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A two-page special coverage on careers and branding



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Iran warns US it would regret quitting N-deal



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Man City celebrate title triumph

money

New agro roadmap envisions mechanised, modern farming



The first meeting of the House of Representatives held at New Baneshwor in Kathmandu as the budget session of Parliament commenced on Sunday.

POST PHOTO: SHALIGRAM TIWARI

Ordinances tabled

KATHMANDU: Four ordinances, along with the House of Representatives regulations draft, were tabled at the Lower House in the first meeting of the budget session on Sunday. Education Minister Giriraj Mani Pokharel tabled Ordinance on Health Professional Education Act as per the demand of senior orthopaedic surgeon Dr Govinda KC who has been campaigning for reforms in the medical education sector. (Details on Pg 3)

Gold smuggling accused stare at 3 more charges

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, MAY 6

People charged with murder and organised crime in connection with gold smuggling may also be prosecuted for corruption, money laundering and foreign exchange misappropriation.

The Morang District Attorney's Office (DAO), which filed a charge sheet at the district court on Wednesday against 63 suspects in connection with gold smuggling and the subsequent murder of a racket member, has recommended that constitutional and government agencies probe them for possible corruption, money laundering and foreign exchange misappropriation.

According to the paper, the prosecutor, DAO, has decided to write to the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority to watch over DIG Govinda Prasad Niraula, SSP Shyam Bahadur Khatri, SP Bikas Raj Khanal, DSP Sanjaya Bahadur Raut, Sub-inspector Bal Krishna Sanjel, police Constable Bishnu Khadka, Senior Constable Ambar Bahadur Thapa Magar and Nepal Airlines Corporation staffers Raju Maharjan, Rajan Thapa, Tularam Tharu and Amarman Dangol.

The government employees found to have taken undue advantage while in office face investigation under Clause 20 of the Organised Crime Act and Clause 59 of the Corruption Prevention Act, according to the charge sheet. CIAA Spokesperson Dirgha

Suspects change their statements to court

MADHAV GHIMIRE & BINOD BHANDARI
BIRATNAGAR, MAY 6

Lawyers have said that suspects held in connection with the 33kg gold smuggling case and the murder of an alleged smuggler, Sanam Shakya, have changed their statements to the Morang District Court.

Gyanendra Thapa, chairman of the Morang Bar Association, said their statements were different from what the police had recorded earlier. As of Sunday, the district court heard from 15 accused while as many remain to be quizzed. All of the suspects have been presented before District Judge Narayan Prasad Sharma.

The court is preparing to complete the recording of statements by Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the District Attorney's Office filed a charge sheet against a total of 63 suspects, recommending Rs17 billion and Rs18 million in fines in line with the report prepared by a high-level committee and an investigation carried out by the Morang Police.

Raj Mainali said the anti-graft body is yet to receive the correspondence. "We'll initiate probe after receiving the let-

ter," he said. In the case of defendants other than government employees, the prosecutor has decided to write to the

Department of Money Laundering Investigation (DoMLI) to probe their illegal incomes as provisioned in Clause 20 of the Organised Crime Act and Clause 29 of the Money Laundering Prevention Act. According to the charge sheet, the accused have earned property through criminal means involving gangs, gold smuggling, abduction and murder. Given the possibility of the illegally earned money getting into businesses, the prosecutor had sought details of bank accounts, vehicles, land and properties and the shares owned by the accused and their family members. The government agencies concerned have been requested to freeze the specified movable and immovable properties with approval from the court, according to the charge sheet.

Jiwan Prakash Sitaula, director general of the DoMLI, said the department would find facts about the people involved in gold smuggling, sources of their income and investments to check against money laundering. The prosecutor has also decided to write to the Department of Revenue Investigation (DRI) and the Nepal Rastra Bank to investigate into possible foreign exchange embezzlement by the defendants other than government officials as they used Hundi to transfer fund in violation of foreign exchange rules. DRI Director General Bhupal Baral said the department would take up the matter in due process.

Several restrictive measures and control mechanisms have been proposed in the draft particularly targeting I/NGOs and even constitutional bodies and some government entities. Representatives from constitutional bodies, ministries,

Integrity Policy draft to be amended

Govt solicits suggestions from stakeholders including organisations

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, MAY 6

Amid criticism from several quarters, the government has sought suggestions from the stakeholders for amending the National Integrity Policy draft perceived to be an exercise at "controlling" mostly the non-government organisations and international NGOs working in Nepal.

The Prime Minister's Office, which drafted the NIP, held consultations on Friday, asking stakeholders for suggestions to be incorporated into the final text.



PMO holds consultations, asking stakeholders for suggestions to be incorporated into the final text

While objecting to some

contents of the proposed draft, "we have urged the government not to keep its entities or constitutional bodies and private organisations at the same level", said Gopal Lamsal, president of the NGO Federation Nepal.

"There should be clarity between the [jurisdictions of] government and non-government agencies. Since the working styles, organisations, budget and structures of state and non-state sectors are dissimilar, we've urged the government to amend the NIP draft," he added.

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Transport operators freed on compliance promise

CHANDAN KUMAR MANDAL
KATHMANDU, MAY 6

Top office bearers of bus operators' committees, detained as part of the government's crackdown on public transport syndicates, were released on Sunday after they committed in writing to complying with the laws and the government's policies.

The representatives from the Federation of Nepalese National Transport Entrepreneurs (FNNTTE), which has been on the forefront of protests against the government's move to dismantle syndicates in the transport sector, had agreed not to disrupt their services.

A group of top FNNTTE office bearers, who were arrested on Saturday evening from Kathmandu, signed the commitment paper before their release.

A team of the Metropolitan Police Crime Division had rounded up FNNTTE President Yogendraman Karmacharya, Vice-president



TRANSPORT SYNDICATE

NRB freezes bank accounts

KATHMANDU: The Nepal Rastra Bank on Sunday directed banks and financial institutions to freeze the bank accounts of various transport entrepreneurs who protested in favour of transport syndi-

cates. In the wake of protests launched by supporters of transport cartels, the Home and the Transport ministries on Friday decided to freeze bank accounts of the committees running syndicates. (PR)

Detained committee members agreed that 'we fully support and have faith in the government's initiative of dismantling syndicate in the transport sector'

Vijay Swar, Deputy General Secretary Basant Bhandari, Province 3 organisation coordinator Dharma Raj Dhimal and Treasurer Kiran Khadka from New Baneshwor for their involvement in obstructing the essential public transport service. FNNTTE General Secretary

Saroj Sitaula was nabbed from Bhrikuti Mandap on Friday, the day they went on a nationwide transport strike. All of them were released only after they withdrew their protests as the government refused to free them without a written commitment. >> CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NO RUNNING AWAY FROM ENDING CARTEL: HOME MINISTER

KATHMANDU: Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa has said that the government will not back down from its move to end syndicates in the public transport sector.

Talking to representatives from the Consumers' Rights Investigation Forum on Sunday, Minister Thapa said the incumbent administration would not experience the failures of earlier governments to break the ill practice plaguing the sector.

"We have no luxury to backtrack on our decision," said Thapa, adding that an environment for the government to move ahead boldly had been created as it tries to "fulfil people's aspirations with sincerity".

"For nation's development and prosperity, the syndicate system must end."

Stating that putting an end to the transport syndicate was just a beginning, he said the government was working to ban cartels in other sectors too. (PR)

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TU senate meeting put off

RASTRIVA SAMACHAR SAMITI
KATHMANDU, MAY 6

The Tribhuvan University senate meeting scheduled for Sunday was postponed until further notice due to health issue of TU Chancellor and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Tirtha Khaniya said a TU delegation had reached Prime Minister's residence on Saturday to remind him about the meeting but could not meet him because he was indisposed.

Education Minister Girirajmani Pokharel on behalf of Prime Minister Oli had asked the TU delegation to put off the meeting.

Khaniya said the new date for the meeting shall be fixed after discussions with the prime minister and the education minister.

Amendment and repeal of old rules, demands of TU teachers, employees and stu-



dents, and public procurement provisions were the meeting's agenda set by the TU pre-senate meeting held on Saturday.

TU Rector Sudha Tripathi also gave prime minister's

illness as the reason behind the meeting's postponement.

Agenda obscure, says PM's press advisor Aryal

Prime Minister Secretariat has presented a different reason behind the meeting's deferral. It has refuted the reports that the TU Senate was postponed due to the PM's health condition.

The prime minister's press advisor, Kundan Aryal, said, "There is nothing wrong with the prime minister. He had attended two programmes on Saturday and he is busy in other programmes since this morning. He could not attend the TU senate meeting because the agenda seemed unclear." Meanwhile, part-time teachers working at various TU constituent colleges have started a sit-in protest at the TU campus in Kirtipur, demanding permanent status.



▲ A traffic jam at Lokanathi section of the Koteswar-Bhaktapur road on Sunday. Traffic officers say managing the congestion here can be stressful during rush hour. With the traffic lights long out of order, the vehicles have to be guided manually.

POST PHOTO: KESHAV THAPA

Health Ministry starts Bir Hospital clean-up drive

RASTRIVA SAMACHAR SAMITI
KATHMANDU, MAY 6

A clean-up campaign has started in Bir Hospital, the country's oldest hospital, at the initiative of Health Ministry.

Minister of State for Health and Population Padma Kumari Aryal flagged off the month-long campaign on Sunday.

"We shall see a real change in Bir Hospital a month from now," she said.

The hospital with a history of more than a century is notorious for the general lack of sanitation, even though the facility has 150 cleaning staff.

The hospital has around 100 toilets, most of them clogged and unusable. The staircase, hallways, floors and walls are grime-ridden.

The ministry has tied up with Khem's Cleaning Services, an Australia-based cleaning company started by Nepali native Khem Sharma, to spruce up the hospital.

Khem Sharma, his team of 15 and 10 hospital cleaning



staff have begun the work. Comedian Sitaram Kattel has also joined the campaign as the sanitation ambassador.

Vice-chancellor of National Academy of Medical Sciences Prof Dr Ganesh Bahadur Gurung lauded the clean-up drive and expressed hope that Bir Hospital and Trauma Centre will be spick and span in a month and will continue to remain so in the future.

Hospital's Director Prof Dr

Bhupendra Basnet said the hospital is in an improvement mission of late, both in terms of healthcare and infrastructure.

"The patients are getting better services these days. We have introduced latest technology-driven medical devices at the hospital. And now we focus on clean-up and sanitation," he said.

Around 3,000 patients visit Bir Hospital daily.

Health workers call for improved services nationwide

RASTRIVA SAMACHAR SAMITI
KATHMANDU, MAY 6

Nepal Health Workers' Union Central Working Committee has issued a 13-point Kathmandu declaration which incorporates the demand for smooth supply of medicines.

The two-day meeting of the committee concluded in the Capital recently recommending the government to immediately make appointments on vacant quotas in rural and remote districts, improve physical condition of health institutions and its local-level offices, and provide

essential medical equipment to health facilities across the country.

Mandatory implementation of the provision related to voluntary retirement scheme announced by the government through the Nepal Gazette, implementation of the constitutional provision about the presence of health ministry in province, allocation of rights of public health to the province and not to adjust health sector employees with the civil service are other demands put forth by the union, according to union president Ujjwal Kumar Sharma.

Integrity Policy draft to be ...

>>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The government side, defending criticism, is learnt to have responded that the draft would be amended after gathering inputs from the stakeholders.

The PMO move follows mounting criticism over the government's perceived attempt to control I/NGOs and even some state entities.

Representatives of the I/NGOs urged officials to introduce a one window policy for creating a better working environment for them. Welcoming some kind of regulation, they also urged officials to demarcate areas where they should work. They have expressed their concerns over the three layers of government in the federal structure.

Various stakeholders opposed the language and contents of the draft policy, urging officials to clear the ambiguity.

"If good suggestions are received, we'll consider them while revising the draft," said Bishnu Rimal, chief adviser to Prime Minister KP Sharma

Oli who advocates a stringent integrity policy for systematic works.

The policy drafted last year stresses strong vigilance over non-government and private sectors. Former secretaries Mohan Banjade and Sharada Prasad Trital drafted the 23-page paper suggesting policies for political parties, NGOs, INGOs, the diplomatic community, constitutional bodies, professors and teachers, the private sector and cooperatives.

Stakeholders are wary of the contents of the policy which provides for legal and structural bodies to regulate and monitor INGOs. INGOs will need prior approval for their annual programmes and budget from the Finance Ministry.

INGOs should not send their reports to the country they are headquartered in without permission of the Nepal government, reads the policy. The NGO sector has objected to the provision of organisation registration cancellation if they fail to renew within three months.

Transport operators freed on ...

>>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa had directed all the District Administration Offices not to free those in custody without a vow not to disrupt transport services again.

"We fully support and have faith in the Nepal government's initiative of dismantling syndicate in the transport sector. Neither we nor our businesses will operate against the laws, policies and decisions of the government. Nor will we encourage anyone to do any work against the laws and government policies," read the agreement signed at the District Administration Office in Kathmandu.

"Now onwards, we and other transport entrepreneurs will conduct our businesses after legal registration," the FNTE representatives pledged.

After the government decided to outlaw transport committees and their associations, transport firms have been directed to register as companies.

According to Home Ministry Spokesperson Ram Krishna Subedi, more than 100 transport committee members were arrested from different parts of the country on Friday and Saturday.

Several of them were released separately on Sunday after they had signed commitment papers.

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Four ordinances tabled at House as budget session begins

DOCUMENTS ON THE TABLE

- Ordinance on Health Professional Education Act
- Ordinance on Election of NA
- Ordinance on the CIEDP and TRC
- Ordinance on Remuneration, Facilities and Condition of Service of the Secy Gen of Federal Parliament, Secretary of HoR and Secy of NA



POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, MAY 6
Four ordinances, along with the draft regulation of the House of Representatives, were tabled in the first meeting of the Lower House's second session on Sunday.

