

Chaotic! One word describes it all. Chaotic is the political system and the governance in Nepal.

King Birendra magnanimously granted democracy to the people of Nepal a little over a decade ago. That was the people's will. That's what the people wanted – for a better life. Look at what we ended up a decade later. Instead of prosperity, wealth, peace, good health and harmony, the buzzwords of the new millennium are: mismanagement, corruption, mal-governance, inefficiency, nepotism, favoritism, insurgency, Nepal-bandh, and power-hunger.

Utter disappointment and disenchantment is how the common people feel about the politics and governance in Nepal. The democracy has not been able to bear any fruits for the Nepalese people except for a handful of politicians, bureaucrats, and administrators.

The latest of a series of scandal upon scandal faced by the Nepalese Government is the Lauda Air deal. In spite of the Commission for Investigation for Abuse of Authority's (CIAA) instructions to follow the tender process to lease or buy the aircraft, and the Public Accounts Commission's (PAC) recommendation against leasing it, the Lauda Air jet eventually showed up at the Tribhuvan International Airport on Dec. 1, 2000. Obviously someone must have approved the deal and signed on the dotted line.

The highlights of the aftermath of the Lauda Air deal is marked by the firing - some people call it his resignation - of the Minister

for Culture, Tourism and Chief Aviation Tarani Datta Chataut following his sixth appearance at the CIAA. Furthermore, the Royal Nepal Airlines (RNAC) chief executive Hari Bhakta Shrestha was shown the door out (shacked). Are these two just the innocent pawns or the scapegoats in the whole process? What role did they play in closing the deal? It is not beyond speculation that these two top dogs were simply following orders – and where could those be coming from?

It has also been a practice to shuffle and reshuffle the cabinet of the government time and again, like a deck of cards, merely to avoid the motion of the vote of no confidence and to reinforce someone's position and power by appeasing the dissidents and quelling the intra-party squabbles. All this just to preserve someone's insatiable, eternal hunger for power. And again who could that be?

February 12, 2001 marked the sixth year of the Maoist insurgency in an all out effort to de-stabilize the government and overturn the constitutional monarchy in Nepal. The insurgency itself is a clear-cut manifestation of the disappointment of Nepalese populace with the way the country is being run. Few Maoist leaders are also taking full advantage of the frustration of the general mass and the loopholes in governance. Who is acting behind the curtain to create all chaos and destruction? Who is backing up the insurgents? Nobody knows for the fact - only time will tell.

Of late, an epidemic has been spreading all over Nepal, on a regular basis. No where else in the world has this type of epidemic been found or diagnosed. The name of the epidemic is "Nepal-bandh." This epidemic is known to cause plenty of sufferings and inconveniences among Nepalese people and visitors alike. The tourists dread this disease

and are reluctant to visit Nepal for fear of it. Life comes to a stand still when this epidemic strikes cities, towns and villages of Nepal. It becomes a terrifying experience, when you have to catch a plane or a bus when this epidemic occurs. It has taken a heavy toll on the economy, industry including tourism, and the educational system of Nepal. The opposition party considers it to be the only way to vent their anger and express their disenchantment over the ruling party's policies and performance. Has the government been able to do anything to stop this epidemic? The straight answer is: no, nada, zilch.

The outburst of frustration and lack of faith in the government was also manifested by the violence and vandalism that marred the city of Kathmandu and other towns as a response to the alleged statement by an Indian actor in the last week of December 2000. That sort of reaction was out of context, and totally uncalled for.

Accountability, responsibility, selflessness, vision, and true leadership are the words totally missing from the vocabulary of Nepalese politicians and bureaucrats.

The US Ambassador to Nepal Ralph Frank found a way to freely and frankly express his views about the government in Nepal on the occasion of commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Nepal, on January 30, 2001. He pointed out that the government had failed to deliver according to their promises causing incredible frustration among Nepalese people. In his own words, "It has been found elsewhere in the developing world that countries succeed best in the development process when they have chosen elected, representational democracy as the form of government." Obviously, this is far from what is happening in Nepal.

**R** P. Boyd, a tourist in Nepal, had this to say about his unforgettable experience, “Nepal is beautiful, the people are kind and helpful. The place is run by either the mad or the bad or the sad or a mixture of them. Stay away from there until the country gets an effective government.” This was posted in a Letter to the Editor in the Kathmandu Post on February 1, 2001.

It is becoming apparent, day after day, that the politicians had used people and their struggle to bring democracy over a decade ago, in order to fulfil their own political and personal ambitions. They are the ones

benefiting most – reaping the golden harvest, not the commoners in Nepal.

To put icing on the cake, here is a direct quote from the renowned medical doctor Dr. Sundar Mani Dixit that appeared on the Kathmandu Post on February 2, 2001: “Yes we are absolutely at the mercy of corrupt politicians and administrators, who have taken us in the past ten years down a slide from which our nation will not be able to recover for at least thirty years, at a generous estimate. The rampant corruption, the total disregard for the people’s good and only self enrichment on an astronomical scale by

people who were elected for the good of the people and the country, is what identifies us in the eyes of the world today, in this age of swift communication technology.” You said it Dr. Dixit! You have echoed our sentiments!

The rapidly deteriorating situation in Nepal is extremely volatile and explosive. The country is in the brink of disaster. Adequate prompt actions are necessary to save the nation from floundering and sinking deep into a black hole, beyond rescue – beyond salvage.



## IT Development in Nepal

- Rajendra Shrestha

Simply put, the Information Technology, better known in the abbreviated form IT, is all about communicating and sharing information as efficiently as possible using the optimum resources available. The communication could be in one of several forms such as business-to-business, consumer-to-business, or people to people, so on and so forth. This information sharing is supposed to be a win-win situation for every body: for buyers and for sellers, for teachers and for students, for doctors and for patients, for researchers and for research institutions, for information seekers and for information contributors, and the list goes on and on.

This catchall word "IT" is attracting the attention of everybody in a big way, and people in Nepal are no exception. The seventh CAN Info-Tech 2001, organized by the Computer Association of Nepal held in January 25-29, 2001 in Kathmandu was a great success in achieving its objective of generating interest and bringing awareness among the people about the tremendous benefits of the modern information technology. It is no secret that IT holds a significant potential in the economic development of a country.

The IT Exposition also included a two-day conference revolving around the theme "IT Revolution: A Millennium Opportunity" participated by over 350 recognized scientists, professionals and technologists from around the globe. The show provided the IT vendors in showcasing and promoting the cutting edge state-of-the-art IT technologies and selling their products. The world IT mega show was attended and participated by over 80 domestic and foreign companies and an unprecedented number of visitors. The Computer Association of Nepal deserves due credit for the success of this and the last six IT shows. This definitely seems like a step in the right direction – for there is no substitute to participation for the purpose of dissemination of information.

