

THE RISING NEPAL

ALL BE HAPPY, ALL BE WELL



Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', along with Buddhist monks, performing the worship in the sacred relics on the occasion of the 2567th Buddha Jayanti in Ramgram of Nawalparasi West on Friday.

PHOTO: RSS

MINISTER SAUD ARRIVES IN LONDON

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 5

Minister for Foreign Affairs N. P. Saud reached London on Friday to attend the Coronation Ceremony of King Charles III and Queen Consort.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Foreign Minister Saud was welcomed by a Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign Commonwealth and Development Affairs, Ambassador of Nepal to the UK Gyan Chandra Acharya and embassy officials at the Windsor Suite of the Heathrow Airport.

The Minister is scheduled to attend the King's reception organised in honour of overseas representatives at Buckingham Palace on Friday, and the coronation ceremony at Westminster Abbey on Saturday.

Minister Saud's schedule also includes some official meetings during his stay there.

‘Right to Information vital for democracy’

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 5

Speaker of the House of Representatives Devraj Ghimire has called right to information the lifeblood of democracy.

Speaking at a programme organised to mark the 16th establishment day of the National Information Commission (NIC), he said that the nation would not develop without guaranteeing the vital right.

He said that various countries around the world ensured their citizens' right to information and called on all sides to raise awareness among the Nepali people about this right.

Noting that no matter how good the information-related provisions were on paper, they would hold no meaning if they were not implemented properly, he said, "If there is a lack of law to implement this right, we should make it soon."

Meanwhile, Minister for Communication and Information Technology



Rekha Sharma has stressed the need to enable people to exercise their right to information.

Also speaking at the NIC programme, Minister Sharma said that the right to information empowered people and strengthened democracy. Thus, the nation's citizens needed to be able to exercise it.

She stated that people needed to be

able to access any and all information of public interest to hold authorities accountable.

Expressing the government's commitment to implementing the provisions of the Right to Information Act, she shared that every government agency had a spokesperson and an information officer to address

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Buddha's birth in Nepal matter of pride: PM

BY BHUWAN KARKI/KAPIL GYAWALI
Lumbini, May 5

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has said that it is a matter of pride for Nepal and all Nepali people that Buddha was born in Nepal.

"His birth has promoted not only Nepal's international identity but also provided unlimited possibilities through religious tourism," said Prime Minister Prachanda while addressing a special ceremony organised on Friday in Lumbini, the birthplace of Gautam Buddha commemorating the 2567th Buddha Jayanti and the Lumbini Day.

It is difficult to guess the potential of Lumbini, which is a sacred and once-in-a-lifetime visit place of more than hundreds of millions of Buddhists around the world, he said, adding, "But even by only guessing its potential, one feels reverence and joyfulness at once."

"Lumbini carries infinite potentialities for development. The government's focus will be on tapping unexplored opportunities," he added.

He further said the conservation of historic heritages that lie along the Greater Lumbini Area is the top priority of the government.

"The government continues to implement the Greater Lumbini Master Plan for the holistic development of Lumbini," the Prime Minister said.

The government is taking Lumbini Master Plan forward by including it in the project of national pride, he added.

"In 249 BC, Emperor Ashoka built three pillars: one each at Lumbini, the

birthplace of Shakyamuni Buddha, at Gotihawa, the birthplace of Krakuchhanda Buddha, and at Niglihawa, the birthplace of Kanakmuni Buddha," he said.

Inscriptions on those pillars, the memoirs of Chinese pilgrims and the historic objects collected from Lumbini corroborate that these three Buddhas were born within a distance of 30 kilometres in Rupandehi and Kapilvastu, he added.

"In addition, the conservation of Shakyamuni Buddha's relics in the stupa of Ramgram located in Nawalparasi district has made Greater Lumbini the land of Buddha. There is no pilgrimage in the world where the birthplaces of three Buddhas can be reached in the one-hour walk," said Prime Minister Prachanda.

"Hence, it is not an exaggeration to say that the greater Lumbini is the most significant Buddhist shrine," he added. The Prime Minister also pledged to make utmost efforts to provide development rewards to the locals by carrying out archaeological excavations, conservation, promotion and development of Kapilvastu area, Devdaha area and Ramgram.

Stating that Orientalism is considered to be in the lead in the world development forum, the Prime Minister said, "We are both opulent and proud in view of eastern civilisation, philosophy and thoughts."

He further said that by ignoring our philosophies and thoughts we could not take the country on the path of philosophy, civilisation and prosperity.

SEE PAGE 6

Nepal, Nauru establish diplomatic ties

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 5

Nepal and the Republic of Nauru established diplomatic relations on Thursday. With this, the number of countries having diplomatic relations with Nepal has reached 179.

Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, Amrit Bahadur Rai, and his Nauruan counterpart Margo Reminisce Debye signed a Joint Communiqué to this effect in a brief ceremony held at the Permanent Mission of Nepal in New York, informed the mission in its statement.

The two ambassadors also signed a joint letter informing the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, about the establishment of

diplomatic relations between the two countries.

On the occasion, the two ambassadors expressed their confidence that diplomatic ties will be instrumental in bringing the two countries and peoples together in bilateral and multilateral forums including the United Nations. The mission in New York informed that Rai and Debye also exchanged views on various measures to further broaden the scope of mutual cooperation in the future.

Nauru is an oval-shaped island republic in the Pacific Ocean situated in the north-east of Australia. It has a total area of 24 square kilometers and a population of approximately 12,000. It is one of the smallest UN members in terms of population. Nauru gained its independence on January 31, 1968 and was admitted to the United Nations as a member in September 1999.

One killed, four injured in Sankhuwasabha chopper crash

BY DHYAN KULUNG
Sankhuwasabha, May 5

A Simrik Air helicopter has crashed at Didinkha, Bhotkhola Rural Municipality-4, Sankhuwasabha, killing one person and injuring four.

The deceased has been identified as Bhavin Gurung of Bhotkhola-2. According to the District Police Office, Gurung died while being taken to Kathmandu by helicopter for treatment. After he passed away, the helicopter he was being transported in landed at Tumlingtar Airport and his body was taken to the District Hospital in Khandbari.

The injured have been identified as pilot Surendra Poudel, Simrik's employees Chhiring Bhote and Manoj Thapa and an employee of the Nepal Electricity Authority Bikram Shankar. All four have been taken to Lalitpur's Medicit Hospital for treatment.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Birendra Godar, head of the District Police Office, said that pilot Poudel had



sustained injuries to his head and was in a serious condition. The other three are out of danger.

The chopper had taken off from Rapsa, Bhotkhola-5 and was carrying materials for the Upper Arun Hydro-power Project. It crashed after one of its rotor blades hit a cliff face while landing at Didinkha.

Poor hand hygiene facilities putting many at health risk

BY NAYAK PAUDEL
Kathmandu, May 5

After touring the Kathmandu Durbar Square in Basantapur on the occasion of a public holiday for Buddha Jayanti on Friday, Sabin Karki and his friends entered an eatery near the Juddha Barun Yantra, the oldest fire brigade of Kathmandu.

Before ordering food, the group of friends asked the eatery's owner for a place to wash their hands. But to their surprise, there was no such facility there.

"Our hands were already dirty as we clicked a lot of pictures, touched different things and sat on different places when touring the Durbar Square. We searched for a place to wash our hands but could not find any. Looking at my dirty hands, I could not order food before washing it," said Sabin.

Since the eatery neither had a tap nor enough water to allow Sabin and his friends to wash their hands, the eatery owner suggested them to visit a public toilet nearby. "I am well aware of the scarcity of water in the Kathmandu Valley, so I carry a hand sanitiser. However, washing the hands with soap and water is better when the hands are extremely dirty," Sabin added.

On May 5, Nepal government was together with the governments and international and national organisations across the world urging people to



A woman washing hands at Janakpur Provincial Hospital in Dhanusha during the peak time of COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

maintain hand hygiene to mark World Hand Hygiene Day. However, for lack of water and hand washing facilities in public spaces across the country, many Nepalis continue falling ill from infections caused by poor hygiene.

"Hands are used in everything. We work and eat with hands. While working, our hands get dirty and are filled with harmful bacteria, increasing the risk of several water-borne and food-borne diseases," said Dr. Sher Bahadur Pun, an infectious disease expert at the Shukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital.

Talking to The Rising Nepal, Dr. Pun informed that poor hand hygiene

causes diseases such as diarrhoea, viral hepatitis and intestinal parasitic infections among others.

"Importance of washing hands is known to almost everyone. People wash their hands after using toilet; however, they do not wash hands before meal. Consuming food with dirty hands can cause different illnesses," said Dr. Pun.

Hand washing facilities were set up in different parts of the Kathmandu Valley and outside when the COVID-19 pandemic was at its peak and when people washed their hands frequently as a preventive measure.

During the COVID-19 pandemic,

WaterAid, an international organisation working in the sectors of clean water, improved sanitation and proper hygiene, reported that 52 per cent of people in Nepal had no handwashing facilities at home. "Children often play with dirt, eat food with the dirty hands due to the lack of supervision and get sick. Children need supervision, but adults ignoring the importance of hand hygiene shows the lack of awareness. People fall ill due to bad hygiene but blame the food they ate in ignorance," said Dr. Pun.

Now, with the decrease in COVID-19 cases, health experts warn that people have stopped washing their hands.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), hand hygiene can save millions of lives every year when performed at the right moments during health care delivery. A national Infection Prevention Control (IPC) programme or operational plan and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and environmental health standards existed in Nepal, but were not fully implemented, reported the WHO in its Global report on infection prevention and control.

The WHO also suggests that hospitals and health care facilities should raise hand hygiene awareness to move action to the point of care, and to reduce health care-associated infection (HAI).

The organisation also highlighted that people can be made aware of the importance of hand hygiene with active participation of civil society organisations.

Lumbini businessmen urge PM to run GBIA in full capacity



BY LAXMAN PAUDEL
Bhairahawa, May 5

Lumbini’s businessmen have asked Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal

‘Prachanda’ to operate Bhairahawa’s Gautam Buddha International Airport (GBIA) at its full capacity.

Under the leadership of Rupan-dehi’s Siddhartha Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), the province’s businesspeople submitted a

memorandum with this demand to Prime Minister Prachanda on Friday when he was in Lumbini to attend the Buddha Jayanti and Lumbini Day celebrations.

In the memorandum, they have asked the Prime Minister to leave

for his future India visit from GBIA, have the national flag carrier Nepal Airlines use the airport to fly to New Delhi (India), Malaysia and Qatar and take the initiative for the operation of regular and chartered flights to bring the world’s Buddhists to Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Gautam Buddha.

They have also demanded that the schemes and discounts introduced to attract foreign airlines to GBIA be continued for another year, bring the electronic equipment currently sitting idle into operation as soon as possible and create an environment to ensure the security of Rs. 60 billion invested in the region by businesses expecting a tourism boom after the inauguration of the airport.

Thakur Kumar Shrestha, president of SCCI, said that everyone was extremely hopeful when GBIA came into operation on Buddha Jayanti Day last year. “We felt that industry, trade, agriculture and tourism would all flourish. But our initial hopes have now turned into despair,” he shared.

Shrestha told the Prime Minister that the nation’s economy would be benefited massively if the airport could be operated at full capacity.

Govinda Gyawali, vice-president for commerce at SCCI, said that PM Prachanda took the memorandum positively and promised to take necessary steps after further discussions.

Nepal-China Friendship Dragon Boat-Race Festival from June 23-24



BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 5

Nepal Tourism Board, Chinese Embassy in Nepal and Pokhara Metropolitan City will jointly organise Nepal-China Friendship Dragon Boat-Race Festival for the first time in Pokhara from June 23-24, 2023.

Pokhara Tourism Council and Nepal China Overseas Association will be the co-organisers of the event. An agreement was signed between the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) and Chinese Embassy regarding the event, which is being organised with the aim of improving the cultural and people-to-people relations between the two countries and increasing the number of Chinese tourists in Nepal, NTB said in a statement.

The programme was signed by CEO of NTB, Dr. Dhananjay Regmi, and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Chinese Embassy, Wang Jin, in the presence of Mayor of Pokhara, Dhanraj Acharya, and Board Member of NTB, Madan Acharya.

The Chinese team informed that this

type of boat-race festival will be organised for the first time in South Asia. For the race, other participants will come to Nepal with eight special boats from China. All the seven provinces of Nepal will participate in the festival, NTB informed.

Speaking after the signing of the agreement, Mayor Acharya said that this type of programme will add a new dimension to Nepal’s tourism. He said that the event will add new products to the tourism of Pokhara. Both the parties have expressed their intention to organise the event every year.

Regmi said that the boat-race festival will help to make the tourism of Pokhara more sustainable. He also said that this programme will attract many tourists through the cooperation and participation of other stakeholders.