Minister for Education Giriraj Mani Pokharel tabled Ordinance on Health Professional Education Act as per the demand of senior orthopaedic surgeon Dr Govind KC who has been campaigning for years, seeking reforms in the medical education sector. Any ordinance has to be endorsed by Parliament within 60 days of the first meeting of the new session while its replacement bill also needs to be approved during the same period.

After failing to come up with a replacement bill in the last House session, the government had formulated three ordinances including HPE for the second time which was issued by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari on April 26. The HPE ordinance bars establishing any medical college in the Valley for a decade. Despite the reservation from CPN-UML leaders, the ordinance was first issued by the erstwhile Sher Bahadur Deuba government following threat by Dr KC to start another round of hunger strike.

Similarly, Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa tabled Ordinance on Election of National Assembly in the House for endorsement. In the lack of Parliament, the government had issued the ordinance to clear legal hurdles for the Upper House polls.

Govt working to break syndicates in education, health sector: PM



CPN-UML Chairman and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli (right) seen with Subas Nembang (left) and Bishnu Poudel during the UML Parliamentary Party meeting in Kathmandu on Sunday.

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, MAY 6
Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has said the crackdown on transport committees running the syndicate system and failing to provide quality service to the general public is just the beginning, as the government is working to break syndicates that prevail in other sectors.

Addressing the CPN-UML Parliamentary Party meeting at Parliament in New Baneshwor on Sunday, PM Oli said the government is planning to dissolve the syndicate system prevailing in other sectors, including education, health.

People need not worry as when there is a strong government committed to welfare of the public, Oli said.

Urging the party lawmakers to be united in common goals and agenda of the party and nation, the UML chairman also directed them not to go against the

Sunday's meeting also saw Minister for Law and Justice Sher Bahadur Tamang present Ordinance on the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons, Ordinance on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (first amendment). The ordinance was issued to extend the term of two transitional justice bodies by a year. Minister Tamang also presented Ordinance related to Remuneration, Facilities and Condition of Service of the Secretary General of the Federal Parliament, Secretary of House of Representatives and Secretary of the National Assembly.

The government will table the replacement bills of the four ordinances at the HoR within two months once they are approved by the Federal Parliament. Chairman of Regulation Drafting Committee Krishna Bhakta Pokhrel presented the draft regulation of the HoR which was finalised by the committee on Saturday with a provision that Members of Parliament will not face suspension despite being in judicial custody.

"Any MPs not satisfied with any of the provisions in the regulation can submit amendment proposal by Monday," the Speaker told the House. The Parliament Secretariat plans to approve the regulation by Thursday. The budget session of Parliament will run for four months, primarily to endorse the budget for new fiscal year, but it will also approve the laws needed for the full-fledged implementation of the constitution.

China to conduct feasibility study

Recent study says railway line possible

SANJEEV GIRI
KATHMANDU, MAY 6

A team of Chinese engineers and officials are set to arrive in Kathmandu within a couple of weeks for conducting a feasibility study of the Kerung-Kathmandu railway line. The development follows understanding between Nepal and China that it is possible to develop the project, which lies in a difficult terrain, at a recent meeting held in Beijing.

China Railway First Survey Design Institute Group has been appointed to conduct the study. A delegation led by Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport Secretary Madhusudan Adhikari had been to China last week to discuss the matter.

"During the meeting in Beijing, the Chinese side had informed us that a team will arrive in Kathmandu at the earliest to study the overall aspect of railway line," said Prakash Bhakta Upadhyaya, spokesperson for the DoR. He added that the team will submit its report by August 2018.



Following a preliminary study on railways in Nepal in the second week of November 2017, a Chinese delegation had concluded that two rail routes—Kathmandu-Kerung and Kathmandu-Pokhara-Lumbini—could be developed in the country. The team led by Zheng Jian, the deputy director (Vice-Minister) of National Railway Administration of China, had made field trips to Kerung, Pokhara and Lumbini as part of the study.

Aspects like altitude variation between Syaprubeshi and Kerung and the gap created

kerung-kathmandu rail network

between Indian and Tibetan tectonic plates after the 2015 earthquake were the major concerns of the Chinese side during the visit.

The DoR has stated that around 90 percent of the railway line from Kerung to Kathmandu, which is estimated to be 100-120km long, will be either through a tunnel or on a bridge, showing the complexity of the project.

"Though the current study seems to be identical to the previous one, there are funda-

mental differences. The previous study was conducted to determine the possibility of the railway project. Given that it is possible to construct the railway line, the current study will be holistic in nature and dwell on the feasibility aspect," Upadhyaya told the Post.

The idea of connecting railway link from Kerung, the bordering region in China, had started with a motive to increase connectivity and accessibility with the northern neighbour. Several

Chinese media have reported that a railway link between Nepal and China is likely to be established by 2022. The railway stretches out around 540km from Shigatse to the Jilong county in Tibetan Autonomous Region that lies on the international border.

Moreover, the trans-Himalayan railway connectivity had gathered momentum after Nepal and China agreed on "exchanging ideas and proposals on constructing cross-border railways and railway network in Nepal and

support enterprises to start related preparatory work as soon as possible" during Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's visit to Beijing in 2016. The government subsequently announced in the budget that it would prepare a detailed project report of the Rasuwagadhi-Kathmandu-Pokhara-Lumbini rail network and that the construction would start within two years. The government has allocated Rs4 billion for the preparations in the current fiscal year. The DoR has estimated the project cost at Rs35 billion.




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First date of Publication 24th Baisakh, 2075 (7th May, 2018)

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- Bid must be enclosed in a sealed envelope clearly marked in capital letter "SUPPLY, DELIVERY, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF ARFF VEHICLE"
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- The Notice also displayed on CAAN webpage <http://www.caanepal.org.np>
- Bid must be addressed to: **Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, Rescue and Fire Fighting Department, Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal.** Ph. No. 977-1-4219434, 4262416 Ext-111.
- Any additional matters not covered by this shall be in accordance with the prevailing Procurement Act, 2063 and Procurement Regulation, 2064 of the GoN.



■ A man and his child negotiate their way through a muddy road on a motorcycle in Guheshwori, Kathmandu, on Sunday. People say this section of the Narayantar-Gaurighat Bagmati Corridor is wet and muddy throughout the year as water trucks ply this pothole-ridden road frequently, spilling water off their tankers. POST PHOTO: ANISH REGMI

NEWS DIGEST

HIV infected couple, child die in 5-month span



DHANGADHI: Three HIV infected members of a same family have died in a span of five months due to lack of treatment in Godavari Municipality-12, Kailali. Dil Bahadur Oda, chairman of Godavari Plus, an organisation working for the welfare of HIV infected persons, said 51-year-old Tek Bahadur BK, his wife Mina, 42, and their 12-year-old son Mukesh died because they did not have access to antiretroviral therapy. (PR)

Forest fire rages inside Langtang National Park

RASUWA: The Langtang National Park authority was trying and failing to control a fire at Brabal forest on Sunday. Park ranger Ramesh Basnet said their effort to contain the wildfire was being thwarted by strong wind and difficult terrain. We are doing our best to keep the fire from spreading, he added. (PR)

Father, son die in motorcycle accident

CHITWAN: A father and son died in a motorcycle accident at Birendra Tole in Bharatpur Municipality-14, Chitwan, on Saturday night. Police said Bharat Ram Dam, 36, and his son Samir, 12, were critically injured in the accident. They were rushed to a hospital in Bharatpur, where they died in course of treatment. (PR)

Bajhang flood kills five people

POST REPORT
BAJHANG, MAY 6

A couple and their two children are among the five people dead in Saturday night's flood at Thalara Rural Municipality in Bajhang district.

Police said Harka BK, his wife Dalli Devi, their two children Sakhyam, 3, and Manisha, 6, and Kalasa BK died while trying to cross the rain-swollen Guhe stream. Their bodies were recovered on Sunday.

In Kedarsyu Rural Municipality, flood triggered by heavy rainfall swept away two houses and nine cattle. The villagers said the flood also damaged around 20



■ Kedarsyu villagers scan the devastation caused by Saturday night's flood. POST PHOTO

ropanis of farm land. Hailstones also damaged potatoes planted on around 3,000 ropanis of land at Chhabispathivera Rural Municipality. Agriculture technician Dhanser Buda said more than 1,200 farmers in Chhabispathivera and Durgathali rural municipali-

ties were affected.

Flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall of Saturday have also blocked traffic along the Jay Prithvi Highway.

Transportation service has been obstructed by the debris left behind by flash floods at Sudikhola and Mauribagar areas.



कान्तिपुरको स्वर्णपुर 2 योजना अन्तर्गत

कान्तिपुर
महाविभ्रंश
योजना

बम्पर उपहार

RENAULT KWID

अब हामीसँग आबद्ध विक्रेतावर्ग तथा स्टेसनरी सञ्चालकहरूले प्रत्येक २० जना ग्राहक बनाए बापत कुपन प्राप्त गरी पाउनुहुनेछ बम्पर उपहार जित्ने एक सुनौलो मौका।

साथै जित्न सक्नुहुनेछ विभिन्न आकर्षक उपहारहरू!



१ किलो चाँदी



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स्मार्टफोन



गिफ्ट मोचर



वाटर प्युरिफायर



Hawaii: Lava destroys 5 homes

Nearly 2,000 people on Hawaii's Big Island have been evacuated from homes after lava eruptions destroyed five houses and sulfur dioxide gas threatened to harm anyone who stayed in the residential area, officials said. A new fissure spewed lava up to 230 feet into the air and new cracks opened on a highway in the Leilani Estates area.

Paris museum opens its doors to nudists

A Paris gallery has opened its doors for the first time to nudists with 161 visitors appreciating art in the raw. The Palais de Tokyo, a contemporary art museum in the exclusive 16th arrondissement (district), held the one-off event on Saturday. After leaving their clothes in the cloakroom, visitors were able to view exhibitions before the gallery opened its doors to clothed art lovers.



UK backs European defence force

Britain is backing a French plan to create a European military intervention force as a way to maintain strong defence ties with the EU after Brexit. British junior defence minister Frederick Curzon said London was "very keen to support" French President Emmanuel Macron's plan for a force that could be deployed rapidly to deal with crises.



NEWS DIGEST

Main suspect in India gang rape, murder case held

NEW DELHI: Indian police said on Sunday they have arrested the main suspect in the gang rape and gruesome murder of a teenage girl, in the latest of several high-profile sexual assault cases in the country. The local village chief has also been detained while the 16-year-old victim's family have been given special police protection. Dhanu Bhuiyan was found at a relative's house where he was hiding after he and accomplices allegedly burned the girl alive Friday in a remote district of the eastern state of Jharkhand. Police said Bhuiyan became enraged after the local village council ordered him to do 100 sit-ups and pay a 50,000 rupee (\$750) fine for the victim's gang rape. Bhuiyan and his accomplices allegedly attacked the girl's parents before setting their house on fire with the girl inside.

Russian protest leader Navalny released

MOSCOW: Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who was detained during a week-end protest on the eve of Vladimir Putin's inauguration for a fourth term, has been released and faces a court hearing next week, his lawyer said on Sunday. The charismatic 41-year-old politician, who was barred from challenging Putin in March's presidential election, had called on Russians to stage rallies across the country on Saturday under the slogan "Not our Tsar". Nearly 1,600 protesters were detained in 27 cities across Russia, according to OVD-Info, an independent monitor that tracks arrests.

23 killed in Pak mines collapse

QUETTA (PAKISTAN): Twenty-three people were killed and 11 wounded after gas explosions tore through two neighbouring coal mines in southwestern Pakistan, officials said on Sunday. Shortly before midday on Saturday, a build-up of methane caused an explosion and tunnel collapse at a mine in Marwarh, east of Quetta, the capital of the fossil fuel-rich Balochistan province bordering Iran and Afghanistan. Officials said 16 of the 25 people inside the mine at the time were killed. (Agencies)

pressing for climate protection



Greenpeace activists hold up posters as they swim with an inflatable globe through the river Spree past the Reichstag building housing the Bundestag (lower house of parliament) in Berlin on Sunday in order to demonstrate for more climate protection. AFP/RS

Top Lebanon parties look to hold monopoly

BEIRUT, MAY 6

Lebanese voters went to the polls to elect their parliament for the first time in nine years Sunday, with top parties expected to preserve a fragile power-sharing arrangement despite regional tensions. The Iran-backed Hezbollah movement and its allies could stand to reinforce their clout on the political game in Lebanon, a small country clamped between war-torn Syria and Israel. The election comes after a drawn-out political stalemate finally produced a new electoral law in 2017 that introduced a proportional list-based system. The campaign passed without major incidents but security forces were out en masse across a country still sporadically rocked by attacks and with a history of political assassinations. Queues of voters started

forming outside some polling stations in Lebanon's main cities even before they opened at 7:00 am (0400 GMT). In the southern city of Tyre, 28-year-old Jalal Naanou was also up early to support an unprecedented effort by civil society candidates to bring new faces to parliament. More than 3.7 million Lebanese are eligible to vote, and will choose from 597 candidates who are running on 77 closed lists for a seat in the 128-strong parliament. Turnout will be crucial to a new civil society movement's chances of clinching a handful of seats but analysts predict the traditional sectarian-based parties will maintain their hegemony. "Will Hezbollah be the biggest winner? At the very least, it won't be a loser," said Imad Salamey, a political science professor at Beirut's Lebanese American University.



An elderly Lebanese woman casts her ballot during the first parliamentary election in nine years, in the northern port city of Tripoli on Sunday. AFP/RS

MALAYSIA BUSTS TRAFFICKING SYNDICATE

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has arrested more than a dozen members of an alleged people trafficking syndicate after intercepting a ship carrying 127 Sri Lankan migrants believed to be bound for Australia and New Zealand, authorities have said.