The private sector IT industry is growing in Nepal at an accelerated pace. These companies provide a variety of services ranging from selling products and services to cyber learning. For example, about half a dozen companies in Nepal have already started providing services to foreign companies, mainly the United States, transcribing medical records. One such company – Unlimited Software already has a staff of 270 people and is expected to grow to 800 plus by mid-July this year. This company

has been developing infrastructure and training people for about a year. The employees that have just completed a 10 plus 2 education make Rs. 10,000 for an eight-hour-a-day job. Unlimited Software has been providing transcription services to a hospital in California for lot less with better efficiency. No body can beat that. On top of that, they are planning to extend their services to opening a call center and answering customer queries through voice, fax, and e-mails. This is highly impressive and is exactly what the country needs – to provide the much-needed employment to the people and tap the human resources.

The Mercantile Communications is the leading internet service provider with the largest customer base in Nepal. As part of the cyber learning program, this company is offering 300 computer courses in 25 cities and towns with a direct link to the Maryland-based Cyberlearning Universe institution. Mercantile is also planning to offer Management courses offered by Harvard University, in near future.

We need not go too far to see how IT can change human lives. The IT industry in our nearest neighbor- India, has outperformed all other industries against global competition. The revenue of the Indian IT industry has skyrocketed from a mere \$150 million in 1991-92 to a whopping \$5.7 billion in 1999-2000, with an annual growth rate of over 50 percent. In the year 2008, the Indian IT industry annual revenue is projected at \$87 billion. More than a third of the Fortune 500 companies outsourced their software requirements to India. No wonder, these days if you call a company for some information or ask a question, chances are the response comes from someone in India.

Ireland is another good example. Not too long ago, the only commodity Ireland could export was its people. The rapidly growing IT industry has brought enormous prosperity to the nation and given it a facelift. IT related job openings in Ireland are now bountiful. The IT industry has attained success of the magnitude to bring enormous prosperity and is now prompting the Irish diaspora to return home and have a good job or business, and a good life.

The implementation of the Information Technology (IT) Policy 2000 in the recent past is aimed at boosting the rapid growth of the IT related businesses in Nepal. According to this policy, all the government offices are required to put their documents in their website. This policy is supposed to help good governance by making the government

offices transparent. Currently, the government is in the process of finalizing the IT Act.

The IT conference addressed a number of issues pertaining to the problems facing the IT industry. Lack of proper infrastructure such as electricity and telephone for IT development hits the top of the list in Nepal. They also talked about the digital divide that distinguishes the people with telephone and internet access from the ones who do not have these facilities. The use of optical fiber cables for domestic and international telecom for the dual purpose of providing reliable connectivity and reducing price of the telecom and IT related services, was also recommended. The next big item agenda duly concerned education and training to produce adequate manpower for the IT industry. Nepal is hurt in two ways in this regard: first, it does not have strong educational institutes to provide IT education and training, next, it has not been able to stop the incessant brain drain. Also, the IT hardware production in Nepal is minimal at best. The demand for IT related hardware grows simultaneously with the Industry. Of paramount importance is the venture capital required to startup a new business, and sustain and develop the existing businesses. To this end, the government has allocated Rs. 100 million in the Venture Capital Fund proposed in the IT Policy towards creating skilled manpower and facilitate the growth of IT. Although a shot in the arm, the proposed amount is far from adequate and is merely a drop in the bucket in meeting the evergrowing investment needs of the IT industry.

On the whole, the future of IT industry in Nepal looks very bright. The IT businesses hold limitless potential and are capable of providing significant contribution in enhancing the employment situation which eventually will lead to bringing in enormous prosperity and changing lives in the nation, as demonstrated by the examples from India and Ireland. Obstacles and problems are numerous, but the IT businesses have shown and proved that success is barely a few inches away and thus attainable - in a big way. Considering the impact the IT industry is capable of making in the economic development of the nation, the government needs to do everything possible to promote its growth. The time is just right that we seize this opportunity and utilize it to achieve economic success in Nepal.

(Dr. Shrestha, a geophysicist by profession, is the founder and president of NAH. He is a prolific reader and writer)

## technology

### IT Opportunities For National Development

- Dr Jagadish Sharma

Every political system we have experimented with has been bedeviled by poverty and its concomitants, inaccessible, rugged geographical terrain, and illiteracy. The present multiparty system of democracy is no exception. We may not have actually fared any better in our urgent task of obliterating poverty and illiteracy. Besides, we may have added to ourselves the new political menace of Maoist insurgency. Since there is no alternative but to make the present system work, the present proposal is being put forward for general scrutiny.

**Corruption:** Corruption is rampant in the country and political leaders are the widely alleged culprits. One may not be inclined to engage at this juncture in supporting or refuting the allegation as such, but it may very well be true that political leaders being what they are, may not be any more or less corrupt than their counterparts elsewhere. If there is any culprit, it is poverty itself: not the starkly manifest poverty of physical sorts as much as the poverty of mental and intellectual kind, the inability to manage our own available resources and eliminate waste.

**IT opportunities:** In order to eliminate poverty, there is need to accumulate wealth, which can be done only by mobilizing the available resources and reducing waste. We are presently witnessing the onset of a new era of Knowledge and Information Technology (IT), with all the potential for changing the very nature of physical existence of mankind. Industrial revolution has passed us by but we can ill afford to let the IT revolution do the same to us.

In the age of IT, it is knowledge, which matters most. Human resource is harder to come by than capital and technology. The geographical barriers have shrunk and the world has already become a global village. Rich and developed countries such as the United States are increasingly outsourcing their requirements to be serviced from countries like India and Nepal. We do enjoy a natural advantage of being ahead of the United States by almost twelve hours, which very much works to our advantage.

In IT enabled services like medical transcription, medical practitioners in the US can have their dictated medical files transmitted to us through the internet before they go to bed and receive the same back in

transcribed document form by the time they arrive at their office early in the morning. Medical Transcription itself, as a business, presently amounts to some twenty billion US dollars and is growing at the rate of twenty percent a year. But medical transcription is just the tip of the iceberg. There are other IT enabled services such as back office operations, call centers, insurance billing, to name a few, which are even more high paying and profitable and are being increasingly outsourced to countries in the subcontinent. We do have in Nepal a large number of English speaking students who can be trained in a very short period of time to qualify as skilled personnel to deliver such services and earn a great deal of money for themselves and the country as a whole. The educational requirement need not be very high for such personnel.

Those who have passed their high school examination (SLC) would qualify. About two hundred thousand students appear in the SLC exams every year out of which seventy thousand (35 percent) pass. If a sincere effort is made to drastically improve the success rate by means of enhancing proficiency level in the English language, the subject in which most fail, a lot of economic, social, and human waste the nation as a whole has to presently endure, would substantially go down. But even assuming it to be a hypothetical case, there is no reason why one hundred and thirty thousand of those who fail cannot be assimilated as a productive force by means of intensive training in English language and necessary basic skills. There is hence no reason why we cannot have one million strong manpower every five years with continued annual increments to be employed in IT enabled services.

**Investment:** As far as investment is concerned, there is about ninety billion rupees worth of untapped and unused capital in the country. In the absence of investment opportunities, banks are shying away from collecting the same as savings and consequently have lowered the interest rates to a record low. As a result, this vast amount of capital is presently facing the risk of going out of the country. If a national consensus can be reached in launching ourselves into IT business, there is no reason why HMG cannot tap this enormous amount as IT bond for building the necessary infrastructure for the already planned high-tech city and utilization by the private sector. In view of the returns that can be made, the amount can be multiplied tenfold annually.