Likewise, Wang mentioned that Pokhara is an attractive destination for Chinese tourists and said that cultural and people-to-people relations between the two countries will be further strengthened through this programme.

A food festival will also be organised on the occasion.

Programme launched to strengthen disaster response capacity

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 5

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Government of Nepal (GoN) has launched the SIKAI programme to strengthen disaster preparedness and response capacity in western Nepal.

Through SIKAI - which stands for Strengthening Institutional Knowledge and capacity of provincial and local governments to embark on disaster risk management Action and Implementation - USAID will provide support to provincial and local governments in the Sudurpaschim and Karnali Provinces, the bilateral agency informed in a statement on Friday.

The IOM is implementing the program by providing coordination and technical assistance in close partnership with USAID and ministries of Internal Affairs and Law, Home Affairs, and Federal Affairs and General Administration.

Ambassador of the USA to Nepal, Dean R. Thompson, praised the new programme, and said, “This programme represents the ongoing commitment of the United States to support Nepal in its efforts to prepare for and respond to disasters, from the national to the local level, in line with federal policies, legislation, and frameworks.”

USAID’s Nepal Mission Director Sepideh Keyvanshad said that SIKAI’s focus on Sudurpaschim and Karnali provinces, home to some of Nepal’s most disaster-vulnerable communities, is illustrative of their commitment to work at the local level, prioritising the most vulnerable populations in Nepal.

Also speaking at the event, IOM Officer-in-Charge, Asif Razzaq, said that the project aims to strengthen disaster risk governance in the two selected provinces as guided by the Constitution and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act.

“The project will further contribute to Nepal’s efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and to the broader goal of building a resilient nation in the context of changing climate,” he said.

The USAID grant for SIKAI is US\$ 600,000 and is 18 months in duration. The new programme builds on the work of USAID and IOM’s previous Pari-wartan programme (2017-2023), which supported disaster risk reduction and response coordination nationwide, providing resources and training to all 753 local government bodies.

Poco launches new phone series

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 5

Poco smartphone has launched a new phone in series - Poco X5 Pro 5G - in Nepal. However, the product has been launched in the online platform

Daraz. Pre-booking of the phone has started from Friday and will last till May 10.

The phone will be shipped starting from May 11.

The company has now refreshed its mid-range X-series which has better performance, great display technology, and is powered by a 5000mAh battery that

supports 67W fast charging.

The phone has 108 MP sensor that makes professional-level photography easy, delivering ultra-high resolution and capturing every detail and colour, even at night and in dark areas.

Rear camera it has 8MP ultra-wide camera 2MP macro camera and 160MP front camera.

Vegetable farming brings prosperity to farmers

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT
Myagdi (Beni), May 5

Farms in Salyan Phant in Dhairing in Jaljala Rural Municipality-7, Parbat district, are currently full of vegetables. The fields here look beautiful with vegetables, including cabbage, cauliflower, cucumber and tomato.

The village lies about 270 km west of Kathmandu and 64 km from Pokhara, Capital of Gandaki Province.

The fields here have irrigation facility round the year.

Dhairing, a village that borders Myagdi district, is a model village for vegetable cultivation and is known as vegetable pocket area. Most of the farmers here have been cultivating vegetable in commercial scale.

Ek Narayan Poudel, a leading farmer, informed that the village earns about Rs. 20 million from vegetable sales in a year.

“Vegetable cultivation has become the major livelihood of farmers in the village. After getting good income from vegetable farming, the youth who went abroad have also returned to their villages and started this work,” he said.

According to him, the farmers here are earning from Rs. 200,000 to Rs. 1 million annually from vegetable farming. One hundred families of the village are involved in commercial vegetable farming. With the income received from the sale of fresh vegetables and seeds, the farmers have bought land in nearby cities and even in Pokhara.

Paudel, who has been in this job for 27 years now, said, “Vegetable farming has also brought back youths to the village



from abroad. Vegetable farming has made the village prosperous.” According to him, the fresh vegetables produced here reach Beni, Baglung, and Kusma, the headquarters of Myagdi, Baglung and Parbat districts.

Balram Acharya, a local farmer, said that there is no problem for the sale of the produce. “You don’t have to carry it on your head like before. If you can produce, you can sell vegetables from home through phone. Traders from Beni come to the field with their vehicles to buy vegetables,” he said.

Arjun Paudel, a young farmer, said that the income from vegetable farming has brought a positive change in the lifestyle of the farmers here. “Working on your own land gives you a sense of pride. If you work hard, you can get good income from vegetable farming,” he said.

Besides Salyan, Baskot, Dharapani and Ghayakhet are also making their names in vegetable farming.

The local government has been supporting the farmers by providing training and technology to increase production.

गोरखापत्र प्रकाशनको १२३औं वर्ष
प्रवेश तथा संस्थानको ६१औं वार्षिकोत्सवको
उपलक्ष्यमा संस्थानका प्रकाशनहरूको
वार्षिक ग्राहक शुल्कमा

विशेष छुट योजना

१ वर्षको
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संस्थानका विक्री एजेन्टहरूले ग्राहकको नाम, ठेगाना र सम्पर्क नम्बरसहित संस्थानका कार्यालयहरूमा वार्षिक शुल्क बुझाएमा ग्राहकलाई विशेष छुट योजनाअनुसारको छुट उपलब्ध गराइनेछ र छुटपछिको रकममा एजेन्ट कमिसन एजेन्टलाई उपलब्ध गराइनेछ ।

ग्राहक बनाउने ठेगाना

- प्रधान कार्यालय धर्मपथ, काठमाडौं ०१५३२०६३८, १६६००१९४४४४
- पूर्व क्षेत्र प्रकाशन कार्यालय, विराटनगर १८५१२२९६७६
- पश्चिम क्षेत्र प्रकाशन कार्यालय, कोहलपुर ०८१८-५३१८२३, १८६८८८८८५६४

- मधेश प्रदेश कार्यालय, जनकपुर ०४१-५९०४२९, १८५१००९७९३
- बागमती प्रदेश कार्यालय, हेटौडा ०५७-५९०६५९
- गण्डकी प्रदेश कार्यालय, पोखरा ०६१-५३१८२७, १८५६०२२६६६

- लुम्बिनी प्रदेश कार्यालय, बुटवल ०७१-५४३३७६, १८४९६४५३०६
- कर्णाली प्रदेश कार्यालय, सुर्खेत ०८३-५९००६०, १८४९०३४२३१
- सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश कार्यालय, धनगढी ०९१-४२२०४३, १८५८४२१८०९

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गोरखापत्र संस्थान
वितरण विभाग, धर्मपथ, काठमाडौं
फोन नं. ०१-५३२०६३८, ५३२२१९९

टोल फ्री नम्बर
१६६०-०१-९४४४४४

Government preparing to open new universities: Minister Rai

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT
Urlabari, May 5

Minister for Education, Science and Technology Ashok Kumar Rai said that the government was preparing to open new universities by formulating necessary laws. Minister Rai remarked this while speaking at a programme at Gothgaun-based Purbanchal University (PU) in Morang on Friday.

He had reached the university to lay a foundation stone for the construction of an auditorium hall and a bank building being built with the support of Nabil Bank. "Now, there will be provisions restricting politics in universities. We are formulating laws and policies by discussing with academics and professors," said Minister Rai.

Citing that a university or an academy cannot be run by the government alone, Minister Rai requested the locals to support the educational institution



PHOTO: TRN
Minister for Education, Science and Technology Ashok Kumar Rai speaking at a foundation stone laying programme at Purbanchal University in Gothgaun, Morang on Friday.

A university or an academy cannot get support from locals unless the officials perform for the betterment of the institution.

in their neighbourhoods.

"A university or an academy cannot get support from locals unless the officials perform for the betterment of the institution.

The government is there for necessary support, so the officials should work diligently," said Minister Rai.

Vice-chancellor of PU Yadav Raj Koirala chaired the programme in which National Assembly member Ramesh Jung Raymajhi, Sundarharaincha's Mayor Kedar Prasad Guragain and Nabil Bank's Chief Executive Officer Gyanendra Prasad Dhungana committed to providing continuous support to the university.

Tiwari to receive Ram Chandra Gautam Indu Award

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 5

Ramesh Tiwari, former editor-in-chief of Gorkhapatra, has been announced as the recipient of this year's Ram Chandra Gautam Indu Journalism Award.

Tiwari first entered the publication in 1982 under contract service. He became a permanent sub-editor a year later in 1983. He served in the paper, the sister publication of The Rising Nepal, for 28 years and became its chief editor twice in 2000 and 2009.

The Ram Chandra Gautam Indu Journalism Award was established three years ago in memory of late Ram Chandra Gautam. Gautam was a chief editor of Gorkhapatra who suffered a heart attack when at office and passed away. His wife Indu Thapaliya Gautam donated Rs. 500,000 to establish a revolving fund for the prize.

The Ram Chandra Gautam Indu Journalism Award is provided every year by the Gorkhapatra chapter of the Federation of Nepali Journalists. The prize carries a purse of Rs. 50,000.



PHOTO: TRN
Ramesh Tiwari, former editor-in-chief of Gorkhapatra.

Previous winners of the award include Om Sharma, founder editor of the news portal Ratopati and Nirmal Kumar Acharya, former chief editor of Gorkhapatra.

Call for rights-friendly national cyber policy

RSS
Kathmandu, May 5

Different stakeholders, including civil society organisations, have furnished their recommendations on the draft of the National Cyber Security Policy, 2080 made publicly available by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology for public input and deliberations.

The citizen organisations and other stakeholders have largely called for open, safe, harmless and human rights-friendly cyberspace in the country.

Handing over 27-point observations and recommendations on the national policy to Communications Minister Rekha Sharma on Thursday, the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) urged the government to uphold Nepal's international commitment, universal values of civil rights and the constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights in the cyber security policy.

The national security policy should explicitly define and address evolving

concepts of cyber security and cyber-crime through a comprehensive plan aligning it with SDG goals, the memorandum noted.

Among other recommendations include aligning the national cyber security policy with the comprehensive national security, arrangement of key responsible agencies and resources for policy execution, embracing the key assumptions of open and safe internet, individual privacy, credibility, neutrality, accountability, interoperability and partnership, and adopting the multi-stakeholder approach, informed CDD chair Dr Dila Sangroula Pant.

Receiving the memorandum, Minister Sharma said the draft national cyber security policy was made public to elicit inputs and recommendations from different stakeholders. "The policy was introduced in the context when trends of incidents related to cyber-crime and cyber-attacks were on the rise", the minister noted.

A delegation comprising CDD vice chair Sanjeeb Ghimire, general-secretary Jeewan Bhandari and secretary Sanil Nepal handed the memorandum to the minister at the latter's office.

Stranded elephant calf rescued, sent back to India

BY BISHNU PRASAD POKHAREL
Damak, May 5

An elephant calf that came to Nepal from India and got stranded has been safely rescued in Jhapa.

The calf was there along with two dozen elephants which came to Bahundangi in Mechinagar of Jhapa from India.

It is said that the group of elephants left the calf and returned to India after the commotion of the people.

When the locals found the calf, which looked about one month old and injured, they gave it water and necessary food. The calf was sent to India to unite with its mother and for further treatment, said Arjun Karki, Ward Chairman of Mechinagar Municipality-4.

After seeing the elephant calf stranded at Milanchowk, locals informed campaigners working to minimise the human-elephant conflict. It is said that the calf was injured on its own by falling to the ground.

Earlier, when locals saw elephants like this, they used to beat them and kill them, but this time there was a rescue operation, Karki said.

This time, the calf was put in a tractor by the locals themselves and sent



PHOTO: TRN
An elephant calf that came to Nepal from India and got stranded has been safely rescued in Jhapa, Friday.

to meet its mother with the help of an Indian Forest Officer, he said.

According to campaigner Shankar Luintel, who is running the human-elephant coexistence campaign, the calf

that was found hungry and injured has been given first aid and handed over to the Indian forest authorities.

The calf is being treated in India itself. Forest officials said they will find

the mother.

Meanwhile, on Thursday morning, an Indian citizen was seriously injured in an elephant attack. He was also rescued and sent to India.