Maritime authorities on Tuesday halted a modified tanker named "Etra" in Malaysian territorial waters off southern Johor state, national police chief Mohamad Fuzi Harun said. Nearly 100 Sri Lankan men, 24 women and nine children were aboard the ship, which was making its way to international waters when it was stopped. The police chief said in a statement Saturday that authorities arrested 16 people involved in an "international network" of people smugglers, including three Indonesians and four Malaysians aboard a fishing vessel used to transport the migrants from the Johor coast to the tanker. (AFP)

Iran warns US it would regret quitting N-deal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE TEHRAN, MAY 6

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that if the United States quits the nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers then Washington would regret it "like never before".



US President Donald Trump has threatened to abandon the agreement when it comes up for renewal on May 12, demanding his country's European allies "fix the terrible flaws" or he will re-impose sanctions. "If the United States leaves the nuclear agreement, you will soon see that they will regret it like never before in history," Rouhani said in a televised speech in northwestern Iran. "Trump must know that our people are united, the Zionist regime (Israel) must know that our people are united," Rouhani added.

The nuclear deal was struck in 2015 between Iran and Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States, then led by Barack Obama. Under the pact, sanctions were lifted in return for a commitment not to pursue a nuclear bomb, but Iran says it is not reaping the rewards despite complying with the deal. The Islamic republic has always denied it sought a nuclear weapon, insisting its atomic programme was for civilian purposes.

Netanyahu to meet Putin in Moscow

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow next week, the premier's office said, ahead of a possible US withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal.

to world leaders, including to Putin, in which the two discussed the Iran nuclear deal, as well as the situation in Syria. Israel has been accused by Syria of carrying out deadly strikes in its territory, most recently on April 9 and April 30, which killed Iranians as well as Syrian soldiers.

The Wednesday meeting will discuss "regional developments", Netanyahu's office said, and follows the Israeli leader's unveiling of "proof" of Iran's alleged past military nuclear ambitions. A televised presentation by Netanyahu on Monday was followed by phone calls

Putin — whose troops are backing the Syrian regime — has called on Netanyahu not to destabilise the situation further, as Israel looks to prevent Iran and its Hezbollah proxy cementing their military presence. On Thursday Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign policy adviser to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned Tehran would quit the nuclear deal if the United States withdraws.

Denuclearisation pledge not result of US-led sanctions, says NKorea

REUTERS SEOUL, MAY 6

North Korea said on Sunday its intention to denuclearise, unveiled at a historic inter-Korean summit, was not the result of US-led sanctions and pressure, warning the United States not to mislead public opinion. Impoverished North Korea has been hit by a series of UN and US sanctions in recent years in a bid to rein in its nuclear and missile pro-

grammes. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in vowed "complete denuclearisation" of the Korean peninsula in the first inter-Korean summit in more than a decade on April 27, but the declaration did not include concrete steps to reach that goal. The North's official KCNA news agency said Washington was "misleading public opinion" by claiming the denuclearisation pledge was the result of sanctions and other

pressure. The United States should not "deliberately provoke" the North by moving to deploy strategic assets in South Korea and raising human rights issues, KCNA said, citing a foreign ministry spokesman. "This act cannot be construed otherwise than a dangerous attempt to ruin the hardly-won atmosphere of dialogue and bring the situation back to square one," the spokesman was quoted as saying. It would not be conducive to resolving the issue of denu-

Stormy Daniels taunts fake Trump on comedy show

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON, MAY 6

Stormy Daniels, the real one, took on Donald Trump, depicted by Alec Baldwin, on comedy show Saturday Night Live and taunted him saying the only way to end the furor over their alleged tryst was for him to resign.



Daniels drew screams and applause when she appeared in the opening skit of SNL. She took a call at Trump's request from his personal lawyer Michael Cohen, played by comedian Ben Stiller. Trump said he would just listen in as she spoke, and Cohen asked Daniels if she was alone. "What are you wearing?" the fake Trump blurted out,

to laughter, before cutting the faux Cohen out of the call. Trump has denied allegations from Daniels, a porn star whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, that they had an affair in 2006. But Cohen has admitted he paid her \$130,000 just days before the 2016 election. Trump has denied the affair or knowing anything about the payment, until his new lawyer Rudy Giuliani acknowledged shockingly

this week that Trump had in fact reimbursed Cohen for that payoff, which arguably may have violated federal campaign finance laws. In a skit that got playfully raucous at times, Trump asked Daniels what it would take to make the whole thing go away.

"A resignation," she said with a smile. Trump persisted and rattled off what he called a series of achievements as president, including progress in the Korean nuclear crisis. Why can't he resolve things with Daniels, too, he asked. "Sorry, Donald. It's too late for that. I know you don't believe in climate change. But a storm's a'comin', baby," she said.

DIVISIVE QUESTION

After death, Hawking cuts 'multiverse' theory down to size

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS, MAY 6

With a science paper published after his death, Stephen Hawking has revived debate on a deeply divisive question for cosmologists: Is our Universe just one of many in an infinite, ever-expanding "multiverse"? According to one school of thought, the cosmos started expanding exponentially after the Big Bang. In most parts, this expansion or "inflation" continues eternally, except for a few pockets where it stops. These pockets are where universes like ours are formed — multitudes of them that are often likened to "bubbles" in an ever-expanding ocean dubbed the multiverse. Many scientists don't like the idea, including Hawking, who

said in an interview last year: "I have never been a fan of the multiverse." If we do live in an ever-inflating multiverse, it would mean the laws of physics and chemistry can differ from one universe to another, a concept that scientists struggle to accept. In his last contribution to cosmology, Hawking — with co-author Thomas Hertog from the KU Leuven university in Belgium — does not dismiss the multiverse concept, but proposes dramatically scaling it down. "We are not down to a single, unique universe," the University of Cambridge quoted Hawking as saying of the paper submitted before his death on March 14 and published this week in the Journal of High Energy Physics. However, "our findings imply a significant reduction of the mul-



A file photo shows renowned cosmologist Professor Stephen Hawking at a press conference at One World Observatory in New York. AFP/RS

terverse, to a much smaller range of possible universes." The new hypothesis relies on a branch of theoretical physics known as string theory, and concludes that the cosmos is "clearly finite", Hertog told AFP, though

of nature come from, and whether they are unique." Not everyone likes the new theory. "The idea that we live in a 'multiverse' is a fringe idea in a small part of a subfield of the physics community," said theoretical physicist Sabine Hossenfelder of the Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies. "Nobody who does serious science works with the multiverse because it's utterly useless," she told AFP. The main problem, Hossenfelder explains, is that any multiverse theory is "underdetermined" and "doesn't contain enough information to make calculations". For detractors, a multiverse theory complicates our understanding of our own Universe. But it has its defenders too. For astrophysicist Aurelien Barrau of Laboratory of

Subatomic Physics and Cosmology in Paris, "the concept makes sense." "It is remarkable that today numerous types of universe can be envisaged. Several theories, reliable for some and speculative for others, lead to the prediction of a multiverse," he said. For Hertog, the new theory is a step in the right direction. It "makes the cosmology based on our new theory a lot more predictive, a lot... stronger as a scientific theory and therefore ultimately, we hope, testable", he explains on the UK Leuven website. Hossenfelder disagrees. She described the new theory as just another "variant" of eternal inflation, "with some additional assumptions on top of it." Thomas Hertog, who co-authored work on the multiverse concept with Hawking, says the

measurement of gravitational waves can help determine whether the theory is scientifically sound. Hertog hopes to use gravitational waves, ripples in the fabric of spacetime caused by black hole collisions, supernova explosions, or the formation of the early Universe, to test the new hypothesis he created with Hawking. The British cosmologist died at the age of 76 after a lifelong battle against motor neuron disease, which paralysed him and left him unable to speak. Hawking, who once said his life goal was "a complete understanding of the universe", famously overturned a core tenet of physics by predicting that black holes — believed until then to devour everything in their vicinity, including light — leak radiation.

escalate

PG 06 | MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018



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A BRAND IS MORE THAN JUST A LOGO OR A SLOGAN

Here, I must mention Innovate Nepal Group (ING), which is the key stakeholder of Islington College and four other colleges in eastern and western Nepal. All of these institutions run similar programmes in IT and Business in partnership with UK Universities. We make sure that we communicate clearly what a student can expect from a particular college and its courses. I personally don't believe in exclusively promoting features or facilities only. I rather believe in educating the target group about the advantages and most importantly the benefits of choosing to join our course and college. Our campaigns don't dwell on fantasies, rather project the reality of our services. We have strict policies on how to promote each of our courses and colleges so that the prospective student and guardians are not confused. So as to maintain and increase the brand portfolio, our team focuses on maintaining the satisfaction level of our students, staff, industry partners and guardians. Respect, trust, security, healthy environment, career growth, pay and perks are the major factors that our ING Colleges try to foster.

Islington College is known for offering great facilities to its students, how do you ensure that students at the end of the day benefit from the education they receive?

At Islington College, we provide a platform where students are given the freedom to materialise their ideas into reality. We encourage our students to transform the acquired knowledge into skills. Knowledge and skills play a vital role for a successful career growth. We provide a specific platform for our students where they can practice what they have learnt. We have been in the process of building and sustaining relationships by assessing, anticipating and meeting what the industry demands and designing our curriculum and teaching-learning system accordingly. The updated courses and curriculum we offer has been helping our students develop ideas that benefit the individual and the society at large.

What are some of your top branding tips?

As I have mentioned earlier, brand is not just a logo or a name or a slogan. Brand is an individual's perception. A gut feeling that one gets when they see or hear the name of the institution or product or service. It is an experience that one can anticipate even before using the product or service. This comes from differentiating the product in the market, focus on the services and experience that the consumer receives and innovation in development and branding exercises.

What can be done to attract more students towards business schools?

In order to attract more students, we need to empower our existing students by practicing positive reinforcement and allowing them to explore their creativity. In addition, not only should we focus on students' satisfaction, but equally prioritise staff retention, satisfaction and career growth. At Islington, for instance, our promotional activities are not just aimed towards student recruitment, rather we also focus on attracting best minds available in the market to join us, so that our students receive the best education. We provide them with ample resources to discuss and convert their ideas into action.

What advice do you have for fresh graduates who want to pursue a degree in IT and Business?

I am a Physics graduate. Majority of my professional life, I've worked with a marker and a board. However, when I decided to switch to marketing, leaving behind all other possibilities, all I had in me was the eagerness to learn, experiment and the determination not to fail. The world needs a lot of IT and Business professionals and so does Nepal. Anyone who wishes to get into IT or Business education should keep in mind—a degree isn't just enough to ensure a good professional life; you need skills to complement the knowledge and most importantly you need a learning attitude. In addition, focus on one's goals and the dedication to meet them are important. Choose the institution that caters to your career goals. It is very important which brand you associate yourself with.



Starting out his career as a Physics instructor and a programme manager at a higher secondary school, Ashish Sigdel decided to throw caution to the wind by switching gears and becoming a business development manager instead. Starting out with Islington College and Innovate Nepal Group (ING) subsequently, Sigdel today presides over a team that is spread out over five different colleges; specialising on increasing the brand portfolio of the respective colleges. In this interview with the Post's Alisha Sijapati, he talks about the importance of brand management in the education sector and shares some of his top branding tips. Excerpts:

VACANCY FOR KATHMANDU & BIRATNAGAR

S.N	POST	NOS	S.N	POST	NOS
1.	Administrative Manager	2	4.	Account Assistant (Female) (Tally)	4
2.	Marketing Manager	2	5.	Senior Accountant	2
3.	Sales Executive	5	6.	Driver - Pickup/Truck	3
3.	Production Manager	2	7.	Driver - Car	1

Kathmandu : 9801204810
Walk in Interview: 24th & 25th Baisakh
Balaju Industrial District, Balaju, Kathmandu

Biratnagar: 9801204871

As a physics graduate, how challenging was it for you to switch your career to business development?

To my relief, the work culture, ethics and modus operandi where I work was easy to adapt to. Four years ago, I was working with half a dozen team members at one college and I now lead a team of over two dozen bright minds spread over five different colleges. The journey has been exciting and I consider myself fortunate to work with such talented, inspiring, and enthusiastic seniors and colleagues.

sector for a while. How important is it for colleges and universities to maintain their brand name?

Needless to say maintaining your brand is very important in any sector. I believe that brand is the trust that people have accrued on a product or service. In the education sector, the name of the institution gets attached to the students' life and influences their career path. Job recruiters look at the candidates' alma mater to decide how deep their knowledge and skills related to the job are. For instance, at Islington College, our students do not just graduate with a diploma. They become Islington Alumni; that in itself has become a brand.

You have been involved in the education

sents a product or a service but the experience as well.

What are some of the strategies you use to increase the brand portfolio of Islington College?



Brand is an individual's perception. A gut feeling that one gets when they see or hear the name of the institution or product or service. It is an experience that one can anticipate even before using the product or service. It goes beyond just a logo

In addition, this applies to the people working in the institution as well. An institution with higher brand value gets high performing professionals and vice versa. In short, a brand name not only repre-

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2	Senior Mechanical Engineer	1	Mechanical engineer with minimum 5 years of experience in cement plant, Able to coordinate with service engineers and able to understand details provided in drawing & manuals.	Nawalparasi
3	Mechanical Engineer	1	Mechanical engineer with minimum 2 years of experience in cement plant, or Diploma in Engineering with minimum five years' experience in cement plant.	Nawalparasi
4	Accounts Officer	2	MBS/MBA - Accounts & Finance with first division and 2 years of experience in any industry. (MFG Preferable).	Kathmandu
5	Techno Marketing Engineer	1	BE - Civil from reputed university. Fresher's can also apply. Applicant must possess driving license.	Kathmandu
6	Junior Accounts Officer	2	MBS/MBA - Accounts & Finance with first division and 1 years of experience in any industry. (MFG Preferable).	Kathmandu
7	Junior Purchase Officer	1	MBS/MBA - Accounts & Finance with first division and 2 years of experience in any industry. (Local Candidate would be preferable).	Nawalparasi
8	Sales Officer	6	Bachelor in management or Plus two graduate with 2 years of post-degree experience in related job. Freshers can also apply and must possess driving license.	All Over Nepal
9	Front Desk Officer	2	Bachelor in any discipline or Plus two graduate with 4 years of post-degree experience in related job and well versed with MS - Office package , fluent in English & Nepali language (Speaking Writing & Typing).	Kathmandu

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- Garden and Greening Management Vacancy-1**
Responsibility includes but not limited to: Plantation, greening management of the factory.
Qualification: Vocational degree or above, major in relation to landscape/garden greening or environmental engineering. Those with the experience of large greening project or large nursery management are preferred.
- Deputy Head of Sales Department Vacancy-1**
Responsibility includes but not limited to: Assisting the Head of Sales Department in sales and marketing work.
Qualification: Bachelor degree or above, more than 5 years experience in cement marketing sales in Nepal, with at least 3 years in management positions in sale. Accept corporate culture, and obey the arrangement from company seniors.
- Deputy Head of Laboratory Vacancy-1**
Responsibility includes but not limited to: Assisting the Head of Lab. in related work.
Qualification: Bachelor degree or above, more than 5 years experience in the management of laboratories in cement industry in Nepal. Accept corporate culture, and obey the arrangement from company seniors.