**National consensus:** But to ensure against possible misuse and vagaries of political strikes and unrest, it is first and foremost

essential to reach a multiparty consensus on the proposal. Only a national consensus of this sort will impart it a character of collective participation and at the same time enable us to institutionalize necessary countermeasures against possible misuse.

To sum up, a task of this magnitude can help us launch into the age of Information Technology with the potential of obliterating poverty and illiteracy from the country. Amassing thousands of billions of rupees by employing one million young people in the course of four to five years will have its own trickle down effect socially, economically and politically. Illiteracy, inaccessibility, and incidents like Maoist insurgencies will be things of the past and the nation will usher in a new era of peace, prosperity, and happiness.

**The king's role:** The role His Majesty the King could play in facilitating the nation to bring about a national consensus on the proposal just made can hardly be overstated. No sane person may have paid any serious attention to the question whether a poor country like Nepal can afford the luxury of maintaining an institution like monarchy. The unfortunate incident of Pravin Gurung may have cast some aspersions on the institution. But constitutional monarchy is already an inalienable part of our national life and the constitution.

Besides, King Birendra's strict adherence to playing the role of a constitutional monarch has greatly enhanced the prestige and aura of the institution of monarchy. It may in fact have freed the king from confining himself to governance and may have instead enabled him to broaden his contacts with a wide variety of people, including the leaders of various political parties. A review of statements issued from the palace over the years also indicates that the king has not entirely absolved himself from his own responsibilities towards his subjects and the nation as a whole, even though it may have appeared to some that he prefers to remain a mute spectator now that he does not enjoy any effective power.

His Majesty the King like any enlightened person in the country is equally responsible for keeping vigil on problems such as the menace of Maoist insurgency presently bedeviling us. Eternal vigilance may indeed be the price one pays for liberty. Conspicuous absence of initiatives on his part to bring about national consensus on issues such as water resources and citizenship may have prompted some to conclude that the king may as well continue to enjoy watching the whole spectacle as a bystander since the

(Continued on page 23)

(Continued from page 22)

problems that are presently bugging us are not of his own making and hence he may limit himself to playing the role of a constitutional monarch. This scribe does not at all subscribe to this view.

As a constitutional monarch, the king may very rightly not want to involve himself in any

partisan politics as such but he can persuade, advise, and warn the political representatives who rule in his name to formulate plans and programmes he deems beneficial for the country and the people inhabiting it. The above mentioned proposal on utilizing the opportunities Information Technology is providing us at the moment may indeed be the kind he may want to actively pursue if he

wants to redeem those of us who think that it is a very small price the nation has to pay in sustaining monarchy especially in view of how much it can do for us and the country as a whole.

*(Dr. Sharma works for a German INGO, which researches intensively on IT-Infrastructure development in Nepal. He is a senior management of the INGO)*

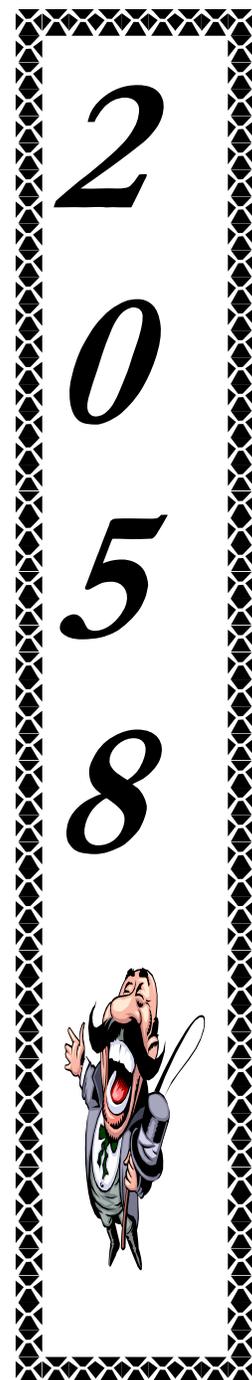
**Facts**

In India alone, more than 25,000 people were dead and many were homeless because of devastating earth quake which wiped out the whole city of Gujrat in February of 2001. Not only in India, repetitious earth quake disrupted in San Salvador causing damages and the livelihood of people. After looking at the recent tragic earth quake disasters around the world, all human beings should be prepared for the unexpected terror of mother nature.

**The Century's Worst Quakes**

This list shows earthquakes that caused a terrible loss of life in the 20th century:

Deaths	Magnitude	Country	Year
240,000	7.8 to 8.2	Tangshan, China	1976
200,000	8.3	Xining, China	1927
150,000(est)	8.6	Gansu, China	1920
143,000	8.3	Yokohama, Japan	1923
70,000	7.7	Northern Peru	1970
50,000	7.3 to 7.7	Northwest Iran	1990
33,000	7.9	Erzincan Province, Turkey	1939
28,000	8.3	Chillan, Chile	1939
25,000	6.9	Turkish-USSR border	1988
25,000	7.7	Northeast Iran	1978
22,778	7.5	Guatemala	1976
20,000	8.6	Santiago/Valparaiso, Chile	1906
19,000	8.6	Kangra, India	1905
15,613	7.8	Turkey	1999
12,000	8.1	Central Asia	1907
10,700	8.4	India/Nepal	1934
9,500	8.1	Michoacan, Mexico	1985
6,000+	7.2	Kobe, Japan	1995
2,200	9.5	Chile	1960
5,000	6.1	Northeast Afghanistan	1998
2,990	8.9	Sanriku, Japan	1933
2,500	7.1	Varto, Turkey	1966
2,300	6.7	Turkey	1975
2,000+	6.8	Taiwan	1999
1,530	8.7	India/Assam/Tibet	1950
1,500	7.1	Northern Iran	1997
1,330	8.4	Tonankai, Japan	1946
1,300	6.9	Turkey	1983
1,300	6.0	Turkey	1946
1,171	6	Western Colombia	1999
1,100	7.3	Gediz, Turkey	1970
1,000	8.9	Colombia	1906



## book review

*Nepal's Failed Development: Reflections on the Mission and the Maladies*, by Devendra Raj Panday; published by the Nepal South Asia Centre, Kathmandu, April 1999, Rs. 650, 432 pages.

Reviewed by Swarnim Wagle.

### AN AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTARY

The verdict of Devendra Raj Panday's voluminous book is that Nepal has failed in its experiment with development. This failure, he asserts, transcends the economist's mundane indicators like GDP per capita, asphalt roads, and current account deficit, to strike at the very heart of national self-esteem and our ability to nurture a young democracy. Had the judge behind this verdict not been an illustrious political economist, one might have been tempted to dismiss the book as an idealistic intellectual tirade against a country's troubled efforts to prosper against improbable odds. But Panday is a recognized heavyweight, and when he speaks, one listens.