Jhugala Bailey bridge inaugurated

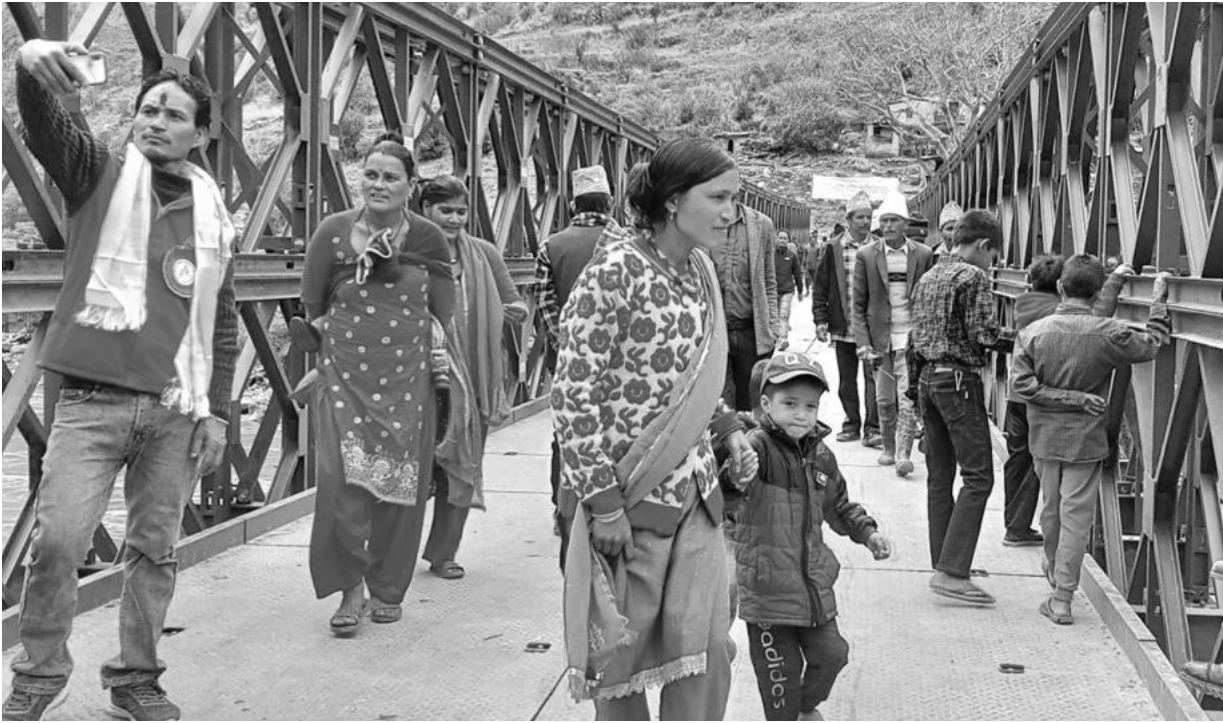


PHOTO: TRN
The Bailey bridge at Jhugala connects three districts--Bajura, Humla and Mugu.

BY JEEVAN KAILA
Bajura, May 5

The Bailey bridge at Jhugala, which was constructed with joint investment from the Karnali provincial government and the Khatyad Rural Municipality of Mugu, was inaugurated on Friday. It was inaugurated by member of the House of Representatives and former Chief Minister of Karnali Mahendra Bahadur Shahi.

Ratan Bahadur Shahi, acting chief administrative officer of Khatyad, informed that the bridge, which connects Bajura, Humla and Mugu and has

the capacity to bear a load of 24 tonnes, was built at a cost of Rs. 35.9 million.

The company Jalap-Ravi-Chakra JV was contracted to finish building the 60-metre bridge by July 10, 2023. The initial contracted amount was Rs. 33,500,293.05. The company finished work two months before the deadline but for an increased amount of Rs. 35,958,023.06.

The bridge will now make the crossing between the three districts easier and facilitate trade, said local Dhumadi Pandey. She also hoped that the bridge would increase transportation and allow vehicles to arrive in the rural municipality. She even sang a Deuda song about how happy she was that her

children and grandchildren would be able to ride cars – a facility she never got.

Rang Malla, a resident of Himali Rural Municipality of Bajura, said that the bridge would also make it easier to travel to the Rara Lake and boost domestic and international tourism.

Mangal Bahadur Shahi, minister for Physical Infrastructure of Karnali, said that he had fulfilled the promise he made during last November's elections. However, he said that the Bailey bridge alone would not solve everything and said that the region needed to be connected to the road network too.

He said that he would also seek to get the road to Rara blacktopped.

SANDEEP RAYAMAJHI REMANDED IN CUSTODY FOR THREE DAYS

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 5

The District Court Kathmandu has issued a three-day remand order against Sandeep Rayamajhi, son of CPN-UML Secretary and lawmaker Top Bahadur Rayamajhi.

Sandeep was arrested from Butwal on Wednesday evening and the court on Thursday gave an order to the police to investigate further remanding him in the custody of the Kathmandu District Police Range, according to the Superintendent of Police and Spokesperson for Kathmandu Police Range, Sitaram Rijal.

Sandeep, who was arrested on Wednesday on the charge of conspiring with a gang to make the Nepali citizens fake Bhutanese refugees and send them to America, was brought to Kathmandu from Bhairahawa airport via Buddha air.

Top Bahadur, who was allegedly involved in the same case, is out of contact and police have still been searching for him.

On Wednesday, Top Bahadur booked a ticket to come to Kathmandu from Bhairahawa.

He was preparing to fly to Kathmandu on Wednesday with Speaker Devraj Ghimire.

In connection to the case, the police have so far arrested eight persons including two high-profile persons including Secretary Tek Narayan Pandey and Indrajit Rai, former security advisor to former Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa Badal.

Pharmacies in Dadeldhura operating without pharmacists

BY PUSKAR BHANDARI
Dadeldhura, May 5

The District Administration Office (DAO) of Dadeldhura on Thursday led a team for the inspection of pharmacies operating at Tufandanda Bazaar and Dadeldhura Hospital Line in Ward No. 5 of Amargadhi Municipality.

Comprising of officials from the municipality, District Health Office, Nepal Police and journalists, the DAO team inspected medicals and pharmacies operating in the area.

"There was no concerned health professional in the pharmacies as stated by the prevailing law. There were people from other fields of expertise," said Jitendra Prasad Ojha, Assistant Chief District Officer (CDO) of Dadeldhura, DAO.

According to Section 17(2) of the Drugs Act-1978, the pharmacist, a person who has done graduation in pharmacy or graduation in pharmaceuticals, or pharmacy assistant, a person who has passed certificate level or equivalent in pharmacy, or a professional who has possessed the prescribed qualifications and been recognised by the Drugs Advisory Committee, himself shall sell or distribute drugs on the prescription of a doctor; and the presence of a pharmacist or pharmacy assistant or professional person shall be compulsory where a person other than the doctor, pharmacy assistant or professional person sells or distributes such drugs.

However, according to Ojha, there was no concerned individual in the five medicals and pharmacies they inspected in the areas.

In Tufandanda's Grace Medical, a youth who studied commerce was prescribing and selling medicines to

While medicals also did not have pharmacists in their pharmacies, a medical in Kirtipur Bazaar and two medicals in Pokhara Bazaar did not even have a pharmacy.

visitors. Similarly, a girl who studied as a lab technician was working in Nirko Pharmacy, and Community Medicine Assistants (CMA) were found selling drugs in Suman Pharmacy, Siddhanta Pharmacy and Nirmal Medical.

"The pharmacies were registered under a pharmacist; meanwhile, the pharmacists did not work there. There were unqualified individuals instead. Moreover, some pharmacists only owned the pharmacies on paper," said Ojha.

The officials have given a final warning to all the pharmacies and medicals in the area.

"We have directed them to have qualified individuals in the pharmacies. If they do not follow it, we will take strict legal action," Ojha said.

While medicals also did not have pharmacists in their pharmacies, a medical in Kirtipur Bazaar and two medicals in Pokhara Bazaar did not even have a pharmacy.

"Medicine is an important part of our life. There should not be any negligence or ignorance in the sector of medicine.

There are certain guidelines and standards that the health professionals should follow," said Hari Prasad Bhatta, focal person for Communicable Disease Prevention in Dadeldhura.

Reasoned Debate Key To Civic Renewal

Dev Raj Dahal



Reasoned debate, both prosaic and insightful, unearths illuminating insight. It activates citizens, leaders, experts, institutions and the polity to standardise and orient leaders to achieve optimal outcome of what Nepali constitution visualises. It thus increases an adaptation of democracy in Nepali society indicating its resilience and resolve. Reasoned means well argued, constructive, carefully considered and highly persuasive rationale that can stick in the minds of citizens and mould attitude. Modern organisation itself is founded on the edifice of constitution. It governs the formal life of state, polity, government, political parties, civil society, business and citizens through both incentive and discipline and builds great stake on it.

The equality of citizenship and social inclusion included in constitution rightly challenges the privileges based on social status and noble birth while its improved quality creates a condition for their equal participation in the vital decision making of the various scales of governance. Constitutional democracy has accepted a system of fundamental civic rights and duties of citizens. It has justified the reason for the struggle of the deprived to demand for equal distribution of freedom, opportunity and social justice. Reasoned debate on these values can break the boundary between those engaged in contemplation and those in action and between puffed up self-image of leadership and uneven condition of different social clusters of Nepalis, foster their critical education and acculturation to civic feeling, sentiment and spirit, prepare them for citizenship responsibility and shape the beginning of their civilised disposition.

Collective energy

In a multi-cultural and multi-structural Nepali society, citizens and leaders' keenness to debate, listen, respond to, and learn from each other's knowledge, experiences and viewpoints is crucial to engage them in the ecological, social, political and economic links, harness collective energy, sociability and public spirit for collective action, an action so vital to learn the place of culture in Nepal's sense of itself and pool resources across many empirical divides to vault the nation forward. Reasoned debates bubbling up from below and the nation's periphery on public and national issues constitutes an active relation of democratic politics to ordinary Nepalis lives and opens a new regime of liberty, equality and gifts of intimacy as opposed to unequal patron-client and leaders-cadres relationship based on the tradition of feudal politics — division, domination and subordination.

For a long time Nepal's traditional culture persisted on the concept of duties of the subjects to state authorities, tenant to landlord, *jajamans* to priests, pupils to their teachers and children to their parents in a vertical order, not on equal fundamental rights and duties or reciprocal obligations of ancient times. As modern means of communication, education and information made each person capable of judgment, the political culture of patrimonialism is now questioned. Nepalis now know that unregulated personal power of leaders built on such duties and control of political parties can easily dent the efficacy of many of the autonomous civic institutions and trust of independent Nepalis on the ability and will of the government. One can see politics is engineering an upswing of various inclinations -- populism, cynicism, radicalism and conservatism thus turning against liberal reforms, slighting the civility of people and making democracy consolidation a Sisyphean task.

Overcoming these malaises requires bottom-up learning by leadership, learning from popular feedback and enhancing its responsive capacity. If public feedback has no weight, debate becomes sterile and superficial and democracy suffers from

both atrophy and illusion. Party cadres already suffer from an interiority complex as their seductive leaders stupefy and sedate them. Reasoned and critical debates on the possibility of the realisation of bloated civil rights of Nepalis and far less duties can hardly be expected to rectify sweeping glitches, enforce the bedrock of citizens' attachments with the party, polity and the state stronger and shape social and national consensus for policy coherence, concertation and peaceful collective action of public spirited citizens.

A few questions, however, need be addressed: How can the concepts underlined in the structural and normative foundations of the constitution, such as directive principles, separation of powers, checks and balances, fundamental rights, social justice, welfare state, etc. guarantee human security for all the citizens? Are the globalisation and liberalisation policies of the capital and labour markets consistent with these goals or callously snub them? It is often argued that renewal of civic space that defines opportunities for citizens exists within the nation-state. As Nepalis are losing control over their national economic, social and political matters to global forces, the civic order of democracy has begun to shrink and the migration and brain drain of dynamic youth population has left both politics and production stagnated waiting for the catalysts to trigger change.

Reasoned debate on relevant knowledge, issues and problems helps to evolve such leaders who do not inflate their egos but remain humble and build responsive institutions to satisfy their needs, rights, interests and concerns. Nepali leaders must be sociable and practical as opposed to indoctrinated, narrow-minded and instrumental so that they do not apply the power of total conformity common in mainstream political parties at the risk of imperiling their democratic functions. The onset of crisis socialisation has brought an authority crisis for the government and loyalty patterns of citizens to the institution of governance and infused a sort of disbelief whether the regime has political will and economic resources to uplift the standards of living.

In such a condition, democratic polity

Reasoned debate on the condition of life equally evokes their voice reduced to silence through calculating practices, misinformation and ill explanation.

cannot be effectively institutionalised and the culture and spiritualism that served as a source of trust and social capital foster shared values. The store of social capital and its ties with hard capital can be fostered if the institutions of governance truly remain inclusive in the vision of rebuilding the nation and overcome four crucial challenges: alleviating poverty, ending social exclusion, combating political alienation and managing the post-modern form of popular ecological, gender, human rights and civil society impulses which are struggling outside the institutional boundaries of established political parties for equality, equity, opportunity, identity and dignity. By meeting their concerns democracy can serve as a legitimising instrument of national coherence in domestic and foreign policy matters and provide the citizens a shared sense of identity.