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- Application deadline is 31st May 2018.

THE NEW RULES FOR A SUCCESSFUL MEETING

Amazon employees sit in silence—while Tesla boss Elon Musk advocates walking out if you aren't adding value. But how can you stop wasting your life in pointless meetings? Here's an expert guide

JENNY STEVENS & PHIL DAoust

Some human inventions flash into being, get a little polish and then are pretty much left alone, their users generally satisfied, or at least not so dissatisfied that they attempt to come up with an alternative. No one tries to build a better hankie, a more comforting cuddle or a dinner plate "that really works". Yet the search for the perfect business meeting seems never-ending. Now Jeff Bezos, the founder and CEO of Amazon, has had a go, creating what he calls "the weirdest meeting culture you will ever encounter". Weird? Maybe. As Bezos told the audience at the George W Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, he has banned the PowerPoint presentations that dominate most commercial meetings. Instead, some poor devil must spend a week or more preparing "a six-page, narratively structured memo" full of "real sentences" rather than bullet points. Everyone else must then spend the first half-hour of the meeting silently—and publicly—pondering it, before moving on to a debate. Bezos calls this "a kind of study hall". "Not surprisingly, the quality of

these memos varies widely," Bezos admits. "Some have the clarity of angels singing. They are brilliant and thoughtful and set up the meeting for high-quality discussion. Sometimes they come in at the other end of the spectrum..."

If this sounds like your idea of hell, don't panic. Some of the finest minds in business are working on alternatives.

Get in touch with your feelings

"This is quite pervasive in organisations now," says Prof André Spicer from Cass Business School at City, University of London. "They might ask people to reflect for a few minutes in a meeting before making a decision. Or they'll ask people to turn inwards, and think about what their own feelings are telling them." Evidence suggests that injecting more mindfulness can help alleviate individual anxiety, and help people focus better in meetings and lose the irrelevant information.

"The danger of it, though," says Spicer, "is that it gets treated as a way to cover up more systemic issues. For example, the Department of Health introduced a mindfulness programme to deal with health and well-



ness issues in the department. The truth was that the problems there were with endemic restructuring and extreme working hours—the mindfulness just extended meetings and the working day."

Take a long lunch

"The death of the long lunch is a tragedy for businesses," says Spicer. "Many organisations had lunch together in cafeterias where everyone stopped and ate together and talked. There is research by Humanize, which studies social networks and work, that shows that people who go to lunch and sit in fairly large groups tend to do a lot better in the company, simply because they are building up networks and finding out what is going on in the business. Bring back lunch!"

Actually, says Emma Sinclair, the co-founder of EnterpriseAlumni, there is a lot to be said for the regular company-wide catchup, even if it comes in the form of a traditional meeting. "People do need to feel included. And a bit of consistency is good."

Bring in the vigilantes

"One PayPal executive, David Sacks, used to burst into meeting rooms like a cop and ask what people were meeting about," says Bruce Daisley, the European vice-president at Twitter and the host of the Eat Sleep Work Repeat podcast. "If it wasn't any good, he would stop the meeting right then and there. I love this idea of superhero-style vigilantes closing meetings down. Imagine if the burden of having a meeting was that at any point you'd have to explain what the meeting was about. Brilliant! If all of us knew we would be held to account for the cost of a meeting and the amount of people's time we are taking up, our perspective would be different. The meeting is taking all the fun out of our jobs because we are so scared of not being busy. But sitting at your desk and thinking is an important part of the job."

Remember time is money

Ever sat in a meeting and wondered how much it was costing the compa-

ny in terms of salaries? Tools such as Harvard Business Review's business meeting cost calculator will put a figure on it. Spicer recommends a meeting budget. "If you want to invite a member of staff to your meeting, it will get taken off your budget. The cost of inviting loads of people to come along and listen to a PowerPoint presentation actually becomes valued, and you have to think: 'Do we actually need this person there?'"

Don't fall for gimmicks

Everyone wants meetings to be shorter, but stunts pulled in some workplaces such as making attendees hold the plank, do situps, speak against a timer or put money in a charity box if they overrun are counterproductive and, frankly, irritating. "I'm a bit suspicious of any of that jiggery-pokery," says Stefan Stern, the co-author of Myths of Management. "That doesn't feel like work to me. If you're trying to achieve something from your meeting, you need to be focusing on the meat of the matter." Rather than your aching muscles, for example.

"All this show-and-tell stuff turns the meeting into a spectacle, rather than something productive," agrees Spicer. However, he adds, standing meetings are effective at cutting meeting times. Walking and talking (favoured by Mark Zuckerberg and Barack Obama) has also been shown to help people work better. "Marillyn Opezzo at Stanford University has done a lot of research in this area," says Daisley. "She shows how meetings can engage divergent thought—so they help people come up with ideas, although not necessarily narrow them down."

Lock up your iPhones

"It's a great idea to get people to check in their phones and laptops," says Spicer. "Unless they are actually being used, not having them helps people focus their attention on what is actually going on in the room." That doesn't mean it's not awkward, however. "I recently did some work with senior managers at a bank and they were forced to put their phones

in sealed envelopes. They were constantly looking over to the cupboard where their phones were. As soon as the first break came, they ripped them open like they were crack addicts who had just seen a bag of crack. But once they had actually got focused on a task, they got a lot more done. One of the basic principles of productivity is that we are terrible at multitasking, so we need to remove as many distractions from meetings as possible."

Get a grip on numbers

Another Bezos rule: he won't call a meeting, or even attend one, where two pizzas couldn't feed the entire group. "Meetings now are easier than ever to arrange," says Daisley. This means they can often become "very low-quality exchanges of ideas and powerplay" if they are not considered properly and numbers kept under control. The solution is to "value the introverts". "Most of modern work has been around celebrating the extrovert—brainstorming meetings, presentations, open-plan offices," he says. "Performance art has become part of our job. But when you look into how a creative idea is formed, it is normally by individual thinking and one-to-one conversation. As Susan Cain says in her book Quiet, the truth about the best collaborations is that they are in smaller groups—it's more Lennon and McCartney than loads of people in an open-plan room."

Be rude if you have to

"Walk out of a meeting or drop off a call as soon as it is obvious you aren't adding value," the billionaire CEO of Tesla, Elon Musk, has said. "It is not rude to leave; it is rude to make someone stay and waste their time." Of course, it is probably easier to get away with this when

you are a fantastically rich company boss rather than an underpaid middle manager.

Just say no

"Is your meeting really necessary?" asks Stern. "As the management consultant Peter Drucker put it, 'One either meets or one works.'" Daisley says we should abolish half of all meetings. "If you go into a meeting and somebody asks: 'Has anyone got anything for today's agenda?', that should tell you that there is no point to it. We live in a world where the quality of our work is being appraised by others, by our bosses, so we never want to appear as if we're not working hard. So when a meeting comes up that we are responsible for, we all want to show that we have packed agendas. We need to lose the fear of standing people down for meetings and cancel them."

How do you do it? Maybe cite some evidence. "We're starting to realise that interruptions and distractions are the curse of getting anything done," says Daisley. "We need to permit people to have quiet spaces. In Cal Newport's book Deep Work, he argues that anything of any value is created only by a period of isolated concentration." Something to send back on your next calendar invite.

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लघुवित्तमा वृत्ति विकासको अवसर

(प्रकाशित मिति : २०७४/०१/१२)

यस स्पर्स लघुवित्त वित्तीय संस्था लिमिटेड, जनाता बैंक नेपाल, टुरिजम डेभलपमेण्ट बैंक र विभिन्न प्रतिष्ठित समाजसेवी न्यायिकव्यवस्था प्रवर्द्धन गरिएको नेपाल राष्ट्र बैंकबाट "घ" वर्गको इजाजतपत्र प्राप्त वित्तीय संस्था हो । पोखरा लेखनाथ महानगरपालिका, विजयपुरमा केन्द्रीय कार्यालय रहेको यस वित्तीय संस्थाको कार्य क्षेत्र कास्की, लमजुङ, गोरखा, तनहुँ, म्याग्दी, बागलुङ, पर्वत, गुल्मी, नवलपरासी र अर्घाखाँची गरी १० जिल्ला रहेको छ । वित्तीय संस्थाको केन्द्रीय कार्यालय तथा हाल सञ्चालनमा रहेका १५ वटा शाखा कार्यालय र निकट भविष्यमा सञ्चालनमा आउने नयाँ शाखा कार्यालयहरूको लागि देशव्यापी बर्गोच्चको दृढ जनशक्ति आवश्यकता परेको हुँदा योग्यता पुगेका इच्छुक नेपाली नागरिकहरूबाट दरखास्त आन्व्यान गरिन्छ ।

क्र.सं.	पद	श्रेणी	संख्या	आवश्यक न्यूनतम योग्यता
१	वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक/प्रबन्धक	व्यवस्थापकीय	एक	स्नातक तह उत्तीर्ण गरी लघुवित्त वित्तीय संस्थामा अधिकृत स्तरमा रही ७ वर्षको कार्य अनुभव हासिल गरेको । समपूर्ण विभागहरूको तथा लघुवित्त कार्यक्रमको कार्य सञ्चालन, योजना, वित्तीय व्यवस्थापन तथा नीति निर्माण तहमा रही काम गर्नुपर्ने ।
२	विभागीय प्रमुख	व्यवस्थापकीय/अधिकृत	केही	स्नातक तह उत्तीर्ण गरी लघुवित्त वित्तीय संस्थामा अधिकृत स्तरमा रही ५ वर्षको कार्य अनुभव हासिल गरेको । कर्जा, अनुगमन, लेखा तथा आन्तरिक लेखापरीक्षणको अनुभव भएकोलाई विशेष प्राथमिकता दिइनेछ ।
३	शाखा प्रबन्धक	अधिकृत/सहायक	केही	अधिकृत स्तरको लागि स्नातक तह उत्तीर्ण गरी लघुवित्तमा २ वर्षको तथा सहायक स्तरको लागि प्रविणता प्राप्तापत्र तह उत्तीर्ण गरी लघुवित्तमा ३ वर्षको कार्य अनुभव हासिल गरेको ।
४	व्यवस्थापन प्रशिक्षार्थी - वरिष्ठ सहायक	सहायक	केही	वाणिज्य/व्यवस्थापन विषय लिई स्नातक तह उत्तीर्ण गरेको । सम्बन्धित क्षेत्रमा अनुभव नभएकाहरूले दरखास्त दिन सक्ने ।
५	सहायक प्रशिक्षार्थी	सहायक	केही	कमिनामा एस.इ.इ. उत्तीर्ण गरेको हुनुपर्ने । व्यवस्थापन विषय लिई १०+२ उत्तीर्ण गरेकोलाई विशेष प्राथमिकता दिइने ।

उमेर : व्यवस्थापकीय श्रेणीका लागि ३० वर्ष पुरा भई ४५ वर्ष ननाथेको, अधिकृत श्रेणीका लागि २१ वर्ष पुरा भई ४० वर्ष ननाथेको र सहायक श्रेणीका लागि १८ वर्ष पुरा भई ३५ वर्ष ननाथेको । तर, महिलाको हकमा माथिल्लो उमेर को हदबन्दीमा ५ वर्ष थप हुनेछ ।

अन्य थप योग्यता : उपरोक्त सबै पदका लागि कम्प्युटरमा राम्रो दक्षता भएको, पहाडी दुर्गम क्षेत्रका फिल्डमा गई काम गर्न रुचाउने तथा सम्बन्धित क्षेत्र र पदमा रही काम गरेकालाई विशेष प्राथमिकता दिइनेछ ।

छनौट सूची (सर्ट लिष्ट) मा परेका उमेदवारहरूलाई मात्र थप प्रक्यामा समावेश गरिनेछ । तलब भन्ना वित्तीय संस्थाको नियमानुसार हुनेछ । इच्छुक उमेदवारहरूले निवेदनका साथ हालसालै खिचेको फोटो सहितको बायोडाटा मिति २०७४/०२/०२ गते भित्र केन्द्रीय तथा शाखा कार्यालयहरूमा वा hr@sparshamicrofinance.com मा पठाउनुहुन सूचित गरिन्छ । उमेदवार छनौट गर्ने वा नगर्ने समुपूर्ण अधिकार वित्तीय संस्थामा निहित हुनेछ ।

पदपूर्ति समिति

स्पर्स लघुवित्त वित्तीय संस्था लि. | केन्द्रीय कार्यालय
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VACANCY NOTICE

First date of notice published - (May 01, 2018 (Baisakh 18,2074)

Mechi Eye Hospital; a not for profit tertiary eye hospital with 220 beds delivering community eye health care services under Mechi Eye Hospital Sangh and being supported by Eye Care Foundation, the Netherlands since its inception on 15th November 1996 is looking for potential and deserving candidates for the following positions:

Post	Nos
1. Anterior Segment Fellowship (Two-year)	: Few
2. Vitreo-retina Fellowship (One-year)	: Few
3. Vitreo-retina Surgeon	: One
4. Oculoplasty Surgeon	: One
5. Pediatric & Strabismus Surgeon	: One
6. Ophthalmic Assistant	: Few

Eligibility Criteria:

- For position no. 1 & 2 - MD/MS in Ophthalmology from recognized University/Institute and willing to undergo anterior segments & retina fellowship in respective subject
- For position no. 3, 4 & 5 - Long-term fellowship in respective sub-specialty from recognized University/Institute
- For position no. 6 - Certificate in Ophthalmic Health Science from CTEVT

Required Documents:

- Professional C.V.
- Professional Qualification Certificate
- NMC Registration Certificate
- Photocopy of Citizenship
- Passport size photo
- NHPC registration for position no. 6

Aspiring candidates should have pleasant personality, sound conceptual & analytical skills and team player with excellent interpersonal & communication skills along with a positive attitude suitable for the profession. **Application should be submitted within 21 days after the first date of notice publication.** Only short listed candidates will be called for the interview. Telephone inquiry is strictly prohibited.