The author is conscious that the word 'failure' is a strong one; he regularly positions himself on the defensive, realizing that he will not be able to get away with flimsy premises. He has thus done a fine job introducing a difficult case convincingly in the inaugural section. The second chapter takes up the figures, which are allowed to speak for themselves. Chapter four charts the evolution of the 'idea and practice of development.' Drawing heavily on the works of well-known social scientists, Panday dazzles with his grasp of this important material. His discussion of the cognitive state of development in Nepal is illuminating, and his reporting on the global 'illusion of innovation' in development policy is similarly persuasive. Panday is unusually skilful in identifying the core of the synthesis of arguments and plucking it out for intelligent scrutiny. The diverse citations, ranging from works by Harvard economists to Kathmandu journalists, also speak highly of the liberal, non-dogmatic frame of his mind.

Panday is formidable when he discards the uncomfortable compulsion to appear academic, and discusses morals and principles, as in chapter three. He seems palpably agitated by what he sees as the gradual erosion in the values the nation was once identified with, such as honesty and hard work, for example. He calls this an 'unanticipated consequence of engaging in development.' Although the author frequently resorts to passion and literary craft to hammer home a series of points, this section provides an interesting evaluation of the state of the country's civil movements. Chapter five offers a good synopsis of domestic

political events. Although his premature resignation as Secretary of Finance in 1980 precluded an insider's perspective on the workings of the Panchayat regime in its final turbulent decade, his discourse on the political, economic, and international dimensions that led to the rise and fall of this polity is particularly authoritative. A robust social democrat with puritanical leanings, Panday holds that, "no development effort can be called a success if the domain in which it takes place is devoid of democracy." His frustration with the culture emerging behind political notoriety - even after the transition in 1990 - is thus reasonably justified. While his own transformation during this period, from being a well-liked finance minister to an unsuccessful politician, is itself an example of the unpredictable rudeness of political cyclones, he has the authority to complain about the excesses.

Chapter six, on external affairs, is probably the book's finest. What he has written on the predicaments of a poor country 'locked' by an unsympathetic neighbour is crisp, without sounding excessively patriotic. He ponders a bit on a range of loosely connected themes in the final chapter. He is especially critical of the perverted ways in which aid resource and priorities have often been guided over the past fifty years. He speaks like a victim when he does not shy away from claiming how foreign money has been used to co-opt and spoil humble indigenous traits. If one of Nepal's foremost analysts of the aid regime sneers and says, "running an aid programme is different from running a colony", he'd best be heard.

There is a reason why this reviewer has discussed the virtues of the book in fragments. Each of Panday's chapters is a fine monograph in itself, dealing with the individual subjects with linguistic flair. But this introduces an unsettling paradox. The seven brilliant chapters, when put together like a neat algebraic equation, fail to produce a brilliant book. Weakened by the independent strength of its own chapters, the book's whole, if you will, is less than the sum of its parts. This is because it lacks a conceptual focus. Panday is unnecessarily loquacious. He hunts for arguments, but often wanders distractingly, diluting the sharpness of the discourse necessary to support a tough case. The discussions do not always connect with the central theme of 'failed development', and attempts to logically link the two are distant. It has become, therefore, a book of good essays instead of a good book with essays. This would still have been fine, if it did not mean that the theorem of 'failed development' remained incomplete. Furthermore, while Panday attempts to

situate the Nepali problem in the global context, his breadth of inquiry is not broad enough to lend sufficient credence to a claim that he would like us to believe - that had things been done only slightly better, we would have been in much better shape. As unpardonable as the existing state of affairs is, a sweeping observation of world history, 1000 BC onwards - and an analysis of how only a unique class of political, economic, and socio-cultural institutions has interacted with favourable geographic foundations to produce the kind of wealth that one wishes everyone in the world shared - presents a scenario of pre-determined gloom for accidental states like Nepal. The fact is, as a barren, landlocked territory, virtually shut to any form of value-adding international trade and external influence until the modern project of development began only fifty years ago with an unhelpful economic model and adverse social institutions that perverted work ethic and restricted mobility, the current state of Nepal should not be giving many people nasty surprises.

Granted that elements of democracy and economic freedom during the past decades could well have made us slightly better off - say, even making every Nepali twice as rich - it is unlikely that even with the hypothetical annual per capita income of 400 dollars, Nepal would have been less miserable as a nation than it is today. With better governance, and a more subdued display of public vices, the country might have felt a little better about itself, but this would still have hardly resurrected a sense of rational national pride - not the jingoistic chest beating kind that often revolves around the country's martial traditions - that Panday claims we have lost irretrievably. The point is, countries like Nepal are up against severe structural constraints of such proportions that not having erred on many a front which Panday identifies could only have offered mild comfort, at best, to a development odyssey that has been fatally sealed to be arduous.

Panday chooses to ignore this bitter reality because he is a gentleman with a pious agenda. He wants to believe that something can be done to upset the design of the status quo in Nepal. The book is quite clear on what some of those things might be, and it is for this reason alone that it will be a pity if his clarion call for progressive change in all spheres of national life goes unheard. These are, after all, reflections of a very experienced man, and wisdom, they say, is the daughter of experience. What one need not doubt after reading this book is that Devendra Raj Panday has proved himself to be possibly one of South Asia's finest commentators writing

in English today. His wise creation, Nepal's Failed Development, is certain to be judged not only as an insightful assistance to comprehend the diversely peopled land, but it

will also stay as an influential work in the art of debate and commentary.

(*Swarnim Waglé is at the John F. Kennedy School of*

*Government. An earlier version of this review appeared in the Kathmandu Post Review of Books.)*

## Bouddhanaths Stupa

- Kathmandu Post: November 01, 2000

Bouddhanatha Stupa is one of the most revered Buddhist sites of this Himalayan Kingdom. Just about half an hours bus ride from Ratnapark takes you to the coolest religious shrine of this holy nation, the birthplace of Lord Buddha. This stupa has been included in the world heritage lists of UNESCO.

There are different stories about the creation of this holy place. According to one story, a lady asked the king to give her some land so that she could establish a divine Stupa. Asthi Dhatu, the remains of Kashyapa Buddha was put on the foundation and a grand Chaitya was made. Her sons became the greatest religious teachers of Buddhism and spread Buddhism over Tibet. It took two thousand five hundred and fifty-five days to complete the Stupa. According to French scholar Sylvian Levi, this religious shrine was established during the sixth century. At that time, the country was suffering from the worst drought ever and the astrologers concluded that the calamity could only be overcome by sacrificing the person endowed with thirty-two divine qualities. Only the king and the prince possessed such qualities. The king decided to sacrifice his life and confided to the prince that he would have to cut the bizarre white clad object that would be found lying down in Narayanhiti, the next day. The bizarre object that the prince unknowingly cut was none other than the benevolent king himself. The prince took a lot of pain when he knew that he had killed his own father and started remembering goddess Bajrayogini to be liberated from the unforgivable sin. Following the suggestion of the goddess, the king constructed the present-day Stupa. The king became the devotee of Lord Buddha and he also wrote Bhajana, on the supremacy of Lord Buddha, which is chanted during religious ceremonies. According to Gopalraj Bansawali, the prince started weeping and went to Gumbihara and started meditating, the power of which created a divinely beautiful Chaitya. King Manadeva had a special relation with Khasa, Tibet and that is why it is also referred to as Khasa Chaitya. According to a story popular in Tibet, a Lama named Khasa had been incarnated in the form of King Mahadeva and the stupa was named after that Lama. The Chaitya of Chahabil was made using the remaining materials of Bouddhanath Chaitya. According

to Oldfield, a Lama named Khasa died on his pilgrimage to this Himalayan Kingdom and the Bouddha Stupa was established in his memory. According to a story, the country suffered from a great drought at that time and collecting dewdrops on Khasa (shawl), the Chaitya was made and that is why the shrine is still referred to as Khasa Chaitya. Gopalraj Bansawali has credited Shivadeva on the making of the divinely beautiful Chaitya.