A reasoned debate on nation's critical issues is needed on how Nepal's democratic institutions have imbibed civil liberties which inspired the democratic struggle while the state protects the heritage of the nation's syncretic culture and equips the citizens with the power to shape and reshape the vision of democracy that they and their institutional partners, such as political parties, media, civil society and a host of associations, reconstitute. The practice of democracy turns to be dehydrated if reasoned debates freeze in the public mind leaving the leadership and party-affiliated intellectuals free to interpret only those they see, think, believe and act to enforce a culture of silence. It is the

deadly sign of democratic deficits.

Citizenship begins with commitment to and respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, national anthem, national flag, and social harmony in a spirit of affinity among them irrespective of varied religious, racial, linguistic, class, caste, and gender distinctions. If the values of citizenship are deeply internalised by Nepalis, it reduces social conflicts and they take personal responsibility for what happens in their family, community, society, nation and the state and uphold duties beyond the border. A fundamental reconstitution of citizenship is, therefore, required to make democracy resolute. In this sense, political education to all Nepalis is expected to enable them to select the most workable of the choices that their polity offers to them and constantly protect their power of thinking, feeling, working and creating everything the nation lives by.

Democracy cannot be explained merely in terms of rational self-interest, as many hedonists or utilitarians believe. An application of absolutely utilitarian thinking destroys its ethical basis, weakens the political identification of Nepalis with the nation and increases their responsibility without power to them. One has, therefore, to find a solution to the problem of what is to be done in the case of a clash between political rationality of democracy and the economic rationality of the market. If dharma, not only legal pedantry and sophistry, that glues the social sectors of society for shared life is in fatal decline, all that is left to political power cannot embody the social mosaic and the leadership's power becomes disproportional to their ability to represent, serve and satisfy Nepalis' concerns.

When power is unprecedented relative to its social representativeness, unfairness suspends democratic prospects. In such a situation, the Nepali state cannot ensure suitable regulatory conditions of security. Constant reasoned debate on political and constitutional education for Nepalis is needed to situate their interests in the realities of power and provide them cognitive and institutional services enabling them to judge the performance

of their leaders on the basis of value criteria of sustainable development, democracy, justice, good governance and peace. Citizens also need a multitude of stable intermediary institutions to ensure their effective and regularised debate and participation in the public life of the nation.

Civic virtues

Social trust and concern for fellow citizens help those who are deficient in something deep for their existence and a dignified life. Reasoned debate on the condition of life equally evokes their voice reduced to silence through calculating practices, misinformation and ill explanation and stirs all of those intangible values, beliefs and sentiments upon which civic virtue of democracy is founded. The old political mindset cannot harness the technological condition of democratic modernity. The duty of democratic leadership is to protect the weakest members of society, entitle them to their inalienable rights and equal opportunities of education, income and political participation. If the rights of citizens remain unenforceable, like party statutes, the vision of the society envisaged in the constitution becomes tantalizing.

The crucial civic task for leadership calls for bridging the growing gaps in their words and deeds and saving the polity from sound bites. The art of civic virtues must be utilised to realise the need of the public for good governance accountable to a sovereign people. It is exactly the orientation of political, economic, and social actors to public and national interest that makes democratic stability attainable. Reasoned debate on civic renewal reforms the nation's political culture, strengthens its public institutions and articulates the active life of the public. Nepali culture has made citizens virtuous of living in different settings without social unease, learning the art of self-regulation, thinking and strategising and cooperating in matters of common needs and interests and solving their complex problems.

(Former Reader at the Department of Political Science, TU, Dahal writes on political and social issues.)

Is Overnight Charging Bad For Our Phones?

AASHISH MISHRA

Many of us have a habit of using our phones all day and charging them all night. Many of us also have the habit of worrying about overcharging our phones if we leave them on charge all night. But is this worry justified? Well, it is complicated. Believe it or not, this is a topic of real contention among tech experts and there are multiple schools of thought surrounding this topic. But before we dive into this topic, it may be pertinent to understand how the batteries in our phones work.

So, most modern smartphones have what is called a Lithium-ion battery. This battery is made up of multiple components including, but not limited to, anode, cathode and electrolyte. According to the United States of America's Department of Energy, the anode and cathode store the lithium and the electrolyte carries positively charged lithium ions from the anode to the cathode and vice versa.

The movement of the lithium ions creates free electrons in the anode which creates a charge at the positive current collector. The electrical current then flows from the current collector through a device being powered (in this case, our phone) to the negative current collector.

The Energy Department states on its website energy.gov that during discharging, the lithium ions in the battery travel from the anode to the cathode and when charged, they flow from the cathode to the anode.

So then, is overcharging something we should worry about? Well, in the strictest sense, no modern smartphones are designed to stop charging when the battery reaches 100 per cent, even if it is plugged in. It does not mean you can put your phone on charge and forget about it, it just means that it has safeguards in place.

But, as mentioned above, this issue is complicated. While overcharging, in and of itself, does not damage or degrade your phone battery, heat does. And charging generates heat.

We may have noticed that our phone heats up when it is connected to the electrical socket. And the longer it is connected, that is, on charge, the hotter it gets. When charging overnight, we leave our phones plugged in for six to eight hours straight.

At night, we also have our doors and windows closed or only partially open, meaning there is little ventilation. Some of us also put our phones on the bed near us or under pillows and cushions which are very insulating by nature. These practices make the phone hot and damage not only the battery but other parts as well.

So, those of us who prefer to charge our phones while we sleep can breathe a sigh of relief. 'Overcharging' will not damage our batteries as long as we prevent overheating and ensure ventilation. In fact, according to Selby, one of Australia's largest online retailers of Home Theatre and HiFi accessories, it is over-discharging that we actually have to worry about. Regularly allowing our phones to reach zero per cent and die can irreversibly harm our batteries. So, it is a good idea to charge our phones before they reach 15 or 20 per cent or whatever levels are recommended by the manufacturers.

Similarly, as far as possible, we should only use the charger that came with our phones. If we have to get a new charger, we must choose one that is manufacturer-recommended and/or certified.

Chargers do not look like much but they have special hardware that need to be compatible with our phones to ensure a safe charge. Bad or incompatible chargers can cause a host of problems.

So, to sum up, what are the dos and don'ts for charging your phone? Well, first off, do not leave your device plugged in for extended periods.

As we have established, overcharging is not an issue but overheating is. On this note, also keep your phone out of direct sunlight and do not keep it in insulating conditions such as your pocket, bag or under your pillow for too long. Heat is always bad for your phone.

Furthermore, to avoid frequent charging, use battery-saving modes to extend battery life. Smartphones almost always have settings that help preserve charge by reducing screen brightness, disabling background apps, curtailing certain functions, etc.

But the unfortunate fact is, batteries degrade over time, no matter what we do. If we are lucky and take really good care of our phones, our batteries might work for five years. Otherwise, we will have to get our batteries changed every two or three years.

Antarctic Sea's Role As Climate Regulator Changing

Craig Stevens



Changing climate is upon us, with more frequent land and marine heatwaves, forest fires, atmospheric rivers and floods. For some, it is the backdrop to day-to-day life, but for a growing number of people it is a life-changing reality.

It is now more remarkable when a year is not the hottest since our species began to develop civilisations. Whenever we experience extreme climate events, it can be hard to engage with the concept that they are minor blips in the planetary experiment we are conducting. But the main act is taking place elsewhere in the oceans, which soak up more than 90 per cent of the excess heat energy.

We are winding up a clockwork spring without knowing exactly when, how fast and how it will unspool. Ocean heating is not so much a canary in a coal mine but a thrashing shark we've inadvertently (at least initially) hauled up into our fishing boat.

A bonfire of records

A drop in the area covered by sea ice, both in the Arctic and more recently also in Antarctica, is one of the latest

record-breaking changes. These floating expanses of frozen seawater are central to how our world works. They regulate how much light our planet reflects, help ventilate the oceans, and host important ecosystems in the form of algal meadows on their underside. But now, due to the warming of the ocean, we have the lowest sea ice area ever recorded.

Ocean scientists are not used to thinking of rapid change, but the trajectory of the global average temperature on the surface of the ocean has now entered uncharted territory – and fast. We know about the scale of this thanks to satellite technology that can sense small changes in temperature at the ocean surface. These surface data are just that: the temperature of the very skin of the ocean. To get a sense of warming in the deeper ocean, we use ship-based measurements and a fleet of underwater robots known as Argo.

The deep ocean is clearly changing. This is because polar sea ice acts as a connector between the atmosphere, the surface of the ocean and deeper waters. With less sea ice, there is less cold, salty, oxygenated water sinking to the deep ocean.

These freezing coastal waters of Antarctica are a crucial engine room for global currents that convey energy around the planet – and this ocean transport mechanism is now changing. One of the unknowns of ocean warming is how the oceans will adjust and store all the heat. Heating the ocean

Whenever we experience extreme climate events, it can be hard to engage with the concept that they are minor blips in the planetary experiment we are conducting.

surface makes the upper reaches more stable. This in turn changes how the upper ocean absorbs carbon dioxide.

The difficulty for researchers determining how best to respond is that the processes that move and mix this heat operate over very small scales. It is beyond even our most powerful climate simulators to model exactly how the heat is spread, making predictions less certain.

Even if our models could work at very big and very small scales at the same time, they would have few data for validation. This is because very little of the ocean's mixing has been observed directly. While we can predict some of this mixing, the ocean is full of surprises. Recently, the Drake Passage has been shown to be even more of a mixing hotspot than previously thought.

A warming Pacific

Despite the connected ocean, the individual basins have their own

characteristics and contributions to climate. Aotearoa New Zealand sits in the southwest corner of the Pacific Ocean, which covers about a third of the globe's surface.

The Pacific is so large it has its own internal cycles, such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). We have to disentangle these to understand long-term changes. While El Niño conditions can bring marine heatwaves to some areas of the Pacific, the oceans around Aotearoa New Zealand, especially to the south, are already experiencing nearly constant marine heatwaves.

The scale of the oceanic contribution to storing heat means any small change to how this has operated over the past millennia may have very large impacts. It is impossible to overstate the urgency with which we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Technologies that can capture already emitted carbon dioxide have many proponents, but they must not come at the expense of efforts to turn off emission sources. Without removing the drivers of emissions, these stop-gap measures will only delay the inevitable. As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change put it in its latest report: *There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.*

(The author is a Professor in Ocean Physics, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research.)

-- The Conversation

50 YEARS AGO

THE RISING NEPAL

May 6 1973

Paintings Exhibition Opened

Kathmandu- Chancellor of the Royal Nepal Academy Kedar Man Byathit today inaugurated the the paintings exhibition at Park Gallery, reports RSS.

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READER'S MAIL

Test Level Of Pesticides On Vegetables, Fruits



I am writing this in reference to the news report titled '*SC orders to test level of pesticides on veggies, fruits at customs points*', which was published in the online edition of your daily on Friday (May 5).

As per the news, the Supreme Court (SC) has issued a mandamus order to submit a report within two months at the apex court after testing the level of pesticides in all vegetables and fruits imported from India and other countries.

The order was issued by a division bench of justices Shushmalata Mathema and Nahakul Subedi. The verdict also includes four-point direction on the matter.

Meanwhile, the SC has also ordered the authorities concerned to test the level of pesticides on all imported vegetables and fruits at the customs points by establishing

laboratories there. It has also directed the government to equip such labs with modern equipment and skilled human resources.

The SC order also requires the government to make necessary preparations for an effective implementation of national and international laws and standards concerning the regulation of the use of pesticides.

With increased use of pesticides in fruit and vegetable farms, the products have become inedible. So, it is urgently necessary for the authorities to make sure that they test the level of level of pesticides on all the imported fruits and vegetables.

We hope that the government will respect the SC verdict accordingly.

Kumari Niraula
Changunarayan, Bhaktapur

TAILPIECE

Dave, at a New Year's party, turns to his friend, Kevin, and asks for a cigarette.

'I thought you made a New Year's resolution to quit smoking,' Kevin responds.

'I'm in the process of quitting,' replies Dave with a grin.

'Right now, I am in the middle of phase one.' 'Phase one?' wonders Kevin.

'Yeah,' laughs Dave, 'I've quit buying.'

The doctor took his patient into the room and said, "I have some good news and some bad news."

The patient said, "Give me the good news."

"They're going to name a disease after you."

Russia's Wagner boss threatens Bakhmut pullout in Ukraine

AP
Kyiv, Ukraine, May 5

The owner of Russia's Wagner Group military contractor threatened Friday to pull his troops out of the protracted battle for the eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut next week, accusing Russia's military command of starving his forces of ammunition and causing them heavy losses.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, a notorious millionaire with longtime links to Russian President Vladimir Putin, claimed that Wagner had planned to capture Bakhmut by May 9. That day is a major Russian holiday marking the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II.