Mechi Eye Hospital
Birtamode-03, Jhapa
Telephone no: 023-541992/541993
Email ID: mecc@ntc.net.np

+2 VACANCY

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Xavier International College is looking for dynamic, hardworking, experienced and highly qualified human resource for the following posts.

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- Hotel Management
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- Mass Communication
- Nepali
- Physics
- Sociology
- Zoology

Qualification

- Min. Master degree in relevant subjects & should have Level 5: 10 Years and above experience in similar institution.
- Level 4: 8-10 Years experience in similar institution.
- Level 3: 4-6 Years experience in similar institution.
- Level 2: 1-3 Years experience in similar institution.
- Level 1: Fresh Graduate in relevant subject with a distinction in area of specialization
- Good command over spoken & written English Language

LAB INSTRUCTOR Full Time

- Physics Lab
- Chemistry Lab
- Zoology Lab
- Botany Lab

Qualification

- Min. Master degree in relevant subjects & must comfortable to work in Science Lab to instruct laboratory procedure.

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATOR Full Time

- Science
- Management
- A level

Qualification

- Min. Bachelor degree in relevant subject & should have interest to manage students activities.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF Full Time

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Store keeper: Bachelor's Degree
Cashier: Bachelor's Degree
Lab Assistants: Bachelor's Degree in science
Web Designer: Web designing & Maintenance Knowledge
Graphic Designer: Designing Knowledge
Staff Nurse: PCL Nursing
Librarian: 2-5 Yrs Exp.
Receptionists: +2 Pass 1-2 Yrs Exp.
Computer data Entry: Computer Knowledge
Office Assistants: Age (18-30 years) SLIC Pass

Last Date for Application Submission
Monday, May 14, 2018 (Baisakh 31, 2075)
Submit Your Resume at: vacancy@xavier.edu.np
Shortlisted candidates will be notified at e-mail with time and date of interview.

जेभियर इन्टरनेसनल कलेज
XAVIER INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE
Kalopul, Kathmandu Tel: 4439471, 4439472

EDITORIAL

Breaking the cartels

Govt action against transport cartels welcome but it shouldn't exceed its bounds in all areas

Rarely in recent Nepali history has the government taken as firm an action as it has been doing in recent days against the transport syndicates. Associations of transport entrepreneurs went on strike after the government made a decision to ban their syndicates. These syndicates have stubbornly opposed competition in the market and consumers have been forced to make do with poor services.

The transport cartels' strike against the government's move was expected to cause widespread hardship to the population. But the government acted swiftly. It took leaders of the strike into detention, stating clearly that they had illegally attempted to hamper essential services. It also cancelled route permits for vehicles belonging to those who participated in the strike. And it has been steadily issuing new permits. These steps have made an impact. The Federation of Nepalese National Transport Entrepreneurs (FNTE) has backed down. It has called off the protests and has asked the government to create a 'conducive environment' for negotiations—a clear indication that it has relented in the face of strong government action and widespread public support for the government's move.

The government has been both weak and unstable for most of the past decade and more. As a result, it hasn't been able to fulfil some of its responsibilities, such as adequately regulating various bodies in society. Unsurprisingly, numerous associations of entrepreneurs have taken advantage of this lacuna. Syndicates and cartels in almost every section of the private sector created regulations that allowed for the establishment of monopolies. They prevented competition from new entrants, and provided shoddy services for high prices. The government's efforts to wrest greater control over syndicates and cartels has thus been long overdue. We hope that recent steps will bring major reforms and improvements to the transport sector. We also hope that the government will take action against other syndicates and cartels, too—many of which have historically been supported by influential political leaders.

At the same time, however, we would like to caution against the official overreach. The government can legitimately intervene in areas where there is clearly an abuse of authority, such as in the transport sector. However, influential political leaders might feel the temptation to use highhanded tactics against organisations and civil society groups simply because they don't like them for various reasons, or view them as rivals. This would be a grave mistake.

The government has so far received public support for its actions. But public opinion could easily turn against it if it is seen to be taking action against societal groups solely due to political disagreements or because of vested interests. There are already some worrying signs that at least some members of the ruling left alliance seem to believe that any opposition to the government is unhelpful for governance and hence needs to be curtailed.

For example, there have been steps taken to prevent protests in certain areas of the capital.

While monitoring certain areas deemed sensitive to security is understandable, there are risks that the idea of 'good governance' could be unduly stretched. It should be said that broad attacks on non-state groups will constitute an attack on democracy. While the government is legitimately entitled to curtail organisations that abuse their authority, as the transport syndicates had in the recent case, it should be careful not to exceed the bounds allowed by democratic norms.

Remittance for development

It can be used more productively by promoting savings, but there is no doubt that remittance has increased the standard of living of recipients



BHUBANESH PANT

Migrants' remittances, one of the largest and reliable sources of external funds for developing countries, have been soaring in recent years. Although they are second only to foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows with respect to scale, remittances amount to over three times the value of official development aid and eight times private capital. These flows have surged five-fold in the past 15 years. This upsurge as well as the potential for remittances to lower poverty and economic vulnerability, improve family welfare, and accelerate economic development has renewed academic and public policy interest on the issue.

According to World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief released in April 2018, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) rose by 8.5 percent to \$466 billion in 2017. The increase is expected to continue in 2018 to reach \$485 billion. Likewise, remittances to South Asia increased by 5.8 percent in 2017 following a decline by 6.1 percent in 2016. This trend is also likely to prevail into 2018 owing to stronger economic conditions in developed economies (especially the United States) along with a modest increase in oil prices that should have a positive impact on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. An important challenge for the governments of South Asia is to employ remittances to nurture their financial sectors and invest in targeted development projects, especially in infrastructure.

Benefits, motives and risks

Macroeconomic studies demonstrate that though remittances are affected by the economic cycles of source and host countries, they provide a crucial avenue of foreign currency, boost national income, finance imports and contribute to the balance of payments. While other capital flows appear to rise during favourable economic cycles and fall in periods of economic downturn, remittances seem to react less violently and exhibit incredible stability over time. For instance, a year after the global financial crisis in 2008, remittance inflows to emerging markets continued to go up by 6 percent while capital flows plummeted by



14 percent. Likewise, remittances seem to be better targeted at the requirements of the poor, over foreign aid or FDI, as recipients generally rely on remittances to cover daily living expenses or to undertake small investments in business. Likewise, migrants have been sending more money to their families back home in periods of economic downturns, financial crises, or natural disasters.

Theoretically, remittances are guided by different motives, which can also justify their behaviour during business cycle fluctuations. For instance, if the motive is generally altruistic, remittances are likely to be countercyclical, that is, they rise when a recipient economy is in a slump. Another view looks at remittances as an investment by migrants in their home country, encouraging them to send more money to garner higher future returns. In these instances, remittances can be pro-cyclical. In the case of low income countries, however, unlike other types of capital flow, remittances respond to the needs of households and not the profit-seeking aims of investors.

Global evidence indicates that recipient households generally have higher levels of consumer spending and lower incidences of extreme poverty than those who do not obtain remittances, implying that remittances have been playing an instrumental role as a 'powerful anti-poverty force'.

According to the International Fund for Agricultural Development, about 40 percent of total remittance flows are directed

to the rural areas, thereby facilitating the growth of the agricultural economy, improving food security and creating employment opportunities, especially for the youth.

Despite these potential benefits, it is also contended that massive remittance inflows could have adverse consequences for the economy (in the country of origin) through brain drain and decreased supply of active labour force, inflation and exchange rate appreciation. Another criticism is that they can create a 'dependency effect' among the family members that are left behind, who opt to rely on remittances rather than continuing to explore employment opportunities.

Nepal's experience

In Nepal's case, remittance transfers often consist of relatively small amounts in themselves but connote a lifeline for the recipients, contributing to a sizable share of the gross domestic product (GDP)—about 29 percent in 2017. This income has been increasing the standard of living, particularly of those in rural areas and also covering basic needs such as food, education, health and housing. It has also created opportunities to save, invest and build assets. Moreover, it has also acted as a form of insurance for the country against exogenous shocks such as the great earthquake of April 2015 where it played a pivotal part in the rehabilitation efforts in the country.

Studies demonstrate that though remittances are affected by the economic cycles of source and host countries, they provide a crucial avenue of foreign currency, boost national income, finance imports and contribute to the balance of payments

While there have been apprehensions about the brain drain, remittance-dependence, and the adverse impact on Nepal's export competitiveness due to pressure on currency appreciation, remittances so far seem to have made positive contributions to the economy. However, different case studies have divulged that remittances have been primarily utilised to finance consumption rather than being channelled to increase productive capacity. Still, spending remittances on consumption often leads to improved health, education and human capital, augmenting both private and public welfare. Similarly, a large portion of the remittance-related investment have also increased the stock of wealth of the migrant household in the form of land and housing, all of which have indirect macro-economic impacts on development.

Remittances, as private flows, can be leveraged via incentives that safeguard migrants' rights while allowing them to make use of their earnings in pro-development ways. In this respect, projects need to be based on the requirements and priorities of the local population. Likewise, financial services need to be customised through novel means. While financial services can, on the one hand, incentivise savings and investment behaviour, they also need to consider the diverse needs of remittance recipients on the other. However, this is not happening in Nepal.

Overall, the positive impacts on poverty and development become greater when remittances can be saved and invested in infrastructures and productive capacity. Moreover, the development impact of remittances can only be fully achieved in partnership with sound and realistic public policies and priorities, along with private-sector initiatives. Still, it must be clearly understood that while the inflow of remittances can make a vital contribution to poverty reduction and local development in the country, it should not be regarded as a substitute for national development and poverty reduction strategy.

Pant is with Nepal Rastra Bank

Empowering Bangladesh's female garment workers

Women with jobs in the country's largest industry are now imperilled on two fronts



RUCHIRA TABASSUM NAVED & SADIKA AKHTER

Dhaka—For four decades, the garment industry has powered Bangladesh's economy and put more people to work than any other sector. Women in particular have benefited from this hiring boom, and today, a majority of the industry's four million employees are female.

But while the textile trade has put money in women's purses and challenged a patriarchal society to evolve, economic empowerment has not greatly improved gender equality and female wellbeing. On the contrary women with jobs in Bangladesh's largest industry are now imperilled on two fronts—at home and at work.

While much has been written about exploitation in the garment industry, there is a paucity of data on the health and safety implications for women in this sector. Our organization, icddr (International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh), is working to change this. In a series of recent studies, we explored the health and welfare issues—both physical and emotional—faced by women who produce clothing that they will never be able to afford.

The women we spoke with shared markedly similar stories. Most were or had been married, are poorly educated, and migrated to cities from poverty-stricken households in Bangladesh to work and support their families. Most interviewees reported working at least ten hours per day, every day. Many work overtime to meet their daily production quota of 100



shirts per hour. And, depending on their position, they spend the entirety of their shifts either standing (if they are quality inspectors), sitting (if they are machine operators), or moving (if they are factory-floor helpers).

But what makes our studies unique is the information we collected about what happens after work. And here, the data are even more striking.

For starters, most married female workers' workdays don't end when their shift at the factory does. Back at home, they are expected to cook, clean, and perform other household chores—work on top of work that leaves them exhausted and prone to illness. Pregnant women in particular suffer significant health problems, such as hypertension, owing to their brutal schedules. And yet most women, needing the income, continue working and hide their pregnancies as long as possible, out of fear that supervisors will fire them when they find out.

This also takes an emotional toll. Working mothers from rural villages report experiencing high levels of guilt, anxiety, and stress caused by being away from the children whom they often have to

leave in their home village, because they cannot afford—in terms of time or money—to care for them in Dhaka.

Two out of five workers show suicidal tendencies. Yet the factory health-care systems that we have studied do not treat mental illness as a serious problem. In fact, most factories do not have any mental-health-care provisions at all for their workers. As a result, most women suffer in silence.

Finally, our research identified a disturbing correlation between employment in the garment industry and violence (physical, emotional, and sexual) against women. A staggering 43% of respondents said they had been sexually assaulted by a spouse during the previous year. To put this figure in perspective, the national average for this form of violence is 13%. While we don't have the data for a conclusive assessment of why rates of abuse are so high in the garment trade, the data are consistent with the prevailing popular view that women in this field are somehow associated with sex work and sexual promiscuity.

There is no doubt that women in Bangladesh have earned a degree of

autonomy and financial independence from their participation in the garment industry. But, as our data illustrate, these gains have come at a cost. And, although activists and industry insiders recognize that attitudes and abusive practices toward female workers must change, there is currently no consensus about how to proceed.

We think it is time to change that, and a good place to start would be by pushing multinational firms to make gender equality a high priority. Many of the global brands that rely on Bangladesh's factories have committed to gender parity in their corporate offices. They should do the same on the production side, where managerial positions are occupied almost exclusively by men, a disparity that reinforces the gender imbalance elsewhere in society.