Different kings and the people have renovated the Chaitya at times. Nepali and Tibetan Buddhists have contributed a lot in conserving this Chaitya. While many of the religious shrines and houses could not escape the mega-destruction of the earthquake of 1990 B.S, it stood the test of time.

This Stupa is the biggest Bouddha Stupa of Nepal. Different aspects of Lord Buddha can be seen meditating around the Chaitya. In the centre, resides the beautiful image of Lord Bairochana, deep in meditation. Akshovya is taking care of the east. Lord Amitabha and Lord Amoghsiddi can be seen on the western and the northern direction and Lord Ratnashambhava prefers to look southwards. In the one hundred and eight seats around the Stupa, different aspects of Buddha, Bodhisattva and goddesses are shown in deep meditation. All one hundred and forty-seven seats at ground level has a mane- a religious wheel. Different melas, the festive occasions take place on this divine Chaitya. During Lhosar, colourful pieces of cloths called Lungter are suspended all over the Stupa. On that day, the shrine looks like a bride in all its beauty and dignity. People visit the houses of the elderly to receive blessings from them during Lhosar. Another festive occasion is the barha baras mela. This festive occasion is celebrated every twelve years. It is generally believed that it took twelve years to construct this religious shrine and to commemorate the establishment of the Chaitya a great mela takes place every twelve years. Devotees from Nepal, Tibet, Sri-Lanka, India, Japan, Korea and Burma gather around the Stupa to celebrate the festive occasion. During the full moon day of Magha, the statue of Shukhontama is taken around the Bouddha Stupa. During Janai Purnima, the Stupa is decorated with lungters and worshipped. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from the world over visit this shrine to achieve peace of mind. Jugabatti should be lightened forever and in case it is discontinued, a lamp has to be brought from Bajrayogini and lit again. This religious shrine was listed on the world

heritage list in October 1979. Though the place is of historical importance, the houses made without proper planning and management have somewhat destroyed its beauty, serenity and dignity. The time has come for the department of Archaeology, the metropolis and the local ward to do all things possible to restore it to its former splendour. The officials at the department of Archaeology agree on this point. Chiniya Lama, the president of Bouddha Ghyang Guthi, a trust committed to run the day to day activities of the Stupa says that all the expenses of the sacred place so far have been managed by the local people and no effort has been made to collect foreign aid at a time when an increasing trend towards Buddhism has been observed. According to Gyani Bajra Bajracharya, a Lama, the government should have implemented strict rules while the locals were constructing buildings around the religious shrine. He says that the sacred idols would have been lost had there been no houses around the shrine. The government, the metropolis and the local ward may work together to introduce a nominal entrance fee to maintain peace around the shrine and it will help the authorities in upgrading the services at the shrine.

Tourists come here to escape from the crowded city environment. According to Bradley Palmer, a tourist from Seattle, America, you lose some of the essence of 'Kathmandu' when around the stupa. There is a general belief that you will be relieved of your sins, if you do pranama around the Buddha stupa. Dandavat pranama relieves you of all the sins.

The following are the rules and regulations set down and which must be followed: According to the Ancient Monument Conservation Act of 1956 and Ancient Monument Conservation Regulations of 1969 were brought into practice to protect the ancient monuments and to maintain its originality. Here are some of the points that should be taken care of before starting the construction work around the conserved area to maintain its originality.

The height of the floor building should be between 7.5 feet and 8 feet. Height of the storey is measured from the base of the first floor to the top of the consecutive floor. The maximum height of the building should not exceed thirty-five feet. The height of the building should be lower than that of the ancient monument nearby.

## Theoretical Summary of the Seven Yoga Chakras (The Seven Cycles of the Days of Creation) and the Ten Incarnations of the Hindus

- Hari Malla

In the first Chakra or day of creation, we sleep or wake and perceive things around us. Then in the second cycle, we think of the good and bad qualities of the things we know in the world. This ends with the achievement of logical thinking (sudarshan chakra). Local thinking gives us rest from confusion.

The third cycle of activity is when we do what we think to be logical and right. This is our moral work. Morality gives us feeling of relaxation from the pricking of our conscience. After we pay our dues to the world through morality, we are then free to follow what we love, which is the fourth incarnation or world.

We do not mind all these above activities of perceiving, thinking logically and working morally for the sake of love. Being able to show our love to someone is also relief and rest. It gives us a sense of security and continuity or extension of ourselves. In love we have also overcome direct perception. Without physically perceiving the person we love, we think about and work for him or her. We have conquered or wrapped up the first cycle of perception in this first cycle of perception in this fourth cycle of love. But we have not yet conquered or overcome the next act of thinking.

If we want to control and get rid of even the trouble of thinking, we do it by the fifth incarnation of extreme non-attachment, the dwarf incarnation. This is still closer to the rest we experience in sleep, because we have even overcome the trouble of logical thinking in addition to perception. In extreme non-attachment as the king of sacrifice, we have found the perfect compromise of our love and duty. Then, we continue doing our duty without worrying and also keep our love intact.

The above acts are divided by the Hindus as the different incarnations of the life principle, which is called as Vishnu or Narayan. This is the same concept as the Divine Jesus in Christianity. It is believed that life evolves from the lower stage to the higher stage of perfection with the progress of time. The same person may progress all these activities

in the same life or may have to take many lives starting from preliminary life of a fish. But perfection, he must reach. Then only he can escape the unending cycles of lives and deaths and go to eternity.

The first cycle of sleeping and waking is indistinguishable. The second incarnation is described as the tortoise incarnation upon whose back the act of thinking of good and bad is said to be carried out, like the churning of curds to bring out the butter. The third is the wild boar incarnation, which is considered as the greediest animal. It is conceived that the wild boar lifts the mother of wealth from the depth of the ocean with its hard labour, holding it upon its tusks. The fourth incarnation is called as the Man-lion incarnation. Veritably the lover is like a man-lion because they say one needs a lion's heart to love others, especially those who are devoted to us. But again to balance our love and gains, we should be humble and meek for it is said, 'the meek shall inherit the earth'. This humility has been described as the dwarf incarnation, which is a further evolution from the man-lion. Now follows the higher cycles of balance and maturity ending into eternity.