But, Prigozhin said, his force hasn't received enough artillery ammunition supplies from the Russian military since Monday. Known for his bluster, Prigozhin has previously made unverifiable claims and made threats he hasn't carried out.

Hours before releasing the statement, Prigozhin's spokespeople published a video of him angrily demanding ammunition from Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and General Staff Chief Valery Gerasimov.

In the video, Prigozhin stands in front of around 30 uniformed bodies lying on the ground. He says they are the bodies of Wagner fighters who died on Thursday alone.

Prigozhin speaks in a furious tone and uses numerous expletives in the video.

"These are someone's fathers and someone's sons," Prigozhin says, pointing at the bodies. "The scum that doesn't give us ammunition will eat their guts



in hell."

He alleged that Russia's regular army was supposed to protect the flanks as Wagner troops pushed forward but is "barely holding on to them," deploying "tens and rarely hundreds" of troops.

Russia's Defense Ministry did not immediately comment on the claims, and it was not possible to independently verify them.

"Wagner ran out of resources to advance in early April, but we're advancing despite the fact that the enemy's resources outnumber ours fivefold," Prigozhin's statement said. "Because of the lack of ammunition, our losses are growing exponentially every day."

The Wagner Group has spearheaded the struggle for control of Bakhmut, which is the longest — and likely bloodiest — battle of the war. The more than eight months of fighting there

is believed to have cost thousands of lives, though neither side is saying how many.

Prigozhin has toured Russian prisons to recruit fighters, promising inmates pardons if they survive a half-year tour of front-line duty with Wagner. Western countries and United Nations experts have accused Wagner mercenaries of committing numerous human rights abuses throughout Africa, including in the Central African Republic, Libya and Mali.

Bakhmut, located about 55 kilometers (34 miles) north of the Russian-held regional capital of Donetsk, has tactical military value for Moscow, though analysts say it won't be decisive in the war's outcome.

The city had a prewar population of 80,000 and was an important industrial center. It is now a devastated ghost town, but it has become an important

symbol of Ukrainian resistance to Russia's invasion, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy saying its capitulation could begin building international support for a deal that could require Ukraine to make unacceptable compromises.

Prigozhin's statement said that Wagner will be forced to pull out of Bakhmut on May 10 and have Russia's regular army take over, "because without ammunition, (Wagner fighters) are doomed to a senseless death."

He accused "jealous military bureaucrats" of denying him ammunition. Western officials and analysts believe Russia has run low on ammunition as the 14-month conflict became bogged down in a war of attrition over the winter, with both sides resorting to long-range bombardments.

It is not the first time Prigozhin has raged about ammunition shortages and blamed Russia's military, with which he has long been in conflict. He has already threatened to withdraw from Bakhmut once, in an interview with a Russian military blogger last week, if the situation with ammunition doesn't improve.

Asked by The Associated Press about Prigozhin's statement, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he had seen references to it in the media but refused to comment further. The Russian military did not immediately comment on the statement either.

Also Friday, an oil refinery in Russia's southern Krasnodar region which borders the annexed Crimean Peninsula briefly caught fire after it was attacked by a drone, Russia's state news agency Tass reported, citing emergency officials. The fire was small and was quickly put out, the report said.

Sudan migrants in Israel worry over future, fighting at home

AP
Tel Aviv, Israel, May 5

Omer Easa is watching the violence roiling his native Sudan with deep trepidation. The further Sudan sinks into chaos and violence, he fears, the longer he is likely to remain an unrecognized asylum-seeker in Israel, where he has few protections.

Backers of migrants like Easa say their rights will likely come under greater threat if Israel's government, its most right-wing ever, moves ahead on a contentious plan to overhaul the judiciary.

The plan, if it passes in its original form, could lead to legal measures that would embitter the everyday lives of the migrants and, critics say, make their stay in Israel intolerable.

"My heart is there. My head is there. It is just that my body is here," said Easa, 31, who said he fled the war-torn region of Darfur in 2012 over concerns for his life. "We live here often thanks to the graces of the Supreme Court."

Proponents of the legal overhaul say the migrants are a main reason the plan must move ahead.

African migrants, mainly from Sudan and Eritrea, began arriving in Israel in 2005 through its porous border with Egypt.

Israel initially turned a blind eye to their influx and many took up menial jobs in hotels and restaurants. But as their numbers swelled to a high of about 60,000, there was a backlash, with growing calls to expel the new arrivals. After years of attempts to push them out, they now number about 25,000, according to the Israeli Interior Ministry.

Easa is one of thousands of Sudanese migrants in Israel who live a precarious existence. Israel recognizes very few as asylum seekers, seeing them overwhelmingly as economic migrants and says it has no legal obligation to keep them. Talk of repatriating them emerged when Israel and Sudan signed a normalization agreement in 2020, but the turmoil there has slowed progress on the deal.

Violence in Sudan between forces loyal to two warring generals erupted last month, pushing the nation to the brink of collapse. The fighting, which began as Sudan was expected to start transitioning from last year's military coup to civilian rule, already has killed hundreds of people and left millions trapped in urban areas, sheltering from gunfire, explosions and looters.

With Sudan's cellphone network all but dead, Easa and others in Israel have struggled to reach their loved ones.

Israel's African migrants say they are asylum-seekers who fled for their lives and face danger if they return. Those from Sudan see the renewed conflict at home as another reminder of why they cannot go back and why their status should be settled, especially at a time of uncertainty over the future of Israel's judicial system.

Under international law, Israel cannot forcibly send migrants back to a country where their life or liberty may be at risk. Critics accuse the government instead of trying to coerce them into leaving.

Israel has used various tactics that have made their lives more difficult, from detaining them in remote desert prisons to holding part of their wages and making the money available to them only after they agree to leave the country.

PRISM

Cows caught 'skipping school'

Pierre: A pair of cows escaped from a South Dakota high school and went wandering across highways and through yards before being corralled at a softball field, police said.

The Pierre Police Department said in a Facebook post the the yearling cows were accused of "skipping school" when they wandered off while taking part in an exhibit at Riggs High School.

"Their adventure took them across roads and highways, through yards and eventually to the Pierre Softball Complex," the post said.

Police, animal control officers and Hughes County sheriff's deputies met the cows at the field and were able to usher them into a fenced-in area.

Reunited with missing cat after 10 years

South Carolina: A South Carolina animal shelter said a lost cat was reunited with his owner after 10 years thanks to his microchip.

The Charleston Animal Society said a cat recently picked up by animal control officers was scanned for a microchip and identified as Mr. Mojo, a feline who went missing 10 years ago from a home about 2 miles from where he was found.

Mr. Mojo's owner, identified as Erin, adopted the cat and another feline named Mahi on the same day, but Mr. Mojo fled after the household added a dog that the cat did not care for.

"He was an indoor/outdoor cat who usually came home, but after that night he never returned," the shelter said in a Facebook post. "For weeks she put up flyers in her neighborhood posted on social media and checked the shelter. She did all the right things and still, Mr. Mojo wasn't found."

(AP/UPI)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1863 – American Civil War: The Battle of Chancellorsville ends with the defeat of the Army of the Potomac by the Army of Northern Virginia.

1877 – Chief Crazy Horse of the Oglala Lakota surrenders to United States troops in Nebraska.

1882 – Thomas Henry Burke and Lord Frederick Cavendish are stabbed to death by Fenian assassins in Phoenix Park, Dublin.

1882 – The United States Congress passes the Chinese Exclusion Act.

1940 – John Steinbeck is awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his novel The Grapes of Wrath.

1941 – At California's March Field, Bob Hope performs his first USO show.

1941 – The first flight of the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt.

Suspect arrested in Serbia's second mass shooting in 2 days

AP
Belgrade, Serbia, May 5

A gunman apparently shooting at random killed eight people and wounded 14 in three Serbian villages, authorities said, shaking a nation still in the throes of grief over a mass shooting a day earlier. Police arrested a suspect Friday after an all-night manhunt.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic called Thursday's shooting an attack on the whole nation — and said the person arrested wore a T-shirt with a pro-Nazi slogan on it.

The shooting came a day after a 13-year-old boy used his father's guns to kill eight fellow students and a guard at a school in Belgrade, the capital.

The bloodshed sent shockwaves through a Balkan nation scarred by wars, but unused to mass murders. Though Serbia is awash with weapons left over from the conflicts of the 1990s, Wednesday's shooting was the first at a school in the country's modern history.

The last mass shooting before this week was in 2013, when a war veteran killed 13 people in a central Serbian village.

Late Thursday, an attacker shot at

people in three villages near Mladenovac, some 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of the capital. Vucic said the assailant targeted people "wherever they were."

"I heard some tak-tak-tak sounds," recalled Milan Prokic, a resident of Dubona, near Mladenovac. Prokic said he first thought people were shooting to celebrate a birth, as is tradition in Serbia.

"But it wasn't that. Shame, great shame," Prokic added.

Police said a suspect, identified by the initials U.B., was arrested near the central Serbian town of Kragujevac, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Belgrade.

Authorities released a photo of the suspect in a police car, showing a young man in a blue T-shirt with the slogan "Generation 88" on it. The double eights can be used as shorthand for "Heil Hitler" since H is the eighth letter of the alphabet.

Vucic vowed to the nation in an address that the suspect "will never again see the light of the day." He referred to the attack as an act of terror and announced a new raft of gun-control measures, including a moratorium on new permits for firearms, as well as an increase in the number of police.

"We will disarm Serbia," Vucic promised, saying the government would outline the new rules later on Friday.

King's coronation draws apathy, criticism in former colonies



PHOTO: AP

Guards carry flags from Commonwealth countries during a full tri-service and Commonwealth rehearsal at RAF Odiham in Hook, England, Sunday, April 30, 2023, ahead of their involvement in the second procession that accompanies King Charles III and Queen Camilla from Westminster Abbey back to Buckingham Palace.

AP
London, May 5

When King Charles III is crowned on Saturday, soldiers carrying flags from the Bahamas, South Africa, Tuvalu and beyond will march alongside British troops in a spectacular military procession in honor of the monarch.

For some, the scene will affirm the ties that bind Britain and its former colonies. But for many others in the Commonwealth, a group of nations mostly made up of places once claimed by the British Empire, Charles' coronation is seen with apathy at best.

In those countries, the first crowning of a British monarch in 70 years is an occasion to reflect on oppression and colonialism's bloody past. The displays of pageantry in London will jar especially with growing calls in the Caribbean to sever all ties with the monarchy.

"Interest in British royalty has waned since more Jamaicans are waking to the reality that the survivors of colonialism and the holocaust of slavery are yet to receive reparatory justice," the Rev. Sean Major-Campbell, an Anglican priest in the Jamaican capital, Kingston, said.

The coronation is "only relevant in so far as it kicks us in the face with the reality that our head of state is simply so by virtue of biology,"

Listen both ways: Blind walkers winning safer road crossings

AP
Chicago, May 5

After a retinal disease left him legally blind, architect John Gleichman was struck by a taxicab while walking home near Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo — at the same intersection where a 4-year-old girl was killed by a hit-and-run driver years earlier.

Although Maya Hirsch's death in 2006 ignited a citywide crusade for pedestrian safety improvements, almost all the electronic upgrades since then have been for people who can see. Nearly 3,000 Chicago intersections are now equipped with visual crossing signals, yet fewer than three dozen include audible cues.

In a landmark victory for blind residents challenging the accessibility of a major city's signalized crosswalks, a federal judge in March ruled in a class-action lawsuit that such disparity in the nation's third-largest city violates the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"Every time I go out to go downtown for a meeting, I have to think I could get hit today and not make it home," said Gleichman, 65, who has been struck



PHOTO: AP

Maureen Reid, left, and her guide dog, Gaston, cross the intersection of Wood Street and Roosevelt Avenue with Sandy Murillo, center, and Geovanni Bahena, relying on an audible signal for the blind, on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, in Chicago.

four times times by vehicles while navigating the city with his white cane since being diagnosed as legally blind in 2005. He considers himself fortunate to have escaped serious injury each time.

A future hearing could decide how many audible crossing signals Chicago must install, but a similar case in New

York City suggests it could be substantial. A federal judge there appointed an independent monitor and in December 2021 gave officials a decade to gradually make at least 10,000 of its approximately 13,000 signalized intersections accessible to blind pedestrians. It's already well ahead of schedule.

"That kind of made it dawn on me,"



17 NEW COVID-19 CASES REPORTED IN 24-HOURS

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 5

Nepal reported 17 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, informed the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP).

The MoHP, in its situation report on Friday, informed that 257 samples were tested in the past 24 hours.

All the samples were tested from the RT-PCR method.

Likewise, 57 individuals recovered from the infection and 43,609 individuals got vaccinated against it during the same period.

There are 162 active cases across the country, and among them, 24 are in institutional isolation, 12 in Intensive Care Units (ICU) and one in ventilator support.