But perhaps the most important change to be made is to engage men in a dialogue on gender. In several African countries, gender-sensitization initiatives have reduced discrimination and violence against women. One program in West Africa, for example, brings husbands and wives together for mediated "dialogue sessions" to improve women's role in financial decision-making. To make similar gains in Bangladesh, profound changes in policies and programs are needed. The garment industry and men more broadly must commit to the goal of women's empowerment.

After nearly 40 years on the job, women are the driving force behind Bangladesh's most important industry. But at the moment, they are paying too high a physical and emotional price.

Ruchira Tabassum Naved is a social scientist and gender specialist at icddr; b. Sadika Akhter is an anthropologist working as a deputy project coordinator at icddr; b.

—Project Syndicate

WORLDVIEW

Not this week...

The Swedish Academy is today a discredited entity. Not merely in the context of Friday's announcement that there will be no Nobel for Literature this year. In a sense, the august entity has imploded. A sexual harassment scandal in the secretive Swedish Academy that selects each year's Laureate, has forced the deferment of this year's prize. When the prize was founded, it seemed possible that world literature could be judged in its entirety from Stockholm by scholars who could all read fluently in the four or five European languages that they reckoned to be civilised. The cultural and political authority of Western Europe has collapsed since then. So has the ideal of a global culture. The Academy has been brutally frank to admit that what it calls "unacceptable behaviour in the form of unwanted intimacy" took place within its ranks. It shall not be easy to shore up its credibility.

Against violence

KHILENDRA BASNYAT

Violence against women includes trafficking, rape, marital rape, incest, mental torment, gender discrimination, rough treatment, physical torture, and verbal and sexual abuse. Generally, violence is an impediment to accomplishing the objectives of quality, development and peace. It violates, impairs and nullifies human rights and basic freedoms. From time immemorial, violence against women has proven to be an effective weapon in the hands of men through which they have exploited women and established their supremacy.

It is insidious but a pervasive instrument of oppression of women.

The abuse of women by their male partners is among the most pervasive and dangerous forms of gender-based violence. It generates an extreme state of dependency and severe symptoms that comprise the traumatic stress disorders experienced by victims of violence. Men who engage in wife abuse are more likely to have a history of alcohol abuse. They may also have witnessed physical abuse in the family as children. However, research has revealed that not all men attack their wives violently after drinking alcohol. A survey has also shown

that unemployed and lower income men abuse their wives more than employed and higher income men. Frustration or stress might explain why unemployed and blue collar workers have a higher rate of violence than others. A patriarchal mindset takes for granted that men should dominate women in all sectors including family life and interpersonal relations. This belief is seen to be normal and natural even in sections of modern society.

A failure to prevent violence against women has been a matter of great con-

cern in most countries. In order to confront violence in a patriarchal society, women should be able to use their own discretion and strength. In many countries, low enrolment of girls in school and high failure and dropout rates are

generally attributed to household work burden, irregularity of school operation, poverty, physical distance of the school, caste and ethnic discrimination, negligence of the mother tongue in schooling and parents' disinclination towards education. This is why the literacy rate of women is still low in these countries.

Most evils in the world today are consequences of inequality. Women also find themselves being exploited and their rights being abused. When gender bias favours males, there is a necessity for specific approaches to eradicate the special barriers that prevent girls from enjoying educational opportunities. In this context, propagation of formal and non-formal education is of immense importance. Moreover, the mass media, both electronic and print, should play a significant role in keeping the public informed about the enormity and proportion of this inhuman problem.

INTERVIEW JYOTI BANIYA

IF GOVT BREAKS SOME SYNDICATES SUCCESSFULLY, IT SETS A PRECEDENT FOR THE FUTURE

The scrapping of more route permits and the arresting of protestors involved in the recent nationwide strike called by the Federation of Nepalese National Transport Entrepreneurs (FNTE) has only reinforced the government's decision to end the cartel system in public transportation. **Mukul Humagain** and **Chandan Kumar Mandal** talked to advocate and chair of the Forum for Protection of Consumer Rights Nepal, Jyoti Baniya, about the syndicate in public transportation and how such practices have hindered our rights as consumers.



POST PHOTO: ANISH REGMI

This is the first time the government has taken a firm stance against cartels in the public transportation sector and its actions have been broadly welcomed by the public. What precedent will this set against the problem of cartels in general?

state. How have they managed to reach this point?

The committees have gained strength because they allow members into their organisation, and thus gain power over their vehicles. They then use these vehicles and earn substantial amounts.

They earn huge amounts by charging prices much higher than the government's allocated price. Some of this money is used as contribution to political parties. This has made the syndicates politically strong.

At present the actions taken by the government, though laudable, are just at an initial stage. In order to completely do away with this problem of cartels, all the committees must be done away with, and the companies must be made accountable so that they pay tax and maintain profits that are earned in a legal manner.

The transport sector is still one of the main indicators of human development. Therefore, until this sector is improved, the country's progress will be impaired.

What more should the government do to ensure that cartels are done away with permanently?

Presently the government is doing two things. First, it is finally implementing a law that has been in place for a while, and second, it is upholding a decision made by the SC and implementing it. But we had to wait a long time for this to occur.

The law has finally been implemented due to the efforts of a select few, mainly the PM, the Home Minister, a few secretaries at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), and Rupnarayan Bhattarai, the Director General of the Department of Transportation Management (DoTM). So the combined efforts and will power of members of the bureaucracy and political leaders has made this possible.

Now, the most important task of the government is to implement the last decision made by the Supreme Court. The decision required the lawmakers to look into issues by forming a high level investigation committee that would take into consideration the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1969.

One issue concerns the route permit. According to the SC, three committees must be in operation along one route. However, now, only one committee is operating along one route. This means that the consumer does not have the option of choosing, as they have no service alternatives.

The SC also states that organisations that have been registered as social organisations are not allowed to function as businesses. In order to a run as a business, such organisations have to be registered as companies, and thus be taxable. Issues of route fixation and insurance also have to be addressed. Questions regarding third party insurance, passenger insurance, goods, etc. are addressed by the law but not implemented. For example, the law mentions that if anyone's luggage is lost, the passengers have to be compensated. But this rarely happens. Transportation fare is also an issue that must be given due consideration. Despite the court insisting time and again, the allocation of fare has failed to happen in a consistent manner. For example while the starting prices for the fares should start from either Rs10 or 13, in reality they start from Rs15.

The government must stay firm. Breaking even three to four syndicates would give the national economy huge relief. The government must also ensure that organisations within the transportation sector are formally registered as companies within June/July this year. If the organisations fail to do so, the government must take action to revoke all previously granted route permits.

There must also be an increase in the operation of government owned transportation companies such as Sajha Yatayat. It should start operating in different parts of Nepal and the government must come up with a few other such companies too. Transportation is akin to blood circulation in the body: it's vital. Unless we get rid of syndicates, Nepal cannot function smoothly.

The syndicate in carrier services is another such cartel that has far reaching effects on both the economy and the people. What are some of its over-arching impacts?

The impact of the syndicate in carrier services is massive. When it comes to tankers, there are only 42 companies that run almost 400-500 tankers. Those limited companies have transactions amounting to Rs1.80 billion annually. Of this, these companies claim 10 percent of the total transaction as shrinkage-technical loss, which in this case amounts to Rs180 million annually. So, if the 42 companies earn that amount purely under the tag of technical loss, giving away a portion

of that amount to the ministers and others is hardly an issue.

Therefore, until the syndicate in carrier services is not broken as well, the citizen and the country will keep suffering. The economy and the people will be continually plagued by inflation.

According to Article 44 of the Constitution of Nepal, every citizen is entitled to quality products and services. Consumer rights are a fundamental right of the people. Similarly, Article 51 Section D (7) mentions that the black market should be done away with and syndicates should be ended to ensure the protection of consumer rights. So the present action by the government shows that it is trying to implement article 44 and 51 D (7) of the constitution.

How many other types of syndicates are there in Nepal except for the ones seen in public transportation and carrier services?

The primary motive for forming an association seems to be guided by how to extract more money from the consumers, how to set the price, and how to stop other players from entering your market. For example, Nepal Bar Council said that it will allow only 45 percent of the people to enter the council as lawyers. If there is such a practice in an institution that is supposed to represent the rule of law, we can only imagine what the situation in other areas is like. Other examples include the association for automobile industries, bankers association, association for brick industries, cement producers, dairy producers, vegetable traders etc. So it seems that such cartels are present almost everywhere. This is the reason why the government is becoming poorer and poorer while certain individuals are becoming richer and richer.

The government must end the culture of cartels if the Nepal's economy is to be rescued.

Is the existing law in Nepal enough to address such issues?

There is no law regarding the market in Nepal like those that exist in foreign countries. The Consumer Rights Protection Act came as a

protocol of the UN, but even this has been ineffective.

But as mentioned earlier consumer rights has been addressed as a fundamental right by the constitution, which is a good thing. Because of that, within the next three years, laws pertaining to consumer protection with a consumer court must be presented in the parliament. The Law Commission made the first draft pertaining to this and I was involved as an expert. To polish the law even further, there is a committee being formed comprising of five former secretaries of the Ministry of Law. I am a member of this team as well.

If the government is successful in introducing the Consumer Protection Law and then implementing it, then a lot of the problems we see today in the market will be reduced. For example, consumers do not have the option of the Right to Recall at present. But if we bring this law into effect, then the consumers will be able to recall any product within seven days if the consumer does not like it, or if it does not function properly, etc.

Pricing is another factor. Be they goods produced locally or imported, if the consumers are charged more than 20 percent of the marked price, it is considered a big crime in foreign countries. But here we do not follow such practices. However, there is a consumer court now. So the consumers have a place to come if they feel cheated. Some have gotten some compensation too.

Are anti-dumping laws required to protect the rights of the consumers?

Market Act, Anti-dumping Act, Competition Law and then the Consumer Law Protection Act—this is the order in which these acts should have been introduced. Yet we don't have the first two and even the third one has not been that effective. Policy corruption while implementing a law is a huge factor behind all this. Laws always favour the business people. Our basic understanding of a market economy is flawed. A market economy does not only mean letting the market decide the prices for goods and services. While that is one aspect of it, markets must also look after the interests of its consumers.

“According to Article 44 of the Constitution of Nepal, every citizen is entitled to quality products and services—consumer rights are a fundamental right of the people



Facing Facebook's responsibility

When Facebook went public in May 2012, its capacity for effective corporate governance was already in doubt



LUCY P MARCUS

London—When Facebook went public in May 2012, its capacity for effective corporate governance was already in doubt. Fast-forward six years, and Facebook has accumulated massive power, access, and influence—and, in many ways, proved the doubters right. The doubters were no small minority. On the contrary, it was the general consensus among investors and advisers that Facebook was too large, with too much potential for growth and not nearly enough capacity to protect adequately the personal information of the platform's millions of users.

As I put it at the time, “Facebook swims against the tide of a global movement toward transparency, engagement, and checks and balances. It feels as if we've all stepped into a time machine and none of the past couple of years of governance lessons—including the failures of boards in the banking-sector crisis—ever happened.”

But, as is so often the case, euphoria got the best of investors. For those who threw in their lot with Facebook, watching CEO Mark Zuckerberg testify before the US Congress in early April—following the revelation that nearly 90 million users' personal data was harvested by the political consultancy Cambridge Analytica—must have been a rude awakening.

Zuckerberg's testimony was punctuated by apologies. But, though he technically claimed responsibility for Facebook's failure to protect against “fake news, foreign interference in elections, and hate speech” or to preserve data privacy, he portrayed Facebook as an “idealistic” company focused on “connecting people.”

This echoed Zuckerberg's earlier attempts to paint himself, when convenient, as a wide-eyed young leader. In an interview with CNN, he declared that he had taken companies like Cambridge Analytica at their word when they told Facebook that they didn't keep any Facebook data. When challenged by CNN as to why no audit had been performed, he responded with a snide edge, “I don't know about you, but I'm used to when people legally certify that they are going to do something, that they do it.”

Zuckerberg's apologies to Congress ring all the more hollow, given that they are hardly the first Facebook has had to issue. Last October, following the revelation that Russian-linked groups had purchased more than \$100,000 worth of ads on the platform to influence the 2016 presidential election, the company sent its COO, Sheryl Sandberg, to Washington, DC, to conduct damage control.

Meeting with various elected leaders—from the Congressional Black Caucus to lawmakers investigating Russian election meddling—Sandberg repeatedly pledged to “do better,” presumably meaning that Facebook would invest in rooting out fake news

and vetting advertisers more closely. But, by treating a failure of governance as a corporate communications crisis, Facebook allowed its real problems to continue to grow.

Some argue that Facebook users can blame only themselves for privacy breaches. After all, they signed up for a free platform, and willingly provided their data. It isn't Facebook's fault if they failed to read the fine print.

Yet the expectation of reasonable consumer protection is built into our economies. If a company sells you a car that, say, is not adequately tested, resulting in injury, the company pays a price. The same goes for virtually

any other consumer-facing business, from airlines to foods suppliers. A restaurant cannot evade responsibility for serving expired food simply by posting a sign saying, “Customers Beware.”

When it comes to Facebook, moreover, users are not just passive consumers, given that the company traffics in their data. (It is worth noting that, as Zuckerberg admitted before Congress, Facebook collects data even from people who don't have an account, through their friends and their browsers, though the company wouldn't be able to sell this data.)

Facebook users are essentially laborers being subcontracted to

manufacture the product (data) that the company sells. And we do, to some extent, hold companies to account for their subcontractors' working conditions. At the very least, we subject them to regulation and oversight.

So Facebook owes its users protections, in their capacity as both consumers and producers. The question is how to get the company to fulfill that obligation.

With Zuckerberg maintaining most of the voting power, Facebook's board has little ability to make change without his assent. At the company's annual stockholder meeting last year, five proposals for how to begin addressing

some of Facebook's weaknesses were voted down.