The higher incarnations are the leaders and prophets of our society. If we want to get rid of even the trouble of doing our duty we further detach or discriminate from ignorance and the obstinacy of our vanities, in the sixth cycle of discrimination called as the Parsuram incarnation. But the fear of fall into the cycle of perceiving, thinking and doing is there because ignorance is still present. Due to the fear of fall, we have to keep on doing our duty with surrender of the fruits thereof. Here we continue working selflessly but with spiritual discrimination which gives us temporary relief from duty and the hope and the confidence of salvation, in this sixth incarnation. This is, as it were, alternating between identifying oneself with the sensory and motor cortex in the cerebrum of the brain.

In the final seventh cycle or day of rest, we conquer even that fear of fall and alternating between sensory and motor cortex by simultaneously giving up the fruits while discriminating. Then the 'halo' called as the 'cloud of virtue' is formed. Then ignorance not being present, we have gone beyond both pain and work, beyond duty and discrimination. We have touched the 'other world'. This is achieved by Ram, the seventh incarnation who is comparable to the Jewish

prophets like Moses and others. This is the fulfillment of the path of duty.

But cyclical motion may continue while higher forms of incarnations take place like Krishna, the eighth incarnation who is comparable with Jesus and Mohammed who are full of love and knowledge. But in the ninth incarnation as Buddha, knowledge becomes infinite or the halo expands infinitely to touch the stars of the zodiacs. We are placed in the Buddha land or Paradise- the land of full enlightenment and peace of nirvana. Then all cyclical sequence fully ends up. So does the cycle of birth and death. After reaching such a stage if one traces himself back to duty and universal love he has reached the highest perfection in our civilization. He places himself in the golden age, the pinnacle of our civilization. This is the great role of Kalki, the tenth incarnation of God, who is the Maitreya Buddha to come. This is the messiah of the Jews and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ in the New Jerusalem.

Thus the Hindus have traced the sequence of evolution to perfection. There is no need to oppose to the scientific evolution of species. The Hindus have discovered it to be true not only to the level of the common humans of today, but have even traced it to the further evolution of the prophets leading to the highest perfection. True, God created man and the creatures. But the Hindus say that in the fully evolved man, he is not different from the Father and completely identifies himself with the Father, called as Brahmah or the Impersonal God. Thus the species of life that are the children or incarnations of God are fully capable of evolving themselves to the second Christ or the Maitreya Buddha, starting from the preliminary jawless fish. This is possible because the children were made in the image of the Parents-God and nature, the Cosmos and the earth. The union of the parents is the cause of the children. The lower species are children of God who grow up and mature through many lives till they are capable of inheriting the Kingdom of Heaven as enlightened humans.

*(Born in Gorkha, Mr. Malla served as a manager of Engineering Dept. of Nepal Oil Corporation from 1973-88 and general manager of Gorakhhkali Rubber Udyog from 1988-92. Currently, he is doing research on 'World Peace Through Religious Coordination')*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2058**

## A Bitter Taste Freedom – Kamaiyas' Search For Better Lives

- Rebecca Wolf

### Health Status

Since being legally freed July 17, 2000 from generations of bonded labor, the ex-kamaiyas have faced numerous hardships. The abject poverty in which the ex-kamaiyas now live is a breeding ground for poor health. The ex-kamaiyas living in far-western Nepal will soon be facing monsoon rains without adequate housing or resources.

After being forced-out and freed, the ex-kamaiyas moved to the jungle and have constructed new homes built of sticks and mud with tin or plastic roofs. These structures will not provide protection against the monsoon rains or mosquitoes carrying diseases. Many families sleep on the floor without mosquito nets. Japanese Encephalitis is the leading cause of reported deaths. During monsoon months, the death toll from Japanese Encephalitis and other mosquito-borne diseases will rise given their present living conditions.

The primary contributor to the many health problems of the ex-kamaiyas is lack of quality and quantity of food. The diet of most ex-kamaiyas consists only of boiled rice, salt, and ground chili. This meager diet does not provide needed vitamins and minerals, making their bodies weak and susceptible to disease. Malnutrition also adversely affects their children's physical and mental development. During recent health camps coordinated by Compassion Ministries Network, several nutrition related conditions such as anemia, lethargy, muscle pain, eye problems, and skin complaints were the most common.

The most important step in alleviating malnutrition of ex-kamaiyas is to address agricultural needs to them. The ex-kamaiyas, having served as slaves to landowners, have fairly competent knowledge in agriculture. However, they have not been given permanent lands and most of them have no tools or seed with which to farm. When they were driven out of their homes by landowners, the ex-kamaiyas were not permitted to take their farming tools with them. In spite of these limitations, some have attempted growing vegetable gardens, but they have been unsuccessful due to lack of irrigation canals. Ex-kamaiyas have experience in farming large plots of land for cash crops. Under their current circumstances, they need to learn new



techniques to utilize small plots of land they are given by the government. Using new techniques and irrigation systems, families should be able to grow adequate supply of nutritious foods.

The lack of basic sanitation and personal hygiene in the ex-kamaiya camps are contributing factors to their poor health. Gastric disorders, most often caused by fecal contamination, is prevalent in all age groups. The second leading cause of reported deaths among the ex-kamaiyas is diarrhea, as a result of unclean water supply and lack of sanitation. Water supply in the ex-kamaiya camps is limited and not easily accessible. Some water pumps that have been provided in the camps are insufficient to meet the demand. Three camps, which were observed to have pumps, have average of 140 people per water pump. This inadequate ratio contributes to poor health and personal hygiene. Until safe drinking water and proper public sanitation are implemented, the health status of ex-kamaiyas continues to worsen.

Family planning education is of utmost and immediate need in ex-kamaiyas community. The average family size is six. The current conditions of the ex-kamaiya camps are not sufficient to support healthy population growth. The amount of land promised to ex-kamaiyas by the government may not be enough to provide year round food supply for all families.

Health needs continue to manifest themselves within the current state of ex-kamaiya camps. Health education and agriculture training programs conducted in the camps will be beneficial. During their years as bonded laborers, the ex-kamaiyas were not free to make their own choices. They are now eager to practice their freedom to attend trainings and improve their standard of living. The ex-kamaiyas have traditionally been hard workers, and they are now ready to work industriously on their own behalf. Problems of poor housing, food, water, sanitation, *and* health knowledge must be addressed. The ex-kamaiyas' situation is a growing social problem that if left unchecked will negatively affect the entire nation. Given some basic resources such as land, water supply, tools,

and seed, the ex-kamaiyas will be able to begin the journey to improved health and self-sufficiency.

### Education Status

Inadequacy in education stems not only from an inability to pay for schooling, but also from a shortage of available schools. A School Survey was conducted among three ex-kamaiya camps in Kailali District. The survey, conducted during March 2001, identified the rate of school attendance and school availability. Of approximately 500 families, most of which have school-aged children, only 171 children attend school. However, Informal education classes that were offered in camps were attended by more than 400 students. This clearly demonstrates, nothing but financial hardship faced by these families to pay tuition for their children to attend schools. It's not that they don't want their children to go to school.