RSP WITHDRAWS ITS SUPPORT TO GOVERNMENT

RSS
Kathmandu, May 5

Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) has withdrawn its support to Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'-led government.

A joint meeting of the party's central committee and parliamentary party decided to withdraw its support to the government and stay in opposition.

At a news conference organised after the meeting, RSP Chairperson Rabi Lamichhane said, "We have to value people's sentiment and mandate. The recently-held by-election has given us a mandate to stay in opposition. Now we will move ahead accordingly."

The RSP would play the role of constructive opposition in coming days rather than forming and breaking alliance, he opined. Saying provincial structure is becoming a place to manage leaders and cadres, Chair Lamichhane pointed out the need of holding discussion in regard to the relevance of province structure.

He extended gratitude to the incumbent government for taking action against those involved in fake Bhutaneese refugees scam, and also urged to remain tough against those involved in corruption cases.

Buddha's birth...

Stating that Ashoka, the emperor of the Mauryan dynasty, became Buddha's follower towards the second half of his life after he joined peace from war, Prime Minister Prachanda shared he related the incident with the Maoist 'people's war'.

Speaking at the event, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Sudan Kirati said that no one could make a photocopy of Lumbini.

He vowed to address several anomalies in the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) and informed that aircrafts of Nepal Airlines would begin their service to the Gautam Buddha International Airport from May 30.

Likewise, Chief Minister of Lumbini Province Dilli Chaudhary stressed the need for pushing forward the task of building the Buddha Circuit. He said Lumbini's publicity could lure tourists from across the globe and contribute to the prosperity of Lumbini Province.

He also demanded that Rupan-dehi, Kapilvastu and Nawalparasi be declared peace zone.

Lumbini, the birthplace of the Buddha, was decorated like a bride's home to mark the 2567th Buddha Jayanti and Lumbini Day on Friday.

A large number of monks from Nepal and abroad and other people arrived in Lumbini to observe the Buddha Jayanti.

Minister Kirati inaugurated the peace rally, organised in the morning

‘Right to...

people's request for information and disseminate things of mass importance through the media. Sharma said that preparations were being made to set up a single channel for the dissemination of all government information.

The Minister also assured that the government was serious about ensuring the security of information-providers. Furthermore, she asked everyone to request for information confidently and reminded that the officials who refused to provide information would be punished under the law.

Chief Information Commissioner Mahendra Man Gurung informed that Nepal ranked 22nd among the 136 countries that guaranteed their citizens' right to information.



Chandeshwari Jatra of Banepa starts on the day of Buddha Jayanti every year and the local community celebrates it with great fanfare.

Banke launches campaign against dowry system

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT
Nepalgunj, May 5

The Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City of Banke district has launched a campaign against the dowry system, a social ill that is rampant across the Terai.

Nepalgunj is mainly inhabited by Madhesi and Muslim communities, and dowry system is a burning issue among these communities. The sub-metropolis has formed a taskforce in an effort to free itself the ill practice.

The sub-metropolis has concluded that due to this evil practice, many impoverished families there are having a hard time getting their daughters married as they couldn't pay a hefty sum to groom's family as dowry.

Considering this fact, the

sub-metropolis has formed a 15-member task force to control this ill practice alongside a social media group to share information.

The meeting held under the chairmanship of Deputy-Mayor Kamaruddin Rai in the presence of various stakeholders has formed the task force.

Manju Pandey, Women's Development Officer of Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City, said that a 15-member task force has been formed under the coordination of Deputy Mayor Rai to end the practice of dowry system.

Pandey, who is also the member secretary of the task force, said the task force would make a future action plan and fulfill a major responsibility in the government's endeavor to stop abuses against women.

Many families of the sub-metropolis are forced to take loans to marry off their daughters to satisfy the dowry

demand sought by grooms and their family. But even after years of marriage, they keep demanding gifts from the bride's family, said Pandey.

If a bride fails to bring enough dowry, she is, more often than not, subjected to the violence.

According to Pandey, the meeting also decided to formulate a policy and endorse it from the next Municipal Assembly.

Deputy-Mayor Rai said the task force would work to end the practice of giving and receiving dowry.

President of Fatima Foundation, Maimuna Siddiqui, said that it is a very commendable step for the local government to form a task force to stop this social evil.

She expressed her confidence that the task force formed in the sub-metropolis where dowry tradition is rife would be able to change things for the better.

Canada mulls expelling China diplomat for targeting lawmaker

AP
Toronto, May 5

Canada's foreign minister said Thursday the country is considering the expulsion of Chinese diplomats over an intelligence agency report saying one of them plotted to intimidate the Hong Kong relatives of a Canadian lawmaker.

Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said her department was summoning

China's ambassador to a meeting to underline that Canada won't tolerate such interference.

She said the intelligence agency report indicated that opposition Conservative lawmaker Michael Chong and his Hong Kong relatives were targeted after Chong criticized Beijing's human rights record. "We're assessing different options including the expulsion of diplomats," Joly said before a Parliament committee.

Canada's spy agency has not released

details publicly. Chong has said the report identifies a Toronto-based diplomat as being part of the plot. Chong has been critical of Beijing's treatment of Uyghur Muslims in China's Xinjiang province.

"I cannot imagine the shock and concern of learning that your loved ones have been targeted in this way," Joly said to Chong at the committee hearing. "There will be consequences." Chong said the diplomat should be on the first plane out of Canada.

WHO downgrades COVID pandemic, it's no longer emergency

AP
Geneva, May 5

The World Health Organization said Friday that COVID-19 no longer qualifies as a global emergency, marking a symbolic end to the devastating coronavirus pandemic that triggered once-unthinkable lockdowns, upended economies and killed millions of people worldwide.

The announcement, made more than three years after WHO declared the coronavirus an international crisis, offers a coda to a pandemic that stirred fear and suspicion, hand-wringing and finger-pointing across the globe.

The U.N. health agency's officials said that even though the emergency phase was over, the pandemic hasn't ended, noting recent spikes in cases in Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

WHO says thousands of people are still dying from the virus every week, and millions of others are suffering from debilitating, long-term effects.

"It's with great hope that I declare COVID-19 over as a global health emergency," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

"That does not mean COVID-19 is over as a global health threat," he said, adding he wouldn't hesitate to reconvene experts to assess the situation should a new variant "put our world in peril."

Tedros said the pandemic had been on a downward trend for more than a year, acknowledging that most countries have already returned to life before COVID-19.

He bemoaned the damage that COVID-19 had done to the global community, saying the pandemic had shattered businesses, exacerbated political divisions, led to the spread of misinformation and plunged millions into poverty.

The political fallout in some countries was swift and unforgiving. Some pundits say missteps by President Donald Trump in his administration's response to the pandemic had a role in his losing reelection bid in 2020. The United States saw the deadliest outbreak of any country in the world — where more than 1 million people died.

Dr. Michael Ryan, WHO's emergencies chief, said it was incumbent on heads of states and other leaders to negotiate a wide-ranging pandemic treaty to decide how future health threats should be faced.

Ryan said that some of the scenes witnessed during COVID-19, when people resorted to "bartering for oxygen canisters," fought to get into emergency rooms and died in parking lots because they couldn't get treated, must never be repeated.

When the U.N. health agency first declared the coronavirus to be an international crisis on Jan. 30, 2020, it hadn't

Chandeshwari Jatra starts in Banepa

BY KEDAR TIMILSINA
Kavrepalanchowk, May 5

Chandeshwari Jatra, celebrated by the local Newar community of Banepa, in Kavre district, started on Friday. The Jatra starts on the day of Buddha Jayanti or Chandi Purnima every year and the local community celebrates it with great fanfare.

There is a legend that Chandeshwari Jatra started about 600 years ago during the reign of King Anand Dev. In ancient times, a demon named Chandasura had caused a lot of suffering to the people in Banepa as well as all Hindu deities and Chandeshwori Mai appeared from Rak-tachandan forest to relieve the locals from the misery. The Jatra is celebrated every year to mark the victory.

Chandeswari and different gods and goddesses were worshiped (Tak puja) on Thursday and the Jatra started with the sacrifice of 12 black goats. On the second day of the Jatra (Friday) at 3:30 am, the locals took chirag (torch) in their hands and attended Laiku Darbar in Banepa, chanting hymns along with various instruments and went to Jaisigakund (holy shrine) near Chandeshwari to take a bath.

Similarly, on Friday, after **Kanfutta Jogi** came from Hanumandhoka in Kathmandu, a sheep and a rooster of Banepa were slaughtered and the chariot was brought to Chandeshwari

temple to worship the deity.

On the third day (Saturday) of the Jatra, the deity will be brought to the Rakhi market in the chariot to the Chandeshwari temple to keep the deity. According to local residents, it is customary to wash the face of the deity in Bhairav Kundal and bring the chariot to the market.

It is also customary for the girls of the Bhokshibhoya caste to welcome the chariot brought with the deity by opening the mouth of the deity. After Lash-kush, the chariot is taken around the city and taken to Laiku Darwar, and offering duck sacrifice (Raj puja) is a tradition.

Among the 12 black goats sacrificed, one is given to the Joshi who recites the puja, and the meat of the other goats is cut into pieces and given to the priest. There is a legend that people who find goat's ears, tongue, eyes, horns and other things among the meat donated by Kal will get all the things they desire. Local elders say that those fining the right horn, eye, or ear will be luckier.

After Kaldan, the chariot carrying the deity is taken from the Ganesh place in Banepa to Chandeshwari. Another interesting aspect of the Jatra is that the chariot has to be brought to Chandeshwari before the rooster crows.

There is a rule that if the chariot is taken to Chandeshwari after the rooster crows, then the chariot is not allowed to enter the temple. As mentioned by Devmala Banshavali, Chandeshwari Jatra is mentioned in the first stage of Satya Yuga.

Four die in dry landslide in Phikkal of Ilam

BY PREM ADHIKARI
Pashupatinagar, May 5

Four Indian labourers have died on the spot after being caved in while constructing a house in Phikkal of Suryadaya Municipality-10, Ilam.

A sudden landslide that occurred from above the construction site killed the four workers when they were laying the foundation of a house of local Binod Shrestha Friday evening. All the deceased have been identified as Indian nationals, said police.

The construction of the house had begun on Friday itself. Before the incident, the workers were laying the foundation work of the house.

The deceased have been identified as Toship Alam of Kishangunj, Aji Modin, Mujhafar Alam and Abdul

Alam, according to police inspector Santosh Rai of the Area Police Office, Pashupatinagar.

Contractor Mamat Alam and three others were able to flee the scene. Although a rescue team of Nepal Police and locals reached the site immediately, the rescue effort went futile as they were buried under huge debris, said police.

The bodies were recovered with the help of JCVs after the exact point of the burial could not be located, said police.

Ward chairman Pema Ugen Lama said that the landslide occurred due to the weak geography of the ground.

He said that even though the site did not look risky as it was flat, the workers died when the dry landslide fell on them from above. The bodies have been kept at Phikkal Hospital.

The police said that the postmortem would be conducted on Saturday.

15 killed in Congo flooding, with toll expected to rise

AP
Kinshasa, Congo, May 5

Rescue efforts were underway after flooding and landslides brought on by torrential overnight rains in eastern

Congo's South Kivu province killed more than a dozen people, a local official said Friday. Delphin Birimbi, a community leader in Kalehe in South Kivu, said that there were 15 dead in his village and that more than 30 people are missing in the nearby localities of Bushushu and Nyamukubi.

acute health threats, but the organization faltered repeatedly as the coronavirus unfolded.

In January 2020, WHO publicly applauded China for its supposed speedy and transparent response, even though recordings of private meetings obtained by The Associated Press showed top officials were frustrated at the country's lack of cooperation.

WHO also recommended against mask-wearing for the public for months, a mistake many health officials say cost lives.

Numerous scientists also slammed WHO's reluctance to acknowledge that COVID-19 was frequently spread in the air and by people without symptoms, criticizing the agency's lack of strong guidance to prevent such exposure.

Tedros was a vociferous critic of rich countries who hoarded the limited supplies of COVID-19 vaccines, warning that the world was on the brink of a "catastrophic moral failure" by failing to share shots with poor countries.

Most recently, WHO has struggled to investigate the origins of the coronavirus, a challenging scientific endeavour that has also become politically fraught.

After a weeks-long visit to China, WHO released a report in 2021 concluding that COVID-19 most likely jumped into humans from animals, dismissing the possibility that it originated in a lab as "extremely unlikely."

Sakela Ubhauli marked



BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 5

The Kirant Rais marked Sakela Ubhauli festival was celebrated by worshipping mother nature (Bhumesthan) all over the country on Friday.

The festival is celebrated every year on the full moon day of Baisakh Shukla Purnima. Before planting crops, there

is a tradition of worshipping nature wishing for good crops.

The festival highlights the agricultural lifestyle of the Kirant people. It is also considered a way of thanks-giving to nature for providing them with good crops.