That included proposals to publish a report on gender pay equity, and one on the public-policy issues associated with managing fake news and hate speech, including the impact on the democratic process, free speech, and a cohesive society. There was also a proposal for Facebook fully to disclose its spending on political lobbying. And there were proposals to nominate an independent board chair and change the shareholder-voting structure to reduce Zuckerberg's influence.

It is a cliché that with great power comes great responsibility. But it is one that Zuckerberg should take to heart. He is the CEO of a hugely influential company, on the back of which an entirely new industry is being built: according to a 2017 report from Deloitte, Facebook enabled \$227 billion of economic activity and contributed to the creation of 4.5 million jobs globally in 2014. Given the company's reach, and the fact that the platform is notoriously difficult to opt out of, wide-eyed apologies will no longer cut it.

Facebook needs to take responsibility for its behavior in a way befitting its influence, by changing its governance and operational behavior. The challenge runs far deeper than whether users click “Agree” on a new set of “Terms and Conditions.” It goes to the heart of how Facebook is run.

Lucy P. Marcus is CEO of Marcus Venture Consulting.
—Project Syndicate





Xavi set to continue playing

Former Barcelona and Spain midfielder Xavi Hernandez upset his own plans to retire and announced he will extend his career until at least the end of this year. The World Cup champion and four-times Champions League winner, who plays for Qatari club Al Sadd, said he feels fit enough to continue playing a little longer.

Neymar starts work out in gym

Neymar returned to the Paris Saint-Germain training centre on Saturday and the club tweeted photos of the Brazilian working out in gym. The pictures showed the world's most expensive player grimacing as he lifted weights and working out on leg-strengthening equipment. One photo showed him walking barefoot in a sand-covered area used by players returning from injury.



Sousa reaches Estoril final

Portugal's Joao Sousa recorded a popular victory on Saturday, beating Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (7/4) to reach the final of the Estoril Open. He is the first local since Federico Gil in 2010 to make the home final. Sousa will be aiming for his first trophy since winning at Valencia in 2015 as he plays American Frances Tiafoe.



Ostapenko, Venus knocked out

REUTERS
MADRID, MAY 6

French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko's preparations in the run-up to the clay-court major hit the skids in the first round of the Madrid Open on Saturday as she was beaten 6-3, 6-3 by unseeded Romanian Irina-Camelia Begu.

The Latvian has failed to scale the same heights she reached last year when she

emerged out of nowhere to conquer Roland Garros. But if the 20-year-old harbours any hopes of repeating that run in Paris later this month, she will have to make a vast improvement. Joining her at the exit was American Venus Williams, a runner-up in Madrid in 2010. She was beaten 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 by Estonian Anett Kontaveit.

World No 4 Elina Svitolina and former world No 1 Karolina Pliskova, however,

aced to sweep past Elena Vesnina 6-4, 6-2. "I think I could play much better. Some parts were good, but my concentration was up and down," Pliskova said.

The duo will be joined by French seventh seed Caroline Garcia and Russian Daria Kasatkina in the next stage. American 12th-seed Coco Vandeweghe's defeat by unseeded Frenchwoman Kristina Mladenovic was the other upset of the day.

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Hardik Pandya of Mumbai Indians plays a stroke against Kolkata Knight Riders during their Indian Premier League match at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Sunday. PHOTO COURTESY: CRICINFO.COM

Pandya lifts Mumbai

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, MAY 6

Mumbai Indians erased off their Monday blues ahead of the new week as they earned a morale-boosting 13-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League (IPL) match at the Wankhede Stadium thanks to an all-round performance from Hardik Pandya and a gritty half-century by Suryakumar Yadav (59).

Electing to bowl first, the visitors conceded 91 runs for the first wicket, with openers Suryakumar and Evin Lewis (43) looking dangerous. While Suryakumar continued his impressive form this season, Lewis missed out on what would have been just his second IPL fifty. Interestingly, this was the third time that the West Indian youngster got out in the forties this season, previously having been dismissed for 47 and 48 against Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Daredevils respectively. However, all was not going

well for the hosts, as they soon lost captain Rohit Sharma (11), who was followed by Suryakumar. This was followed by a 24-run stand between Pandya brothers—Hardik and Krunal (14). But the hosts got their confidence back as Hardik (35) and JP Duminy (13) aggregated 30 runs in three overs to finish at 181-5. Kolkata promoted Shubman Gill to the opening slot with Chris Lynn following his match-winning effort of 57 against Chennai Super Kings in the previous game. Sunil Narine was demoted to No 7 in the batting order.

In reply, Kolkata lost openers Chris Lynn (17) and Gill (7) in quick succession. Struggling at 28-2, Robin Uthappa (54) and Nitish Rana (31) put up a brave effort and built a 84-run stand.

However, in the span of exactly an over, Rana departed as Hardik got his second wicket. With Kolkata needing 23 runs off the final over, Narine was dismissed by Krunal ending any hopes of

IPL STANDINGS

Teams	M	W	L	T	N/R	PT
Hyderabad	9	7	2	0	0	14
Chennai	10	7	3	0	0	14
Kolkata	10	5	5	0	0	10
Punjab	8	5	3	0	0	10
Mumbai	10	4	6	0	0	8
Bangalore	9	3	6	0	0	6
Delhi	10	3	7	0	0	6
Rajasthan	8	3	5	0	0	6

Summary

Mumbai Indians 181-4 in 20 overs (S Yadav 59, E Lewis 43; A Russell 2-12, S Narine 2-35) beat Kolkata Knight Riders 168-6 in 20 overs (R Uthappa 54, D Karthik 36*; H Pandya 2-19, M McClenaghan 1-30) by 13 runs
Man-of-the-match: H Pandya (MI)

just three of their 10 games.

Chasing 164 to win, Alex Hales (45) and Shikhar Dhawan (33) provided Hyderabad a confident start of 76 runs in nine overs. But Delhi should have got rid of Hales in the second over when Glenn Maxwell dropped a sitter in the deep. Leg spinner Amit Mishra clean-bowled both openers in successive overs but Delhi missed another opportunity when Pathan was also dropped in the deep by Vijay Shankar in the 18th over before he scored. With 14 required off the last over, Pathan hit 2-6-4-1 off Dan Christian's first four deliveries, and Williamson finished off Delhi.

Williamson scored 32 not out and Pathan hit two sixes and two fours in 27 not out off 12 balls. Delhi captain Shreyas Iyer opted to bat first and he (44) and Prithvi Shaw (65 off 36 balls) spearheaded them to 95-1 in 10 overs. But Hyderabad struck back through leg spinner Rashid Khan (2-23) to restrict Delhi to 163-5.

the visitors.
On Saturday, Sunrisers Hyderabad pulled off their highest successful chase in this season's IPL. Kane Williamson and Yusuf Pathan led Hyderabad to 164-3 to beat Delhi Daredevils by seven wickets with one ball remaining. The Daredevils have won

damak gold cup
NPC DEFEAT THREE STAR, ENTER SEMIS

ARJUN RAJBANSHI
DAMAK, MAY 6

Nepal Police Club (NPC) defeated Three Star Club 1-0 to enter the semi-finals of the Damak Gold Cup football tournament on Sunday.

Avishek Rijal headed home the winning goal in the 57th minute as the departmental team avenged their quarter-final defeat in the Mai Valley Gold Cup in Ilam on April 26. NPC will take on Nepal Armed Police Force (APF) Club on Tuesday. The entertaining match saw Three Star test NPC custodian Kiran Chemjong early in the seventh minute when he was forced to punch out a Sunil Bal scorching to safety. A minute later Bal fired whiskers away from the target.

Despite the early pressure, NPC scored against the run of play thanks of Rijal. Bal came close to equalising in the 67th minute only to see his headed attempt off target. Both teams appeared desperate to score goals in the last 20 minutes but none succeeded. Tej Tamang of NPC was denied by Three Star goalie Alan Neupane in the 81st minute.

Three Star also came closer to equalising two minutes late but NPC somehow scrambled the ball away to safety after Chemjong fumbled the ball inside the area. The NPC glovesman was declared man-of-the-match and won Rs 11,000. Manang Marshyangdi Club will take on Saraswati Club on Monday. The tournament offers purse of Rs 1,311,000 to the champions and Rs 600,000 to the runners-up.

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Pyuthan Municipality
Office of the Municipal Executive
Bijuar, Pyuthan

INVITATION FOR SEALED BIDS/SEALED QUOTATION

First Date of Publication: 2075/01/24 B.S (7th May 2018 AD)

- Office of the Municipal Executive, Pyuthan (OME Pyuthan) has received grant from GON for construction Bijuar Mitramani chowk to Administrative Building of Pyuthan Municipality Premix carpeting pavement Road Extension, Jhimruk River Training Work (Tikuri buspark), Kharibot-Majuwa-Thulasim-Chundarikhola-chucha Rural Road maintenance Project, Gejbang-Managau-Lamchayangneta Rural Road maintenance Project, Jumri Stream Training works & Jhimruk River Training works (Danti Area) and OME Pyuthan intends to apply the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract for construction of works and further OME Pyuthan allocates fund. Bidding is open to all eligible Nepalese Bidders.
- The OME Pyuthan invites sealed bids/quotation from registered eligible bidders for the construction of Bijuar Mitramani chowk to Administrative Building of Pyuthan Municipality Premix carpeting pavement Road Extension, Jhimruk River Training Work (Tikuri buspark), Kharibot-Majuwa-Thulasim-Chundarikhola-chucha Rural Road maintenance Project, Gejbang-Managau-Lamchayangneta Rural Road maintenance Project, Jumri Stream Training works & Jhimruk River Training works (Danti Area).
- The Bidder having valid firm registration, VAT/PAN registration certificates, tax clearance certificate up to FY 2073/074 are eligible for bidding.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at Pyuthan Municipality Office, Pyuthan Phone No. 086-460291 or may visit E-procurement section of PPMO's Web Site <https://bolpatra.gov.np/egp>.
- Bidding Documents may be purchased from the office of the OME, Pyuthan by eligible Bidders on the submission of a written application, along with the copy of company/firm registration certificate, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as stated below for bid document within office hour of 2075/02/22 & In case of Contract No 11,14 & 15 Re-Bidding/Bidding Documents may be purchased from the office of the OME, Pyuthan by eligible Bidders on the submission of a written application, along with the copy of company/firm registration certificate, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as stated below for bid document within office hour of 2075/02/07 OR Bidder who chooses to submit their bid electronically may purchase the hard copy of the bidding documents as mentioned above or from PPMO's Web Site <https://bolpatra.gov.np/egp>. Bidders, submitting their bid electronically, should deposit the cost of Three thousands of bidding document in the OME Pyuthan's Rajaswa (revenue) account as specified below and the scanned copy (pdf format) of the Bank deposit voucher shall be uploaded by the bidder at the time of electronic submission of the bids.

Name of Bank: Nepal Bank Limited, Khalanga, Pyuthan
Name of Office: Office of Municipality executive, Pyuthan bijuar
Revenue Account: 0520300000004001159 & Deposit Account: 0520300000003000024

- In case of Contract no 10,12&13** Bids must be submitted to the Office of the Municipal Executive Pyuthan on or before 12:00 hrs on 2075/02/23 & **In case of contract no 11,14 & 15 Bid Must be submitted** to the Office of the municipal executive Pyuthan on or before 12:00 hrs on 2075/02/08, Bidders may submit their bid electronically through E-Procurement section of PPMO's Web Site <https://bolpatra.gov.np/egp> as specified in the Instruction to Bidders. Documents received after deadline will not be accepted.
- The bids will be opened physically and electronically in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 14:00 hrs on 2075/02/23. **In case of Contract no. 11, 13&14 Bid should be opened at 14:00hrs On 2075/02/08** at OME, Pyuthan Bijuar. Bids must be valid for a period of 90 days after the deadline for bid submission date and must be accompanied by minimum bid security amount listed below, which shall be valid for 30 days beyond the bid validity period. In case of Contract no 11,14,&15 Bid must be valid For a period of 75 days after the deadline for bid submission date & must be accompanied by minimum bid security amount listed below, which shall be valid for 30 days beyond the bid validity period.
- If the last date of purchasing, submission and opening falls on a government holiday then the next working day shall be considered as the last day.
- In the Case of **contract no 10,12 & 13 AND Contract no 11,14 & 15** the Pre-bid Meeting shall be held at OME, Pyuthan on 2075/02/06 and 2075/02/03 at 14:00 hrs respectively
- The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject, wholly or partly any or all the bids without assigning any reason, whatsoever.
- The name and identification of the contract are as follows:

SNo	Contract ID No	Description of Work	Estimated Amount (Excluding VAT & Contingencies)	Bid Security Amount	Bid Document Cost	Remarks
1	10-Mun-207475/Road	Bijuar Mitramani Chowk To Administrative Building of Pyuthan municipality Premix Carpeting Pavement Road Extension .	3412626.87	100000	3000	Sealed Bid
2	11-mun-2074-75/RT	Jhimruk River Training work (Tikuri buspark)	2642522.50	77000	3000	Re-Sealed Bid
3	12-Mun-2074-75/RB	Kharibot Majuwa-Thulasim Chundarikhola chucha Rural Road maintenance Project	2116525.514	62000	3000	Sealed Bid
4	13-Mun-2074-75/RB	Gejbang-Managau-Lamchayangneta Rural Road maintenance Project.	2115529.05	62000	3000	Sealed Bid
5	14-Mun-2074-75/RT	Jumri Stream Training works	1,470,052.37	43000	1000	Sealed Quotation
6	15-Mun-2074-75/RT	Jhimruk River Training works (Danti Area)	1,263,037.45	37000	1000	Sealed Quotation

Chief Administrative Officer
Pyuthan Municipality

MAN CITY CELEBRATE TITLE TRIUMPH



Premier League champions Manchester City celebrate with the trophy after their game against Huddersfield at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester on Sunday.

REUTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MANCHESTER, MAY 6

It took three weeks for Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany to finally get his hands on the English Premier League trophy but, on a day of celebrations at the Etihad, a goalless draw may prove to have left Huddersfield Town as the big winners.