Four out of six schools that were located close proximity to the camps, were surveyed; all of which did not have basic school-facilities or staff to accommodate a reasonable class size. Some classes occupy more than 60 students in each classroom. Even if school facilities are made available to them, ex-kamaiyas have no income to pay school expenses. Individuals and organizations can help these families by providing scholarships to pay for school fees, books, and uniforms. For one school year, the total cost per student at a government school is approximately 5000 NRs. Private organizations can also coordinate with the government to provide resources necessary for expanding existing schools and establishing new ones. Once the ex-kamaiyas are given permanent land, schools are in the process to be built within their communities.

In order for ex-kamaiyas to raise their standard of living and become self-sufficient, education must be a priority. As bonded laborers, they were not permitted to attend school. Ex-kamaiyas have gained freedom, they are eager for their children to have quality educational opportunities. During the survey, adults within the ex-kamaiya camps also expressed keen interest in their own education, requesting literacy classes and skills training. Adult education can provide skills for employment, enabling them to rise one step above subsistence farming. Education for school-aged children as well as adults contributes to effective rehabilitation of ex-kamaiyas.

*(Rebecca Wolf, a Houstonian, is currently working in Nepal for an agriculture and health development organization.)*

एकादेशमा

एकादेशमा,  
हाम्रो गाउमा  
भेख बाखा लखेट्दै  
माथि माथि  
सैलुंग तिर लाख्यौ हामी.

आकाशमा परुन खादै  
जहाज उड्यो  
जहाज लाइ पछ्याउदै उद्धे- चिलहर  
म चिलका प्वाखहरुमा टासेर मन उखउथे

जहाज गएतिर देखाउदै  
आमा सुनाउनु हुनथ्यो -  
त्यो पारी पारी पश्चिममा छ रे  
एउटी सुनकेशरीको देश  
ढकमक्क उज्यालो

म भन्थे  
आमा, यो सालको दशैमा  
हामीपनि त्यस्तै उज्यालो हुने गरेर  
कमेरोले पोत्ने है हाम्रो घर?

आजकल,  
हरेक बिहान,  
म त्यो पारी पारी  
पश्चिमको घरमा उठ्छु.  
र बिशाल राजमार्गमा  
एक पछि अर्को गाडीहरुलाइ उछिन्दै  
हतार हतार दौंछु  
मानौ म जादैछु पहिलोचोटी  
मेरो त्यो माथि माथि सैलुंगमा

एकादेशमा,  
हाम्रो गाउमा  
भेख बाखा लखेट्दै  
माथि माथि  
सैलुंग तिर लाख्यौ हामी.  
अजकल  
एवलै, एवलै, हरेक दिन  
आफ्नै मन लखेट्दै  
लागीरहेछु  
आफ्नै मनसंगै  
त्यो माथि माथि सैलुंग तिर

निर्मल श्रेष्ठ  
हथुस्टन

प्रतिग्या देशप्रति

झरझरलती आउछ माताको मुहार ,  
बिसन सवितन  
म फकि आउछु स्वदेशि गाउमा  
बिदेशमा बसिदन 1

कमाए घन, कमाए बिध्या  
फर्केर आऊ है!  
अब त बुझ्यौ बिदेश को ठाँउ  
स्वदेशमै फकि आऊ 2

गुहेली पाक्यो, ऐशेलु पाक्यो  
ति छोरा सम्झंछीन  
छोराको मुहार देख्न नपाइ  
बिलाप ति गर्दछीन 3

पखि रहेछ खरको बुटा  
दोबाटो कुरेर  
स्वागत गर्छ कोइली चरी  
हांगामा घुरेर 4

दशै आयो, तिहार आयो  
त्यो छोरा आफ्न  
हांगामा बसी त्यो कोइली चरी  
गाएर थाकेन 5

श्रीराम महत  
दुसान, एरिजोना



### Jati maya laye pani

*Jati maya laye pani  
Jati kasam khaya pani  
Nisthuri le Bato lagda  
Ankha tari gaye pachi  
Yo man teseee marne nee bhayooo*

*Sacho priti lae kee thiye  
Chokho Jivan diakee thiye  
Bujne le kura Nabujhe pachi  
maan ma Kura na liye pachi  
Maan ma kura na-liyapachi  
Yo man teseee marne ne Bhayo  
HA-HA-HA-HA*



*houstonnepali*



*Houstonnepali - ladies and gentlemen*



*Dashain Party 2057 B.S.*



*music and dance.....what else you need!!!!*

Nepali Recipe

**bhanchhaghar**

**Creamy Chicken**

**Ingredients**

- 2 lbs. Chicken breast, cut into 1-in. strips
- 4 cloves garlic
- 1 in. ginger
- 3 fresh red chilies
- 1/2 cup almonds
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 1 teaspoon coriander seeds
- 1 tablespoon mustard oil
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 in. cinnamon stick
- 5 cloves
- 5 green cardamoms, crushed
- 2 cups onions, finely chopped



- 1 cup yogurt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper Salt to taste
- 4 teaspoons clarified butter
- 1 *tablespoon chopped cilantro for garnish*

**Instructions**

Grind garlic, ginger, chilies, almonds, coriander and cumin seeds with water to form paste. Salt and pepper chicken. Heat one tablespoon mustard oil in a non-stick pan, and brown chicken. Transfer chicken to a bowl. Drain and clean the pan, heat clarified butter. Add cinnamon stick, cloves, bay leaf, and cardomoms. Fry for 30 sec., and add onions. Sautee the onions till brown.

Transfer the almond paste to the onion mixture. Stir for about 2 min. till the oil separates. Add yogurt, mix well to a consistent mixture. Transfer the browned chicken to the yogurt sauce. Cook in low heat till chicken is tender and the almond sauce is thickened. Garnish with chopped cilantro. Serve with roti, or rice.

**congratulations**

Congratulations to the following HoustonNepali for their new born babies:

1. A daughter - Bijay / Varsha Halabe
2. A daughter, Faith - Yogesh / Mary Gorkhali
3. A son, Nitya - Ujjwal / Sunita Bhattarai
4. A daughter, Brinda - Baburam Kharel



*Congratulations to Bharat and Baijanti Shrestha on their 25th wedding anniversary*

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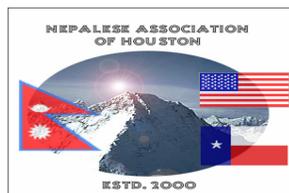
Satish Neupane

Indira Shrestha

Biggyan Sharma

Narayan Aryal

Sanjaya Shrestha



**inside kollywood**

**TA TA SARAI BIGRIS NI BADRI (\*\*\*)**



Ta Ta Sarai Bigris Ni Badri is a comedy film directed by Kiran K.C. Badri (Hari Bansa) has a land worth 6 crore in Kathmandu, but he is unaware about it so he is living a simple life.

Badri was married at the age of 12 with Sabitri (Susmita KC) and has a son (Solan Basnet). but listening to others, Badri leaves his present job into a Singadurbar and sells his land and buys a massive building worth 2 crore in Kathmandu.