They perform Sakela dance acting like farmers planting crops, harvesting and knitting, and bird dance.

The literal meaning of Ubhauli is to climb the upper area. In summer, the birds and animals of the lower

areas migrate to the upper lands. It is from this process that the nature-loving community got the festival's name—Ubhauli.

Chandi dance is performed on the occasion of this festival. This is why the day of Baisakh Shukla Purnima is also called Chandi Purnima.

The festival was celebrated in the Valley by offering worship at Saano Hattiban and performing the ‘Sakela’ dance at Nakkipot in Lalitpur.

21 vying for Mr. and Miss National titles

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 5

The number of contestants in beauty pageants held in Nepal has increased.

Meanwhile, Sanurvi International Private Limited, the company that hosts Mr. and Miss National Nepal competition, has reported a growth in the number of participants while preparing for the third edition of the event.

During the event in Kathmandu that was held to inform the public about the competition, 36 candidates were selected from a total of 170 contestants who auditioned in Itahari, Dhangadhi, Pokhara and Kathmandu.

Director of Nepal Chapter, Santosh Upadhyay, confirmed that 21 of those

selected contestants will participate in the upcoming competition.

According to Upadhyay, the final competition will include contestants like Miss Diamond Saroji Neupane, Miss Sudurpashchim Roshni Chand, Miss Purbeli Supermodel Sumnima Khatun, Miss Teen Runner-up Sushmita Adhikari, Miss Baglung Sakuna Khatri, House of fashion Shishir Wagle, and Mr. Teen runner-up Cyrus Vishwakarma.

Upadhyay stated that he initiated the competition in Nepal after participating in Miss and Mr. Supranational as a contestant and becoming the fourth-place winner.

He said that the competition now includes titles for Miss Globe and Mr. International, and the judges include international winners to ensure fairness.

One of the judges of this year's competition is Prathamesh Maulingkar, an Indian model, who won ‘Mr Supranational 2018’.

He will be arriving in Nepal next Monday to participate in the competition, said the organiser.

The competition, which is choreographed by Prashant Tamrakar, is open to men, women, same-sex couples, and individuals living alone. The event will select two male and two female winners, totaling four in total.

The male winner will have the opportunity to participate in both the international beauty pageants Mr. Supranational and Mr. International, whereas the female winner will participate in Miss Supranational and Miss Globe.

The finale for this year's competition will be held on May 15.

Jury finds Ed Sheeran didn’t copy Marvin Gaye classic

AP
New York, May 5

British singer Ed Sheeran didn't steal key components of Marvin Gaye's classic 1970s tune "Let's Get It On" to create his hit song "Thinking Out Loud," a jury said with a trial verdict Thursday, prompting Sheeran to joke later that he won't have to follow through on his threat to quit music.

The emotions of an epic copyright fight that stretched across most of the last decade spilled out as soon as the seven-person jury revealed its verdict after over two hours of deliberations.

Sheeran, 32, briefly dropped his face into his hands in relief before standing to hug his attorney, Ilene Farkas. As jurors left the courtroom in front of him, Sheeran smiled, nodded his head at several of them, and mouthed the words: "Thank you." Later, he posed for a hallway photograph with a juror who



lingered behind.

He also approached plaintiff Kathryn Townsend Griffin, the daughter of Ed Townsend, who co-created the 1973 soul classic with Gaye and had testified. They spoke about 10 minutes, hugging and smiling and, at one point, clasping

their hands together.

Sheeran later addressed reporters outside the courthouse, revisiting his claim made during the trial that he would consider quitting songwriting if he lost the case.

He also said he missed his grandmother's funeral in Ireland because of the trial, and that he "will never get that time back."

Inside the courthouse after the verdict, Griffin said she was relieved.

"I'm just glad it's over," she said of the trial. "We can be friends."

She said she was pleased Sheeran approached her. "It showed me who he was," Griffin said.

She said her copyright lawsuit wasn't personal but she wanted to follow through on a promise to her father to protect his intellectual property.

A juror, Sophia Neis, told reporters afterward that there was not immediate consensus when deliberations began.

"Everyone had opinions going in. Both sides had advocates, said Neis, 23.

‘No Hard Feelings,’ a comedy made for Jennifer Lawrence

AP
Las Vegas, May 5

Jennifer Lawrence has wanted to do a big comedy for years. She has always been funny and vibrant in her television appearances. And while she has brought humor and physical comedy to many of her roles for David O. Russell and others, she also hasn't exactly gotten the big, broad "Dumb and Dumber" or "Anchorman" experience, to cite some of her favorites (or at least the ones she's memorized).

That changes this summer with "No Hard Feelings" (in theaters June 23), a classic, raunchy R-rated comedy that was tailor made for her.

"No Hard Feelings" was inspired by a real Craigslist ad posted by parents who were seeking a woman to "date" their son to bring him out of his shell the summer before he went to college. There are debates over just how real the "real ad" was, but thinking about the woman who might answer an ad like that was a premise funny enough to catch the attention of several producers and writer-director Gene Stupnitsky.

Stupnitsky, an Emmy-nominated alum of "The Office" who also directed and co-wrote the 2019 hit "Good Boys," knew just who to take it to. He told Lawrence about the idea one night at dinner with friends in which, he estimated, they had had about "eight or nine martinis between us."

The two met over a decade ago, through a mutual friend, at Medieval Times of all places. Lawrence, he remembered, was dressed in a full wizard costume. And they soon became actual friends. He even introduced Lawrence to her husband.

"I owed him one," Lawrence said. "That's why I did this film."

Stupnitsky, sitting next to Lawrence, added: "There's probably some



truth to that."

With Lawrence attached to star and produce, the movie became a hot commodity, with streaming services and studios vying for the rights to make it. Ultimately, they went with Sony and a traditional theatrical release.

In "No Hard Feelings," Lawrence's character Maddie is having a rough stretch with money. As an Uber driver without a car she's in a pressing bind. So when she finds this ad with the promise of a Buick Regal as payment, she takes the bait. In a clip that Sony debuted for theater owners at the CinemaCon convention last week, Maddie meets 19-year-old Percy (Andrew Barth Feldman) for the first time wearing a slim, hot pink mini dress and high heels and acting overtly flirty and available.

Violinist on Russian trains soothes weary commuters

AP
Moscow, May 5

The commuter trains that take wearied workers out of Moscow every day can be difficult — a long and slow trip in close quarters with strangers, some of them drinking alcohol or sprawled sleeping across the seats.

But a few days a week, riders might get a lift when Oksana comes aboard to soothe them with her violin artistry. Classics, jazz, Russian folk music and children's songs all flow as she glides her bow across the strings.

It's not just her repertoire that raises the passengers' spirits, but her instruments themselves. She makes her own violins from kits and decorates them with intricate, colorful paintings of flowers and winding vines.

The 49-year-old Oksana, who did not want her surname reported out of safety concerns, once worked at a cultural center in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don but moved to Moscow after she lost that job. There was a house loan to pay off along with support for her two children, who live with their father.

At first she worked as a dishwasher. One day she fell into conversation with a street musician after giving him some money and he encouraged her to follow his example, saying it would likely pay more than her scullery job.

She took his advice, except that she chose the trains known as elektrichki as her venue rather than the street. They have been her stage for the past four years. It's not lucrative. In a good month she can take in 80,000 rubles (\$750), but that's enough to pay for her room on the Moscow outskirts and to send some money to her kids.

HOROSCOPE

ARIES: Embracing a cozy day at home may be especially rewarding now, and it doesn't have to mean just sitting around quietly. Although you might experience some irritability about being cooped up at first.

CANCER: Creative expression could soften an edgy mood you've been in lately. There may not be an easy, logical answer to the problem of your desire for more autonomy in your life.

LIBRA: Using money creatively can help you achieve your goals at this time. While you want to get the most out of whatever resources you have, knowing their limits should also give you needed guidance.

CAPRICORN: Fixating on a particular person as the only one who can solve a problem you're facing is a risk for you. They may not be equipped to take care of it themselves -- but perhaps they know who is.

TAURUS: Flowing conversations in your social network can be a lot of fun for you now. Someone you've known on only a surface level could suddenly connect with you in a closer way than you're accustomed to.

LEO: Taking time alone could be necessary for you today. When your emotional boundaries are porous or hazy, too much interaction with others may become stressful.

SCORPIO: Your recent passion about your beliefs could potentially be covering up your lack of clarity regarding more personal issues. Today, however, you have a chance to bridge the gap.

AQUARIUS: Putting in sweat equity could be the most realistic route to achieving a personal goal at this time. If the money to do everything you've dreamed of isn't quite there yet.

GEMINI: Pinning down goals is possible for you at the moment, Gemini. Although you could feel like you should have more clear details, you may have to start flowing forward.

VIRGO: Someone close to you might be keeping things vaguer than you find comfortable lately. As the probing Moon in your communication sector encourages determined Mars in your 11th House of Networking.

SAGITTARIUS: A mystery in your family background could motivate you to dig for answers now. You're probably capable of finding the information you want.

PISCES: Taking a hobby seriously can be a great outlet for your energy now. Although you may usually approach this pursuit in a relaxed way, focusing on fun rather than competition.

CARTOON

Napoli emulate Maradona after ending long Serie A title wait

AFP
Naples, May 5

Napoli finally ended their long wait to win Serie A on Thursday, joining late club icon Diego Maradona in the history books by being crowned Italian champions with a record-equaling five matches to play.

A 1-1 draw at Udinese gave Napoli the point they needed to end 33 years of waiting and spark wild celebrations among the thousands of fans in Udine, at the Stadio Maradona in Naples and all around southern Italy’s biggest city.

Supporters streamed onto the pitch at the Dacia Arena to celebrate after a season dominated by Luciano Spalletti’s side, creating moments of tension with home fans not happy at such open partying on their ground.

Victor Osimhen scored the decisive goal in the second half as Napoli’s current stars came back from trailing to Sandi Lovric’s opener at half-time and emulated the teams led by Maradona which won the league in 1987 and 1990. “To be compared to him, to be the captain after Maradona to lift the Scudetto, I just have no words,” said skipper Giovanni Di Lorenzo.

“This isn’t my title, it belongs to every player and the people who worked to make our dream come true.”

Spalletti and his squad will receive an emotional welcome when they return to Naples, where the city-wide partying is set to continue to until at least their next home fixture against Fiorentina on Sunday evening. “Seeing Neapolitans happy is enough to give you a sense of that joy they are feeling,” Spalletti told DAZN on the verge of tears.

“These people will look to this moment when life gets hard, they have every right to celebrate like this. You feel a bit more relaxed knowing that you’ve given them this moment of happiness.” It was appropriate that Osimhen was the man to take Napoli over the line as the Nigeria striker has had the best season of his career and been key



Photo: AP
Napoli fans cheer in front of the Diego Armando Maradona stadium, in Naples, Italy, Thursday.

to Napoli’s historic charge to glory. Osimhen’s title-deciding strike was his 22nd goal in 28 league appearances and rightly caused bedlam among the massed ranks of away fans who took over Udine. Napoli’s 16-point lead over second-placed Lazio leaves them with a month-long parade between now and the end of the season which will allow their long-suffering supporters to fully unload more than a generation of frustration.

Osimhen seals deal

Napoli were straight on the front foot but looked worryingly bereft of ideas in the final third, and the away side were stunned in the 13th minute following the first spell of play in Udinese’s favour. Lovric was given the freedom of the penalty area after being fed by Destiny Udogie, and the Slovenia midfielder took advantage by placing a lovely shot in the top corner.

Lovric stung the fingers of former Udine youth product Alex Meret in the Napoli goal just after the half-hour mark, by which point Napoli hadn’t created a single goalscoring opportunity.

Seconds later Osimhen, who looked like Napoli’s only hope of scoring in the opening period, headed a deep cross just the wrong side of the post.

However, in the 52nd minute the 24-year-old stepped up as so often he has this season to unleash a wave of relief and blue smoke from the stands with his 27th goal in all competitions.

Osimhen was on hand to ram home the leveller when, after a corner, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia’s low shot was blocked and fell to the clinical striker.

He had the ball in the net again in the 67th minute but was denied by referee Rosario Abisso who rightly whistled for a foul by Elifj Elmas. But by that point the fans grew ever more sure that Thursday night would be the night, chanting victory songs in Udine while flares billowed and fireworks were set off at the other end of the country.

While fans had to be cleared from the pitch in Udine to avoid clashes with home supporters the Stadio Maradona was lit up by phones held by teary-eyed Neapolitans singing along to songs by late local singer-songwriter Pino Daniele.

Khumaltar shocks league leader Jawalakhel

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 5

A hat-trick from Stephane Binong helped Khumaltar FC to move to the safe zone in the ongoing Martyr’s Memorial ‘A’ Division League after they humiliated league leaders Jawalakhel Youth Club by 3-1 at ANFA Complex, Sattdobato, Lalitpur on Saturday.