A strong showing from the struggling visitors earned a valuable point which may be enough to keep them in the league next season, an impressive achievement given their limited budget. They also kept at bay a bid by Pep Guardiola's runaway champions to set new Premier League records for the most goals, points and wins in a season—all marks which could yet be claimed by City in the year's final week

in which they play Brighton and Southampton.

But, after a delay while uninvited supporters were removed from the field, Guardiola was finally able to see his team presented with the trophy, the third major country in which he has managed a team to a title following successes in Spain and Germany with Barcelona and Bayern Munich respectively. The celebrations for City's third title in seven seasons began well before kickoff, both inside and outside their Etihad home ground.

Fans were issued with blue and white flags, creating a colourful vista to greet the champions as they were given yet another guard of honour on their way onto the field before kickoff. They were also met by the survivors of City's famous

1968 Championship-winning side, a squad led so memorably by club legends Colin Bell, Francis Lee and Mike Summerbee who were all on hand to receive an emotional welcome from fans who remember their legacy half a century on.

Having won the league three weeks earlier, when clos-

english premier league

est rivals Manchester United surprisingly lost at home to West Brom, these title celebrations have been curiously drawn out. There had been none of the edge-of-the-seat drama that so famously brought City their first Premier League title, when Sergio Aguero scored with virtually the last kick of the season against QPR in 2012.

And the fact that City have now received three guards of honour for opponents before games has not been well received in some quarters, with some traditionalists arguing it has lessened the resolve of their rivals. But, in contract to comfortable City wins against Swansea and West Ham, there was no hint

of Huddersfield showing the champions too much respect when the contest finally got underway at the Etihad.

Victory would have guaranteed Huddersfield safety and another season of top flight football. David Wagner's men might have been on course for just such an upset result in an entertaining, if goalless, first half but Ederson denied

Florent Hadergjonaj and Alex Pritchard. A City side that had been held goalless in just one previous league game—a draw at Crystal Palace on New Year's Eve—inevitably carved out chances of their own with Jonas Lossl saving well at David Silva's feet after five minutes and, unknowingly, stopping a fierce Kevin De Bruyne shot.

By the interval, Huddersfield were visibly wilting in the Manchester heat and facing the prospect of a long second half of attrition. City started brightly, with Christopher Schindler clearing off his line from a scramble at a Leroy Sane corner, but otherwise Huddersfield defended manfully and substitute Scott Malone might even have

snatched an injury-time win-

ner for the visitors. But the response from Huddersfield's players, and Guardiola's heartfelt congratulations to his opposite number Wagner on the final whistle, demonstrated the importance of the point to the visitors who now join Everton and Manchester United as the only sides to have avoided defeat at the Etihad in the league this season.

Results		
On Sunday		
Man City	0-0	Huddersfield
On Saturday		
West Brom	1-0	Spurs
Bournemouth	1-0	Swansea
Everton	1-1	Southampton
Leicester	0-2	West Ham
Watford	2-1	Newcastle
Stoke	1-2	Palace

Spurs' loss reignites top-four battle

LONDON: Mauricio Pochettino was left dismayed by Tottenham Hotspur's shock, last-gasp, 1-0 defeat at West Bromwich Albion on Saturday as it reignited the late battle in the Premier League for Champions League places. Spurs had been expected to leapfrog Liverpool into third place against an Albion side battling for top-flight survival but Jake Livermore's stoppage-time winner has instead renewed Chelsea's hopes of gate-crashing the top-four race. Pochettino still expects his side to deliver in home matches against Newcastle United and Leicester City, telling the BBC: "It is in our hands. If we are not able to win the next two games we do not deserve to qualify for the Champions League."

Tottenham had scored in each of their last 23 Premier League games but this time even their totemic marksman Harry Kane came closer to scoring an own goal than filling the opposition net. "Of course, I am disappointed. We are in a race to be in the top four and play in the Champions League next season and that defeat disappoints us. It is a certainly a bad feeling after the game," Pochettino said. "We dominated the game. We created enough chances but didn't score. I am not upset or angry, only disappointed; we need to be clinical." Manchester City are already crowned champions and second-placed Manchester United have also guaranteed their top-four place leaving two more Champions League berths available. (REUTERS)



Mauricio Pochettino

Cardiff earn back promotion

LONDON: Cardiff City returned to the Premier League on Sunday when a goalless draw at home to Reading was enough to give veteran manager Neil Warnock a record eighth promotion. Only the top two at the end of the regular season were guaranteed a place in English football's lucrative top flight and second-tier title-winners Wolves had already secured one of those spots heading into Sunday's final round

of regular-season Championship matches. A draw left Cardiff waiting on Fulham's result at Birmingham, but the Cottagers 3-1 loss left the London club facing the lottery of the play-offs, where the teams finishing third-sixth compete for the lone remaining promotion place. The draw saw Cardiff return to the Premier League after a single season in the competition in 2013-14. (AFP)

SPORTS DIGEST

New Diamond enter semis

KATHMANDU: New Diamond Academy and Western Region Volleyball Association advanced to the semi-finals of the fourth KNP National Women's Volleyball Championship on Sunday. New Diamond battled to a 25-11, 19-25, 25-18, 22-25, 15-10 win over Tribhuvan Army Club and advanced as Group 'B' runners up behind Nepal Police Club. Western Region beat Jawalakhel Volleyball Training Centre 25-13, 25-20, 25-20 to finish behind Group 'A' winners APF Club. (PR)

Valencia seal top four berth

BARCELONA: Valencia were assured of a top-four finish in the Spanish League and a berth in next season's Champions League after Real Betis lost at Athletic Bilbao 2-0 on Saturday. The defeat left fifth-place Betis eight points behind Valencia in fourth with two games left for the Seville-based club. Valencia played later on Saturday knowing their mission was accomplished, and lost at regional rival Villarreal 1-0. Valencia finished in 12th place the last two seasons, but rebounded under manager Marcelino Garcia Toral in this campaign. (AP)

Bellew beats Haye again

LONDON: Tony Bellew appeared to have all but ended David Haye's career with a fifth-round stoppage win over his rival British heavy-weight in their grudge re-match in London on Saturday. The pair had become as well-known for their pre-match dust-ups and verbal taunts as their boxing but there was no denying the comprehensive manner of Bellew's second successive victory over the 37-year-old Haye. (AFP)

Napoli virtually hand Juve title



Napoli midfielder Marek Hamsik reacts after scoring a goal against Torino during their Italian Serie A match at the San Paolo Stadium in Naples on Sunday.

AP/REX

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MILAN, MAY 6

Juventus are practically assured of winning a seventh successive Serie A title after second-placed Napoli were held 2-2 by Torino on Sunday.

Juventus have a six-point lead in Serie A with two games left to play. Both teams are equal in direct clashes but Juventus are well ahead of their southern rivals on goal difference. Maurizio Sarri's Napoli side had been bidding for a first title since the days of Argentina legend Diego Maradona in 1987 and 1990.

Earlier, Inter Milan crushed 10-man Udinese 4-0 to assure their fifth place in Serie A and seal at least Europa League action next season while keeping their Champions League challenge alive.

Inter have 69 points with two games left and cannot be caught by AC Milan who are nine points behind or Atalanta, who have 58. AS Roma and Lazio are third and fourth respectively. Inter sealed victory with first half goals from Andrea Ranocchia, Rafinha and Mauro Icardi.

Udinese battled for top-flight survival took a knock as

they played the final 40 minutes a man down after Seko Fofana was shown red. Ranocchia headed in off a corner after 12 minutes for Luciano Spalletti's side with Rafinha getting his first Serie A goal just before the break. Argentine Icardi added a third minutes later.

But Udinese's game was effectively dealt a killer blow five minutes after the break when Fofana was sent off after stamping on Ivan Perisic's ankle. Borja Valero added a fourth goal with a minute to go. Udinese remain three points above the relegation zone.

On Saturday, Juventus recovered from a goal down to defeat Bologna 3-1.

Serie A results		
On Sunday		
Napoli	2-2	Torino
Udinese	0-4	Inter
Lazio	1-1	Atalanta
SPAL	2-0	Benevento
Chievo	2-1	Crotone
Genoa	2-3	Fiorentina
On Saturday		
Milan	4-1	Verona
Juve	3-1	Bologna

wells fargo championship

Day opens up 2-shot lead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MIAMI, MAY 6

Australia's Jason Day, seeking his 12th career US PGA title and second of the year, fired a four-under 67 to grab a two-shot lead after Saturday's third round of the Wells Fargo Championship.

Day who captured his lone major crown at the 2015 PGA Championship, stood on 10-under 203 after 54 holes at Quail Hollow in Charlotte, North Carolina. On the same course where he contended before faltering late in last year's PGA Championship, the 30-year-old Aussie will play in the final duo with American Nick Watney, who shot 66 to stand on 205 in quest of his first US PGA title in six years.

England's Paul Casey was in a pack sharing third on 206 that included Americans Aaron Wise, Bryson DeChambeau and Peter Uihlein, whose 62 Saturday was one off Rory McIlroy's course record. Five-time major winner Phil Mickelson fired a 64 to stand 10th on 208, one stroke behind South



Jason Day

ker off the tee and came up short of the green. But he responded with a birdie at the ninth after dropping his approach inches from the cup. Day hit a five-foot birdie putt at the par-5 10th, a 14-footer for birdie at 12 and back-to-back two-foot birdie putts at the 14th and par-5 15th. At 18, Day left his tee shot on a bank over a creek. He took off his shoes and stood in the water to hit his approach then slipped them back on for the walk to the final green and closed with a par.

Tiger Woods fired a 68 to share 31st on 214, the 14-time major champion fighting to contend in his first event since the Masters in his come-back after missing most of two years with severe back pain. Woods reeled off three birdies in four holes, his longest putt a 13-footer at the fifth to open the run, but a bogey at the ninth set him back. Woods made three birdies in a row on the back side, the middle of the run when he drove the 14th green and missed an 82-foot eagle putt by an inch, but closed with a bogey.

African Charl Schwartzel and Americans Johnson Wagner and Sam Saunders.

Day earlier this year won the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines, making a birdie on the sixth playoff hole for his first PGA crown since the 2016 Players Championship. Day took his lone bogey at the par-4 fifth when he found a fairway bun-

MAN UNITED LEGEND

Fighting for life Fergie stakes claim as the greatest manager of all

REUTERS

LONDON, MAY 6

If the football world has been left so shocked by the news of the serious illness to Alex Ferguson, it is partly because the patriarch of Manchester United has always cut such a seemingly robust, indestructible figure, an unbeatable giant of the game.

The 76-year-old had emergency surgery for a brain haemorrhage on Saturday yet it was only less than a week earlier that he had been on the pitch at Old Trafford, looking in fine form and fettle while making a presentation to Arsene Wenger. As he joshed with his old deadly Arsenal rival, it was a reminder how much the game has missed Ferguson since his retirement in 2013 and made one reflect once more about his towering, perhaps unprecedented

influence in the modern game. Indeed, whenever there is an argument among fans about who is the biggest sports personality of them all, Ferguson has always been right at the heart of the debate, a champion whose greatness was reflected in the clubs he managed. A Scotsman who became the most successful manager ever in the annals of the English game, you could even make a convincing case for him being the world's best down the years, so continually successful was he over such a long period.

In the fickle modern game, which treats managers as disposable tissues, Ferguson was immovable Glaswegian granite for more than quarter of a century, re-establishing and then constantly re-inventing United's dazzle as the world's most celebrated club. His triumph was not just that he kept

the United bandwagon rolling on unstopably with different liveries but that he imbued each new red model with the same qualities of flair, panache and never-say-die commitment.

"Fergie" time—and not just those dying minutes when his teams always seemed to come alive—was never dull. Neither were his pronouncements. "Football—bloody hell..." still stands as the perfect encapsulation of the game's allure. Where are today's great manager-cum-dictators? Long gone. He was the last. What he said went. Cross him and you were history and when his explosive temper took over, his ideas left a lasting impression on his players.

No player at United was ever bigger than the club and none was ever bigger than "Fergie". Yet there were times when Ferguson gave a

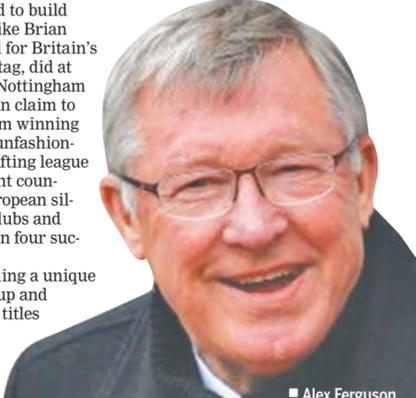
good impression of towering over the institution of United itself, so indispensable did he make himself at Old Trafford as the inheritor of great Matt Busby's mantle. Indispensable? Well, ever since he departed, his shadow over the club that he led to so many trophies—38 all told in his 27 years at Old Trafford, including 13 league titles, two European Cups and a Cup Winners' Cup—United have never come close to recapturing the zest of his reign. Indeed, his influence has cast a shadow over all his successors.

And it should never be forgotten that it was not just at United that he swept all before him. Even before turning Old Trafford back into a theatre of winning dreams, he oversaw an extraordinary period of over-achievement at Aberdeen in Scotland, smashing through the Celtic-Rangers duopo-

ly with 10 trophies, including the European Cup Winners' Cup. That is the definitive answer to those who still suggest that at United he never had to build bricks from straw like Brian Clough, an old rival for Britain's "greatest" manager tag, did at Derby County and Nottingham Forest. Ferguson can claim to have done it all, from winning in Europe with an unfashionable smaller club, lifting league titles in two different countries, collecting European silverware with two clubs and annexing trophies in four successive decades.

Oh yes, and winning a unique treble of League, Cup and Champions League titles in 1999. It's why the football world is rallying around him, wishing for

much more Fergie time with the full recovery of one of the sport's most monumental characters.



Alex Ferguson