In the mean time, he meets Whiskey (Bipana Thapa) and falls in love with her which creates misunderstanding between Badri and Sabitri . Then, Sabitri deserts him; Then the other actor in the movie, Chandra (Bhuban K.C.) not only gives her shelter but also helps her to get back her husband, Badri.

The film is an ironic movie which tries to mix comedy with the serious part of our society; "Is it possible for a women to marry

again when her husband ditches her?" is the question this movie is asking to all the viewers. The movie also portrays the situation a woman has to face as a result of double marriages.

Hari Bansa himself has sung the catchy song "Aokhati Le Chhoyen" . The trio of Hari Bansa, Susmita KC, Bipana Thapa has made it more special. Hari Bansa has done a good job. Other casts, Susmita KC has looked pretty as a village girl, Bipana Thapa, Bhuban KC have done their best. The Script of the movie is excellent. Direction by Dayaram Dahal is satisfactory.

Source: nepal dot com

**Box Office**

1. <i>Basanti</i>	6. <i>Mukundo</i>
2. <i>Dhukdhuki</i>	7. <i>Majadoor</i>
3. <i>Mailee</i>	8. <i>Apsara</i>
4. <i>Bar Pipal</i>	9. <i>Dharmaputra</i>
5. <i>Darpan Chhaya</i>	10. <i>Sorha Barse Jowan</i>



**BASANTI (\*\*\*\*)**



**DAAG (\*\*\*\*)**



**DARPAN CHHAYA (\*\*\*\*)**

**Profile**



**ISHWARI PRADHAN**

Ishwari Pradhan, daughter of noted star parents Shambhu Pradhan and Nutan Pradhan, entered as an actress in 'Sorha Barse Jowan' on 2000. Ishwari played the title role in 'Sorha Barse Jowan' with Ramesh Upreti. The movie was presented by the popular actor

Arjun Shrestha. The movie wasn't successful but still acting of Ishwari Pradhan was highly appreciated by the Moviegoers.

She started her acting career from her childhood days. She had acted in many movies as a child character like Sampatti, Swarga, Sun Chandi etc.



**Jokes**



**Airline Food**

It was mealtime on a small airline and the flight attendant asked the passenger if he would like dinner.  
"What are my choices?" he asked.  
She replied, "Yes or No."

A man walked into a lawyer's office and inquired about the rates.  
"Fifty dollars for three questions," replied the lawyer.  
"Isn't that awfully steep?" asked the man.  
"Yes," the lawyer replied, "and what was your third question?"

A woman's husband has been slipping in and out of a coma for several months yet she stayed by his bedside every single day. When he came to, he motioned for her to come nearer. As she sat by him, he said, "You know what? You have been with me all through the bad times. When I got fired, you were there to support me. When my business fell, you were there. When I got shot, you were by my side. When we lost the house, you gave me support. When my health started failing, you were still by my side. When I consider all that, I think you bring me bad luck!"

## ***Knick-knacks***

### ***some definitions:***

Behaviorist: someone who pulls habits out of rats.

A budget: a method of worrying before you spend money, as well as afterward.

A city: a large community where people are lonesome together.

A classic: something that everybody wants to have read and nobody wants to read.

A conference: a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done.

A conservative: a man who is too cowardly to fight and too fat to run.

A critic: a legless man who teaches running.

A fanatic: one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject.

A kiss: a rosy dot over the 'I' of loving.

A politician: an animal, which can sit on a fence and yet keep both ears to the ground.

Advice: what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't.

An economist: an expert who will know tomorrow why things he predicted yesterday didn't happen today.

An expert: one who knows more and more about less and less.

An honest politician: one who when he is bought will stay bought.

Diplomacy: the art of saying "Nice Doggie!" till you can find a rock.

Mistress: something between a mister and a mattress.

Mother-in-law: a woman who destroys her son-in-law's peace of mind by giving him a piece of hers.

### ***something to ponder.....***

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness...you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation...you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death...you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep...you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish some place...you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still alive and still married...you are very rare, even in the United States and Canada.

If you read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.

***If you want to rent advertising space in our next issue of Nepal Vision, please contact our sales and marketing department at (713) 773-4348 -NAH***

**Nepalese Student Association,  
University of Houston –Clear Lake**

*Nepalese Student Organization (NSA) at University of Houston (UH) Clear Lake was founded in February 2001 with a total of eight Nepalese students and 15 other students from different countries. The prime objective of this organization is to provide proper guidance to the new Nepalese Students as well as others, to promote interest in the field of community service, and share information and experience with other international student organizations. NSA will also organize various Nepalese cultural programs with provision to include professional artists from Nepal.*

*An International Student Festival was organized on February 28 at the UH Clear Lake Campus that was attended and participated by all international student organizations. It was more like an exposition of the countries and their cultures. We are very proud to announce that though this was the first participation of NSA in*

*such competition, it won the FIRST Prize. Indian Student Association was placed in the second position, and Thailand, the third.*

*We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Pramod Shrestha and Mr. Nirmal Shrestha for their support and guidance leading to the victory in this competition.*

*Executive Board Members of NSA, University of Houston – Clear Lake*

- Ms Bindra Shrestha, President
- Mr. Satish Neupane, Vice President
- Mr. Narayan Silwal, Vice President
- Mr. Sanjeev Shrestha, General Secretary
- Mr. Prabesh, Assistant, General Secretary
- Ms Linda A. Shrestha, Treasurer
- Ms Moni Thapa, Assistant Treasurer



*Nepalese Students Participating in the International Festival at University of Houston (UH) Clear Lake*

**jokes and quotations**

"I criticize by creation - not by finding fault." - Cicero
"The truth is more important than the facts. " - Frank Lloyd Wright
"Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws." - Plato
"Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance." - Will Durant
"My advice to you is get married: if you find a good wife you'll be happy; if not, you'll become a philosopher. " - Socrates
"The longer I live the more I see that I am never wrong about anything, and that all the pains that I have so humbly taken to verify my notions have only wasted my time. " - George Bernard Shaw
"The opposite of a correct statement is a false statement. The opposite of a profound truth may well be another profound truth." - Niels Bohr (1885-1962)

**Thinking his way through the problem**

Emily Sue passed away and Bubba called 911. The 911 operator told Bubba that she would send someone out right away. "Where do you live?" asked the operator. Bubba replied, "At the end of Eucalyptus Drive." **The operator asked, "Can you spell that for me?"** There was a long pause and finally Bubba said, "How 'bout if I drag her over to Oak Street and you pick her up there?"

**Do you always?**

"Cash, check or charge?" the cashier asked after folding items the woman wished to purchase. As the woman fumbled for her wallet, the cashier noticed a remote control for a television set in her purse. "Do you always carry your TV remote?" the cashier asked. "No," she replied. "But my husband refused to come shopping with me, so I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him."

**Car Trouble**

*My wife came home yesterday and said, "Honey, the car won't start, but I know what the problem is." I asked her what it was and she told me it has water in the carburetor.*

*I thought for a moment, then said, "You know I don't mean this badly, but you don't know the carburetor from the accelerator." "No, there's definitely water in the carburetor" she insisted. "OK, Honey, that's fine, I'll just go take a look. Where is it?" "In the lake."*