After stunning league leader Jawalakhel, the bottom spot Khumaltar climbed to the 11th place with 17 points from 15 matches while Jawalakhel is still at the top of the league standings with 24 points from 15 matches. Church Boys United is in the second with equal 24 points, and a game in hand.

Similarly, Friends Club has dropped to the bottom of the league standings with 15 points from 14 matches together with the Nepal Police Club.

Cameroonian striker Stephane Binong scored a hat-trick and Messouke Oloumou for the bottom spot Khumaltar while Rohit Subba of Khumaltar scored in his own post.

Binong opened the account for Khumaltar FC in the 20th minute beating two defenders of Jawalakhel inside the box.

Rohit Subba of Khumaltar levelled the score 1-1 for Jawalakhel as he scored in his own post in the 42nd minute while clearing the close-range strike of Nkoto Synous Masoabi.

Binong restored Khumaltar’s lead to 2-1 in the dying minute of the first half scoring his individual second goal.

Unmarked Binong scored his third in the 50th minute from inside the box by taking control of a long-range pass from his teammate Messouke.

Binong completed his individual first hat trick in the league. This is the second hat-trick scorer in the ongoing league. Earlier, Olawale Afeez of defending champion Machhindra Football Club had scored the league’s first hat-trick against Khumaltar in the first leg.



Photo: Bikash/TRN
Stephane Binong of Khumaltar FC celebrates with his teammates after completing his individual hat-trick against Jawalakhel during the Martyr’s Memorial ‘A’ Division League held at ANFA Complex, Sattdobato Lalitpur on Friday.

Bipin Kandel scored for Jawalakhel in the 90+2 minutes with a stunning goal from inside the box.

Messouke sealed the match for the winning side in the 90+5 minutes with his volley in the one-versus-one against Jawalakhel goalie Anish Deuja in Binong’s pass.

Binong was declared the Player of the Match for his remarkable performance against league leader Jawalakhel.

Sherpa moves to safe zone

Himalayan Sherpa Club moved to the safe zone at Martyr’s Memorial ‘A’ Division League after they stunned Nepal Police Club by 2-1 in another match played at the Dasharath Stadium, Kathmandu on Friday.

With a victory against NPC, Sherpa moved to the safe zone as they climbed to the middle of the table in the seventh position with 20 points from 15 matches while the NPC dropped to the relegation zone with 15 points from 15 matches.

Abayomi Fakunle and Amit Shrestha scored one goal each while Saujan Rai scored a consolation goal for the NPC.

Abayomi Fakunle opened Sherpa’s account in the 14th minute. Unmarked Fakunle headed the goal.

Saujan Rai levelled the score 1-1 for Policemen in the 30th minute. He scored a stunning goal from a crowded area in the rebound ball.

Amit Shrestha confirmed Sherpa’s victory in the 51st minute. Unmarked Shrestha scored from inside the box.

BAYERN AND DORTMUND ENTER FINAL STRAIGHT OF TITLE BATTLE JUST A POINT APART

AFP
Munich, May 5

After returning to the top of the table, title hopefuls Bayern Munich turn their focus to their traditional whipping boys Werder Bremen on Saturday.

One point clear of Borussia Dortmund, Bayern can guarantee an historic 11th straight Bundesliga title by winning their final four matches. If Thomas Tuchel’s side defeat Bremen, they can go four points clear of Dortmund, who host Wolfsburg a day later.

Bremen’s last win over Bayern in all competitions came 30 matches ago, a 5-2 drubbing in Munich when a 20-year-old Mesut Ozil was pulling the strings in midfield. Since then, Bayern have won 26, with four draws, a period which has included 11 Bundesliga titles for Munich. In comparison, Bremen have not collected a single piece of silverware and spent one season in the second division.

To motivate the men in green even more, a win against Bayern would ensure another season in the top division, with 12th-placed Bremen still in mathematical danger of relegation. Bremen’s task got even harder on Thursday, with news that their top scorer and Germany number nine Niclas Füllkrug has failed to recover from a calf injury and will miss the clash.

Bremen manager Ole Werner said of Fuellkrug, who leads all Bundesliga scorers with 16 goals this season, “we’re trying to get him fit week by week and build him back up gently”.

Despite Bayern sitting top, the Bavarians are enduring a rough phase of their own – and unlike most recent Bundesliga seasons, have an opponent breathing down their necks with the end in sight.

Dortmund’s opponents on Sunday, Wolfsburg, also fall into the category of whipping boys, at least in their record against Dortmund.

Before Wolfsburg’s 2-0 win over Dortmund in November, the Wolves had lost 13 and drawn one of their past 14 matches against the side, a run going back to the 2015 German Cup final between the teams, which Wolfsburg won 3-1 in Kevin de Bruyne’s last match for the club.

Last-gasp Brighton beat Man Utd to avenge FA Cup defeat

AFP
Brighton, May 5

Brighton gained sweet revenge on Thursday for their defeat by Manchester United in the FA Cup semi-finals, with Alexis Mac Allister converting a 99th-minute penalty to dent the visitors’ Champions League hopes.

Classy Brighton dominated possession but lacked a cutting edge until Luke Shaw’s handball deep into stoppage time presented them with an opportunity to take all three points. The 1-0 win completes a league double for the Seagulls against United, who beat Erik ten Hag’s men in their first match of the season but suffered a painful defeat on penalties in last month’s FA Cup semi-final at Wembley.

United remain in the fourth and final Champions League qualification spot in the Premier League, four points ahead of fifth-placed Liverpool with a game in hand, while Brighton are up to sixth. “There is a God of football,” Brighton boss Roberto De Zerbi told Sky Sports. “We deserved to win the semi-final but lost on penalties but today we won with a penalty. In both games I think we played better than United.” Ten Hag bemoaned his team’s lack of



Photo: AP
Brighton’s Alexis Mac Allister shoots to score from the penalty spot during the English Premier League soccer match between Brighton and Hove Albion and Manchester United at the AMEX stadium in Brighton, England, Thursday.

finishing, but said United’s destiny was still in their own hands.

“We have to finish the chances, be more clinical and don’t make the mistakes we did like in the last seconds,” said the disappointed Dutchman. “We have everything in our hands and we have to bounce back. We take the lessons from tonight and we have to move on.”

Wasteful

Both teams squandered clear-cut chances in the opening

minutes of an entertaining encounter at the Amex Stadium.

United’s Brazilian winger Antony was put through by Bruno Fernandes in just the second minute but fired wastefully wide.

Two minutes later Japan’s Kaoru Mitoma intercepted a careless ball across the defence at the other end and broke into the box before hitting a shot that smashed goalkeeper David de Gea in the face. The lively Mitoma, putting United right-back Aaron

Wan-Bissaka under huge pressure, danced into the area again in the 13th minute but was unable to finish. The home side, bursting with confidence after a 6-0 win against Wolves, were enjoying the bulk of possession but United looked dangerous on the break.

The impressive Marcus Rashford hit a shot from a tight angle that Brighton goalkeeper Jason Steele did well to keep out at his near post. Argentine World Cup winner Mac Allister shot wide of De Gea’s goal while Anthony Martial’s effort was pushed away by Steele at the other end.

De Zerbi’s team were again on top in the early stages of the second half but Mitoma and Danny Welbeck were guilty of wasting openings. As the half wore on the game became more scrappy, suiting United, who were struggling to find fluency, but Brighton finished the stronger of the two teams.

In the 90th minute De Gea produced a smart save to keep out a Mac Allister strike, puffing out his cheeks in relief.

But the home side had one final chance after Shaw was penalised for handball following VAR intervention and Mac Allister made no mistake, lashing the ball high into the net to spark wild celebrations on the south coast.

real momentum. Chasing a par score on a two-paced wicket, Hyderabad got off to a slow start. Openers Mayank Agarwal and Abhishek Sharma only put on 29 off 17 balls.

Pacers Vaibhav Arora (2-32) and Shardul Thakur (2-23) picked up four wickets to rock the Hyderabad lineup. Russell dismissed Rahul Tripathi for 20. The big blow came when left-arm spinner Anukul Roy trapped Harry Brook lbw for a four-ball duck with the scorecard reading 54-4 in 6.2 overs.

Kolkata beats Hyderabad by 5 runs in IPL

AP
Hyderabad, May 5

Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy bowled a remarkable three-over spell as Kolkata Knight Riders beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by five runs in the Indian Premier League on Thursday.

Chakravarthy finished with 1-20 in four overs and defended nine runs off the final six deliveries, conceding only three, as

Hyderabad was restricted to 166-8 (20 overs). This was after Rinku Singh’s 46 off 35 balls helped Kolkata reach 171-9 (20 overs).

Kolkata had made a poor start with Rahmanullah Gurbaz falling for a first-ball duck, even as Jason Roy made 20 off 19 balls. Marco Jansen struck twice, picking up both Gurbaz and Venkatesh Iyer for seven runs, with the score at 16-2. Roy’s dismissal made it 35-3 in 4.4 overs, leaving a tough rebuilding job for the incoming batsmen. Singh and

skipper Nitish Rana (42) then added 61 off 40 balls for the fourth wicket to resurrect the Kolkata innings.

At 96-4, the job was only half done when Rana was out caught and bowled to Aiden Markram in the 12th over. Singh then put on vital partnerships with the lower-middle order batsmen, most prominently 31 off 18 balls with Andre Russell (24).

Russell hit two sixes but Hyderabad kept striking at regular intervals and Kolkata’s scoring rate never picked any

WEATHER

Saturday

Sunrise at 5:22 am, Sunset at 6:41 pm



Forecast for Nepal (Saturday)

Partly to generally cloudy in the hilly regions of Koshi Province, Gandaki Province and Karnali Province. Partly cloudy to mainly fair in the rest of the country. Isolated Brief rain or thundershowers is possible at one or two places of hilly regions of Koshi Province, Gandaki Province and Karnali Province.

Friday's Weather Record

Stations	Max. temp. (C)	Min. temp. (C)	Rain (mm)
Daddeldhura	22.6	9.9	Traces
Dipayal	29.4	15.7	0.7
Dhangadi	31.8	18.5	14.5
Birendranagar	29.7	16.5	0.0
Nepalgunj	32.3	20.0	0.0
Jumla	13.8	3.5	1.3
Ghorahi	28.8	18.3	0.0
Pokhara	24.3	13.8	4.9
Bhairahawa	32.1	21.5	0.0
Simara	29.0	18.4	1.6
Kathmandu	18.5	12.3	8.4
Okhaldhunga	16.2	11.6	2.6
Taplejung	17.8	9.8	1.3
Dhankuta	25.6	14.4	0.0
Biratnagar	32.8	20.6	0.0
Janakpur	29.5	20.0	3.4*
Dharan	31.7	23.0	Traces*
Lumle	22.0	10.4	23.7*
Janakpur	29.5	23.0	5.2*
Jiri	19.3	3.5	3.3*

Expected Temp.: 24 - 26°C
Rain Probability: ...%

NEPAL RASTRA BANK

FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

EXCHANGE RATES

May 6, 2023

CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING	SELLING
Indian Rupee	100	Rs. 160.00	Rs. 160.15

Open Market Exchange Rates
or the purpose of Nepal Rastra Bank

CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING	SELLING
U.S. Dollar	1	Rs. 130.59	Rs. 131.19
Euro	1	Rs. 143.98	Rs. 144.64
Pound Sterling	1	Rs. 164.77	Rs. 165.52
Swiss Franc	1	Rs. 146.52	Rs. 147.19
Australian Dollar	1	Rs. 87.87	Rs. 88.27
Canadian Dollar	1	Rs. 96.87	Rs. 97.31
Singapore Dollar	1	Rs. 98.61	Rs. 99.06
Japanese Yen	10	Rs. 9.73	Rs. 9.77
Chinese Yuan	1	Rs. 18.90	Rs. 18.99
Saudi Arab Riyal	1	Rs. 34.82	Rs. 34.98
Qatari Riyal	1	Rs. 35.85	Rs. 36.02
Thai Bhat	1	Rs. 3.87	Rs. 3.89
UAE Dirham	1	Rs. 35.56	Rs. 35.73
Malaysian Ringgit	1	Rs. 29.43	Rs. 29.57
South Korean Won	100	Rs. 9.92	Rs. 9.96
Swedish Kronar	1	Rs. 12.81	Rs. 12.87
Danish Kronar	1	Rs. 19.32	Rs. 19.41
Hong Kong Dollar	1	Rs. 16.64	Rs. 16.72
Kuwaiti Dinar	1	Rs. 426.39	Rs. 428.35
Bahrain Dinar	1	Rs. 346.37	Rs. 347.96

Note: Under the present system the open market exchange rates quoted by different banks may differ.